



NBI files murder raps vs cops in Kian killing - Page 4

PF NEWS

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A community within a community Page 10

'Return of Marcos wealth should be all or nothing'

BY DELON PORCALLA



Alvarez described this as a "welcome development" that would best serve the government's interest. But he stressed: "The Marcoses should give it all, nothing less." File

MANILA, Philippines - It should be all or nothing.

This was the stand of Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and other lawmakers yesterday with regard to the purported plan of the Marcoses to return their alleged ill-gotten wealth to help the government solve its financial deficit.

President Duterte on Tuesday said the Marcos family had agreed to return their vast unexplained wealth, including a "few gold bars," to the government.

Alvarez described this as a "welcome development" that would best serve the government's interest. But he stressed: "The Marcoses should give it all, nothing less."

But Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, the dictator's eldest daughter, said their family still had to discuss

the matter.

Her mother, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos, is fighting the government's efforts to recover at least 156 expensive paintings, including priceless works of Old Masters Michelangelo, Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. Also in the collection are paintings of Pablo Picasso and Paul Gauguin.

Alvarez said the previous leaderships of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) had miserably failed in 31 years to find out how much was really amassed by the Marcoses and their cronies.

The PCGG was created with the sole mandate of recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies follow-

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In defense of Philippine sovereignty

BY PERRY DIAZ



A Philippine Marine on Pag-Asa Island

Recently, Sandy Cay, a sandbar near Pag-Asa Island, a Philippine territory in the Kalayaan Group of Islands in the Spratlys, became the center of contention between President Rodrigo Duterte and Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

In a statement released to the press, Carpio said Chinese Navy ships and other vessels have encroached in the Sandy Cay's 12-nautical mile territorial waters. "In short, Sandy Cay is a Philippine land territory that is being seized, to put it mildly, or being invaded, to put it frankly, by China," he said.

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FILIPINIANA 2017



Photo by Dale Esperante

The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) presented their Scholarship Awards Dinner and Dance dubbed as Filipiniana 2017 on August 12th in the banquet hall of St. Paul's.

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Ways to Protect Personal Information in Online Communication

BY DINNAH S. SAN PEDRO

The days are gone when personal information are mostly stored in hard copy pocket books, phone books, diaries, calendars, or any medium to jot down personal information in any given time. Communication was a lot harder and time consuming in the old days. Mails were regularly sent through the postal service and communication exchanges were done through telegrams, couriers, or telephone landlines. Although they are still available, people nowadays prefer the use of electronic and communication technology in sending emails, text messages, social media messaging, and online shopping through the use of mobile phones, personal desktop and laptop computers, or tablets. But the convenience in the use of communication and computer technology does not come without threats to our privacy and confidentiality. The following are some suggestions to keep in mind when communicating with the use of electronics and computer technology.

Make user names and passwords unique, change them often, and remember them.

Usually, there are requirements in creating them. Maximize the number of characters and letters, to include upper cases, lower cases, and other special digits to make them unique, as much as possible. Never share user names and passwords with anyone, and make a habit of changing them often. Most of all, try to remember them. Writing user names and passwords on a piece of paper is not advisable unless you keep them in locked cabinets or drawers.

Keep electronic and computer devices secured and password protected.

If you happen to misplace them or if they get stolen, it makes it difficult for anyone to get access through your personal information, which can include photographs, account numbers, and other important documents. Depending

on your electronic and computer devices settings, data can be backed up on cloud or remote server and can be retrieved and transferred in case of device data loss and replacement.

Protection of personal information starts at home. Buy a paper shredder.

Be mindful of what you share online, especially on social media. I've seen images of the actual docu-



ments posted, which can include our children's letter of acceptance to colleges and universities or medical bracelet when they get seen in the clinic or hospital. They contain protected information such as social security numbers and medical record numbers, which must not be shared online. Better yet, dispose off them properly. After you get seen in the hospital, do not just dispose off those medical bracelets in the trashcans. Take them home and shred them.

Do not open emails especially with attachments from unknown, unexpected, and unfamiliar email addresses, even if they appear they are from well-known companies.

This is one of many ways that cyber criminals will try to lure you into giving up sensitive business or personal information. Never try to click on malicious attachment and reply or enter user names and passwords. They can contain viruses, which can compromise your sensitive data or spy on you without your knowledge. Suspect that emails are malicious if you receive them from Apple, Yahoo, Verizon and other companies stating that you need to update your user name and passwords

and payment information. The best way is to immediately delete the emails or go directly on the company's website to update information.

Don't be easily convinced by online advertising scam.

Usually, if it is too good to be true, it is a scam. They word it to catch our attention.

The ad would say, "Only \$19.99 for a pair of UGG

boots". Read the small prints and never fill out the credit card information until after you read through the detail. Even before submitting the purchase, your credit card number can be recorded and automatically charged the full amount.

Check online bank accounts activity often.

For the above reason, regularly check your bank account activities and transactions. I have been a victim for several times now, when my checking account balance has been wiped out due to fraudulent access to my account. It is very aggravating and very inconvenient to go through credit card and police reporting and in getting my money back.

Beware in sharing any personal information online. What you've read is probably not the first time you've heard of them in protecting our privacy and confidentiality. Thieves are criminals and they can violate anyone's privacy, when they so desire. But by being always aware in securing our personal information, we do not become their easy targets!

Drug war deaths can fill up the Big Dome

BY ANDREW LIM

Picture the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City. The Dome – site of so many conventions, concerts, games. We've all seen it or been there. It has a seating capacity of 16,035 of which 13,581 are permanent. It can be reconfigured to fit various events- basketball, boxing, ice shows, even cockfighting.



"The Big Dome", Smart Araneta Coliseum, photo by Bruce Casanova

But today, I want to rent it conceptually, so that we can have a mental picture of the current state of the nation with respect to the war on drugs and the territorial dispute with China.

The current drug war death toll stands at around 13,000 deaths since the start of the Duterte administration – all Filipinos by the way – and this figure will include murders, homicides, and deaths from actual combat situations. (We will not use "extra-judicial" because the former President is correct – there is no judicial killing.)

Put all those bodies upright and sit them inside Araneta Coliseum. Fill up the General Admission and the Upper Boxes. There will only be a little over 3,000 seats left, and we will discuss later who gets to use them. Now stand in the middle of the basketball court at the center and swivel your head around. That is how many Filipinos have died courtesy of the drug war. Picture all those souls staring at you.

Amongst the dead would be 17 year old Kian delos Santos, whose last few minutes before his gruesome fate were captured on video. There are also children, considered collateral damage because they happened to be there. How would their faces look, I wonder. What was the last toy they held or the last game they played?

What would be their expressions and feelings right now, specially if they had nothing to do with drugs? And even if they did, and wanted to turn a new leaf, and followed instructions to surrender and sign up for rehab but it still got them two shots to the head, I really want to know what would they say.

What if you were unfortunate enough to have enemies in the police force for other reasons – say he

was an unpaying tenant in your property, or an unethical business partner, or if you were chasing the same girl? With a sense of unlimited power inspired by the President, was this abused as well?

I want to see their eyes and feel how they felt in their last few days, hours. I want to see their hands – what would their gestures be? Will it be cries for mercy, surrender or in Kian's case, a plea because he still had exams the following day? I want to know if the teens among the dead bodies would smile at an Ariana Grande concert which the children of top government officials were able to enjoy.

Next, let's stack all the shabu that has entered the country in the same time frame into that picture. In sacks, on center court as well. Most of this came from China, authorities confirm. Dropped from ships anchored at sea, with GPS trackers attached and recovered from the infinite coastlines of this country. Made in mainland China. Some were made here by Chinese nationals, but most of them have been rolled up.

It would be quite a haul, all that crystal.

Finally, let's have a tally of how much land, air and water of our territory has been occupied/controlled by China, and for which we don't have access or have difficulty in accessing today. Put that on a huge map on center court as well.

Get the whole picture? All the dead bodies in the seats, all the shabu from China in sacks and that map of territory lost to China at center court. Got it? Now we correlate.

If a reader cares to compile the data on all three variables – on a monthly basis, since the start of the Duterte administration in June 2016, and plot it on a scatter graph (with the volume of Chinese shabu on the vertical axis), I bet you

we will have a rightward, upward scatter through which a line going northeast can be drawn and where the correlation would be strong and positive.

What does it mean?

It means that the current tack of stomping lives of Filipinos involved in the drug trade as if they were cockroaches and the continued loss of Philippine territory to China will not abate if there is no stoppage or containment of the entry of Chinese made shabu.

How is the loss of Philippine territory related to the volume of Chinese shabu that get here? Refer back to our previous article on how it is very plausible that the Duterte government has been checkmated into this no-win situation by China using a combination of diplomatic pressure, intimidation through display of military assets, dangling of foreign aid and loans, and the covert support of illegal drug manufacturers.

The use of illegal drug trafficking as an instrument of foreign policy by superpowers in recent history is well documented.

I almost forgot, we still have around 3,000 seats to fill up. We reserved the Lower Box and Patron (VIP) sections for them! How about putting the core of our government officials there – from the President, Vice President, to the Senate to the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, the leadership of the Philippine National Police plus the Cabinet? Oh, there's still room for the fabulists and fictionists of the Presidential Communications Operations Office.

It would be a tough situation putting live people alongside dead bodies but if it drives home the point, it would be worth it.

Because what they have to answer to the dead is this: can you still call yourselves a decent, moral people after all this?

'Return of Marcos wealth should be all or nothing'

From page 1

ing the ouster of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"That's the problem with the PCGG. Despite the number of cases, nothing is happening," he said.

Alvarez led congressmen in filing House Bill 5233 seeking to transfer the task of recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies to the office of Solicitor General Jose Calida.

Kabayan party-list Rep. Harry Roque, however, pushed for the creation of a truth commission, if only for purposes of letting the whole world know on record about the excesses of the late dictator.

House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez, for his part, expressed doubts on the veracity of reports the Marcoses had in their possession about 7,000 tons of gold.

"I don't think we can produce that kind of tonnage from the manner by which we are mining gold," he remarked.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said the Marcoses should first confirm Duterte's statement.

At the same time, Lagman asked Duterte not to give immunity from criminal prosecution to the Marcos family in case they surrender part or all of such wealth.

"There is need for a categorical statement from the Marcos heirs confirming President Duterte's report that they are willing to surrender a part of the Marcos' ill-gotten hoard," he said.

Lagman said the confirmatory statement must include identification of hidden wealth that would be returned, persons or parties in possession of such wealth, its location, timeline for return and conditionality, if any. Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin also said Duterte should not offer immunity in exchange for the return of hidden assets of the Marcos family.

Villarin said something concrete must result from the President's statement about the Marcoses' offer.

"Otherwise, this is just pure



Imelda Marcos with daughter Imee and son Bongbong.

propaganda to lure the public to a false sense of reality where public outrage over killings has risen to a crescendo. Filipinos should know better when we are taken for a ride or not. This could be much ado over nothing," he added.

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said he found it "a bit odd that the President is speaking for the Marcos family on this issue when the latter has the media stature to make the commitment itself."

"Would this also mean that they are willing to admit that they had indeed amassed ill-gotten wealth and are willing to subject themselves to the justice mill for crimes against the people?" he asked.

No loose change

Senators, for their part, are also wary of the reported offer of the Marcoses to return their alleged unexplained wealth.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III noted there are still no details on the offer disclosed by Duterte on Tuesday even as he said "donations to the government are welcome."

"I'm sure they're (Marcoses) facing criminal cases. I'm sure they're returning maybe with the hope of compromising some of this or if not, all," Pimentel said.

If the proposed turnover of the Marcos wealth was in the form of unconditional donation, like to help reduce the budget deficit, the government can accept it, he said.

"But if the dismissal of cases – first of all, compromise is not allowed in criminal cases – we must

be careful, step on the brakes, if there're strings attached, there are conditions," he said.

Pimentel said lawyers for the Marcoses should study the matter carefully before formalizing their offer.

If the offer was a form of settlement for the alleged accumulation of ill-gotten wealth during Marcos' 20-year reign, "the Republic of the Philippines is not cheap," he said.

"Total stolen wealth must be returned. It's not like we'll be given loose change and everything's OK," he said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said the Marcoses should be more definite and detailed on their offer.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said it was right that the Marcoses return their ill-gotten wealth but the amount should be in current values and take into account the estimates of the PCGG and the victims of atrocities of the Marcos regime.

He said by this time, the estimated ill-gotten wealth should be in the billions of dollars.

"If they really kept the money for the sake of the country, then they should have returned it a long time ago," Aquino said.

Sen. Francis Escudero described the offer as "a step forward" but predicted that the return of ill-gotten wealth might not satisfy certain sectors, including victims of Marcos' atrocities, who seek "admission, accountability and complete reparation."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said there was no reason to believe in the sincerity of the Marcos family.

"Return the ill-gotten wealth, seek forgiveness for the sins of the dictatorship and that's the only time we'll believe in their sincerity," he said.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros said recovering the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth is just one aspect of the campaign to hold them accountable for the atrocities that were committed during martial law regime. Hontiveros said the government must not exchange the people's pursuit of justice for all the victims of martial law for "a few gold bars, like 30 pieces of silver."

Spirit of transparency

Malacañang yesterday defended the President from critics who accused him of being a spokesman for the Marcos family in revealing efforts to return the alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte revealed details about the Marcos family's wealth "in the spirit of transparency."

Abella said the President has the "best interests" of the Filipinos in mind when he was talking about the Marcoses' wealth.

Abella in particular disputed the statements made by the group Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacañang (CARMMA) that has branded Duterte as a spokesman for the Marcoses.

The group claimed that Duterte was explaining why the Marcoses "plundered the Philippine economy and hid the loot."

It also accused him of sponsoring the "official rehabilitation of the dictator" and facilitating the "exemption of the Marcos heirs from accountability and punishment."

Abella said the group had entirely missed the point. "(The President) disclosed about

the issue of the Marcos wealth in his speech in the spirit of transparency. The Chief Executive has the best interests of the Filipinos in mind, which is, how our people would benefit from the recovery of the Marcos wealth," he said.

On Tuesday, Duterte said a spokesman for the Marcoses had told him that the family is willing to return questionable wealth accumulated during the late strongman's 20-year presidency.

As for the gold bars, Duterte said it was not that big, and the unnamed spokesman explained that the accumulation of wealth was due to the dictator's belief that he would be able to regain the presidency after he fled in 1986.

"He (Marcos) thought of regaining Malacañang and that is why it came out this way. It seems that he hid it," Duterte said.

"I will accept the explanation, whether or not it is true... And they are ready to return (the wealth)."

Duterte said he would form a team that would negotiate with the Marcoses to facilitate the turnover of the wealth to the government.

Duterte admitted that he would have wanted to abolish the PCGG but decided not to do so as it would create speculations.

Legal repercussions

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the government may consider a possible compromise agreement with the Marcos family should their reported plan to return ill-gotten wealth proceed.

"The President is authorized and has the power to make compromise or any agreement with the Marcoses. If there will be a new agreement, there should be enabling law or initiative law to be issued by the President himself," he said.

But Aguirre, whose department supervises the PCGG, said this option of compromise agreement would need further study.

"This should be carefully studied – do we need a new EO or could

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Fabiola Vera, Legal Assistant
Estefania Aceves, Legal Assistant
Michael P. Karr, Attorney

Lizbeth A. Galdamez, Attorney
Yesenia Silva, Legal Assistant
Anna Agoncillio, Legal Assistant

Law Office of Michael P. Karr & Associates

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NBI files murder raps vs cops in Kian killing

BY GIO ONG

Manila, Philippines - The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday filed criminal charges against the four policemen linked to the killing of 17-year-old Kian delos Santos during an anti-drug operation in Caloocan City last Aug. 16.

Charged with murder, violation of domicile and planting of evidence before the Department of Justice (DOJ) are Caloocan City police station 7 head Chief Insp. Amor Cerillo and his men PO3 Arnel Oares, PO1s Jerwin Cruz and Jeremias Pereda.

Separate charges of murder and torture were filed against the policemen by the Public Attorney's Office, also before the DOJ.

On the charges of murder, the NBI took into consideration the forensic findings that Delos Santos was shot while kneeling.

"...(t)he result of the bullet trajectory revealed that the victim was shot while on a kneeling position/fetal position while the perpetrator or shooter was standing or positioned at the left side of the victim," the NBI said.

"Based on the photographs on the position of Kian taken at the crime scene, the bullet marks on the concrete wall beside the body of Kian, the trajectory of the bullets in the head of Kian and the blood stains just below the bullet dent, proves an undisputable conclusion that Kian was shot while somewhat in kneeling/fetal position."

The charges of violation of domicile were filed against the policemen for unauthorized entry of a dwelling place without any judicial order, the NBI said.

The four policemen would also face charges for planting of evidence, in violation of Section 29 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The NBI disputed claims of the policemen of self-defense.

"If Kian indeed engaged them in a shootout, he would have sustained gunshot wounds on the frontal parts of his body," the NBI pointed out.

"It is highly improbable for Kian



The body of 17 year- old Kian delos Santos, killed without mercy.



The four policemen charged for murder of Kian.

to conceal a .45-caliber pistol including two sachets of alleged shabu on his waist as he was only wearing boxer shorts at the time."

The NBI also took note of the absence of gunpowder residue on the victim's hands, which means Delos Santos did not fire a shot at the lawmen.

The NBI also said the bullets found at the crime scene that killed Kian came from Oares' 9mm service firearm.

The NBI included the autopsy findings by the crime laboratory of the Philippine National Police, revealing the two bullet wounds found on the victim's head "have an upward trajectory indicating (Delos Santos) was in a kneeling position with his head lower than his body."

It also included the findings by PAO forensic experts that Delos

Santos sustained three gunshot wounds, two on the head – similar to the findings by the PNP crime laboratory – and one on his lower back.

Initial investigation revealed by the NBI said the three junior policemen dragged Delos Santos out from his

house at Libis Baesa in Caloocan City and brought him to a nearby area near the Tullahan River where he was shot dead.

Witnesses also saw Delos Santos being dragged by the policemen before he was found dead, slumped in a canal.

Police officials justified the killing of Delos Santos, claiming the victim was into the illegal drug trade, which they learned about only after he was killed.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos said the filing of cases would provide an opportunity for the police officers to defend themselves in court.

"The PNP welcomes the filing of criminal charges so that the police personnel involved can have their day in court and present their defense," he said.

'Return of Marcos wealth should be all or nothing'

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we do it in with just the present power of the President. We will study it first," he said.

Aguirre believes the possible return of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses would have legal repercussions in the cases against them.

"That (return of Marcos wealth) could be done under the framework of the law. There could be repercussions of cases being handled by the PCGG," he explained further.

Aguirre said the reported plan to return the ill-gotten wealth by the Marcoses is still in the preliminary stage, as details have not been ironed out.

Aguirre also pointed out Duterte's plan to form a new body to replace PCGG should be taken into consideration.

"Although we support the President in the formation of that body, he can consider the option of giving new powers to the PCGG by appointing additional two commissioners to strengthen its jurisdiction," he suggested.

Aguirre said the decision to abolish the PCGG and create a new body would be for Duterte to make.

He added that should the President decide to abolish PCGG, it would take another two years to completely wind up its operations as the commission is still holding more than P200 billion in sequestered money and several assets.

PCGG chairman Reynold Munsayac said the agency would welcome any action that would result in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth and its return to national coffers.

"To be sure, one of PCGG's main mandate is to recover these illegally obtained assets and ensure that they would be used to benefit the Filipino people," he said.

Munsayac, however, did not address issues regarding accountability of the wealth that the Marcoses reportedly offered to return.

Initial estimates said up to \$10 billion were plundered by the Marcoses and their cronies during the 20-year rule.

The PCGG has so far recovered about \$3.6 billion.

Admission of plunder

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chairman Chito Gascon said the offer of the Marcoses to "open everything" should not stop the government from seeking accountability for violations committed during the martial law regime.

"Our question from a human rights perspective, how was the wealth taken? If you will return something, that means you have taken it in the first place," Gascon said.

"Of course this is an issue of accountability, of the martial law legacy and we will monitor that," he added.

Gascon, however, said the issue of ill-gotten wealth and human rights violations committed under the Marcos regime has long been settled.

"There are laws and jurisprudence saying that there is corruption," he said, pointing out various cases involving ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

He also cited the law that created the Human Rights Victims Claims Board, which recognizes individuals who suffered human rights violations during the dictatorship.

Claimants 1081, a group of human rights victims during the Marcos regime, said the supposed plan of the Marcos family to return some of their alleged ill-gotten wealth is "unacceptable."

"First, this is a clear admission that the Marcoses still have ill-gotten wealth stolen from the Filipino people during Marcos' regime," Claimants 1081 executive director Zenaida Mique said in a statement.

Mique said the Marcoses "have no moral or legal rights to choose to return 'some' of these ill-gotten wealth."

"We're talking here of Filipino people's money. The government should vigorously pursue the so many forfeiture cases against the Marcoses pending in Sandiganbayan, Supreme Court and other courts," Mique said.

"If the Marcoses are sincere in their offer, they should return all their ill gotten wealth," she added.

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Duterte No. 1 most loving, caring and decisive leader – survey

ROBREDO IS 2ND WITH 5 PERCENT DECISIVENESS RATING; SERENO, 0 PERCENT

BY JODEE A. AGONCILLO

President Rodrigo Duterte is the leading official in terms of being most loving, caring, solid and decisive among the five highest government executives in the country, according to a recent survey.

The results of the “Pahayag” pilot survey, conducted by the Publicus Asia Inc., were revealed on Monday morning at the Marco Polo Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City.

The survey tested the people’s perception on the top five highest officials in the country, and the top five most recent presidents, in terms of the “Love, Care and Solidarity” index, and the “Decisiveness Index.”

Based on the survey that studied 1,500 respondents from key cities nationwide from August 7 to 9, Duterte got 90 percent decisiveness rating, followed by Vice President Leni Robredo with only 5 percent. Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez all got 1 percent.

Mindanao gave Duterte a 97-percent decisiveness rating while Robredo received only one percent from the region. Those from the National Capital Region gave Duterte 92 percent and Robredo only got 4 percent. In Southern Luzon, where the vice president hails, Robredo got a 4-percent decisiveness rating while Duterte got 87 percent.

The survey has a 95 percent confidence level and ±2.58 percent margin of error.

Love, concern and care

Duterte is deemed the most loving by the respondents (82 percent); caring and concerned (79 percent). Robredo only got 13 percent in terms of being loving, concerned (17 percent) and caring (16 percent).

Pimentel comes third after 1 percent called him loving and caring and 2 percent called him concerned. Only 1 percent deemed Alvarez voted for him as caring, while Sereno got zero percent when asked about her being caring, concerned and loving.

Duterte got 97-percent votes when it comes to the love index in Mindanao, and 83 percent in the NCR;



President Rodrigo Duterte comforts the families of bombing victims in Davao City at a local hospital. Fourteen were killed and 67 were hurt in the bombing at the popular city night market on Sept. 2, 2016.

while 2 percent rated Robredo as loving in Mindanao, and 12 percent in NCR.

Maria Lourdes Tiquia, CEO and founder of Publicus Asia said some of the respondents might not be aware of the other politicians and their roles. “Maybe the results on Duterte are glaring because he is the top decision-maker. They might see his cursing (paggumura) as a reflection of his anger and exasperation.

According to the survey, the top indicator of an officials’ love for the country is his projects for the poor (56 percent); good services (24 percent); delivery of promises to improve the country (18 percent); outreach programs (14 percent) and the removal of value added tax (12 percent).

The respondents says a caring president is shown when he visits the wounded and condoles during calamities (93 percent); takes into account his capacity to serve sincerely, looks for ways to serve and takes care of his health (92 percent) and respects the country’s symbols (91 percent).

Past presidents

Among the past presidents, Corazon Aquino had the highest votes as loving leader (38 percent), followed by Estrada with 27 percent, Fidel Ramos with 10 percent, Benigno Aquino III with 9 percent and now Congressman Arroyo with 5 percent.

Corazon Aquino remains the most concerned with 33 percent, Estrada (30 percent), Ramos (11 percent), Aquino III, (10 percent) and Arroyo (5 percent).

Approval rating

In terms of awareness rating, Duterte got a perfect 100 percent, followed by

Vice President Leni Robredo with 87 percent, Sereno with 45 percent, Pimentel with 69 percent and Alvarez with 49 percent.

The survey took only three days and results were released after 11 days. There are 300 respondents in each region: NCR, Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and were asked structured questions through face to face computer-aided personal interviews.

When it comes to approval rating, Duterte got a total of 88 percent, Robredo got 60 percent, Sereno got 51 percent, and Pimentel got 66 percent while Alvarez got 57 percent.

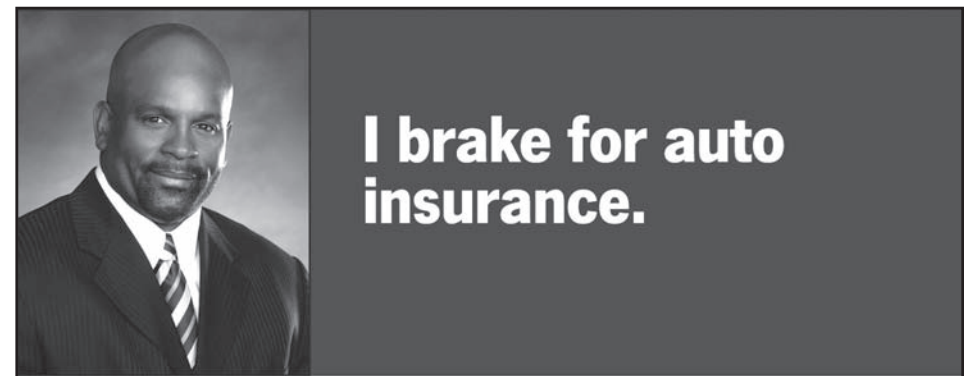
“This survey tests the emotional quotient of the leaders... There are leaders who are trained all their lives to be a leader but cannot connect to the masses... We want to introduce EQ as a frame,” Tiquia said.

Pulso, she said, is more normative; ours is more affective. “Filipino voters are very personal. It is high time to introduce a new way of measuring leaders, Tiquia said.

Tiquia emphasized that the group were not commissioned by any group. Their goal, she said, is to be able to come up with relevant and timely results that can help decision makers, at the same time, show the impact of the programs and issues to people.

Most pressing issue

For the respondents, the most pressing issue the President and the government have to solve are lack of jobs (67 percent), education (63 percent), health care and economy (46 percent), corruption (31 percent), terrorism (17 percent) and en-



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vironment (9 percent). The president should least focus on politics, said eight percent of the respondents.

To solve the country’s problems, 54 percent said the President should first do projects for the poor, fight criminality (29 percent) and fight graft and corruption (23 percent).

Of all the respondents, 84 percent think they will have a simple and comfortable life in the future, 13 percent a well-off life while only 3 percent think of having a rich life.

No Kian

There were no questions about the Philippine National Police, extrajudicial killings, or Kian delos Santos.

For this period, Publicus Asia dealt with “key-button” issues like the people’s perception on Federalism, Muslims and Islam, said Lilibeth Amatong, cofounder of Publicus Asia.

The survey said 67 percent had not yet read, heard or watched about federalism, the kind of government Duterte has been proposing even before the campaign period. Of the 33 percent who were aware of federalism, only 22 percent said they understood the discussions on the proposal.

The respondents learned about federalism mostly through television (89 percent), radio (35 percent) and newspapers (27 percent) and social media (20 percent).

Majority of the respondents (69 percent) believed

that poverty is a result of the way the government allocates their resources, 26 percent disagreed while 4 percent said they did not know.

Under a possible federal government, 60 percent wanted to directly vote for the president, 59 percent wanted a semi-presidential form of governance where the President is the head of the state, while a prime minister serves as the head of the government.

Meanwhile, 53 percent wanted the equal election of two senators in each region of the federal government, while 40 percent wanted that the vote for the President would also be a vote for the vice president.

In terms of transitioning to a federal form of government, 36 percent of the 1,500 respondents wanted it done immediately. Of these, 55 percent hail from Mindanao, 36 percent from the Visayas, 33 percent from Northern and Central Luzon and only 16 percent voted from Southern Luzon.

Only 3 percent did not want a shift to federalism, 66 percent wanted a shift during Duterte’s term, 19 percent wanted before 2022 or near the end of Duterte’s term.

Net connection not a problem

The group, a full-service political management and lobbying firm, started in 2003. It had already conducted two national surveys on the behavior of Filipino voters in 2009 and 2015.

“We would like to show the public that it is possible to conduct interviews and

release survey results in a shorter time.

Normal conduct of surveys usually takes 30 days while CAPI-assisted surveys would only take around 13 days. Interviews are around 7 minutes only, said Jake Bergonia, Publicus’ Management and Information System’s head.

The next surveys will be conducted in the next few months and would cover other pressing issues, she added.

John Danao, CEO of the App Factory—Publicus’ partner, said with the mobile-app of conducting surveys, connectivity is not really a problem, as people can still interact with the application without internet connection. “Paper is clunky. We want speed,” he said, emphasizing that security is also a feature of the mobile survey app.

Publicus developed the Vox Survey, its own mobile survey application, and shifted from traditional pen and paper interviews to computer-assisted personal interviewing or CAPI. Vox, Publicus’ research arm, also uses the American dial-based Perception analyzer, a tool for testing concepts, speeches, videos and television and radio ads on focus groups.

The group, a full-service political management and lobbying firm, started in 2003. It had already conducted two national surveys on the behavior of Filipino voters in 2009 and 2015.

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My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven has been a primary fundraiser for the past 14 years. Beginning in 2003 with only a few hundred runners, My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven is quickly becoming an annual tradition for many living in the Central Valley. In 2016, participants in attendance raised over \$60,000 for My Sister's House services and programs. This year is the 14th Anniversary of The Run for a Safe Haven.

A day after Kian's funeral, Fil-Am mom buys guns for peace

BY BOYING PIMENTEL

Last week, as thousands were marching for 17-year-old Kian delos Santos, Pati Poblete of Vallejo, California, was getting ready to buy guns.

No, she wasn't building an arsenal. She wasn't preparing for war. Buying guns was an act of peace for the Filipino American writer and activist, a powerful personal statement against violence.

The day after Kian was buried, Pati led an unusual community event where gun owners could exchange their firearms for a gift certificate, no questions asked. The "gun buyback" was part of a campaign to reduce the number of guns in the Northern California city which has long wrestled with street crime and violence.

Pati's group has a special plan for the guns collected: They will be melted down and used to create works of art in an innovative campaign called "The Art of Peace."

For Pati, the campaign is a way of honoring the memory of her son. Three years ago, Robby Navalta Poblete was shot dead in a hotel parking lot in Vallejo. He was only 23.

Pati is my longtime friend and former colleague at the San Francisco Chronicle. She had been preparing for the Vallejo event when tragedy struck involving



Pati Poblete with picture of her son, Robby, who was shot and killed by robbers at 23.

another young Filipino: the brutal murder of Kian delos Santos, victim of one of the most gruesome killings in the Duterte Slaughter.

The killing struck a "painful chord with me," Pati told me.

"I think of my own son, Robby, shot and killed in broad daylight in a robbery. The people who shot my son were cold-blooded murderers who had no cause or right to take my son's life. Those who killed Delos Santos are no different, and because they are protected by the uniforms they wear and the leader they serve — they are far more dangerous."

That's one thing that made the Vallejo gun buyback event different. At the event, she was surrounded by law enforcers, including members of the local police department, who believed in and actively supported

what she was doing.

For Pati, the Vallejo gun buyback was also part of a personal struggle to reclaim Vallejo, her hometown. Robby's murder drastically changed her feelings toward her beloved community



At the gun buyback in Vallejo, California, that Pati Poblete organized in memory of her son, Robby.

where she grew up and where she still has family and friends. Suddenly, Vallejo became an ugly place, a city she associated with pain and tragedy.

For two years, she said, she could not return to the city. "I couldn't drive to Vallejo anymore. That's how much they took from us — not just my son, but also my own community."

Slowly, Pati realized that she had to reclaim the city she loved. She began to think, "Maybe if I'm returning for a purpose, to help the city, then it will help me go back. I wouldn't be driving toward a tragedy — I would be driving home."

That led her to launch the Robby Poblete Foundation, which she now leads together with fellow journalists Cicero Estrella and Levi Sumagaysay.

The foundation spearheaded the Vallejo gun buyback which won the support of the Vallejo Police Department and many local officials, including the city's Mayor Bob Sampayan. Congress-

tion task force of the U.S. House of Representatives also attended the event.

"After my son was killed, I did not want to return to Vallejo," Pati said in her speech at the event. "I blamed the city for taking my son. But I realized that maybe we could make a

her child to gun violence, I have read the headlines on the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines with heartache and helplessness. I think of the thousands of mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, who are left to behind, knowing that their loved one suffered a tragic, merciless and need-



Guns that were bought back will be melted and turned into an art work called "The Art of Peace."

change. ... I realized that it wasn't Vallejo that took my son. It was four men. Vallejo has good people, and is a good community. And when we come together, we can all be the change. My son will never come back. But we can do something to make sure fewer mothers end up like me."

Sadly, in the Philippines, there are many more mothers and fathers like my friend Pati. She knows this. This is why Pati hopes to take The Art of Peace exhibit to the Philippines and to invite Filipino artists to participate. (Anyone who's interested should check out the Art of Peace page of the Robby Poblete Foundation site.)

"As a mother who's lost

less death. No one should ever have to get that call. But to know that your loved one was killed by people who are supposed to serve and protect you — under the mandate of the most powerful person in the country you live in — that is unbearable. There is no justice when the alleged 'good guys' have become the perpetrators of these crimes."

"When my son was killed in 2014, my cousin in the Philippines said to me: 'The Philippines may be a poor country, but we don't shoot our children. Guns are not everywhere, and we don't see shootings in the news like in America.'

"If only that were still true."



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PerryScope

BY PERRY DIAZ

The politics of failure

When Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was campaigning for the presidency in 2016, he promised – nay, vowed! – to eradicate criminality and the drug menace within three to six months. But three months passed and the drug problem didn’t go away. Duterte admitted that the war on drugs was like letting “a can of worms out of the can” and that he wanted a little extension of may be another six months. “I did not realize how severe and how serious the drug menace was in this republic until I became president,” he said.

ut his request for extension was rebuffed by Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson who said that a six-month extension on the war on drugs and criminality would be futile since solving crime and corruption is impossible even in Duterte’s lifetime.

Lacson emphasized that elimination of crime, corruption and drugs trade in six months or even a year is an impossible task. “Not in 3 months, not in 6 months, not in our lifetime. Crime, drugs and corruption will outlive all of us. He can greatly minimize or reduce these but stopping them completely will not happen. Even the most progressive countries in the world, can’t solve crime, drugs, and corruption,” he said.

A year later into his presidency, Duterte’s war on drugs led to the death of over 8,000 drug pushers and users. Extrajudicial killing became the trademark of his campaign to eliminate the drug menace and corruption. Political leaders – known as narco-politicians -- involved in the drug trade were targeted for death by vigilantes, some of who were suspected to be moonlighting police officers.

Giving up the fight

But in an apparent “surrender”

in the war against drugs, Duterte once again admitted that his government couldn’t afford to eradicate the drug menace. During his speech to medical practitioners at the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City, Duterte said, “We can’t control it.” He claimed that no country had the resources to control ubiquitous drugs. “Others can’t do it. How can we?” he asked.

Duterte said the country’s long coastline and thousands of islands had made the control of drugs smuggling difficult. He claimed, “We do not have the equipment to monitor the entire coastlines.” But he knew of the country’s “long coastline” before he made his promise to eliminate the drug problem, did he not? And only recently, a shipment of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth P6.4 billion was smuggled through the Bureau of Customs’ “green line”?

Which makes one wonder: How much smuggling occurs at the BOC and other international ports of entry vs. smuggling along the country’s “long coastline”? With the help of corrupt Customs officials and greedy “fixers” at the BOC, it would be easier – and more profitable – to smuggle goods through the BOC. [Source: Global Balita, “Corruption at BOC,” August 18, 2017]

In an attempt to justify his fail-



604 kilos of shabu valued at P6.4 billion, seized during a raid in Valenzuela City.

ure to eradicate the drug menace, Duterte said that the drugs problem couldn’t be solved within his six-year term. But the opposition minority bloc in the House of



President Rodrigo Duterte and Senator “Ping” Lacson

Representatives used his statement against him. Congressman Edcel Lagman, one of Duterte’s critics, said: “When the President said it would take more than six



Congressmen Edcel Lagman and Gary Alejano.

years to solve the drug problem, it is preparing the nation of his failure. That is an admission of failure that he could not solve the drug problem within his term.” Another opposition leader, Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, said: “It’s a welcome development for the President to admit he could not solve the problem.”

But presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte’s statement that he could not eliminate the drug problem within his term was only meant to show the “depth, enormity and the complexity” of the drug situation, which cannot be solved overnight.

“The President’s remarks that the Philippines cannot control the drug problem underscore its depth, enormity and the complexity. PRRD’s [Duterte’s] statement further points out that the drug situation in the Philippines is a problem that cannot be solved overnight,” Abella said. “The anti-drug campaign must thus, continue to be unrelenting and unremitting while getting everyone’s full support and cooperation,” he added.

Fabricated failure

This reminds me of the presidency of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos back in the early 1970s when student activists joined the

communist movements. One of them was the Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth or “KM”), a political organization founded by Jose Ma. “Joma” Sison. Anti-government protests grew in number and violence-induced riots intensified. Unable to stop the “red menace,” Marcos played his ace by claiming that his government has failed – a fabricated “failure” -- to eradicate the communist insurgency. However, he was convincing enough that the people initially supported him when he declared martial law, purportedly to stem the red tide of communism.

With the “war on drugs” seemingly failing, it makes one wonder if Duterte would borrow a page from Marcos’ playbook to deal with the failure of his campaign against illegal drugs? He has two options: (1) Stop the government-sanctioned extrajudicial killings and transition to legal means and let the justice system prosecute illegal drug traffickers within the limits of Philippine, or (2) declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Needless to say, Option One is the one that the international community prefers.

On the other hand, Option Two –



President Duterte and his generals: Ready for martial law?

while it might succeed initially just like the early days of martial law under Marcos – would eventually become oppressive and repressive, which would draw condemnation

from the international community and human rights advocates.

But placing the country under martial rule would imperil the economy. How can we forget what happened to the country’s economy under Marcos? Trade suffered immensely and the country’s dollar – and gold -- reserves mysteriously disappeared. Within a few years after martial law was declared, the Philippines – which was second only to Japan in economic wealth – became the “Sick Man of Asia” and international pariah.

It took 30 years for the Philippines to redeem itself from the ravages of martial law. While it’s no longer the “Sick Man of Asia,” it is now called the “Shabu Capital of the World,” where international drug syndicates use the country as a transit hub for the illegal drug trade.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport has been identified as a “favorable illegal drug trafficking hub.” According to a United Nations World Drug Report, the Philippines has the highest abuse rate for shabu in East Asia. A few years ago, the Philippine National Police (PNP) confirmed reports that



Philippines: Shabu Capital of the World.

the Mexican Sinaloa Cartel had started operations in the country.

With the daunting magnitude of the country’s drug problem, Duterte finds himself with no easy solution to eradicating it, which makes one wonder if Sen. Ping Lacson was right after all when he said that stopping drug trafficking and criminality is impossible to do even in Duterte’s lifetime. Caught

in a deadly political situation, Duterte might just have to bite the bullet and resort to fabricating “failure” to justify the imposition of martial law. And just like Marcos, he might find that “politics of failure” has its usefulness, albeit momentarily. But eventually, it will come to a sad denouement, just like Marcos’ fabricated failure. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

In defense of Philippine sovereignty

BY PERRY DIAZ

Carpio was referring to information that Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejandro disclosed from his sources in the military stating that China has deployed two frigates, one Coast Guard vessel, and two large fishing vessels, with their maritime militia, within three miles of Pag-Asa Island.

Carpio said President Rodrigo Duterte and Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano have the constitutional duty to defend and protect Philippine territory. "The very least that they could do now is to vigorously protest this invasion of Philippine territory by China," Carpio said. "If both are



A Philippine Marine on Pag-Asa Island looks at Sandy Cay.

mean anything. ... There [are] reasons for certain presence of certain vessels, but the situation in the area is very stable. There is no situation there that is a cause of lowering mutual trust between all of the claimants at this point in time." Which makes one wonder: where did he get his training or experience in foreign affairs and diplomacy? From what is understood, his appointment as Foreign Secretary was his reward -- "consuelo de bobo" -- for his blind loyalty to Duterte when he ran and lost as Duterte's vice presidential running



President Duterte and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

mate in the 2016 elections. But rewarding him for his unquestioned loyalty is one thing; but putting him in charge of the country's diplomatic relations with the rest of the world is, to put it mildly, irresponsible.

"If Sandy Cay becomes Chinese territory, it will reduce by a third or more Pag-asa's territorial sea, depending on how large a reclaimed area China will create out of Sandy Cay," Carpio said. "It will also prevent the Philippines from extending the territorial sea of Pag-asa to include Subi (Zamora) Reef."

National security

But National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. -- a retired four-star general -- defended his boss, saying: "China has not seized sandbars in Pag-Asa Atoll. There should be no alarm on that, as long as they don't occupy any of the sandbars. There are many Chinese as well as Vietnamese fishing boats in and near Pag-Asa Island." That's very strange because of his military background and key role in the "national security" of the country, he should be the first to come to the defense of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Instead, he capitulated.

And to add insult to an injury, Foreign Secretary Cayetano defended China's incursion -- nay, invasion -- of Sandy Cay. He reportedly said, "The presence of [Chinese] ships alone does not

disculous -- and downright stupid -- reaction came from no less than Philippine Coast Guard Commodore Joel Garcia who said, "As what the Secretary of Foreign Affairs [Cayetano] mentioned earlier, if it does not affect our sovereignty, specifically the areas where we have sovereign rights, I don't think the Chinese vessels are violating international law." I can't believe that the

top honcho of the Coast Guard who is in charge of defending the country's territory has no idea what "sovereignty" and "sovereign rights" mean.

Silence is deafening

With all this hullabaloo going on, the ultimate guardians of the country's territory, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (a retired three-star general) and AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Año (a four-star general) are uncharacteristically quiet. Why the quietude? Which makes one wonder: are they under a gag order?

Indeed, their silence is deafening except for the AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, who has the unenviable "PR" job of justifying the unjustifiable. In response to a reporter's question at a Malacañang press conference, he said: "We will work to clarify all of these things [at] the bilateral consultative mechanism," which is the regular dialogue between the Philippines and China, covering various issues, including territorial disputes. My reaction? Hahaha...

But I really feel sorry for Padilla, who is paid to do a "snow job." But if he does well in defending the indefensible, he just might earn his second star and move up the food chain. But at whose expense?

Indeed, the military is virtually grounded, with no apparent contingency plan to defend Philippine territory. With no warships and an air force that consists of a few trainer fighter planes, the country is at the mercy of China. Duterte admits it and China knows it. All Duterte can do was curse, "Putangina! Na-leche na naman tayo ng Tsina!" [Son of a whore! China screwed us again!]

The same is true with the nationalist and leftist groups, who are akin to the "three mystic monkeys" -- "see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil." An example of which was when a U.S. Navy drone, believed to be used for reconnaissance, was recovered in waters off Masbate in central Philippines in January 2013. It didn't take too long for Filipino protesters to gather near the U.S.



Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Año visit Pag-Asa Island..

official island like it did with seven reefs and shoals a few years ago.

But didn't he realize that Philippine-U.S. MDT covers attack on Philippine warships wherever they may be, including international waters? It is for this reason that China couldn't attack or expel the BRP Sierra Madre -- an old dilapidated World War II-vintage U.S. LST vessel, which was deliberately grounded at the Ayungin Shoal in the Spratlys to serve as the Philippine Marines' outpost to assert Philippine sovereignty over the region.

In my article, "What price sovereignty?" (January 20, 2014), I wrote: "Would the Philippines disallow American military presence needed to protect the sovereignty that we hold so dearly? But without U.S. presence, our sovereignty would be exposed to Chinese imperialistic advances. It's a dilemma that the Philippines has to grapple with. Simply put, the Philippines cannot have it both ways. Sometimes you got to give a little to gain strategic advantage."



Pag-Asa Island.

Embassy in Manila to denounce the U.S. government for violating the country's sovereignty.

In contrast, the Philippine government's silence on the Chinese invasion of Sandy Cay demonstrates its lack of resolve to protect Philippine territory from foreign invasion. Duterte's reason for not confronting Chinese incursion into Philippine territory is that he saw no reason for the Philippines to go to war with China over a disputed sandbar in the West Philippine Sea.

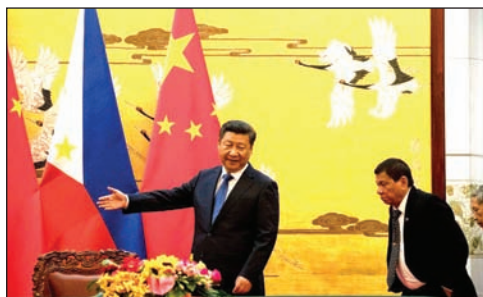
"Why should I defend a sandbar and kill Filipinos because of a sandbar? China assured me that they would not build anything there," Duterte said during a press briefing in Malacañang. Well, it's just a sandbar; however, China can build a militarized arti-



BRP Sierra Madre serves as Philippine Marine outpost at Ayungin Shoal.

Isn't it time that we assert sovereignty over what is rightfully ours?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomes President Rodrigo Duterte in Beijing.

But it was the commander-in-chief himself who surrendered control of Sandy Cay to the Chinese. "China assured me [Duterte] that they will not build anything there. I called the Ambassador [when I read the news]. He said, 'We will assure you that we are not building anything there.' Why would they risk invading a sandbar and get into a quarrel with us? [What will they get out of it?] But didn't the Chinese promise that they will not militarize the artificial islands they built around seven reefs in the Spratly archipelago -- on Philippine territory?"

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CONTRIBUTORS

Carleton Enloe Sarah T. Enloe	Faina Abaya Jose Abaya, Jr.	Maria Kang Gabriel Ortigoza	Nancy Bautista Perry Diaz	Glenn Carrasca Dale Esperante
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The California Care Homes Community Appreciation Event “A Community within a Community”

By **BERNADETTE DESCARGAR**

They say an individual’s self-worth and value is often tied to family, culture and community as a whole. I truly believe this in that we are all products of these dynamic and fluid systems. Our ability to appreciate ourselves and the impact that we have on others is not only important, but critical for future generations to come.

At the California Care homes, we believe and work towards that notion on a daily basis. What started off as a single carehome owned by Victorio and Mercedes Descargar grew into a business that provided more than just care to the elderly. They provided love, support and a place for the residents and families to call home. They created a legacy. Under my direction, Bernadette Descargar, and unconditional support from my sisters, May Descargar and Monette Stevents, our family business thrived and evolved. The reason for our success and longevity is the result of our passion for providing quality care through a team approach.

The California Care homes focuses not only on the resident but also for the families, the support team, the health practitioners involved and the community. As advocates for quality care, the California Care homes believes in bridging our residents and their families with health care and support resources.

The California Care homes is a community within a community. This year, we celebrated our Community Appreciation event on August 6th 2017. Our neighborhood street was filled with family and friends enjoying food, entertainment from the Sacramento Banjo Band and Shave Ice from the Local Kine Food Truck. Community support resources such as the crew from Community Service



California Carehomes Team



Bernadette and Mercedes Descargar with the members of the Filipino American Veteran’s Association



CSD Firestation #71 Meet and Greet



Volunteers: Sacramento Warlords Basketball 2020 Boys Division



Attendees



Photos by Dale Esperante and Bernadette Descargar
Entertainment from the Sacramento Banjo Band

District, Fire station 71 were also there to meet the many families they have assisted in our care. Local community organizations such as the Filipino American Veterans Association and Sacramento Warlords 2020 Boys Division were present to support and volunteer their ser-

vices for the morning.

It is important for me to give thanks to those that have supported my parents when they first started. It is even more important that we continue the gratitude by honoring those that continue to support the

California Carehome’s vision and philosophy. Our Community Appreciation Event does that...it honors our community and those that choose to have a positive impact.

Whether it be in the emergency services, the health care indus-

try or through volunteering, the California Care homes values you as part of our team, as part of our helping community. From our helping hands and the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



FILIPINIANA 2017



President Dick Weitzenberg and the officers and members of Filipino Veterans Association

By Dale Esperante

The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) presented their Scholarship Awards Dinner and Dance dubbed as Filipiniana 2017 on August 12th in the banquet hall of St. Paul's.

FAVA demonstrated their military background by starting their program precisely as planned: Master of Ceremonies (MC) Dr. Fred Aquino introduced Joe Zaragoza to sing the US and Philippines national anthems. Followed by yours truly, the American Legion Magellan Post 604 Chaplain, who subbed for FAVA Chaplain Will Williams, away on a veteran convention. Drawing everyone's attention for a moment of silence to remember the recently departed members of FAVA, the chaplain mentioned the names of Lisa Banayat—Danny Masias—Rosa Cordero—Memie Weitzenberg—Frank Whitaker. Following the solemn moment of silence, the chaplain continued with a special prayer for the evening by thanking the Almighty for guiding us decades ago (some of us more than a half a century ago) to sign up as soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and guardsmen. Now we are the elders, caring and hoping the best for posterity.

Twenty-six dinner tables filled the banquet hall. MC Doc Fred called out the table numbers in random order for the buffet line. Thank you, Mr. DJ, for calling number twenty-four last, our table number. No complaints Doc, I know you saved the best for last. Anyway, the dinner was superb, thank you to Master Chef Rosalie Crandall! Adding to the pleasure of the dining experience, a group known as D'Dreamgirls performed a cultural exhibition of a Malong Dance enhancing the Filipiniana theme of the evening. Per <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malong>: The malong is a traditional "tube skirt" made of handwoven



Photos by Dale Esperante

or machine-made multi-colored cotton cloth, bearing a variety of geometric designs. This type of clothing is generally found in the Muslim populated southern parts of the Philippines.

D'Dreamgirls received a hearty appreciation from the audience after their authentic performance. President Dick Weitzenberg came up next to deliver his welcome address. He also specifically thanked the FAVA members and friends who made the evening a resounding success. President Dick encouraged everyone to have fun and dance to the lively music provided by High-Tech Zounds with DJs' Paul and Edward Cordero. Dancers in their best Filipiniana outfits were seen shuffling and swaying to the beat of Tango, Swing, Rumba, and Cha-Cha-Cha. MC Doc Fred and President Dick's persuasion worked because everyone started having FUN!



The presence of the paparazzi was palpable as photos of Filipiniana-clad gents and beauties were taken non-stop. Unbeknownst to all, two observers quietly stood on the sideline seriously evaluating the Filipiniana apparels of the socializing partyers in the banquet hall of St. Paul's.

The Scholarship Committee



Dr. Mike and Maricor Ramos, Danny and Gigi Perez, Olive Jackson and Joe Dante Rivera.

Lozano is the granddaughter of members Art and Nora Basco. Her parents are David Lozano and Laverne Basco. 5. Awarded \$250: Meko Descargar Stevens is the grandson of members Ched Descargar and Vic Descargar (Deceased). His parents are Greg Stevens and Monette Descargar.

Recognized College Grads of Class 2017:

1. Shannon Deloso is the grand-daughter

of members Will and Frenie Williams. Her parents are Bernie and Cathie Deloso.

2. Lanessa Basco Lozano is the grand-daughter of members Art and Nora Basco. Her parents are David Lozano and Laverne Basco.

Recognized Post Grad of Class 2017:

1. Juliette Nguyen is the granddaughter of members Joe and Zarina Zaragoza. Her parents are John and Milagros Z. Nguyen.

From one inspirational segment of the program to another—from FAVA scholars who we are so proud of, to a group who inspire the families of the organization, The FAVA Ladies. The ladies who were all dressed in a colorful Maria Clara top combined with a long black skirt danced glowingly like the distinctive description of their Filipino folk dance, Alitaptap (Firefly in English). The dance lasted less than three minutes yet it transcended some of us into an era when simplicity equated to natural beauty. The Alitaptaps' glimmering "lights" won us over, FAVA Ladies, because of your scintillating performance! Thank you for making FAVA proud! And most of all, thank you to the Firefly Dance Queen, Gigi Perez, and Her Princesses: Malou Amper—Nora Basco—Aida Berdal—Rose Delacruz—Ched Descargar—Melita Esperante—Nanette Nerona—Bella Nido—Millet Pangilinan—Mila Reyes—Edna Tancico.

More dancing pleasure followed provided by High-Tech Zounds interposed by generous raffle winnings. FAVA generously awarded cash prizes to the surprise and delight of the raffle winners this year.

The two unassuming observers were finally introduced to the audience. Their identities kept confidential from everyone other than a select group of event organizers. The observers finally announced their purpose—to select the winners of the evening's theme, Filipiniana fashion.

Continued on page 13

Chair, Alex Cheng, and Overall Chairman, Ato Delacruz introduced the Scholarship Awards. The High School Graduates of Class 2017: 1. Top Scholar awarded \$1000: Caitlin Ashley Nubla is the grand-daughter of members Fred and Lita Calindas. Her parents are Dr. Vincent Nubla and Carmela Calindas Yamamoto.

2. Awarded \$700: Nicholas Benjamin Abdeen is the grandson of members Frank and Daphne Abdeen. His parents are Farley and Buffi Abdeen.

3. Awarded \$250: Jaylene Claro is the grand-daughter of members Paul and Linda Cordero. Her parents are Chris and Julie Villavert.

4. Awarded \$250: Leianna Basco

Dr. Fred Aquino leads Preparation for UPAASV September 23, 2017 Affair

BY JOSE ABAYA, JR.

Nostalgically revisiting the place where I have stayed at least eight months of my life comes in my memory the sprawling Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. The main campus road is teeming with sturdy and unbending different variety of trees that bring shades from excruciating heat of the Sun and intermittent drizzles during rainy season.

The great institution of learning where mediocrity is abhorred has been the place where I have taken my Bar Review classes in eight categories of our legal jurisprudence from Political Law to Remedial Law. Majority of the Bar reviewers were graduates of the University of the Philippines college of law while the rest like me were from other different law schools.

The seven months Bar review is just a repetition of what law students learned in their four year course to graduate for their Bachelor of Laws Degree qualifying them to take the Bar examination to become lawyers, if they will hurdle the high bar of the examination. Indeed, it was the culmination of eight years of college life to include my other four years of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and it was not easy because to earn the two degrees I faced almost unsurmountable challenges as I worked and raised a family with my wife.

During my leisure time, I roamed around the campus to meet currently enrolled students in the Arts and Sciences to hear from them about their perception of their studies and campus lives. What I heard from them were not their day to day predicaments and school undertakings but their passion for being Filipinos and they lamented the degree of erosion of our great cultural heritage brought by the influx of other cultures. The Filipinos in general like to live in a diverse community as part of our respect to other nationalities showing our high degree of civility but the influence of other cultures to our younger generation during that time was so intense that they were bewildered which cultures did they represent.

That has been the gist of my observation some forty years ago but the passing of years and with the advent of modern gadgets in communication, the world has gotten so small that ideas today are being exchanged in just few seconds.

The almost abrupt upheaval in the field human endeavors make our cultural heritage which we inherited from our forebears vibrant showcasing the depth and greatness of our literature, arts, music, dances, songs, customs, costumes and many others interrelated to our day to day lives. Suffice to say, the alumni of the University of the



UPAASV President Dr. Fred Aquino (C) at the Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2017.



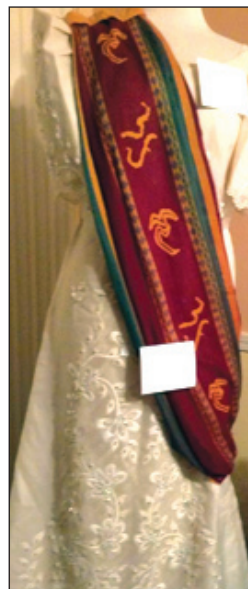
Atty. Beatriz Alo wearing Sarimanok costume and Susan Castillo in UP Sablay.

Philippines are always in the forefront to inculcate into the minds of every Filipino, especially, to the young the importance of knowing their cultural heritage to identify themselves as proud Filipinos.

Many of these alumni have crossed great oceans and bravely traveled vast continents to find better opportunities suited for their skills and professions that their country, unfortunately, cannot offer. Yet when they settled on their respective places, enjoying the comfort of better life, they yearned to show their traditional practices and the values that they had been accustomed to do in the country they left behind. All over the world we have found University of the Philippines alumni associations, sororities and fraternities with almost similar objectives, to bring out into fore, the beauty, elegance and grace of our cultural heritage which we considered them as delicate treasures that should be handled with utmost care.

The city of Sacramento, capital of the great State of California along with its suburban areas are the places where most of these UP alumni established themselves and with their friends founded the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity now led by the amiable and iconic community leader Dr. Fred Aquino. The organization has engaged on various meritorious community projects and continuously joined other Filipino American community organizations to bring out what really is our culture that identifies us as Filipinos.

One such project now at the peak of preparation is referred to as "Tipanan sa Museo" (gathering at the Museum), a dinner dance fund raising event for the Filipino Museum chaired by Dr. Aquino with strong backing by the steering committee stalwarts such as Atty. Beatriz Alo, Dr. Janice Shiu, Major (USAF, ret.) Al Guevara and wife Alma, Johnny Regadio,



Filipina dress with UP sash



Igorot costume



1920 wedding gown

Alex and Susan Castillo, Art and Aida Calindas, Pete and Rose de la Cruz and further energized by prominent community leaders and personalities who are all members of the UPAASV. The event will be held on September 23, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento, CA.

Whatever funds to be generated from the event will be used solely for the proper care and management of the growing artifacts received by curator Susan Castillo for the Museo Pilipino now temporarily displayed at the Deacon Room of the Rizal Community Center, Florin Mall Road, Sacramento.

Accordingly, the leadership of the UPAASV through Atty. Alo are looking for a suitable place to become the repository of our collected artifacts depicting the elegance and greatness of our cultural heritage as well as our tradition to educate our young Filipinos away from home and other nationalities who have not seen some important and significant facts about the history of our country. She also added that some of the artifacts already on hand were brought out during

the Filipino Fiesta celebration in June as well as various community fairs and special events for the public to appreciate and for educational purposes.

Atty. Alo further elaborates that the event theme is "Tipanan sa Museo" which means "Gathering at the Museum". This was chosen in order to highlight the above mentioned purposes. The ultimate goal is that when Museo Pilipino becomes a reality, it will also become a gathering place for the diverse Sacramento communities to meet and discuss relevant issues and solutions. Indeed, a deviation from the University of the Philippines we all know to be the center of activism and even dissent against the maladies that have been rooted in our political system from time to time.

Dr. Fred Aquino, the president of the UPAASV is not only known for his community leadership but also has shown his virtuosity on the dance floor. He has made assurances that the event will have no dull moment as there will be lot of dancing, continues music and entertainment. The event will feature ethnic dances representing

the three major Philippine islands, for Luzon an Igorot dance, Visayas the Itik-Itik dance and Mindanao the Malong-Malong dance. These dances will be performed by community members.

Well known community personality for his honorable service to his country, former ambassador George Aducaen will be the guest speaker who will certainly speak on topic that deeply concerned us.

Another feature of the event will be an exciting silent auction; the participant or bidder will make his or her bid for any of the Corporate Sponsors give away items at a very low cost to enjoy with friends or family members. Hereunder are the items to bid which will go the Museo Pilipino fund.

Total Wine and More, Tahoe Donner, Jackson Rancheria, Sacramento Zoo, Fairytale Town, Sacramento Republic Football Club, California Railroad Museum, California Museum, Pier 39 and Walt Disney Museum. Vouchers for Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Passes, Jackson Rancheria Hotel and Buffet passes, Sacramento Zoo Family Pass, Fairytale Town Family Passes, Sacramento Republic Football Club, California Railroad Museum General Admission Passes, California Museum Admission Passes, Pier 39 Rocket boat passes and Walt Disney Museum General Admission Passes. You have to be present to bid or to win the items. Possibility of winning an item will be less than the cost of the actual price.

For dinner, the best Chef of the hotel offers steak, chicken or fish, and the guests will be serenaded with Filipino kundiman songs while enjoying their sumptuous dinner. What more can you ask? Come join the fun of this evening event on September 23 for a good cause and for the betterment of our Filipino American Community in Sacramento and its outlying areas.

FILIPINIANA 2017



FAVA ladies and guests

From page 11

The Individual Winners:

1. Ms. Olive Jackson in a divine blue Maria Clara gown complemented by her professionally styled hairdo, appropriately set ready to receive the Tiara as Filipiniana's Queen.
 2. Mr. Joe Dante Rivera represented the men wearing a Barong Tagalog in varying shade of green with an intricately designed collar and buttoned up front complemented by four Mother of Pearl buttons, black slacks, and brown designer shoes.

The Husband and Wife Winners:

1. Mrs. Gigi Perez in a lustrous embroidered silk-like top with half sleeves in the style of Maria Clara, soft black flowing-line skirt, and black Alitaptap shoes to match.
 2. A special adornment for Mrs. Gigi Perez, her hus-



Lion Carle and Sarah Enloe, Dr. Tony and Remy Solomon, Lee Ramirez and Leila Pereira

countenances of the winners and their regal bearing justified the judges' decisions. Congratulations to the winners and also all those who attended this event resplendent in their sartorial elegance.

Congratulations to President Dick Fortunato "Ato" Delacruz as the Overall Chairman

band Mr. Danny Perez, a proud Filipino version of a knight in shining Barong Tagalog armor. Sir Danny wore the judges' seemingly favorite color of the evening—Green. He opted for an open topped (unbuttoned collar) darker shade Barong but transparent enough to see his white camisa de chino shirt. Dark shade of slacks and black shoes complemented the outfit of Mr. Perez.

The beautiful beaming

of Filipiniana. Ato's organizational enthusiasm and the magnificent support he received from all the FAVA members sparkled brightly this evening, like the Alitaptap number by the FAVA Ladies! Philippine Fiesta's coverage of FAVA has always been an honor and a privilege, thank you and congratulations to your outstanding organization--FAVA!



1st Anniversary of the Vallejo Filipino Community Center's Sunday Tea Dance

The ballroom dancers of the bay area region are drawn to the Vallejo Community Center every Sunday from 4 pm - 8 pm. On 13 Aug 2017, they celebrated the First Anniversary of the Vallejo Filipino Community Center's Sunday Tea Dance founded by Jess and Annie Ramos. There were some doubts in the early days but the Tea Dance has now become a strong attraction for ballroom and latin dancers, thanks to the power of the Filipino ballroom network.



Photos by Rogelio Manansala

Filipino RVM Sister



The Filipino Family Fraternity of Sacramento, headed by President Aida Azurin, welcomed the Filipino RVM Sisters last July 16, 2017 at their Casa Ignacia. There were 19 RVM Sisters who attended the assembly from US, Canada and Philippines.

Calendar of Events

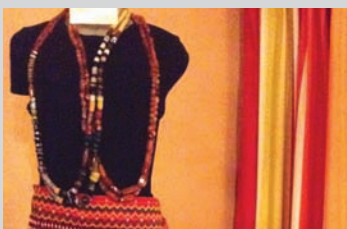
SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 (SAT.)
SEPTEMBER to REMEMBER
 Dinning, dancing, singing, & laughing --6pm to 10pm
 Magellan Hall
 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento
 Cost \$15 per person
 Thank you for supporting our veterans!



SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 (Sat)
 Filipino Women's Club
 Senior From honoring
 Lourdes Belasco
 Donatio:\$25 / 6pm - 11pm
 Jose Rizal Community Center
 7230 Florin Mall Dr. Sacramento



SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 (SAT.)
UPPAASV "TIPANAN sa PUSO"
 Dinner & Dance Fundraising Event
 for Museo Pilipino --6PM
 Double Tree Hotel
 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA
 Attire: Formal / Filipina
 Donation: \$50



Birthdays



ALEXIS TENCE
 SEPTEMBER 11



SUSAN DE JESUS
 AUGUST 29



DINO SAN PEDRO
 SEPTEMBER 1



CHRIS MATEO and wife Elaine
 SEPTEMBER 9



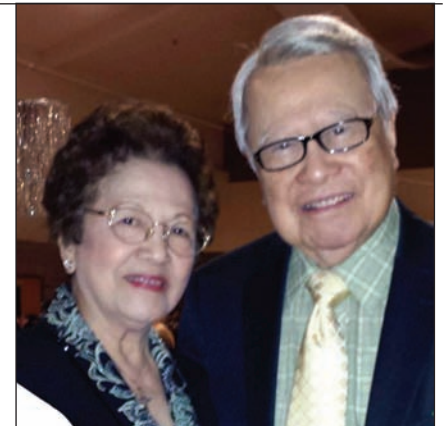
JON DELA CRUZ and wife Eva
 SEPTEMBER 5



MIA BELLA (R) with Ami, Liv, KC, mama Edna and papa Robert
 AUGUST 28



LING AVERA and family
 SEPTEMBER 1



CARIDAD ADUCAYEN and husband George
 SEPTEMBER 6

Anniversary



JOJO and MICHELLE ABAYA
 Sept. 9



GEMMA and GABRIEL ORTIGOZA
 87th Wedding Anniversary,
 Sept. 20



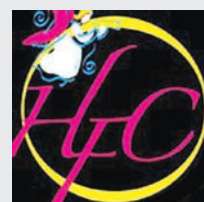
EDNA and RUBEN NAZARENO
 46th Wedding Anniversary,
 Sept. 14



CESAR and FELY SALGADO
 55th Wedding Anniversary,
 Sept. 17



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Young Army Veteran Gets Pulled Over By Cop, Then Officer Points To Item On Dash

BY CAILYN FINKEL

Our brave soldiers stationed overseas deal with things most civilians couldn't even imagine. That's why hords of servicemen and women return home to the United States with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – and many of them don't seek help for their worries.

Thankfully, William Jazwinski, a former Heavy Wheeled Vehicle Operator for the United States Army, knew that he had to seek treatment and overcome the painful memories that followed him back home after his 15-month tour in Iraq.

But William never thought the flag he kept in his truck to remind him of his time on the battlefield would make him a target for law enforcement.

By all accounts, William was a brave soldier who would do anything for his fellow servicemen at the drop of a hat. From the long nights in the hot Iraqi desert, to grueling training schedules that brought his battalion together in the first place, there was nothing that could deter William from the goal of a mission.

Despite his obvious dedication to the tasks he was given in the Army, the time overseas was rough – but he knew in his heart what an honor it was to be serving the United States of America.

That's why, when William's tour in Iraq came to an end, he drove



around with a properly folded United States flag in his vehicle.

But one day, while William was driving in his truck stateside, he was spotted by a local police officer. William knew he wasn't speeding, his registration was compliant and he didn't have any outstanding legal issues – so the young man kept chugging along and didn't think twice.

Moments after he noticed the patrol car behind him, the red and blue lights started flashing and the siren went off. What in the world could he have done wrong?

William immediately pulled over and had his license and registration ready – but that's not what the officer was interested in. He shared the reason behind the traffic stop on his Facebook page.

"Me: Good morning, Officer. Was I speeding?"

Officer: Good morning, no not speeding. Just wanted to stop ya and say thank you for your service.

Me: Oooh the bumper sticker, nice. Your welcome, Sir. My pleasure.

Officer: Where did you serve?"

Me: I went to Iraq. Did a 15 month [stint]. Out of Fort Benning.

Officer: Well, alright. My son went to Iraq. He didn't make it home."

"Me: Man, I'm so sorry to hear that. I just finished a PTSD program.

Officer: I see you have a flag in the truck. The one we got for him? Well it's at the house. Can I ask a question?"

Me: Sure.

Officer: Do you mind stepping out and receiving a hug? You remind me of my son. I pulled you over. I thought you were him. I still don't believe it most days he's gone.

With tears in both our eyes, I got out and hugged that man. I'm talking about for a minute or two crying. Down to our knees crying. I needed that.

To all the family and friends of soldiers, fighting or done fighting, God bless you. Your peace and your hearts. It's so hard without them, I know. This road is a tremendous one. Love to all."

The officer just wanted to show his support for the troops and give William a much-needed hug. It's hard losing your child and it's even harder knowing that they passed while overseas away from family.

William was able to give the officer a brief break from the pain and restore his faith in the goodness of strangers.

As soon as William got home he snapped a picture of the flag and shared it online. He had no idea that his experience with the random officer would resonate with so many people!

What if your mother is physically ill?



BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

My 83-year-old mother usually don't complain if she feels sick but lately she complained of intermittent cough and her abdominal pain is getting worst.

She went to the hospital to see a doctor. Physical examination was done and laboratory studies were ordered.

Ultrasound, chest and abdominal x-ray were done. The sonogram revealed she had multiple stones in her gall bladder and her cystic duct is partially occluded. The radiograph result says she has pneumonia.

Medications were ordered for her to take as advised. She got antibiotic for pneumonia and analgesic (paracetamol) for abdominal pain.

With prayer and strictly following doctor's instructions especially with her antibiotics, her pneumonia is gone. My mother is a religious person who always talk to God thru prayer everyday.

However, her abdominal pain come and go. When she run out of paracetamol, her abdominal pain came back and this time it is worst.

She asked Abigail, a relative and a college student who assist my parents at home, to buy her more paracetamol for pain. My mom takes one tablet twice a day to relieve her pain.

Two weeks past and she had another ultrasound. This time the gall stones were scattered and other findings were noted.

Her medical doctor strongly recommended surgery.

My mother is a high risk patient. She is an elderly and she has multiple medical problems.

She is diabetic and had history of stroke.

If she decides to undergo surgery, it can be done at the tertiary hospital in Davao City or I can fly her to California and have her surgery done at Kaiser Permanente.

Yesterday, 10 August 2017, I decided to go back to the Philippines to see my mother and I plan to fly her to California for further medical management.

My mother was so thankful that I will bring her to the tertiary hos-



pital for treatment. I told her it is the responsibility of your children to take care of you especially now that you are old and weak.

In my telephone conversation with her before my flight, I asked her if she is ready (to go with me to the states). She told me, "I'm ready to meet my God."

I clarified with her what I meant when I asked her was if she is ready to fly to California with me. She said she is ready.

Both of us had good laughs over the phone.

My mother is, ever since, ready to meet thy God.

How about you? What if your mother is seriously ill?

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September to Remember

Come join us on September 9th at Magellan Hall for an evening of dining, dancing, singing, and laughing. All for just \$15 per person. Proceeds will go to the preservation of this veterans memorial hall. Our address: 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA 95828. Time: 6 to 10 pm.

5 Filipino heroines who changed Philippine history

BY GABY GLORIA

When asked to give at least three names of Philippine heroes, who are the first people that come to mind?

Of course Jose Rizal is a given as the national hero. And then there's Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, and Emilio Jacinto. Perhaps even throw in Antonio Luna thanks to successful historical film "Heneral Luna" (2015).

The Philippines does not have an official list of national heroes. While there has been an attempt to come up with one, legislators deferred finalizing a list to avoid a deluge of proclamations and debates "involving historical controversies about heroes." Still, textbooks and flashcards don't hesitate to engrain their names in our minds. It's interesting how these historical figures all breed the same familiarity as superheroes, with students already knowing their names and achievements by heart by the time they reach high school.

Thinking about the personalities, you can't help but notice a pattern: they're mostly men who fit into the typical hero mold of machismo and valor. While history books often devote entire chapters to the adventures and achievements of male heroes, our female heroines are often bunched into one section, treated as footnotes or afterthoughts despite also fighting for the nation's freedom.

In time for Independence Day, CNN Philippines Life lists five brave Filipino heroines whose actions deserve to be remembered. These women are more than just tokens for female representation. Remember their names and their achievements, so that the next time someone asks, you'll be ready.

Gabriela Silang (1731-1763)

Gabriela Silang is perhaps the most well-known among all the Filipino heroines, but she is almost always mentioned in tandem with her husband, Diego. Since their achievements are usually written about together, many forget that she had her own fair share of heroic acts as "the first Filipina to lead an uprising against a foreign power." Silang was a fearless Ilocana warrior who assumed her husband's role as commander of rebel troops after his assassination in 1763. She rallied fighting forces (including the native Itneg people) to carry on the war against Spain in their home province of Ilocos, launching guerrilla attacks against



Our female heroines shouldn't be treated as footnotes or afterthoughts in history. Illustration by Lazir Caluya

Spanish garrisons — attacks that caused Spanish soldiers to fear her name.

For her final battles at the liberation of Vigan, she led over 2,000 men to go against an army of over 6,000 Spanish soldiers backed by a powerful artillery. The battle proved unsuccessful for the General, so she and 80 remaining troops retreated to unexplored regions of Abra, where they were eventually captured. The Spanish made her witness the public executions of her men before publicly hanging the General herself in September 1763. Despite the loss, Gabriela Silang is still recognized for her immense courage in fighting for the independence of Ilocos.

Trivia: Gabriela Silang was widowed twice in her lifetime. At 20, she was forced to marry a wealthy old man who passed away after three years. It was after his death that she met Diego Silang, who was a mail carrier at the time.

Tandang Sora (1812-1919)

More than just a road in Quezon City, Tandang Sora, whose real name is Melchora Aquino, was fondly called the Mother of the

Revolution. She was a single mother who managed the farm left by her deceased husband while raising her six children. Tandang Sora earned her nickname after taking care of Andres Bonifacio and other Katipuneros in 1896, risking her life as she provided them with food and nursed the wounded. Her bravery was best displayed after she was arrested by Spanish authorities, who subjected her to grueling interrogations in hopes that she would reveal the location of the Katipunan hideout. She refused to give in and was deported to Guam under the decree of Governor General Ramon Blanco.

Trivia: Tandang Sora was the first Filipina to be featured on the Philippine peso. Her portrait graced the ₱100 bill from the English series from 1951 to 1966.

Teresa Magbanua (1868-1947)

Known as the Visayan Joan of Arc, Teresa Magbanua was originally a teacher who received a degree in education from a school in Manila. She married a wealthy businessman who owned large plots of land, which she helped cultivate. During this time, she developed her skills in horseback riding and marksmanship.

Upon learning that her brothers joined the uprising against the Spaniards, she persuaded her uncle, General Perfecto Poblador, to let her join the Katipunan's women's chapter in Panay as an experienced horse rider and marksman. The General agreed, making Magbanua the first and only woman to lead troops in the Visayas during the revolution. Her patriotic spirit helped her successfully lead a group of bolo troops during the Battle of Barrio Yoting and the Battle of Sapong Hills, which were instrumental to the liberation of Iloilo City. Later on, she joined the guerrilla forces in fighting against the Americans in Jaro, Iloilo. She continued to fight for the country's independence until the Japanese occupation, when she sold all her belongings to help fund the guerrilla movement.

Trivia: Magbanua is one of the few who fought for the Philippines against all of the country's main aggressors: Spain, the United States, and Japan.

Josefa Llanes Escoda (1898-1945)

Pictured as a smiling face clad in a Filipiniana outfit, Escoda is one of the two women to appear on the current series of Philippine peso notes. This honor does not go without merit, as she was a certified social worker, suffragette, civic leader, and war heroine. As the eldest of seven children, she had to help her mother take care of her siblings after the death of her father in 1918, all while studying to obtain a high school teacher's certificate from the University of the Philippines.

Escoda went to the United States several times to further help with her social work. After graduating, she trained in social welfare at the New York School of Social Work. During that stay, she also represented the Philippines in speaking engagements in the International House and the Women's International League for Peace. Her second visit to the U.S., which was meant for Boy Scout training, she used to train young women teachers from the public and private sector to become Girl Scout leaders.

When World War II broke out, Escoda's involvement in aiding prisoners of war and stranded women and children led to her arrest, torture, and eventual execution at the hands of the Japanese.

Trivia: As an active member of the suffrage movement of the Philippines, Josefa Llanes Escoda was quoted as saying that "The modern woman is no longer the wife that clings; she now helps the husband. The women's demand for independence is motivated by their desire to help their husbands in governmental affairs which always required the moderation and wisdom of women."

Magdalena Leones (1921-2016)

Having passed away only last year, Cpl. Magdalena Leones remains to be one of the lesser-known World War II veterans, even though she is the only Asian woman to have been awarded the Silver Star in World War II by the United States. Born in the mountains of Kalinga, Leones was the daughter of an evangelical missionary. Since she refused to surrender after the Fall of Bataan, she was imprisoned for five months. During this time, she taught herself how to speak Niponggo, a skill she utilized to help save the lives of other Filipinos captured by the Japanese.

After encountering Colonel Russel Volckman of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines-North Luzon (USAFIP-NL), she agreed to serve as a special agent. Using her church connections and her Niponggo-speaking skills, she was able to carry "important intelligence data, vital radio parts, and medical supplies" through Japanese-held territory. Though she knew that capture could result in torture and execution, she powered through and continued to serve her country, earning her the moniker of "the lioness of Filipino guerilla agents."

Trivia: Magdalena Leones was caught several times, but was able to escape each time due to her wits and sweet talk.



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Where is Sarah Balabagan now?

BY BEV LLORENTE



Las Vegas, Nevada - Sarah Balabagan's story made headlines all over the world when this overseas Filipino worker (OFW) stabbed her employer 34 times in 1994.

She was only 14 when she began working abroad. Her recruiter faked her age as 28 and got a job for her as a domestic helper for a 67-year-old widower with four sons at the United Arab Emirates.

Balabagan alleged that she became the subject of unsolicited sexual advances by her employer. She stabbed him to death, saying he tried to rape her and that she was acting in self-defense.

She was initially sentenced to death. But her sentence was reduced to a year's imprisonment

and 100 strokes of the cane, along with payment of blood money which was paid by a Filipino businessman.

Balabagan called the caning "unbearable".



Balabagan being shielded upon arrival in 1994 from UAE

She returned to the Philippines in 1996 to a hero's welcome.

Three decades later, Sarah Balabagan Sereno is now living a new

life here in Las Vegas.

The former Muslim is now a devout Christian, a mother of five and an advocate for fellow victims and survivors of human trafficking.

She may be in a better place now, but she remembers how she found the strength to live during the darkest moments of her life.

"Not only I was fighting for my life, not only I am fighting for my honor as a woman, but I'm fighting for my family. At that moment I need to survive," Balabagan said.

She said, no matter your stature in life, for as long as you know you have the truth on your side, you should keep fighting.

"Napaka importante yung paninindigan mo. If you know it's right, fight for it. At 'wag kang matakot, God is with you," she said.



August 28, 2017

Dear Community Leader,

We are hosting a reception to welcome the special education teachers who recently arrived. It's been a year since we welcomed the 2016 group of special education teachers.

This event will be on September 16, 2017, at 11:30am to be held at the Sheriff's community room, 7000 - 65th Street, Sacramento, CA. Lunch will be served.

Paolo Legaspi, one of the special education teachers from the 2016 group, when asked what helped him most the first few months after he arrived from the Philippines said: "For me, being welcomed last year by the Filipino community here left a positive impression and that in itself has been helpful to our psyche moving forward. The material things we received definitely made a lot easier for most of us but more importantly that warmth we received from most of you made us feel we belong, eventually survived the first year."

Eskwela Natin, along with PNDA (Philippine National Day Association), CAPITAL (Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership) and other sponsors will work together to make this a successful event. We are accepting donations to fund the reception and give welcome gifts to the teachers. Please make checks to Eskwela Natin, noting in the memo field "2017 welcome Special Edu " and mail to 9524 Swanbrook Court, Elk Grove, Ca 95758. Eskwela Natin is a 501C 3 nonprofit organization. Tax ID 46 2747258.

Please save the date and invite friends to come and give a warm welcome to our kababayans. We rely on your generosity and thank you wholeheartedly for your continued support.

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10 of the world's coolest neighbourhoods to visit right now

THE LONELY PLANET

Few travel lovers have trouble naming the world's greatest cities; the likes of London, New York and Rio de Janeiro will always draw curious wanderers. But keeping tabs on the local trends that keep city life so exciting is another matter.

We asked our Lonely Planet Locals from around the globe to share their must-see neighbourhoods. Some have been steadily developing their street cred for years, others are in the midst of rapid transformation – all are ripe for exploration right now.

Borgo San Frediano, Florence

On the southern side of Florence's Arno river, the San Frediano neighbourhood is breathing new life into the Oltrarno area, known more for its artisans than hipster appeal. With its narrow streets and tiny sidewalks, all the action is sandwiched between one of the city's last remaining ancient gates and Borgo San Frediano.

First stop is Gesto, where the salvaged and upcycled vintage interior blends nicely with their tasty, tapas-style bites. Located nearby is possibly the best craft cocktail bar in town:



Mad Souls & Spirits. Here, locals flock to try the concoctions dreamed up by cult alchemists Neri Fantechi and Julian Biondi in a tiny space with brick walls and exposed copper piping.

Further down Borgo San Frediano, fusion cocktails take centre stage at Japanese hotspot Kawaii, offering the first sake bar experience in Italy.

Seongsu-dong, Seoul

Stroll through Seongsu-dong during working hours and you'll probably catch the smell of ink heavy in the air from print presses in full throttle. Labelled the Williamsburg of Seoul, this industrial hub owes its new reputation to its salvaged spaces – abandoned warehouses and factories that have been transformed into cafes, restaurants, galleries and independent shops.

Many credit exhibition space and cafe Daelim Changgo for having led this revolution back in 2011.



Today, a dozen venues have followed suit, populating the neighbourhood with fashion-forward twenty-somethings and their DSLR cameras. Sip on a

cup of single-origin coffee at Cafe Onion, Zagmachi or OR.ER and watch as the old and new combine to create something beautiful.

The Triangle, Lisbon

Nestled between Lisbon's Bairro Alto and Santos neighbourhoods and parliament, on the route of iconic Tram 28, is a cluster of three streets dubbed 'The Triangle'. Lower rents around these parts have attracted a new generation of creatives and entrepreneurs who are repurposing derelict tile-covered buildings on ruas Poço dos Negros, São Bento and Poais de São Bento and setting up shop alongside dusty antique sellers and

family-owned restaurants.

Originality and the near absence of tourist crowds are the main attractions here – spend an afternoon browsing speciality stores like travel bookshop Palavra de Viajante, custom-blend tea vendor Companhia Portuguesa do Chá, and boutique grocery store Mercearia Poço dos Negros, stopping for refreshments at cafe-by-day, wine-bar-by-night The Mill and Scandinavian-inspired coffee joint Hello, Kristof.



Vesterbro, Copenhagen

Thanks to its colourful history and despite its increasing popularity, Copenhagen's coolest neighbourhood has managed to maintain its edge. Home to some of the city's best street art, vibrant Vesterbro is packed with cool independent shops, street markets, restaurants and bars.

If you do anything, come hungry. Vesterbro packs a mean brunch at cafés like Mad & Kaffe and Granola,



while the old Kødbyen Meatpacking District (a distinctly hip pocket within the Vesterbro area) and the newly opened WestMarket

are crammed with foodie options. Thirsty? Craft beer lovers can sample the goods at local brewers Mikkeller and Fermentoren.

Business Bay, Dubai

Ignore the unsexy name – Business Bay is becoming one of Dubai's most exciting neighbourhoods. Once a soulless expanse of half-built office towers – a casualty of the 2008 global financial crisis – the area is reinventing itself as a waterfront leisure destination.

Bordered by glitzy Downtown Dubai to the north and intersected by Dubai Canal, there's a 12km-long promenade for strolling, while ferries cruise south to Dubai Marina and north to the Al Fahidi Historic



District. Things will only improve over the next few years as parks, playgrounds, marinas, hotels, cafés and boutiques pop up along the canal. Away from the

water, Bay Avenue is the community's buzzing heart, with casual restaurants, a pleasant park and weekly farmers' market during the cooler winter months.

Sunset Park, New York City

The success of art and commerce behemoth Industry City has shone a light onto one of Brooklyn's most exciting under-the-radar neighbourhoods. Situated below Park Slope, on the south and western borders of Green-Wood Cemetery, Sunset Park hosts a heady mix of cultures and traditions.

On the east side stands Brooklyn's Chinatown, with its rows of restaurants, bubble tea shops and bou-



tiques. The west is home to a large Latin American community and plenty of friendly bars, not to mention the historic Melody Lanes bowling alley. At the centre of it all is Sunset

Park itself. Set on one of the highest hills in Brooklyn, it offers spectacular views of lower Manhattan for the locals and visitors who flock here on summer evenings.

Damansara Heights, Kuala Lumpur

Bangsar may be better known, but Damansara Heights has the buzz. One of the richest addresses in Kuala Lumpur, this neighbourhood has retained its personality despite its recent revitalisation.

Post-facelift, Jalan Batai has developed into a community-focused street replete with eateries and cosmopolitan conveniences. While the road has yet to

draw KL's cool kids, the offerings – farm-to-table restaurant Sitka, Ben's Independent Grocer (including a great coffee bar) and the elegant Torii yakitori and whiskey bar – deserve attention. Swing by Plaza Damansara, a beat-up area seeing an uptick of shiny shops and restaurants such as café-bakery Huckleberry, Skullduggery speakeasy and Flour, a North Indian restaurant that peddles a knockout biryani.



Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro

Low rents and excellent transport links have helped make Botafogo the hottest neighbourhood in Rio. Talented young chefs, entrepreneurs and creatives are the driving force behind an increasingly exciting nightlife. The focus is on originality and collaboration, with established spots like Bukowski and Comuna being joined by funky new concept bars and multipurpose spaces.

Gastro bars like CoLAB and Void House of Food are tapping into a growing interest in international



cuisine by hosting regular guest chefs who serve anything from ramen to Trinidadian street food. Other popular spots include Wine-House and South Ferro, re-

spectively serving excellent yet affordable wines by the glass and gourmet pizza by the slice.

Continued on next page

Ruffa Gutierrez, Jodi Sta. Maria, Jennylyn Mercado come together to empower women

BY BOT GLORIOSO

If there is one thing the world should know, it is that an empowered woman is unstoppable. Beyond their beauty, Filipinas are among the most powerful and fearless women in the world.

This August, Avon endorses Ruffa Gutierrez, Jodi Sta. Maria, and Jennylyn Mercado got on board to help spread the word on the brand's advocacy. These women are not just beautiful—they are living proof that you cannot bring a good woman down.

In addition, the brand is proud to unveil four must-have products that will help all women stay on top of their game all day, every day. Described as a warm and sophisticated scent that evokes passion and control, Imari Bold's captivating



Ruffa Gutierrez

Jodi Sta. Maria

Jennylyn Mercado

smell is the easiest way to add a touch of understated class to your look and stay confident all-day long. Meanwhile, Briana Shoulder Bag is a tasteful two-tone leatherette bag that can fit all your everyday essentials without sacrificing style. From work to play, this bag is for modern women who are not afraid of stepping out of their comfort zones in the name of pursuing their passion.

Likewise, the Cassandra Underwire bra with remov-

able/movable high neck lace cami lets you wear it in different ways. A gold half bangle with the phrase "Believe in Yourself," this jewelry aims to serve as a daily reminder to all women to always appreciate and assert your worth.

The three women bravely shared their stories of struggle and how they were able to overcome it in a short YouTube video that will tug at the heartstrings of anyone who has gone through trying times.

10 of the world's coolest neighbourhoods

Frelard, Seattle

In the space between two of Seattle's most popular neighbourhoods, a new community has slowly been taking shape. Embraced by Seattle restaurateur Ethan Stowell, owner of Frelard Pizza Company, the name Frelard reflects those of its neighbours: Fre(mont) and (Bal)lard.

Visitors wandering from the Fremont Troll to the Chittenden Locks can now stop to sample one of the area's growing restaurant, bar and brewery options. The Leary Traveler welcomes travellers for a craft cocktail and sliders, or you can re-



lax over a traditional brown ale or IPA from one of the oldest breweries in Seattle, Hale's Ales. There are plenty of options for food too, from the aforementioned Frelard Pizza Company to

the protein-rich menu at Giddy Up Burgers. It's the perfect place to refuel on a day spent exploring beyond Seattle's main tourist sights.

Tooting, London

Tooting in South London has developed into an uber-cool neighbourhood in recent years and lost none of its gritty charm in the process. Rubbing shoulders with perfectly pleasant yet slightly square Wimbledon, Earlsfield and Balham, Tooting is a more captivating affair, revelling in multiculturalism and originality. Its high street, which stretches between two Tube stations, is one of the best 'curry corridors' in the country, and contains some superb South Asian restaurants, like Dosa n Chutny and Apollo Banana Leaf.



The best shopping can be found inside eclectic Tooting Market, and quirky bars and pubs include The Castle, The Antelope and The Little Bar. The Tooting

Commons create over 200 acres of green space between them, and are home to Tooting Bec Lido – the largest swimming pool in the United Kingdom.

Throwback to FPJ

CineMo celebrated the birthday of the King of Philippine Cinema Fernando Poe Jr. via a successful screening of the digitally restored and remastered movie "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko" at SM North EDSA.

The event was a star-studded success with attendees including FPJ's co-star in the movie, Judy Ann Santos, her husband Ryan Agoncillo, Primetime King Coco Martin, Yassi Pressman, Susan Roces, wife of the late legend, and their daughter Sen. Grace Poe.

ABS-CBN truly went all out with celebrating the birthday of FPJ not only by screening the restored version of one of his movies but also airing his other blockbuster films on ABS-CBN TVplus' CineMo channel for the whole month.

"The whole family and I are very touched and thankful that this is being done for FPJ's films so that young people may be able to see his works," said Susan, FPJ's wife of almost 36 years.

Judy, who played his daughter in the movie, shared her happiness and fond memories of Da King. "This might be one of the more than 120 films that ABS-CBN has restored, some of which



Dindo Perez, scripwriter, Sen. Grace Poe and Judy Ann Santos with copies of the digitally restored movie poster

were all just so happy on set," she said.

She added, "Finally, people will be able to see the works of FPJ. He truly is a legend. We should celebrate him and his works because he has inspired many."

Meanwhile, Sen. Grace was very excited to watch the film and expressed how it holds a special place in her heart.

"This movie is close to my heart. There are some parts that were based on my life, so it is also a testament of my father's love for me," she said.

Since 2011, ABS-CBN Film Restoration Project has been restoring classic films to help preserve Philippine cinematic history. Together with Central Digital Lab, it has become the first restoration effort to be done within the country. "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko" is one of the more than 120 films that ABS-CBN has restored, some of which

were already screened internationally via film fests, screened locally via red carpet premieres, aired on free-to-air and cable television, viewed via pay-per-view and video-on-demand, distributed on DVD, and downloadable even on iTunes.

CineMo will continue to air FPJ movies during its "FPJ: Hari ng Aksyon" block every Sunday at 5pm.

CineMo is available on ABS-CBN TVplus. ABS-CBN is the first media and entertainment company in the Philippines to make the historic switch from analog to digital terrestrial television in 2015 to transform the TV viewing experience of Filipinos. Using digital signal transmission, ABS-CBN TVplus makes TV viewing dramatically crystal clear. Besides exclusive channels, it can also capture and broadcast channels that transmit in digital and is offered for a one-time payment fee.

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The Sinag-tala Filipino Theater & Performing Arts Association presents its **2017 Workshop Series**



We are proud to present our FREE 2017 theater & performance workshop series! Learn techniques in vocal projection, dance, or experience the Filipino tradition of stringed instruments known as Rondalla. Taught by talented and experienced instructors, we aim to introduce you to the world of performing arts and Filipino culture.

Vocal Workshops

Is a vocal warm up really necessary? Learn the importance of vocal warm ups before singing, and warming up your vocal chords. Participants will listen to music and sing selected pieces.

Vocal projection—Learn the difference between projecting and shouting. And the differences between head tone, chest tone and falsetto.

Microphone techniques—How should we use the microphone? This workshop will build from the past two workshops and teach participants how to use a microphone properly.

How should I express a song? Learn how a song can be expressed thinking about lyrics, and understanding the intent and emotion of a song. Participants will be encouraged to develop their own styles and technique.

Instructor: Malou Verder-Carlos
Location: Sinag-tala Studio—4200 82nd Street, Ste E
Dates & Times: 9/12, 9/14, 10/12, 10/19—All workshops are 7:00-8:00 PM

Rondalla Workshops

Ideal for musicians interested in learning selected Filipino nursery rhymes and folk dance songs. Learning on traditional Filipino rondalla stringed instruments like the bandurria, octavina, and guitar, participants will learn music pieces to be included in Sinag-Tala's production in December!

Instructor: Dee Pizarro
Location: Sinag-tala Studio—4200 82nd Street, Ste E
Dates & Times: Saturdays—9/2 thru 9/30; 3:00—4:30 PM

Dance Workshops

Be exposed to dance styles from swing to contemporary. This workshop aims to teach basic dance moves in a few different genres, exposing students to studio etiquette, and proper dance techniques.

Instructor: Dane San Pedro & Amanda Newsum
Location: Rize-All Dance Studio—2745 Elk Grove Blvd, Ste 270
Dates & Times: 9/13 thru 10/20 on Wednesdays—6:00 to 6:45 PM & Fridays—6:30 to 7:15 PM

To Sign Up or for questions, please contact SFTPAA at: sftpaa@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/SinagtalaSac>






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