

# HONG KONG NEWS

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October 1, 2018



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## US\$58 to P1 rate foreseen in 2019



**HAPPY MID-AUTUMN!** Hongkongers celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Lee Tung Avenue in Wan Chai with a LED-lighted fire dragon show.

By **Maia Lopez**

A London-based economic think-tank warned that the Philippine peso could further weaken to P58 against the US dollar next year.

The peso had already breached the P54 to a dollar level earlier this month,

the lowest in almost 13 years against the greenback as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expressed readiness to take strong "immediate actions" to address rising inflation and the exchange rate volatility.

In its report titled "Peso plunges, Korea's labor market woes continue," London-based Capital Economics said the

peso could fall to P55 against the US dollar this year, adding that the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut was expected to further jack up food prices.

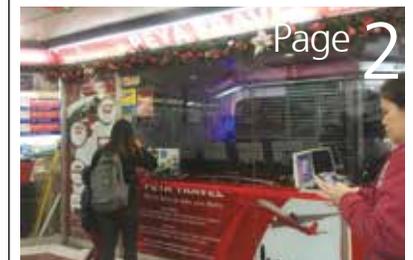
As of September 26, one Hong Kong dollar was equivalent to P6.94888.

"Perhaps a bigger worry from an economic perspective is that 'Mangkhut'

damages agricultural production, leading to an increase in food prices. This would put further pressure on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to tighten monetary policy," Capital Economics said.

But Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno

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The HK Police are set to submit Peya's case for DOJ resolution



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Driver fined \$2K for wounding Filipina in Shek Tong Tsui



Sunshine Cruz's marriage to Cesar Montano is annulled

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# Peya Travel case up for DOJ resolution

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Hong Kong Police are set to submit the Peya Travel case to the Department of Justice, a consular official said.

Consul Paul Saret, head of the Philippine Consulate General-Assistance to Nationals Section, said investigators informed the consulate that they were set to submit the case to the Hong Kong Department of Justice for it to determine if a case should be filed in court.

"The latest development is it's for evaluation of the Department of Justice," Saret said in an interview.

"The police said (in the third week of September) that they were about to forward the case to the DOJ," he added.

Saret said the HK Department of Justice would review the case and determine if there was enough evidence to pursue charges in court.

The Peya Travel agency is under investigation for the ticketing mess in December

last year which left hundreds of Filipino domestic workers stranded at the HK international airport during Christmas. The police are trying to determine if there was a "conspiracy to defraud" Peya customers.

A police spokeswoman said the suspects in the case were invited to appear again before investigators in early October.

Peya co-owner Rhea Donna Boyce and her husband Peter were taken into police custody right after the ticketing mess but they were released on police bail.



Peya Travel Agency

On the other hand, the police arrested Peya marketing manager Arnold Grospe in Central in June after months of search-

ing for him. He was also allowed to post bail. After the ticketing mess, Consul General Antonio Morales urged Filipino businesses in Hong Kong to police their ranks.

"Kakausapin natin ang mga Filipino business associations at sasabihin natin na magpo-police sila ng ranks nila," he said.

"Nakikinabang ang ating mga companies sa ating mga kababayan. Tama din na ang concern nila negosyo pero hindi lang dapat negosyo dapat may serbisyo din sila," he added.



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## Bello to meet Macau Filcom

By Maia Lopez

PHILIPPINE Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III was scheduled to meet with the Filipino community (Filcom) in Macau on September 28, a source at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in Manila said.

Bello was set to make an official visit to Macau and meet with the Filipinos there at around 5 p.m. before going to Hong Kong, the source said.

The Philippine labor chief's visit to Macau and Hong Kong comes as Manila prepares to send Filipino English teachers to mainland China.

After visiting Macau, Bello was scheduled to proceed to Hong Kong and visit the shelter for distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFW). There was no scheduled meeting with the Filcom in HK.

Labor Attache to HK Leonida V. Romulo is expected to step down and give way to Labor Attache Jalilo Dela Torre, who is expected to be in HK by mid-October.

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# Driver fined \$2K for wounding Pinay

By Philip C. Tubeza

SAYING her case was “very exceptional,” a judge in Sai Wan Ho imposed a fine on a Filipino driver instead of sending her to jail for wounding her fellow domestic worker in Shek Tong Tsui.

Eastern Deputy Magistrate Clement Lau

Chung-man on September 18 imposed a \$2,000 fine on Maria Fe H.P. after she pleaded guilty to the charge of “wounding” fellow Filipino woman at their employer’s flat on the 17th floor of The Belcher’s Tower 8.

“After this incident, she has lost her job and, upon this conviction, I’m afraid she

will have difficulty in remaining as an FDH in Hong Kong in the future,” said Judge Lau, noting that Maria Fe was able to maintain a clean record in her 17 years of working in HK.

“The defendant acted impulsively...I accept she has learned a painful lesson from this incident...I hope you can think

about your future in controlling your temper,” he added.

Judge Lau had asked for a probation report to determine if Maria Fe could do community service as her sentence.

While the probation officer reported positively about the Filipina--she had no vices and was remorseful about what happened--the officer said there were “practical difficulties” since her visa was set to expire on September 25.

The prosecution asked the Immigration Department if Maria Fe’s visa would be extended if she were ordered to do community service but was told that there was still a possibility that it might not be renewed.

The incident happened in the flat of the defendant and the complainant’s employer on May 22 when the Maria Fe complained about the congee that the victim prepared. Their employer was not home at the time.

“(Maria Fe) had complained before that (the victim) was not good at cooking meals,” the prosecutor said. The fighting started when defendant complained about the congee she was served and asked if there was any other food like vegetables but was told that there was none.

The driver allegedly got angry and grabbed the pot with the congee and dumped its contents in the sink. The prosecutor said Maria Fe then took the lid of the pot and went after the victim.

Another Filipino domestic worker employed by their boss heard the commotion



The Belchers

and went to the kitchen. The victim hid behind her as she tried to pacify Maria Fe but the defendant hit the victim twice on the head and nape. She also threw a chair at the victim, hitting her on the shoulder. The victim then ran to the sala and called the police.

She was later brought to the Queen Mary Hospital in Pok Fu Lam, where she was treated because her head was bleeding. Maria Fe left the flat after the victim informed the employer about what happened.

The employer told Maria Fe to return and she was later arrested by the police. During investigation, the defendant admitted to the crime. The crime of “wounding” is a serious offense and carries a penalty of up to three years imprisonment.

“Although I’m imposing a fine as a penalty in this case, I must emphasize that I’m not sending out a message that this offense is a less serious offense,” Judge Lau said.

“You must understand that your act caused injury and it was not a minor injury. I hope you can think about your future in controlling your temper,” he added.

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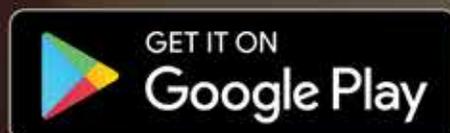


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# DOT tells HK that It's Still More Fun in PH

THE Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) successfully conducted a tourism business mission in Hong Kong at Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui on September 13.

The mission in Hong Kong was the last leg of a four-city tourism business mission that included Nanjing, Wuhan and Guangzhou in mainland China.

Around 170 travel agents, guests as well as Philippine hotel, tourism and travel industry representatives attended the mission, which was led by Tourism Attaché Ireneo Reyes of the DOT Shanghai Office.

The half-day program kicked-off with business-to-business meetings between Philippine sellers and Hong Kong travel agents.

The morning session was followed by a lunch reception attended by VIP guests led by Hong Kong Tourism Board Deputy Executive Director Becky Ip, Philippine Airlines Regional Manager Sindy Lin and Country Manager Leah Nicolas, Cebu Pacific Distribution Manager Bryan Ang, and Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Chairman Freddy Yip.

"Tourism promotion, particularly rural tourism, is an important mission of President Rodrigo Duterte and is included in his ten-point socio-economic agenda. When we say 'It's more fun in the Philippines', improving the general conditions in the country, including connectivity and security, is a top priority of the current administration," said Consul General Antonio A. Morales.

Morales also underlined the longstand-



ConGen Morales (fourth from right) at the VIP table

(PCG photo)

ing and robust relations of the Philippines and Hong Kong, marked by historical significance, trade relations, people-to-people exchanges, and cultural ties.

In further enhancing tourism exchanges, Mr. Morales said that that Philippines should maximize Hong Kong's reputation as a tourist destination, which draws more than 58 million visitors from mainland China and around the globe, to partner with the city and promote tourism.

Hong Kong tourism and travel stakeholders, on the other hand, should take advantage of its proximity to the Philippines, and offer new and exciting itineraries that will string together tourist sites in the city with various destinations in the Philippines, he added.

Tourism Attaché Reyes presented the tourism opportunities in the Philippines, including Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing, Exhibitions, as a cruise ship port of call, diving, learning English as second language, medical tourism, rural tourism,

and as a retirement destination.

Filipino artists including opera singer Jonathan Badon gave their renditions of well-known Filipino songs such as "Anak" and "Kalesa" as well as the famous Chinese pop song "The Moon Represents My Heart," to the audience's delight during the lunch reception.

Tour packages, hotel accommodations and air tickets were given away as prizes during the event's raffle draws.

Relations between Hong Kong and the Philippines had improved since the unfortunate 2010 hostage-taking incident in Manila which left eight HKers dead and seven others wounded. The bungled rescue effort by Philippine security forces made headlines across the globe and was severely criticized.

The incident soured relations between HK and Manila and the row ended only after then Secretary to the Cabinet Rene Almendras and Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada visited HK in 2014 to apologize.

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# Protest held vs 'looming dictatorship'

By Peter Castillo

TWENTY-SIX groups of overseas Filipino workers and international human rights and justice advocates in Hong Kong held a picket at the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) to protest against the "looming dictatorship" in the Philippines.

The groups, led by Hong Kong Campaign for the Advancement of Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (HKCAHRPP), said they will "resist the attempts" of the Duterte government to "return to dictatorship, intensify fascism, revise the Filipino people's history and re-

habilitate the influence and political powers of the Marcoses."

"The Filipino people will never forget the horrors of Martial Law when then ex-dictator unleashed the most brutal of attacks resulting to more than 10,000 victims of human rights violations," the groups said in a joint statement.

"We abhor the Marcoses of the current period for dismissing such crimes and expect the people to just "move on" without accountability from them and without justice for the victims," they added.

The groups held their protest action on September 20, on the eve of the 46th an-

niversary of the declaration of martial law by the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

The groups that signed the statement included the League of Social Democrats (LSD), the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU), BAYAN Hong Kong & Macau, United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK), GABRIELA Hong Kong, Promotion of Church People's Response – Hong Kong (PCPR-HK), LIKHA Filipino Migrants Cultural Organization, Pinatud a Saleng ti Umili (PSU), Association of Concerned Filipinos in Hong Kong (ACFIL), and the Filipino Migrants Association (FMA).



The protesters submitted their statement to the PCG

## Nalunasan dry skin at maumbok na bilbil

Matagal nang panahon na iniinda ni Gemmalyn Domingo ang pagiging dry at ang magaspang niyang balat. Makurot o masugatan lang siya ng konti ay nagiging peklat na. Marami na siyang nasubukan na whitening creams para lamang malunasan ang mga peklat ngunit hindi gaanong epektibo.

Nabanggit niya sa pinsan ang problema sa balat kaya inirekomenda na gumamit ng upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, mula sa England na mabibili sa Sun Fung sa Worldwide Plaza sa halagang HK\$98 lamang. Tiwala at kumbinsido sa sinabi ng pinsan kaya dali-dali siyang bumili ng nasabing lotion.

Kinagabihan, pagkatapos magshower ay ipinahid ang lotion sa buong katawan at mukha ayon sa instruction sheet. Makalipas ang ilang oras, pinakiramdaman ni Gemmalyn kung may magiging epekto ito sa balat dahil madalas siyang magka-allergy sa mga ibang produktong nasubukan noon. Natuwa siya nang malamang wala itong halong mercury kaya walang dahilan para mangamba sa allergy.

Namangha siya dahil sa lotion na natuklasan ay nasolve ang problema niya sa balat. Napawi rin ang mga peklat, gaspang at pagka-dry ng balat. Nabawasan ng 2 inches na taba ang kanyang baywang habang 1½ inches naman ang nabawas na taba sa mga hita sa loob ng ilang linggo pa lamang na pagpapahid niya. Hindi niya suklat akalain na meron palang lotion na kakaiba ang epektong dulot. Sa ngayon ay regular na niyang gamit ang naturang lotion at patuloy na unti-unting nawawala na ang kanyang bilbil at nagiging firm ang mga kalamnan. Ang kanyang kutis naman ay umaayon sa kanyang magandang pangangatawan.

(Article provided by: LT)

Gemmalyn Domingo



Before

After

## Recruiters urge DFA to go after fixers

By Lani Almario

MANILA—One of the largest associations of recruitment agencies in the Philippines has urged the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to go after suspected syndicates and fixers allegedly operating in some of its regional offices.

The Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI) said there was a need for a crackdown in some DFA regional offices, where passport issuance requirements are supposedly "bypassed, overlooked, and loosely implemented."

It said this has led to the issuance of passports even to minors who are then allowed to work abroad as overseas Filipino workers.

It added that these passports were "released faster" when compared to passport applications filed by "LRAs (licensed recruitment agencies) that go by the regular process of passport application."

"We hope the DFA can stamp out the fixers destroying the image of the government and harming OFWs and other passport applicants," Elsa U. Villa, PASEI President, said in a statement.

On the other hand, PASEI thanked DFA Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano for finally solving the backlog problem in the passport issuance system.

"At last, the DFA's inefficient passport issuance system is over, particularly for OFWs who before had to endure unforeseen and undue delays in obtaining their passports so they can work abroad," said Villa.

"We are grateful to the DFA, especially to Secretary Cayetano and his officials for accommodating our request for more passport allocation for our OFWs," she added.

The previous delays led to stakeholders to "call for a review of the online appointments system, including passport printing and delivery" and this resulted in the DFA "allocating slots of 1,000 per day for OFW passport applicants."

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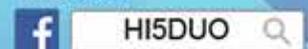
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# POEA warns vs bogus Facebook pages

By Lani Almario

THE Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has warned job seekers on the proliferation of unauthorized Facebook pages that post supposed overseas job vacancies.

The POEA said these Facebook pages illegally use the government agency's name and logo to lure jobseekers.

"Most of the Facebook pages offering jobs are operated by scammers, illegal recruiters, and other enterprising individuals, who want to earn extra money through advertisements and links to other job portals," it said in a statement.

Such individuals and groups, the POEA said often use page titles with catchy labels such as "work abroad", "job hiring", and "accredited agency" to prompt job applicants into "liking" their page.

Among them are POEA Jobs Online, POEA Job Agency Hiring, POEA Job Hiring, POEA Jobs Abroad-Accredited Agency, POEA Job Hiring USA, New Zealand Job Hiring, POEA Job Agency Hiring USA, POEA Job Hiring Australia WORK Abroad, Work Abroad OFW, Work Abroad Poea Accredited Agency, Work Abroad Opportunities, work Abroad Hiring, and Work Abroad Poea Licensed Agency.



POEA

"Owners of these Facebook accounts post job vacancies that are either fake or unverified and are not approved by the POEA," it said.

According to POEA, it only has two official Facebook pages, namely: poea.gov.ph and poea.official.

The agency advised job applicants to

use the POEA verification system at the POEA website in looking for overseas jobs. Meanwhile, the POEA said no overseas Filipino worker, whether new hires or returning workers, will be deployed to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has imposed a total deployment ban on Micronesia due to persistent reports of OFW abuses and maltreatment.

"The POEA Governing Board resolves to impose a total ban on the processing and deployment of workers to the Federated States of Micronesia," said POEA in Governing Board Resolution No. 05-2018

released September 4.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs strongly recommends the total ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to the Federated States of Micronesia unless it settles the unresolved cases and improves the working condition of OFWs," it further read.

As an example, the agency cited the reports in June 2017 of OFW maltreatment and abuses that led to the POEA blacklisting of the Chuuk State Hospital.

POEA also pointed the absence of the required Certification from the concerned Philippine post that would allow OFW deployment there.

## Nabighani at nagpakilala sa Pinay ang isang mala-Korean actor na guwapong Intsik

Si Rose Hangga ay nasa isang computer plaza sa Sham Shui Po upang bumili ng ear phone. Nabubunggo siya at nasiksik dahil sa kaliitan ng shop at dahil na rin sa karamihan ng taong namimili. Sa ilan pang sandali, may parang nanadya na bungguin siya. Kaya nag-react na siya at tiningnan kung sino ito. Pagkalingon niya sa may bandang likod, tila natahimik siy dahil ang nakabunggo sa kanya ay isang guwapong intsik na kamukha ng Korean actor na si Song Joong. Biglang napawi ng pagka-irita niya ng nakitang nakangiti ito sa kanya.

Ang mala-artistang Intsik naman pala ay nananadyang magparamdam kay Rose para mapansin siya dahil tiyak na niya na nabato-balani na ito sa kanyang gamit na pabangong Dream Love 1000. Kahit medyo hindi masyadong marunong mag-English ang Intsik ay naiintindihan ni Rose ang pinahayag nitong naisin na makilala siya. Sa isang marahan na kataga ay sinabi ng Intsik sa kanya, "What you buy? You in Hong Kong how many years la?" Tumugon si Rose at nakipag-kamay sa Intsik at nagpatuloy sa maikling pag-uusap sa labas na ng shop. Bago sila naghiwalay ay kinuha nito ang phone number ni Rose at doon na nagsimula ang kanilang pagkakaibigan.

Mabibili ito mula sa mga shops sa Central Worldwide Plaza gaya ng Fiesta Mart, Sun Fung, Aurora Mart at Victory Supermarket sa halagang HK\$88 lamang.



Rose Hangga

(Article provided by: LT)

## HK drops case against Pinoy tourists

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Hong Kong government has decided to drop the money laundering charges against three Filipinos accused of presenting a fake bank draft worth US\$5 billion at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) headquarters in June.

A government lawyer told Eastern Presiding Magistrate Peter Law this morning (September 18) that the government was not pursuing the case of "using a false instrument" against farmer Elmer P. Soliman, 57; his son Eric Jude, 31 years old and an engineer; and Soliman's lawyer Eliseo L. Martinez.

"The prosecution is applying to withdraw the charges against all defendants for insufficient evidence," the prosecutor said.

Judge Law granted the prosecution's motion and ordered that the three Filipinos be released from prison.

"All three defendants, you are free to go," Judge Law said.

However, the magistrate denied the Solimans' petition for costs, or the reimbursement of their expenses in the case.

The three defendants were arrested on June 25 when they went to the HSBC headquarters in Central and allegedly tried to open a bank account using the fake bank draft.

Suspecting forgery, bank officials called the police and the three Filipinos were arrested together with their two companions.

The Solimans' lawyer argued that the case against his clients was "misplaced and improperly laid" since they supposedly went to HSBC only to "verify" the bank draft.

"The first and second defendant went there primarily to verify the authenticity of the bank draft. Given that fact, the elements of the offense, cannot be satisfied," the defense lawyer said.

However, Judge Law said that the defendants brought suspicion on themselves.



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# Student steals \$7K from Pinay in NP

By Peter Castillo

THE police nabbed a 20-year-old film student after he stole at least \$7,000 from a Filipino woman at St. Jude's Church in North Point. But she was not her only victim.

Defendant Harry James S. was arrested for stealing from M.S. Florentino in July and, the following month, from a food expo worker at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) in Wan Chai.

"I plead guilty," the defendant told East-

ern Presiding Magistrate Peter Law on September 18.

The first incident happened at around 5 p.m. at St. Jude's Church, which is popular with Filipinos, on July 29, a Sunday.

A security guard of the church saw the defendant loitering at around 4:35 p.m. in-

side the church compound and, at around 5:03 p.m., he entered a room on the second floor and stayed there for five minutes.

It turned out that the Filipina, apparently a church volunteer, had left her belongings inside the room and the defendant took her wallet.

The guard accosted the defendant after he got out of the room and found the Filipina's wallet tucked on his waistband. The prosecutor said it contained more than \$7,000 and two Philippine identification cards. The defendant was allowed to post bail after his arrest but, on August 20, he again struck and stole \$31,000 during a food expo at the HKEC.

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## Fake FDH denied bail

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE High Court denied the bail petition of a Filipino woman who pretended to be a domestic worker so that she could stay with her boyfriend here in Hong Kong.

High Court Justice Maggie Poon on September 21 junked the bail request of Cristeta F.N. since she had yet to give her full statement to Immigration officers on how she faked her contract.

"This petition is premature. You can file another petition once your given your non-prejudicial statement to Immigration officers," Justice Poon said.

The Filipina was arrested after the Immigration Department discovered that Cristeta was not living with and working for the employer stated in her contract. Instead, she was living with her boyfriend.

After pleading guilty, Cristeta asked that she be allowed to post bail so that she could check on her children in the Philippines. She added that she also needed to trace the whereabouts in Yuen Long of the recruiter who processed her contract.

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# US\$58...

From page 1

said it is "highly unlikely" that the Philippine peso will sink further to P58:\$1, insisting that the forecast of the research firm was "totally unfounded."

"The fear that our peso to dollar (will be) at P58 is totally unfounded. That's unlikely," Diokno said, adding that such a

scenario can only happen if tourism arrival figures plummet.

"You can always come up with a scenario that nobody will go to the Philippines, (because of a virus) like SARS. If so, then nobody will go here. But why scare ourselves? We are in a good shape right now," he said.

"We are expanding our economy so that

our capacity also increases. We can still rely (on) our OFWs' (remittance which) actually increased. That is still reliable. BPO (business process outsourcing) companies are still reliable, as well as foreign direct investments," Diokno added.

Capital Economics said the Philippine peso was "one of the worst performing Asian currencies" so far this year.

"Looking ahead, the trade deficit is likely to widen further as imports of capital goods continue to flood in to support Duterte's infrastructure drive," the think-tank said.

Central Bank deputy governor Diwa Guinigundo remained optimistic on the current level of the peso, saying it could withstand the impact of the surging Amer-

ican dollar.

Inflation in August rose to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent, faster than the 5.7 percent in July, due mainly to higher prices of food, particularly rice, fish, meat and vegetables.

This brought inflation in the first eight months to 4.7 percent, well over the target range of 2 to 4 percent this year.



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## More than 600 OFWs to take licensure exam in HK

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE than 660 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) were set to take the Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (SPLBE) for Professional Teachers here in Hong Kong on September 30.

Labor Attache Nida Romulo said the exams were part of the Philippine government efforts to encourage teachers who became OFWs to go back home and teach.

Gloria S. Varquez, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) officer in charge of exam applications, said 616 OFWs were set to take the exam---324 for elementary teaching positions and 292 for high school teaching posts.

"We have nine OFWs who are crossing over from Macau to take the exam while there's another one from mainland China who is also coming over," Varquez said.

"Of the 616 applicants, 615 are female and only one male," she added.

The board exam was scheduled to start at 6 a.m. at the Delia Memorial School at 221 Hip Wo St. in Kwun Tong.

Exam takers were advised to be at the school "not later than 6 a.m." because

"late examinees will not be admitted."

Examinees were also told to bring along two "passport-sized pictures (with name tag)," the official receipt/proof of payment for the examination fee, one long transparent plastic envelope, one long brown envelope, two or more pencils, ball pen with black ink only, and a "non-programmable calculator."

"Examinees are prohibited from bringing food and eating inside the examination area," a POLO advisory said.

"Accepting or receiving anything, including food from any person while the examination is in progress is also strictly prohibited," it added.

Last year, 60 OFWs passed the teachers' exams held here in HK. President Rodrigo Duterte had vowed to raise the salaries of public school teachers even as he acknowledged that he cannot double their pay, unlike policemen and soldiers.

"I promise: Your salary will be raised soon. We've been trying to come up with a progressive (increase)," the President said. For his part, Senator Juan Edgardo Angara expressed full support for Duterte's plan to increase the salary of teachers.



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# *A magna cum laude in God's grace*



SHE was the answered prayer to her goodly parents, who wished for a baby girl. So, with joyful hearts, they named her DEO GRACE ( meaning "God's Grace" ) to celebrate God's providence. That time, they also prayed for their little baby girl to be a channel of God's grace and love. This time, they are happy to say 'it was another prayer answered, another joy in our hearts'.

At 33, Pastor Deo Grace "DG" Borlado, who hails from Jaro, Iloilo, is lighting the world with inspiration and uplifting messages. She was the Guest Pastor Speaker at the 12th Anniversary of the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Hong Kong (NBCF-HK) on September 9, 2018, where she inspired a congregation of 240, saying "Madali po nating sabihin na, "I am living for God's glory", pero sadyang mahirap po ito isapamuhay. However, the good news is, it can be done. If we want to bring depth and meaning to our theme: Living for God's glory, both in our personal life and community of faith, we must make it a LIFESTYLE -, a daily act

that each of us has to engage in."

When DG was 21 years old, she has accomplished a 'lifestyle' of excellence in the pursuit of her college degree. She graduated magna cum laude at Central Philippine University, Iloilo City in April 2006, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Major in English, and was recipient of two awards, Special EXCEL Award & Quality English Education Award. She first worked as an English Tutor at the Hanfil Language & TOIEC Center for Korean students. It is no wonder that she became a fan of K-Pop and K-Drama. Thereafter, she became a teacher at Philippine Science High School, Western Visayas campus, for 7 years, handling Grades 7 and 8.

Did she enjoy being a teacher? "It was exciting and challenging," she said, "but I felt that I wanted to do more and be more than what I was then. I couldn't seem to resign myself to being a teacher. There was a restlessness inside of me because I knew I was being called elsewhere to serve God and His people. I knew I was being called to be a Missionary".



The Borlados--Jec, Pastor Dan, Mary Lou, and DG (from left to right)--all serve in the pastoral ministry

Hence in April 2017, after a three-year study, Pastor DG graduated magna cum laude at Union Theological Seminary (in Dasmarinas, Cavite), with a Master of Divinity degree and was recipient of awards in Church History, Biblical Studies, Preaching, Pastoral Care & Counseling, Liturgy, Worship, Music & the Arts, Ecumenics & Missions, and Church Ministries. She also went on a 6-month Discipleship Training School in Antipolo, Rizal from January to July this year, under the 'Youth with a mission' program.

While in the seminary, she was involved in joint-community projects with Migrante International, the experience of which solidified her desire to be of service to others. "I learned the importance of social holiness and the value of living in community - sharing and taking part in the lives and stories of each member of

the community and journeying and working together to achieve the best for each one," she said.

The community that Pastor DG grew up with was also filled with sharing, primarily coming from the Jaro Evangelical Church, the first Baptist church in the Philippines, which strengthened her faith. More significantly, she was surrounded by a family of pastors.

Her parents are the Rev. Danilo Borlado and Pastor Mary Lou Borlado, who currently lead the NBCF Hong Kong; her brother, Jec Dan Borlado, is also a pastor in Iloilo; and her maternal grandparents were both pastors, the Rev. Vicente Silencino and Pastor Felina Silencino.

"We can live for God's glory by anchoring it on the love we have received from God and those in our community, and by choosing to live in gratitude for

every grace and blessing received by remembering to pay back and pay it forward", she said her message at the NBCF HK anniversary. To her, life is a gift that offers the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.

When DG was that little baby girl, her jubilant parents said she was a special gift from God. No longer the baby girl that she once was but the adult pastor that she now is, she can truly return that gracious compliment by telling Mom and Dad "you are my special gift from God, the wind beneath my wings, who taught me the beauty of life living for God and living for others".

Indeed, Pastor DG has a wonderful mission ahead of her and it is something that she was born with, - DEO GRACE - God's grace.



DG graduated magna cum laude from Union Theological Seminary

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- Android 8.1 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual Sim
- Fingerprint

Price **\$4,489**

**Sony Xperia XZ2 Premium H8166** NEW



- 5.8 Inch
- 19MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x2.7 GHz Kryo 385 Gold
- 6GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$6,789**

**Samsung Galaxy A8 Star**



- 6.3 Inch
- Dual 24MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x2.2 GHz Kryo 260
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,989**

**Apple iPhone 5s** No Interest



- 4 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Dual-core 1.3 GHz Cyclone
- 1GB RAM
- iOS 7
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,299**

**Asus Zenfone 5**



- 6.2 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core Kryo 260
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,249**

**Apple iPhone X (64GB)**



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

Price **\$8,549**

**Sony Xperia XA1 Ultra**



- 6 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core (4x2.3 GHz Cortex-A53)
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,649**

**LG K10 2017**



- 5.3 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,649**

**Huawei P10 Lite**



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

Price **\$2,199**

**Nokia 8110**



- 2.4 Inch
- 2MP Rear
- 64GB Storage
- Dual-core (2x1.1 GHz Cortex-A7)
- 4GB RAM
- KaOS
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$689**

**Huawei Nova 2i**



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 16MP & 2MP Rear + Dual Front 13MP + 2MP
- 64GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
- 2.36 GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,849**

**Sony Xperia L2 (32GB)** No Interest



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 16MP & 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.1.1 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,899**

**HTC Desire 12+**



- 6 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.8 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,949**

**Nokia 6** Hot Items



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,049**

**Samsung Galaxy J1 (2016)** Hot Items



- 4.5 Inch
- 5MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.3 GHz Cortex-A7
- 1GB RAM
- Android
- 4G

Price **\$880**

**Samsung Galaxy A7 (2017)** No Interest



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.9 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 (Marshmallow)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,699**

**Redmi Note 5 Plus** Hot Items



- 6 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 2.0 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.1.2 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,599**

**Redmi Note 5A (64GB)**



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz Cortex-A53
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.1.2
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,399**

**LG K8 2017** Hot Items



- 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**

**Vivo Y85**



- 6.22 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.8 GHz Cortex-A53
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.1 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,989**

**LG Q6**



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz Cortex-A53
- 2GB RAM
- Android 7.1.1 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,849**

**Huawei P20 Lite**



- 5.84 Inch
- 24MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x2.36 GHz Cortex-A53
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.1 (One)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,349**

**Vivo X20 Plus**



- 6.43 Inch
- Dual 12MP Rear Camera + 5 MP
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core (4x2.2 GHz Kryo 260 & 4x1.8 GHz Kryo 260)
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.1 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,998**

**Vivo X20**



- 6.01 Inch
- Dual 12MP Rear Camera + 5 MP
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core (4x2.2 GHz Kryo 260 & 4x1.8 GHz Kryo 260)
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,498**

**Samsung Galaxy A6 Plus**



- 6 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.8 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G

Price **\$2,699**

**Samsung Galaxy J2 Prime**



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

Price **\$949**

**Samsung Galaxy C8**



- 5.5 Inch
- Dual 13MP & 5MP Rear + 16 MP Front Camera
- 8GB Storage
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz Cortex-A53
- 1.69 GHz Octa-core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,549**

**Sony Xperia XA2 H4133**



- 5.2 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 2.2 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,649**

**Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime** Hot Items



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,698**

**Asus Zenfone Max Plus ZB570TL**



- 5.7 Inch
- 16 MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,798**

**Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro** Low Down Payment Hot Items



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

Price **\$2,749**

**Huawei Y6 Prime 2018**



- 5.7 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.4 GHz Cortex-A53
- 2GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,358**

**Samsung Galaxy A8 Plus** Hot Items



- 6.0 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core (2x2.2 GHz Cortex-A73 & 6x1.6 GHz Cortex-A53)
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.1.1 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$4,349**

**Vivo V9** Low Down Payment



- 6.3 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Qualcomm MSM8953-Pro
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.1
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,698**

**Samsung Galaxy S9 (64GB)**



- 5.8 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x2.7 GHz
- 4GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Fingerprint
- Iris Scanner

Price **\$5,998**

**Samsung Galaxy S8+ (128GB)** 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 **\$6,249**

**Sony Xperia XA1** Hot Items



- 5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G

Price **\$1,990**

**Huawei Y7 Prime**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.4 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,649**

**Sony Xperia XA1 Plus**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3 GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,349**

**Samsung Galaxy J7 Pro** No Interest



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz Cortex-A53
- 3GB RAM
- Android 7.0 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,999**

**Huawei T2 7 LTE** Hot Items



- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.5GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G

Price **\$999**

**Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro** Low Down Payment



- 6 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 4x1.95 GHz Cortex-A72
- 6GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,249**

**Vivo V7**

- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Qualcomm SDM450 Snapdragon 450
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.1.2 (Nougat)
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,898**

**HP Stream 11 - Y007TU**

- 11.6 Inch
- 32GB Storage
- Win 10
- 4G

Price **\$2,499**

**Canon EOS M10 with EF-M 15-45mm White**

Price **\$2,980**

**Casio Baby G BA 1101 ADR**

Low Down Payment

Price **\$859**

**Polar M200 Waterproof**

Price **\$999**

**Casio Baby G BGA 240L-7ADR**

Price **\$659**

**Samsung Galaxy J6 J600**

- 5.6 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz Cortex-A53
- 6GB RAM
- Android 8.0 (Oreo)
- 4G
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- Dual SIM
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Low Down Payment

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**Alba Fashion AS9991X1**

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Price **\$800**

**Samsung Galaxy J7 Prime**

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Hot Items

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# 'Lesson plan not to blame for suicides'

By Maia Lopez

DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones said that the workload of teachers should not be blamed for the suicides of two public school teachers in July and August.

Briones said DepEd felt "very badly"

about the deaths of the young teachers but said circumstances behind these deaths were "very different from each other."

"We can't comment on whether a lesson plan causes suicide. We can't say that professionally. We can't give an opinion and draw a conclusion that work in DepEd drives a person [to take his or her life],"

Briones said.

The Teachers Dignity Coalition (TDC) and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers earlier urged DepEd to "take the necessary steps" after a newly-hired teacher from barrio school of La Paz, Leyte hanged herself in July. The TDC said the suicide was attributed to the "heavy burden of paper-

works as proved by the teacher's closest friends and colleagues."

In August, another young teacher, Shanen Espino of Bacoor City, was found dead hanging inside her room still wearing her school uniform. According to colleagues, the teacher is complaining about her workload and class observations.



Briones

## 3.8M indigent seniors getting P23B stipend

By Maia Lopez

CONGRESS urged to raise monthly allowance for poor seniors now extremely vulnerable to hunger due to runaway food price inflation

The government is spending P23.18 billion next year to pay for the P500 monthly allowance of up to 3.8 million senior citizens tagged as "qualified indigents" by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Makati City Rep. Luis Campos Jr., House appropriations committee member, said over the weekend.

"The target is to extend the monthly subsidy to an additional 800,000 impoverished seniors. This explains the 20-percent or P3.9-billion increase in the allocation," Campos, a deputy minority leader, said.

The P19.28 billion that the DSWD is forking out this year for the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens covers only up to three million qualified beneficiaries, according to Campos.

"We want the monthly stipend for poverty-stricken seniors bumped up to P2,000, considering that Congress has not increased the original P500 since 2010," Campos said.

"Congress has to move quickly in raising the pocket money for hard up seniors who are now extremely vulnerable to hunger due to runaway food price inflation," Campos warned.

Under the Expanded Senior Citizens Law of 2010 that first pegged the monthly grant for indigents at P500, Campos said Congress was supposed to, but never reviewed the amount every two years for possible upward revision.

"If government cannot afford to provide P2,000 monthly to every indigent senior all at once, we should at least offer the amount to those who are 70 years old and above," Campos said.

Campos is proponent of House Bill 2653, which seeks to jack up to P2,000 the monthly pension for destitute seniors who are at least 70 years old. He invoked the mandate of the 1987 Constitution for the State "to care for the elderly through just programs of social security, and to provide improved quality of life for all."

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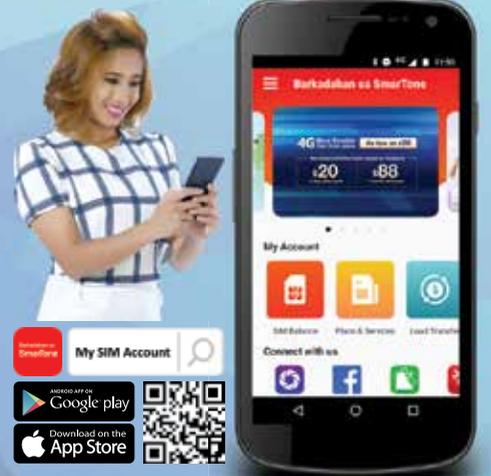
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L-R: 2017 winner Aiza Olmoguiz; MS BARKADAHAN 2018 CHAMPION-Melodie Bello Duag (Batangas); Cindy Leung -Assistant General Manager SmarTone; Mark Lopez -Chairman ABS-CBN; Maribel Hernaez -Country Manager, South Asia, ABS-CBN Global



L-R: 2017 winner Maricris Mondejar; Joey Leigh -Destine Joy Travel; 2ND RUNNER UP -Rosie Cea Talimongan; Zaldy Santos -USEND CARGO HK



L-R: Mr. Kenny of Razazza Jewelry; IST RUNNER UP -Gelbey Joy Ichon Genosas; Celebrity Joshua Garcia; Ricky Resurreccion -Head Global Events ABS-CBN; Maribel Hernaez -Country Manager, South Asia, ABS-CBN Global



L-R: Host- Alvin Dayrit SmarTone; Ricky Resurreccion - Head Global Events ABS-CBN; Maribel Hernaez - Country Manager, South Asia, ABS-CBN Global; 2ND RUNNER UP - Rosie Cea Talimongan (Camarines Sur); MS BARKADAHAN 2018 CHAMPION - Melodie Bello Duag (Batangas); IST RUNNER UP - Gelbey Joy Ichon Genosas (Davao); Mark Lopez - Chairman ABS-CBN; Celebrities Joshua Garcia & Negi; Connie Lopez - Head, Digital Partnerships and Integration, ABS-CBN

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# Colonoscopy for DU30

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said he has undergone colonoscopy and endoscopy, adding that he has a “bad case” of Barrett’s esophagus, a complication of gastroesophageal reflux disease.

“When somebody complains ‘my ass is aching,’ what comes to my mind is ‘you go to Sollano,’” he said, referring to his gastroenterologist Dr. Joey Sollano.

Sollano is also the chairperson of the Asia Pacific Association of Gastroenterology.

“I had my colonoscopy and endoscopy. Joey did the procedure and he said I have a bad case of Barrett. He said, ‘if you’ll just stop drinking, you will live,’” Duterte said.



Duterte

“Historically, I took after my mother who was always constipated. That was her complaint. And but she lived to be 96 years old. So if you want to live forever, pray for constipation,” he added.

The President said even his son, Sebastian, is also a patient of Sollano.

“He got it also and as a matter of fact, he started to have a leak,” he said.

“I’m telling you the truth. And that was also genetically maybe...He was also a patient of Joey. Joey said just (take) plenty of water.. the problem is plenty of visits to the bathroom...And my son was complaining about bleeding and there’s as I said a leak,” the President added.

Malacañang, however, insisted the intestine-related procedures that the President underwent are nothing extraordinary.

“I think that’s routine. The President has said he regularly undergoes tests like that. So, that’s a routine, nothing extraordinary,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said.

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## PH to import 750k metric tons of rice

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the lifting of all administrative constraints and non-tariff barriers on the importation of agricultural products, even as his spokesman said charges will be filed against outgoing National Food Administration chief Jason Aquino over the rice crisis.

The Agriculture Department, for its part, approved the importation of as much as 750,000 metric tons in a bid to address the supply shortage, which has jacked up prices of the grain.

The rice crisis was made worse by Typhoon Ompong, which caused damage to crops and livestock by as much as P26.7 billion, well above initial forecasts.

Duterte, through Administrative Order No. 13, directed the NFA, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry to streamline procedures in the accreditation of importers, shorten the processing time for applications to import, and exempt traders who are already accredited for registration.

“Non-tariff barriers and certain administrative constraints, procedures, and fees unduly add to the costs of importation and limit supply, which in turn push up the prices of agricultural commodities to the detriment of Filipino consumers, especially the poor,” the President said.

Other measures include facilitating the importation of certain agricultural products beyond their authorized minimum access volume (MAV).

Duterte also authorized the formation of a “surveillance” team composed of the DTI, NFA, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police to monitor the importation and distribution of agricultural products.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, for his part, vowed to file charges against Aquino over the rice crisis.

“Because of this single issue of rice, people have forgotten the other achievements of the administration. Because he did not spend the money to buy from local farmers for our buffer stock, we are importing today and giving money to foreign farmers. I won’t just file a technical malversation if no one else would dare, I will also file graft and corruption (charges). To set the record straight, I will file more,” Roque said.

“The penalty for technical malversation is minimal. I want the one with a long jail sentence,” he added.

The Commission on Audit earlier flagged the decision of the NFA to use some P5.1 billion in subsidy from the national government as payment for maturing loans instead of allocating the funds for the food security program of the agency.

Government auditors said the amount was supposed to ensure there was sufficient food supply.

“The procurement shortfall affected other programs of NFA, such as rice distribution and buffer stocking resulting in higher price of rice, unavailability of NFA rice in the market and lower inventory of rice in various NFA warehouses,” CoA said.

As this developed, Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol said the rice imports will replenish the almost depleted stocks of government rice that stood at two days inventory.

He said he would also seek a ban on the importation of “fancy” varieties next year.

“What is happening is, instead of bringing down the price, (we have) imported fancy rice—Jasmine, long grains—(which) are actually being sold at as much as P58 per kilo. So where are the low prices?” Piñol said.

“Next year, the importing of fancy rice should be disallowed,” he added.

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## Whitewash

WE deplore in the strongest terms the attempt of former Defense Minister and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile to revise the history of martial law during the time of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

In an interview with former Sen. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., Enrile claimed that no one was killed or imprisoned for opposing the late President.

“They claimed that we killed a lot of people. That’s why when I was interviewed by someone some time ago, I challenged her: Name me one that we executed other than Lim Seng,” said Enrile.

He also said that no one was arrested during Martial Law because of their political or religious beliefs or because they had opposed Marcos.

“Name me one person that was arrested because of political or religious belief during that period. None.... Name me one person that was arrested simply because

he criticized President Marcos. None,” said Enrile.

It’s a good thing that martial law victims have come out in force to debunk Enrile’s claims while Malacañang has distanced itself from his statements.

“I don’t think they can twist history when there’s a law and when there are court decisions attesting to what happened during Martial Law,” said Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque.

He noted that Malacañang even hosted members of the compensation board for Martial Law victims.

“So, the position of the Palace is, we are implementing the law, and the law says there should be reparations paid to victims of Martial Law,” he said.

We would also like to remind Enrile that he was one of the signatories of the law that set the compensation for at least 10,000 Martial Law victims. Let us remain vigilant against revisionism.

## Health Alert

### Anxiety Disorders

EVERYONE will feel worry every now and then. When we expect to encounter challenging or dangerous situations, anxiety will act like a fire alarm to alert us the possible dangers ahead and to make preparation. Nevertheless, when anxiety affects our daily life to the extent that it causes significant distress or body discomforts, you may be suffering from anxiety disorders.

Generalised anxiety disorder is one of a range of anxiety disorders. People suffering from generalised anxiety disorder worry very much about everyday things, making them hard to focus on study or other activities. They will need constant reassurance from others or avoid certain situations or activities because of fear. As they are constantly stressed, they may feel muscle tension, palpitations or out of breath. Headache, gastrointestinal discomfort and shaking hands are also common. Furthermore, they may sleep poorly and have nightmare. Over time, they will

be emotionally disturbed, easily startled and throw tempers frequently.

If some of the above conditions occur over a period of time and affect your daily life, please consider seeking advice from professionals.

If you or someone suffer from anxiety, do seek professional assessment from doctor or clinical psychologist. If treatment is indicated upon assessment, there are treatments that have been clinically proven to be effective.

Health care workers will assess and come up with a treatment plan together with the affected individual. The individual will be guided to modify negative way of thinking step-by-step, and to learn about anxiety management techniques. Through treatment, the individual can establish a healthier way of thinking and lifestyle. For more information, please call: Hospital Authority Mental Health 24-hour Hotline: 2466 7350 or the Social Welfare Department Hotline: 2343 2255.

### As We See it



### Currents

Norman Uy  
Carnay

### Ang Inflation at Ikaw

KABAYAN, alam mo ba na 6.4% ang inflation rate sa atin ngayon? Pero ano naman ngayon?

Ang inflation ay ang pagbaba ng halaga ng pera dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihan. Maraming dahilan bakit nagtataas ang presyo ng bilihan: Maaaring dahil nagtaas ang presyo ng sangkap nito, o dahil dumami ang nais bumili ng produkto.

Sa Pilipinas, bilang taga-angkat ng langis, apektado tayo tuwing nagtataas ito ng presyo sa world market. At dahil 70% ng ating langis ay imported, makaapekto ito sa lahat ng produktong gumagamit ng langis.

Ay kabayan, marami ang mga produktong ito! Kahit ang bigas natin eh ‘gumagamit’ ng langis. Mula sa taniman hanggang mapunta sa palengke, gumagamit ng langis ang sasakyan na bumibiyahang sa produktong ito. Hindi maiiwasan na tumaa ang presyo dahil langis pa rin ang ginagamit ng mga sasakyan sa atin. Kaya

magtataas din talaga ang presyo ng bigas, kahit hindi naman halata sa unang tingin na ‘gumagamit’ ito ng langis.

Marami na rin akong nasabi tungkol sa TRAIN law, ngunit kailangan ko ulitin: Hindi maganda ang naidudulot ng TRAIN law.

Gaya ng nabanggit ko noong nakaraan, dinagdagan ng tax ang langis. At dahil may dagdag na tax, may dagdag na ipapasan sa mga consumers. May pagtaas ng presyo ang langis sa world market, may dagdag pang tax. Ang saya-saya ‘di ba?

Ano epekto ngayon nito sa ating mga migrante? Ang pinadadala natin, hindi nagbago ang amount. Ngunit napakaliit na ng halaga nito kumpara noong nakaraang taon. Dagdag pa rito na ang pagkain ay tumaas ng 8.5 percent at ang gastos sa transportasyon ay tumaas ng 7.8 percent.

Maaaring maduling tayo sa dami ng numero. Ngunit pasimplehin natin: Ta-

nungin mo ang iyong mag-anak sa Pilipinas. Sa pinadadala mo, anu-ano na lang nabibili nila? Nilalakad na lang ba nila ang daan papuntang opisina o pabrika o eskwelahan kung dati eh sumasakay sila? Nakakakin pa ba sila ng masustansiyang pagkain? Gaano na kalala ang kalam ng sikmura nila kumpara noong nakaraang taon?

Maraming pwedeng gawin: Ipatigil ang pagpapatupad sa TRAIN law (at may TRAIN 2 pa!); palakasin ang ating sariling industriya at suporta sa ating agrikultura para hindi na tayo mag-import ng bigas at iba pang batayang pangangailangan. Sa kagyat, dapat kontrolin ng gobyerno ang presyo ng mga produkto sa palengke.

Ang mataas na inflation ay indikasyon ng palpak na patakbo sa ekonomiya. Imbes kasi na isyu ng droga ang inuuna, bakit hindi muna ang problema ng sikmura ng taumbayan?

### Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat!

Isa ako sa masugid nyong tagasubaybay. Mahilig kasi akong magbasa pa rin ng dyaryo kahit na uso na ang social media. Nakasanayan ko na magbasa nito sa mga pagkakataong maluwag ako sa aking trabaho.

Nabasa ko sa inyong Face Book Page nuong September 24 na malapit nang ilabas ang desisyon ng Labour Department tungkol sa minimum wage naming mga Household Domestic Workers at isa ako sa nanalangin na sana naman ay ibigay ang nararapat

na pagtaas para sa amin.

Nais ko ring saludohan sa aking sulat ang ating mga kababayan na nagmamartsa at patuloy na ipinaglalaban ang pagtaas ng sahod. Hindi man ako nakikiisa sa kanila sa pagmamartsa at pagsigaw ng ating mga hinaing at karapatan ay kaisa nila ako sa lahat ng kaniyang pinaglalaban. Kaisa nila ako sa pamamagitan ng aking mga dasal na matugunan ang mga ito. Kasali din sa dasal ko ang mga taong matapang na nagmamamartsa na sana’y biyayaan sila ng magandang kalusugan at maiwas sa kapahamakan.

Aabangan ko ang mga updates sa inyong pahayagan, sana nga ay magkaroon ng magandang balita tungkol sa pagtataas sa sahod na makakatulong sa maraming OFWs na naghahanapbuhay para sa kanilang pamilya.

Marami pong salamat and more power po!

Sumasainyo,  
Sarah P.  
Kwun Tong

# HONG KONG NEWS

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# Bumagyo din ng biyaya!

By Mavic Reyes

SI Maria, dalaga, tubong Nueva Vizcaya, ay mag-iisang taon pa lang sa kanyang mga employers na Intsik na may isang anak na batang babae. Simple lang ang pamumuhay ng mag-asawa na kapwa

nagtrabaho at ang pangunahing responsibilidad ni Maria ay ang alagaan ang kanilang limang-taong gulang na anak.

Si Maria ang naghahatid-sundo at kung nasa eskwelahan ang alaga ay doon niya ginagawa ang pamalengke at iba pang gawaing-bahay.

Kahit di sinasabi ng kanyang mga employers na tulongan din ni Maria ang kanyang alaga sa mga homework nito ay ginagawa ito ni Maria hanggat kaya nya dahil alam nyang abala ang kanyang mga amo sa trabaho.

Gabi na kung umuwi sila at tamang-tama sa oras ng hapunan. Alam niyang pagod din sila sa maghaponing trabaho kung kaya't sinisigurado ni Maria na maayos ang lahat.

Sa loob ng 11 buwang pagtatrabaho sa kanila, ni minsan ay hindi siya pinagalitan o sinigawan ng kanyang mga employers. Kung may pagkukulang si Maria sa mga gawaing bahay at iba pa ay sinasabi nila ito sa kanya ng malumanay at sa paraang di masasaktan ang kanyang damdamin.

Masasabing maswerte si Maria sa kanila kahit na simple lamang silang pamilya. Alam nilang pahalagahan at i-appreciate ang mga nagagawa ni Maria sa kanila, lalo na sa kanilang anak.

Hindi rin siya kinakapos sa pagkain at may kalayaan siyang magluto ng kanyang kakainin kaya masaya si Maria sa pamilyang pinaglilingkuran.

Isang araw ng day-off ay bumagyo ng napalakas at hindi pwedeng lumabas si Maria dahil sa babala ng Hong Kong Observatory ng mananalanta ng napakalakas ang bagyo.

Minabuti ni Maria na manatili sa kanyang kwarto. Kahit hindi siya inoobliga ng mag-asawa na tumulong sa pagluluto at iba pang gawain ay kusang tumulong si

Maria lalo na sa paghahanda ng kanilang pagkain at pag-intindi sa kanyang alaga.

Sa pananalanta ng napakalakas na bagyo, ay inalagaan nya ang bata na madalas ay nasa kanyang kwarto na nakikipaglaro.

Kahit na may takot si Maria dahil sa napakalakas na hangin ay nababalewala ito dahil sa masaya niyang paglalaro sa alaga.

Bandang hapon ng araw na iyon ay inabutan siya ng laisee ng kanyang employer na babae.

Laking tuwa ni Maria na sa pagkukusa niyang tulongan sila sa araw ng kanyang day-off na naunsyami dahil sa bagyo ay bumagyo din ng biyayang di inaasahan dahil di-birong halaga na para sa kanya ang laman ng sobrang pula.

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### Ayaw ng amo ng nakasimangot

SA lahat na ayaw ng mga Intsik ay ang may nakasimangot silang kasama lalo na kung may okasyon at may mga bisita sa loob ng tahanan.

Lumalayo raw kasi tuloy ang swerte. Mabisat raw kasama sa buhay ang taong nakasimangot. Hindi naman talaga mahilig sumimangot ni Ofelia, 26, dalaga, at tubong Ilocos. Peeo simula nang manalasa ang bagyong Ompong ay hindi na ito masaya at napansin ng amo ni Ofelia na palagi na siyang nakasimangot.

Nainggit kasi si Ofelia sa kaibigan niya ng i-post sa Facebook ang \$200 na bigay raw ng amo dahil ipinagluto ito kahit araw ng pahinga.

Mabuti pa raw ang kaibigan ipinagluto lang

ang amo binigyan ng \$200 samantalang si Ofelia nagtrabaho na parang ordinayong araw dahil hindi makalabas at may bagyo ay wala siyang nangangap. Kaya halos buong linggo ay nagsimangot ito. Hanggang sumapit ang araw ng Sabado, may pahapunan sa bahay ang amo. Nadagdagan ang inis ni Ofel at may mga bisita at siyam na putaha ang ipinapaluto ng amo.

Nang kumakain na ang mga amo at bisita ay inabutan ng dalawang pulang sobre si Ofelia at sabay sabing "For sure this will make you smile." Namula at biglang nakaramdam ng init si Ofelia na hindi niya alam kung dahil sa tuwa o sa pagkapahiya sa sarili na napansin pala ng amo

ang pagsimangot niya dahil lang sa pasobrang bigay ng pera. Ikinuwento ni Ofelia sa kaibigan at kung ano ang sinabi ng amo pag-abot nito ng sobre. Ipinaliwanag ng kaibigan kay Ofelia na hindi obligado ang among magbigay o bayaran ang araw na ipinagtrabaho ang araw ng pahinga kung hindi naman nag-utos. Maliban na lang kung may konsiderasyon ang amo.

Pero hindi lahat ng amo ay parepareho. May mga among maluwag sa pera at may mga amo naman na kuripot at sobrang gulang. Kaya huwag na raw uulitin ni Ofelia ang magsimangot sa ganun lang na bagay at baka mawalan pa tuloy siya ng trabaho.

*Imelda Mae Bustinera*

## Mga Katungkulan ng mga Dayuhang Kasambahay

Umiwas sa labis na pangungutang. Huwag bayaran ang iyong ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng pag-utang sa kahit na anong kumpanya na nagpapautang kahit na hilingin ito ng ahensiya.

Gawin lamang ang mga pambahay na tungkulin para sa pamamahay ng amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata. Huwag manilbihan para sa ibang tao bukod sa iyong amo.

Umiwas sa "job-hopping". Kadalasan hindi pinapayagan ang pagpalit ng amo habang wasto pa ang iyong kasalukuyang kontrata maliban sa pambihirang pangyayari. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung aabusuhan ang pagputol sa kontrata nang wala sa panahon.

Mayroon kang libreng tutuluyan sa pamamahay ng iyong amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata, at ditto ka lang puwedeng tumira. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung titira ka sa labas kahit na pinayagan o binayaran ito ng iyong amo.

Huwag tumanggap ng illegal na trabaho o pansamantalang trabaho kahit na pinayagan o pinakiusapan ka ng iyong amo o ahensiya na gawin iyon.

Maari kang isakdal at paalisin sa Hong Kong kapag napatunayan kang lumabag sa kundisyon ng pananatili.

# May mahabang kamay

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

DEKADA na rin ang isang grupo, na nagkakilala lang nang magkasama-sama sa isang lugar kung saan sila nagtitipon tuwing Linggo. Pakay nila ang magbigay ng libreng serbisyo at tulong sa komunidad.

Ayos naman sana ang sitwasyon nila kaya lang isang Linggo ay may nawalan ng pera sa grupo.

Sinabi ng nawalan sa ilang kapalagayan niya ng loob na nawalan siya ng ganung halaga ng huling nagkasama-sama sila. Nagbigla at nabahala ang mga kasamang nakaalam.

Naalala tuloy na minsan ng may nagreklamo na madalas siyang mawalan ng pera pero hindi ito naaksonan.

At may nagsabi rin na nawalan siya ng alahas. Nakakalungkot isipin kung bakit may mga taong nagagawang manguha ng pinaghirapan ng iba.

Siguro naman hindi lang siya ang kinakapos pero ang iba hindi naman ginagawa ang manguha ng pinaghirapan ng iba. Ang iba hindi nawawalan ng utang.

Madalas ang bukung bibig niya pahiram pero hindi siya nahihiya dahil ibinabalik naman niya kapag sumahod na. May hindi nakatiis at ipinarating sa nangangalaga sa samahanang nangyari.

Nagtanong ang nangangalaga kung sino ang madalas maiwan mag-isa sa loob kung saan nakalagay ang mga bag.

Hindi iyon sa naiwan mag-isa dahil hindi porke naiwan mag-isa ay siya na

ang kumuha. Halos lahat naman yata ay naiwan mag-isa sa loob lalo na kung ang dahilan ay magpahinga sandali.

At palagay naman ang loob at tiwala kasi kung hindi gawain ng isang tao ay hindi papasok sa isip na may mawawalan. Pupilungin sana sila para mabigyan ng babala na mag-ingat sa mga gamit at para malaman ng gumagawa na alam na ng grupo para hindi mamihasa. Kaya lang, hindi kompleto ang miyembro noong araw na yun kaya hindi ito natuloy.

Pinapag-iingat na lang ang bawat isa. Hindi na pala sigurido kahit sa inaakalang ligtas ang mahalagang gamit. Sabi naman ng nawalan bahala na ang Diyos sa kumuha. Siya naman daw ang nakakaalam kung sino.

## Hinanap ang natirang kanin

SA sobrang dami ng taong nagdagsaan sa ahensiyang tinutulungan ng libreng serbisyo ay hindi napansin ni Lani, 38, may asawa at anak, at tubong Samar, na hindi pa pala siya nagtatanghalian.

Nang maubos na ang tao at natapos na saka lang siya nakaramdam ng gutom at naalalang hindi pa siya kumain. Nang tawagan si Lani ng mga kaibigan para maghapunan ay nakipagkita siya dahil talagang gutom na siya.

Nasa lugar na kung saan kakain kinatagpo ni Lani ang mga kaibigan kaya hindi na siya nakareklamo sa uri ng mga pagkaing makakain, na pang sosyal tulad ng salad at finger food.

Kinabukasan, siyempre tinapay din lang ang almusal kaya pakiramdam niya wala siyang lakas magtrabaho. Tiningnan niya kung may natirang kanin at natuwa si Lani ng mayroon kaya kinain niya ng tanghalian.

Hindi niya akalain na mauubos niya ang dalawang mangkok na kanin. Nang hapunan na, tinanong ng amo si Lani kung bakit hindi isinapaw sa sinaing yong kaning natira nila ng nakaraang gabi. Sinabi ni Lani na kinain niya ng tanghalian. Nagtaka ang amo na naubos ang kanin na sa dami ay pwede sa dalawang tao.

Nagdahilan na lang si Lani na yung kalahati ay itinapon niya dahil may lasang sabon. Siguro

raw, hindi gaanong nabanlawan yung mangkok. Sa isip ni Lani, humingi siya sa Diyos ng tawad sa sinabi niyang dahilan.

Sinabihan na lang ng amo si Lani na tiyaking nabanlawan maigi paghugas ang mga pinagkainan para hindi nasasayang ang pagkain. Marami raw nagugutom sa mundo, lalo na raw sa bansa ni Lani.

Nakikita niya raw sa balita na ang mamahal ng bilihin lalo na ang bigas. Nagkakaubusan na at nanggagaling pa raw mag-angkat mula sa ibang bansa. Nagsorry at nag "Yes, ma'am" na lang si Lani sa amo. Nagpasalamat siya sa Diyos at hindi ito nagalit sa kaniya. *Imelda Mae Bustinera*



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- Kung ang suweldong natanggap ay kulang sa nakatakda sa empleyo ng kontrata, ang isang katulong ay dapat:
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  - huwag tanggapin ang resibo sa suweldo na hindi binayaran; at
  - kung sakali kulang ang pagbayad sa suweldo, magsumbong sa Departamento ng Paggawa sa lalong madaling panahon.



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- Ipinagbabawal ang pagbawas sa suweldo maliban sa:
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  - di-pagharap sa trabaho na hindi hihigit sa halagang kabagay sa panahon nang di-pagharap;
  - pagbawi ng paunang bayad o labis na pagbayad sa suweldo; at
  - pagbawi nang pinautang sa katulong ayon sa kahilingan ng katulong sa kasulatan, at iba pa.
- Ang kabuuang pagbawas, hindi kasali yung mga hindi pagharap sa trabaho, ay dapat hindi hihigit sa kalahating suweldong mababayaran sa panahon ng suweldong iyon.



Labour Department

#### Mga Tanong at Reklamo

Hotline as Pagtatanong: 2717 1771 (Serbisyong hawak ng 1823) Website: <http://www.fdh.labour.gov.hk> Mag sangay ng tanggapan sa Labour Relations Division

Para sa mga detalye ng inyong mga karapatan at benepisyo sa empleyo, peki tukoy ang "Praktikal na patnubay sa Empleyo ng mga Dayuhan na Katulong Pangtahanan" o "Isang Maikling Payo sa Ordenansa ng Empleyo" na makukuha sa mga Sangay ng tanggapan sa Labour Relations Division at website ng Labour Department.

# Sunday Beauty Queen director gets award

By Maia Lopez

FILIPINO filmmaker Baby Ruth Villarama was one of the three global awardees of British Council's annual Study UK Alumni Awards for 2018.

The prestigious award is given to an outstanding alumni of a university in the United Kingdom who used his or her UK study experience to make a positive contribution in society.

"The UK's recognition of the importance of Baby Ruth's work in using film as a medium to open hearts and minds is a proud moment for the Philippines," said Ambassador to United Kingdom Antonio M. Lagdameo.

Villarama said she "made a crazy decision to be a filmmaker" because she wanted to "change how the world sees the



Villarama

(DFA photo)

Philippines and more importantly how the Philippines sees itself."

After completing her Master of Arts in Film Distribution and Marketing at Birmingham City University through a Chev-

ening Scholarship, Villarama returned to the Philippines to begin working on "Sunday Beauty Queen," a documentary film that gave viewers a peek into the secret lives of overseas Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong who find joining beauty pageants a worthwhile escape from the daunting realities of work and life.

"Meeting the 'Sunday Beauty Queens' in Hong Kong made a huge impact in my life. I now understand that it's not what our people can get from countries they are working for but what the Filipinos and other migrants can contribute to the world," the Filipino director said.

The movie premiered globally at various film festivals such as the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. It was also the first documentary film to win the Best Picture Award in the 2016 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Moreover, "Sunday Beauty Queen" sparked various meaningful discussions on the living and working conditions of migrant workers around the world.

OFWs generally suffer from unfair employment laws in foreign countries.

In Hong Kong, helpers are required by law to live with their employers, a situation that most find stressful as this leaves them with no personal space and time. Migrant activists call this "modern-day slavery".

Before "Sunday Beauty Queen," Ms. Villarama directed other renowned documentaries such as Jazz in Love (2013) and Little Azkals (2014).

She has also trained under some of the world's best film making organizations such as the International Confederation of Art Cinemas, the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam, and the Pitch Conference at TokyoDocs.

Ms. Villarama currently teaches Film Production Management at the University of the Philippines Film Institute.

She obtained her bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Sto. Tomas.

She began producing documentaries for Philippine broadcast channel ABS-CBN before she ventured in international co-production with networks like MediaCorp, NHK, British Council, EuroNews, National Geographic – playing an active role in exchanging stories with filmmakers and producers.



**MS. BARKADAHAN 2018 WINNERS & FINALISTS (L-R): #12 Fatima Mae P. Lorete; #10 Aiza Jane A. Lopez; #4 Gelian V. Zapanta; #9 Jovelyn D. Roquero; 2ND RUNNER UP #8 Rosie C. Talimongan (Camarines Sur); MS BARKADAHAN 2018 CHAMPION #7 Melodie B. Duag (Batangas); 1ST RUNNER UP #3 Gelbey Joy I. Genosas (Davao), also the winner of BB Kapamilya Barkadahon and My Favorite Ms Barkadahon; #6 Rhodora G. Salcedo; #11 Sarah Jane S. Banas; #5 Liezl G. Aguilar; #2 Melessa H. Escultor; #1 Deanna Jean L. Notor. MS BARKADAHAN 2018 was held last Sept. 23, 2018 at MacPherson Stadium, Mong Kok and presented by SmarTone in partnership with TFC Hong Kong and ABS-CBN.**

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# Forum on FDHs held

THE Philippine Consulate General and the non-profit organization WIMLER Foundation Hong Kong organized a forum, dubbed titled "Foreign Domestic Work: Understanding the Journey," at the consulate.

Dr. Ju-chen Chen, a Taiwan-born an-

thropologist and senior lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, started the session by sharing information from her book, "Wishing Well: Voices from Foreign Domestic Workers in Hong Kong and Beyond," a collection of stories written by Filipino household service workers

(HSWs).

Dr. Chen asked the more than 60 participants why they left home to work overseas, encouraging the audience to speak out and share their own experiences. The attendees shared that being an HSW is not all about money, putting importance also

on a pursuit of unique experiences and good memories to be shared with family and friends back home.

She outlined the varying stereotypes HSWs suffer in Hong Kong from the filial daughter or generous mother who sacrifices herself for the family, to those who represent curious and rebellious youth who take risks to leave home to see the world.

Dr. Chen conducted that Hong Kong may be a land of fortune and opportunity, but for HSWs it is a mere wishing well

where one throws a lucky coin and utters the dream of getting a good life. Though not all wishes may be granted, the experience will help them to redefine who they are.

Established in 2011, WIMLER Foundation Hong Kong Ltd. supports the capacity-building and empowerment of all migrant communities, and promotes cultural diversity in Hong Kong based on mutual respect, solidarity, and shared empowerment among peoples.



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# Patricia Javier, nanalo sa wakas

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG swerte nga naman ng tao ay hindi alam kung kailan darating. Para kay Patricia Javier, dumating ang pinangarap niyang magkuha ang korona 20 taon makalipas nang siya ay sumali sa Binibining Pilipinas.

Hindi man siya nakasungkit ng korona nang sumali sa Binibining Pilipinas nuong taong 1998, sa pagkakataon na ito ay itinanghal naman ang dating aktres at singer bilang Mrs. Universe Philippines 2018.

Kinoronahan si Patricia, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Genesis Canlapan, nuong ika-8 ng Setyembre sa Resorts World Manila.

Ang mga sumasali sa Mrs. Universe Philippines ay mga kababaihan na kasal, may edad 25 hanggang 45 taong gulang, at ginagamit ang kanilang kagandahan para sa isang magandang adhikain.

Si Patricia ang kakatawan sa Pilipinas sa darating na Mrs. Universe Beauty Pageant.

Mula nang binuo ang Mrs. Universe Beauty Pageant nuong 2007 ay wala pang Pilipinang nananalo. Umaasa ang marami na makukuha ng dating aktres ang korona bilang Mrs. Universe. Happily married na si Patricia sa isang American chiropractor, si Dr. Robert Walcher, at mayroon na silang dalawang anak na lalaki.



PATRICIA

## Gabby, umaasang makatandem ulit si Sharon

By Cristy Kasilag

HIWALAY na sila pero umaasa pa rin ang actor na si Gabby Concepcion na makakatandem niya ulit si Megastar Sharon Cuneta sa isang pelikula.

Noong Pebrero, maraming Sharon-Gabby fans ang kinilig nang lumabas sila sa isang TV commercial para sa McDonalds.

"Timing is everything. I never said no to the (movie) project. There are many factors to consider. I hope we can make the movie happen. We have been waiting for that," sabi ni Gabby sa isang interview.

Inamin niya na hindi pa sila nag-uusap ni Sharon pero palagay niya ay may posibilidad na matuloy pa rin ang movie project.

"We don't talk right now, but we will be once we get things together. I'd like to do that movie. There's a possibility that it will happen. May bukas pa," anya.

Dinaig pa nina Gabby at Sharon ang mga kasalukuyang love team sa kanilang television commercial na inilabas ng McDonalds.

Pinakilig ng dating sikat na love team ang kanilang mga Filipino fans nung lumabas ang kanilang commercial, na itinaon sa Valentine's Day.

Naipakita nito na kahit ilang taon man ang lumipas, buhay na buhay pa rin ang love team nila na sumikat nung dekada 80.

Ang ilan sa mga naging pelikula ng dalawa ay "Dear Heart", "P.S. I Love You", "My Only Love", "Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin?" at "Tayong Dalawa".

Sa kanilang commercial, halos makakalimutan ng viewer na nagkahiwalay na silang mag-asawa at may ibang tao nang minamahal.

Sab inga ng iba, nariyan pa rin ang chemistry ng Gabby-Sharon love team. Sa kasikatan ng commercial nila ay nagtrending pa ito sa social media.

Nagpakasal sila sa isang sekretong civil wedding nuong Hulyo 23, 1984 na sinundan ng isang engrangeng kasal sa Manila Cathedral. Mayroon silang isang anak na babae--si Maria Kristina Cassandra "KC" Cuneta Concepcion--na ngayon ay isang aktres at singer din.

Pero matapos ng tatlong taong pag-sasama, naghiwalay sila hanggang mapawalang-bisa ang kanilang kasal ng ika-10 ng Nobyembre 1993.

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# Sunshine Cruz, malaya na

By Cristy Kasilag

ISANG "free woman" na muli si Sunshine Cruz matapos payagan ng korte ang anulment ng kanyang kasal sa aktor na si Cesar Montano, kamakailan ay nagresign mula sa kanyang posisyon bilang chief operating officer ng Tourism Promotions Board (TPB).

Apat na taon matapos isinampa ni Sunshine ang ang anulment case, inilabas noong ika-18 ng Setyembre ng Qyuezon City Regional Trial Court ang desisyon nito sa kaso.

Ipinawalang bisa ng korte ang kasal nila Cesar at Sunshine, na 13 taon din tumagal ang pagsasamahan.

Sa loob ng kanilang pagsasama ay binayayaan sila ng tatlong anak na babae--sila Angelina Isabelle, Samantha Angeline, at Angel Franchesca.

Pati ang tatlo nilang anak ay masaya para sa kanilang ina na maraming sakripisyo ang ginawa para ma-annul ang kasal sa kanilang ama. Pagakakataon na raw ito ni Sunshine para maging malaya.

Ang sabi ng 41-anyos na si Shine ay matagal na niyang ipinagdarasal at inaan-



SUNSHINE

ng kanyang alaga. Ang manager ni Shine na si Arnold Vegafria ay marahil isa sa mga nauna na nag-

ng kanyang alaga. "My dear Sunshine, our prayers have finally been answered. I'm very happy to know that, after years of waiting, your anulment has finally been granted. All the hardships and sacrifices have made you a stronger and better person," sabi ni Vegafria.

ng kanyang alaga. "May you continue to be an inspiration to your daughters, and may you finally write a new chapter in your personal life. Cheers to new beginnings!!!" anya.

ng kanyang alaga. "My dear Sunshine, our prayers have finally been answered. I'm very happy to know that, after years of waiting, your anulment has finally been granted. All the hardships and sacrifices have made you a stronger and better person," sabi ni Vegafria.

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# Vice Ganda, Guinness World Record holder

By Cristy Kasilag

LIBAN sa pagiging "Phenomenal Star," si Vice Ganda ay isa na ring Guinness World record holder.

Si Vice, kasama ang 6,900 na iba pang tao, ay sabay-sabay na naglagay ng lipstick sa kanilang mga labi nuong ika-8 ng Setyembre sa Araneta Coliseum, Quezon

City.

Kaagad-agad sinabi ng isang representante ng Guinness na nabasag ni Vice ang huling natalang record.

Nabreak ng 42-anyos na si Vice Ganda, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Jose Marie Borja Vicerat, ang record ng Marykay Cosmetics sa China kung saan mayroon lamang 5,840 na katao ang lumahok sa

paglagay ng sabay-sabay na lipstick.

Sinabi din ng taga Guinness na mayroon din silang nadisqualify na 108 na katao na andun sa venue pero hindi naman nakisali.

Pero kahit na may ilan na hindi sumunod sa regulasyon na gumamit ng bagong lipstick at dapat ay may lipstick ang labi ng isang minuto, nagwagi naman sila Vice para maging bagong record holder.

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## Emergency Hotlines

Numbers To Remember

### EMERGENCY

Hong Kong Observatory  
(Weather) 2835 1473  
Police, Fire Services, Hospitals 999  
Police Report Hotline 2527 7177

### PHILIPPINE CONSULATE

For emergency cases, call or text:

Assistance to Nationals 9155 4023  
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  
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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  
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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

May mga problema sa kalusugan ang isang malapit sa iyo. Pilitin mong magpunta siya sa doktor at nang maagapan ang sakit.



### Aquarius

January 20 to February 18

May bagyong darating sa iyong pag-iibigan. Ihanda mo ang sarili dahil sisitahin ka niya at baka maging dahilan ito ng paghihiwalay.



### Pisces

February 19 to March 20

Paglalaruan ni kupido ang puso mo. May makikilala ka na matitipuhan mo at palagay mo ay tipo ka rin niya. Dahan-dahan lang. Alamin mo muna kung sino talaga siya.



### Aries

March 21 to April 19

Mas marami kang magagawa kung babawasan mo ang pagiging kontrabida sa mga ideya ng mga kasama. Mas makakakuha ka ng kooperasyon kung pakikisamahan mo sila.



### Taurus

April 20 to May 20

Kung kailangan nila ang tulong mo at kung kaya mo namang ibigay gawin mo. Makikita mong babalik sa iyo ang kabutihan at higit pa.



### Gemini

May 21 to June 20

Isipin mo kung gaano kalinis ang isip ng isang batang walang malay, walang malisya. Sana ay gayon din ang gawin mo sa pagtanggap sa sitwasyon ngayon.



### Cancer

June 21 to July 22

Magpunta ka sa doktor at patingnan mo ang mga bagay na bumabagabag sa iyo. May nararamdaman ka at hindi mo ito kayang gamutin. Kailangan mo ng espesyalista.



### Leo

July 23 to August 22

Mas mabuting lumayo ka muna sa gitna ng maraming pangyayaring hindi mo inaasahan. Kung susuungin mo lahat sila, mas manghihina ka at hindi mo kakayanin.



### Virgo

August 23 to September 22

Ihinto mo muna ang ginagawa mo at isa-isahin mo at muling pag-aralan kung nararapat ba ang mga oras na ibinibigay mo sa bawat isa.



### Libra

September 23 to October 22

Dapat lang na bigyan mo ng kaligayahan ang sarili. Magaan ang pasok ng pera sa kabuhatan kaya may karapatan kang gumastos para sa sarili mo.



### Scorpio

October 23 to November 21

Kailangan mo ring alagaan ang iyong pag-iisip at emosyon. Inaalagaan mo ang iyong pisikal na katawan subalit alam mong hindi ka pa rin malusog dahil may nararamdaman kang hindi tama sa iyong isip.



### Sagittarius

November 22 to December 21

Linisin mo ang iyong pag-iisip at iwasan mo ng selos. Walang mangyayari kung puro na lang selos ang nararamdaman niya sa iyo.

## What's Cooking?



Running out of kitchen ideas? Then it's time to go back to the basics and everybody's favorite: chicken. For this issue, we present to you Spicy Crispy Chicken Stuffed with Ham which is sure to satisfy your craving for a spicy and simply delicious meal. Happy cooking!

#### Ingredients:

2 breast chicken fillet  
2 slice ham  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1 tsp. cayenne pepper  
Salt and pepper to taste  
2 beaten eggs  
Cooking oil for deep fat frying  
Parsley and lemon for garnishing

#### Methods:

1. Simply cut the chicken breast fillet into semi-half-cut and marinate it with cayenne and salt and pepper. Set aside for

20 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, beat eggs and pre-heat the wok for frying.
3. Stuff the chicken breast with ham and dredge with beaten eggs and with bread crumbs.
4. Deep fat fry until golden brown.
5. Cut into desired slices and decorate with parsley and lemon wedges. Happy Cooking.

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre M/F, Cockloft Wing, Tat Commercial Building #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong For enquiries, please call at 2850 7714 / 2850 7724 / 2850 7408



By Chef Jay Dator



#### Q and A JOKES

Q: Ano ang sabi ng isda nung hiwain siya sa gitna?  
A: Eh di I am tuna (two na)

Q: Eh ano naman ang sabi ng bangus nang mamamatay na siya?  
A: Eh di I'm daing (dying).

Q: Anong isda ang pinakamatanda?  
A: Eh di century tuna?

Q: Saan nagtrabaho ang mga isda?  
A: Eh di sa offish (office).

Q: Bakit sikat si Sadako?

A: Eh kasi lumabas siya sa tv.  
Q: Ano sa Hapon ang walang pamasaha?  
A: Eh di nagrarakad (naglalakad).

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang mayaman?  
A: Eh di naka-oto (naka-auto).

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang mayaman na mayaman?  
A: Eh di maraming oto (auto).

Q: Ano ang tawag sa maliit na kambing?  
A: Eh di kapir "ang-goat".

Q: Ano ang tawag sa maliit na pusa?  
A: Eh di "cat"titing.

Q: Ano ang tawag sa maliit na kapre?  
A: Eh di "kapre" -young got

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang "Washington"?  
A: Eh di Tonshingwa.

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang "Is This Your Property"?  
A: Eh di Arimoto.

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang "Is this yours"?  
A: Eh di Sayobato.

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang "This is mine"?  
A: Eh di Sakinatu.

Q: Ano sa Hapon ang "Can I have it"?  
A: Eh di Akinato.

Q: Ano naman sa Hapon ang "You can have it"?  
A: Eh di Sayonato.

Q: Ano naman sa Hapon ang "You haven't washed your face"?  
A: Eh di Minutamatamo.

Q: Ano sa hapon ang "You've grown so thin"?  
A: Eh di Kitanabutomo (kitanabutomo).

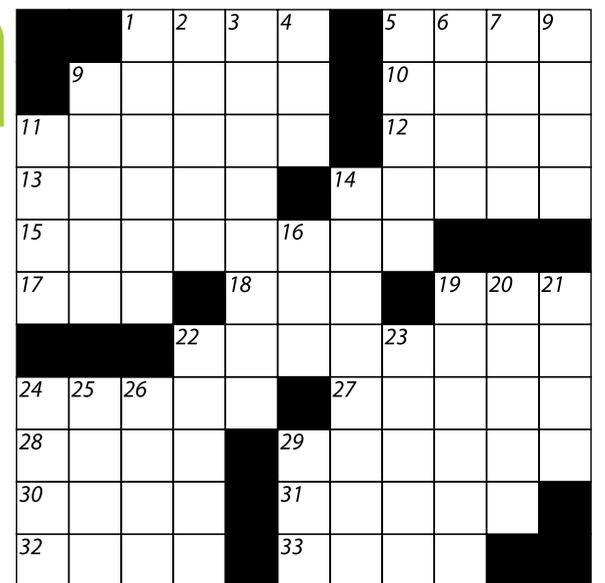
## Crossword Puzzle

### PAHALANG

- 1 Tatang
- 5 Sambit
- 9 Lubay
- 10 Distansiya
- 11 Malubha
- 12 Tanong ng dami
- 13 Animo
- 14 Pangalan ng babae
- 15 Andamyo
- 17 \_\_\_\_ Medel
- 18 \_\_\_\_ Sayyaf;
- 19 Diwata
- 22 Ihahalili
- 24 Apalit
- 27 langkat
- 28 Hilata
- 29 Ikalat
- 30 Inis
- 31 Batay
- 32 Sanib
- 33 Patse sa balat

### PABABA

- 1 Walang kibo
- 2 Matibay na hibla
- 3 Maliit na palengke
- 4 Una sa takdang oras
- 5 Walang magulang
- 6 Sambot
- 7 Nandiyan
- 8 Trapal
- 9 Alkitran
- 11 Krokis
- 14 Hayop na maraming paa
- 16 Api
- 19 Tanggalin
- 20 Wisik
- 21 Pera
- 22 Inangkin
- 23 Maraming ginagawa
- 24 Snake; Tagalog
- 25 Nanay nina Crispin at Basilio
- 26 Bilis
- 29 Unang bilang



#### Answer to last puzzle

P	A	T	I	N	G	A	N	I	M	
A	P	U	R	A	I	S	A	L	O	
G	U	L	A	T	B	A	K	A	T	
A	L	A	S	P	A	N	A	L	O	
K	A	Y	A	S	I	N	W	A	R	
N	A	N	A	Y						
K	A	B	K	A	G	A	L	L	I	T
A	S	U	K	A	L	M	I	L	L	A
B	A	S	I	L	G	A	L	A	K	
I	N	A	N	I	A	H	I	T	O	
T	A	L	A	A	L	A	M	A	M	



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				Zamboanga City	Zamboanga Del Sur/Norte
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