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PF NEWS

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Ang Wikang Pilipino
Page 15

Rody warns government men: Reform or die

By Christina Mendez

Unexplained wealth means "unexplained death."

President Duterte warned erring government officials that they would die if they would not reform and stop extortion and other corrupt practices.

Speaking before officials of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) the other day, Duterte assured the public that grievances against corrupt officials would be acted upon, especially while he is in office.

"I assure you, pag sinumbong mo na sa akin iyan (if you report it to me), I guarantee you, tawagin ko iyan sa harap mo at sabihin ko talaga, mag-hingi ka uli,



President Rodrigo Duterte warned erring government officials that they would die if they would not reform and stop extortion and other corrupt practices. PPD/Toto Lozano

p***** i** mo, papatayin kita (I will call him and tell him, ask for a bribe again you son of a b***, I will kill you)," Duterte said.

Faced with strong criticism over the killing of drug suspects, Duterte said that "unexplained

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Commentary: The challenge of rebuilding Marawi

By Angelica Mangahas

True to form, President Rodrigo Duterte's SONA gave pride of place to matters related to peace and order. In addition to the war on drugs, the security situation in Mindanao was an important concern and for very good reason. According to reports, hundreds of fighters have been killed or arrested, nearly a thousand troops have been wounded, hundreds of thousands have been evacuated, and armed groups still threaten the welfare of our people. As weeks pass and the dates pour in, it grows ever



A fire rages at houses following airstrikes by Philippine Air Force in Marawi, southern Philippines, Saturday, May 27, 2017. Philippine military jets fired rockets at militant positions Saturday as soldiers fought to wrest control of the southern city from gunmen linked to the Islamic State group. AP/Bullit Marquez

clearer that the turmoil that boiled over in the battle of Marawi will not meet its

end anytime soon. The challenges ahead are

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Mayor Parojinog knew his death was coming - relatives

By Camcer Ordonez Imam

Cagayan De Oro City – Slain Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr., who was fondly called "Aldong," had an anti-illegal drug policy of his own even as he knew death was coming his way because of threats to his life, according to some relatives.

Parojinog was killed Sunday dawn, along with his wife, younger brother, and 12 others inside his residence during a series of po-

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Ozamiz City Vice Mayor Nova Princess Parojinog-Echavez (in white cap) and her brother Reynaldo Parojinog Jr. (in red cap) are escorted out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, on their arrival from Ozamiz City. Their father, Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr., was among 15 killed in simultaneous raids conducted by authorities at dawn Sunday. (Ali Vicoy)

Honoring Filipino Farm Workers of California



The Philippine National Day Association Board of Directors at the California State Fair to celebrate the first-ever Farm Workers Exhibit! Chris Mateo extends his gratitude for their contribution to the success of the tribute to the Filipino Farm Workers, here with Justin Delacruz, Benjamin Fenkell, Liz Fenkell, Robert Abelon, Cynthia Bonta, Chris Mateo, Elaine A, Cha Vincent, Dave Tamayo, Lorraine Agtang and Christopher Cabaldon.

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History and Foundation of Information Security

BY DINNAH S. SAN PEDRO

There is no better time to protect the security and privacy of the people than now, with the advent of newer technology. This includes every human being with and without personal assets, the patients in healthcare settings, and other business customers. As the technology becomes even more advanced, criminal experts are beyond being clever in their pursuit to hack, invade, and violate the security and privacy of any individuals. They are persistent in finding ways to trick and fool the innocent, even the most affluent and educated people. Organizations have done their part by investing in security measures to counter the security threats and attacks. Yet, they continue to fall victims, along with jeopardizing millions of customers' security and privacy. The main focus of this article is about information security and their concept and practice, especially the information security that pertains to healthcare setting.

According to Whitman, M. and Mattord, H. (2011), "security is the quality or status of being secure and to be free from danger (para 2, p. 8)." This includes protection against adversaries and from those with the potential to do harm in many ways, such as intentionally or unintentionally, and directly or indirectly. Information security pertains to protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and the availability of information assets through way of storage, processing, and their transmission (Whitman & Mattord, 2011). This includes protecting all the components of the information system, which include the software, hardware, data, people, procedures, and networks. Other kinds of security in an organization to protect its operation include physical security, personnel security, operations security, communications security, and network security.

The processes by which information security has been instituted are through the implementation of policy and procedures, staff training, education, awareness, and through the use of technology (Whitman & Mattord, 2011). They could be implemented by bottom-up

approach, in which information administrators attempt to improve the security of their systems. Another is by top-down approach, in which the upper level management in organization initiates the policies, procedures and processes,



and dictates their objectives and expected outcomes. An example of this approach involves a formal development strategy, which is through the development of life cycle by way methods and phases, which include investigation, analysis, logical design, physical design, implementation, and maintenance and change (Whitman & Mattord, 2011). The characteristics of information to secure and protect are based on their availability, accuracy, authenticity, confidentiality, integrity, utility, and possession. Any modification in the information characteristics changes their value (Whitman & Mattord, 2011).

Some examples of protected and secured "available" information include historical displays and other artifacts in museums. The information is made available for the public to see with security guidelines to follow. There could be a limited access in time of day and week and required entrance fee to view them. Video and picture taking may not be allowed or other areas may be prohibited to see. The accuracy of information is the exactness of the information being protected. Credit card and other account numbers are examples of this information. Authenticity of information can also be based on the first example in the available information. Items to view in the museum have the authenticity. They are original and not reproduced, making them valuable to protect. Confidentiality of information could be pertaining to patient's hospital records. Healthcare workers involved in their care, following their institution's guidelines are authorized to

access their records. They are not to be viewed and shared by others outside of patient care areas and without patient's consent. Information possesses integrity when they are whole, complete, unchanged, undamaged, and uncorrupted. Utility of information is information that fulfills its given purpose to help a process. An example of utility of information is computer surveys, in which information has been analyzed and processed, and displaying its intended purpose, results and goal. Possession of information, as one last characteristic of information to protect the information's value includes patient information during patient care delivery. The value of the information outside of the healthcare setting away from anyone's tampering can alter the value of patient information.

Information security technology is important for healthcare organizations for many business, legal, and technical reasons. For business reasons, they include protecting the functionality of the organization, to enable the safe operation of applications implemented on organization's information systems, to protect the data that organization collects and uses, and to safeguard the organization's technology assets. Although both management and IT are responsible for implementing information security for the organization to function, it is more on management to uphold and implement the policy on information security. Both IT and management need to constantly acquire, operate, and integrate efficient applications. They should be able to protect the data collected, both at rest and in motion, and to prevent attackers from sabotaging, stealing, and corrupting them. Information security technology is important, as they safeguard organization's technology assets by securing information technology infrastructures (Whitman & Mattord, 2011). Technical and legal reasons are for system and application

Continued on next page

Noytoy Aquino: from hero to villain?

BY JOEL RUIZ BUTUYAN

As the 15th president of the Philippines, Benigno "Noytoy" Aquino III was largely untarnished by any accusation of personal corruption during his six years in office. His administration is touted by businessmen as the period when the Philippines attained remarkable economic growth. He has also been spared the scathing vitriol of his widely popular successor, so far.

But just a year after his leaving Malacañang, there's a perception that a large number of those who idolize President Duterte consider Aquino a virtual villain compared to their reigning hero. Even discounting the obvious trolls, zealous supporters of Mr. Duterte would readily launch a counterattack on his critics by accusing them of being followers of Aquino, who they blame for the worsened ills of our society.

The ridicule heaped on Aquino persists despite his silence, even in the face of the many controversial policies of the current administration that have undermined the trumpeted achievements of the previous one. The Aquino administration's victory in the West Philippine Sea international arbitration against China is one issue that Mr. Duterte has virtually set aside.

Aquino presided over a period when: Former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was charged and imprisoned for five years on corruption charges (although she was acquitted last year); then Chief Justice Renato Corona was impeached and removed from office because of his undisclosed wealth; and then Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, and Bong Revilla were charged with

plunder, with all three still undergoing trial, and with Estrada and Revilla languishing in prison to this day.

Under the second Aquino presidency, the "mother of all scams" involving the plunder of P10 billion in pork barrel funds was exposed, with Janet Lim Napoles as alleged mastermind, and five senators and 23 representatives as conspirators.

Under Aquino's watch, the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product grew at a yearly average of 6.2 percent, while other countries suffered economic slowdown. The Philippines also earned investment-grade rating from international credit rating agencies.

There were two major scandals that rocked the presidency of Noytoy Aquino. The first was the 2010 Luneta hostage crisis where eight Hong Kong tourists were killed. The second was the 2015 Mamasapano tragedy where 44 policemen belonging to the Special Action Force were killed by Moro rebels. Aquino was accused of grossly and recklessly mismanaging both incidents. He has recently been charged by the Ombudsman for usurpation of authority on the Mamasapano incident.

But compared to the multiple scandals and massive instances of corruption that tainted the two presidents who preceded him — Arroyo and Joseph Estrada — the cases of wrongdoing ascribed to Aquino were essentially omissions of diligence rather than commission of crimes.

All these notwithstanding, Mr. Duterte's support-



Benigno "Noytoy" Aquino III

ers heap far more scorn on Aquino compared to Arroyo and Estrada. Is it because the people still have fresh memories of Aquino's blunders compared to a dimmed recollection of the offenses of Estrada and Arroyo? Or is it because Mr. Duterte's noisy detractors are viewed as sour-grapes supporters of Aquino's candidates in the past elections?

The disdain for Aquino despite his achievements may be because his accomplishments were not felt as perceptible benefits in matters where many people had desperately been longing for change. Aquino was focused on the macro level, while people had been desperate for change at the micro level.

Hence, notwithstanding his anticorruption and economic-growth achievements, at the ground level people felt no improvement in their lives. They continue to be beset with "endo" contracts, with rampant drug abuse in their neighborhoods, with worsening traffic, and with a future bereft of brighter opportunities.

This should serve as a cautionary tale for the Duterte administration. After the people have sifted through the bluster and rhetoric, will they see a hero turned into another villain?



Editor's Note

The above article that you're about to read is different from the ordinary editorial note that I write for this publication. Although it was written to fulfill my studies in obtaining a higher degree in nursing, I want to share this as an introduction to the future articles that I'm going to write to inform our readers about information safety and confidentiality. In health care settings or any other time in our daily lives, we all have information to protect, especially now, in our world with the most advanced technology. Kent Nerburn states that "the true measure of your education is not what you know, but how you share what you know with others." I hope that you find this information helpful as I share them with all of you. Next month's article will be more on our personal experiences as we share information on social media, e-mails, and text messaging.

Happy reading,
Dinnah San Pedro

You can't finish us off, Sison tells Duterte

BY NIKKO DIZON

President Rodrigo Duterte "is out of his mind and out of touch with reality" if he thinks he can finish off the communist insurgency in the next five years of his six-year term, Jose Ma. Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder, said on Sunday.



Jose Ma. Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder.

Sison reminded Mr. Duterte that the armed revolution was rooted in the masses' fight for social justice, which could not be solved overnight, especially with the existing social order.

"He (the President) cannot finish off in five years an armed revolutionary movement deeply rooted among the toiling masses of workers and peasants, who are fighting for national and social liberation against the big compradors and landlords represented now by him," Sison told the Inquirer in an online chat.

Despite the government's pronouncements that it has steadily weakened the communist insurgency, the "revolutionary forces" for the past five decades continue to "grow in strength and spread nationwide," Sison said.

"The rank-and-file of the revolutionary forces in the Philippines are highly principled and sharp to know the evil scheme of the US-Duterte regime to combine martial rule and 'Tokhang' methods of mass murder, and are ready to fight these effectively," he said.

'Crazed by power'

Sison accused Mr. Duterte of being "crazed by power and Fentanyl."

The 72-year-old President has admitted to taking the powerful pain reliever, as prescribed by his

doctor, for some of his ailments. "In the few months or years ahead, the Duterte regime is the one in danger of being overthrown by the people if it does not change its extremely brutal and malicious ways.

"Duterte should start to shake in his boots the moment he sees a broad united front building up against his rule and fascist acts," Sison said.

Sison said Mr. Duterte "merely pretended to be leftist and socialist," a position taken by the former's colleagues in the CPP, its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa said on Saturday that the President had given him the order to "wipe out" communist rebels after the government had finished off the Islamic State-inspired Maute-Abu Sayyaf coalition in Marawi City.

In his second State of the Nation Address last week, Mr. Duterte announced that he was abandoning peace negotiations with the Left and that the government would focus on the NPA once the Marawi

siege was over.

Support for all-out war

Peace and conflict studies expert Dennis Quilala said support was expected for the all-out war against the communist rebels because the President "has prepared the public for this."

However, Quilala expressed deep concern for the people who would be displaced by the fighting.

"The people who will be displaced need to prepare as well," he said.

Quilala, a University of the Philippines professor, said Mr. Duterte's plan would "definitely put pressure on the CPP-NPA-NDFP."

He said the Duterte administration could even be successful if local government units (LGUs) would cooperate with the effort to address the communist insurgency, the longest-running in Asia.

"It's also difficult [for the national government] if they (LGUs) also pay revolutionary taxes or pay [the NPA] so that they could campaign in their areas," Quilala said, referring to the "permit to campaign" imposed by the rebels during election season.

History and Foundation of Information Security

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access control, compliance with security requirements, interoperability, scalability, and cryptography techniques. Organization have to conform to the information technology standards, in order to assure the security and privacy of the electronic health records, as governed by standards' developers and publishers such as Health Level Seven (HL7), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) in the America, Canada Health Infoway in Canada, HEASNET in Japan, and ISO/TC 215, CEN/TC in Europe (Khan & Sakamura, 2012, as referenced by Rezaeibagha, Win, & Susilo, 2015).

As there had been no established security standards before Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Security 101 series was provided by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), as a guide and information about Security Standards

for administrative safeguards, physical safeguard, technical safeguard, organizational safeguard, and policies and procedures and documentation requirements. The five basic concepts this student learned from Security 101 paper on healthcare security include the basic approach that covered entities should follow, in order to comply with the Security Rule. One is to assess current security, risks, and gaps. Second is to develop an implementation plan. Third is to implement solutions. Fourth is to document decisions. And the fifth one is to reassess periodically (USDHHS, 2004).

In conclusion, as newer technology is developed, newer processes must be implemented, in order for healthcare and other organization to stay ahead in maintaining information security. It prevents legal consequences. It makes it difficult for the bad guys to tamper, hack, steal, corrupt, and sabotage secured information. Most importantly, it protects the privacy and security of all involved.



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Morales says Duterte can't interfere in her probes: 'Ano ang pakialam niya?'

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales confirms she was not invited to President Rodrigo Duterte's past two State of the Nation Addresses

BY LIAN BUAN

MANILA, Philippines – “Ano ang pakialam niya (Why should he interfere)?”

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales made the remark on Friday, July 28, when asked about President Rodrigo Duterte's pronouncement that the Ombudsman cannot investigate soldiers and policemen without first clearing it with him.

“Under the law, we have subpoena powers. We have orders for officials including soldiers and police to file pleadings... There is no law that requires a soldier or a policeman or any respondent for that matter to seek the clearance from anybody,” Morales said in an interview after addressing a symposium in Cubao.

Duterte said in a news briefing after his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last Monday, July 24, that he will scrutinize all moves to hold accountable soldiers and cops for alleged human rights violations. “Kapag sinabi ko na huwag kayo magpa-imbetiga, huwag kayo papa-imbetiga (If I say don't participate in a probe, don't),” Duterte had said.

Morales insisted that the Office



'ANO ANG PAKIALAM NIYA?' Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales on July 28, 2017 says she does not need clearance from anyone to investigate erring officials. Photo by Lian Buan

of the Ombudsman can proceed with an investigation even without the participation of respondents, if there is probable cause based on evidence at hand.

TokHang cases

Morales is currently handling murder complaints filed against policemen who allegedly committed the acts in pursuit of the Duterte administration's war on drugs. The President had repeatedly assured law enforcers that he would pardon them if they are convicted of crimes committed in the performance of duty.

Lawyers representing the victims have said that the police have not been cooperative in investigating their men.

“[We] cannot be starting from scratch. [We] must subpoena documents and all that, whether or not this subpoena had been heeded by the addressees, I don't know yet,” Morales said.

In her speech at the symposium, Morales maintained her independence in investigating wrongdoing in government.

“The Ombudsman cannot be silenced. You can attempt to suppress the messenger, but you can

never suppress the message,” she said.

Morales said after that her message was addressed to all her critics.

“Marami diyan na bumabatikos sa 'kin eh akala mo kung sino sila. Sila ang maging Ombudsman. It's a thankless job,” she said.

(There are many people who are criticizing me, acting like they know everything. They should try to be Ombudsman. It's a thankless job.)

Aquino indictment

Responding to questions during the interview, Morales said she will not inhibit from the case of former president Benigno Aquino III, who was indicted over his role in the botched Mamasapano operation in 2015.

The complainant, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), said she should inhibit from the case, citing her alleged lack of independence.

The VACC is also handling the case buildup for Morales' impeachment, which has yet to be formally filed before the House of Representatives.

“Bakit ako mag-i-inhibit (Why would I inhibit)? On what ground?

No. I am not a coward,” Morales said.

The Ombudsman also dismissed Duterte's comments that the accusations of graft and usurpation of authority against Aquino are nothing but “silly charges.”

“I am not listening to anybody. I go by the evidence,” she said.

This continues the series of exchanges between Duterte and Morales, which started when the Ombudsman told Japanese television network NHK that the President is “goading people to kill people.”

The tough-talking Duterte shot back at the Ombudsman: “Do not play God and shut up.”

Morales has yet to resolve the complaint filed by self-confessed hitman Edgar Matobato accusing the President of murder, kidnapping, torture, and crimes against humanity over his role in the alleged Davao Death Squad (DDS).

The Ombudsman also confirmed she was not invited to Duterte's 2nd SONA. She said she was also not invited last year.

“I got a form from the House Secretary. He was asking me to fill out a questionnaire: will I attend or will I not attend? Why should I fill that up if I was not invited?” Morales said.

Rody warns government men: Reform or die

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wealth” could be synonymous with “unexplained death.”

“Tatal marami namang namatay diyan na (Since there have been many deaths that are) unexplained, eh 'di unexplained wealth, unexplained death, pareho lang iyan (they are the same),” said Duterte, who is known for his sarcastic remarks.

Duterte has fired a close associate, former interior secretary Ismael Sueno, over the alleged irregularity in the procurement of Austrian-made fire trucks.

Duterte expressed frustration anew that some state employees still have the gall to ask for bribes in exchange for speedy transactions and release of documents in government agencies.

“So, if there is anything na maghingi (they ask), mag-compromise sa inyo, you do not have to give in. Do not waste your money,” Duterte said.

Duterte warned public officials that he won't hesitate to remove erring government executives, noting that there are many Filipinos who could replace them in their posts.

He said there are many jobless Filipinos so he won't hesitate dismissing erring officials from government agencies.

“If they want to remain corrupt, the erring officials should shift jobs to be 'hold-uppers' rather than civil servants,” Duterte said.

The President was also angered by an official who was supposedly

involved in supplying barong tagalog to VIP guests during formal events in Malacañang.

Duterte thanked the Filipino-Chinese businessmen for being a “staunch partner of government in uplifting the lives of the people.”

He noted that the federation has been involved in supporting government projects that help fellow Filipinos in becoming “catalysts for change.”

He recalled how he vowed during the campaign to make the country suitable for business by improving peace and order and by addressing corruption. “Corruption still remains. I hope it has diminished a little bit. But ang administrasyon ko po ay talagang galit sa (my administration is really against) cor-

ruption,” Duterte added.

He urged businessmen to call his attention and report corrupt practices by informing presidential special assistant Bong Go and Rep. Arthur Yap.

Instead of getting his ire, Duterte urged the businessmen to also pay the right taxes, which would go a long way in helping the government pursue its projects for the people.



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Commentary: The challenge of rebuilding Marawi

From page 1

manifold. The armed forces are not only clearing fighters from Marawi, they are going after the remaining terrorist leadership, its support networks, and its foreign and local recruits—making for deadly cat-and-mouse games all over Mindanao. When Marawi is clear, the challenge of urban warfare may soon be matched by urban reconstruction. What it has taken two short months to destroy will take far longer to restore.

Decapitating leadership

From the president's letter to Congress, we know that the fighters in Marawi are part of a coalition called Da'watul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq (DIWM), which is made up of the Maute Group and fighters from the Abu Sayyaf Group, Ansarul Khilafah Philippines and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. The letter tells us that the military was targeting operational and support structures by going after leaders and other key figures, or taking a "decapitation" approach.

This is a common approach in counterterror operations, although a few studies have questioned its effectiveness worldwide. In our case, however, the AFP had moved to nab Isnilon Hapilon, the ISIS emir in Southeast Asia. Hapilon is a notorious figure who managed to raise the ASG's profile beyond a simple bandit group to one that is more internationally connected and pledged to ISIS in the Middle East. According to the government, Hapilon has ordered more attacks and IEDs in many parts of Mindanao. To-

day, Hapilon's whereabouts are not publicly known.

Further illustrating the cat-and-mouse challenge, the government acknowledged last week that DIWM's leadership "largely remains intact" and "support structures have been continuously sustained." With leadership still in place, the threat is most clearly not contained to Marawi but to all areas where sympathetic groups are scattered and may recruit more adherents. Nevertheless, the military has been able to say that major figures, like three Mautes, have been killed or detained.

Continuing military operations

Military operations in Marawi are occurring in phases defined in Operational Directive 02-2017. As of this week, operations are in Phase II, or "clearing of Marawi City from local terrorist groups." Soldiers are said to be going house-to-house with sledgehammers to clear the barangays that are not yet in government control. These barangays are a minority of the 96 barangays in Marawi, but they are also in the most built-up parts. With around 400 fighters neutralized, that should leave around 200 men of the estimated 600-strong DIWM left in the city.

Just on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Lorenzana said that they believed that clearing operations would conclude sometime in the next month. There is no precluding the possibility that operations will take longer, as the remaining fighters refuse to surrender. In addition to the trapped

fighters, there is always the possibility of diversionary attacks launched from outside the AFP's perimeter.

Beginning reconstruction

Phase III of the operational directive is made up of "support to the infrastructure development and governance of Marawi City." When this phase begins, Task Force Bangon Marawi, established by the president in Administrative Order 3 at the end of June, will likely take a more visible role. The task force is chaired by Lorenzana and includes AFP Chief of Staff Ano, but it is mostly made up of the secretaries of non-defense agencies: public works, education, budget and management, energy, health, ICT, interior, and Science and Technology.

Whole of government approach?

Finally, the SONA would have been a great opportunity for Duterte to talk about a whole-of-government approach that will be in place, not just in Marawi but in fragile parts of Mindanao. Rehabilitation can be discussed beyond a pledged amount of cash, no matter how large it might be. For the thousands who have had their lives uprooted, having fair expectations for when they might return home and how they will be assisted can go some way in taming emerging frustrations. I'm sure this is not lost on our leadership, which must be eager to remember lessons from Yolanda and other disasters.

Mayor Parojinog knew his death was coming - relatives

From page 1

lice raids in Barangay Baybay San Roque early Sunday morning.

Relatives of the mayor who requested anonymity said Parojinog was a staunch anti-drug crusader, contrary to allegations that he was a drug lord, and had been cooperating with the Duterte administration in its fight against the illegal drug trade in the country.

That is why they were surprised that the mayor was killed. "We were shocked. We could not believe it," said a relative close to the mayor.

Relatives even said that Parojinog did not spare those he suspected to be involved in illegal drugs, including his kin.

"If he found out you are using or selling shabu, you will get a mouthful from him," a relative said, saying he was so strict when it comes to illegal drugs' use and trade.

But relatives said the late mayor was aware that there was a threat to his life.

"He (Parojinog) knew that he would be killed. It's no secret to him," a relative said.

In previous interviews, Parojinog said he had launched his own anti-drug campaign in Ozamiz, even before President Duterte started his war on illegal drugs last year.

Vice Mayor Nova Princess, the mayor's daughter, has been detained after her house was also raided.

According to reports, police operatives confiscated about P1.4 million in cash, 500 grams of suspected illegal drugs, two cell phones and an M16 rifle inside the mayor's house.

The raiding team also went to the residence of Parojinog's brother, Ricardo, in Barangay Bagakay, but he was not around. Seized from his home were assorted firearms and ammunition including a shotgun, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, M79 rifles, two hand grenades and eight M79 bullets. Taken were alleged illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Superintendent Lemuel Gonda, chief of Public Information Office and spokesman of the Police Regional Office 10 (PRO-10), said mayor

Parojinog was killed along with 14 others during police operations conducted by virtue of six search warrants against the Parojinogs in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental, at around 2:30 a.m., at the several barangays of Ozamiz City by the joint efforts of a composite team of Regional CIDG 10, Misamis Occidental Provincial Police Office and Ozamiz City Police Station, led by Chief Inspector Jovie Espanido, all under PRO 10. The warrants were against Mayor Parojinog Sr., Vice Mayor Nova Princess Parojinog, Reynaldo Parojinog Jr., and board member Ricardo Parojinog.

Among those killed were Miguel del Victoria, Nestor Cabalan, Daniel Vasquez, a certain Lydia and a JR of Lumad TV; and Parojinog's sister Mona and still-undiscovered persons some of them were members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT).

Gonda said the operation was based on information and intelligence monitor-



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Taytay priest nabbed for 'booking' 13-year-old girl

BY PATERNO ESMAEL II

MANILA, Philippines – A 55-year-old priest from a parish in Taytay, Rizal, was arrested for allegedly "booking" a 13-year-old girl with the help of a 16-year-old pimp, the Marikina police said.

Monsignor Arnel Lagarejos was detained immediately after his arrest in Santo Niño, Marikina City, on Friday evening, July 28.

Because of this, Antipolo Bishop Francisco de Leon said in a message on Saturday evening, July 29, that Lagarejos has been relieved of all his designations in his diocese.

Lagarejos was president of Cainta Catholic College (CCC). He was also parish priest of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Poblacion, Taytay, Rizal.

Lagarejos holds a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a licentiate in theology from the Loyola School of Theology in Quezon City, according to his profile on the CCC website.

The priest, however, initially identified himself to the police as "self employed," Police Senior Inspector Jacqueline Ta-a told Rappler.

Police said Lagarejos was caught in an entrapment operation by the Marikina City Police Women and Children's

Protection Desk and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Facebook messages

Ta-a said it was the DSWD that first found out that the victim, an out-of-school youth from Marikina City, was being pimped.

This was after the victim opened up to the DSWD. At that time, the victim had been taken in DSWD custody for breaking the city curfew.

"Nagkuwento 'yung bata sa DSWD na parang involved siya together with her friends doon sa parang ibinu-booking sila ng kaibigan nilang bakla (The child told the DSWD that she is involved, together with her friends, in being "booked" by their gay friend)," Ta-a said in a phone interview Saturday evening.

When the DSWD learned about this, the social workers met with the victim's parents. At that time, Ta-a said, the girl's Facebook (FB) messenger account was also opened.

"Tamang tama, noong nabuksan ang FB, meron na namang nagpapa-booking (Coincidentally, when her FB account was opened, someone was having her booked again)," Ta-a said.

This was when they tried to trap the 16-year-old pimp.

'Transactions' in priest's

ing. "During the implementation of search warrant, the operating police personnel encountered volley of fire from the security of the Parojinog, which prompted them to retaliate with their own fire. Initial investigation revealed that there were 15 who died on the Parojinog side

during the encounter," Gonda said in a report. Placed under the custody of Ozamiz City Police Station and Regional CIDG 10 was Vice Mayor Parojinog. She was later take to Camp Crame in Quezon City.

iPhone

The entrapment happened when the pimp escorted the victim to Lagarejos' vehicle.

At first, the pimp and the victim boarded Lagarejos' vehicle together. The priest supposedly handed P500 to the pimp, after which the pimp got off.

The victim was left with Lagarejos inside the vehicle. Shortly after, policemen approached the pimp and arrested him.

Lagarejos' vehicle sped off "on the way to an unknown motel," police said, then was blocked by the police.

Police said it recovered the following as evidence:

Lagarejos' iPhone 5s containing text messages of "transactions" between him, the victim, and the pimp. Lagarejos' gray Ford Explorer with plate number TGO 350

Ta-a said Lagarejos underwent inquest on Saturday for allegedly violating the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

In a statement, the Diocese of Antipolo said it is looking into the arrest of Lagarejos "as allegedly identified as a suspect in an entrapment operation in Marikina City."

"Thus, we assure the public that we respect the necessary procedures as provided by law in order to further investigate the matter," the Diocese of Antipolo said.

The diocese also urged the public to "refrain from issuing unnecessary comments that might worsen the situation."

"Instead, we appeal for all the faithful to pray that the truth may come out," the Diocese of Antipolo said.

Maharlika Lions Club



Maharlika Lions Club Installation Dinner and Dance held at Asian Pearl Restaurant on July 14, 2017. Congratulations to the new President Vickie Debord and the new officers.



President Victoria Tagatac-Debord



Lion Sarah Enloe, Lion Derek Ledda and Lion Vickie Debord



My Sister's House Board retreat

My Sister's House held their annual board retreat to plan for 2017-2018 and to ensure there is a shared vision and foundation for the organization's 20th anniversary in 4 years. The retreat was attended by this year's board members and past board members Darrel Woo and Corrine Yee Joe. Board Members, Staff, and hundreds of volunteers and supporters of My Sister's House at the Shriners Hospital for Children - Northern California. Here with Moira Sharma, Jessica Heskin, Nil-da Valmores, Erin Maurie, Robert Abelon and Yen Marshall.



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\$35.00 Donation
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- ♥ Shelter for abused women and children



Source: gettyimages.com

Run for a Safe Haven



The Run for a Safe Haven planning committee met to plan the 14th Run on November 4th. As an anniversary, the 14th celebration is represented by "ivory." The committee's goal is to have "a stampede of folks participate" in this year's run.

Save the date for November 4th this year! Ivorybody is welcome. If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring this event, please email the Executive Director at nildamsh@gmail.com.



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Transgender soldier fears life setback after Trump's tweet

Associated Press

BERATZHAUSEN, Germany — The US Army soldier took a deep breath before hitting the button that sent the email to more than 200 fellow troops.

"All considered, I am, and have been, traversing what is essentially a personal matter, but is something I must address publicly," the email stated. "I am transgender."

The April 13 email officially ended the secret that burned inside Capt. Jennifer Sims, who was known as Jonathan Sims. But the feeling of relief swiftly turned to unease last week after President Donald Trump tweeted that transgender people were no longer welcome in the US military.

"I read the tweets while I was at work and you know it was devastating because I still have work to do and here I am reading basically what sounds like the president of the United States — who is the commander in chief, he is the ultimate boss of the military — telling me and anybody else that is transgender that we are fired," Sims said.

Pentagon officials say the policy will remain unchanged without official White House guidance. But for Sims, the uncertainty has been upsetting.

"So in the initial moments after the tweet, I saw myself forced into the state that I was in before I started transitioning — a state of depression, exhaustion and inability to enjoy things," said Sims, 28, who spoke to The Associated Press on her own behalf and not on that of the Army.

The reversal of the Obama administration policy that allows transgender people to serve openly and receive military medical coverage for transitioning from one gender to another also could affect her physically.

Sims has been on hormone therapy by her military doctor since November. If she interrupts the treatment, her body will revert to being male.

"It would be very difficult to have to go through that," said Sims, who is based at Hohenfels, a US Army garrison in the German state of Bavaria.

Growing up in Minnesota and Florida, Sims, a high school football player, never felt comfortable being male. The son and grandson of military veterans quietly came to terms with identify-



In this photo, taken July 29, 2017, US Army Capt. Jennifer Sims poses at the main gate of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center after an interview with The Associated Press in Hohenfels near Regensburg, Germany.

ing as a woman a year after joining the Army R.O.T.C., but outwardly kept it a secret "because I wanted to continue serving," Sims said.

The 2004 photo provided by Capt. Jennifer Sims shows her aged 15 years when she was still known as Jonathan Sims in Plymouth, MN. The U.S. Army soldier who emailed 200 fellow troops to announce she was transgender says it was devastating to see President Donald Trump's tweet proclaiming transgender troops are no longer welcome in the U.S. military.

Sims stopped socializing, feeling drained over worries about being masculine enough, and instead focused on work, serving in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Germany. Her sister, Natasha Sims, 24, said she saw "emptiness" in her eyes.

After the Defense Department announced in 2015 that it was considering allowing transgender troops to serve openly, Sims told Natasha and their parents. When the policy became official in June 2016, Sims said she felt the meaning of the word freedom personally after spending years fighting for it for her country.

"It was the best day of my life really," Sims said.

Sims made an appointment with the behavioral health office, was given a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and started hormone therapy in November.

Five months later, she decided to tell fellow troops.

She first told her two closest colleagues, Capt. Brandon Shorter and another infantry officer.

They were at a loss for words.

After Shorter got home, allowing it to sink in, he texted Sims about how that was

brave.

"Infantry officers are best described as brutish. So Capt. Sims pulled me and another brute aside face to face. That took a lot of courage and that's the first thing that went through my mind, mixed in with surprise," Shorter said.

Sims then announced the "personal change" to more than 200 other troops.

It was not an emotional email. The seasoned military officer wrote how a lifetime of discomfort had peaked three years ago. Sims meticulously explained gender dysphoria, announced she was Capt. Jennifer Sims, not Jonathan, and outlined the steps she would take to fully transition to a woman.

"Officially in DEERS, my gender will remain male until my medical transition is complete, which means I will still comport to male standards and use male facilities," she wrote, referring to the acronym for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, a kind of HR database for US military personnel.

"While it is my preference for people to refer to me with female pronouns, if you are uncomfortable with this, there is no requirement to do so, I only respectfully request you refer to me by my proper name, Captain Sims," the email stated.

Sims assured her unit the change "if anything, will only make me more productive and capable, as I no longer have to live two personas."

Five soldiers sent emails back with words of encouragement. Most didn't respond. For a few days, there were murmurs of "hey did you see the email?"

The force had just undergone training explain-

Britain plans to send warship to South China Sea in move likely to irk Beijing

By Reuters

Britain plans to send a warship to the disputed South China Sea next year to conduct freedom of navigation exercises, Defense Minister Michael Fallon said on Thursday, a move likely to anger Beijing.

Britain would increase its presence in the waters after it sent four British fighter planes for joint exercises with Japan in the region last year, he said.

China claims most of the energy-rich sea where neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

"We hope to send a warship to region next year. We have not finalised exactly where that deployment will take place but we won't be constrained by China from sailing through the South China Sea," Fallon told Reuters.

"We have the right of freedom of navigation and we will exercise it."

The presence of a British vessel threatens to stoke tensions, escalated by China's naval build-up and its increasingly assertive stance.

The comments by Fallon came after Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the country's two new aircraft carriers would be sent to the region.

Johnson did not specify where exactly the vessels would be sent once operational in 2020, though the presence of such firepower will likely heighten tensions in the region.

China's construction of



Britain's Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon arrives for a media conference in Sydney, Australia.

islands and military facilities in the South China Sea has stoked international condemnation, amid concern Beijing is seeking to restrict free movement and extend its strategic reach.

Britain's move could also upset ties between London and Beijing, undermining efforts to shore up what the two governments have called a "golden era" in their relationship as Britain heads towards a divorce with the European Union.

"We flew RAF Typhoons through the South China Sea last October and we will exercise that right whenever we next have the opportunity to do so, whenever we have ships or planes in the region," Fallon said.

The United States estimates Beijing has added more than 3,200 acres (1,300 hectares) on seven features in the South China Sea over the past three years, building runways, ports, aircraft hangars and communications equipment.

To counter the perceived Chinese aggression, the

United States has conducted regular freedom of navigation exercises that have angered Beijing.

Earlier this month, the United States sent two bombers over the region, coming just a few months after it sent a warship to carry out a maneuvering drill within 12 nautical miles of one of China's artificial islands.

China has repeatedly denounced efforts by countries from outside the region to get involved in the South China Sea dispute.

The South China Sea is expected to dominate a regional security meeting in Manila next week, where Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

Meeting ASEAN diplomats in Beijing on Wednesday, Wang told them both sides must "exclude disturbances on the South China Sea issue, and maintain positive momentum", China's Foreign Ministry said.

ing what was expected in regards to transgender soldiers.

Sims is the first transgender person Shorter has known.

The unit is basically full of "young men wanting to chew on nails and prove how tough they are and rightly so since they are infantry men," Shorter said. There are only about eight women among the 500 soldiers in the battalion.

He had a lot of questions "being naturally curious and wanting to be a good friend because we didn't really have a personal relationship. He's, excuse me, she's — see I still slip up sometimes — a single captain, I'm married with two daughters. Our lives are different."

Shorter, 32, of Alanson, Michigan, describes himself as conservative. He said he

struggles with his beliefs about what's appropriate. An assistant operations officer for the battalion, Shorter is concerned about how Sims — whom he considers to be the best signal officer he's seen in the Army — cannot deploy while undergoing medical procedures.

But Shorter, speaking on his own behalf and not that of the Army, said he would be "incredibly disappointed" if Sims were kicked out.

After Trump's tweet, a few soldiers, including Shorter, asked Sims how she was do-

ing. She didn't know what to say.

Her pills will run out in three months. Doctors recommend 12 months of hormone therapy before surgery. The cost of her surgery can run close to \$50,000, which Sims was expecting the military would help cover.

Army officials told her nothing will change without official guidance.

"I had waited so long just to be able to tell the world this is who I am," Sims said.

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PerryScope

Is the 'Ilocos Six' a proxy war?

BY PERRY DIAZ

In a major setback for Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, she failed to secure immediate relief from the Supreme Court (SC) against the House of Representatives' (HOR) inquiry into the Ilocos Norte's alleged misuse of P66.45 million in tobacco excise tax funds.

While the SC did not specifically reject Imee's petition, it was re-raffled since the justice in charge of the case, Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, recused himself from the case. Interestingly, it was Peralta who administered the oath of office of former first lady Imelda Marcos and her son Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as Ilocos Norte 2nd District representative and senator, respectively, in 2010. But here's the rub: Peralta is a relative of Ilocos Norte 1st District representative and Majority Leader Rodolfo "Rudy" Fariñas, one of the respondents in the case.

In addition to Peralta, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and newly appointed Associate Justice Andres Reyes Jr. inhibited themselves from the case. No reason was given for their recusal.

With the three magistrates inhibiting themselves from the case, there will only be 12 justices who can vote on the case, which would require seven votes for approval of the petition. Does Imee have the support of at least seven justices? The fact that majority of the SC justices voted to allow the re-burial of the remains of the late strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery), indicates the strong influence of President Rodrigo

Duterte on the High Court. The interment of Marcos at the Libingan would certainly help Bongbong in his quest for the presidency. Indeed, Duterte had made it known that Bongbong was his preferred successor. But that was before the "Ilocos Six" scandal erupted, pitting Imee Marcos against Rudy Fariñas.

Ilocos Six

The "Ilocos Six" controversy might seem complicated and complex in legal terms; but one can see politics at the crux of the matter. There are two groups of very powerful politicians who are involved in the imbroglio. One group is the powerful Marcos political clan of Ilocos Norte, which is led by the former First Lady and Ilocos Norte 2nd District Representative Imelda Marcos, her daughter Governor Imee Marcos, and her only son, former Senator Bongbong Marcos. The other

"Godfather" in Malacañang, President Rodrigo Duterte. They occupy their high positions because the Godfather placed them there to make sure that he has a grip on the HOR. Although nobody would admit to it, they serve at the pleasure of the Godfather. That is the reality of Philippine politics.

The system of "three independent government branches," as stipulated in the Constitution, doesn't work in Philippine realpolitik. What works is the "padrino" system that we had inherited from the Spanish colonizers. Duterte is the padrino or godfather of the HOR triumvirs. And by the same token, Imelda Marcos is the padrina or godmother of the Marcos clan.

Now the picture is crystal clear: the "Ilocos Six" is a proxy war between Duterte and Imelda Marcos. But what is not clear is why are they fighting each other when not too long ago they were the best of friends?

There is chatter in the grapevine that the Marcoses and Duterte had a falling out. Speculation is rife that a "broken promise" might have been the cause of their estranged relationship. Well, like they say, "In politics you don't know who your friends or enemies are."

The presidential election is still five years away and loyalty could shift from one side to the other at the drop of a hat. And as usual there would be the balimbings – political opportunists – who would jump sides if it satisfied their own agenda.

Political opportunism

In my last column, "The politics behind the Ilocos Six" (July 21, 2017), I wrote: "It's interesting to note that both Imee [Marcos] and [Rudy] Fariñas will be termed out in 2019.

Which makes one wonder what their political plans are in the 2019 midterm election? Imee could run



Majority Floor Leader Rudy Fariñas and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

for Fariñas' 1st District seat, after all she's now officially a resident of Laoag City, which is in the 1st District. Bongbong's eldest son Sandro is now primed to run for office in the province. Why not the governorship that Imee would be vacating? Bongbong's second son, Joseph Simon would be in a position to run for mayor of Laoag City against incumbent Chevylle Fariñas. And Bongbong's youngest son Vincent would qualify to run against Laoag City's incumbent vice-mayor and Chevylle's husband, Michael Fariñas. That would certainly stack up the cards against



Duterte and Imelda Marcos.

the Fariñas clan right in their own backyard. "Meanwhile, Bongbong's electoral

protest against Vice President Leni Robredo is now before the Supreme Court convened as Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET). If Bongbong wins and takes over the vice presidency, it would certainly make the Marcos clan the preeminent political body in Ilocos Norte. And this could cause the downfall of the Fariñas clan."

Duterte vs. Marcos

With the elimination of the Fariñas clan from the political power structure of Ilocos Norte, Bongbong can then work in securing the support of the Solid North. And with the Visayas and Mindanao getting behind whomever Duterte fronts in 2022, Bongbong is probably salivating right now because he is very confident that he is

Duterte's candidate – or as they say in the street, "manok," a fighting cock -- in the 2022 presidential election. And he was. What happened?

With the proxy war that is going on between Duterte and Imelda, the calculus for the presidential election in 2022 is going to



Former Senator Bongbong Marcos and his wife and three sons.

change. And this begs the question: If Bongbong were not going to be Duterte's candidate, who would it be? Last June, amid speculations about his health, Duterte stressed that Vice President Leni Robredo will be his "only constitutional successor in case his term ends prematurely." Is that a veiled endorsement that Leni could be his anointed successor to the presidency? Why not?

And what's in store for Rudy Fariñas, who has loyally stood by his godfather? (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

Who's behind the Marawi attack?

BY PERRY DIAZ

Like most rebellions, the Marawi rebellion couldn't have happened without the financial support of someone who has the wherewithal to sustain a long siege. More than six weeks after the attack, the militants are still entrenched in Marawi City. No amount of ground assault by the Philippine Marines or bombing by Philippine Air Force warplanes could dislodge the militants consisting of members of the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The Philippine military had been after the ASG terrorists for several years now. Yet, most of the leaders of the ASG managed to evade capture. The most recent one was Isnilon Totononi Hapilon, also known as Abu Abdullah al-Filipini. He is believed to be linked to ISIS. He was formerly leader of ASG before its battalions

pledged their allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. An April 2016 issue of ISIS' weekly newsletter Al Naba said that Hapilon had been appointed as "emir of all Islamic State forces in the Philippines." [Source: Wikipedia]

What is interesting to note is the role of the Maute matriarch, Ominta "Farhana" Romano-Maute, mother of the Maute founders Omar and Abdullah. Last June 7, she was arrested in Masiu, a town about 34 kilometers from Marawi City, as she and two wounded men and seven women were trying to escape the government troops. She is believed to be the "heart of the Islamic State-inspired Maute group," directing its movement and operations and taking care of finances and international networking. She and her husband Cayamora are said to be the "masterminds" behind the Maute attack. Farhana is reputed to be a "fiercely astute" businesswoman and politician. She manages several business interests including several rental houses in Quezon City, Iligan, Catabato City, and Davao City. She once served as assemblywoman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Before her capture, Farhana tried calling President Rodrigo Duterte to talk



Abu Sayyaf militants show ISIS flag.

about peace and negotiate a ceasefire after the heavy bombing and fighting in Marawi City. Duterte turned her offer down, saying the government forces



Two faces of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Totononi Hapilon.

have lost too many soldiers in the Marawi attack. The question is: Is Farhana really the mastermind of the Maute group or is someone much higher in the food chain calling the shots?

Last July 5, government forces foiled a possible bombing in Cagayan de Oro when they arrested Farhana's niece Monaliza "Monay" Solaiman Romato. Monay reportedly replaced Farhana as the Maute's matriarch. However, it didn't take too long for the government forces to capture Monay, which begs the question: With Farhana and Monay in detention, who would take over the Maute's financial operations? Or could it be that Farhana and Monay were just figureheads? Is the matriarch's role to shield the real power behind the group? Meanwhile, the real power can lead a normal life conducting his business empire - probably illegal drug trade -- out in the open without any fear of scrutiny from the government.

Back-channel talks

Recently, Reuters reported that President Duterte initiated a move to negotiate an end to the conflict with the Maute group. However, Malacañang said that it has no information on Duterte's reported attempt to hold back-channel talks with the Maute terrorists.

The Reuters report said a senior Duterte aide approached Agakhan Sharief, a prominent Muslim leader, to use his connections with the Maute group's leaders to start back-channel talks. The report said the talks failed as the Maute leaders "did not show sincerity and continued to attacks on government forces." Two other sources familiar with the matter confirmed that Duterte had worked behind the scenes to hold talks with the Maute brothers, Omarkhayam and Abdullah. Marawi City

Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra also confirmed that back-channel talks were started but said he was not privy to details.

The back-channel talks did not push through when Cayamora was caught on June 6 in Davao City, three days before Farhana's arrest in Lanao del Sur.

Chinese financier

A few days ago, I received an interesting - and intriguing - information from one of my sources in Manila. He said, "How can you

divert the attention of the AFP who are almost done in apprehending all of them to put closure to ASG. This Chinese who uses his being a converted Muslim to lord it over basically owning all big businesses Sulu and Mindanao wide, wants to protect his puppet Hapilon by floating the disinfo that he escaped the military cordon in Marawi.

"If the concerned people of Marawi is serious in finishing this tragedy, they should act asap like the Boholanos helping the PNP and AFP in getting all the remnants



Monaliza "Monay" Solaiman Romato

of ASG. Huwag na tayo maglorkohan, kawawa mga sundalo at peaceful Muslims na dadamay sa kalokohan ng iilan na may hidden agenda. So-bra na. (Let's not fool with ourselves. It's a pity the soldiers and peaceful Muslims are dragged into this foolishness of a few people with hidden agenda. It's too much.)"

Link to drug lords

My source also said that some of these militants have business relationships with some government officials, which makes one wonder: Are the Maute militants working as mercenaries for those behind the Marawi attack and are paid through the "matriarch"? During a recent media briefing, PNP Chief Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa confirmed the Maute group's link to drug lords. He said that the Maute group is known to have "protected" the drug lords as early as last year. He said that he received

information that majority of the drug lords in Metro Manila, Luzon and Visayas went to Marawi City a year ago to hold a "drug summit." He added that the drug lords were protected by the Maute group and narco-politicians. Surmise it to say, Marawi appears to be the "Vatican" of the illegal drug cartel in the country.



During a recent media briefing, PNP Chief Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa confirmed the Maute group's link to drug lords. He said that the Maute group is known to have "protected" the drug lords as early as last year.

Underground fortifications When the government forces breached the Maute's defensive positions, they discovered bombproof tunnels used by the militants as bunker and bomb shelters. The military spokesman said that the roughly 10 percent of Marawi held by the Maute militants has many

tunnels and basements that can withstand 500-pound bombs. Clearly, the underground fortifications couldn't have been built in the short time since the "Marawi attack" commenced last May 23. They must already have been constructed long before that date, which is to suggest that the Maute's presence in Marawi may have been a common knowledge to the city residents. The question is: Is the military aware of their presence long before the siege? I believe so. But for as long as the Maute group stays out of "trouble," the military would stay out of their way. It was a de facto co-existence between the Maute group and government forces.

But on May 23, the military decided to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, who was believed to be in Marawi City. Hapilon is on the FBI's "most

wanted terrorists list" with a \$5 million bounty offered for his capture, which was a good enough reason to arrest him. It was then that the Maute group purportedly "entered" Marawi and clashed with government troops.

The botched attempt to arrest Hapilon led to open warfare between government forces and the Maute group. With Hapilon out of sight -- either dead or out of the country -- and the Maute group leaderless and in disarray, it's just a matter of time for the fighting to come to an end. But it would a devastated city and grieving people that would suffer for a long time from the atrocity of the "Marawi attack."

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Eskwela Natin completes its fifth year

BY DOLORES DIAZ

Sacramento, California (July 24, 2017) -- Last May, Eskwela Natin began its fifth summer program. More than 30 students, ages five to 12, registered for the ten-session cultural class that covers various aspects of the Filipino culture. In addition, four high school students were recognized and awarded with scholarship monies. One of the recipients was also bestowed with the Ester Carrasco Community Service Award.

The program began on May 21, 2017 with an opening ceremony that featured Consul General Henry Bensurto Jr. of the Philippine Consulate as the guest speaker. "It is always a pleasure to visit Eskwela Natin, because we share the same aspiration for our Community, especially the youth," he said. "In Consulate parlance, we call it Spark* Connect* Empower*. We wish to spark curiosity about our country's culture and heritage, with the hope that it would move us to connect with one another. A united Community is a stronger and empowered Community that can uplift the profile of the Filipino Americans," he added. "We truly admire you not only for recognizing the need to expose our children to their Filipino roots, but for actually taking that responsibility despite its magnitude through volunteerism. It is a shining example of bayanihan in the midst of Northern California."

Consul General Bensurto commended the officers and Board of Directors for seeing the project through, which now enjoys a 501c(3) nonprofit status and is now on its 5th year of existence.

Indeed, after five years of operation, Eskwela Natin has under-



"The Eskwela Natin Board members pose with special guests Philippine Consul General Henry Bensurto Jr., Amb. George Aducayen Jr. and Mrs. Caridad Aducayen. The Board members are: (front row, left to right) Ramon Taraya, Perry Diaz, Consul General Bensurto Jr., Amb. and Mrs. George Aducayen Jr., and Dolores Diaz. (Second row, left to right) Vangie Hinnenkamp, Didi Loteyro, Celsa Taraya, Josie Canlas, Anna Reyes Mestidio, Raul Bernaldez, Lilibeth Brewer, Gladys Carriaga, Kisha Arsenia, and Paolo Legaspi."

gone organizational change to prepare it for the challenges of a growing Community. To better serve the Community and to encourage more participation from parents and educators, the Board changed its structural composition to bring into the Board parents and educators. With the "three pillars" of the Board consisting of Community Advocates, Parents, and Educators, Eskwela Natin hopes to meet the challenges of our times.

The other speaker was Ambassador George Aducayen Jr., who had retired from the Philippine Foreign Service after 33 years and settled in Sacramento for the past 23 years. He remarked, "In keeping alive and in propagating our beloved Philippines in America, you

are doing a great achievement. In fact, all Filipinos abroad, imbued with the genuine affection for our Motherland, and a firm commitment for the welfare and well-being of our fellowmen, would serve as effective leaders, in unifying a strong and healthy Filipino community and for the preservation of our cultural and national heritage."

Dave Tamayo, SMUD board member, spoke about growing up as a Filipino American and the chal-

lenges as well as the joys of being raised in America.

In response, Vangie Hinnenkamp, one of two vice-presidents of Eskwela Natin, said, "It is such a pleasure to see everyone, familiar families as well as new ones. We are a community. Your familiar faces warm our hearts because you are family. Your

new faces give us encouragement to continue our vision, which is to provide a safe and fun medium where our Filipino-American children can learn about their rich and unique heritage. Thank you for becoming a part of our community, our family. Last summer, a family drove here all the way from Stockton. Who else drove for an hour or more to get here? Thank you. We love you!

The 2017 scholarship awardees were: Carlos Antonio M. Gutierrez, Melanie Wilson, Nicolette Dee Bonjoc and Stephanie Gloria McClean, who also received the Ester Carrasco Community Service Award.

The first session, which followed the awarding of scholarship, taught the students one of the most celebrated religious festivities – the Santacruzán. The boys were escorts of Santacruzán sagalas who wore tiaras, sashes and various props according to their roles in the procession. They offered fresh flowers to the Virgin Mary as part of the Flores de Mayo. Celebrating Santacruzán has been an annual tradition on opening day of Eskwela Natin.

On June 4, Eskwela Natin participated in the Philippine Fiesta held at the Jose Rizal Center. The children, who joined the parade wearing Filipino native attires, won the "Most Participants" award. Eskwela Natin was also in charge of children's games and prizes such as pabitin, palayok and pin the tail.

The rest of Eskwela Natin's 2017 summer program included making musical instruments and using them to the tune of *Bilang Isa hanggang Labing Siam*. They played games such as *Maria went to Town* and *Planting rice* and flying paper airplanes outdoors. On the session of more Philippine celebrations, the children made colorful masks for the Bacolod Masskara Festival, decorated parols (Filipino Christmas lanterns) and framed cards of their favorite heroes in celebration of Independence Day heroes. On Arts and Crafts Day, the children enjoyed making paper roll animals as found in the Filipino books their parents read to them. They also made masks to use for the play, *Paradise of the Animals*, and learned to dance *Pangalay* to be presented on graduation day. The Philippine cuisine featured *pancit 'bar'* (add your own favorite ingredients to basic ingredients i.e. *pancit noodles*), *halo halo bar*, and *silog bar* (*tocino* and *longanisa* and eggs over garlic fried rice which was demonstrated) and *Sago* and *gulaman*.

In each session, the children learn at least 25 Tagalog words and phrases and watch videos of the Philippines as they discover the Philippines. Eskwela Natin offers a fun, interactive and unique learning experience for children while educating them about the rich and diverse Filipino culture. It is made possible not only from strong support of the Philippine Consulate, Department of Tourism and community but the unconditional generosity of the dedicated teachers, parents, volunteers and the Eskwela Natin Board.

A special field trip was organized last July 16 with a tour of the Filipino Museum in Stockton. The museum highlights the arrival of Filipino migrant workers – the "manongs" – more than a century ago. It displays photos of Filipino immigrants who came to the U.S. in three waves of migration periods.

The summer program, which is held every Sunday at the County of Sacramento Community Room, Department of Human Resources Building, Florin Road, Sacramento, was completed last July 23. Graduation will be held on July 30 with a reception at 12:00 Noon following the graduation ceremonies.



Eskwela Natin at the Filipino Fiesta on June 4, 2017.

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Photo by [Name] Petro

Henry Bambao to manage Naguilian Global Reunion 2018

BY FAINA E. ABAYA

The small farming town of Naguilian in the great province of La Union, Philippines will host a grand celebration to rival other festivities of neighboring cities and towns showcasing the unique hospitality, friendliness and cultural tradition of its people.

The celebration is dubbed as the "Grand Global Reunion and Basi Festival" which is simply referred to the main product of the town, the fermented wine extracted from sugarcane juice and the homecoming of the town's sons and daughters from all over the world. The event will be held in Naguilian from February 13 to 18, 2018 and the celebration will be held mostly at the center of the town proper.

Our very own Filipino American community leader Henry Bambao, the former president of the United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Incorporated, of Sacramento has been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Naguilian Global Reunion by the Naguilian Global Alliance Network, the entity that usually coordinate with other affiliated organizations worldwide headed by Delia Vita. He replaced the amiable Paul Nonog the CEO of NGAN who successfully managed several global reunions after stepping down for personal reason. Thereafter, Henry will



Henry and Tina Bambao

coordinate with other concerned organizations on their participations and he will likewise manage all responsibilities related to the successful holding and conclusion of the event.

Accordingly, a joint government and private sector efforts in Naguilian are briskly preparing for the event expecting an influx of thousands of people not only from neighboring towns and provinces but also the former residents of the town who are now living comfortably from different countries. For sure our returning town mates are towing along with them their families and even friends to see for the first time the greatness of our tradition and cultural heritage.

Henry Bambao is not new to perform such difficult task to convince Naguilanders who are living away from the town where they

have enjoyed the best moments of their lives with their loved ones to come home and enjoy the merriment of the festivities. Henry has the experience and expertise to such kind of job having been initiated and handled successfully a

world wide fund raising campaign to renovate the century old Saint Augustine of Hippo Parish Church and other projects to benefit the residents and the town of Naguilian as well as the Filipino American community of Sacramento.

civilian who has done so much for the town of Naguilian.

The Global fund raising had touched many generous people both Naguilanders and friends that generated enough funds to change all the pews and renovate a part of the town church. It also funded various meritorious projects in Naguilian and UNLUCAI projects in the United States such as Scholarship Grants to deserving students, aids to natural calamities that hit the town, Medical and Dental Missions, assistance to previous global reunions and many other beneficial projects for everyone concerned in our based community.

In a meeting held on July 23, 2017 presided by Cristina Bambao, the incumbent president of UNLUCAI mentioned about the

ated from the recently concluded 35th year UNLUCAI celebration as she expressed her profound thanks to all who participated and advertised in the souvenir program that made the event extremely successful. President Tina Bambao also mentioned many fund raising campaigns to be conducted to sustain and maintain the various projects of the organization. She also added that the "Loaves and Fishes" in Sacramento operated by the Mercy Sisters to help the homeless will be assisted through volunteers and contributions either in kind or modest amount of money.

Raffle tickets for the Global Reunion were distributed to all members interested to buy or sell which has monetary prizes to make one happy. The itinerary and program of the Global Reunion were also released which will start on the evening of February 13, 2018, a formal Filipiniana sit down dinner at the town Civic Center limited to only 500 persons on the "First pay, first to be accommodated basis" It is expected that there will be about 300 participants from abroad with the rest from the local residents and friends.

The following day will be Valentine's Day which will be celebrated with the young and young hearts by holding Jam Session and Class Reunion at the Abern Pantar compound. All the "balikbayan" who will attend the global reunion are invited by the host.

The six days of festivities will be full of activities and there will be no boring moments for both the

Continued on page 12



UNLUCAI meeting on July 23, 2017

For such accomplishment, Henry received the "SADIRI" Award the highest distinction bestowed to a

many ongoing projects of the organization which will be continued. She also reported the funds gener-

Lion Sarah Enloe Elected As Second Vice District Governor Of District 4-C5, Multiple District 4 California, Lions Clubs International

BY CARLE ENLOE

Lion Sarah Enloe was recently elected as Second Vice District Governor (2nd VDG) of District 4-C5, Multiple District 4, California (MD-4), Lions Clubs International (LCI), on April 30, 2017, during the District 4-C5 Convention held at San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA. Second VDG Sarah was elected on her platform of "Hand-in-Hand in Serving Our Community".

Second VDG Sarah joined the



Lion Sarah Enloe

Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club in June 2008, along with Lion Carle, her husband. She is a very passionate and dedicated Lion who



The elected officers of the District 4-C5, Multiple District 4, California (MD-4), Lions Clubs International (LCI).

truly enjoys serving her community, especially the less fortunate, which is in line with the new LCI President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal,

whose motto is "We Serve".

It is a very exciting time for Lions and please stay tuned because 2nd VDG Sarah has some exciting and

innovative plans for her term in office and future rise to District Governor in two years. Her focus this year will be on LCI's "Centennial Community Projects" plus other service projects locally and District-wide that support and enhance the current District 4-C5 Governor Thomas "Nick" McNicholas' motto: "Embracing Your Accomplishments with Our Legacy of Service".

Congratulations and Good Luck to our very own 2nd VDG Sarah Enloe.

Father Sal

BY DALE ESPERANTE

St. Charles Borromeo has had no Filipino priest since Father Ron Marcelo Farinas left in 2013. On 1 Jul 2017, Father Salvador Bringas arrived to be the new parochial vicar of St. Charles. Father Sal hails from San Quintin, Abra, in the Cordillera Administrative Region of the Philippines. He has been a priest for 30 years serving in various assignments in the Philippines.

In the Sacramento Diocese, he has served nine months in Carmichael, 2 years in Davis, and now St. Charles Borromeo. The first time he introduced himself to the parishioners of St. Charles, he announced his luck for being assigned with the kindest and gentlest pastor in the Sacramento Diocese, Father Oscar Gomez-Medina.



St. Charles Borromeo

On 21 Jul 2017, parishioners Bobby and Delia Catriz organized a Filipino pot-luck gathering to welcome Father Sal. Before formally introducing the Vicar, Bobby spoke for his kababayans who appreciate having a humble and friendly Filipino priest like Father Sal. Thanking everyone for making him feel so welcome, Father Sal jokingly shared that when he was introduced at his previous assignments in Carmichael and Davis, he never received a welcome party. He reasoned that perhaps St. Charles has a larger Filipino community.

To meet Father Sal, come to St. Charles Borromeo located at 7584

Center Parkway, Sacramento, 95823. I first met him on a Sunday noon mass but he may also serve the morning mass at 8 a.m. from Tuesday through Saturday. Other Sunday mass schedules: 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5 p.m. Respectfully I didn't take Father Sal's photograph for he would rather meet and see you personally when you come to church. St. Charles Borromeo is a parish for all and, a bilingual community. Pastor Oscar's languages are English and Spanish, while Vicar Sal's are English and dialects of Ilocano and Tagalog.

Henry Bambao to manage Naguilian Global Reunion 2018

From page 11

young and those who are aging gracefully. They either participate or just witness the colorful and enjoyable activities such as talent contest, street parade, river festival, beauty contest, sports, singing, dancing and musical competitions. Social gathering will be held in the evening for every night during the duration of the festivities.

The town authorities assured the safety, comfort and enjoyment of everyone as it mobilizes volunteers to guide, help and assist those who will be in need in case of unforeseen circumstances that might occur during the festivities.

Henry Bambao said that he will do everything within his personal limitation to make this global reunion to be remembered as the most memorable event that will not be compared to none. He urges all Naguilanders and friends to bind together as one to make this gathering fruitful and successful. Everyone is invited to join us in the most joyful event that seldom happens in our beloved town.

Please contact Henry Bambao,



Hall to be used for the Naguilian Global Reunion.

Delia Vita or Paul Nonog for further information. Most importantly, please be informed that the organizational set up of the global reunion, schedules, programs, itineraries and other pertinent matters related thereto are subject to change anytime as much better situation arises.

Those who attended the meeting were; Tino Floresca, Nestor Isaac, Jun and Josie Pabros, Sonia

Delizo, Fely Esplana, Edgar and Charity Avena, Carole, Erna and Jane Bambao, Belen and Efrén Banayat, Teddy and Letty Cheng, Jun and Faina Abaya, Dickie and Marilyn Bernal, Ramon Nudo, Ben and Lourdes Delizo, Conchita Delmendo, Charlie and Calixta Delizo, Zaldy and Lydia Estepa, Cherie Nairn, Josie Miranda, Mannie and Cora Ojascastro, Julie Banks and Pat Banayat.

Filipino Church Volunteers

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Every Sunday in catholic churches all over the world, the faithful majority come to pray, worship, and listen. Those who can, also attend daily mass, either early morning or early evening. There are also those who come to serve in addition to praying, worshipping and listening. Something precious to remember shared by an ordained minister some years ago: when we pray we stand, when we worship we kneel, and when we listen we sit.

Those who serve during mass such as the Lectors, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion (EMHC), Altar Servers, and Ushers are lay ministers recognized by all, appreciated especially by the priest celebrating the mass.

In churches like St. Charles Borromeo, where a gift shop is essential to provide parishioners items they may need, such as, prayer books, biblical figurines, and rosaries, volunteers have also been performing a church ministry. One definition of minister in this case, "to provide something necessary or helpful" (source: Apple dictionary) or "to serve."

At St. Charles, the three ministers manning the gift shop every Sunday are:

Shirley Santamaria – a 15-year parishioner who in 1997 started volunteering from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. She is originally from Quezon City.

Lina Labra – Started volunteering in 1994. She transferred to St. Charles five years ago and



Filipino volunteers

help on the 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. shift. She hails from Santa Maria, Bulacan.

Jon Espera – Besides being an EMHC, Usher, and sometimes Lector, Jon started helping in the gift shop five years ago, from 1 – 1:30 p.m. His now college-age kids, Jonna and Joana and John, used to help when they were younger and still in high school. Jon is married to his lovely wife Edna. He is from Cavite, Philippines.

Charles McGloughlin is a Lector, an EMHC as well as the purchaser to supply the gift shop with items needed and reported by Shirley, Lina, and Jon. Charles and his wife Gladys, for many years, used to take on all the responsibilities to run the gift shop. With help from the above-mentioned volunteers, the McGloughlin couple can now enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

Let us all strive to serve righteously in our own ways. We have the gift of today (the present). Tomorrow depends on how we prepare for it today.



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General Trias Family Association Fiesta Celebration

BY DINNAH S. SAN PEDRO

On Sunday, July 2, 2017, the General Trias Cavite Family Association celebrated their Annual Family Fiesta at St. Rose Church Hall in Fremont, California.

It was an all-day fun of karakol dancing, mass offerings, and the traditional "sagala" commemorating the Sta. Cruzan during fiesta celebrations. The food was great prepared by the hardworking Gentry officers and volunteers for the Gentry kababayans to partake.

New GTFA Officers for 2017-2019.

Pres.: Polly Poblete
Vice: Ariel Presa, Ato Moscardon, Danny Sangria
Sec: Grace Salgado
Asst: Neneth Leño
Treas: Evelyn Mojica
Asst: Cecile Nocon
Auditor: Nelle Presa
Asst: Gemma Presa, Helen

De Asis
PRO: Elvie Magsambol
Asst: Nith Salgado, Belle Jimenez
Sgt at Arms:
Bong Presa, Jessie Barrientos, Ganie Lubang, Francis Nocon, Norbie Moral, Edwin Fernando.
Board of Directors:
Rene Nocon, Jing Presa, Esmie Mojica, Jay Jimenez and Edmund Salgado

The officers look forward to serve the Gentry Family to the best of their ability with everyone help and support. And of course, with the guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Saint Francis Of Assisi.



The newly elected officers of GTFA for 2017 - 2019



The General Trias Family Association with beautiful Reyna Elena and sagalas.

Photos by Dave San Pedro



The GTFA 2017 sagalas and their escorts.



Vic and Jen Afortunado, Dinnah San Pedro, and Estela Afortunado



Benjie Santos

Benjie with wife Tess, children, grandchildren, and friends celebrated his 76th birthday on July 22 at his residence in Elk Grove, CA.

Here with friends: Elbert, Liz, Grace, Vir, Tom, Zeny, Dinnah, and other friends.



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Calendar of Events

AUG. 12, 2017 (SAT.)
FAVA Filipiniana 2017
scholarship Awards
Dinner & Dance
 6pm - midnight
 St. Paul Catholic Church Hall
 8720 Florin Rd. Sacramento, CA 95828
 Attire: Barong/Filipina Dress
 Donation: \$35.00
 Olive Jackson 916.262.6273



AUG. 12, 13, 2017 (SAT. & SUN.)
PISTAHAN PARADE & FESTIVAL
 11am - 5pm
 Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco
 FREE Admission



AUG. 19, 2017 (SAT.)
A LOVE & LAUGH to Last
a Lifetime --7PM
 Courtyard by Marriott Sacramento
 1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA
 Howell - 916.531.2398



Birthdays



DEIDRA SAN PEDRO and daddy Dave - AUGUST 7



ANGELIQUE LOBO and Glen AUGUST 21



NAP DELEON & wife Ginnie AUGUST 10



VIDA GWEN and hubby Bill AUGUST 10



PAOLO SORIANO AUGUST 1



MICHAEL MERCADO and family JULY 31



VIC DUADICO with wife Villa & grandson JULY 28



JAY PAULAR AUGUST 9



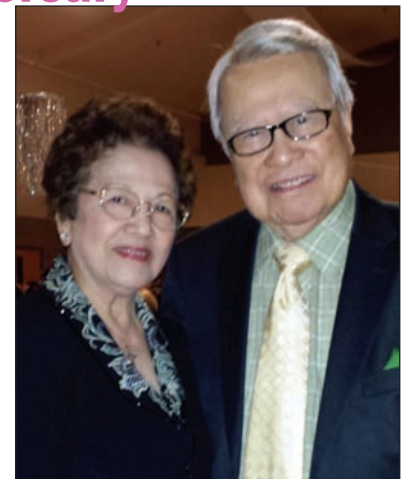
VICTORIA DEBORD - AUG. 23
 MYRNA AGBUNAG - AUG. 3



CAROL MUNAR Birthday Celebration on July 28 with Aida Azurin, Edna delos Reyes, Rose Basos and Mercedes Guerrero.



ARDEN and NELDA ABELEDA
 31st Wedding Anniversary
 July 26

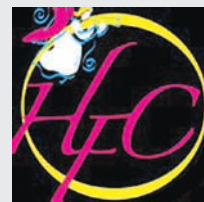


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Anniversary



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BY NANCY CRISTI BAUTISTA

Ang Wikang Pilipino

Ang Agosto ang naatasang gawing buwan ng wikang Pilipino. Bihira na siguro ang gumagamit ng talagang purong wikang ito. Kadalasan, ang ating mga salita ay hinahaluhan ng ibang wika na galing sa ibang bansa o gawa-gawa lamang ng iba, lalo na ng mga kabataan.

Totoong hindi madaling magsalita ng mga katagang walang halong banyaga. Sa panahon ngayon, mahihirapan na tayong makipag-usap sa bawat isa na ang gagamitin lamang ay pawang mga katutubong salita. Maaring sa pagsulat, ito ay kayang gawin, ngunit, pagdating sa bigkasan, talagang hindi na totoong magkakaunawaan ang ating mga kababayan na gamitin ang mga wikang Pilipino. Kagaya ngayon, napakahirap nang magsulat na ang gagamitin lamang ay taal na Tagalog.

Ngayon nga, ako ay nanggapa na rin upang maipahayag lamang ang nais kong sabihin, at, palagay ko, marami na rin akong naisingit na ibang wika sa mga isinulat ko.

Wala namang masama na haluan natin ang ating wika ng ibang salita. Ang nakaraan ng Pilipinas ay masasabing bahagi ng dahilan kung bakit ang ating pagsasalita at pagsusulat ay naging ganito. Tayo ay sumalalim sa pangu-ngupkop ng maraming bayan at kultura. Sa mga nagdaang panahon, ang ating wika ay nahaluan na ng iba't-ibang mga salita at kahulugan. Sa dahilang ang mga Pilipino ay madaling matuto, hindi naging mahirap sa mga ito ang pagtanggap at paggamit sa anumang dumarating na pagbabago.

Sa bilis ng paglago ng populasyon ng Pilipinas, ang pagdami ng mga salitang



dumarating ay napakabilis upang ang dating wika ay maka-agpang sa mga ito. Sa kalaunan, ang mga sariling unang panahong wika ay nakakalimutan na o napapagiwanan na ng uso, at kung minsan, ang pagsasalita ng mga ninunong kaalaman ay kinukutya at ikinahihya na. Mas pinapaburan pa ang pagbigkas ng mga salitang kalye o ng mga galing sa ibang bansa, na kung minsan ay hindi naman mga tamang salita.

Minsang umuwi ako sa ating bansa, nagulat ako dahil ang karamihan sa mga bata, lalo na sa mga may kaya ay hindi nakakaintindi o nakakapagsalita man lamang ng Tagalog. Ipinagpaparangalan pa ng kanilang mga magulang na ang alam ng mga batang ito ay Ingles o Pranses. Napakalungkot naman.

Ang aming mga anak ay tinuruan namin ng Tagalog noong bata pa sila at ngayong malaki na sila, sila ay nakakaintindi at sa unt-unti nilang pagbigkas, sila ay nakakapagsalita pa rin ng ating wikang pambansa. Samantala, ang aming mga apo naman, ay nakakaintindi at nakakapagsalita rin ng kaunting wikang Tagalog. Naturuan din namin silang magdasal ng kaunting Tagalog.

Upang bumalik ang paggamit ng wikang Pilipino, maaari namang ibalik ito sa kurikulum ng mga paaralan at gawing kaakit-akit ito sa mga kabataan. Gawin ng paraan na ang pagsali sa mga organisasyon ng mga iba't-ibang kabataan ay may

kahalong mga nakakatanda, at maging isang masaya at maipagmamalaking pangyayari. Alam natin, lalo na sa mga kabataan, na nais nilang sila ay huwag mapapahiya. Masaya sila kung nararamdaman nila na sila ay nakakagawa ng mga pagbabago na ikauunlad ng kanilang sarili, o ng kanilang mga komunidad, at kalaunan, ng kanilang bayan.

Hindi kinakailanganing gamitan ng malaking pera ang pagpapakalat ng wikang Pilipino. Isa pa, sa pagpupulong na gagawin, ang kusang pagtulong ay mas nakakapagbigay ng karangalan sa sarili at sa kapuwa.

Kung ang bawat Pilipino ay magsisikap na magaral ng kahit isa man lamang salita sa wikang Pilipino isang lingo, at gamitin ito sa pagbigkas o pagkausap sa kapuwa Pilipino, maari sigurong kumalat itong unti-unting muli. Ang pagkakaroon ng isang aklat ng may mga wikang Pilipino ay makakatulong din. Ating turuan ang mga munting nilalang ng kahit isa man lamang na salitang wikang Pilipino buwan-buwan.

Hanggang makakaya, sa ating pang-araw araw na pamumuhay, ating ipamalagi ang pagsasalita ng wikang Pilipino.

Tayo lamang ang maasahang magtataguyod na mabuhay muli ang lagablab ng pagmamahal sa ating kultura at salita dito sa ating puso.

Backyard Organic Ginger



BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

Ginger is a crop that grows best in the tropics like the Philippines.

Ginger is an excellent spice crop. Japanese restaurant cut rhizomes into thin slices as appetizer. It can also be crashed, boil with water, and best serve hot; It soothes the throat and has therapeutic effect. Vocalists and choir members love this concoction. Ginger is generally a good spice for food and many more uses.

It has high demand in international market. Countries like Japan, India, Fiji, etc., need tons of ginger every week.

GTO-Karis, a Japanese company, buys ginger at a fix price of P80 per kilo. The company deducts P10 per kilo as part of the Memorandum of Agreement for the services it provides to the growers.

A grower does not need to be a rocket scientist to grow backyard ginger. Planting ginger only needs common sense. GTO-Karis has technicians to help every grower from land preparation,



Backyard organic ginger with Gabriel Ortigoza

planting, until harvest time. It assures growers of market at a fixed prize irregardless of the trend in the market.

A set of ginger, composed of 70 sacks planted with eight rhizomes, averages 2,100 kilos or 30 kilos per sack.

A set of ginger only needs 32 square meters of your backyard. If you are lucky to have 1,000 square meters lot, you can plant 31.25 sets. If you are highly favored to have an hectare lot (10,000 square meters), you can plant 312.5 sets. Imagine how much you can get in 10 months?

Ginger is a low maintenance crop. The last six months of the year falls under wet season. It only needs one liter of deep well (chlorine free) water mixed with bio fertilizer per week. In other words, a grower only needs

to water the plants once a week.

A start up capital is needed for the project. A set of ginger, composed of 70 sacks, costs P32,710 (\$654.2 at \$1 to P50). Aside from that, a grower has to provide sandy loam soil for planting, bamboo poles and rolls of Thailand net to cover the crop.

Expected gross income per set is P168,000 (\$3,360). Less it with your capital of P32,710 and P10 per kilo will give you a net income of P114,290 (\$2,285.8) per set.

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Surprising Facts About Ferdinand Magellan and His Voyage to the Philippines

BY PENELOPE V. FLORES

Ferdinand Magellan's family in Porto was of Portuguese minor or secondary level nobility. His father, Rodrigo de Magalhaes, served as a much-respected chamberlain of the king.

As a page in the Portuguese King's court, young Magellan was introduced to Rui de Faleiro, an old famous navigator who sailed with Vasco de Gama. Faleiro brought with him a small globe of the world. Magellan studied that globe very extensively during his future trip.

If Magellan was a Portuguese sailor, why and how did Magellan become a Spanish subject? Fernão de Magalhães was a Portuguese "escudeiro" (knight). After many years of service, he went to court and asked the King to give him a raise (3/4th increase of his allowance or Moradia). The tightwad King Joao refused Magellan's frugal request. After getting a royal refusal, Magellan then asked his Sovereign's permission to offer his navigational services to another monarch. The King haughtily dismissed him saying, "You can damn go serve another ruler. I don't care!"

At the time King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were holding court in Valladolid. So, Magellan went to Valladolid, Spain where he made his offer to discover realms beyond the known frontiers. His bold plan was accepted. The terms of his agreement with the king were the following:

He would give to the King the first SIX islands that he will discover. The seventh and henceforth others will be allocated to Magellan and his heirs in perpetuity. In addition, Magellan will be appointed Governor General of the islands for life.

Magellan began counting the islands the moment he discovered lands. There were 13 islands of the Ladrões or modern Guam. Six were properly attributed to the Royal Court. The rest were Magellan's portion. Thus, the Philippine archipelago all devolved to Magellan's legal sovereignty.

Interestingly, the Guam islands should have been named Felipinas (after King Felipe), and our "tinubuang bayan" should have been legally "Magallanes or Magellanian Archipelago."

How did Magellan know of the Philippine archipelago? Earlier, in 1511, Magellan fought in the Portuguese siege of Malacca. In other words, Magellan was already familiar with the Spice Islands. In fact, from Singapore, he captained a ship that reconnoitered within the Sulu seas and actually secretly reached Mindanao! But the Duke

de Albuquerque, the Portuguese Admiral in Malacca, duplicitously suppressed this information on their newly discovered portulan charts (within Spanish territory).

In this exploratory trip to Malacca captained by the Portuguese de Abreu, Magellan acquired Enrique, his Malayan (Sumatran) slave who served as his interpreter

In addition, Magellan was, in fact, in close communication with Fernando Serrano, a Portuguese pilot friend who was living in Tidore. He supplied Magellan all his sailing charts and information about the Moluccas islands and the surrounding islands in the sea of Mindanao.

Yes, Magellan, for all intents and purposes, was not on a trip of discovery but on a mission of reconnoitering the famed riches of the Spice Islands, which included Mindanao where, he was told, grew the best cinnamon that could be harvested bountifully.



Maps of the Philippines and Islas de las Ladrões (Source: raremaps.com)

during the voyage to Cebu, Philippines.

Some historians declare that Enrique must have spoken Cebuano and hence was a Filipino. Others believe that at the time, the lingua franca in the whole of Southeast

East was an innovative plan. His Moluccas armada was prepared for a long journey. It was stocked with food, items for barter and numerous gifts. He was given five ships: Trinidad, San Antonio, Santiago, Concepcion, and the Victoria, all bearing Spanish flags.



Enrique of Malacca (Source: wikipedia)

Asia was Malay. People in the Visayas spoke Malay, a language richly cognate with the Visayan dialect.

On Magellan's exploratory trip in 1511, he knew exactly where the Philippine archipelago lies, (he insisted on going 11 degrees north). How did he know? He knew because Enrique, the slave he purchased in Sumatra, was familiar with the Mindanao area, had influenced the trip's trajectory and became Magellan's interpreter in Cebu.

The San Antonio deserted the armada when the fleet was harbored in San Paolo, Brazil. The crewmembers mutined and sailed back to Spain. The Santiago met with severe storms in the south passage, which now bears the name of Magellan's Strait.

Who were the native leaders Magellan met in Samar (Tendaya), Leyte, Cebu, Mactan and Butuan? Tupas, Si Katunaw, Si Awi, Si Miut, Si Dayao, Si Maghalibe. It was known that Magellan participated individually in the Filipino Kasi-Kasi ritual called "San Dugo" or the ritual of bloodletting and drinking their collected blood from a common cup as a sign of brotherhood--the Blood Compact. The natives were friendly and supplied Magellan with fresh food, drink and helped caulk their rotten ship planks.

While in Cebu, Magellan had a run in with a native chieftain from a nearby island called Mactan. The native chief bore the name of Si Pula Pula, after his village rich in red clay. In fact, the village where his mother resided was known as Pula-Pulayon. For doubters, there

is a barrio named Pula in Mactan's ancient map. But perhaps Pigafetta, our original historian erroneously recorded the name as Lapu-lapu. This was how the simple tongue-twisting pronunciation by an Italian first chronicler may have inadvertently altered the historical record.

The arrogance of a European foreigner to try to lord it over the native population was met with defiance, and on the dawn that Magellan's men began their attack on Mactan, it was said that a shrieking raven's cry pierced the shore. Was that a bad omen?

The fight that followed went bad for Magellan. He was killed by the natives led by their leader Pula-pula, who were defending their homeland. They preserved the dignity and freedom of the people of Mactan.

What happened in Bohol? Magellan's men prepared his Armada to return to Spain. They had three ships (Concepcion, Trinidad, Victoria) but not enough crewmen to man them. So, in Baclayon Bay in Bohol, they burned the ship Concepcion, which had become unseaworthy. The ship Trinidad was so loaded with cloves that upon sailing to Mexico it broke in half.

What was the importance of Magellan ship's return trip to Spain? On the Victoria's circumnavigation of the world westward, captained by the Basque sailor Sebastian de Cano, it was firmly established that the world was indeed round. Proof: It sailed starting from Spain, went west around South America, crossed the Pacific Ocean and sailed back to Spain via the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. It's load of cloves cornered the Sevilla market, and the profits paid off the cost of three voyages and made all the crew men very rich.

The trip also had given to the



Ferdinand Magellan (Source: © G. Dagli Orti—DeA Picture Library/age fotostock)

world the exact circumference of the Earth. This world was three times definitely larger than the known medieval Ptolemaic maps and accounts. In short, Magellan's ship Victoria sailed from the east (Mactan, Cebu) and sailing from the east, returned to the west (San Lucar, Spain).

Magellan was posthumously declared the first to circumnavigate the world. Actually, the first to circumnavigate the world was Enrique, Magellan's servant. Ma-



Lapulapu (Source: gmanetwork.com)

gellan acquired Enrique as a slave in Sumatra. First, he was taken to Portugal. Later, he joined Magellan's voyage back to Malacca and the Philippines. He took the trip captained by Sebastian de Cano on the Victoria, back to Spain. Ergo, the first one to really and physically circumnavigate the world was Enrique, a brown Malay man! But the perfidious historians of the era disregarded this fact and honored the first white man! What an eye opener!

The triumph of the Filipino spirit

SHELL RELEASED

MANILA, Philippines — Ten years ago, Rowel Ellevera would have found it hard to believe that he would one day earn the applause of hundreds of people from all over the world as a Shell Global Service Champion.



At 29 years old, Rowel Ellevera is Shell's top performing Service Champion for 2016. With him is his family as they celebrate their win in Cagayan De Oro City, his hometown.

Rowel's story is an amazing testament to the Filipino's unwavering faith and resilience and one of grit, tenacity to succeed, and capacity to identify and maximize opportunities.

"My family was very poor," he recalls. "I had to work at a very young age to help my family. My siblings and I used to draw water from the well and walk six kilometers carrying the heavy container so we can sell it."

The Elleveras live in Cagayan de Oro. Their mother, a widower, provided for the needs of all 10 children. Money and food was hard to come by and eventually, only Rowel persisted on taking the long walk to school. But even he succumbed to youth's temptations and got into brawls that earned him a juvenile delinquency record.

Rowel says God used his mother's unrelenting love for him and his siblings as an eye opener during this dark moment in his life. "I just realized I wanted to try harder and be better for my mother, brothers and sisters, so I decided to change. God gave me a second chance," he adds.

Rowel completed high school and two semesters of college before financial constraints forced him to stop and look for work to help feed his family.

It was not easy. Rowel experienced rejection from several companies and almost lost hope of ever finding a job. Then one day, his neighbor encouraged him

the Global Smiling Stars event held in New York where he also received a substantial amount of money that he and his family will certainly enjoy. During the event, another Filipino, Erwin Dueñas, won the other top award—the 2016 Global Multi-Site Retailer of the Year award.

They lead a distinguished roster of winners, including two more Filipinos at the regional Smiling Stars event: Tisha Sugui for Regional District Manager of the Year and Francis Louie Karunungan for Regional Territory Manager of the Year.

At the global event, Rowel bested over 500,000 frontline Service Champions who touch the lives of 30 million customers daily from 43,000 global Shell stations. All nominees were required to pass Shell's stringent judging process before qualifying for the regional and then the Shell Global Smiling Stars awards.

Rowel's rise from the ranks to being the top awardee in a prestigious global celebration shows how the Filipino spirit prevails in the face of challenges and adversity, backed by faith, resilience, optimism and genuine hospitality.

"The most important motivation for me is my family. I dedicate this award mostly to them and I promise to continue working hard and helping others grow as well," he smiles.

The annual Shell Smiling Stars highlights Royal Dutch Shell plc.'s commitment to continuously train and empower frontline employees, aptly recognize excellent performance in keeping customers happy and satisfied, and take care of its people through a global recognition program that inspires hundreds of thousands of empowered forecourt service champions.

to apply at Shell Baloy station in Cagayan de Oro, endorsing his application to April Twinkle Almirante-Corral, the site's retailer. "By God's grace, I was hired immediately," he shares.

The journey of a champion

Rowel started as a forecourt attendant at the Shell Baloy station then worked as cashier before becoming the site supervisor and on-site coach. "Rowel is very active and cooperative in all of the site's initiatives. He shares his thoughts on how to improve operations and onsite customer experience. He is truly a role model to his colleagues," notes Almirante-Corral.

Rowel also initiated innovations in service. He is one of the authors of the site's standard training module that develops staff competency and motivates them to focus on customers.

"I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to lead people despite my background and lack of education. I'm at my best when I see my teammates become members of a competent and consistent workforce in the organization," he says.

Triumph of the Filipino

At 29 years old, Rowel is Shell's top performing Service Champion for 2016. He was honored during

To Love A Nurse

UNKNOWN

I suspect it is hard to love a nurse. We get up early and don't have time to drink coffee over the newspaper. We come home late and are too tired to cook.

We work extra because we know there are sick people

who need us. We miss we e k e n d events, holidays, birthdays. We don't get too excited over your minor "boo-boo".

We have seen far worse. We don't want to talk when we come home. We have talked all day. We don't want to move when we come home. We have moved all day.

It may seem that we have left all our caring, our heart, and our love at work, then have come home to you empty. We probably have. But we don't tell you that many times at work that we are mired by anxiety, we are scared. Scared we are missing something. Scared we will let our patient down or worse. Scared that we'll have to deal with angry or violent patients and families.

We don't tell you how the

staffing crisis makes us cry on the way to work, to do a job we love, but now we are terrified to do because it is breaking us down while putting the most vulnerable at risk.

I suspect it is hard to love a nurse, but know this: Your nurse needs your love. Needs



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SAN PEDRO

your understanding. Needs to know that you "get it". Needs to be the one taken care of every once and a while.

Needs someone else to take charge of the details because doing it herself constantly is exhausting. Needs her feet rubbed. (Hint hint) Needs a shoulder to cry on when she can't even tell you why she's grieving. Needs you to do the hardest work you may ever do, which is to love a nurse.

I would like to thank those of you out there who love us and let us do this work, this calling, this life: Nursing.

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The Timeless Nora Aunor

By Mauro Feria Tumbocon, Jr.

Hers is a compelling narrative to which the greater mass of her public has subscribed through all these years. Any deviation from its substance, if proposed, is tantamount to heresy.

As a young girl, Nora Aunor was so indigent that she sold water in plastic containers to weary travelers in a train station and collected metal scraps to augment provisions for her family. She eventually went to the big city to seek her luck by singing in contests. A few years later, Nora Aunor was a star, a “superstar” as a matter of fact, the biggest the Philippines had produced.

A Cinderella-like figure, as a number of cultural observers have invoked, Aunor, unlike the fairy tale’s heroine, did not marry a prince to bring her fame and fortune.

She was a gawky teenager when she stepped into the national consciousness by winning the Grand National Champion trophy of the popular talent show, *Tawag Ng Tanghalan* (Call of the Stage) in 1967.

Nora Aunor, Grand National Champion of Tawag ng Tanghalan

Dubbed as “The Golden Voice,” Nora Aunor became one of the local music recording industry’s biggest stars at the time. Her version of the Hawaiian ditty “Pearly Shells” remains one of the most commercially successful recordings in the industry. Not long afterwards, the movies beckoned and Aunor became the film industry’s biggest star, sparking unprecedented mass adulation that perhaps cannot be duplicated in our time.

Her emergence as star in the late ‘60s signified the rise of the brown ideal: she was the first major female film star whose features are distinctly Malayan. It was also the time of extreme social unrest and revived nationalism, as well as the height of the Marcos era and the martial law years. The confluence provoked sociological questions, and Nora Aunor became truly a national phenomenon.

In 1972, the year martial law was declared, she was at her prime: the movies’ biggest box-office draw; recording’s best-selling artist; television’s only musical-variety star. Her TV show, “Superstar,” was the only program allowed to broadcast when Ferdinand Marcos imposed a clampdown on all media.

Aunor’s rival, Vilma Santos, made several attempts to wrest

the crown from her with hugely successful adaptations of popular komiks heroes, like “Lipad, Darna, Lipad” (Fly, Darna, Fly) and “Dyesebel.” Aunor took a different course, producing films considered serious and non-commercial acting vehicles: Danny Holmsen’s “Carmela,” where she played a haunted woman, and George Rowe’s “Paruparong Itim” (Black Butterfly), where she played an oppressed blind girl.



Nora Aunor, with celebrity hosts Ike Lozada and German Moreno, and screen partner Tirso Cruz III (Photo by Mercy Masangkay)

Two other films – the omnibus “Fe, Esperanza, Caridad” (Faith, Hope, Charity) (1974) directed by the masters Lamberto Avellana and Gerardo de Leon and then, de Leon’s “Banaue” (1975) – foreshadowed the emergence of a major acting talent in 1976 with films of definite significance. Other monumental movies included Lupita Aquino-Mocio’s (now Kashiwahara) “Magandang Gabi Sa Inyong Lahat” (Good Evening, Everyone) and “Minsa’y Isang Gamugamo” (Once, A Moth). Mario O’Hara’s monumental film on World War II, “Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos” (Three Godless Years), won Aunor the Gawad Urian’s (Society of Film Critics) first Best Actress trophy for her role as a village girl who fell in love with a collaborator.

As Aunor immersed herself in films with substance in later years, her box office standing slid, suffering from the melodramas and change of image, and threatened by the rise of new stars like Maricel Soriano and Sharon Cuneta. Family troubles, entanglements with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and unfortunate love affairs wore her down.

Nonetheless, the martial law years

saw the growth of Aunor’s talent, with a body of work that showed an actress of consummate skills and singular taste. She was the wronged daughter in Lino Brocka’s “Ina Ka Ng Anak Mo” (You Are The Mother Of Your Daughter) (1979); the lesbian lawyer in

Danny Zialcita’s “T-Bird At Ako” (T-Bird [slang for lesbian] and Me) (1981); the expatriate nurse in Gil Portes’ “Merika” (1983); and the prison inmate in O’Hara’s “Bulaklak Sa City Jail” (Flower of the City Jail) (1984). These performances remain unparalleled in their intensity. Most of her roles, including as the movie star groupie in Brocka’s “Bona” (1980) and the visionary faith healer in Ishmael Bernal’s “Himala” (Miracle) (1982), now considered classics, are marked by an economy of movement – her legendary eyes speak of life’s complexities in a multitude

of ways – and a strong, timeless presence.

Nora Aunor in Ishmael Bernal’s “Himala”

Sadly however, these incursions into serious cinema led Nora



Nora Aunor in “Himala”

Aunor astray, far from her mass audience, which was still steeped in the lush sentimentalism of komiks, melodramas and mindless pursuit of star trivia. Refusing to heed the temper of the times, for example, she stood steadfastly by her political patrons, the Marcoses. Her near-lynching at the gates of Camp Aguinaldo at the out-



Nora Aunor

break of the EDSA revolt in 1986 signaled not only the beginning of the end for the Marcos reign, but also the passing of the Nora Aunor era in the mov-

ies. In the ensuing years, Aunor saw herself embroiled in the political tumult of the post-EDSA period; the regimes of Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo returned her to the spotlight. She had a few sparks of cinematic achievement to show for, notably the commercial and the critical success of the biographical film, Joel Lamangan’s “The Flor Contemplacion Story” (1995) where she played the tragic domestic worker executed in Singapore. This earned her the Best Actress award at the Cairo International Film Festival, the first such honor given to a Filipino actor in a major foreign film festival.

Her eventual falling out of the grace with Macapagal-Arroyo led her to immigrate to the United States in 2004. She decided at the time to live the simple life of an immigrant dependent on her income as singer-performer. Sadly a botched throat operation sometime in 2010 affected her singing career, making her take stock of her life and work. Through the urging of a few close friends, Aunor made a startling return to the Philippines, reclaiming her premier position as the country’s best actor, bar none.

In *Brillante Mendoza’s* “Thy Womb” (2012), Aunor plays a barren Bajau housewife who has to give up her husband for a younger woman so he will be able to have a child. The film earned plaudits at the Venice International Film Festival where she earned Best Actress honors, the Bisato d’Oro award from an independent Italian critics group.

With the critical success of the film, Aunor found a new, younger audience, now part of the resurgent independent film movement in the country, thereby allowing her to appear in quick succession

in critically acclaimed films. All are independent works, where she gets to speak in other Philippine languages: Ilokano in Mes de Guzman’s “Ang Kwento Ni Mabuti” (The Story Of Mabuti) (2013); Kinaray-a in Derrick Cabrido’s “Tuos” (2016) and in her native Bicol language in Kristian Sendon Cordero’s “Hinulid” (2016).

Nora Aunor has indeed emerged triumphant, despite the odds and life’s adversities. Now her career is distinguished by critical and popular acclaim: she’s the only Filipino actor whose films have been honored across five continents; she’s well-respected by the country’s culturati and intelligentsia (the only Filipino actress singled out as one of the 100 most influential Filipinos in the last century, recently awarded the Gawad Plaridel by the University of the Philippines; and the Nata-



Nora Aunor Stars on TV5’s ‘Untold Stories’ and ‘Third Eye’

tanging Gawad Urian/Lifetime Achievement Award by the Filipino Film Critics Society); she was considered one of the world’s best actors by CNN in the early ‘90s and most recently, the Southeast Asian Film Festival’s Lifetime Achievement award.

With a career that spans five decades in multiple media forms -- radio, music recording, film, television, theater and stage concertizing -- and a career trajectory that saw the evolution from an extremely popular matinee idol to a critically lauded actor whose works, both as performer and producer, have been widely celebrated, Nora Aunor has been central to the vitality and dynamism of popular culture in the Philippines. She also remains a staunch advocate of causes dear to her heart, championing Filipino independent cinema, and of late, fighting for the rights and welfare of Filipino migrant workers,

Her continuing story compels a more critical assessment of her art, life and work. Nora Aunor has ceased to become her fans’ mere escape mechanism from the turbulent world; she has evolved into a symbol of her people -- hopefully, a liberating one.

Sam Milby to younger celebs: Invest your money

By Maridol Ranoa-Bismark

Twelve years is a long time to be in an industry that banks on fresh talents and new faces to survive. So Sam Milby, who started out as a “Pinoy Big Brother” housemate, cannot believe he is not just around. He even has a comeback album, “Sam: 12” under Star Music.

The Fil-Am thinks it is amazing to see how times have changed. Back in the day when he was starting out in the biz, he politely called his elders Kuya, Tito or Tita. Now, it is his turn to answer to the name Kuya Sam when newbies address him in the ABS-CBN variety show “ASAP.”

Back in the day, social media was not even a glint in anyone’s world.

Today, younger celebs get millions of Twitter or Instagram followers and feel that they are rulers of the universe. That is why he has words of advice for them.

“Enjoy the journey. But don’t base your self-worth on social media. Don’t measure your value as a person on (social media) comments,” Sam says.

The bottom line, he adds, is self-love. Look within – not somewhere else – for self-validation. Be your own source of strength.

Sam’s other advice centers on making hay while the sun shines. He admits it is easy to go sky’s the limit when you experience a money surge. But do not get carried away, he warns. Be practical. Invest.

Sam walks the talk. He invested in a recording studio in his own condo unit. He admits recording gear is expensive. But the passionate singer looks at it as an investment, not an expense.

“I enjoy recording for my friends when they have a mall show. They can do it in my place. They can even video edit,” he says with pride.

Sam even bought his own drone because “I want take nice drone shots.”

He also co-produces “Sam:12,” his comeback album after six years.

“I don’t want to get music out of my system,” he explains. So the album marks Sam’s



Singer-actor Sam Milby sees a future with present girlfriend, TV host Mari Jasmine.

return to his first love.

Someone who cares this much for his craft is bound to stay in showbiz, even in the uh, “advanced” age of 33. He knows how to look back and thank those who made his success possible.

“Give back to the fans; thank them,” he gives more words of wisdom.

This is why Sam thinks even his US-based fans whom he does not see so often feel he has not changed through the years. They even support his relationship with TV host Mari Jasmine. Fans feel happy for him when he posts a photo of their sweet moments on his Instagram account.

“She’s my inspiration. I dedicate my songs to her,” the enamored Sam relates.

Yes, he sees her in his future. That is why he can sing about love with more feelings. Does this mean he will tie the knot anytime soon?

Sam answers by way of a wish. “I hope I’ve found the one. I’m in my 30s. I’m at an age when I can get married.”

Sam is bound to make many people happy when that big day comes

Angelina Jolie admits to ‘hardest time’ after Pitt split

Agence France-Presse

NEW YORK, United States — Angelina Jolie has opened up about her split from Brad Pitt, confessing to having “the hardest time” and claiming to have spent months as a homemaker, doing dishes and cleaning up dog poop.

Jolie, 42, filed for divorce last September, citing irreconcilable differences. She accused her Oscar-winning ex of hitting their teenage son on a flight from France to Los Angeles, sparking tabloid gossip and an FBI probe.

The 53-year-old was cleared by the FBI and social workers and wants joint legal and physical custody of Maddox, 15, Pax, 13, Zahara, 12, Shiloh, 11, and twins Vivienne and Knox, nine, while Jolie is demanding sole guardianship.

Jolie told Vanity Fair that “things got bad” in the summer of 2016.

“It’s just been the hardest time, and we’re just kind of coming up for air,” she told the magazine, shortly after moving into a \$25 million, six-bedroom, 10-bathroom home with her children in Los Angeles neighborhood Los Feliz.

She sought to portray herself as focused on homemaking in the aftermath of the split despite a legendarily itinerant life which has seen her buy homes and travel with her children all over the world.

“I’m just wanting to make the proper breakfast and keep the house. That’s my passion. At the request of my kids, I’m taking cooking classes,” she said.

“I’ve been trying for nine months to be really good at just being a homemaker and picking up dog poop and cleaning dishes and reading bedtime stories. And I’m getting bet-



US actress Angelina Jolie (left) has opened up about her split from Brad Pitt (right) and confessed having the ‘hardest time’. AFP

ter at all three,” she told the magazine.

Having joked to her youngest son Knox about pretending to be normal, Jolie recounted with pride that he replied: “Who wants to be normal? We’re not normal. Let’s never be normal.”

She also said she had been determined to shield the children.

“I do not want my children to be worried about me. I think it’s very important to cry in the shower and not in front of them.”

Pitt admitted in his first post-split interview in May that heavy drinking contributed to the breakdown of his marriage, and said he was now a teetotaler. He and Jolie had been a couple since 2004, and got married in 2014.

Jolie, who underwent a double mastectomy and removal of her ovaries in 2013 to prevent an aggressive form of cancer that killed her mother, grandmother and aunt, also told Vanity Fair that she had developed Bell’s palsy.

Acupuncture, she said, led to a full recovery.

The actress won an Oscar in 2000 for portraying a young woman with psychiatric problems in “Girl, Interrupted”. Her most recent project was to direct “First They Killed My Father” about the Cambodian genocide, a Netflix original. CBB

Jona Soquite wins ‘The Voice Teens PH’

Jona, who is on Team Sarah, wins the first season of ‘The Voice Teens Philippines’

Rappler.com

MANILA, Philippines – Jona Soquite is the first winner of The Voice Teens Philippines.

Jona, who is on team Sarah, beat out Team Bamboo’s Isabela Vinzon, Team Lea’s Mica Becerro, and Team Sharon’s Jeremy Glinoga, with 44.78 percent of the votes. Here is the full list of the final 4 contestants’ scores:

Jona – 44.78%
Isabela – 22.42%
Mica – 17.79%
Jeremy – 15.01%



WINNER. Jona Soquite of Team Sarah is the first winner of ‘The Voice Teens Philippines.’

The final scores were tabulated from two days of voting. The first voting period was held after the first two rounds of the Grand Finals on Saturday, July 29. The second was held after the 3rd round on Sunday, July 30.

As the winner, Jona received a fashion package, a business package, a dental service package, P1 million cash, a

P1 million trust fund, a P2 million life insurance plan, and a brand new house and lot.

SIMPLY MAGIC
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THE FOUR IMMIGRANTS



The world premiere of an American Musical Manga "The Four Immigrants", held at Lucie Stern Theater, Palo Alto on July 29, 2017. Based on Manga Yonin Shosei by Henry Yoshitaka Kiyama featured Rinabeth Apostol, Kerry Camahan, Sean Fenton, Catherine Gloria, Lindsay Hirata, James Seol, Hansel Tan, and Phil wong .

With Bay Area playwright and composer Min Kahng, Sorcy and Bo Apostol, Dinnah San Pedro, Leila Perrera, Nancy and Elena Mag-suci.

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DEBBIE ARZADON
VIRAL DIVA

SPECIALS GUESTS

AUGUST 19, 2017, SATURDAY, 7:00 PM
Courtyard by Marriott Sacramento Cal Expo
1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA. 95815

TICKET : VIP - \$58

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