

HONG KONG NEWS

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Amid bogus Russia, Turkey jobs offered to FDHs:

'Law vs erring EAs unlikely this year'



PROUD. Filipino migrant workers join the Migrants' Pride March held on the streets of Central on Nov. 26. More than 400 participants join the march as they call against discrimination and violence against domestic workers, and LGBT migrants in particular (story on page 28).

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THE bill that will provide a legal basis for stiff fines and jail terms against erring employment agencies may not be approved

this year, a Hong Kong lawmaker said.

Dr. Fernando Cheung of Labour Party told Hong Kong News there had been no recent deliberations on the Code of Practice for Employment Agencies at the Leg-

islative Council.

"The government is moving very slowly and we're hoping that...we could have them get the law ready, but at this point, they're not even talking about the CoP. We

need to put more pressure to the government before it can be realized," he said.

Dolores Balladares-Pelaez, chairperson

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FREED. After being cleared of drug charges, a Filipina who spent more than two years in a jail in HK returns home to the Philippines.



FILIPINO. An OFW in Hong Kong shares how helping fellow Filipinos also helped her find joy and purpose in life.



PREGNANT? John Lloyd and Ellen keep mum about pregnancy rumors.

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New PH Consulate chief to arrive soon

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

AMBASSADOR Antonio Morales is set to arrive soon in Hong Kong to assume the post as chief of the Philippine Consulate General in the city.

Deputy Consul General and acting head of post Roderico Atienza said Morales is scheduled to arrive on Dec. 15.

Former Consul-General and now Phil-

ippine Ambassador to Lebanon Bernardita Catalla left Hong Kong in late October.

Morales has been Philippine Ambassador to Singapore since May 2014.

His career as a diplomat has spanned over 20 years. His first foreign post assignment was in Ankara, Turkey, and then moved to Rome, Italy. He was also assigned in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and then San Francisco, US, and then Milan,

Italy. Before his Singapore post, Morales also served as deputy chief of mission at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, China.

Meanwhile, Paulo V. Saret, acting director of Division II- Treaty Political of the DFA's Office of Legal Affairs, was appointed to take the post left vacant by Vice Consul Alex Vallespin, who assumed another post in Guam in September.

Saret, said Atienza, is scheduled to arrive in Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2018.



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Cop testifies vs FDH in upskirt vid case

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A police officer who arrested a Filipino man for allegedly taking an upskirt video at a mall in Kowloon Bay said the defendant admitted to him that he committed the offense.

Giving his evidence on Nov. 14 at a Kwun Tong Magistracy court, the police officer, who was attached to the Kwun Tong District Crime Unit, said that when apprehended, defendant Nelson S.J.O. told him in English: "I made a mistake, this is the first time I took an underskirt video, I regret."

At about 3:15 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2016, the police officer, who said he was on plainclothes duty, was patrolling at the Megabox mall in Kowloon Bay.

He said he then saw the defendant following a female at the lobby of the mall.

The police officer described the male as wearing a black jacket, underpants, and a pair of pale blue sports shoes. The

female, on the other hand, was wearing a blue denim jacket, black short skirt, and black shoes. He said he then saw the defendant holding a mobile phone in his left hand while following the female.

The police officer said he had "his suspicions", so he also followed the defendant and the female.

The female took the escalator to the first floor up to the sixth floor. All the while, the officer said, he saw Nelson, a domestic helper, holding the phone in his left hand.

Suspecting that the defendant was taking photos or a video clip of the female, the police officer apprehended the defendant at the sixth floor of the mall and told him to stay put.

The police officer then looked for the female and found her in Starbucks. He then introduced himself to her as a police officer.

After being arrested, the police officer said he cautioned the defendant in Chi-

nese, but upon recognizing that Nelson was non-Chinese, he spoke to him in English. It was then the defendant allegedly told the police officer that it was his first time to take such a video and that he was sorry about it.

The female, who was only identified in court as Miss X, said she was not aware that anyone was taking a video of him.

Nelson, meanwhile, said he was not aware that the camera of his iPhone 6 was on and that it was merely accidental that he took a video of his surroundings.

Meanwhile, the defense and the prosecution would be back in court on Dec. 5 to argue whether the video clip from the defendant's mobile phone would be admissible as evidence.

The defense cited a recent ruling by a High Court judge that stated that police should secure a warrant first before searching the digital content of seized devices such as mobile phones, tablets, smartwatches, and laptop computers.

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Asean pact for MDWs rights signed

By Maia Lopez

MEMBER-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have finally signed a consensus on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant work-

ers 10 years after adopted its declaration in 2007.

"This landmark document would strengthen social protection, access to justice, humane and fair treatment and access to health services for our people," Presi-

dent Rodrigo Duterte said.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Robespierre Bolivar said the signing of the consensus agreement is the "centerpiece" of the Philippine chairmanship of Asean.

The Philippines is a major labor exporter with some 10 million Filipinos working

abroad and contributing about 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed overseas Filipino workers sent \$17.9 billion (around P915 billion) to their families in the Philippines in the first seven months of the year alone.

According to the 2015 data of the World Bank, about \$62 billion (P3 trillion) in remittances were sent to Asean.

The consensus includes the following provisions: fair treatment of migrant workers with respect to gender and nationality; visitation rights by family members; prohibition against confiscation of passports and overcharging of placement or recruitment fees; protection against violence and sexual harassment in the workplace; regulation of recruiters for better protection of workers; and right to fair and appropriate remuneration benefits and their right to join trade unions and association.

It will also serve as a commitment by Asean member-states to formulate a plan of action to implement the specified rights specified.

Philippines and Indonesia, both source countries of migrant workers, wanted a legally-binding framework.

Singapore and Malaysia only wanted the document to be a guide to avoid the increase in the number of undocumented migrants.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the Philippines opted not to spell out whether or not the document is legally-binding since signatories are already aware of their commitments.

Despite being a landmark agreement, the consensus was still silent on the issue of undocumented workers.

There are around 10 million migrant workers in the region, many of whom are staying in foreign countries without proper papers.

In a statement, labor group Migrante urged the regional bloc to create a body that will oversee violations and concerns of the migrant workers.

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Over 29K Pinoy voters in HK deactivated

OVER 29,000 Filipino voters in Hong Kong have been deactivated by the Commission on Elections.

“Mainam na kapag nagpunta sila dito sa Philippine Consulate, i-check nila kung active pa sila para makaboto sa 2019,” said Election Officer Jethro dela Cruz.

In October 2016, the consulate received a list of the 29,095 registered voters in Hong Kong who were deactivated by the Comelec. It is to vote in the two most recent elections - the 2013 and

the 2016 polls.

“Minsan kasi nalilimutan nila na hindi sila nakaboto noong senatorial, at hindi nila nabibilang iyon, ang akala lang nila iyong presidential,” he said.

Those who wish to reactivate their registration have until Oct. 31, 2018 to do so.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of the registration period in December last year, 6,664 have already registered. Registration is open until Sept. 30, 2018. *Cheryl M. Arcibal*

Pinay's HK stay bid nixed

By Ally Constantino

THE High Court rejected an appeal filed by a Filipino woman who sought to stay in Hong Kong after having an extramarital affair here and giving birth to a son for fear that her husband in the Philippines would harm her and the child.

In a decision, High Court Judge Queeny Au-Yeung said the grounds cited by M.A. Marticio to seek a review of the decision of the director of the Immigration Department, and the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) rejecting her application were unsubstantial.

Marticio said that before leaving the Philippines in 2006 to work as a domestic helper in Singapore, and then coming to Hong Kong in 2010, she was frequently assaulted by her husband, SMM.

She said she married her husband in 2001 because her mother could not pay the loan and interest the latter incurred from SMM. Marticio and her husband had lived in Cordon, Isabela. They have two children. Marticio said she had been assaulted by SMM when he was drunk and after taking drugs as he suspected her of infidelity or when she refused to assist in his illicit drug business. She said the assaults occurred about four times a month.

She went to Singapore to work as a domestic helper without telling her husband.

However, her husband took custody of her children. After some time, she stopped sending money to her husband after finding out that he was neglecting their children. Her husband then allegedly started harassing her family and threatened to kill her when she returned to the Philippines.

In August 2010, Marticio started working as a domestic helper in Hong Kong. Since then, her children had been staying with her mother. However, her employment contracts had been terminated.

Marticio was permitted to stay as a visitor until Mar. 21, 2012, but overstayed and was arrested by police on May 16, 2012. She was subsequently convicted of the charge and was given a suspended sentence.

In June that year, she raised her non-refoulement claim, relying on the grounds of torture, and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the risk of persecution.

Marticio said her family told her that her husband was still asking them for her whereabouts. She also alleged that he turned their matrimonial home into a meeting place for his illegal business.

In 2014, Marticio had an affair with a married man in Hong Kong and she gave birth to their son in the same year.

In October 2015, she said her mother told her SMM was still looking for her and

that he had learned about her son in Hong Kong.

After a hearing, a TCAB adjudicator rejected the applicant's claim, as the adjudicator did not accept the allegation that SMM has ever threatened to torture the applicant for the rest of her life. The lack of a medical or a police report to support the applicant's claim was also cited as a reason for the rejection of her application.

In seeking a judicial review of the decision of the ImmD and the TCAB, Marticio said they failed to conduct sufficient independent inquiry into the relevant conditions, and that they failed to consider the impact of the injuries and abusive language she would be subjected to.

However, Judge Au held the adjudicator was correct in dismissing the claim.

“It was quite apparent from hearing the applicant's oral submission at this hearing that she did not really understand the grounds for seeking leave to apply for judicial review as they were prepared by someone on her behalf,” Judge Au said.

She added: “It would be fair to say that she just would not accept that she had a ‘weak case’ (her own words). All that she could say [was] that she would not leave her son behind. She could not particularize further.”

The decision also said Marticio “failed to establish her case on the facts.”

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AOSW1721

Pinay cleared in drug cases back in PH

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THE only Filipina tourist acquitted among the four who were tried for bringing into Hong Kong an estimated \$2.564-million worth of cocaine in 2015 was released from jail.

The 37-year-old mother of four, Maricel T., said her family in the Philippines had no idea she was coming home soon.

She returned to the Philippines on Nov. 17, said Philippine Attache Hermogenes Cayabyab Jr.

Maricel, along with the three other defendants who were convicted of the drug charges, had been in jail custody since their arrest in September 2015.

Upon her release from custody on the late afternoon of Nov. 14, the same day when the jury handed its verdict on the cases and found her not guilty, she went to the Philippine Consulate's office at the United Centre in Admiralty.

"Hinanap ko ang Consulate, kung saan ang office nila, tapos ang nag-assist sa akin si [Assistance to Nationals officer] Ma'am Lorna [Mojica]," Maricel told Hong Kong News in an interview at the

Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Admiralty Centre.

After the jury gave its verdict on the charges, Maricel stood up in the dock of Court 35 of the High Court where the defendants' 16-day trial was held.

Apparently overcome with emotion, Maricel was sobbing when she inquired from Judge Audrey Campbell-Moffat whether she would be released and she would be allowed to go back to the Philippines soon.

Judge Campbell-Moffat said it would have to be confirmed with Hong Kong authorities, but Maricel's lawyer, Diane Crebbin, said they would arrange for her immediate release.

Like the other three defendants, Maricel's lawyer was provided by the Legal Aid Department.

When she arrived in Hong Kong on Sept. 25, 2015, she was taken straight to custody after Customs officers discovered a false compartment in her handcarry luggage and found 1,203 grams of powder, and which subsequently confirmed to be containing 923 grams of cocaine, hidden in it.



Maricel T.

She said it was her first time to be in Hong Kong, and that she was merely convinced by "Nora" to join the all-expense paid trip, bring the bag, and then tour Hong Kong.

"Tourists lang daw kami, sabi mag-

to-tourist lang kami, ang sabi sa akin, 'dahin mo ang bag', at talagang tourists lang daw kami," Maricel said.

Among the three other defendants, she was friends with the third defendant - Remelyn Amistoso Roque.

"Si Remelyn, siya lang ang kilala ko, siya lang ang kaibigan ko. Sina Shirley [Chua] at Ana Loella [Creus], doon ko lang sila na-meet sa airport," Maricel said.

Nora, on the other hand, was merely an acquaintance and that they both lived in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Asked if she was not afraid of going back home and seeing Nora there, Maricel said she saw no reason to be afraid.

"Hindi naman, wala naman akong dapat na ikatakot sa kanya," she said.

After a pause, she advised other Filipinos to be cautious when asked to take a luggage and bring it overseas.

"Sa na-experience ko talagang kailangan na mag-ingat at huwag masyadong magtiwala kahit na close kayo o kaibigan mo, at kahit matagal mo na siyang kakilala at ganoon na kapanatag ang loob mo sa kanya," Maricel said.

At the Tai Lam Centre for Women in

Tuen Mun, where she and the other defendants stayed while awaiting their trial, she said she used to work at the laundry center.

"Sa Tai Lam, ok naman kami. Pati pagkain, ok naman at mabait naman sila doon, mabuti ang trato sa amin. Ang kalaban mo lang ang kalooban mo dahil sa lungkot at hindi ka din nakakalabas," Maricel said.

When she was released, she did not have the chance to talk to the other defendants who were found guilty of drug charges.

Maricel's lawyer argued before the jury that the defendant, whose former husband was a US serviceman and sends her money every month to support their children, was merely a last-minute addition to the group of women who traveled from Manila to Hong Kong.

It was also revealed that Maricel was not included in a group chat, where messages about the bags and passing through Customs were exchanged among the other defendants, Nora and a certain "Madam". The messages were retrieved by Hong Kong law enforcers.

The sentencing of the other defendants was adjourned to Jan. 18, 2018.

Nabawasan inches sa puson pumuti ang kutis full body at mukha many years younger looking

VERY conscious si Vicky Tengil, pagdating sa katawan kaya nang madiskubrenag nag-uumpisa siyang tumaba, agad uminom ng slimming tea, wala sa hinagap na matindi pala ang magiging side effects nito. Nanghina, gumaspang at nanuyo rin ang kaniyang balat. Lalo daw siyang natatakam sa mga pagkaing gustung-gusto niyang kainin.

Ang kaibigan niya ang nagkuwento tungkol sa kamangha-manghang upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, gawa sa England na may 3D hologram model image silver seal. Sinamahan siyang magpunta sa Victory Supermarket para bumili ng isa tube sa

halagang HK\$98 lamang.

Makalipas ang 2 buwang paggamit ng 2 tubes, nakita niya ang malaking pagbabago. Nabawasan ng 3 inches na taba sa kaniyang baywang, at halos 2 inches sa mga hita at braso. Lumiiit rin ang puson. Naging maaliwalas ang kaniyang kutis at bumata siyang tingnan. Mas confident na siya ngayong magsuot ng kahit anong damit na naisin dahil sa nagkaroon din ng mahubog na sexy shape ang kaniyang katawan.

(Article provided by: LT)



Before

After

Vicky Tengil

Bank exec fined \$1,000 over stun gun

By Ally Constantino

A Filipina banker who recently toured Hong Kong was fined \$1,000 after she was found to have a stun gun in her purse.

C.M.J. Herrero, 25, on Oct. 18 pleaded guilty to the charge of bringing the weapon into Hong Kong.

The court heard that on Oct. 17, an X-ray check on Herrero's bag at the Terminal 1 of the Hong Kong International Airport revealed an electronic stunning device in her handcarry bag. A manual search yielded the device.

The defendant then told the officer that she brought the stun gun for P250 in the Philippines two years ago, and that she forgot to take it out of her bag when she visited to Hong Kong. She also said that she did not know that bringing a stunning device into Hong Kong was illegal.

"You're convicted as charged," said Acting Principal Magistrate So Wai-Tak of the West Kowloon Courts after the defendant's plea.

Mitigating, Herrero's duty lawyer said the Filipina was a credit analyst at a bank in the Philippines and was earning a monthly income of \$8,000.

"The defendant...works at a bank. The stunning device was in her bag to be used for self-defense," the lawyer said.

He added that the Filipina came to Hong Kong with her family and that she previously had a clear record in the city.

Judge So then decided to impose the fine, which was the same amount that Herrero posted as police bail.

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Duterte, Lam discuss HK OFWs' welfare

By Albert Hernandez

PFRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte talked with Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam in Vietnam on how to improve the welfare of overseas Filipino workers in the former Crown colony, Malacanang said.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the President and the head of the Hong Kong Administrative Region (HKSAR) had a brief "pull aside" meeting on Nov. 10 at the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Da Nang, Vietnam.

"They discussed the welfare of OFWs in Hong Kong and the 20th anniversary of HKSAR," Roque said.

The following day, Mr. Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping had a "frank" discussion about the South China Sea, with Mr. Xi promising that China will not hinder freedom of navigation in the area.

Roque said the Chinese leader also told President Duterte that the United States



Duterte and Lam in Da Nang (photo by SAP Bong Go)

and North Korea should resume talks about Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

"President Xi and President Duterte had a frank discussion...President Xi said there's no threat to freedom of navigation. That's already there. They won't stop anyone," Roque said.

On the discussions on Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, Roque said President Xi noted that there "was already an agreement on the framework on the Code of Conduct and the discussion will contin-

ue and he expects this to be finished."

"On North Korea, he said China had no interest in open conflict breaking out in the Korean peninsula," Roque said.

"(He said) maybe its the countries that are far away that have that interest but China believes this should be resolved peacefully," he said.

"They're encouraging the United States and North Korea to talk. China is a responsible country, a member of the (UN) security council, and it will implement Security Council resolutions," he added.

Roque said the Chinese leader told Mr. Duterte that China enjoyed good relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) because the Philippine leader was "leading the way by example."

He added that both sides agreed to strengthen further their economic, military, and cultural ties.

He also said President Duterte invited the Chinese leader to visit the Philippines while President Xi invited his Philippine counterpart to again visit China.

OFW bank to offer cheaper remittance fees

By Albert Hernandez

THE Overseas Filipino Bank (OFB) will ease the financial burden of millions of overseas Filipinos with the bank's efficient and low remittance service rates and profitable investment offers, according to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Bello said the bank, which is not only limited to OFWs, would be dedicated to provide financial products and services tailored to the requirements of all overseas Filipinos.

"The bank will provide our overseas Filipinos the most effective and cheapest or free transfer of their remittances," Bello said.

He said OFB will put up branches in all Philippine Overseas Labor Offices to reach more overseas Filipinos and provide them with quality and efficient foreign remittance services.

"We are also able to get the consent of Land Bank President Alex Buenaventura that the interest rate in the loan packages will only be at 2.5 percent per annum. Ang laking bagay niyan compared to other

banks. This will give our OFWs the venue for their investment," Bello said.

The labor chief said the OFB will focus on delivering quality and efficient foreign remittances services as ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Under the President's Executive Order 44, the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (PPSB) will be acquired by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and will be converted into the OFB.

The bank will provide priority support to the growing financial needs of overseas-based Filipinos, who contribute to the country's foreign exchange income, currency stability, employment, and overall economic growth through their remittances, Bello said.

He said the bank will be managed by a board of directors headed by the LBP President as chairman, LBP-designated President as vice chairperson, four LBP-designated directors or officers as members, and members representing DOLE, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and the private sector member representing overseas Filipinos.

Guwapong Chinese-American panay ang haplos sa balik at nagreact ang Pinay

Sa panahon ngayon ay mahirap na daw basta magtitiwala kahit kanino ngunit makulit ang kaibigan ni Alyssa del Sol ng Whampoa na dapat nang intindihi ang sarili at kapag may manligaw na mukhang mabait ay bigyan daw niya ng pagkakataon na manligaw.

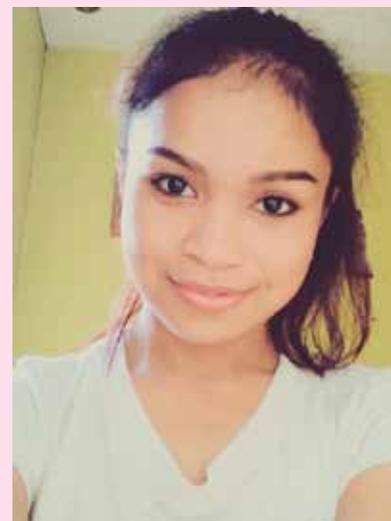
Kaarawan niya last month at nakatanggap siya ng regalo mula sa kaibigan na upgraded Dream Love 1000 sexual perfume, gawa sa England. Nagustuhan ang halimuyak nito dahil palagi niyang naaamoy tuwing gamit ito ng kaibigan at kaya ganito ang niregalo sa kaniya.

Nang unang araw daw niyang gamitin ang nasabing pabango ay laking gulat na may isang guwapong Chinese-American ang biglang nagpakilala habang nasa pila upang kuhanin ang inorder na lunch. Nagpakilala ito sa pangalang Chris na nagtatrabaho sa isang private firm. Ngumiti siya at sinabing nice meeting you sabay kuha sa kaniyang order at umupo sa malapit na mesa. Bago siya

sumubo ng pagkain ay nagulat sapagkat lumapit ang lalaki upang magsabi kung maaari itong makishare sa table. Habang sila ay kumakain panay ang kuwento nito ng jokes. Ramdam niyang ito ay nabighani at panay ang haplos ng kamay nito sa kaniyang balikat. Nakatitig pa daw ito sa kaniya na tila may pagnanasa. Bago pa sila maghiwalay, hiningi nito ang mobile number niya at doon nagsimula ang kanilang makulay na relasyon.

Nasabi pa niya sa sarili na take chances kahit na mahirap magtiwala sa anonymous na tao at nagpapasalamat siya sa kaibigan pati na din sa Dream Love 1000 seksuwal perfume. Mula noon ay naging palagian na niya itong gamit at nang maubos ang regalo, bumili siya nito mula sa Sun Fung sa halagang HK\$88 lamang.

(Article provided by: LT)



Alyssa del Sol

Pinoy pleads guilty to arson, drug cases

By Ally Constantino

A 30-year-old Filipino man pleaded guilty to arson and drug charges at the Eastern Magistracy on Nov. 23.

Eastern Courts Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai adjourned the sentencing of R.E. Zamora to Dec. 7 as she called for a drug addiction treatment center on the defendant.

Zamora, a recognisance form holder, was charged by prosecutors of arson and possession of dangerous drugs after he was found on Sept. 13 by a security guard at the IFC mall in Central smoking at a back staircase of the mall.

Upon noticing the guard, who was on patrol at the time, the defendant used a stand to block the smoke door.

Zamora also stood on a chair, took out his lighter, lit and burned the fire sprinkler installed on the ceiling, causing damage to the sprinkler's sensor.

The defendant then fled toward the lower floor, while the guard chased him. The guard caught Zamora, and the incident was reported to police.

Upon police search, a pack of suspected methamphetamine, one plastic pipe, and one straw inside a pink bag was found in Zamora's right pocket.

A government laboratory exam confirmed that the pack contained 0.04 grams and 0.01 grams of methamphetamine or ice.

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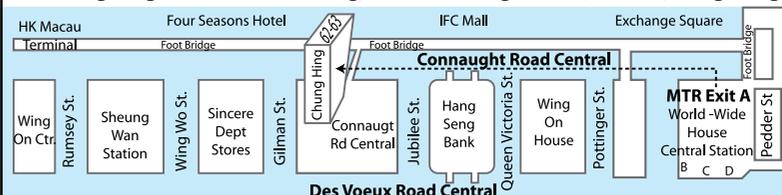
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16 months for overstaying helper

By Ally Constantino

A former domestic helper has been sentenced to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty to overstaying in Hong Kong and using a Hong Kong ID card that was not hers.

Acting Principal Magistrate So Wai-tak

of the West Kowloon Courts on Oct. 18 sentenced A.D. Matibag to a total of 16 months in prison following her plea to the two charges and taking into consideration the "totality" principle.

A government prosecutor said Matibag was apprehended on Sept. 19 at the Exit A2 of Mongkok MTR station, when

a police officer saw the defendant acting suspiciously.

She was then intercepted, and asked to show her Hong Kong ID. The police officer discovered that the ID card that Matibag showed was not her own.

Taken to the Mongkok Police station, the defendant admitted that she first came

to Hong Kong in 1993 to work as a domestic helper.

However, her visa expired in 2005, and she then overstayed.

In 2010, she found the Hong Kong ID and she picked it up.

In mitigation, Matibag's duty lawyer said that the 59-year-old was married and had a daughter and three sons in the Philippines.

Since losing her job in Hong Kong, Matibag had relied on the help of her friends for her food and accommodation.

"She had never used the ID, except at the time of the offense.

"She understands that an immediate custodial sentence is inevitable, but she has pleaded guilty on the first instance, and that she saved the time of court by doing so, and she had a clear record prior to these present cases," the duty lawyer added.

Judge So said that after carefully considering the mitigation submitted by the defendant's lawyer, he saw no reason to depart from the usual sentencing guide and handed down the jail term.

During the sentencing, Matibag, who was in the dock, was seen wiping tears from her eyes.

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"Filipino and proud"

By Boying Cruz

WITH an opening line that states "I am Filipino and I am proud" and the famous quote "Ask not what your country can do for you, [but] ask what you can do for your country", Gemma 'Gem' Lauraya emerged as the winner of the on-the-spot essay-writing contest held at the Kennedy Town Bayanihan Center on Nov. 19.

The essay-writing tilt was a highlight of the "2017 Bayanihan Showcase-Ikaw ang Kampeon Dito", where participants were given 10 minutes to write about the topic "What can an overseas foreign worker (OFW) do to help their country become a great nation that can stand proud in the international community?"

Gem first came to Hong Kong in 1995. She was born in Lipa City, Batangas; studied in Makati; and Sta. Cruz, Manila is her family's current residence.

Although a teacher by profession, passing the board exam in 1991, her coming to work in Hong Kong was due to her desire



Gem (second from left) receiving her award

to provide a better future for her family. Her 23-year old daughter Bea Ysabelle has graduated and is now working as Credit and Collection Specialist in Manila.

Gem has worked for three employers since and had good working relationships with them and their children. But she said, being an OFW entails endless sacrifices.

"Working abroad can be prestigious as it sounds but, in reality, there's always

anxiety and fear and, oftentimes, homesickness and loneliness. Not to forget the culture shock, but you'll get used to it in a different perspective of our surroundings".

In her essay, Gem wrote: "As a migrant and global Filipino, I can be a good citizen of my country by setting an example to my fellow countrymen in doing what is right in the foreign land where I work.

"As an OFW, I can help sustain our country's economy because of my remittances that can likewise help my family to have a better and decent life. I am a global Filipino that is productive and resilient. I can be of help through volunteering and helping others in need," she said.

Gem joined National Organization of Professional Teachers-HK Chapter (NOPT-HK) in 2000 as secretary, when she was appointed by then president, Lolita Brana, and then becoming the representative of Region 3 and NCR. Since then, Gem has served as a volunteer during licensure examinations and a lecturer in review classes of NOPT-HK.

Quoting Mother Teresa's words "not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love", she said that small acts of kindness all the time, in small steps together can change the world.

"People think that volunteering is to help others but in fact the biggest beneficiary is ourselves. We learn from it and we can see the world through others because we see our purpose," Gem said.

Her essay also touched on this point. "Together, we can do great things for God, for our country, for our fellowmen, for our families back home. Together we can look forward for a better planet to live in harmony and prosperity," she added.

Gem is currently the president of NOPT-HK, having been elected in May 2016. She wants to lead by example and she is committed, and ready to step up and push forward the organization's goals.

"Leaders are people who make things happen and it is my desire to serve others and do the best I can," she said.



Gem with her family

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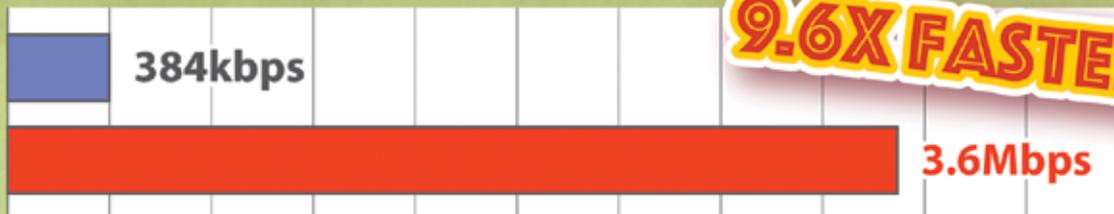
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'Law...'

From page 1

of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong said that with the recent issue about the illegal recruitment and trafficking of Filipinos, the LD should be more determined in ensuring that erring employment agencies would be penalized.

Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre also said

that if indeed the bill was unlikely to be legislated this year, they would raise the matter in the next technical working group meeting with Hong Kong officials in January.

"We're looking forward to the actions of the Hong Kong government, particularly iyong sa LegCo at ituloy natin na magkaroon ng amendment sa Employment

Ordinance so that the powers and responsibilities of employment agencies can be strictly defined," he said during the "International Forum on Migration" in Hong Kong on Nov. 19.

Cynthia Tellez, general manager of the NGO Mission for Migrant Workers, agreed with Dela Torre that there should be steady and aggressive effort to push for

the legislation of the CoP.

"Dapat dagdagan ang pressure lalo na ngayon na nakita nila ang validity at ang pangangailangan dito," Tellez said.

However, Shiella Grace Estrada, secretary of the Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Union, said they were assured by LegCo members that the bill would likely be passed in 2018.

Meanwhile, the LD, in a reply to an email inquiry, said they will continue to work for the protection of job-seekers.

"The [CoP] bill is under the vetting of the Legislative Council Bills Committee...We hope to complete the legislative process as soon as possible to strengthen regulation of EAs and protection for job-seekers," the LD said.

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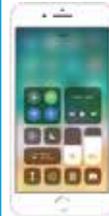
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Kata M3s *Low Down Payment*



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$109
6 Monthly \$262
Price **\$1,199**

Kata i5 *Low Down Payment* *Hot Items*



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$264
Price **\$1,199**

Kata M4s *Hot Items*



- 5.5 Inch
- 18MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa core 1.5GHz
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$384
Price **\$1,999**

Lenovo Tab3 7 LTE *NEW*



- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$267
Price **\$1,199**

Lenovo Tab4 8504X *NEW*



- 8.0 Inch
- 5 MP Rear + 2 MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.4 GHz Quad-core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$367
Price **\$1,599**

LG K8 2017 *NEW* *Low Down Payment*



- 5.0 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.4 GHz
- 1.5GB RAM
- Android 7.0 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$224
Price **\$899**

LG K10 (2017) *Uang Muka*



- 5.3 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.14GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Bulan \$317
Tunai **\$1,339**

LG Stylus 3 *NEW*



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$403
Price **\$1,688**

LG Q6 Plus *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Down \$299
6 Monthly \$520
Price **\$2,278**

LG G6 *NEW*



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Quad-Core 2.3GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$499
6 Monthly \$967
Price **\$4,198**

LG G6 Plus *NEW*



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- Quad-Core 1.4GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$599
6 Monthly \$1,025
Price **\$4,498**

Nokia 3 *NEW* *Hot Items*



- 5 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.4 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 7.0
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$299
6 Monthly \$244
Price **\$1,099**

Samsung Galaxy J2 Prime *NEW*



- 5 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.4 GHz
- 1.5GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$234
Price **\$938**

Samsung Galaxy C8 *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 13MP & 5MP Rear + 16MP Front Camera
- 32GB Storage
- 1.69 GHz Octa-core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$259
6 Monthly \$602
Price **\$2,578**

Samsung Galaxy T285 Tab A7 LTE *Hot Items*



- 7 Inch
- 5 MP Rear + 2 MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- 1.5 GB RAM
- Android

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$342
Price **\$1,498**

Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime *Hot Items*



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$389
Price **\$1,688**

Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1 *Hot Items*



- 10.1 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- 1.4 GHz Quad-core
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$299
6 Monthly \$484
Price **\$1,999**

Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro *NEW*



- 5.2 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16 Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.2GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$678
Price **\$2,778**

Samsung Galaxy A7 2017 *NEW*



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.9 GHz
- 3GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$687
Price **\$2,699**

Samsung Galaxy C7 Pro *NEW* *Hot Items* *\$0 Down Payment*



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.2GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$0
6 Monthly \$767
Price **\$3,068**

Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro *NEW* *Hot Items*



- 6 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 1.44GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$901
Price **\$3,668**

Samsung Galaxy S8 (64GB) *NEW*



- 6.2 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-Core 4x2.35 GHz
- 6GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint
- Iris Scanner

Down \$899
6 Monthly \$1,188
Price **\$5,348**

Samsung Galaxy S8+ (128GB) *NEW* *Hot Items*



- 6.2 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- Octa-Core 4x2.35 GHz
- 6GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint
- Iris Scanner

Down \$1,299
6 Monthly \$1,443
Price **\$6,638**

Sony Xperia XA1 *Hot Items*



- 5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$481
Price **\$1,990**

Sony Xperia XA1 Ultra



- 6.0 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3 GHz Octa-core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$199
6 Monthly \$617
Price **\$2,599**

Sony Xperia XA1 Plus *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3 GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$299
6 Monthly \$700
Price **\$2,998**

Sugar Y9 *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Quad-Core 1.4GHz
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$303
Price **\$1,198**

Kata Selfie *NEW* *\$0 Down Payment*



- 5.5 Inch
- 18MP (Flip Camera)
- 32GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down \$0
6 Monthly \$321
Price **\$1,539**

Kata T5 *Low Down Payment* *NEW* *Hot Items*



- 7.85 Inch
- 8 MP Rear + 5 MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad core 1.3GHz
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- WiFi

Down \$99
6 Monthly \$153
Price **\$699**

Huawei T2 7 LTE **Hot Items**



- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.5GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G

Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$237**
Price **\$1,080**

HP Stream 11



Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$560**
Price **\$2,349**

Nikon D3400 with 18-55MM **NEW**



Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$879**
Price **\$3,780**

Casio G-Shock GD-X6900HT-8DR



Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$224**
Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-110GD-9ADR



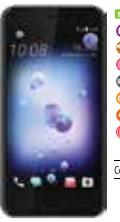
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$224**
Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-100CG-1ADR



Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$224**
Price **\$899**

HTC U 11 **NEW**



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- Octa-core 2.45 GHz
- 6GB RAM
- Android 7.1 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down **\$499**
6 Monthly **\$1,167**
Price **\$4,498**

Acer Aspire 3 A314-31 **NEW**



Down **\$599**
6 Monthly **\$887**
Price **\$3,699**

Canon EOS 80D 18-135MM Kit DSLR **NEW**



Down **\$1,199**
6 Monthly **\$2,273**
Price **\$9,270**

Casio Baby G 110PP **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$180**
Price **\$799**

Casio G-Shock GA-100L-8ADR



Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$208**
Price **\$840**

Naviforce 9074 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$53**
Price **\$259**

LG K4 2017 **NEW**



- 5.0 Inch
- 5MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.4 GHz
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$197**
Price **\$799**

Lenovo Ideapad 110-14 **NEW**



Down **\$599**
6 Monthly **\$1,074**
Price **\$4,399**

Canon Power Shot G9X **NEW**



Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$965**
Price **\$3,380**

Casio Baby G 110TX **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$224**
Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-110 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$179**
Price **\$730**

Naviforce 9049 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$53**
Price **\$259**

Nokia 3310 **NEW**



- 2.4 Inch
- 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 2G

Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$170**
Price **\$699**

Fuji Instax Share Sp-2 Printer **NEW**



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$338**
Price **\$1,390**

LG Pocket Photo Printer **NEW**



Hot Items
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$210**
Price **\$910**

Alba Fashion AC3U81X1 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$29**
6 Monthly **\$193**
Price **\$740**

Alba Active 3111 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$29**
6 Monthly **\$177**
Price **\$680**

Alba Fashion AG8494X1 **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$29**
6 Monthly **\$252**
Price **\$960**

Samsung Galaxy J7 Prime **Hot Items**



- 5.5"
- 13 MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32 GB Storage
- 1.36GHz Octa Core
- 3 GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Low Down Payment
Down **\$159**
6 Monthly **\$498**
Price **\$2,098**

Romoss DP10 10000mAh Power Bank **NEW**



Low Down Payment
Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$43**
Price **\$198**

Remax RB-M15 Bluetooth Speaker **NEW**



Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$43**
Price **\$198**

Smart Phone & Tablet bundle

Buy 1 Get 1 50% off

Kata i5 + **Kata M3s**

Kata T mini 4

Low Down Payment
Original Price **\$2,298**
Deal Price **\$1,799**

Kata M3s

- 13MP + 8MP
- Quad Core
- 5.5 inch
- 16GB Storage
- 2500 mAh

Low Down Payment
Original Price **\$2,717**
Deal Price **\$1,799**

Bundle promo 2x M3s and free hair dryer

Free \$319
Ionic Hair Dryer

* For Installation only

Samsung Galaxy Note 8 128GB **NEW**



- 6.3 Inch
- Dual 12MP Rear Camera + 8 MP
- 128GB Storage
- 2.35GHz Octa-Core
- 6GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Down **\$799**
6 Monthly **\$1,749**
Price **\$7,528**

Astrum ET250 Bluetooth Earphones **NEW**



Down **\$29**
6 Monthly **\$16**
Price **\$99**

Soul Ultra Headphones **NEW**



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$127**
Price **\$599**

Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC533KL **Hot Items**



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Low Down Payment
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$459**
Price **\$1,899**

Asus Zenfone Live **NEW**



- 5.0 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Hot Items
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$292**
Price **\$1,299**

Huawei Y7 Prime



- 5.5 Inch
- 18MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32 GB Storage
- Octa Core 1.5 GHz
- 32 GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$437**
Price **\$1,880**

OWTEL Appliances

Philips Shine Protect Hair Dryer 903 *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$86**
Price **\$358**

Panasonic Wrist Blood Pressure Meter 10 *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$159**
6 Monthly **\$101**
Price **\$510**

Rasonic Mini Rice Cooker - Y5H *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$29**
6 Monthly **\$52**
Price **\$219**

JVC 32" Full HD LED iDTV LT-32HS578 *NEW*



Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$636**
Price **\$2,570**

Philips Aquatouch Wet & Dry Electric Shaver 750



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$163**
Price **\$648**

Philips Electric Shaver 560



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$123**
Price **\$498**

Kenwood Blender Xtract Sport 060 *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$102**
Price **\$419**

Kenwood Blender 470



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$124**
Price **\$499**

TCL 39" Full HD Smart TV L39D2900FS *NEW*



Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$716**
Price **\$2,870**

LG 24" Full HD IPS TV Monitor 24MT58DF *NEW*



Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$548**
Price **\$2,390**

Panasonic Men Shaver 34



Low Down Payment

Down **\$19**
6 Monthly **\$12**
Price **\$56**

Philips Hairclipper 3410 *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$81**
Price **\$338**

Kenwood Scene 2 Slot Long Toaster TTM470 *NEW*



Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$124**
Price **\$499**

Kenwood Sandwich Maker 650



\$0 Down Payment

Low Down Payment

Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$133**
Price **\$498**

Omron Pulse Massager *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$201**
Price **\$840**

Omron Wrist Blood Pressure *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$136**
Price **\$588**

Philips Hair Dryer 8112



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$25**
Price **\$129**

Panasonic Hair Dryer 51



Low Down Payment

Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$40**
Price **\$210**

Rasonic Food Steamer RFSJS975 *NEW*



Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$76**
Price **\$319**

Krups Pump Espresso Maker XP5620 *NEW*



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$362**
Price **\$1,480**

Omron Body Composition Monitor HBF216 *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$187**
Price **\$760**

Omron Upper Arm Blood Pressure Monitor Hem-7130 *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$165**
Price **\$699**

Panasonic Facial Ionic Steamer EHSA31 *NEW*



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$231**
Price **\$988**

Panasonic Ionic Cleansing & Toning System EHST50P *NEW*



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$229**
Price **\$980**

Rasonic Microcomputer Rice Cooker (10L) RRCYC102 *NEW*



Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$107**
Price **\$460**

Panasonic Rice Cooker 105



Low Down Payment

Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$80**
Price **\$359**

Toshiba Compact & Cyclone Type Vacuum Cleaner VCGC32BSHP *NEW*



Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$314**
Price **\$1,300**

Hitachi Vacuum Cleaner CVSH18-BL *NEW*



Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$221**
Price **\$888**

Philips Easy Natural Curler 10 *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$83**
Price **\$348**

Panasonic Hair Curler A11 *NEW*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$40**
Price **\$348**

Panasonic Rice Cooker 185



Low Down Payment

Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$90**
Price **\$399**

Philips Rice Cooker 3011 *Hot Items*



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$65**
Price **\$289**

Mitsubishi Fan 12



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$75**
Price **\$328**

Toshiba Radio Txpr-20



Low Down Payment

Down **\$19**
6 Monthly **\$29**
Price **\$199**

Panasonic Iony Hair Brush 10



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$54**
Price **\$280**

Philips Essentialcare Ionic Straightener 403



Low Down Payment

Down **\$39**
6 Monthly **\$68**
Price **\$278**

Philips Rice Cooker 3017



Low Down Payment

Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$83**
Price **\$369**

Panasonic Blender 1011



\$0 Down Payment

Low Down Payment

Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$75**
Price **288**

Panasonic Microwave 332



Low Down Payment

Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$199**
Price **\$769**

Panasonic Water Purifier 225



Low Down Payment

Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$75**
Price **\$328**

Trump to Duterte: 'We are allies'

By Maia Lopez

US President Donald Trump bannered his "great relationship" with President Rodrigo Duterte during the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders' Summit in Manila.

"We are your ally. We are an important

ally. We've had a great relationship. This has been very successful," Trump told Duterte during their first bilateral meeting since they assumed office last year.

Describing the talks between the two leaders as "frank," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said that human rights issues related to Duterte's bloody war on drugs

were not raised.

"The issue of human rights did not arise. It was not brought up. It was President Duterte who discussed with President Trump the drug menace in the Philippines, and the US President appeared sympathetic and did not have any official position on the matter, merely nodding his head,

indicating that he understood the domestic problem that we face on drugs," Roque said.

White House press secretary Sarah Elizabeth Huckabee Sanders, however, said the issues were taken up in the context of the Philippines' "fight against illegal drugs."

In a joint statement after their meeting, both the US and the Philippines underscored how illegal drug use "is a problem afflicting both countries."

Other world leaders who attended the Asean summit expressed similar concerns over allegations of extrajudicial killings in the government's anti-narcotics drive.

Charges vs. Noy over botched Mamasapano raid

By Maia Lopez

THE Ombudsman has filed graft and usurpation of authority charges at the Sandiganbayan against former President Benigno Aquino III over the January 2015 Mamasapano massacre in which 44 police Special Action Force commandos were killed.

The Ombudsman recommended a total bail of P40,000 on Aquino's case: P30,000 for graft and P10,000 for usurpation of official function.

The Ombudsman, however, dropped the charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide filed by the relatives of the slain SAF troopers, citing lack of evidence.

The 44 SAF commandos were killed in the day-long gun battles that followed a covert operation that killed Malaysian bomb maker Sulkipli bin Hir, alias Marwan.

The filing of charges against Aquino came in the wake of the indictment of his co-accused, dismissed Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima and sacked SAF commander Getulio Napeñas.

Purisima and Napeñas are already facing the same charges at the anti-graft court's Fourth Division.

The Ombudsman said Aquino should be held criminally liable for allowing Purisima to direct the operation, dubbed Oplan Exodus, even if Purisima was suspended at the time.

"Aquino fully knew that Purisima was under preventive suspension from office and that it was Officer-In-Charge PNP chief Leonardo Espina who had the authority to oversee the preparation for and conduct of Oplan Exodus, to the damage of public interest," the charge sheet read.

The Ombudsman submitted to the Sandiganbayan evidence against Aquino, which include text messages between Aquino and Purisima.

The Sandiganbayan issued a hold departure order against Aquino, who already posted bail and has paid a courtesy call on Sandiganbayan Third Division Presiding Justice Amparo Cabotaje-Tan, who will try the case.

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Your OFW-COMMUNITY in Hong Kong



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NYT sues Pinay for false journo claims

By Maia Lopez

THE New York Times has sued a Filipina journalist who misrepresented herself as one of its reporters.

In its complaint, the NYT said Rita Villadiego, a resident of Queens County who uses the nom de plume Contessa Bourbon, used her fake Times identity to "gain admittance to news conferences and other events and to attract followers on social media."

"Despite the lack of any employment relationship between Ms. Bourbon and The Times, Ms. Bourbon has repeatedly repre-

sented herself as a journalist employed by The New York Times since at least May 2015," the newspaper said.

NYT accused Villadiego of representing herself as the newspaper's reporter at the Brookings Institution where she interviewed a diplomat and other officials in May 2015. The newspaper said it reached out to the Filipina on the same month, asking her to stop identifying herself as its journalist, but Villadiego did not respond and continued to misrepresent herself.

On March 29, Villadiego attended a speech by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos at the Brookings Institution and iden-



Villadiego (left)

tified herself as a Times reporter. An NYT reporter was also present at the event and the newspaper again admonished her to stop misrepresenting herself.

In October, Villadiego requested a congressional staff member for her to be al-

lowed to cover the Congressional Gold Medal awards event. But when she was asked for documentation of her Times assignment, the Filipina took to Twitter and claimed she was being barred for covering the event.

"Ms. Bourbon's conduct has caused harm to the reputation of The New York Times because her conduct is inaccurately attributed to The New York Times," the newspaper said.

On her Twitter account's biography, Villadiego claimed she is a journalist for NYT, Wall Street Journal, London Times, Guardian, and the Washington Post. She

has since removed NYT from the list after the complaint was filed against her.

In her past tweets, Villadiego claimed to have a memoir written about her life, entitled Queen Contessa Memoir.

She also claimed that a movie based on her memoir is under way—directed by Steven Spielberg, co-produced by Dreamworks and 21st-Century Fox, and starring Angelina Jolie.

She also repeatedly claimed that a Broadway musical based on her memoir will be headlined by Filipina singer Lea Salonga. Salonga has already denied this in a tweet, calling it "100% fake news."

Fil-Am in Chicago murder case flees

By Maia Lopez

AUTHORITIES in Chicago said a Filipino-American suspect in the murder of a real estate lawyer in December last year may have fled to the Philippines by way of Mexico.

Police had issued an international red alert for the arrest and extradition of John Panaligan, 50, formerly of Aurora, Illinois.

Northbrook police chief Charles Warwick said the suspect is considered to be extremely dangerous. Panaligan had reportedly left the Chicago area right after the killing of 36-year-old Jigar Patel at his law office.

Police added the suspect is the brother-in-law of Mayor Jose Cerrado of Tuy, Batangas. Patel represented Panaligan's former business partners who sued him and his relatives for breach of trust and



Chicago

fiduciary duties related to the sale of their home health company, Vital Wellness Home Care.

Panaligan lost an appeal before the Illinois Supreme Court, with Patel winning the case for his clients. Police believed this was Panaligan's motive in the slaying of the lawyer.

A \$3,000 reward for information lead-

ing to the arrest and extradition of Panaligan has already been offered.

Meanwhile, Quebec police have confirmed that a body found in the St. Lawrence River in October was Filipino sailor Jeyson Berbante. Sgt. Eloise Cossette said DNA tests on the body confirmed that it was 23-year-old Berbante, whose cause of death remains unknown.

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Naging mas malala pa ang sitwasyon

By Victoria Reyes Munar

SI Lisa, 40, tubong Cagayan, ay nasa pangatlong kontrata na sa dating amo nang magpasyang magbreak-contract. Sa unang dalawang kontrata ay walang naging

masyadong problema si Lisa sa kanyang amo.

Mayroon man silang hindi pagkakaintindihan paminsan minsan ng kanyang amo ay napapalampas naman niya at natitiis.

Sa pagpipirma ng ikatlong kontrata ay na-

obsorbahan ni Lisa ang malaking pagbago ng kanyang among babae.

Madalas mainit ang kanyang ulo at siya ay sinisigawan nito. Naging sobrang paulouts din at lumala ang pagtrato sa kanya.

Naging super arte din ito at ginawa pa siyang mistulang alalay nito sa lahat ng kanyang mga lakad na pati pag-tap ng Octopus kapag may pupuntahan ay si Lisa na ang gumagawa.

Ayos lang sana ang trabaho, ngunit ang hindi matanggap ni Lisa ay ang madalas na pagsigaw-sigaw ng amo kahit pa sa harap ng kanyang mga kaibigan.

Naikwento ni Lisa ang kanyang kal-

agayan sa kanyang mga kaibigan. Isa sa kanyang mga kaibigan ang nagrekomenda sa isang employer na kaibigan daw ng kanyang amo. Nakakita ng pag-asa si Lisa na makawala sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon.

Nakipagkita siya sa kanyang magiging amo at sa kanilang unang pagkikita ay pinakain pa siya sa isang mamahaling restaurant. Napakabait nitong kausap at ang sabi nito napakagaan ng kanyang trabaho dahil ang aalagaan lang nya ang kanyang nanay na hindi pa naman masyadong alagain.

Sinabi pa nito na kayang kaya pa ng matanda na asikasuhin ang kanyang sarili

at aalalay lang si Lisa.

Naging sobrang taliwas sa napag-usapan ang naging trabaho ni Lisa. Sobrang alagain na pala ang matanda dahil mistulang wala na ito sa sariling pag-iisip at bukod sa matanda, may tatlong katao pa siyang dapat pagsilbihan.

Nagsisisi si Lisa ngunit wala siyang magawa kundi magtiis dahil kailangan niya ang trabaho para sa pagsuporta sa pag-aaral ng kanyang mga anak.

Naisip din niya na sana hindi na lang siya nag-break contact. Akala niya ay giginhawa ang kanyang kalagayan ngunit naging mas malala pa sa dati.

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Isang bakasyon grande

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MAY mga among gustong nararamdaman at ginagawa ang pagiging amo kaya may mga kasambahay na dumaranas ng kalupitan sa kanilang pinagsisilbihan.

Kaya ang among babae ni Amalia, 42, hiwalay, at may isang anak na taga-Albay ay bored raw sa kanya dahil para daw siyang robot at walang maisita at makitang mali sa loob ng 20 taong paninilbihan.

Hiniling ng among babae sa asawa na kumuha na ng bago kasi parang wala raw siyang silbi sa bahay bilang amo. Ayaw ng among lalaki na makipag-away sa asawa kaya gumawa ng kasulatang hindi alam ng asawa at pinapirma si Amalia.

Ang kasulatan ay inilagay sa sobre, isinara at ibinigay ang isa kay Amalia at magbakasyon daw muna ng tatlong buwan pero huwag daw ipaalam sa asawa.

Maya-maya tinawag na ang among babae at sinabing kinausap na niya at aalis

na si Amalia para makakuha na ng bagong kasambahay. Ibinigay ang lahat na dapat matanggap ni Amalia pati ang kabayaran sa mahabang panahon na paninilbihan. Makalipas ang tatlong buwan ay tinawagan ng amo si Amalia at tinanong kung gusto pa bang bumalik para ipagpatuloy ang pagsilbi sa kanila.

Naranasan na raw ng asawa at nasiyahan na sa pagiging amo. Bumalik uli si Amalia at pagkakita sa kanya ng among babae ay niyakap siya at sinabing salamat daw at bumalik siya at nakakapagod daw pala mag-utos at nakakaistorbo dahil hindi makapag-isip ng maayos sa pagtatrabaho.

Ang nakasaad pala sa pinirmahang kasulatan ay kung babalik uli si Amalia idurugtong lang ang taon at matatanggap pa rin ang kaukulang bayad. Padadalhan ng pamasaha pabalik at ibinigay ang sahod na para sa tatlong buwan habang nasa bakasyon at hindi puputulin ang kanyang visa.

Walang utang na loob

KAPAG may swerte at biyaya na matanggap dapat daw ipamahagi para tuloy-tuloy ang pagdating nito. Naniniwala si Jessa, 43, may asawa at dalawang anak, at tubong Leyte, sa kasabihang ito kaya tinulungan niya ang mga pinsan na makapagtrabaho rin sa Hong Kong.

Nagustuhan ng amo ang serbisyo ni Jessa kaya 14 na taon na siya dito. Minsan may kaibigan ang amo na nangailangan ng kasambahay. Inirekomenda ni Jessa ang pinsang buo. Nagkaayos naman at sinagot din ni Jessa ang lahat ng gastusin. Hindi nagtagal nakarating at nakapagtrabaho na ang pinsan.

Nagpasya ang amo na kumuha pa ng makakasama kaya hiniling ni Jessa na pinsan niya ang kunin. Kinuha nga ni Jessa ang pinsan na kapatid ng nauna niyang tinulungan. Tumagal ng apat na taon niyang kasama dahil sinasalo ni Jessa kung may pagkakamali ito.

Hindi sadyang nabasa ni Jessa sa Facebook ang usapan ng magkapatid na galit ang kasama sa kanya at sinasabi nito na wala raw silang utang na loob kay Jessa. Kinumpronta ito ni Jessa na nauwi sa away at nalaman ng amo. Kilala ng amo si Jessa kaya hinanapan ng ibang amo ang pinsan.

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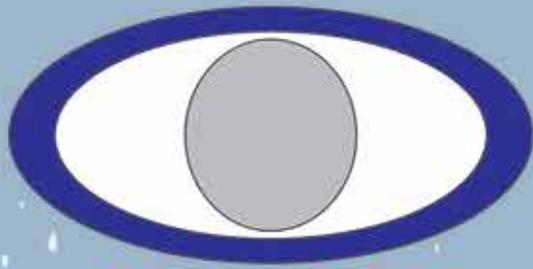
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Shameful

The Philippines on Nov. 16 voted against a United Nations draft resolution calling on Myanmar to stop its military operations against the Rohingyas.

The Philippines was one of only 10 countries globe that voted against the resolution which meant to help stop the ethnic cleansing of Muslim Rohingyas in western Myanmar. What a shame.

After offering to shelter 3,000 Rohingya boat people back in 2015, here we find the government siding with a military regime engaged in what many Muslims consider as the genocide of their coreligionists.

We should look at the bigger picture. The resolution was authored by Mus-

lim countries whose governments and people are distressed that fellow Muslims are being abused, raped, and killed. For a country with hundreds of thousands of overseas Filipino workers living in Muslim lands in the Middle East, we should be prudent enough not to antagonize them.

Do our relationship with Myanmar carry more weight than our clear national interest to ensure the welfare of OFWs?

Our Ambassador to the UN, Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr., is correct to say that we should abstain once the resolution is voted upon in the UN general assembly.

It is not only prudent. It is also in our national interest.

Health Alert

Vaccine for the elderly

To prevent pneumococcal diseases, young children are protected by vaccinations under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme. Yet, pneumococcal vaccination is not just for kids. Pneumococcal bacteria can infect people who are not protected by vaccines. Let's take a closer look at why elderly people need to be protected by pneumococcal vaccine.

Elderly people are at risk

Pneumococcal bacteria can spread via droplets produced by coughing and sneezing, by close contact with patients or with materials soiled with the bacteria. The bacteria may cause mild illnesses such as middle ear infections, but it may also cause severe diseases such as infection of the lungs, brain membranes and the blood, leading to long term damage or even death. Elderly people are at higher risk of severe outcomes.

Safe and effective vaccine for protection

Pneumococcal infection is usually treated by antibiotics. However, there is increasing problem of resistance of the bacterium to antibiotics. Therefore prevention is highly important.

Pneumococcal vaccination is one of the effective methods of prevention. There are different types of pneumococcal vaccines, such as 13-valent pneumococcal

conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV). Both are safe and effective.

Before vaccination, it is very useful to bring previous vaccination records (if available) to their attending doctor. This can facilitate the doctor to decide which type of pneumococcal vaccines to give.

Where to get the vaccination?

Eligible elderly with high-risk conditions who are attending public clinics can receive vaccination at their follow up clinics. Those who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or holding valid Certificate for Waiver of Medical Charges can receive free vaccination at designated public clinics.

Hong Kong residents aged 65 or above can also receive subsidised vaccination through private doctors enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme. The private doctor may or may not have a charge. The participating doctors' list and their service charge are posted at the Centre for Health Protection Website (www.chp.gov.hk). The Government provides subsidy of HK\$190 for one dose of 23vPPV and HK\$730 for one dose of PCV13 to the participating private doctor.

For your own health, do not hesitate to get the vaccinations early.



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

May Kapayapaan ba sa Kapaskuhan?

MADALAS mabasa sa Christmas card ang mga katagang "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Men." Ito nga ang dalangin ng bawat OFW para sa kanilang pamilya at sa ating Inang Bayan.

Kapayapaan na hindi lamang pagtigil ng putukan at digmaan kundi ang paglutang ng puno't dulo ng kaguluhan. Umaasa ang marami na humahakbang na tayo papalapit sa kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagkasundo ng GRP sa NDFP sa Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER). Mismong si Adviser on Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza ang nagsabing "CASER as the 'heart and soul' of the agreement... it is the wish of President [Rodrigo] Duterte to achieve a lasting, sustainable and principled peace."

Hindi ba't sa pamamagitan nga ng pag-sagot sa mga matatagal nang problema ng kahirapan, pagka-atrasado ng ating

ekonomiya, kawalan ng lupa, trabaho at sahod na nakakabuhay ay masasagot ang ugat ng taon nang armadong tunggalian sa bansa? Subalit anong nangyari?

Mayroong nagaganap na tahimik na paghahanda para sa 5th round ng Peace Talks. Tuwang tuwa ang dalawang peace panels dahil may abante sa usapan. Andun na sa Norway ang ilang miyembro ng Peace Panel ni Duterte at nasa Netherlands na ang iba sa mga kasama sa Negotiating Panel ng NDF. Handa na silang magpirmahan ng common draft ng CASER, anunsyo para sa pagpapalaya ng iba pang bilanggong pulitikal at joint coordinated ceasefire sa pagbubukas ng ika-ling-mang round ng peace talks.

Sa halip na ituloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan nitong ika-25 ng Nobyembre biglang bumaligtad ang Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang mga pangako sa CASER sa paglabas ng Proclamation 360

upang itigil na ang usapang pangkapayapaan. Binansagan ding "terrorista" ang National Demoratic Front, Communist Party of the Philippines at ang New People's Army. Malala pa, aarestuhin daw niya ang mga legal fronts nito - patungkol sa mga militanteng organisasyon.

Sabi ni Pangulong Duterte, nagpapatuloy daw kasi sa armadong paglaban ang NPA. Pero hindi ba yun nga ang dahilan mismo para mag-usap? Kung papasukuin lang niya ang NPA, bakit pa mag-uusap? Hindi ba't ang peace talks ay para nga usisain at sagutin ang ugat kung bakit nga may labanan? Hindi pwedeng ikondisyon ang pagsuko sa kalaban para pumasok sa usapang pangkapayapaan. Kailangan nga na resolbahan ang matagal nang mga problema kung bakit nag-aalsa ang masa.

Nakakapanghinayang talaga. Mas maganda sanang regalo sa Pasko na nagtuloy ang peace talks.

Dear Editor

Dear Editor,

Isang mainit na pagbati sa Editorial Board ng aking paboritong babasahin!

Isa akong masugid niyong mambabasa at nagpasya akong sumulat unang-una ay upang magpasalamat sa pagbibigay nyo sa amin ng mga mahahalagang balita tungkol sa mga kaganapan sa Hong Kong, sa Pilipinas at sa iba't-ibang panig ng mundo. Saludo ako sa inyo!

Ang isang dahilan pa kung bakit ako sumulat ay upang ihayag ang aking saloobin tungkol sa isang recent na balita tungkol sa isang OFW na ilang buwan palang sa kan-

yang amo ngunit nagawa na nitong sirain ang tiwala ng kanyang amo sa pamamagitan ng pangunguha ng mga bagay na hindi sa kanya.

Ako ay umaasa na sa pamamagitan ng aking liham sana ay mapaalalahanan ang mga OFWs na huwag sirain ang tiwala at huwag abusuhin ang kabaitan nila.

Kailangan natin ang ating trabaho para sa magandang kinabukasan ng ating pamilya lalong-lalo na ang ating mga anak kaya nararapat lamang na mahal natin ito.

Importante ang tiwala sa employer-employee relationship kaya dapat lang na pangalagaan at bigyang halaga ito. Marami na akong narinig na magandang kwento

tungkol sa mga OFWs na sobrang pinagkatiwalaan ng kanilang mababait na amo at dahil sa tiwalang ito mas maraming biyaya ang natatanggap ng OFW.

Sa nalalapit na kapaskuhan at pagtatapos ng taon nawa'y mapagmuni-munihan natin ang mga bagay na ito para sa ikabubuti ng ating relasyon sa ating mga amo.

Muli, maraming salamat sa paglalathala ng aking liham. Mabuhay ang Hong Kong News at mabuhay tayong lahat!

Lubos na gumagalang,
Eliza R.

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Migrants' Pride March 2017

By Ally Constantino

LGBT organizations of Filipino and other foreign workers in Hong Kong, and supporters from among local groups and other migrant organizations held the Migrant's Pride March throughout the streets of Central to call against the discrimination and violence against foreign domestic

workers in general, and LGBT migrants. Now on its third year, the Migrants' Pride March attracted more than 400 participants from FDWs and local LGBT groups and advocates. With the theme "Pride with Integrity, Pride of Humanity", the march according to the organizers aimed to highlight labor and social concerns of LGBT FDWs that they said

perpetuate discrimination, exclusion and even violence against LGBT. Nick Delfin, march organizer from the Filipino Lesbian Organization, said lesbian migrants suffer more discrimination. "This vulnerability is doubled among us LGBT migrants as we face discrimination and stereotypes that impact on our work and living conditions," Delfin added.

GALLERY



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Owtel November raffle winner Lorie Belle Padolina Rivera claims her prize of a Disneyland ticket courtesy of Destine Joy Travel.



The second winner of the November raffle of Owtel claims her Ocean Park ticket, also courtesy of Destine Joy Travel.



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BSK marks celebrations at Star Cruise

By Vicks Reyes Munar

WITH the theme “Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve, BSK Enabling OFWs since 1994”, Balikatan Sa Kaunlaran (BSK) celebrated its 23rd Anniversary, Induction and Graduation Ceremony at Star Pisces, Tsim Sha Tsui on Nov. 12.

A total of 150 persons attended the occasion with Vice Consul Robert Quintin as special guest and inducting officer. The celebration started with a sumptuous buffet lunch followed by the program proper.



Vice Consul Robert Quintin (left) inducts new BSK officers

DWEP's empowering workshops

By Vicks Reyes Munar

TO further empower domestic workers, Domestic Workers Empowerment Project (DWEP) held a financial literacy and Bollywood dance sessions on Nov. 19.

Miguel Manio, founder of the project, welcomed the participants and gave details of the day's activities, emphasizing that besides learning, participants should also enjoy the sessions.

Jason Y. Ng, author, columnist, and a member of the Progressive Lawyers Group, gave a talk on important financial literacy concepts to more than 100 members of the group, and guided them in doing budget exercises. Ng also gave pointers on how to save money.

Meanwhile, a Bollywood dance session was held after the financial literacy exercise. DWEP members enjoyed learning the dance moves of the new fitness mantra with particular attention to the hand movements.

The DWEP workshops were made possible by the volunteers of Standard Chartered Hong Kong and BNP Paribas, headed by Prashant Joshi -team leader.

To know more about the group's upcoming seminars and activities, join its Facebook group - Domestic Workers Empowerment Project - and become one of its more than 3,000 members.



Participants in the DWEP sessions

Ching Baltazar, long-time president of the livelihood organization, welcomed and expressed her thanks to those who joined the celebration.

Highlights of the program were the reading of the message from one of the Board Members of the BSK National Foundation, Guia Gomez, read by one of the

advisers of the group, Merlinda Mercado, and the inspirational message of Quintin, challenging OFWs to continuously learn skills and empower themselves.

Quintin, who used to sing in bars in Baguio before becoming a diplomat, also sang a song after a request from the attendees. Dance number from members of

various groups, and the BSK officers provided further entertainment to those who joined the celebration.

Another highlight was the graduation ceremony, where more than 100 OFWs, who participated in BSK's livelihood skills training for 2017 including macramé bag making, ribbon folding, balloon

twisting and food processing received their certificate.

For 2018, BSK Officers and members are planning to provide more livelihood skills training opportunities for OFWs. To those who are interested to join, call or sms 98559878 for reservation and inquiries.

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Buntis nga ba si Ellen kay John Lloyd?

By Cristy Kasilag

LUMALAKAS ang ugong na buntis nga ang sexy star na si Ellen Adarna at ang boyfriend niya, ang aktor na si John Lloyd Cruz daw ang ama.

Dahil nga daw sa pagbubuntis ng 29-anyos na Cebuana ay hindi na ito dumalo sa Bench "Under the Stars" Fashion Show na ginanap sa SM Mall of Asia (MOA) nuong ika-18 ng Nobyembre.

Kahit nung nagbabakasyon pa lang sila sa iba't-ibang bansa ay umugong na ang balita na nagdadalang-tao na sa unang pagkakataon si Ellen. At along tumibay

ang balita na ito nang magbalik sila sa Pilipinas.

Sa mga pinu-post nila sa kanilang social media accounts ay pinakita nila na sweet na sweet sila sa isa't-isa at masaya habang nagbabakasyon.

Una nang sinabi ng ABS-CBN na ang 32-anyos na si Lloydie ay nag indefinite leave mula sa trabaho.

Hindi alam kung ano ang petsa nang kanilang pagbalik sa bansa pero may lumabas na mga litrato na pumunta ang dalawa sa lamay para kay Lupe Romero, anak ng dating Senador Alberto Romulo nuong ika-13 ng Nobyembre.

Nagkita pa nga sila duon ni Presidente Rodrigo Roa Duterte na kinamayan ni Lloydie.

Matatandaan na dating nobyo ni Ellen ang bunsong anak ni Presidente Duterte, na si Sebastian na mas kilala sa pangalang Baste.

Unang nagkakilala sina Ellen at John Lloyd nang magtungo ang actor sa Cebu para sa isang mall tour.

Ngunit naging mas malapit sila nang sumali ang magandang Cebuana sa cast ng "Home Sweetie Home" kung saan isa sa mga bida si John Lloyd.



ELLEN at JOHN LLOYD

GMA Network wins big at 39th Catholic Mass Media Awards

GMA Network Inc. (GMA) took home a total of 13 recognitions at the 39th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) for its various programs and special features that promote good values through television and radio.

GMA 7's top-rating weekly family sitcom "Pepito Manaloto" was elevated this year to the Hall of Fame for Best Comedy Program. Bannered by multi-awarded comedian Michael V., Pepito Manaloto also won in the said category in 2010, 2011,

2013, 2015, and 2016.

The country's most-awarded news magazine program "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" was named the Best News Magazine Program this year. Hosted by GMA News pillar and Peabody-awardee Jessica Soho, Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho remains the most-watched show on its time block.

Receiving another accolade for GMA is multi-awarded investigative program "Reporter's Notebook" which took home the Best Public Service Program trophy.

"Elekasyon 2016", GMA Network's special coverage of the 2016 national elections, won the Best Special Event Coverage. Led by GMA News pillars Mel Tiangco, Mike Enriquez, Vicky Morales, Arnold Clavio, Howie Severino, and Jessica Soho, Elekasyon 2016 delivered the most in-depth coverage of the national elections. GMA Network was the first television news organization to broadcast the partial and unofficial results tally.



GMA News and Public Affairs

Meanwhile, "Kerygma TV", which GMA-7 co-produced, won as the Best TV Special.

Several programs of leading local news channel GMA News TV also emerged as winners this year. "Tonight with Arnold Clavio" took home the Best Talk Show award while travel and adventure program "Biyaheng ni Drew" won the Best Adult Educational/Cultural Program award.

Earning special citations as well were

GMA-7's "Maynila" (Drama Series/Program category); science and infotainment "AHA!" (Children and Youth Program category); and GMA News TV programs "Brigada" and "I Juander" (News Magazine category).

Programs of GMA's flagship AM radio station DZBB also received special awards. "Super Balita sa Tanghali, Nationwide" took home the special citation in the News Program category.

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Anne, Erwan kasal na

By Cristy Kasilag

OPISYAL na bahagi na ang aktres at modelo na si Anne Curtis-Smith ng pamilya Heussaff matapos niyang ikasal sa restaurant owner and food blogger na si Erwan Heussaff nuong ika-12 ng Nobyembre.

Piling mga miyembro ng pamilya at mga kaibigan ang dumalo sa kasal nila na ginanap sa Southland, New Zealand na ginamitan ng #TheWanForAnne.

Nanduon siyempre ang kapamilya ng 32-anyos na si Anne sa noontime show na "It's Showtime!" tulad nina Vice Ganda,

Karylle, Vhong Navarro at iba pa.

Nilihim nila ang petsa ng kanilang kasal. Nung ilang araw bago ang takdang araw na nagkaroon ng mga usapan na sa Linggo na darating gaganapin ang kanilang pag-iisang didbid.

Pitong taong magkasintahan sina Anne at Erwan bago sila nagpakasal sa isang simpleng seremonya.

Suot ni Anne ang isang long-sleeves na puting wedding gown na gawa ni Monique Lhuillier samantala ang kanyang sapatos ay dark platform ankle boots.

Tradisyunal man na matuturing ang

kanilang naging kasal, mayroon pa ring kaunting katatawanan.

Tulad na lamang nung tinanong si Erwan kung nangangako ba itong mahal si Anne, mahina ang sagot ni Erwan kaya kinailangan niya sumagot ulit gamit ang mas malakas na boses. Ganun din ang nangyari kay Anne, pero nung inulit niya ang sagot niya na "I do" ay pa-kanta ang tono.

Samantala, isang masayang at hindi karaniwang reception ang sumunod na mayroong mga pa-sexy na dance moves na kinagiliwan ng karamihan sa mga bis-

ita. Mas magmumukha pa na party ang okasyon kaysa seryosong reception na halata namang ikinatuwa ng karamihan.

Si Erwan ay kapatid ng sexy model at artist na si Solenn Heussaff-Bolzico, na nagkataon na isa sa mga malapit na kaibigan ni Anne.



ERWAN at ANNE

Winwyn wagi sa beauty pageant

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG pagrampa sa entablado ng mga Filipinas sa iba't ibang beauty pageants ay masasabing "hits and misses".

Sa unang pagkakataon sa pagsali sa Reina Hispanoamericana 2017 ng Pilipinas ay nakamit ang pambato nito na si Maria Teresita Ssen "Winwyn" Marquez ang korona.

Hindi man crowd favorite si Winwyn, ay tinalo ng 25-anyos na si Winwyn ang 26 iba pang kandidato na mula sa mga Spanish-speaking countries ng beauty pageant na ginawa sa Bolivia. Sa Question and Answer ay tinanong siya kung paano



WINWYN

niya mapapalaganap nag Hispanic-American culture kahit na may language barrier.

Sa pamamagitan ng isang interpreter, sinagot niya ang tanong. "Language can

be learned but the will and determination to contribute to the organization cannot. It has to come from the heart. It has to be natural. I believe that kindness is a universal language that if you treat people with tolerance, patience and love, you will understand each other."

"The Hispanic culture is not about language only. It's about love for God, love for country, love for history and culture and love for family. As a Filipina with a unique heritage, I have instilled that. I am ready to promote the Hispanic culture not just in Asia but in the whole world. It is time to celebrate the Hispanic culture. It is meant to be celebrated," aniya.

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GMA's 2017 Christmas Station ID

GMA Network invites viewers to spread love wholeheartedly via its 2017 Christmas Station ID dubbed, "Buong Pusong MaGMAhalan Ngayong Pasko," which now airs on GMA Pinoy TV.

This Yuletide season, the Kapuso Network helps bring to mind that any act of kindness, no matter how simple, can make

a huge difference when it comes from the heart.

Shot in various locations in Metro Manila, provinces, and abroad, GMA's Christmas Station ID, which premiered last November 6 after Super Ma'am, features a series of heart-warming scenes of unsuspecting Filipinos receiving heartfelt

surprises from Kapuso personalities.

GMA News pillars Mel Tiangco and Mike Enriquez, who went to separate locations, shared their thoughts on their gratifying experiences.

"It's always heart-warming to be with our viewers. Kapag nasa 24 Oras, kapag nasa Magpakailanman ako, hin-

di ko sila nakakadaupang-palad. Pero ngayong kasama natin sila, I feel their warmth," said Mel.

"Masarap talagang magbigay ng kasiyahan, lalo na kapag Pasko. Masarap talagang magbigay, period," shared Mike who went to a public market.

Meanwhile, the hosts of the longest-running noontime show Eat Bulaga surprised their solid Dabarkads. "Kakaiba ito dahil kahit na lagi naming ginagawa ito sa pagsugod sa barangay, kakaiba ito kasi

si lola, 105 years old na! Ang daming kuwento!," said Joey De Leon. "Kami po'y nagpapasalamat sa ating mga kasama sa GMA dahil binigyan kami ng pagkakataong makasama sila," Tito Sotto added.

GMA News pillar Jessica Soho, along with fellow Kapuso personalities, went to share the love with the true heroes in the classroom. She said, "Kailangang pasalamatan natin sila every chance we get dahil napakadakilang ating mga teacher."



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Numbers To Remember

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Police Report Hotline 2527 7177

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For emergency cases, call or text:
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Labor 6080 8323
OWWA 6345 9324
SSS 2823 8552
Pag-Ibig 2823 8561
Consulate Trunkline 2823 8500
Office Fax: 2866 9885
Email: hongkongpc@philcongen-hk.com
Website: http://philcongen-hk.com/
Facebook: Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong

Hong Kong GOVERNMENT

Independent Commission Against
Corruption 2526 6366
Central Government 2835 2500
Complaint Against Police 2866 7700
2200 4460 to 62
Consumer Rights Hotline 2929 2222
Department of Health 2961 8989
Equal Opportunities Commission 2511 8211
Immigration 2824 6111
Labour Department 2717 1771
Legal Aid 2537 7677
Race Relations Unit 2810 3203
Social Welfare 2343 2255
Transport 2804 2600
Postal Hotline 2921 2222

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants 2723 7536
Asian Migrant Center 2312 0031
Christian Action - Shine Center 3188 4555
Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos (and other Asian Migrants and Ethnic Minorities) 2526 4249
Alliance of Progressive Labor 2770 0411
Bayanihan Trust Centre 2817 8928
Filipino Migrant Workers Union 9104-1411; 9758-5935
Hong Kong Christian Service - CHEER Center 3755 6811
International Social Services 2836 3598
Mission for Migrant Workers 2522 8264
The Bethune House 2721 3119
Enrich Hong Kong 2386 5811
Helpers for Domestic Helpers 2523 4020
United Filipinos in Hong Kong 3156 2447

AIRPORT AND AIRLINES

Airport Inquiry 2181 8888
Cathay Pacific Airways 2747 5000
Cebu Pacific Air 2722 0609
Philippine Airlines 2301 9300

Horoscope



Capricorn

December 22 to January 19

Ihanda ang sarili dahil ang mga detalye tungkol sa iyong pribadong buhay ay maaring lumabas sa publiko. Mag-ingat sa paggamit ng social media at kung ano ang mga inilalagay mo doon.



Aquarius

January 20 to February 18

Gumawa ka ng ibang bagay. Iwasan mong mabaon sa isang nakakasawang routine ng buhay.



Pisces

February 19 to March 20

May paglalakbay sa iyong kinabukasan. May darating na offer sa iyo at ito'y hindi mo matatangihan dahil gusto mo.



Aries

March 21 to April 19

Nakakalito ang mga darating na araw. Parang magaan ang pasok ng pera at may mga makikita kang palatandaan na bwenas ang iyong negosyo.



Taurus

April 20 to May 20

Ang relasyon mo sa iyong partner ay mainit at magiliw. Samantalain mo ang magandang pakiramdam.



Gemini

May 21 to June 20

Ito ay kasiya-siyang buwan para sa iyo. May mga pupuri sa iyo at maayos din ang iyong kalusugan.



Cancer

June 21 to July 22

May seryosong pag-uusapan sa iyong pamilya. Mabibigla ka, lawakan mo sana ang iyong pang-unawa dahil hindi mo ito inaasahan.



Leo

July 23 to August 22

Ito ay tamang panahon upang pag-usapan ang pamumuhunan o pagbili ng isang mahalagang bagay para sa iyong tahanan. Ipakita sa pamilya na suportado mo sila.



Virgo

August 23 to September 22

Ikaw ay tunay na masigasig na dahilan ng mabilis na pag-aseño sa buhay na ito. Makabuluhan ang iyong sinasabi kaya gusto ng ibang tao na makipag-usap sa iyo.



Libra

September 23 to October 22

Maari kang makakita ng mga paraan para mapalakas ang iyong kita para sa hinaharap. Gayunpaman, mag-ingat din sa mga nakakasalamuha dahil maaring may manloko.



Scorpio

October 23 to November 21

Ikaw ay masipag, kaakit-akit at parang may magnet na dahilan kung bakit nais nila na lagi kang kasama. Huwag mong iwasan ang iyong katanyagan, ngunit maging maingat pa din.



Sagittarius

November 22 to December 21

May kaibigan kang babae na hihingi sa iyo ng tulong. Huwag magpapadala sa mga hinaing hangga't hindi mo napapatunayang totoo.

What's Cooking?

If you're looking for a dish that is exploding in flavors, then why not try this Chili stir fried Beef with Peanuts?

Ingredients:

¼ kg. beef flank steak, thinly sliced
2 tbsp. oyster sauce
1 tbsp. brown sugar
2 tsp. soy sauce
2-3 red chillies
¼ cup toasted peanuts
1 medium green bell pepper, cubed
1 medium onion thinly sliced
salt & pepper to taste
2-3 stalks of spring onions

Procedure:

1. Toss beef with oyster sauce, soy sauce and brown sugar and set aside.
2. Over medium heat, stir fry onions and

add the beef, cook, stirring until the beef just loses its raw appearance.

3. Reduce the heat to low fire and add up toasted peanuts, bell pepper and season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Serve with sliced spring onions. Serve hot.
5. Happy eating.



By Chef Jay Dator

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre M/F Cockloft, Wing Tat Commercial Building #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong For more enquiries please call us at 2850 7724 / 2850 7408 / 2850 7438



Juan: Saang lugar nanggaling ang gatas?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, sa ALASKA.

Juan: Saang bansa galing ang mga allergies?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, sa ALGERIA.

Juan: Saang bansa galing ang corned beef?
Pedro: Saan??
Juan: Eh di, sa ARGENTINA.

Juan: Saang bansa maraming bading?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, sa BAKLADESH (BANGLADESH).

Juan: Saang bansa marami ang bolimic?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, BOLIVIA.

Juan: Saang bansa na halos lahat ng mga tao ay may osteorosis?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, CUBA.

Juan: Saang bansa ang nakaiinip?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, EGYPT.

Juan: Anong bansa ang nawawala?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, GHANA.

Juan: Saang bansa laging gutom ang mga tao?
Pedro: Saan?
Juan: Eh di, HUNGARY.

Juan: Anong bansa ang nandyan lang?
Pedro: Ano?

Juan: Eh di, ANDYANISIA (INDONESIA)

Juan: Anong bansa ang kanila?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, KANYA (KENYA)

Juan: Anong bansa ang di sikat?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, LAOS.

Juan: Anong bansa ang laging naghihintay?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, KUWAIT.

Juan: Anong bansa ang laging wala?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, LEBANON.

Juan: Ano ang mangyayari kapag nahulog mo ang isang pulang sombrero sa asul na dagat?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di mababasa yung sombrero.

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Sa muwebles, divan
- 6 Sambit
- 10 Alyssa ____; sexy star
- 11 Walang magulang
- 12 Ginaw
- 13 Nilalagay sa suman
- 14 Ito o iyon
- 15 Ginamitan ng salaan
- 16 Klima
- 18 Pangnagdaan ng "is"
- 19 Amoy ng bilasang isda
- 21 Pa de ____
- 24 Magaspang
- 28 Ininis
- 30 Umbok
- 31 Madasalin
- 32 Sipag
- 33 Maraming ginagawa
- 34 Uri ng punung-kahoy
- 35 Nakatatandang kapatid na lalaki
- 36 Umatras

PABABA

- 1 Kuha
- 2 Gunita
- 3 Ko at iyo
- 4 Banaag
- 5 Card na laruan
- 6 Rain; Tagalog
- 7 Gulay na inaadobo
- 8 Katulong
- 9 Puwersa
- 11 Dinig
- 15 Uri ng eclipse
- 17 Milagro
- 20 Damit panloob
- 21 Tilad
- 22 Lugar sa Cavite
- 23 Pagkalat ng tinta
- 25 Matandang lalaki sa Ilocano
- 26 Kapitolyo ng Guam
- 27 Imbabaw
- 29 Antayan ng bisita
- 32 Palayaw ni Samantha

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
10						11			
12						13			
14						15			
16				17			18		
				19			20		
21	22	23		24			25	26	27
28			29				30		
31							32		
33							34		
35							36		

Answer to last puzzle

B	A	Y	A	K	A	N		P	I	P
I	P	A	B	A	L	I		I	B	A
B	A	N	A	T	I	N		N	A	P
				A	S	O			B	A
P	A	G	O	D		Y	A	M	A	N
U	L	A	P				S	A	B	I
S	A	B	O	N		P	A	Y	A	G
A	B			I	S	A				
K	A	Y		L	A	K	I	P	A	N
A	M	A		A	B	A	K	A	D	A
L	A	P		Y	A	Y	A	M	A	N



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New Territories		
Tsuen Wan	Rm 1705-06A, 17/F Nan Fung Centre, 264-298 Castle Peak Road (MTR Exit A)	2493 3300
Shatin	Shop 11A, Level 1 Shatin Lucky Plaza, 1-15 Wang Pok Street (MTR Exit A) Unit 1709, 17/F Tower 2, Grand Central Plaza, 138 Shatin Rural Committee Road (MTR Exit B) *	2698 5000 3628 5080
Yuen Long	Office 02-04, 12/F Kwong Wah Plaza, 11 Tai Tong Road (Light Rail Tai Tong Road)	2476 1661
Tai Po	G/F, 61 Kwong Fuk Road	2656 1978
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