

HONG KONG NEWS

The No.1 Foreign Newspaper Vol.XVIII No.388

February 1, 2018

Page 4



APPLICATION. A Pinoy-made app is helping migrant workers access emergency help and other assistance.

OFBank launched

But Duterte slammed over misaligned priority



DEPOSITION. Migrant workers and Hongkongers hold a protest at the Philippine Consulate to press Manila to initiate an effort so trafficking victim Mary Jane Veloso could be allowed to testify against her recruiters through a deposition while in Indonesian jail (story on page 8).

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte led the ceremonial opening of the Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank), fulfilling a campaign

promise to provide remittance and financial services to overseas Filipino workers.

"I made simple promises during the election. I am very happy that this one I have already fulfilled," President Duterte

said in his speech.

A migrant leader in Hong Kong, however, slammed the government for prioritizing something that was not a top concern among overseas Filipino workers.

Duterte earlier issued Executive Order No. 44 approving the acquisition of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank by the

Turn to page 14

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REUNION. A Philippine Consulate official and a Filipino worker whom he rescued in Qatar meet again in Hong Kong.

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COMPETITION. Three beautiful women vie for the affection of the same ex-boyfriend.

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Cheung meets with EMs

By Ally Constantino

NGO Hong Kong Unison hosted a chat between Chief Secretary for Administration Matthew Cheung Kin-chung and local ethnic minority youth on Jan. 16.

In a statement, the NGO said that at the meeting a number of locally-born and -raised ethnic minorities expressed that, after completing 15 years of education in Hong Kong, issues such as racial segregation, negative stereotypes, low expectation of Chinese proficiency for ethnic minorities, and the lack of support in Chinese learning and teaching in mainstream

schools, among others had rendered them with low Chinese proficiency that was comparable to only primary two level.

Owing to these, most of them face difficulties using Cantonese in daily communications.

An ethnic minority who recently graduated from university recalled her early days when she arrived in Hong Kong and studied in Secondary 4. She obtained an A in the GCSE Chinese examination after spending only one year to prepare. Unison noted that it was ironic that most ethnic minority students – some may have even started Chinese learning since kindergar-

ten – were taught basic Chinese just to sit for the GCSE Chinese examination as an alternative qualification in Chinese language for university admission.

On one hand, ethnic minority parents were dissuaded from applying to Chinese kindergartens because of low Chinese proficiency of their children.

The NGO added that while the government has implemented policies to provide recurrent funding on Chinese learning for non-Chinese students and set up Administrative and Admission Guides for kindergarten admission, these measures were compromised by the lack of transparency and monitoring, as well as teachers training.

“As a result, little advancement is seen in the Chinese education and Chinese proficiency of ethnic minorities. Language barriers affect not only the opportunities for further education and employment for generations of ethnic minorities, but also their integration into the mainstream soci-



Cheung (second row, third from right) with ethnic minorities

ety,” Unison said.

Cheung, meanwhile, expressed that he was happy to meet with ethnic minority youth from different backgrounds. Some of the participants were students from different undergraduate programmes such as business management, cultural studies, and criminology; some are working youth in fields like social work, law, and public authorities, and others were parents who went through the local education system and do not want their children to suffer the

same.

Cheung said he empathized with the “lost generation”, those ethnic minority youth who went through the education system and struggled in social integration and mobility because of the inadequate policies that left them poor in Chinese ability.

He said he would bring the views and suggestions raised at the meeting to respective government bureaus to formulate and implement more suitable measures.

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Jurors deliberate verdict on Pinay-Austrian murder case

WAS he innocent? Or was he guilty of either murder or manslaughter?

These were the questions a jury of seven would have to determine as they began deliberations on the murder case against 28-year-old Husnain Safdar. Husnain pleaded not guilty to murdering his then 25-year-old girlfriend Andrea Bayr, an Austrian-Filipino and a mother of four, in Tuen Mun on March 29, 2016.

After an eight-day trial at the High Court, Husnain's judgment rested on the jurors' assess-

ment of evidence presented by prosecution and defense. Bayr sustained multiple injuries and autopsy revealed the most significant were the head and neck injuries, either or both would be sufficient to cause death. The court heard that prior to the incident, Bayr and Husnain were consuming methamphetamine or more commonly known as ice. A forensic expert also said all the blood found in the crime scene was of the deceased.

On the other hand, the defense said Husnain had psychotic symptoms during the incident. AC

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Pinoy-made app for migrant workers

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Filipino-made and -owned app is seeking to be the go-to place for migrant workers in need of various services and assistance, particularly rescue from life-threatening situations.

Nicki Agcaoili, one of the founders of

Compass, told Hong Kong News the app, which can be downloaded from the App Store and the Google Play Store, has three important features to help migrant workers get the help or the service they need.

"The main features for the version 1 are the SOS or alert button or the emergency response button, and then the community

and services feature," he said in an interview in December.

A migrant worker who finds themselves in a life-threatening situation can press the alert button of the app, which would then generate a four-digit code to verify that they need help and did not press the button accidentally.

Once the code is verified, the alert would then be sent to a partner organization in the country where the migrant worker is located.

"What happens is the alert would go to our CMS (content management system) and then we will be able to track kung nasaan sila so this is the same technology used by Uber and we're able to pinpoint exactly where they are," Agcaoili said.

In Hong Kong, his group has partnered with Mission for Migrant Workers and Migrante.

"We will contact (our partner organizations) para pumunta sa pulis at para maka-deploy ng help. It's real time so makukuha kaagad namin ang alert thru text.

"Iyan ang isang feature niya at sigurado kami ngayon na because of monitoring being done na agaran siyang mabibigyan ng tulong at hindi na kailangang maghintay pa ng response ang mga OFW, and at the same time may experience na rin ang aming partner organizations on how to help," Agcaoili said.

The app, he said, was available not only for migrant workers from the Philippines but also from other countries.

In Hong Kong, Agcaoili has met with Indonesian migrant workers who downloaded the app, and some migrant workers from Thailand as well.

The SOS button, he added, was a foremost need among migrant workers in the

Middle East, where many cases of abuse and exploitation take place.

The two other features - the community and services - were for non-emergency situations.

"If they have a question, then pupunta lang sila sa community and ito pwede silang mag-create ng message and pipili lang sa drop-down menu at madami kaming partners and then i-type lang ang kanilang concern, then the partner organization can respond," Agcaoili said.

As for the services feature, he said the subsequent versions of the app will include audio-video calls, sending of loads, as well as direct remittances to the family and schools so migrant workers could send money directly to pay for tuition.

"We had the ability to be government-funded, but we decided to veer away from that dahil ayaw naming ma-tie up at alam natin ang byurukrasya so we want to stay true to the vision and the only way to do that is thru advertising, partnership and transactional commissions kasi marami pa kaming features na lalabas," he said.

Besides assisting migrant workers during their time of employment overseas, the app also seeks to help them re-integrate into the community once they return to their home countries.

"Magagamit din nila ang app para malaman nila kung ano ang benefits nilang makukuha," he said.

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Agcaoili (center) with migrant workers Eman and Shiela

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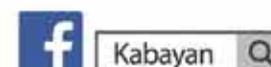
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PCG exec, rescued worker reunite

By Ally Constantino

AFTER more than a decade an official of the Philippine Consulate and a domestic worker whom he helped rescue in Qatar were reunited in Hong Kong.

Arlyn A., 46, squealed in delight when

she saw Assistance to Nationals officer Hermogenes Cayabyab Jr. on Nov. 25 in the vicinity of the United Centre, where the PCG office is located, in Admiralty.

Arlyn, a single mother, joined a protest against a department order issued by Secretary Silvestre Bello III that imposed a

deployment ban of newly-hired Filipinos to work abroad. Cayabyab, on the other hand, was the PCG officer who observed the picket held by activists and migrants.

Arlyn said her then male employer was harassing her. "Nang may pagkakataon tumakas ako at dumiresto ako sa embassy

doon. Si sir ang isa sa mga nag-aasikaso ng mga runaways doon," she said.

Arlyn worked in Qatar in 2003 to 2009. After going home to the Philippines, she then came to Hong Kong.

Cayabyab said he was glad to see Arlyn safe and happy in Hong Kong.



Cayabyab and Arlyn



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Migrants back call for Mary Jane's deposition

By Ally Constantino

MIGRANT workers and Hongkongers on Jan. 25 held a picket at the Philippine Consulate General to appeal to Manila to allow Mary Jane Veloso to speak the truth through deposition.

Led by the United Filipinos-Migrant Hong Kong, the group held the protest to free Veloso from imprisonment.

Dolores Balladares, Unifil chairperson, said preventing Veloso from witnessing through deposition or being examined from jail was not just a legal matter.

"This is Mary Jane's life we are talking about. Taking her account through deposition could save her life, yet the Philippine government is taking the side of her recruiters, who swore in their counter-affidavit that Mary Jane is innocent," Balladares said.

Besides Filipino migrants, Indonesian workers and local people also joined the protest action.



Migrants press Manila to allow Mary Jane's deposition

"Remember, Mary Jane was set to be executed by the Indonesian government, but because of protests worldwide, the Indonesian government was pushed to postpone the execution. Eventually, her

recruiters were caught. The outcome of the case against them can make or break Mary Jane's case in Indonesia," Balladares added.

Peya complainants reach over 1,000

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THE number of complaints received by the Philippine Consulate General against embattled Peya Travel has reached over 1,000 and officials were expecting more complaints to come.

As of Jan. 24, a PCG official said the complaints filed by Filipinos living and working in Hong Kong reached 1,083.

"The bulk of complaints is filed on Sundays, and we expect maybe some 100 more complaints to come," said Attache Joel Oronan of the Assistance to Nationals section.

"Kasi Sunday lang naman ang available day nila para mapag-file ng complaint, pero madami pa ring dumaring," he added.

Oronan said some of the complainants have yet to return from their vacation in the Philippines.

The complaints were being forwarded to the Hong Kong Police Force for investigation.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of Arnold Grospe, Peya marketing manager, re-

mained unknown.

"No word yet," Oronan said.

It was also unknown whether Grospe was in Hong Kong or was staying in other jurisdiction.

Vice Consul Robert Quintin on Jan. 9 told Hong Kong News that police have informed the consulate that Grospe was nowhere to be found in any of the latter's listed addresses in Hong Kong.

"A day after Rhea Donna Boyce (Peya co-owner) was taken to police custody on Dec. 25, police also looked for Arnold Grospe but he was not in his listed addresses," Quintin said.

Boyce and her husband Peter, the other owner of Peya, were taken to custody by the police for questioning on Dec. 25 and 27, respectively, following the complaints filed by Filipino domestic helpers who found out that despite paying for their tickets, these were unconfirmed and they were unable to board their flight.

As of Jan. 9., the Philippine Consulate had received over 800 complaints against Peya.

At least two Filipino workers in Hong Kong who were about to go home for good in the Philippines were among those who sought the help of the Philippine Consulate after they found out that the plane tickets they booked from Peya were unconfirmed.

Besides them, it was also learned that a staff at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office was also among those who had to shell out hefty cash so she could still spend the holidays with her family in the Philippines after finding out that her Peya-issued ticket was unconfirmed.

The two Filipino domestic helpers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Hong Kong News that they were worried that they could not get a refund of their tickets.

"For good na kami sa January. Sabi ng Peya baka daw sa January pa ang refund pero wala na kami dito noon. Naghahanap na kami ng ibang ticket para sa pag-uwi namin for good," one of them said as she showed the ticket she bought from Peya.

She and her friend went to the consulate on Dec. 20 to file their complaint.

Assistance to Nationals officer Hermogenes Cayabyab Jr. told the two women to still file their complaint and assured them that should any refunds would be made by Peya, they would be informed.

"Ipapatawag naman kayo at kokontakin kapag naayos na ito, basta i-file ninyo lang at iiwan ang contact details sa amin," he told the two women.

Meanwhile, Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre also told Hong Kong News that a POLO staff had to fork out \$8,000 so she could get a flight to the Philippines.

"She booked with Peya, and now she had to pay more so she could go home. I think it was the only available flight she could find. It's expensive, but you'd do anything to be with your family," he said.

Airlines and the Philippine government had extended assistance to the Filipino workers so they could still spend holidays in the Philippines.

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Naikuwento niya ang suliranin sa mga kaibigan. Si Angie, isa sa kanila na may magandang hubog na katawan. Tinanong ni Rosalie kung paano na-achieved ang magandang katawan. Kinuha nito mula sa kanyang bag ang kulay asul na nasa tube

sabay sabing, "ito ang gamit ko, Upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion gawa sa England." Mabibili sa Victory Supermarket, first floor sa Worldwide House sa halagang HK\$98 lamang.

Hindi na nagdalawang isip pa si Rosalie, bumili agad siya ng nasabing 5 in 1 lotion sa pag-asang malunasan ang suliranin at bumalik sa dating mahubog na katawan. Sinunod niya ang paggamit ng lotion ayon sa instruction sheet. Ipahid paitaas para pumayat at balutan ng glad wrap ang bahagi na gustong pumayat. Makalipas ang anim na linggong paggamit, naramdaman at nakita niya ang slim ng tiyan at mga hita. Napansin din niya ang pagputi ng kanyang balat. Hindi rin siya makapaniwala ng malaman ang resulta sa malaking pagbawas ng LDL cholesterol level.

(Article provided by: LT)



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Rosalie Catostos

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Still no lawyer for tourist in check case

By Ally Constantino

A District Court judge asked the Legal Aid Department to reconsider its decision to require an elderly Filipino tourist to pay a huge amount so she could have a lawyer.

After being informed by 75-year-old MI Gosilar that the money from the US and the Philippines was not forthcoming, Judge Kwok Wai-kin asked the lawyer from the Legal Aid who was present in the court to revisit their position to require the defendant to pay \$110,000 so she could be represented in court.

When the hearing began, Gosilar, through an interpreter, told the judge that the money she was expecting from her nephew in the US was held up owing to some legal issues, while her property in the Philippines could not be used to seek a

bank loan as a recent typhoon damaged it.

Judge Kwok then addressed the Legal Aid representative about the defendant's predicament, noting that Gosilar had been in custody since December 2016.

The Legal Aid representative, surnamed Chen, said the contribution requirement imposed on Gosilar was based on the assets that she told them she owned.

"The reality is that no money is forthcoming," said Judge Kwok.

The lawyer, meanwhile, said they would need time to consider the appeal.

After this, the judge addressed Gosilar, who was in the dock, and told her that the Legal Aid would look into her case again so she could be given a lawyer free of charge.

Asked if she had an application for bail, the defendant said she had no money.

Judge Kwok smiled and agreed she had no money to seek bail.

Gosilar has been in custody since Dec. 9, 2016 when she allegedly tried to encash a fake P2.5-billion check in a Hang Seng Bank along Des Voeux Road in Central.

In a hearing in November, Gosilar said she had obtained a certificate from Philippine police, saying she was duped into believing that the check she was trying to encash was legitimate.

"Actually, I was scammed. I have a copy of police report from the Philippines here," she said.

In a hearing in January 2017, the High Court heard that the check was a "donation" from another Filipina, Cynthia De Guzman, to the defendant's charity—the Friends of Mama Mary 2000 charity foundation.



District Court

Unexpected love story nagsimula sa Restroom

MAAGANG naging biyuda si Jane Suba at simula noon pagtatrabaho upang matustusan ang pangangailangan ng pamilya ang naging buhay niya. Mapalad din kasi dahil nakatagpo ng mabait na amo na itinuring ng isang pamilya dito sa Hong Kong.

Hindi niya inasahan ang magandang karanasan sa mismong kaarawan. Nagtungo siya sa Ocean Park dahil free entrance kapag Birthday kung mayroong Hong Kong ID. Isinama niya ang kaibigan na nakakuha rin ng discount sa entrance ticket. Habang nakapila sila sa restroom ay iniabot ng kaibigan ang isang bote ng pabango. "Dream Love 1000 Attract your Man, eau de parfum," pabulong na binasa ni Jane ang nakasulat sa kahon. Pinayuhan ng kaibigan na mag-spray bago lumabas ng banyo. Sinunod naman niya at dahil nagustuhan ang scent ay naparami ang

wisik sa damit niya. Nagtawanan sila at nasabi ng kaibigan na makakaakit na si Jane. Hindi siya naniwala dahil napaka-simple lamang at medyo may edad na.

Nakapila na sila upang sumakay sa cable car at nagkataong isang Briton ang nakasunod sa pila. Napansin nilang panay ang singhap nito na tila inaamoy ang buhok at tila isang malaking kiliti ang naramdaman niya. Kinurot niya ang kaibigan sabay palihim na itinuro ang lalaki sa likuran. Nagkasama silang tatlo sa iisang cable car at doon nagumpisang nagpakilala ito. Naging kampante sila sa kuwentuhan habang ramdam niya ang tingin nito sa kaniya na tila may pagnanasa. Hiningi nito ang kaniyang number bago sila bumaba at doon nagsimula ang kanilang love story.

(Article provided by: LT)



Jane Suba

Three Pinays in drug case seek shorter jail term

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THREE Filipino tourists who were found guilty of conspiring to bring in to Hong Kong some \$2.5-million worth of cocaine in 2015 were seeking a lower sentence.

The three - Shirley Chua, Remelyn Roque, and Ana Loella Creus - were set to be sentenced on Jan. 18 by High Court Judge Audrey Campbell-Moffat.

Mitigating, the counsels of the three told the court that the Filipinos gave statements to the Philippine Consulate General that led to the arrest in 2015 of Rufus Katumba, a Uganda national, and his Filipino common-law wife Marilyn Ramos.

The court was also given a letter from the PCG, which stated that the statements given by Chua, Roque, and Creus helped in the arrest of Katumba and Ramos.

News reports said that when Katumba and Ramos were arrested in Laguna in October 2015, some 10 kilos of cocaine, and 10 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride were found in their home. The illegal drugs seized were estimated to have a street value of P20 million.

Judge Campbell-Moffat, however, asked why "Nora", who was the contact of the three Filipinos was not arrested.

"I want to know what they have said because Nora appears to get off scot-free. I suspect that nobody said much about Nora," Judge Campbell-Moffat said.

A Newton inquiry, where the three defendants would be questioned in the witness box, would be held on Aug. 20.

Meanwhile, the Filipinos' counsels told the court they would get in touch with the PCG so they could get the record of the statements given by the three regarding Katumba and Ramos. In November, a jury of seven members voted unanimous and found Chua, Roque and Creus guilty.

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Fun never stops in Boracay

By Daryll Saclag

IMAGINE this: you are spending a wonderful holiday on an island on a sunny afternoon, enjoying a fresh fruit shake under the shade of a coconut tree. You take in all the beauty that surrounds you – blue skies, white sand, crystal clear waters. You tell yourself, “This is the life. I don’t ever want to go back home.”

This was how I thought my three-day vacation in Boracay would go. This was how most articles on Boracay describe the experience you would get when you visit the popular island destination.

I was wrong. But not completely.

Boracay is known for its pristine beaches and vibrant nightlife. Foreigners almost always place it at the top of their bucket list when they come to the Philippines. Yet, for some unknown reasons, I had never been to the island until last October. It was my first time to visit and you could just imagine how excited I was about this trip.

To be fair to those travel writers, all of them said the best time to go is, of course, during summer. Boracay is mostly dry from March to July, with temperature reaching up to 38 degrees Celsius. However, hordes of tourists from in and out of the country hit the beach during this period so you will have to manage your expectations if you are looking for a quiet geta-

way. You are also likely to see dark green, rather than crystalline, waters in summer as a result of algal bloom.

While I only got to enjoy one clear, sunny day out of the three days I had in Boracay, I had a great time just the same.

When you decide to go during off-peak season, the nightlife in the island remains as colorful and lively as it does in summer. Boracay is divided in three stations and most of the happenings take place in Station 2. Here you will find clubs that play loud music up to early morning, bars, restaurants, local performers and musicians, fire spinners, massage parlors, and tattoo artists, among others. Station 2 is also known for its D’Mall, which is an open air market where you can buy shirts, key chains, jewelry, lamps, beachwear, and other souvenir items. Station 1 is where the high-end hotels are, while Station 3 has fewer establishments, which translate to fewer people.

Except when there is a typhoon, it is business as usual for most of these shops even if it is raining. One night, my friends and I were searching for a place to have a good time after spending the whole day just inside the hotel room. We did not have a difficulty looking for one as clubs and bars were still open. We went to Summer Place in Station 2 to have a few drinks and enjoy the music.



A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the middle of the sea

In the day, you can also do some activities like sailing and snorkeling even when it is raining as long as it is not too hard. Most importantly, Boracay’s four-kilometer-long white sand beach is always open, rain or shine, for you to enjoy.

While my first visit to Boracay was not exactly what many would consider ideal, I still had a memorable and wonderful vacation. It also makes for a perfect excuse to return during the summer!



Visitors can still do some activities like sailing even when the skies are gray.



Nightlife is one of the main attractions of the island.



Boracay offers tourists a wide range of entertainment.



Boracay’s main selling point is its powdery white sand beaches.



Boracay’s D’Mall is an open-air market where tourists can buy souvenirs.



Tourists have a lot of option when it comes to food.



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3 Pinays guilty of illegal sale of beer

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

AN Eastern Magistracy judge found three Filipino women found guilty of illegally selling alcohol in Central in December 2016.

Magistrate Pang Leung-ting on Jan. 19 found R. Tanding, A. Baldoz, and J.

Urbiztondo of selling liquor without a license after trial.

Judge Pang sentenced Tanding to nine days in prison after she pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of liquor for sale without a license. The prosecution charged that Tanding had in her possession 333 bottles of alcoholic drinks. It

was Tanding's fourth conviction for the same offense.

"What I have in mind is sending you to jail...Imposing fine is not a deterrent at all because you would simply pay money and continue to run a bar," Judge Pang said.

The jail term was suspended for 18 months, which meant that Tanding would

not have to serve it if she would not commit any other offense in the period.

Judge Pang warned the Filipina, a Hong Kong resident and a divorcee, that should she commit the same offense again, she would be immediately sent to jail.

He also imposed a \$1,500 fine to Tanding, Baldoz, and Urbiztondo.

Baldoz and Urbiztondo, who were receiving subsidy from the International Social Service, said they would be able to pay the fine right away, but Tanding, 58, who said she was now working at a restaurant and earning some \$13,000 a month, asked for two weeks to pay the fine.

The other two defendants said they were receiving a monthly assistance of \$3,200 each from ISS, but added that their boyfriend were also assisting them financially. Baldoz had no previous record, while Urbiztondo had one prior conviction, the court heard. The Filipinas had no lawyer to represent them during the trial.

The prosecution alleged that two policemen posed as customers at a karaoke bar

in Central at about 6:25 p.m. on December 9, 2016.

Upon entering the bar, the policemen were approached by Baldoz who told them that a bucket of San Miguel Beer would cost \$160. One of the police officers gave two \$100 banknotes, and then they saw Baldoz going to the cashier counter and giving the money to Urbiztondo, who in turn, gave the two \$20 banknotes as change.

After giving them the seven bottles of beer in a bucket, the policemen signalled to their supervisor who went to the bar and arrested the two women.

Tanding, meanwhile, said she owned the bar and that she had no idea why Baldoz and Urbiztondo were there, saying she only had one staff member who helped her. Police officers searched the premises and saw bottles of beer in there.

During trial, Baldoz said she was at the bar because she was waiting for a friend, while Urbiztondo said she was there to sing at the karaoke.



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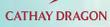
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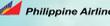
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LandBank of the Philippines. PPSB has since been converted into the OFBank. The OFBank, a wholly-owned savings bank subsidiary of Landbank, will offer

wide range of products to OFWs such as deposits, loans and investments, as well as remittance and payment services. Investment products such as Unit Investment Trust Funds will also be made available to OFWs, who can also invest in

preferred shares to become co-owners of the bank. The OFBank can also be used by OFWs to pay for Social Security System premiums, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration contributions, PhilHealth, insurance premiums, credit cards, water bills, and housing and business loans, among others. It will also open a credit facility for migrant Filipino workers and their beneficiaries for the construction of their homes and establishment of their own businesses.

Earlier, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III urged OFWs to invest in the OFBank, saying interested workers may opt to use their credit line with OWWA.

“You can borrow from your funds in OWWA to buy the shares of stocks so that you will become part owner. I want all OFWs to have shares in the banks and have their own credit facilities,” he said. Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed OFW remittances rose by 4.2 percent to \$23.06 billion from January to October last year compared to the \$22.12 billion for the same period in 2016.

But Eman Villanueva, BAYAN Hong Kong & Macau chairman, said the Duterte administration should have addressed the most pressing issues for OFWs.

“Ang tingin namin ang OFBank is something na hindi naman priority para sa mga kinakaharap na mas malaking problema at isyu ng mga OFWs. Napakaraming unresolved concerns ng mga OFWs kagaya ng illegal recruitment, iyang overcharging, iyang OEC (overseas employment certificates) na magda-dalawang taon na at saka ang refund ng terminal fees,” Villanueva said. He added that the OFBank would be like any other bank that would profit from interests, deposits, and investments.

“Pera din naman ng OFWs ang gagamitin diyan para pagkakitaan ang mga OFWs so gisa lang sa sariling mantika. Hindi naman siya totoong OFW bank. Tinawag lang siyang OFW bank kasi mayroon siyang mga particular, I think, services that would cater to OFWs pero it’s just a bank.

“It’s just like other banks. Kikita iyan sa remittance, kikita iyan sa deposits, at kikita iyan sa mga pautang kaya huwag nang palabasin na parang may something na napakagandang ginawa. Maraming pending na mga demands ng mga OFWs at iyon dapat ang sagutin at resolbahin nila,” he said. — **With a report from C. Arcibal**

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f Owtel Store

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Kata L1



No Interest

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$149**
Price **\$990**

Samsung Galaxy C7 Pro



No Down Payment

Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$748**
Price **\$2,990**

Sony xperia XA1 ultra



No Down Payment

Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$698**
Price **\$2,790**

Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro



Low Down Payment

Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$941**
Price **\$3,590**

Kata V5



- 4.5" 4.5 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 3G
- Dual SIM

NEW Low Down Payment



Price **\$399**

Kata M3s



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

Low Down Payment



Price **\$1,199**

Kata Selfie



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

NEW Low Down Payment

Price **\$1,399**

Samsung Galaxy J7 (2016)



- 5.5" 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Low Down Payment



Price **\$1,699**

Samsung Galaxy Note 5 (32GB)



- 5.7" 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 2.1 GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,099**

Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge



- 5.1" 5.1 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint



Price **\$3,549**

Kata X1 Ultra Slim



Preloaded: Windows 10

14" Windows Laptop

Ultra Slim, High Speed Intel Processor, Best For Business, Study, Movies, Games & Chat

Sleek, elegantly designed and packed with great features, the all-new Kata X1 Laptop is now available at all OWTEL Store

Low Down Payment

Price **\$1,499**

2GB Built-In RAM

32GB Built-In Memory

Ultra Slim Narrow Bezel

Quad Core Intel CPU

Windows 10 OS Preloaded

1366x768 HD Panel

8000mAh Rechargeable Battery

Low Power Consumption

Light Weight Easy to Carry

Central : Store 119, 127, 152, 218, 268, 309 & 324 World Wide Plaza, 19 Des Voeux Road, Central, H.K.
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North Point : Store 07, G/F, Odeon Plaza, No.28 Shu Kuk Street, North Point, H.K.
Kowloon Bay : 10/F, Fook Hong Industrial Building, No.19 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay

Hung Hom : Store B31, 1/F, Planet Square, No. 1-15, Tak Man Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Hung Hom : Store 5, G/F, Hung Hom Shopping Mall, 2-34E Tak Man Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Shatin : Store 67, Level 3, Shatin Lucky Plaza, 1-15 Wang Pok Street, Shatin, N.T.
Tsuen Wan : Store 125, 1/F, Lik Sang Plaza, No.263-275 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.

Yuen Long : Store 36 G/F, Wu Fat Building, No.8 Wang Fat Path, Yuen Long, N.T.
Sheung Shui : Store 69, L1, Lung Fung Garden, No.33 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui, NT
Tuen Mun : Store G62, G/F, Come On Building, No.387 Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun, N.T.

Remarks : • Prices and visuals are for reference only • More brands and models are available at OWTEL Stores • The above available for 3 or 6 months installment

Asus Zenfone 4 Max Pro ZC554KL *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4 GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,949**

Asus Zenfone 4 ZE554KL *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-Core 2.2 GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,799**

Asus Zenfone 4 Selfie *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 20MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,149**

Apple iPhone 8 Plus (64GB)



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Hexacore
- 3GB RAM
- iOS 11
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$6,888**

Apple iPhone 8 (64GB)



- 4.7 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Hexacore
- 2GB RAM
- iOS 11
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$5,988**

Apple iPad 9.7 (4G) (32GB) *NEW*



- 9.7 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 1.2MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Dual-core 1.84 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- iOS 10.3
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,558**

Kata T5 *Low Down Payment*



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

Price **\$699**

Huawei Y6 Pro (2017) *NEW*



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,199**

Huawei P10 Lite *NEW*



- 5.2 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32 GB Storage
- 2.15 GHz Octa-core
- 4 GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,349**

HTC U Play *NEW*



- 5.2 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16 Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.2GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,999**

Huawei Nova 2i *NEW*



- 5.9 Inch
- Dual 16MP & 2MP Rear + Dual Front 13MP + 2MP
- 64GB Storage
- 1.2GHz Quad Core
- 2.36 GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,749**

HTC U Ultra *NEW*



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.15GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,999**

LG K8 *Low Down Payment*



- 5.0 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.3 GHz
- 1.5GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Price **\$749**

Nokia 6 *BARU Hot Items*



- 5.5 Inch
- 18MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,999**

Samsung Galaxy Note 4 *Low Down Payment Hot Items*



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 3.7MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.7 GHz Quad-core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,999**

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

Price **\$1,799**

Lenovo Tab3 7 LTE *BARU*



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

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

Price **\$1,549**

LG K8 2017 *BARU 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

Price **\$899**

LG K10 (2017)



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

Price **\$1,349**

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

Price **\$1,849**

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

Price **\$2,149**

LG G6 *NEW*



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

Price **\$4,149**

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

Price **\$4,299**

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

Price **\$1,049**

Samsung Galaxy J2 Prime *NEW Low Down Payment*



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

Price **\$949**

Samsung Galaxy C8 *NEW*



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 13MP & 5MP Rear + 16 MP Front Camera
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 1.69 GHz Octa-core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,349**

Samsung Galaxy T285 Tab A7 LTE *Hot Items*



- 7 Inch
- 5 MP Rear + 2 MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- 1.5 GB RAM
- Android

Price **\$1,399**

Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime *Hot Items*



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,549**

Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1 *Hot Items*



- 10.1 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G

Price **\$1,999**

Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro *NEW Low Down Payment*



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

Price **\$2,599**

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

Price **\$2,599**

Samsung Galaxy J3 Pro *Low Down Payment Hot Items*



- 5.0 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Price **\$1,099**

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

Price **\$1,199**

Samsung Galaxy S8 (64GB) *NEW*



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

Price **\$5,049**

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

Price **\$6,349**

Sony Xperia XA1 *Hot Items*



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

Price **\$1,999**

Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 T113 *Low Down Payment Hot Items*



- 7.0 Inch
- 2MP Rear
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.3 GHz
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop

Price **\$699**

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

Price **\$2,349**

Sugar Y9 *NEW*



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

Price **\$999**

Samsung Galaxy J5 (2016) *Low Down Payment*



- 5.2 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Price **\$1,399**

LG Stylus 2 DAB *No Down Payment Hot Items*



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 1.5GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Price **\$1,149**

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

Price **\$999**

HP Stream 11



Price **\$2,349**

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



Price **\$3,799**

Casio G-Shock GD-X6900HT-8DR



Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-110GD-9ADR



Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-100CG-1ADR



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

Price **\$4,899**

Acer Aspire 3 A314-31 **NEW**



Price **\$3,699**

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



Price **\$9,299**

Casio Baby G 110PP **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$799**

Casio G-Shock GA-100L-8ADR



Price **\$849**

Naviforce 9074 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$249**

LG K4 2017 **NEW**
Low Down Payment

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

Price **\$799**

Lenovo Ideapad 110-14 **NEW**



Price **\$4,399**

Canon Power Shot G9X **NEW**



Price **\$3,399**

Casio Baby G 110TX **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$899**

Casio G-Shock GA-110 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$749**

Naviforce 9049 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$249**

Nokia 3310 **NEW**
Low Down Payment

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

Price **\$549**

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



Price **\$1,399**

LG Pocket Photo Printer **NEW**
Hot Items



Price **\$949**

Alba Fashion AC3U81X1 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$749**

Alba Active 3111 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$699**

Alba Fashion AG8494X1 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$959**

Samsung Galaxy J7 Prime **Low Down Payment**
Hot Items

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

Price **\$1,949**

Romoss DP10 10000mAh Power Bank **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$199**

Remax RB-M15 Bluetooth Speaker **NEW**



Price **\$199**

Kata M3s **Low Down Payment**

Buy 1 Get 1 50% off

Only **\$1,799**

Original Price ~~\$2,717~~

Bundle promo 2x M3s and free hair dryer

Free \$319 Ionic Hair Dryer

* For installment 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

Price **\$7,249**

JBL E55BT Head Phones **NEW**



Price **\$999**

Nakamichi NEP-TW1 **NEW**



Price **\$809**

Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC553KL **Low Down Payment**
Hot Items

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

Price **\$1,849**

Kata Tmini 4 **NEW**
Low Down Payment

- 6.95 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.3GHz
- 1GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$899**

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

Price **\$1,549**

Kata V5

- 8MP + 5MP Camera
- Quad Core 1.3GHz
- 4.5 inch IPS-NECVA
- 8GB Storage 1GB RAM
- 1800 mAh Long-life Battery

Original Price **\$599**

Only **\$399**



OWTEL Appliances

Philips Shine Protect Hair Dryer 903 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$399**

Panasonic Wrist Blood Pressure Meter 10 **Hot Items**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$549**

Rasonic Mini Rice Cooker - Y5H **Hot Items**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$249**

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



Price **\$2,599**

Philips Aquatouch Wet & Dry Electric Shaver 750 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$649**

Philips Electric Shaver 560 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$499**

Kenwood Blender Xtract Sport 060 **Hot Items**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$449**

Kenwood Blender 470 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$499**

TCL 39" Full HD Smart TV L39D2900FS **NEW**



Price **\$2,899**

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



Price **\$2,399**

Panasonic Men Shaver 34 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$56**

Philips Hairclipper 3410 **Hot Items**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$349**

Fro-Tutti Ice Cream Maker **NEW**



Price **\$470**

Kenwood Sandwich Maker 650 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$499**

Omron Pulse Massager **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$849**

Omron Wrist Blood Pressure **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$599**

Philips Hair Dryer 8112 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$149**

Panasonic Hair Dryer 51 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$249**

Rasonic Food Steamer RFSJS975 **NEW**



Price **\$349**

Krups Pump Espresso Maker XP5620 **NEW**



Price **\$1,499**

Omron Body Composition Monitor HBF216 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$799**

Omron Upper Arm Blood Pressure Monitor Hem-7130 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$699**

Panasonic Facial Ionic Steamer EHSA31 **NEW**



Price **\$999**

Panasonic Ionic Cleansing & Toning System EHST50P **NEW**



Price **\$999**

Kenwood Coffee Maker CM200 **NEW**



Price **\$249**

Panasonic Bread Maker SD-104 **NEW**



Price **\$1,399**

Toshiba Compact & Cyclone Type Vacuum Cleaner VCGC32BSHP **NEW**



Price **\$1,299**

Hitachi Vacuum Cleaner CVSH18-BL **NEW**



Price **\$899**

Philips Easy Natural Curler 10 **Hot Items**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$349**

Panasonic Hair Curler A11 **NEW**
Low Down Payment



Price **\$349**

Panasonic Garment Steamer



Price **\$794**

German Pool Korean BBQ Grill



Price **\$1,549**

Mitsubishi Fan 12 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$349**

Toshiba Radio Txpr-20 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$199**

Panasonic Iony Hair Brush 10 **Low Down Payment**



Price **\$299**

Philips Sonic Care Electric Toothbrush **Low Down Payment**



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Alert level raised as Mayon spews ash

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has raised Alert Level 4 – a notch below the highest warning of a dangerous eruption – over Mayon after a 10-kilometer-high column of steam and ash shot up from the volcano.

Alert Level 4 warns of an imminent hazardous eruption, while Alert Level 5 means a hazardous eruption is already taking place.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council also raised a red alert status over the restless volcano.

“We expect the explosions to continue. There is a possibility of a dangerous eruption, the start of which we are already witnessing,” Phivolcs director Renato Solidum said.

Mayon only had lava explosions in 2006 and 2009. Its largest eruption was in 1984, with the danger zone stretching to 11 kilometers.

“The public is reminded to observe the danger zone – not to panic, but in essence just be ready. Prepare either gas masks, handkerchiefs or clothes to prevent inha-

lation of fine ash,” said Solidum.

Even more dangerous because of its reach would be the flow of lahar that would affect rivers, lakes and their tributaries and residents around them, Solidum said.

“The damage of lahar flow would reach that far. I hope it won’t rain,” he added.

Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda has appealed for relief assistance and donations for Mayon Volcano evacuees, now housed in government evacuation centers around the province, to augment limited resources of local communities.

Salceda said there is a need for steady supply of relief goods – food and drinking

water – especially since no one can tell when the calamity would end.

As of Jan. 18, there were 6,973 families or 26,971 persons housed in evacuation centers based on reports from municipal disaster risk reduction and management offices and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office.



Mayon Volcano

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OFW deployment to Kuwait halted

THE Philippines has suspended the deployment of Filipino workers to Kuwait following the deaths of seven OFWs in the Middle Eastern country.

“My advice is we talk to them, state the truth and just tell them that it’s not acceptable anymore. Either we impose a total ban or we can have disagreements. I do not want a quarrel with Kuwait. I respect their leaders, but they have to do something about this,” President Rodrigo Duterte said a day before the labor department issued Administrative Order No. 25 ordering the deployment ban.

The seven Filipino workers who died in Kuwait were Liezl Truz Hukdong, Vanessa Karissha L. Esguerra, Marie Fe Saliling Librada, Arlene Castillo Manzano, Devine Riche Encarnacion, Patrick Sunga, and Mira Luna Juntilla.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to stop the processing of overseas employment certificates or OECs of all Kuwait-bound workers.

Kuwait has faced criticism in the past over its “kafala” system for foreign workers which prevents them from moving to a new job before their contracts end without their employer’s consent. This has been likened to a form of bonded labor or slavery.

“We would like to seek justice for our OFWs, and while the investigation is undergoing, we are suspending the processing and issuance of OECs. We are doing this for utmost protection and welfare of our kababayan,” Bello said.

Data from the Department of Foreign Affairs showed there are more than 250,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, most of them working as domestic helpers. Blas F. Ople Policy Center head Susan Ople said the decision of the President to implement a deployment ban “shines the spotlight on the continuous stream of welfare cases and tragic deaths involving OFWs in Kuwait.”

“We hope that DOLE and the DFA will also look at the plight of our overseas domestic workers across Asia and the Middle East with the goal of improved protection and better reintegration programs. Also, the number of women leaving to work abroad as domestic workers continue to increase,” Ople said. *Maia Lopez*

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House starts ChaCha sans Senate

By Maia Lopez

DAYS after a resolution paving the way for Charter change through a constituent assembly was passed by the House of Representatives, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said members of the Lower House will

just proceed to propose amendments and have these submitted directly to the people for a referendum.

This developed after all 23 members of the Senate agreed to boycott the House-backed constituent assembly amid Alvarez's insistence on a joint voting for both

chambers of Congress.

"What assembly? Where is it in the Constitution? We are already starting," Alvarez said, insisting that the House does not need the Senate to amend the constitution.

The House committee on constitutional amendments, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado, has been divided into four subcommittees to work on the proposed amendments.

Alvarez said he expects a plebiscite to be held on May 14, simultaneous with the barangay elections, or on May 13, 2019, in time for the midterm elections.

Despite his latest maneuvers, Alvarez said the House was not railroading Charter change to shift to a federal form of government. Alvarez, however, also threatened to withhold funding for provinces that would not support federalism efforts.

"Provinces that don't support us will get zero budget," Alvarez said. "If you don't want to join, that's okay. I'll respect your right. But you also have to respect my right to give you a zero budget."

His statement, however, triggered so much backlash from both administration allies and critics that Alvarez had to take it back eventually, saying it was only a joke.

"In a speech, you need to crack some jokes, right? That's all it was. I don't know why they took it seriously," he said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao, however, said it was hard to believe Alvarez's clarification.

"It is not a joke to act like you are giving away government funds," Casilao said.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat said it was sad that the budget for his province had been cut, but more painful to realize that all this had started from a joke.

"It is not a joke to make taxpayers suffer a zero budget because the powerful want to threaten the opposition," Baguilat said.

Meanwhile, two former Supreme Court chief justices who attended a Senate hearing on charter change expressed differing opinions on efforts to amend the Constitution.

Hilario Davide Jr., who was also a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention,

warned against charter change, describing it as a "lethal experiment" and "a leap to hell." He described the 1986 Constitution as the "best in the world, best for the country and best for the people."

"It is the only Constitution I know which is pro-God, pro-Filipino, pro-people, pro-poor, pro-life, pro-family, pro-marriage, pro-human rights, pro-women, pro-environment, among others," he said.

Reynato Puno, for his part, said it is high time to amend the Charter but expressed favor for a hybrid constitutional convention, wherein two-thirds of the members are elected and the rest are appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte.

"We are a failing democracy. We have to be realistic. Our Congress must really change it," Puno said.

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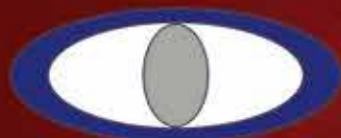
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Veloso seeks Duterte's help to testify

By Maia Lopez

FILIPINO trafficking victim Mary Jane Veloso has appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to help convince Indonesian authorities to allow her to testify against the people who allegedly tricked her into

bringing 2.6 kilograms of heroin to Yogyakarta in 2010.

"President Duterte, I am wholeheartedly begging for help so that I may be allowed to testify in the case versus Cristina Sergio in the Philippines so that the truth may come out and the real perpetrators are

brought to justice," Veloso said in an audio message recorded on her 33rd birthday on Jan. 9.

"I know that you are mad against drugs and you wish to put an end to drug syndicates. But how can you end the scourge of drugs when this (Filipinos getting duped

into drug trafficking) continues to happen?"

"President Duterte, my life is in your hands. I do not lose hope that I will get justice because I know God is with me in this fight. And I will never admit a crime I did not commit. President Duterte, I am hoping you would grant our request that I be allowed to testify to prove my innocence," Veloso added.

Malacañang, however, said Veloso's request was not within the President's powers to grant.

"I don't understand what exactly the President can do in this regard," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said.

"There is such a thing as sovereignty and the matter is completely in the hands of the Indonesian government, by not carrying out the punishment of death penalty, has shown clemency on a daily basis," Roque said.

In December, the Indonesia Court of Appeals affirmed its injunction on her testimony.

Veloso's execution was put on hold in



Veloso

2015 to allow her to testify against the suspects who were detained and charged in Nueva Ecija for illegal recruitment and trafficking.

Lawyer Edre Olalia of People's Lawyers said Duterte may still appeal for executive clemency with the Indonesian government for the full release of Veloso.

"Mary Jane is not a drug convict. She is a drug victim. We should emphasize that. It is not inconsistent with this government's campaign against drugs. It is, in fact, in support of the campaign, at least in principle because Mary Jane is the victim of the syndicate," Olalia said.

"For all we know, she might provide the leads so that the syndicate will be arrested and then let the trial court in the Philippines decide whether Mary Jane is telling the truth or not or the illegal recruiters are telling the truth or not," he added.

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Nine Pinoys in 'Sabah siege' handed death sentence

A Malaysian court upheld the death sentences handed down to nine Filipinos in connection with a 2013 incursion into Sabah.

The incursion by the followers of Sulu Sultan Jamalul Kiram III sparked a month-long crisis and at least 27 people were killed when Malaysian troops backed by fighter jets eventually subdued the militants.

A five-member Federal Court panel unanimously ruled that the death sentences were the most appropriate for the nine militants who were captured, upholding a decision by a lower court to increase the penalty from life sentences.

The court also upheld a lower court's decision to release 14 other men who had been held in connection with the fighting in the sleepy Lahad Datu district.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it will seek clemency for the nine Filipinos.

"The embassy legal team is now initiating the appeal for clemency to the King," the DFA said in a statement.

The accused have been assisted and represented by N. Sivanathan, an International Crim-

inal Court-certified lawyer whose services were arranged by the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and paid for by the Philippine government.

The DFA said the Philippine government has extended legal and other forms of assistance to all the defendants from the trial stage of their case up to the appeal.

It vowed to continue extending assistance to the Filipinos who are facing the death penalty as their case progresses.

Earlier, Justice Setia Mohd Zawawi Salleh of the Malaysian Court of Appeals said the Filipinos were guilty of "waging war" and being "part of a terrorist group."

Zawawi said there were elements of a pre-planned intrusion as the attack was meticulously executed. He said the attack by foreign enemies was unprecedented in Malaysian history, describing it as ruthless in terms of damage to life and property.

About 200 followers of Kiram attacked Lahad Datu in February 2013 to reclaim their "ancestral homeland."

Maia Lopez

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Salamat sa Biyaya

By Vicks Reyes Munar

SI Lisa, tubong Cagayan, ay mag-aanim na taon ng naninilbihan sa kanyang kasalukuyang amo.

Malaki ang bahay ng pamilyang pinag-sisilbihan at madalas pang may bisita ngunit si Lisa ay likas na matiyaga kung kaya hindi niya inugali ang magreklamo.

Kahit na malaki ang bahay at madalas magparty ang kanyang mga amo sa bahay ay wala naming masabi si Lisa sa ugali ng mga ito. Hinahayaan lamang siya sa kanyang sariling diskarte sa loob ng bahay.

Malaya din siyang nakakapagluto kung ano ang gusto niyang kainin kahit na nasa

bahay ang among babae ay hindi nito pinapakiaalaman ang niluluto ni Lisa.

Ang tanging hindi nya lang gusto ay ang mistulang walang pansinan sa loob ng bahay. Hindi uso ang mag-usap at kadalasan kahit nasa bahay lang sila kung may gustong iparating sa kanya ay nagtetest lang ang mga ito.

Kung may gustong sabihin si Lisa sa amo tulad ng pagbabakasyon sa Pilipinas ay hirap na hirap siyang tumiyempo. Nais ni Lisa na papuntahin ang kanyang anak sa Hong Kong upang makapamasyal kaya humahanap siya ng tyempo kung papaano nya sabihin na gagamitin nya ang ilang araw ng bakasyon habang nasa Hong

Kong ang anak.

Naglakas loob si Lisa na puntahan sa mistulang opisina ng among babae sa bahay at sinabi nga niya ang balak na papuntahin ang anak.

Laking gulat niya ng sinabi ng kanyang amo na siya na ang sasagot sa ticket ng anak ni Lisa at patirahin na rin sa kanilang bahay.

Tuwang-tuwa si Lisa at nasambit niya sa kanyang sarili na, "Salamat sa biyaya". Lubos siyang nagpasalamat dahil mababawasan ang kanyang dapat gastusin para sa pagpunta ng kanyang anak. Ang kanyang matitipid ay balak niyang idagdag na lang sa kanyang ipon.

Baka ma-overwork daw

SA lahat ng iniwasan ng mga kasambahay ay ang makasira ng gamit dahil bukod sa mapapagalitan ay pababayaran pa. Nasira ni Jessa, 31, may asawa at anak at taga-Malabon, ang vacuum cleaner dahil hinala niya ay nasobrahan ang paggamit dito. Hindi naman sana pinagbayad ng amo si Jessa kaya lang hindi agad bumili at

susubukan raw muna dalhin sa pagawaan at baka sakali raw makumpuni pa. Mahigit dalawang linggo na ang nakaraan at hindi pa rin ipinapaayos ng amo kaya naghanap siya ng basahan. Hirap sa umpisa pero nasanay na rin si Jessa hanggang sa naawa na rin yata ang amo ay iniuwi muna ang ginagamit sa opisina. Parang nanibago si Jessa

na gamitin ito kaya kinabukasan ay basahan na uli ang ginamit niya. Napansin siya ng amo kaya nagtanong kung bakit basahan uli ang ginagamit at kung nasira na naman daw ba agad ang vacuum cleaner. Sumagot si Jessa na kaya nga hindi niya ginagamit dahil nag-aalala siya na baka ma-overwork uli ito.

IMB

Maling paraan ng paalala

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

ISA sa nagustuhan ng mga amo ni Monica, 48, balo at may isang anak, taga-Batangas ay ang palaging maayos at maasahan sa lahat ng bagay. Bago raw kay Monica ay naka-ilang kasambahay na sila.

Si Monica lang daw ang tumagal sa kanila. Pero sinubok yata ang kakayahan ni Monica sa pagkakataong ito dahil sa loob ng 16 na taon ay ito lang ang pangyayaring labis niyang ikinabahala at nahiya sa mga amo. Biglang nawalan ng supply ng tubig na hindi niya napaghandaan isang umaga. Ang akala ni Monica ay dahil sa may nagkukumpuni sa taas ng kanilang palapag kaya binalewala niya ito at inisip na sandali lang mawawalan ng tubig.

Paggising ng among lalaki ay iyon agad ang bungad at wala nga raw tubig. Nagtanong kung may sulat paalala raw ba na walang supply ng tubig. Sinagot ni Monica na wala kaya tumawag sa opisina ng nagpapalakad ng gusali para magtanong kung bakit walang dumadaloy na tubig. Sabi sa opisina na mayroon daw paalala at sinabi kung anong petsa.

Hinanap ng amo sa tambak na mga sulat at nakita nga. Iyon pala magkabilangan ang sulat sa isang papel ang paalala na dati rati magkahiwalay ng papel ang walang supply ng inuming tubig na magkaibang pet-sa at ang kabila ay walang pang flush sa kubeta kaya hindi napansin.

Bumaba ang amo para sa clubhouse maligo at napansin niya na ang daming nagtatanong kung bakit walang tubig sa baba. Iisa ang dahilan na hindi nila napansin ang sa kabilang pahina. Nang bumalik ang amo sinabi sa kanya na mahaba raw ang pila ng mga maliligo. Marami raw ang hindi rin nakapag-ipon at walang alam .

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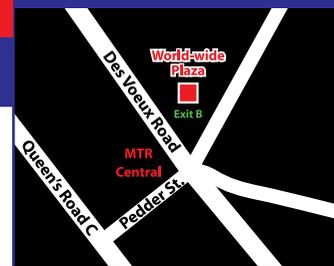
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Luvenus shop in WorldWide



Customers flock to the Luvenus shop in Central

Termulo serenades customers at Luvenus shop

By Ally Constantino

SINGAPORE-headquartered jewelry shop Luvenus has opened its first store in

Central - the heart of Hong Kong island.

Luvenus' other shop in Hong Kong is located at the Terminal 2 of the Hong Kong International Airport. Filipino singer Bryan Termulo on Jan. 21 graced the opening of the Luvenus shop in WorldWide House in Central. Luvenus gave away discount vouchers and raffle tickets to those who joined the opening party.

Termulo sang, danced, and posed for photos with Filipinos who lined up to join the opening party of Luvenus.

"This is my very first time to perform in Hong Kong. I used to travel to Hong Kong for vacation, but now is my very first time to perform, so very fresh, and very new to me.

"It feels that I'm in the Philippines. Consistent din ang warmth ng Filipinos kahit nasa ibang bansa ka. Parang hindi ako nagpunta ng Hong Kong. Parang nakikita ko sa totoo lang ang Tutuban at Greenhills dito sa Hong Kong," Termulo said.

He has a new single "Agwat", which is about a long-distance relationship. The single may be downloaded on Spotify, iTunes, and Amazon, among others, he said.



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Ellen Gica (left) holds her Ocean Park ticket, while Esterlina Tejedar (right) shows her Disneyland ticket they won at the OWTEL raffle draws. The tickets are courtesy of Destine Joy Travel & Tours.



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Lakbay Dangal's first 2018 tour

By Vicks Reyes Munar

LAKBAY Dangkal, a historico-cultural group known for conducting walking tours around Central area to fellow OFWs and foreigners, welcomed 2018 with another outing held on Jan. 1.

With the group's aim mainly to raise awareness of the historical links between Hong Kong and the Philippines and to boost their own sense of self-esteem through the tour they called the "Walk for Dignity", the president, Maritess Mapa, and other members spared their time to

share historical facts and trivias.

Rowena Arandia, one of the participants said, "I felt happy and proud that I was able to visit Dr. Jose Rizal's clinic and residence here in Hong Kong and it was a first of a kind experience."

Likewise, Mildred Danoso, another par-

ticipant of the trail, expressed her delight while traversing the short walk.

Lakbay Dangkal is happy to offer the tour to interested persons or groups and also welcomes new members.

Interested parties, please sms or call 94167012.



Lakbay Dangkal members

CARD HK activities in full blast for 2018

By Vicks Reyes Munar

CENTER for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) Hong Kong Foundation, a non-profit organization offering free educational and training programs meant to build capacities of OFWs toward financial literacy and entrepreneurship, started the year with two activities full of participants.

Jan. 14 marked the first-ever skills training for the year with 158 attendees. Participants were taught how to make siopao asado and traditional Chinese dumplings by CARD trainers namely Emelia Dello-sa, Jhoan Buendia, Madelia Galve, and Cecilia Eduarte.

Demonstrating, and with enthusiastic participation from attendees, the trainers were able to impart knowledge to teach participants to make siopao and dumplings. The trainers also shared helpful

tips that participants could use once they decided to go home for good in the Philippines.

The next Sunday, Jan. 21, the first ever Financial Literacy Workshop was held, where 67 OFWs joined CARD HK Foundation Family as part of Batch 45. The whole-day workshop gave insightful



CARD trainers and participants

ideas on the following topics: Goal Setting, Needs and Wants and Saving Tips, Unexpected Events, SALN, Budgeting, Debt and Tough Love and Introductory to Investment.

Cristina Magbanua, one of the participants said, "the workshop is very interesting, my holiday is well-spent because of the additional worthy knowledge I learned and I am very thankful and so proud of the CARD Trainers who unselfishly devote their time to educate us"

For those who are interested to join the next Financial Literacy Seminar on February 25 at Bayanihan Centre and the other activities for the year, kindly call/sms 95296392/54238196/96066810 for reservation and inquiries. You may also like the group's Facebook page, CARD HONG KONG FOUNDATION for financial education, updates and other important announcements.



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Sa oras ng iyong pangangailangan, lumapit lang sa mga kasapi ng CCSL.



As We See it

Kuwait

WE laud President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to impose a ban on the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to Kuwait due to the abuses and deaths suffered by Filipinos in the oil-rich state.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Jan. 19 suspended the deployment of OFWs to Kuwait after President Duterte ordered a ban due to the deaths of seven Filipinas. The DOLE also directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to stop the processing of overseas employment certificates of OFWs bound for Kuwait. But on Jan. 24, President Duterte threatened to take one step further and pull out all Filipino workers from Kuwait if another Filipino woman was raped or committed suicide.

"And I'm sorry, the Filipinos there, you can all go home since if all of you Filipinos there leave, they will also be having a hell of a time adjusting to that," he added.

The President appealed to other countries in the Middle East to treat Filipino workers well and stop abuses against them. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, there are around 250,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, most of them workers as household service workers.

While we applaud the ban on the deployment to Kuwait, we urge caution when it comes to pulling out all Filipinos from the emirate.

How would the government provide work for all the those 250,000 OFWs? What about those who have taken out loans? Who will pay for their loans? What about the professionals who are earning well and are not suffering abuses?

We are hopeful that this threat to pull out OFWs from Kuwait is just part of the President's bluster so that the kingdom would take concrete steps to stop the abuses against OFWs.

Health Alert

Healthier Snacks

MANY adults and children in Hong Kong snack every day. However, there are numerous snacks reported as "3-highs" foods, which are high in fat, salt, and sugar. Over-consumption of unhealthy snacks can lead to overweight or obesity, increasing the risk of heart disease and other chronic diseases.

The proper consumption of healthy snacks can provide satiety, energy and nutrients. In order to maintain appetite for main meals, snacks should be limited to once between the main meals, and drink only water at all other times.

Healthier snacks include the following categories:

- Bread and grains with less fat, salt or sugar content
 - Fruit and vegetables without added oil, salt, or sugar
 - Low-fat/skimmed dairy products without added sugar
 - Lean meat and its alternatives
 - Low-sugar and low-fat drink
- Nonetheless, how do we spot snacks as

"3-highs"? By reading the nutrition labels, we can find the fat, sugar and sodium (or salt) content of the foods and choose healthier products. The Department of Health launched the "Snack Check" mobile application to help you choose healthier snacks by using the information of nutrition labels. The "Snack Check" can analyse snacks based on its nutritional quality and recommend the amount of intake. Moreover, the "Snack Check" contains nearly 200 healthier snacks information that can be purchased from local stores.

Other features:

- Offer the save function to store self-added snack information
- Allow nutritional comparison for different snacks
- Allow snack information sharing through social media

To learn more about the "Snack Check", visit <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/stat-ic/40563.html>



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Sagasa

SA mid-issue nang nakaraang buwan, tinalakay ko ang TRAIN law at kung paano ito, tulad nga ng literal na tren, ay sasagasa sa taumbayan. Hanggang ngayon walang patid ang reklamo ng masa sa pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin at ang sagasa nito sa badyet nila. Ngayon naman ay may bagong pag-sagasa na nais kong ikwento. Kaugnay ito ng kontrobersyal na Charter Change o panukalang pagbago ng Konstistusyon ng Pilipinas. Tulad din ng nangyari sa pag-apruba ng Kongreso sa TRAIN law, todo-larga rin ang pag-apruba sa House Resolution No. 9 na nanawagan para maging isang Constituent Assembly ang Kongreso para baguhin ang ating Konstitusyon. Sinagasaan muli ng super-majority ng Kongreso ang anumang oposisyon sa panukala at pinwersa agad na magbotohan ng walang diskusyon o debate. Sa Ingles, "railroad" ang tawag dito. Muli, sagasa.

Ganyan din ang nangyari nang mabilisan at apuradong ipinasa ang Resolution of Both Houses No. 8 na nananawagan para lusawin ang Kongreso, bigyan ng kapangyarihan si Pangulong Duterte na maging solong tiga-gawa ng batas at tiga-appoint habang nasa transisyon pa sa pederal na gobyerno. Panukala din na buksan ang pintuan para sa 100% dayuhang pagmamay-ari at pamumuhunan at pagtanggap ng mga probisyon sa kasalukuyang Saligang Batas na nagbibigay proteksyon sa ating ekonomiya. May debate nga ngayon dahil gusto ng Kongreso na pagbotohan na ang Charter Change kahit hindi pumapayag ang Senado. Tila nauuso at talagang kinakasangkapan ng Kongreso ang "sagasa". Paano naman ay "super-majority" nga na kontrolado ng kampo ni Pangulong Duterte ito. Ang mga taga-ibang Partido, ngayon ay nag-"oberda bakod" na at sumapi sa PDP-Laban.

Kahit nga yung mga nasa listahan ng mga narco-politicians ni Duerte ay ngayo'y nagbalik-loob na daw ay tumawid na rin para mapabilang sa super-majority. Kakaunti na nga ang nasa oposisyon sa loob ng Kongreso, hindi pa binibigyan ng pagkakataon na magtanong o maghapag ng diskusyon. Ginagamit lagi ang kuyog para ipasa ang batas. Hindi nga ba naging isyu pa na yung pag-apruba sa TRAIN law ay nangyari nang walang quorum?

Ganitong napaka-importante ng talakayan kung kailangan nga bang baguhin ang ating Saligang Batas, bakit nagmamadali at nananagasa ang mga pulitiko? Nahahalata ang pansariling interer ng mga trapo dahil lalawig pa ang kanilang termino at posibleng hindi pa mag-eleksyon sa 2019. Huwag tayong pumayag na sagasaan ng super-majority ang malayang talakayan at usapan. Huwag sagasaan ang ating karapatan.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat na bumubuo ng Hong Kong News!

Isa ako sa masugid nyong mambabasa, sa loob ng 5 taon kong pamamalagi sa Hong Kong 2 beses isang buwan ay sinisigurado ko na may makukuhang akong kopya ng inyong pahayagan.

Sumulat ako dahil naalarma ako sa sunod-sunod na balita ng malubhang nagkakasakit at ang iba pa ay nauuwi sa biglaang kamatayan. Alam ko dahil marami ang nagbabasa ng inyong dyaryo, siguradong marami ang

makakabasa nito.

Mga kababayan, sana pag may nararamdaman ay hwag natin itong ipagwalang-bahala. Bigyang halaga natin ang ating kalusugan dahil ito ang ating puhunan sa ating trabaho.

Huwag tayong mag-atubili na pumunta sa doctor kung alam na natin na may dinaramdam tayo. Sa panahon ngayon marami ang nagkakasakit kaya huwag nating ipag-walang bahala ang ating mga nararamdamang di-kanais nais.

Sikapin din natin na kumain ng mga masusustansyang

pagkain at magpahinga upang di bumigay ang ating katawan sa karamdaman.

Sana sa pamamagitan ng simpleng liham ko na ito maihatid sa mga mambabasa ang napakaimportanteng mensahe, na dapat nating alagaan ang ating mga sarili lalo na at nasa ibang bansa tayo.

Maraming salamat sa paglathala ng aking liham. Mabuhay po kayo at nawa'y mas marami pa ang tatangkilik sa napakainformative nyong pahayagan.

Lubos na gumagalang,
Weng A.

Jeneth P. Julve Managing Editor

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Manny nag-guest sa Korean show

By Cristy Kasilag

WINNER na winner ang bakasyon ng mag-asawang sina People's Champ Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao at Jinkee Pacquiao sa South Korea nuong buwan ng Disyembre.

Pinaunlakan ni Senator Pacquiao ang anyaya sa kanya na mag-guest sa isang variety show sa telebisyon sa Korea na pinamagatan na "Infinite Challenge" kung saan ang kanyang mga boxing matches ay biro-biro lamang at nakakatawa.

Para maintindihan ni Manny ang usapan



MANNY at ang mga hosts at guests sa "Infinite Challenge"

ng mga Koreanong hosts ay naging interpreter niya si Ryan Bang.

Sa panimula ay nagkwentuhan muna sila. Ang isang tinanong nila ay kung ilan daw ang kaya niyang makalaban na gangster, ang sagot ng Senador ay depende kung ilan sila. At nabanggit ni Pacman na dati ay may nakalaban na siya na 10 tao

na matapos niyang mabuntal ay nag takbuhan.

Nagbiro din siya na takot siya sa ipis. Sa palabas, pinakita ang 39-taong-gulang na si Pacquiao na nasa loob ng ring habang inaantay ang kanyang mga makakalaban.

Sa isang laban ay nakatapat niya ang

isang lalaki na may suot na proteksyon sa ulo at tila may pampahaba ng mga kamay.

Ang isa pa niyang nakalaban ay isang tao na nakatungtung sa isang parang bola kaya nagmukha itong mas matangkad kay Pacquiao. Ang kalaban niya ay tila parang nag-swing lang pabalik-balik.

Pero hindi lang si Pacquiao ang nag-en-

joy sa bakasyon sa Korea. Binigyan din ng maagang birthday surprise ang asawa nito na si Jinkee na ang kaarawan ay nuong ika-12 ng Enero.

Para sa kanyang 39th birthday, ay ginawang paraan ni Pacman na ma-meet ni Jinkee ang isa sa mga idolo niyang Korean actors na si Ji Chang Wook.

Fashion designer Pitoy Moreno pumanaw na

By Cristy Kasilag

PUMANAW na ang batikang fashion designer na si Jose "Pitoy" Reyes Moreno Jr. sa edad na 89.

Sa kanyang pagpanaw kasabay nito ang pagkawala ng pagkakataon na itanghal siya bilang national artist for fashion design, na sa opinyon ng karamihan ay ipinagkait sa isa sa mga tanyag at malikhaing fashion designer ng bansa.

Sa loob ng kanyang anim na dekada or 60 taon bilang isang fashion designer ay pinasikat ni Pitoy ang "Maria Clara" terno na sinuot ng mga sikat na tao mula sa larangan ng pelikula, pulitika at negosyo.

Naging tanyag ang kanyang mga obra sa Pilipinas at maging sa buong mundo. Kinilala siya bilang "Fashion Czar of Asia". Matatandaan na nuong taong 2009, kinilala ng dating Pangulo Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo si Pitoy bilang national artist for fashion design, ngunit may mga nagreklamo na umabot pa sa Korte Suprema. Kinatigan ng korte ang reklamo at bina-wi ang parangal na iginawad sa kanya. Ayon sa mga kumontra, hindi kinikilalang art form ang fashion design, dahil ito ay isang uri lamang ng dressmaking. Ayon sa nakakatandang kapatid ni Pitoy, na si Virginia "Virgie" Moreno, hindi na sila maghahabol para sa posthumous title.



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Three women, all in love with the same ex

WHAT if three beautiful, independent women who have the same ex-boyfriend meet and they all happen to still be in love with him? Can they set their personal differences aside and fight for love fairly, or this is a case of every woman for herself?

This 2018, GMA Network starts the year with a bang as it proudly unveils *The One That Got Away*, a sexy, romantic comedy series that will surely entertain and make Kapuso viewers believe in love, family, friendship, and all the craziness that goes with it. Kapuso Station's opening salvo in 2018, a glossy drama masterpiece, is all

set to win the hearts of television audiences with its intriguing storyline and interesting mix of characters.

Headlining this primetime soap are the following: Three of the network's sought-after leading ladies Rhian Ramos as "Zoe", Max Collins as "Darcy" and

the Kapuso Premier Drama Actress Lovi Poe as "Alex" and the Kapuso Drama King Dennis Trillo as "Liam" who plays the very important role of the man whom these women had a relationship with in the past. The first ex-girlfriend is Lovi Poe as Alexandra Rey "Alex" Makalintal. She is beautiful, independent, family-oriented and incredibly career-driven. Max Collins is the second ex-girlfriend as Darlene "Darcy" Sibuyan. She and Liam met after Liam broke up with Alex. They became friends until they fell for each other. The third ex-girlfriend is Rhian Ramos as Sophia Elizabeth "Zoe" Velasquez. She is a swimwear designer and blogger who's



RHIAN, LOVI, and MAX

always out for fun. Her parents separated when she was young which is why Liam became her pseudo-family.

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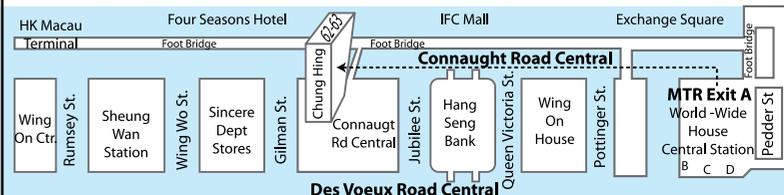
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Horoscope



Capricorn

December 22 to January 19

Ihanda ang iyong puso at isip, may mga problemang darating sa inyong relasyon. Wala ring nagkulang, talagang dumarating ang panahon na kailangang magnilay-nilay.



Aquarius

January 20 to February 18

Huwag mong pilitin ang ayaw. Walang kwenta kung ang pagpayag ay sapilitan, pag-aralan mong mabuti kung paano mo gagawing mag-isa ang plano.



Pisces

February 19 to March 20

Pamilya naman ngayon. Naghahanap na sila ng iyong atensyon, pwede na dahil maayos na ang takbo ng kabuhayan.



Aries

March 21 to April 19

Kung ang pakiramdam mo tuwing gigising ka ay hindi maganda, baka babala ito ng sakit. Dapat mong baguhin ang iyong mga kinakain.



Taurus

April 20 to May 20

Huwag mong balewain ang mga nasisirang gamit sa bahay, kung may budget ka panahon na para mapalitan ang mga iyon. Matagal na rin ang serbisyo at nabawi mo na ang ibinayad mo.



Gemini

May 21 to June 20

Maaring magkaproblema sa malapit na kamag-anak o kaibigan. Ikaw lang ang makakatulong sa kaniya kaya sa iyo siya lumalapit.



Cancer

June 21 to July 22

Kailangan mong unawain ang iyong partner sa buhay. Tahimik lang siya at hindi siya nagsasalita sa iyo tungkol sa mga pinapanasan niyang problema.



Leo

July 23 to August 22

Takbo rito, takbo doon, wala kang pahinga. Alalahanin mong hindi ka na katulad noong araw na marami kang oras at higit sa lahat, malusog ka at walang dinaramdam noon.



Virgo

August 23 to September 22

Walang masama sa paggunita sa nakaraan. Wala ring masama kung naalala mo pa ang minahal mo noong araw.



Libra

September 23 to October 22

Ayos na ayos ang panahon para sa inisip mong negosyo. Mas buwenas kung ang pamilya o ang partner mo ay makakasama mo o ayon sa iyong plano.



Scorpio

October 23 to November 21

Ang pagpasok ng bagong taon ay naghatid sa iyo ng kaligayahan dahil nakita mo na ang matagal mo nang hinahanap. Maaring ito ay pag-ibig o katahimikan ng damdamin.



Sagittarius

November 22 to December 21

Walang mabuting mangyayari kung patuloy kang magiging maramdamin dahil hindi nasusunod palagi ang gusto mo.

What's Cooking?

Looking for a dish that is both healthy and tasty? Then this **Stir Fry Tofu with Chili & Coconut Sauce** might just be the dish for you.

Ingredients:

Sauce:
1 cup coconut milk
¼ cup vegetable broth
1 tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. salt
2-3 pcs. red chili
Stir Fry:
1 tbsp. ginger root
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 tsp. chicken powder
1 package extra firm tofu patted dry and cut into 3-4 inch cubes
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup green chili thinly sliced
¼ cup olive oil

Procedure:

- For the sauce: whisk together the first 4 ingredients. Chili will be part of the toppings.
- Toss the tofu with salt and pepper to taste. Heat 1 tbsp. of oil in a wok over high heat.

- Add the tofu and cook, turning the cubes to lightly brown on several sides. Transfer the tofu to bowl.
- Meanwhile, stir fry ginger root, garlic with 2-3 tbsp. of olive oil. Return the tofu to the skillet.
- Whisk the coconut sauce to recombine it and add it to the skillet. Toss the ingredients together until well coated with the sauce.
- Adjust seasoning to taste with sliced red and green chili and serve.

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 28507724 / 28507408 / 28507438



By Chef Jay Dator



Gf: Babe, mamaya na tayo magchat kasi ingungudngod na daw ni papa ang mukha ko kapag hindi ako umalis dito.
Bf: Ayoko pa gusto pa kita kausap
Gf: Babe mamaya na, baka ingudngod na ako dito ni tatay samawdjksvhldheifcjo.... hsdhcliosdhjkli, khsdhkcdjdsks... ajaakljslslakla;s

Diary ng panget

Dear Diary,
I'm so happy talaga. Nahuli kasi ako ng crush ko na nakatingin sa kanya. Minura niya ako, oh my gosh! Narinig ko na din ang boses nya. Ang gwapo niya talaga, minsan nga itinulak niya ako, dumugo ang ilong ko kasi sinadya ko siyang banggain, nakakakilig di ba? At least nagkadikit ang aming katawan. Lumapit siya sa akin at humingi ng picture ko, ipapasalvage

daw niya ako, so sweet' di ba? Nakakakilig!

Isang araw may isang batang lalaki na ubod ng kulit. Kahit anung gawin ng ama hindi pa din ito tumitino. Sa sobrang galit ng ama pinasok sa sako ang anak at ibinitin sa sanga ng puno.

Bata: Tay!

Tatay: Ano? (naawa sa anak)

Bata: Taaaayyyy!

Tatay: (Lumapit sa sakong nakabitin) Ano magbabago ka na ba?

Bata: Pakiswing naman....

Misis: Hon, wala na akong bra, bilhan mo naman ako.

Mister: Hon, huwag ka na magbra kasi maliit lang naman dede mo.

Misis: Eh bakit ikaw nagbribrief?

Tindera: Sir bili na po kayo ng kurtina

Ale: Pabili nga ako ng isa para sa computer ko.

Tindera: Sir, bakit po sa computer niyo?

Juan: Ang computer ko kasi may windows eh!

Si Juan nakabasag ng malaking vase sa museum, nataranta ang attendant.

Attendant: Naku po sir, 50 years nap o ang vase nay an.

Juan: Hay, salamat naman, akala ko bago eh!

Misis: Sweety, may mga kaibigan ako na nagpapaenhance ng boobs, gusto mo magppadagdag din ako

Mister: Ewan ko, parang hindi bagay sayo ang tatlong suso

Rich Vampire: Waiter, order ako ng fresh blood

Ordinary Vampire: Sa akin isang order na dinuguan

Poor Vampire: Waiter, sa akin hot water na lang.

Waiter: Huh! Bakit hot water lang po!

Poor Vampire: Nakapulot kasi ako ng napkin sa kanto, mag-tsa na lang ako.

Magiging Daddy

Misis: Love, malapit na tayong maging tatlo dito sa bahay.

Mister: Talaga love?? Magiging daddy na ako?

Misis: Hindi love, dito na titira ang nanay ko.

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- Bayan sa Pampanga
- Braso
- Huling kataga sa dasal
- Tomboy
- Sandy Andolong
- Ilahok
- Illinois; daglat
- Ms. Linda
- Kaibigang babae
- Pangalan ng babae
- State University
- Api
- After Midnight
- Lumulan
- Ihanap sa karamihan
- Ibalik
- Simbolo ng lithium
- Inaba
- Pangatnig
- Uri ng punung-kahoy

- Cheryl; Tagalog
- Sagrado
- Sabaw

PABABA

- Siyudad sa NCR
- Muscat ang capital
- Notang musikal
- Diyus-diyosan
- Iwasto
- Oo sa Espanyol
- Nais
- Screen name ni Dolphy dati
- Palayaw ni Cristine Reyes
- Mirror; Tagalog
- Mahuli
- Ikandado
- Dalhin sa ibang lugar
- Partner ni Adan
- Hanga

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10 | | | | | 11 | | 12 | | |
| 13 | | | 14 | 15 | | 16 | | 17 | |
| 18 | | 19 | | | | 20 | | 21 | |
| | | 22 | | | 23 | | | | |
| | 25 | | | 25 | | | 26 | | |
| 27 | | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | | 31 | |
| 32 | 33 | | | | | 34 | | 35 | |
| 36 | | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | |
| 40 | | 41 | | | | 42 | 43 | | |
| 44 | | | | | | 45 | | | |

Answer to last puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | S | I | P | I | | I | S | A | L | I |
| B | A | N | A | L | | S | I | K | I | P |
| I | B | A | R | A | | I | N | U | K | A |
| S | A | M | A | L | | P | A | S | A | S |
| | | | D | A | M | | S | A | S | A |
| G | U | M | A | G | A | N | A | | | |
| I | M | A | | I | L | A | L | A | P | A |
| T | A | R | I | | A | S | U | K | A | L |
| A | S | U | L | | M | I | K | A | S | A |
| R | A | Y | A | | I | S | A | L | A | G |
| A | M | A | G | | G | I | N | A | Y | A |

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| Branch | Address | Tel # (+852) |
|--|---|---|
| World Wide Shops, Hong Kong | Shop 272 2/F, WWH, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central Shop 270 2/F, WWH, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central Shop 118 1/F, WWH, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central | 2532-5850 or 5859 2532-5840 or 5846 2532-5860 or 5861 |
| Central, Hong Kong North Point, Hong Kong | Unit 2201-2203 22/F Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Rd Shop No. 70A, G/F Block 13, City Garden Shopping Arcade, 233 Electric Road | 2532-5800 or 5804 2532-5820 |
| Hung Hom, Kowloon | Shop 76, G/F, Whampoa 108 Shopping Centre, 19-23 Man Tai Street | 2532-5810 |
| Yuen Long, New Territories Tsuen Wan, New Territories | Shop 16A, 2/F, Tung Yik Building 8 Yu King Square Shop 261, 2/F, Lik Sang Plaza | 2532-5880 2532-5870 |

Macau

| Branch | Address | Tel # (+852) |
|-----------------|---|--------------|
| San Malo Square | Rua Dos Merca Dores Commercial No. 35-39A Oeste Do Mercado De. S. Domingos Nos. 2-8, Ou Chong Commercial Building Shop D, G/F, Macau | 2835-6277 |

 2532 - 5800