



**PNP Chief Dela Rosa:  
'Bloodless drug war impossible'**  
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# PF NEWS

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**IFC Mrs. Ilocandia 2018-19**  
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## Mayon continues to spew out lava fountains



Mayon volcano erupts anew at sunset in Albay.

Photo by Justin Longaza

BY CHITO CHAVEZ

Mayon Volcano emitted seven series of intense but intermittent fountaining from its crater from Thurs-

day morning till Friday morning. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported that

lava fountaining reached as high as 500 meters while generating ash plumes that popped up to

Continued on page 2

## The Crowning of Queen Victoria



Photo by Dave San Pedro

On 31 Dec 2017 in Sacramento, Magellan Hall crowned our very own Queen Victoria. Queen Carlina Victoria, that is, as Ms. New Year's 2018. Accompanying Queen Victoria, Princess Linda Gibson as Ms. Hope, and Princess Letty Matte as Ms. Faith.

## HALA BIRA 2018

BY CARLE and SARAH ENLOE

This year's 27th Annual Ati-Atihan Festival Dinner and Dance celebration was very special and the culmination of months of hard work and long hours by the organization and other volunteers. It still seems like a dream that the Festival has come and gone. The passing of the Festival always leaves everyone with a warm blessed feeling for having had a chance to worship once again the Patron Saint of Aklan - Señor Santo Niño and celebrate with friends and family. Continued on page 11



Photo by Dave San Pedro

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## Tokhang, Take 3

BY ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

After covering the crime beat for many years, I can declare with certainty that there really are criminals who resist arrest or nanlalaban.

And when they do, there truly are instances when they are so hardened, or feeling so desperately trapped, that they resist violently, using whatever weapon is available. And it's likely that the weapon would be used to kill, which is the best way to avoid being further pursued and captured.

In such instances, of course the arresting officer would defend himself, by neutralizing the threat.

It's also not far-fetched that the police would be outgunned. Organized crime rings can be well-funded, and they invest in firepower, getaway vehicles and communication devices.

The most well-funded are the drug traffickers and gambling lords, whose illegal activities can be sustained for long periods. Not as sustainable, but also profitable, are kidnapping for ransom and carjacking.

As we have seen in many cases in the past, the goons who engage in these activities are typically heavily armed – and they have no compunctions about using the weapons to kill those who get in their way: victims, arresting cops, prosecutors, witnesses, even judges who send gang members to prison.

Obviously, engaging in activities to raise colossal amounts of dirty money is not for the faint-hearted. And neither is fighting them. Cops who run after such criminals must be ready to kill or be killed, and even risk the safety of their loved ones.

The greater the gains from illicit activities, the tougher the resistance to arrest. And the illegal drug trade has to be

the most lucrative traditional criminal activity (hacking into bank accounts, a 21st century crime, can be more profitable, and easier for experts). Plunder can't be far behind, but this is another story.

So the chief of the Philippine National Police was just being honest and realistic when he said a bloodless war on drugs is impossible. Director General Ronald dela Rosa made the comment as the PNP relaunched Oplan Tokhang at the start of the week.



As real as the cases of nanlalaban, however, are the "salvagings" or summary executions along with the planting of evidence by police, especially in drug cases. Philippine cops have been engaging in salvaging since the Commonwealth period.

One reason last year's killing of teenagers by police so spooked people and pulled down President Duterte's ratings was the thought that anyone could be targeted for brutal execution, including children. It doesn't matter if the kids are experimenting with drugs or not; parents believe in their children's capacity for reform and want the kids to be safe, especially from homicidal cops.

Tokhang Take 3 is supposed to do away with such abuses. At the relaunch last Monday, all the "tokhangers" were in proper police uniform. As promised, the kinder, gentler tokhang was carried out only during daytime, and will be suspended during weekends.

With so many journalists accompanying the tokhangers and all the kibitzers raising their smartphones to record everything, it was a wonder

the cops managed to get anything done as they conducted house-to-house visits.

The real action is going to be when tokhang's relaunch recedes from the headlines, and when the tokhangers begin focusing their attention on the folks on President Duterte's updated narco list.

Public support for Duterte's ruthless war on drugs, unusually high for about a year since he assumed office, began crumbling after video footage, witnesses and recovered bodies provided incontrovertible evidence of brazen abuse of police power, mostly targeting the impoverished.

Duterte has been trying to explain the focus on penny-ante hampaslupa drug suspects, arguing that they are the users of shabu, poor man's cocaine, which fries the brain.

But other drugs have the same effect, and worse. Perhaps with Tokhang 3, the cops can focus their energies on those who distribute and use cocaine, Ecstasy and other party drugs. They can go after dealers of the opioid analgesic fentanyl and its cousin carfentanyl, said to be 100 times more potent than fentanyl, 5,000 times stronger than heroin and 10,000 times stronger than morphine.

Carfentanyl is being likened to nerve gas and eyed as a potential chemical weapon. The biggest distributor of fentanyl and its analogues is China, which legally manufactured and sold the drugs mostly online until they were classified as controlled substances last year.

If the tokhangers run into the traffickers of these drugs and a genuine firefight erupts, Pinoys will probably again look the other way if the take-no-prisoners approach is applied.

## Battered women

BY DULCE REYES

Women talk

Are you aware of any battered women or housewives out there? If yes, whether the victim likes it or not and even says it is none of your business, ask advice from your barangay chairman.

Will you wait until the abused woman gets beaten to death? I once knew a housewife who to my surprise was being abused, physically and verbally by her husband.

On the outside you will not suspect anything. Everything was hidden within the four walls of their home. Her scars were covered up by her perennially long-sleeved blouses and pants.

Yet, if we only looked closely, her eyes tell it all. Why is it that battered women lack the courage to leave their abusive spouses? Is it their martyr complex? Yes and no. Yes they prefer to suffer endlessly for various reasons.

Some say they don't want to leave their children or they endure everything for the sake of their children. Others say they do not know where else to go. For a few, it is the shame of it all and

they don't want to face their family.

Whatever are the reasons, there are no excuses to continue being a victim of abuse.

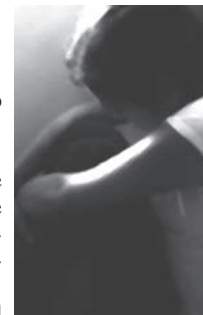
Those who had the courage to escape and find solace in their church or women's organizations or even in their families will say that after enduring all the pain, they could have left their spouse earlier if they only knew that help was out there waiting.

A battered wife who kept on getting pregnant says that being brought up in a sheltered home, literally like a princess, and getting married to an abusive husband, she could not find the courage to tell her parents and pity her.

What she realized later on was that her family, who did not have an inkling of her sufferings, could have come to her rescue sooner, if she but gave a hint.

And they would have taken their children as well and have the husband brought to justice. Parents will never abandon their children to an abusive environment.

I know of another battered



wife who, at the first hint of being beaten up by her husband, was immediately rescued by her brothers and her spouse was threatened never to see or even touch

her again or he will be sent to jail. Sure, the threat is always there by the perpetrator of abuse.

This is why as soon as there is an opportunity, the wife or victim should immediately send out a cry for help even secretly, before it is too late.

In this day of social media, it is difficult for battered women to be kept hidden.

Nosy neighbors will talk and spread the news or better, inform the authorities, who would know what to do. I know it is better said than done.

But action must be taken. Ask for advice from the women's desk in every police station.

They would know how to handle this type of situation. Every day counts for battered women. It is a matter of life or death for them. So ask for help now.

## Mayon continues...

From page 1

three kilometers above the crater.

The lava fountaining lasted from 26 to 57 minutes.

Phivolcs officials noted that there have been 15 volcanic earthquakes and 19 tremor events that corresponded to seven lava fountaining occurrences.

"There was also one epi-

sode of pyroclastic density current generation from lava collapse and numerous rock-fall events," the agency said.

Alert Level 4 remains in the effect over Mayon Volcano, which means a hazardous eruption is imminent.

In its latest report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said that 21,733 families

or 83,533 people have been affected by the continued unrest of Mayon Volcano.

President Rodrigo Duterte is set to visit the evacuees who were forced out of their home due to the Mayon Volcano eruption.

The government has placed the province of Albay under a state of calamity since January 16.



### Editor's Note

*This is a good start. Just a month into the year, Philippine Fiesta's pages are filled with successful community projects, special events, and commentaries by our devoted and dedicated contributing writers. They keep our community publication going and we can't say enough to thank all of them.*

*Just to say, I enjoy seeing social media's posts by our community friends enjoying retirement in full blast, whether spending time in the gym, participating in community projects, touring the Philippines, or having a good time celebrating and enjoying the company of family and friends. Congratulations to everyone in reaching these milestones in life. It's just right to reap the rewards of all your many years of hard work.*

*On a sad note, there are those community friends and acquaintances who are experiencing the challenges in life. My heart breaks for them each time I hear someone gets diagnosed with cancer or are already in the later stage of their illnesses. It puts my thinking into a different perspective, as I myself, have had my own share of circumstances that affected my health.*

*As our existence takes us into many more enjoyable and challenging experiences, let us not forget to say prayers for ourselves, for one another, and for all mankind- that we should be given more time to serve and enjoy what's ahead of us. Let us think of ways to improve our physical well being by being active, to savor on good food, and not subject ourselves into anything that will affect our health. And mostly, to spend time with family! Go on a stroll or a trip to a favorite park, or anything just to be with them. This is the time in our life where every second counts, we don't want to miss on anything...*

*Join us again on our next issue and read about what's going on in our forever-vibrant Filipino community.*

*Have a happy heart,  
Dinnah San Pedro*

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# PNP Chief Dela Rosa: 'Bloodless drug war impossible'

BY CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

MANILA, Philippines — There is no guarantee that the relaunched "tokhang" will not result in bloodshed, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Harry Roque expressed hope the police "have learned from their experience" and would try their best to make sure community anti-drug operations or Oplan Tokhang "would be less bloody."

The program made a comeback with an assurance from Dela Rosa that it would be free of violence if offenders agree to go peacefully with police.

But he could not promise a "foolproof anti-drug campaign that would be bloodless," Dela Rosa stressed, explaining that police were "not dealing with people who are in their proper state of mind."

"On the way of addressing this problem, we also have to protect ourselves, preserve our own life and the life of the stranger," he said. "Now, tell me who among the police commanders can do it, and I will be willing to give up my post."

"That's impossible," he said.

"We are just giving you the assurance we will try our best to make it less bloody," he added. Tokhang operations, he said, would only be conducted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson questioned the PNP's move to limit "tokhang" to office hours and weekdays.

"I don't understand why drug pushers will have a weekend holiday," he said.

Lacson said as long as the provisions of the Revised Penal

Code and the rules of engagement on arrests, especially warrantless arrests, are followed, "the law enforcement function of the PNP should be continuous."

In Cebuano, "Tokhang" is a combination of the words "knock" and "plead."

Besides the visits, police have also run so-called "buy-bust" or sting operations and raided suspected drug dens and laboratories.

In many of these operations, say rights activists, suspects did not get the chance to surrender, but were executed in cold blood. Police insist suspects died because they violently resisted arrest.

Nearly 4,000 drug suspects have died in gun battles with police since June 2016, when President Duterte came to power. The government lost 85 police and soldiers in the drug war, police data show.

More than 1.2 million people had also turned themselves in after the home visits.

Duterte stopped police anti-drug operations twice due to questions over the conduct of the operations.

The President, who has promised to continue his war on illegal drugs "until the last drug pusher is out of the streets," has also vowed to protect policemen who shoot drug suspects in self defense.

But he has clarified that the protection does not cover law enforcers who commit crimes and abusive practices.

Roque welcomed the PNP's statement reaffirming police commitment to the rule of law. He said the President has no instructions regarding the re-launched campaign, not-



Police officers visit homes in Tondo, Manila to ask suspected drug users to undergo rehabilitation during yesterday's relaunch of Oplan Tokhang.

ing that the PNP has already issued new guidelines for law enforcers involved in drug raids.

Interior and local government department officer-in-charge Eduardo Año has said that the new Tokhang guidelines emphasize accountability of police personnel providing support to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, which has been tasked to lead the campaign.

While the PNP promised a less bloody Tokhang, at least four suspected drug personalities in Quezon City, Pasig and Cavite were killed days before the relaunch of the anti-drug crackdown.

Last year, Duterte removed the PNP from the anti-drug war following the deaths of teenage drug suspects in Caloocan.

He restored the PNP's role in the campaign after a few months because of the supposed "notable resurgence in illegal drug activities and crimes."

More than 19,000 "homicide" cases have been recorded since the start of the drug war in 2016, of which only about 2,200 are drug-related, according to PNP.

The PNP has conducted more than 64,000 anti-drug operations, with more than 102,000 arrests.

To ensure transparency,

Dela Rosa invited human rights advocates, priests and the media to join the relaunched tokhang.

The police officers involved would also undergo a vetting process to weed out rogue officers, said Dela Rosa, adding that past abuses had involved the police seeking bribes to drop the names of people from the lists they compiled.

"We are certainly hoping that it will be less controversial, because controversy will only blur the real intention, which is really the fight against dangerous drugs," Roque told reporters.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Oscar Albayalde also extended the same invitation to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

"We are inviting the CRH to join all our Oplan Tokhang operations to erase once and for all accusations of EJK (extrajudicial killings) and other illegal activities by our Tokhangers," said Albayalde in an interview.

Albayalde led the simultaneous re-launching of Oplan Tokhang in Metro Manila as he stressed that Tokhangers strictly passed a vetting process and background investigation.

The NCRPO chief said every tokhang operation would involve at least four policemen and village officials.

The PNP's Directorate for Intelligence (DI) would pinpoint houses to be subjected to tokhang.

The Tokhangers would be in full uniform and unarmed, but would be accompanied by armed units depending on the security situation in the area of operation.

According to Albayalde, the Tokhangers would be different from the Station's Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) which would separately conduct anti-drug operations in Metro Manila.

Tokhangers, based on rules, should not force subjects to come out of their houses.

"Those who turn themselves in or surrender would be brought to the barangay hall or police station where they would undergo documentation. They would be evaluated and first timers would be recommended for rehabilitation," he said.

"When their subjects refuse to open their houses, the visiting Tokhangers would conduct a case buildup against them for the purposes of police operation later," he added.

### Dismissed policemen

A total of 352 policemen have been dismissed from the service for various offenses since Dela Rosa's assumption as PNP chief 18 months ago.

"Since I assumed as chief PNP, I have already dismissed 352 policemen for various offenses, 167 for drugs or drug-related, 155 others for kidnapping, murder, extortion, various offenses," he told reporters in a press briefing yesterday.

The ranks of the dismissed policemen ranged from police officer 1 (PO1) to superintendent.

He said 329 more are facing administrative and criminal charges and might also be dismissed.

Quoting a report from the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management (DPRM), Dela Rosa said 146 of the 167 policemen dismissed for drug related reasons were found to be drug users.

As part of the internal

cleansing in the police force, Dela Rosa reassigned 200 errant Metro Manila-based policemen to Mindanao.

The DPRM records also showed 21 other policemen arrested for alleged involvement in illegal drugs, 72 dismissed for being absent without leave (AWOL), 57 for offenses like immorality, estafa and dishonesty; 22 for murder and 15 for robbery extortion.

Records also showed that nine police officers were dismissed for homicide, illegal arrest, detention or "incriminatory machination," and parricide — offenses the PNP consider human rights violations.

Eight other policemen were dismissed for charges of kidnapping; one for graft and malversation and one for rape, DPRM records showed.

Dela Rosa revealed the dismissal proceedings against a police senior superintendent remain pending before the Office of the President. He refused to name the officer.

The Office of the President handles dismissal proceedings against officers with ranks of senior superintendent and higher.

"The city director of Iloilo City allowed drugs to proliferate, and Odicta to lord it over the drug trade. There's a case against the city director," he said, apparently referring to alleged Iloilo drug lord Melvin Odicta Sr. and his wife Meriam, who were shot dead at the Caticlan Jetty Port in Aklan on Aug. 29, 2016.

Dela Rosa did not disclose details about the police officer.

He also revealed a police-woman is facing charges after she was caught in a casino in Cebu. "Despite our warning, some remain hardheaded," he said.



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## 'Probe Benham Rise research deal'

BY JESS DIAZ

MANILA, Philippines — Seven leftist party-list lawmakers belonging to the Makabayan bloc want the House of Representatives to look into the government-approved Chinese maritime research in Benham Rise.

In Resolution No 1623, Zarate and his colleagues said the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf awarded Benham Rise, renamed Philippine Rise, to the Philippines in 2012.

"Despite the Chinese government's adverse view on Philippine Rise, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) granted China a permit to conduct maritime research in the eastern seaboard of the Philippines starting Jan. 24," they said.

According to Rep. Gary Alejano of Magdalo, who blew the whistle on the DFA's approval of China's application, the "research" will last for a month up to Feb. 25.

Makabayan noted that various groups and individuals have aired opposition to the Chinese expedition "as it appears to be a repeat of China's 'modus operandi' used in 2005 under the Arroyo-era joint marine seismic undertaking (JMSU) that jeopardize our claims in the Recto (Reed) Bank."

"Under the JMSU that the then Arroyo administration entered into with China, the latter was able to discover and confirm the enormous reserves of natural gas in Recto Reed Bank, where one field already holds about 2.7-3.4 trillion cubic feet of the valuable resource," the lawmakers said.

They said China did not share with the Philippine government the information it gathered in the joint marine seismic study.

They claimed that China

"is now very zealous in taking over these rich natural gas deposits as evidenced by its aggressive stance, even constructing islands and placing missile systems to control the area."

They noted that the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources already conducted a survey of Philippine Rise between 2004-2008 and produced a highly detailed 3D digital bathymetric model done by Filipino scientists.

Another state agency, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture, has also been conducting annual fisheries research and experimental fishing expeditions in Philippine Rise to determine the tuna fishery potential of its waters, Zarate and his colleagues said.

The UP National Institute for Geological Sciences (NIGS) and UP Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) have also been collaborating with counterpart institutions from Korea and Japan since 2016 to begin initial exploration of the seabed in the Philippine Rise, they said.

Local scientists capable They said other Filipino marine geologists and biologists have produced academic papers and analyses for policy considerations and have been analyzing samples and observations gathered from research cruises and have made interesting findings and potential discoveries.

"The Philippines, in fact, already has a deep-sea research vessel, known as BRP Gregorio Velasquez, that can conduct its own study," they added.

They pointed out that contrary to the claims of the Duterte administration, the Philippines does not have to rely on China to study the Philippine Rise.

Alejano earlier revealed the arrival of Chinese vessel Ke Hue Hao in Philippine waters on Jan. 22, or two days ahead of its supposed month-long research.

He said the Chinese ship was located northeast of Palanan, Isabela yesterday.

Alejano reiterated its appeal to the DFA and other concerned agencies, including the University of the Philippines, to closely monitor activities in the Philippine Rise.

"What we should make sure now is compliance of China with all the requirements demanded by the Philippine government as conditions to the permit issued. In particular, we should be wary on the sharing of information that will be culled from the expedition. Filipino scientists on board should be given equal access to all results of the research," he said.

Alejano also chided administration officials for saying Filipinos alone could not do research in Philippine Rise because of the huge cost involved.

"It is not because our scientists do not have the ability to conduct research, it is because our government does not allot sufficient funding for it. In fact, there have already been expeditions there by Filipinos to support our claim over Benham Rise before it was awarded to us in 2012," he said.

He said the BFAR had proposed funding for a research facility in Benham Rise during last year's budget deliberations, but Congress rejected the proposal.

"This administration has shown no interest and support on strengthening our presence in Benham. Thus, it has no ascendancy to say that Filipinos cannot conduct research in the area given its lack of sup-



The seven, led by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate, suggested that the House committee on foreign af-

port," he said.

Zarate criticized the DFA for its "precipitous claim" that the Chinese "research" in the Philippine Rise would benefit the Philippines.

"If we are to study recent history of Chinese marine studies, like the joint marine seismic undertaking (JMSU) during the Arroyo administration, it can be seen that it is China that reaps in most of the benefits. In contrast, what we got are just useless blurry pictures," he said.

He said China discovered the location of rich marine resources in Philippine waters through the joint marine seismic study.

"The Chinese did not share the information they gathered with the Arroyo government," he said.

Zarate recalled that Bayan Muna challenged the marine seismic study before the Supreme Court.

The case forced then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to no longer renew the marine seismic study agreement, he said.

"China became more aggressive after confirming the presence of resources through the information it gathered via the JMSU. Chinese ships aggressively cruised the seas near Palawan in 2007, even if it was well outside the South China Sea and the JMSU area," he said.

He said the "betrayal of our national patrimony and

sovereignty is being repeated by the present administration in the case of Benham or Philippine Rise."

Nothing new The UPMSI, meanwhile, said its collaborative research with China on Benham Rise is just one of the

many similar arrangements in the past with other countries, including the United States.

In a statement, UPMSI said it "has been collaborating with oceanographers from different countries (such as the US, South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan) on research along the Pacific seaboard as early as the 1980s."

UPMSI's clarification came on the heels of criticism sparked by the government's allowing Chinese researchers to conduct a scientific expedition in the Philippine Rise.

It stressed the importance of international cooperation when it comes to research that involves large-scale processes.

It explained that its research partnership with the Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences followed similar studies on ocean currents in the area conducted with US scientists from 2011 to 2014.

"Understanding the dynamics of these major ocean current systems is complex and requires extensive resources. For research questions that involve large-scale processes beyond national jurisdiction, international collaboration is important because the collective efforts, data and information from all countries involved will enable us to acquire a better understanding of what is really happening," it added.

"Results from these (previous) cruises clearly showed

that measurements over longer periods were needed, validating the insights from pioneering research that started in the early 1980s. Studies with long-term measurements can only be achieved if resources from different countries are combined and shared," said the institute.

"In 2016, the Chinese oceanographers initiated discussions about possible collaboration on this particular (research)... As it was related to our research interests, we continue to explore ways to meaningfully engage with them," it added.

The UPMSI said the collaboration supports its initiative to develop a national oceanographic program that can help in understanding better the changing climate and ocean processes.

The collaborative research involves a study on temperature, salinity and current distributions in several locations in the Philippine Rise region. UPMSI said instruments of the Chinese institute will be used in the research.

The research activity, UPMSI said, will focus on the North Equatorial Current, which splits off the Philippine coast to form northward and southward moving bodies of water known as the Kuroshio Current and the Mindanao Current, respectively.

The UPMSI said studies on the currents are necessary as these affect climate in the region.

"The Kuroshio is responsible for the transport of heat to the rest of the North Pacific and therefore is an important driver of the regional climate and even the El Niño/La Niña cycles," it said.

"To understand the Kuroshio's role on climate and to help develop predictive models, we need to know how often and by how much it varies; thus the need to measure the currents and temperature structure over a long period of time," UPMSI added.

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# Bongbong Marcos bares 'evidence' of fraud in vice presidential race

By EDU PUNAY

MANILA, Philippines — Former senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. yesterday bared what he claimed was evidence of fraud in the May 2016 elections to boost his poll protest against Vice President Leni Robredo before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET).



Marcos questioned why the votes in some precincts all went to Robredo even though two or more candidates were shaded in the ballots. He said these should have been considered “overvotes.”

In a press conference in Manila, the late dictator’s son and namesake made public copies of election documents he received from the PET recently that supposedly showed “shocking and highly questionable” poll results in at least two provinces.

Marcos alleged that the images of ballots from polling precincts in several towns in Camarines Sur and Negros Oriental proved how the camp of Robredo “had manipulated the voting and trampled upon the true will of the people on their choice for vice president.”

He said the documents showed that votes for him in the provinces were either not counted or considered undervotes – not counted because of unclear marking by voters.

Marcos questioned why the votes in some precincts all went to Robredo even though two or more candidates were shaded in the ballots. He said these should have been considered “overvotes.”

“We discovered that my votes were not counted and they made (these) ‘undervotes.’ This is probably why there were more than three million undervotes in the vice presidential race,” he stressed.

“But when it comes to our opponent, they counted for her the votes that belonged to the other candidates,” Marcos alleged, referring to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and Robredo.

Marcos also assailed the presence of square shapes in the ballot images.

“When we voted, we had the oval shapes. How come in the ballot images, the ovals are gone and instead we have the squares. What does this mean?” he asked.

“We could see based on the election results sum-

mary that the squares indicated the candidates that were voted upon. But this is a new feature that the (Comelec) and Smartmatic added in the system and I had been told they did not inform the candidates of the presence of this feature in the images,” the former senator explained.

He believes the Comelec should explain such anomaly, particularly the substitution of the oval shapes in the ballot with squares.

The former senator, however, did not say how many ballot images from the records they received had such anomalies.

Marcos said he would unveil more evidence of poll fraud against Robredo.

“We will show more proof as we go through the rest of the printed ballot images. They bastardized our democracy and the sense of honesty and integrity of the Filipino people. Their depravity is unprecedented,” he claimed.

Marcos’ lawyer Vic Rodriguez said their technical and legal team reviewed the decrypted ballot images in the provinces for a week after receiving them from the PET.

“We discovered a lot of discrepancies. We could not help but really wonder if the current automated election system is really clean as Comelec and Smartmatic claim it to be,” he said in the same forum.

Rodriguez added they have opted to secure the soft copies of the ballot images since it was the less expensive option than paying once again for the photocopies of the images.

Earlier this month, the PET denied the bid of Marcos to secure original copies of decrypted ballot images and

other poll documents for his electoral protest against Robredo.

The PET rejected the plea of Marcos to keep the original copies of the poll records in the three pilot provinces of Camarines Sur, Iloilo and Negros Oriental for the duration of the recount.

The tribunal only allowed the former senator to secure soft copies and photocopies of the decrypted ballot images, election returns and audit logs from contested clustered precincts of the pilot provinces “subject to the payment of incidental costs.”

The camp of Marcos lamented the development as it accused the magistrate in charge of the case, Associate Justice Benjamin Caguioa, of bias in handling the election protest.


An appointee and close friend of former president Benigno Aquino III, Caguioa recommends to the tribunal the actions to be taken regarding Marcos’ protest and Robredo’s counter-protest, being the PET member in charge of the case.

But Robredo is unafraid of the impending recount of votes in connection with the electoral protest filed against her by Marcos as it would only affirm her victory in the May 2016 vice presidential race.

In an interview with dzRH, Robredo also denied Marcos’ allegation that they are delaying the process.

“They (Marcos camp) have a new propaganda on Facebook, where they make us appear that we’re the ones avoiding the recount,” the Vice President said.


“But if you look at what’s happening now, that’s not true. First, we’re not the ones causing the delay. Second, we have been very cooperative with the Supreme Court,” she said.



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# Poe asks: Is it time to ‘shut down’ Mocha Uson blog?

By MAILA AGER

Because of possible conflict of interests, should Assistant Secretary Mocha Uson’s controversial blog be “shut down” or should she just stay in private sector so she could freely speak her mind?



Senator Grace Poe raised these questions at the resumption of the Senate committee on public information and mass media’s hearing on fake news on Tuesday.

Poe noted that Mocha’s role as assistant secretary of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and as a blogger at the same time might have “overlapped,” citing Section 7 of Republic Act 6713.

The law, she said, provides that public officials may engage in the private practice of their profession “unless authorized by the Constitution or law provided that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with their official functions.”

“It’s very hard to separate her own personal opinion from that of the PCOO. Have you ever considered, and I will ask this and I hope you will answer in all candor since her own private blog is also a way of expressing and communicating, that this

Sen. Grace Poe asked this question Tuesday during the resumption of the Senate probe into the proliferation of fake news, noting that Mocha Uson’s position as a Presidential Communications assistant secretary and as a blogger might have “overlapped” with the law.

indeed (is) overlapping with her official functions? Perhaps even using government time to be able to fulfill her work in her blog,” Poe said.

“Have you ever considered that perhaps this a conflict of interest and it should be shut down, Sir?” she asked, directing her question to PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar.

Responding to the question, Andanar said: “I’ve spoken to Mocha about it, Madam Chair, and we’ve also spoken about her freedom of expression and also her way of speaking on her own Facebook page and I’ve called her out a few times and she has also taken down a few remarks...”

While recognizing Andanar’s efforts to talk to Uson, Poe asked the PCOO chief

what steps he had taken to assert his authority.

“Is there a suspension or is just merely a slap on the wrist...? So what do you do? What particular penalties or action do you take for employees?” she further asked.

The senator later added: “I think that Asec Mocha would be permitted to speak out should she be in the private sector.”

But Andanar argued that Uson had specific market to serve and “she has (been) serving the market well as far as the PCCO platforms are concerned.”

“Among particular market at sabihin mo sa akin kung hindi nya ito magagawa bilang isang pribadong mamayan at hindi kawani ng gobyerno?” Poe asked Andanar.

Andanar then pointed out that based on social media analytics, Uson’s markets are overseas Filipino workers, and Classes C, D, and E of the society.

Besides, Andanar said, Uson would not be exempted from any law that in fact she was already charged with libel.

Poe later on clarified that she was not suggesting that Uson’s blog should be taken down but that she was just saying that her opinions as a blogger and her role as a public servant has created “confusion.”

### My Sister's House marching for the dream of a violence-free world



### St. Paul New Year's Eve



New Year's Eve celebration held at St. Paul Parish Hall with the RVM sisters and Father Joyle Martinez pasture of St. Paul.



Friends of St. Paul Catholic Church celebrate New Year's Eve 2018 held at St. Paul Parish hall in Sacramento, CA. The event committees are Aida Azurin, Mercy Guerrero, Ling Avera, Naty Fontillas, Luz Daclan, Rose Basos and, Auring Ramos.

*Spring 2018*  
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February 10, 17, 24 and March 3, 10  
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8:30 am to 5:30 pm

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- \*Domestic violence and its history
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Source: gettyimages.com

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## Pilot who hunted for orphan children to rape overseas faces life in prison

BY SAM STANTON

There's not much doubt that Michael Carey Clemans had a thing for young girls.

By the time federal agents finished combing through digital devices seized from his family home in Sacramento, they found 27,469 images of child pornography, court documents say.

An airline pilot who lived in Bangkok, Thailand, Clemans preyed on girls as young as 7, paying associates overseas to take sexually explicit photos of his victims and conspiring to travel to the Philippines to rape the ones he found particularly desirable, federal prosecutors say.

"He tried to protect his identity," prosecutors say in court documents. "He avoided hotels with security cameras. He devoted incalculable hours on his criminal work."

On Tuesday morning, Clemans is scheduled to be sentenced in U.S. District Court in Sacramento following his September conviction in an international child pornography and sex case.

His lawyer is asking U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez to give Clemans a break, arguing that his client has accepted responsibility for his actions and after his arrest helped agents ensnare two associates in the Philippines.

The government has a different request: life in prison.

"Clemans committed unspeakable acts in pursuit of his sexual obsession with children," said McGregor Scott, U.S. attorney for the Sacramento-based Eastern District of California. "He is a sophisticated offender who leveraged technology and the economic disadvantages of the Filipino children he targeted to commit his crimes."

Prosecutors say in court documents filed last week that Clemans is among the worst such offenders.

"By any standard, Clemans' criminal conduct in this case is severe," Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andre Espinosa and Colleen Kennedy argue in a sentencing memorandum. "Indeed, only a small number of child exploitation cases in any federal district include conduct and facts as lurid, willful and disturbing as those in this case."

Clemans was working with a Filipino associate, Lyan Tandeg, who was to procure young girls for Clemans to have sex with, court documents say.

"Clemans was particularly interested in young virgins....," court documents say,

and he paid Tandeg more than \$5,000 to buy a digital camera and computer equipment to use in photographing the victims.

Clemans instructed Tandeg to focus on finding girls whose parents wouldn't be around to pose a problem, prosecutors say, "to locate girls who were orphans, victims of typhoons or were otherwise vulnerable."

According to prosecutors, Clemans' downfall began in 2014, when investigators detected his activities while he was using a Yahoo.com account and the company reported him for suspicious activities. That got him placed on an FBI/Homeland Security watch list, and when he flew into San Francisco International Airport in April 2015 federal agents selected him for a secondary screening.

During that process, he allowed U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents to search his iPad and other devices and they discovered child pornography, court papers say.

He was arrested on state charges and released on bond, but even then could not stop, according to prosecutors.

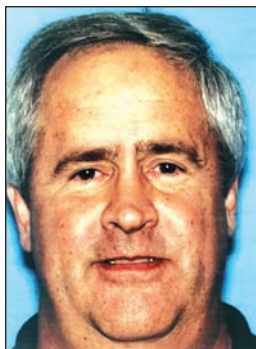
"Multiple times in May 2015, Clemans logged onto his Yahoo! account from an IP address that traced back to his mother's home, where he was residing during the pendency of his state criminal proceedings," court documents say. "During those chat sessions, Clemans told Tandeg about his arrest and told her that if convicted, he would not live in the United States anymore."

"He said he wanted to have sex with Tandeg and the minor girls featured in the child pornography she was creating at his instruction."

That led federal agents to search the Clemans Sacramento home in July 2015 and his eventual indictment.

While he awaited trial, Clemans provided agents with the password for his Yahoo! account, and they began an undercover probe that led to child exploitation charges against Tandeg and another associate in the Philippines, court documents say.

He went to trial last August, and on the first day pleaded guilty to conspiracy to produce child pornography, attempted production of child pornography and receipt of child pornography. His trial on three remaining counts continued, and included testimony from three victims who



Michael Clemans

were brought over from the Philippines who were 7, 9 and 10 at the time they posed in sexually explicit photos taken for Clemans, court documents say.

The jury convicted him in September on three additional counts of attempted travel for illicit sexual conduct, conspiracy to travel for illicit sexual conduct and buying of children.

The buying of children charge carries the steepest penalty: from 30 years to life.

Clemans' Palo Alto attorney, Daniel Olmos, argued in court papers that his client's assistance in the case after his arrest saved some children overseas and that the judge should order a sentence below the 30-year minimum.

Prosecutors disagree.

"Clemans is precisely the type of person for whom a life sentence exists, a remorseless child-sex predator who poses an urgent, persistent and grievous risk to all children for the rest of his life," the argued in court papers.

The Clemans case is one of several significant prosecutions that have come from a 12-year-old crackdown by the Justice Department through a program called Project Safe Childhood that began in the Eastern District of California while Scott was serving as U.S. attorney previously in the George W. Bush administration.

The program's success led to the Justice Department adopting the effort and targeting offenders nationwide and overseas, and Scott is planning a news conference Tuesday afternoon to highlight such cases.

Just last Thursday, prosecutors in Sacramento announced the indictment of a New Jersey man, Michael Anaya-Otero, 21, on charges of producing child pornography and traveling to Rocklin to have sex with a 13-year-old seventh-grade girl.

The same day, U.S. District Judge Troy Nunley sentenced a Sacramento man, Jeffrey Miles Hayes, 55, to 33 years in prison for receiving child pornography.

And on Friday a jury found James Jay Hitt, 49, of Anderson, guilty of receiving child pornography, distributing child pornography and three counts of possessing child pornography.

## Bruno Mars has a magical night at Grammys, winning 6 for 6

BY MESFIN FEKADU

Bruno Mars owned the Grammys with his R&B-inspired album "24K Magic," winning all six awards he was nominated for at a show where hip-hop was expected to have a historical night.

Jay-Z, the leading nominee with eight, walked away empty handed Sunday — a year after his wife lost album of the year to Adele, causing fans and peers to criticize the Recording Academy for not properly rewarding Beyonce's bold "Lemonade" project.

And though Kendrick Lamar won five awards, he lost in the top categories, marking another year where rappers were restricted to wins in the rap categories, instead of earning coveted prizes like album of the year.

Mars picked up album of the year for "24K Magic," record of the year for the title track, and song of the year — shared with seven co-writers — for the No. 1 hit, "That's What I Like."

Jay-Z and Lamar could have become the first rapper to win song or record of the year, and the third rap-based act to win album of the year.

But Mars' win still marked some growth for the Academy: His is one of the few R&B albums to win the top prize. He dedicated his win to songwriters who have made history in R&B music, including Babyface, Teddy Riley, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

Lamar's wins at Madison Square Garden in New York City included best rap album, best rap song, best rap performance, best rap/sung performance and best music video. He has a career total of 12 Grammys.

Lamar also won with his performance: He kicked off the Grammys with a powerful and poignant performance featuring video screens displaying a waving American flag behind him, as background dancers dressed as army soldiers marched and moved behind him. At one point, Lamar's background dancers, dressed in red, were shot down as he rapped lyrics, later coming back to life as fire burst to end the six-minute performance.

But the night's top performer was Kesha, who was passionate and striking onstage with the help of powerful women behind her, including the Resistance Revival Chorus, Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Bebe Rexha. Dressed in white,

they won over the audience while singing Kesha's "Praying" and hugged at the song's end as some audience members cried, including Hailie Steinfeld.

Kesha, who earned her first pair of Grammy nominations

this year, has been in a legal war with former producer and mentor Dr. Luke. Janelle Monae introduced the performance with strong words.

"We come in peace but we mean business. To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: Time's Up," Monae said. "It's not just going on in Hollywood. It's not just going on in Washington. It's here in our industry, too."

Before the performance, Maren Morris, Eric Church and Brothers Osborne performed an emotional rendition of Eric Clapton's "Tears In Heaven" — written after his son died — in honor of the 58 people who died at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas last year. The names of victims were displayed behind them as they performed.

The performances were two of the show's serious moments. Dozens of artists and music industry players also sported white roses in support of the Time's Up and #MeToo movements against sexual abuse and harassment.

"Black is beautiful, hate is ugly," rapper Logic said onstage after performing the suicide prevention anthem "1-800-273-8255." The performance, with best new artist winner Alessia Cara and Khalid, included a group of suicide attempt and loss survivors selected by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Sting's performance was somewhat political as he sang his 1987 song, "Englishman in New York," which includes the lyrics, "Oh, I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York."

Chris Stapleton paid tribute to Tom Petty with Emmylou Harris and also won three awards, including best country album, best country song and best country solo performance.

Little Big Town, who beautifully sang their Taylor Swift-penned No. 1 hit "Better Man," won best country duo/group performance with the song.

Others who shined onstage included Lady Gaga, who



Bruno Mars accepts the award for song of the year for "That's What I Like" at the 60th annual Grammy Awards at Madison Square Garden.

won over the audience with a rousing performance of the songs "Joanne" and "Million Reasons"; Sam Smith gave a powerful performance of the song "Pray"; and Pink was a vocal powerhouse while she sang "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken."

During the pre-telecast, The Rolling Stones picked up their third career Grammy — for best traditional blues album for "Blue & Lonesome" — while Ed Sheeran won best pop vocal album. Emmy and Golden Globe winner Childish Gambino, who picked up best traditional R&B performance, gave a smooth and sultry performance of "Terrified" in all-white featuring screeching high notes. Gambino was joined by young singer-actor, JD McCrary, who matched his vocals and sings on the original track.

The show, hosted by James Corden, also featured some comedy. Hillary Clinton, John Legend, Cher, Snoop Dogg, Cardi B, and DJ Khaled won over the audience in a skit when reading lines from Michael Wolff's book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House." Corden said the book could compete for the best spoken word album Grammy next year.

"That's the one," Corden said in the video after Clinton, a 1997 spoken word Grammy winner, spoke. It earned a rousing applause from the crowd.

Dave Chappelle, who was part of Lamar's opening performance, won best comedy album during the televised show.

"I am honored to win an award, finally, and I wanted to thank everyone at Netflix, at 'Saturday Night Live,' at 'The Chappelle Show,'" he said.

Puppies were passed to the losers of best comedy album, including Jerry Seinfeld, Sarah Silverman and Jim Gaffigan.

Posthumous Grammys were awarded to actress Carrie Fisher, singer Leonard Cohen and engineer Tom Coyne, who worked on Mars' "24K Magic" album.



PerryScope

# China plays Duterte for a sucker

BY PERRY DIAZ

Recently, Mgdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano exposed a “secret deal” worked out between President Rodrigo Duterte and the Chinese that would allow the Institute of Oceanology of Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct a marine scientific research in the Benham Rise (also known as Philippine Rise).

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), this 13-million-

hectare area off the coast of Aurora province is potentially rich in mineral, natural gas deposits, and manganese nodules that are vital in the production of steel. Studies conducted by DENR have also shown large deposits of methane in solid form (methane hydrate or methane ice). Further studies also showed that natural gas deposits in the area would enable the Philippines to achieve energy sufficiency. Benham Rise is larger than the island of Luzon.

It did not then come as a surprise that energy-hungry China was anxious to explore Benham Rise the moment the United Nations approved the Philippines’ claim that Benham Rise was an extension of her continental shelf. In December 2013, the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) informed the DENR – with finality -- that Benham Rise is part of the country’s continental shelf and territory. As such, it is not subject to any maritime boundary disputes and claims.

After Alejano’s exposé was reported in the news, critics questioned the palace’s approval of the project and demanded that Malacañang withdraw the approval, which they said would be a threat to the country’s maritime

security. However, in an attempt to blunt the criticisms, presidential spokesman Harry Roque announced that it was President Rodrigo Duterte who personally made the decision to let China conduct scientific research in the Benham Rise.

Foremost of those who criticized Duterte’s decision was Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio who commented: “If a bully has squatted on your front yard, and requests to look at your backyard, would you grant the request of the bully?” He noted that China has squatted on the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) and refuses to leave despite the ruling of the

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) tribunal. “The Philippines would be dumb (bugok) to grant China’s request,” Carpio said in an e-mail statement to CNN Philippines. He explained that by refusing to accept the award of the UNCLOS arbitral, China is not accepting its obligation under UNCLOS (China is a signatory of UNCLOS). [Source: REUTERS January 15, 2018]

**Déjà vu**  
China’s attempt to explore Benham Rise is nothing new. In 2005-2008, China, in partnership with the Philippines and Vietnam explored the oil-rich Recto Bank (Reed Bank) in the West Philippine Sea near the Spratly Islands. Known as the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JSMU), China started claiming Recto Bank as part of her territory the moment the JSMU was signed.

Many believe that then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had sold out the country to China, giving the Chinese total access to information on oil and natural gas deposits in the Rector Bank. As one lawmaker had said, “Our bad experience with the JMSU, where our country was placed in a very

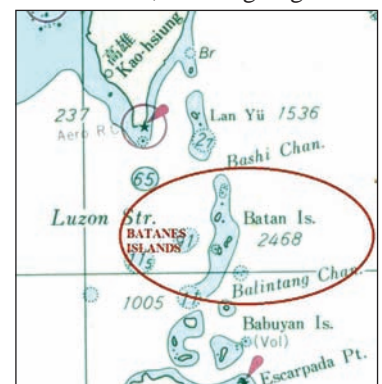
disadvantageous position... is bound to happen again in the case of Benham Rise.” Indeed, it’s déjà vu all over again.

In my column, “China sets eyes on Benham Rise” (September 30, 2016), I wrote: [In July 2016]

“China Daily published a report about China’s ‘secret undersea exploration’ in the Benham Rise area. The report said that China discovered massive mineral deposits. It also said that the volume of natural gas deposits in the area was at par with what was discovered in the Spratly Islands.

“With China’s goal of controlling the vast Western Pacific, which includes the East China Sea (ECS), South China Sea (SCS), and the Philippine Sea, the entire Western Pacific would be transformed into ‘Lake Beijing.’ The Philippines would be right in the middle of the lake, isolated from the rest of the world. ‘Lake Beijing’ would also encompass the mineral-rich Benham Rise as well.”

**Grand Plan**  
In June 2013, an intriguing article



Bashi Channel between in Luzon and Taiwan.

appeared in the Want China Times titled, “China to take the Second Island Chain by 2020.” It says: “Within seven years [only two years from now], China will be able to control the Second Island



Chinese survey ship at Benham Rise.

Chain — a series of island groups that runs north to south from the Japanese archipelago to the Bonin and Marshall islands.

“The article also said: In 1982, Admiral Liu Huaqing, the former commander of the PLA Navy and

the mastermind of China’s modern naval strategy, said that it would be necessary for China to control the First and Second Island Chains by 2010 and 2020. The PLA Navy must be ready to challenge US domination over the Western Pa-

cific and the Indian Ocean in 2040. If China is able to dominate the Second Island Chain seven years from now, the East China Sea will become the backyard of the PLA Navy.”

With China’s attempt to explore – and eventually claim – Benham Rise, Admiral Liu’s “grand plan” to dominate the Second Island Chain and establish Chinese hegemony over the entire Western Pacific, would come to fruition.

Currently, China has two aircraft carriers and a third to be completed pretty soon. With several more in the works, China would be able to extend air power throughout the entire Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

China also has plans to build floating nuclear power plants and position them throughout the entire region. She can also build artificial islands in the Benham Rise just like she did in the South China Sea. She can then build processing plants to extract methane gas from methane hydrate. This was once an expensive process; however, China has since developed less costly method. All that she needs now are vast deposits of methane hydrate and Benham Rise has plenty of them.

**Philippines’ crucial role**

The Philippines plays a crucial role in China’s grand plan. Whoever controls the Philippines would also control passage to the Western Pacific through the Bashi Channel, which separates Luzon from Taiwan. The other passageway is the Miyako Strait between Okinawa and Taiwan. But Japan has the capability to stop China from passing through Miyako Strait, while the Philippines doesn’t have any military force at the Bashi Channel. In the event that China took possession of Luzon, the geostrategic significance of Luzon is removed; thus, allowing China unrestricted access to the Philippine Sea.

China had coveted Luzon ever since she gave up possession of Luzon in the 15th century. In 1405, during the reign of the Ming Dynasty in China, Emperor Yung Lo claimed the island of Luzon and placed it under his empire. The Chinese called the island “Lusong” from the Chinese characters Lui Sung. The biggest settlement of Chinese was in Lingayen in Pangasinan. Lingayen also became the seat of the Chinese colonial government in Luzon. When Yung Lo died in 1424, the new Emperor Hongxi, Yung Lo’s son, lost interest in the colony and the colonial government was dissolved. However, the Chinese settlers in Lingayen -- known as “sangley” -- remained and prospered.

Chinese President Xi Jinping must be ruing the day Emperor Hongxi left Luzon. Xi’s “China Dream” of extending power and influence beyond her shores,



Chinese floating nuclear power plant.

which the Ming Dynasty had six centuries ago, is now within reach. It’s no longer a dream; it’s more real than ever before. With the South China Sea under China’s virtual de facto control now, it won’t be long before she gains control over Benham Rise.

The Philippines lost the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal because President Duterte abandoned the country’s claim after winning the arbitration case against China in 2016. It’s evident now that China had played Duterte for a sucker then; is he being played for a sucker again?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



**PerryScope**  
By Perry Diaz

# Caligula Trumpus Americanus

If there is one Roman emperor that that makes me laugh, it was Caligula. His real name was Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus. He succeeded Tiberius in AD 37. He ruled for only four years and was assassinated in AD 41 at the young age of 28.

He got his moniker "Caligula" (meaning "little soldier's boot," the diminutive form of "caliga"), which he hated, from the Roman soldiers who served under his father Germanicus, a popular general and Tiberius' nephew and adoptive son. His mother was Agrippina the Elder, granddaughter of Tiberius.

Upon the death of Germanicus, Agrippina returned to Rome with her six children where she became entangled in a bitter feud with Tiberius. It resulted in the destruction of her family. Caligula was the sole male survivor. Tiberius adopted him. Following the death of Tiberius, Caligula succeeded him in AD 37.

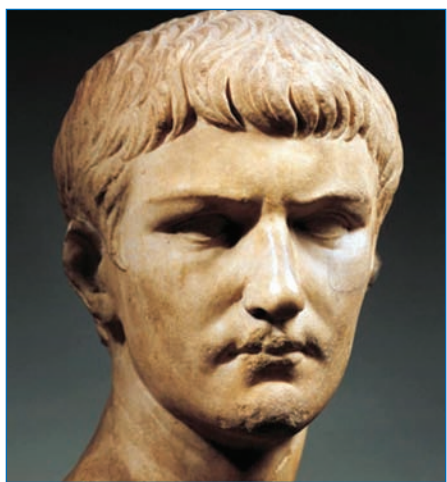
Caligula enjoyed a brief period of popularity and admiration. He was described as a noble and moderate emperor during the first six months of his rule. But it didn't take too long before he earned the wrath of the people. For the brief time that he ruled Rome, Caligula exhibited cruelty, lunacy, sadism, extravagance, and sexual perversion. Many believed he was crazy.

Among those that Caligula was known to have insanely done were: He terrorized Rome with his unbridled madness; talked to the moon; ordered arbitrary executions; and planned to make his horse Incitatus a consul. For one thing, his fellow lawmakers would likely have whisked him out of power for such conduct. But



"This guy is insane!"

assuming the much-maligned emperor was the loon his chroniclers describe, some scholars have suggested that an illness made him come unhinged—possibly temporal lobe epilepsy, hyperthyroidism or Wilson's disease, an inherited disorder that can cause mental



Caligula

instability. [Source: <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/7-things-you-may-not-know-about-caligula>]

## Caligula and Trump

Two millennia later, history seems to have repeated itself – in America. The 2016 presidential election in the United States has brought to fore an eerie similarity between the presidential winner, Donald J. Trump, and Caligula. For his first year in office, President Trump demonstrated a character and idiosyncrasy that mimics Caligula. One wonders if Trump has some form of mental disorder?

In an opinion piece in May 2017 in The Washington Post titled, "Trump has a dangerous disability," George F. Will wrote: "It is urgent for Americans to think and speak clearly about President Trump's inability to do either. This seems to be not a mere disinclination but a disability. It is not merely the result of intellectual sloth but of an untrained mind bereft of information and married to stratospheric self-confidence."

"He has instructed us that Andrew Jackson was angry about the Civil War that began 16 years after Jackson's death. Having, let us fancifully imagine, considered and found unconvincing William Seward's 1858 judgment that the approaching Civil War was 'an irrepressible conflict,' Trump says: 'People don't realize, you know, the Civil War, if you think about it, why? People don't ask that question, but why was there the Civil War? Why could that one not have been worked out?' " It's obvious that Trump has a cockeyed view of American history. Or worse, could it be that he's insane?

## "This guy is insane!"

Not too long ago, Trump attended a dinner with several Latin American leaders. They discussed the political and economic problems in Venezuela. Critical of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro,

the leaders expressed apprehension over how Maduro was handling the crisis. And out of the blue, Trump expressed surprise that they did not want a war with Venezuela. For his part, Trump proposed a "military option" to ensure Maduro leaves office. According to a Politico news report, many of the gathered officials thought, "This guy is insane!" They were in shock.

Trump has been the subject in discussion among well-known psychiatrists, psychologists, and mental health experts. A new book, "The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President," has concluded, "Trump's mental state presents a clear and present danger to our nation and individual well-being." The media chatterati seems to be of one mind: "Donald Trump is mentally incompetent and may have to be removed from office before he blows us all to hell." [Source: [TheAmericanConservative.com](http://TheAmericanConservative.com)]

In the book, twenty-seven



Trump and Kim Jong-un with their nuclear buttons.

psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health experts argue that, in Mr. Trump's case, their moral and civic "duty to warn" America supersedes professional neutrality. They then explore Trump's symptoms and potentially relevant diagnoses to find a complex, if also dangerously mad, man. The solution, to their minds, lies in the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which creates a mechanism outside of impeachment to remove an "incapacitated" president. Trump's mental state, some believe, qualifies him. Is there a case? [Ibid]

## Nuclear Button

Many believe there is a case. And this scares a lot of Americans. They don't know when Trump would have another episode of threatening to push the "nuclear button" like what happened between him and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Kim Jong-un had stated in

one of his commentaries that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Trump responded on Twitter, "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

His tweet sent jitters around the world's capitals. American lawmakers, diplomats, and national security experts were particularly alarmed. They called it "juvenile" and frightening for "a president handling a foreign policy challenge with world-wrecking consequences." The language was reminiscent of Mr. Trump's boast during the 2016 presidential campaign that his hands, and by extension his genitals, were in fact big enough." [Source: New York Times]

## Rulers by accident

Caligula and Trump were born a world apart: different cultures, different upbringing, and different eras. But in so many ways, their minds worked alike. They both became rulers by accident, not by pedigree or design.

In a new book *Quid Pro Quo*, author Valerie Block says of Caligula: "An arrogant, narcissistic, blond serial rapist attains the highest office in the land, abuses his power, and offends everyone personally: this is the subject of my newest novel, *Quid Pro Quo*, a behind-the-scenes look at the assassination of Caligula, the third Emperor of ancient Rome. It is impossible to ignore the many echoes of Caligula's story that played out in the 2016 election of Donald J. Trump, a man whom the 2nd century historian Suetonius might have been describing when he wrote of Caligula, "there was nothing in his own character which he admired and approved more highly than...his shameless impudence."

Block also said that Caligula and Trump share a lot of characteristics, to wit: (1) Narcissism ["All of the women on *The Apprentice* flirted with me – consciously or unconsciously. That's to be expected," he boasted]; (2) Grandiosity ["I know more about ISIS than the generals do, believe me."]; (3) Cruelty [Trump once said, "I would bring back waterboarding and I'd bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding."]; (4) Comfort with negative



Trump, accidental ruler.

attention ["Bad publicity is sometimes better than no publicity at all. Controversy, in short, sells."]; (5) Sexual misconduct, promiscuity, and violence ["You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful women, I just start kissing them, it's like a magnet. You know when you're a star they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything." -- Trump talking to the host of *Access Hollywood* in 2005.]; (6) Motivated by revenge ["My motto is: Always get even. When somebody screws you, screw them back in spades."]; and (7) Delusion ["I alone can fix it."].

With all these similarities, Trump might as well be called Caligula Trumpus Americanus. Could it be that Trump is Caligula reincarnated?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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# Her Highness Queen Maria Bahoric I Is our IFC Mrs. Ilocandia 2018-19

BY FAINA E. ABAYA

The Ilocanos trace their traditional homeland and original roots in the far northern edges of the island of Luzon, Philippines overlooking the pristine waters of the Western Philippine Sea and the great vast Ocean of the Pacific.

Today, the Ilocanos known for being hardworking and their epic pioneering efforts have travelled far and wide not only within the Philippines from the tip of Batanes islands to the shores of Sulu archipelago but also in every nook and corner of the world. Their continuing search for better life have brought them to different continents into big cities, towns, valleys and at the communities where they are now comfortably settled with their families.

Enjoying the transition of their lives for the better, the Ilocanos still nostalgically missed the tradition and culture that they were accustomed to do with their families, relatives and closest of friends at the place where they left behind.

Bonding together in the spirit of oneness, sincerity of purpose and for the betterment of their communities gave the Ilocanos the best opportunities to bring out into fore the values and practices that they had been enjoying since time immemorial as handed down by their great forebears.

Thus, the Ilocano Foundation of California, the precursor of the "The Ilocanos of America" under the able leadership of their amiable President Ling Avera continuously put into action and reality the many programs and projects of the organization for the best interest of the Filipino American community of Sacramento and vicinity where many of the Ilocanos presently reside.

One such project is the search for the Mrs. Ilocandia contest, a friendly competition among ladies who are aging gracefully to raise funds for deserving students of the community to finance their Scholarship Grants and many other meritorious activities for the betterment of their diverse community.

When the search was officially launched, Maria Bahoric, a prominent personality in our community known for her elegance, friendliness, generosity and gregariousness accepted the invitation to be one of the candidates. However, after a substantial period of time no one ever challenge her candidacy, that made the officers of the IFC to declare Maria Bahoric as the Mrs. Ilocandia of 2018-19 and also to concurrently carry the title as Queen Maria Bahoric I for the same period. As expected, the



Queen Maria Bahoric I

Photos by Rick Garcia



the Officers of the Ilocano Foundation of California



Ring Bearer and Flowergirls



Remy Solomon



Ling, Mercy, Maria and Nick

incoming Mrs. Ilocandia without any qualm and hesitation fulfilled her role and obligation to raise necessary funds for the many commendable projects of the IFC.

The coronation of Maria Bahoric was set on January 13, 2018 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel on West Way, Sacramento. The Grand Ballroom of the hotel was



Maria with daughter and son-in-law



Past Mrs. Ilocandia



Friends in Sacramento community



Aducayen family and friends



Mr. and Mrs. George Aducayen

magnificently decorated fitted only for the grandeur and elegance of a Queen to formally receive her crown as Queen Maria Bahoric I and Mrs. Ilocandia.

There were 17 round tables with 10 chairs each meticulously arranged to accommodate the expected number of guests who will witness the pageantry of the coronation of her majesty Queen Maria Bahoric and also to concurrently receive the title as Mrs. Ilocandia of 2018-19. Both tables and chairs were covered with white linen with pink stripes and an elongated crystal vase containing freshly cut multi-colored flowers as a center piece for each table. A well decorated stage has been set

Continued on page 12

# HALA BIRA 2018

**THE AKLAN ASSOCIATION OF SACRAMENTO AND VICINITY, INC. (AASV) CELEBRATES 27TH ANNIVERSARY ATI-ATIHAN FESTIVAL DINNER AND DANCE**  
*In Honor of Holy Infant Jesus*



BY CARLE AND SARAH ENLOE

The traditional Ati-Atihan Celebration in Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines is a “frenzied and raucous” historical and religious festival that is preceded by a holy Mass followed by the blessing of the Sr. Sto. Niño images and statues ending with the traditional “PAHILOT or PAE-APAK”



We are extremely grateful to Father Julito “Paul” R. Oprilla, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Elk Grove, CA, for his dedication and support of our annual Ati-Atihan celebration. Father Paul graciously accepted being the homilist for our celebration this year. As in years past, the Aklanon members lead by Venus O’Meara served as the choir for the Mass. Following the Mass, Mistress of Ceremonies (MC) Juby Osit announced the traditional ceremony of the blessing of the Sr. Sto. Niño images and statues by Father Paul and invited the guests to participate in the “PAHILOT or PAEAPAK” ceremony by having their bodies massaged or rubbed with the image of the Sr. Sto. Niño. This is the traditional celebration that the Aklan Association is committed to preserving even here in Sacramento.



After the blessing ceremony, Father Paul gave the invocation for dinner and the guests were invited to enjoy a delicious typical Filipino dinner including 2 full lechons. There was also a dessert table filled with delicious Filipino desserts. This is the true Ati-Atihan Fiesta – a family celebration.



An aspect of the celebration was the invitation to dress in costume, celebrate, and dance to the beat of the drums and lyre. This is the hallmark of the Ati-Atihan celebration in the Philippines. The constant and exciting rhythm of the drums and the lyre is the heart of the Ati-Atihan celebration. It is hard to describe but the magical beat of the drum and the rhythm of the lyre seems to lift people onto their feet and energize them with a desire to dance.

leaders and other dignitaries present to include Dimas Carillo from Juno, Alaska and originally from Camance Norte, Aklan, who was dressed in an original and authentic, beautiful Ati-Atihan costume. She concluded her acknowledgment with the customary chant....” VIVA KAY SR. STO. NINO! HALA BIRA 2018!”

Following dinner, MC Juby introduced Second Vice District Governor (2nd VDG) Sarah Enloe, District 4-C5, Lions Clubs International and Past President of AASV. Second VDG Sarah announced that it was her honor to acknowledge all the Filipino Community

This was the call for the start of the Ati-Atihan Parade – Hala Bira 2018 where all the tribos and groups were presented to the guests! The Tribos and groups present this year were: Dimas and Company; Taga Bay Area; Filipino Women’s Club; Tribo it Makato; Kapitbahay; The Warriors; and Barkadahan.



ing the lyre appeared to lead off the parade as is customary. As the lively procession slowly and rhythmically made its way around the room, each tribo in their elaborate and gaily decorated costumes joined in the Parade. As each group joined the parade, the energy level just kept increasing! It was unbelievable. The drummers and lyre positioned themselves

Continued on page 12

Photos by Dave San Pedro

# Her Highness Queen Maria Bahoric I

From page 10

up where the spectacle and pomp of the coronation ceremony will take place.

It was refreshing to observe that all the guests were in their best attires, the ladies were wearing their formal designers evening gowns while the gentlemen were not far behind with their tailored suit or winter jackets. The evening was a show projecting the beauty, grace and elegance of our Filipino American community.

As soon as the Grand Ballroom was filled up to capacity, two prominent community leaders, Fred Aquino and Mercy Guerrero known for their humors and wits were the Emcees of the night's program. Maria Bahoric opens the program by leading the singing of the National Anthems of both the United States and Philippines. Thereafter, the invocation was alternately performed by Sr. Josie Tanudtanud and Dr. Billy Monteagudo who both invoked the guidance of the Devine Providence for the continued success of all the good undertakings of the Ilocano Foundation of California.

The energetic President of the Ilocano Foundation of California Estelita "Ling" Avera delivers her welcome address by saying "Tonight celebration is dedicated to our incoming Mrs. Ilocandia and who also holds the title "Queen Maria Bahoric I" with a brilliant purpose to keep the IFC alive and strong to continue our various missions, especially, the granting of Scholarship to deserving students in our community". The IFC President also expressed her



D'Dreamgirls

profound gratitude to the current Mrs. Ilocandia and past title holders as well as their supporters for their immense contributions to the many projects of the IFC.

While the guests were enjoying their sumptuous dinner, entertainment was provided by R. J. Mata, Joe Carreon and Eddie Aducaen who regaled them by their professional like performances while the D'Dreamgirls wearing their attractive outfits danced their way into the hearts of their audiences who were awed by the elegance and gracefulness of their performance.

Atty. Christina Aulakh takes the honor of introducing the guest speaker Honorable Ambassador George Aducaen, Jr. whose illustrious 33 years' career in Philippine diplomatic service is well recorded. The former Ambassador has chosen the diplomatic service over his first ambition to become a practicing lawyer. In his long service, he received numerous awards and commendations for his distinguished service to his country.

Ambassador Aducaen in his speech said among others "your association has gained respect not

only in our Filipino community but also to the broader public in mainstream America. He also added, "I know that you will achieve continued success in all your projects knowing that the Ilocanos are hardworking".

Thereafter, the past Mrs. Ilocandia were presented such as Marie Romena, Rebecca Tagatac, Carol Munar, Lilian Batoon, Carolina Reneses, Cheryl Barrios, Lana Galicia, Betty Rigonan, Josephine Pasion and Catherine Boswell. Each were given freshly cut bouquet of roses by Rose Basos and Emilia Caoagas Dones.

At this juncture, the reigning Mrs. Ilocandia 2016-17 her Majesty Queen Catherine Cabe Boswell I with her Royal Court were presented and made her last walk around the hall. In between the evening's program entertainers mesmerized their audience and received thunderous applauses for their performances such as our very own community diva Remy Solomon and dance performers Cleo Sabarre as well as MJ group who also presented a dance number for the incoming Mrs. Ilocandia while seated at the middle of the Hall.



Friends and Guests

The night most awaited part of the program was announced and to the tune of Royal March, the spectacle of the coronation ceremony of Her Royal Highness Queen Maria "Semy" Bahoric I who will also carry the title Mrs. Ilocandia 2018-19 finally started. The royal entourage was met with thunderous deafening applause as everyone stood up and as expected, the incoming Queen projected the image of grace and elegance with her all white hand embroidered floor length queenly attire to bring out her stunning beauty, impeccable complexion, tantalizing eyes and contagious sweet smile.

The outstanding personality of the incoming Mrs. Ilocandia was complemented by her tall handsome escort, son in law Stephen Miller whose sartorial elegance with his suit and matching tie had been conspicuously noticed by everyone. As soon as Her majesty's entourage reached their respective seats, a Sash was presented by Dr. Menalin Ganal and Dick Weitzenberg indicating the period of time that she will reign while a bouquet was handed by Salvador and Minda Corpuz. The Scepter was presented by Aida Azurin and Dr.

Amor Cristobal. Finally, the intricately crafted silver crown of Her Royal Highness Queen Maria Bahoric I was put on symbolizing her reign for the indicated period of time by outgoing Queen Catherine Boswell and Ambassador George Aducaen, Jr. This was followed with the awarding of a giant trophy presented by past title holder Edna Villanueva and Bayanihan of Sacramento President Tony Solomon. Community Balladeer Eddie Aducaen serenaded the newly crowned queen with a melodious song as her Majesty Queen Maria Bahoric made her first dance followed by all her subjects.

The reigning Queen Maria Bahoric I expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Ilocano Foundation of California headed by Ling Avera together with the pillars of IFC Nick Catudan and Mercy Guerrero and all who sincerely extended their support for the success of this commendable event. She further said, may God shower them His blessings and good graces as we thread our way this New Year and beyond.

Aida Azurin the First Vice President of the IFC reiterated their deepest gratitude to all the members, different committees created for the event, advertisers, supporters and those generous people who attended and joined the merriment of the coronation of Mrs. Ilocandia Queen Maria Bahoric I.

Continues music and dancing until closing time was made through the live band of D'Zound Connection of Rick and Margie Pasalo.

# HALA BIRA

From page 1

in the center of hall, playing their hearts out and setting the lively tempo for the tribos procession. President Danny and MC Juby were loudly encouraging the tribos to dance the Hala Bira way. The parade of tribos make one or two turns around the room so the judges can observe their costumes, routine, and participation. This year's parade was outstanding as usual, and the energy level was very high. By the time all the tribos had joined the parade the audience was energized.

As the tribos and groups finished and slowly left the floor, DJ Mario-V started playing some lively tunes for the guests dancing pleasure. No one needed to invite the guests because the dance floor filled almost instantly. The energy from the parade carried on. Everyone was having a wonderful time.

Following the presentation of the judges, MC Juby announced the final individual parade of tribes and groups. This was the final chance for each tribo/group to impress the judges. The Aklanon drummers and Tony on the Lyre started play-



ing as each tribo/group took their two turns around the hall. The judges this year were: Marivic Ramos; Cheryl Avaricio; Judy Nable; Elma Taitague; and Shiela Tonel. Finally, the hour everyone had anxiously awaited arrived, the announcement of the Hala Bira

2018 Winners. The AASV has an established group of awards based on originality, participation, performance, elegance, rowdiest, organization, uniqueness, artistic, best costumes, patriotic, and several other awards. The AASV wants to recognize, acknowledge,

and reward cultural aspects in the Festival.

We are proud to announce that Dimas and Company, from Juno, Alaska, won 1st place - the Ati-Atihan Award, Most Original. The Datu Marikudo Award - 2nd Place was won by Barkadahan.

The Datu Puti Award - 3rd place went to Kapitbahay. The following Tribos won the Consolation Prizes: Filipino Women's Club; Tribo it Makato; and The Warriors; and Taga Bay Area.

On behalf of President Danny Yap-Diango, AASV Officers, and members of AASV, we would like to thank all the donors, supporters, the community organization participants, and all others, who in any way, contributed to the success of this wonderful event. Please join us again next year at our Hala Bira 2019. VIVA KAY SR. STO. NIÑO!

# Welcome to Retirement Larry Macugay!

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 27 Jan 2018, family and friends gathered at the Florin Creek Community Center to celebrate Larry's first day of retirement. After the social and dinner hour, Larry's daughter, Nani, shared her dad's work history:

August 27, 1980: Hired at SF Rincon Annex Post Office as a Multi-Position Letter Sorter Machine Operator (MPLSMO). 1982: Move to San Francisco General Mail Facility on Evans Street as a LSM Operator. March 1983: Transferred to Royal Oak in Sacramento as a LSM Operator. January 1984: Acting supervisor in Tour 3 (swing shift) until promotion. November 1985: Promoted to Supervisor of Mails at Royal Oaks as Level 15 on tour 1 (night shift). 1987: Trained in all operations and led to training as a General Supervisor on weekends. September 1987: Promoted to Supervisor of Machines at Royal Oaks as Level 16. December 1990: Promoted to General Supervisor of Mails as Level 17 at Royal Oaks. February 1993: Reorganization led to doing away with the General Supervisor position but continued to fulfill those duties along with Manager Distribution Operation (MDO) responsibilities, as a Supervisor of Mails in West Sac at Level 16. 1993-2003: Moved between Tour 3 and Tour 1, learning all operations. April 2003: Promoted to MDO as Level 22 at West Sac. February 2010: Took reassignment to Stockton as MDO on Level 20, did Tours 1 and 3 (personal reason). November 2012: Returned to Sacramento as Level 20 MDO on Tour 3. April 2014: Promoted to Lead MDO on Tour 3 as Level 24. 2016: Acting Senior Lead MDO at the Sacramento Processing and Distribution Center. Other details of career: acting manager at mail facility at the airport, acting manager in consumer affairs in West Sac, safety supervisor, and training aspiring supervisors.

After sharing her dad's postal achievements, Nani performed a Hula dance to honor her dad. The audience met her performance with applause and appreciation, especially when she approached and gave



Lauren and Larry Macugay



Larry addressing his family and friends and former colleagues.



Larry with his 86 year old mom, Aurea, and youngest brother Angelo with wife Karen.



Larry and daughter Nani



Sharing Dad's Work History.



Melita, Larry and Dale

her dad a hug.

One by one, the big wheels (executives) of Sacramento's postal service took over the microphone and shared their working relationship and respect for Larry. Finally, someone from the craft level came up and talked about how Larry treated everyone with respect and dignity. To paraphrase, "Larry may be one of the top managers of the post office, but he always treated everyone as he would like to be treated, with re-

spect." Hearing all the accolades bestowed upon Larry by his postal colleagues, Larry's youngest brother Angelo later shared, "I'm most proud of how Larry's coworkers spoke so highly of him, both professionally and personally, which is a testament to his character, work ethic, and respect for others; all the things our dad instilled in him. I'm sure dad could not be any more proud of Larry's successful career at the Post Office."

Before this writer retired from the postal service, it was rare to meet an elite postal

manager like Larry, a leader who cares. Another thing about Larry, he is a church-going family man. Every Sunday, with or without sleep (because of his work hours), he attends mass at St. Charles Borromeo with his wife Lauren and the children.

Congratulations Larry! Take time to savor your hard-earned retirement as you venture into your next full-time role as Grandpa. Take care and enjoy yourself. We'll see you and the family in church.

## UNLUCAI



UNLUCAI Birthday celebrants from January to July taken on January 13, 2018.



UNLUCAI first quarter meeting held at Filipino Bistro Restaurant on January 13, 2018 with President Tina and Husband Henry Bambao. Twenty members seen on this picture are all attending the Naguilian Global Reunion to be held on February 13-19, 2018 at Naguilian, La Union, Philippines.

# Calendar of Events

**FEBRUARY 3, 2018 (SAT.)**  
**Filipino American Veterans Association, Inc. (FAVA)**  
**29th Anniversary Ball & Installation of Officers**  
 Attire: Formal /  
 \$60 per person  
 Olive 916.262.6273  
 Ato 916.685.9214



**MAY 19, 2018 (SAT.)**  
 Dinner and Dance and Coronation of Santa Elena & Emperador Santo Nino  
 St. Paul parish hall  
 Time: 6/pm/11/pm  
 Donation:\$20,00  
**May 20,2018 (SUN.)**  
 Santa Cruzan  
 Procession and mass  
 2/pm. Procession  
 3/pm. Mass  
 Place : St. Paul Catholic church



**JUNE 3, 2018 (SUN.)**  
**FILIPINO FIESTA OF SACRAMENTO**  
 10AM - 5PM  
 Jose Rizal Community Center  
 7230 Florin Mall Dr. Sacramento  
 FREE Admission



## Birthdays



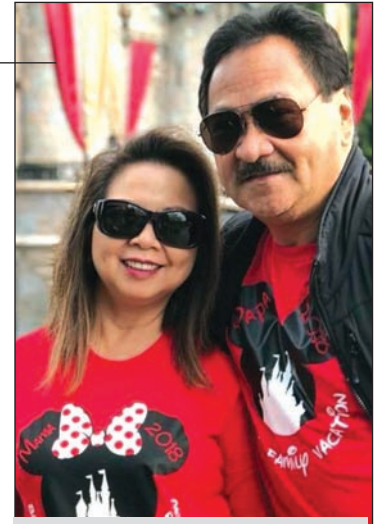
CHRISTINA BAMBAO with hubby Henry  
 JANUARY 28



BLAS DELA CRUZ  
 FEBRUARY 3



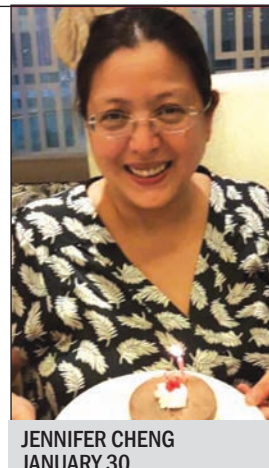
SHER with ED NAZARENO  
 JANUARY 28



RHUENA BUENTIPO and hubby Mannie  
 FEBRUARY 1



LEILA PEREIRA with family  
 JANUARY 29



JENNIFER CHENG  
 JANUARY 30



ESTELA RABARA  
 FEBRUARY 25



ZENNY YAGEN  
 FEBRUARY 5

## Anniversary



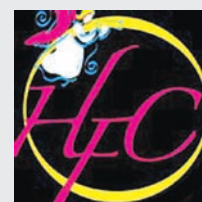
JUN and FAINA ABAYA  
 54th Wedding Anniversary, January 26



DR. TONY and REMY SOLOMON  
 36th Wedding Anniversary, February 17



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BY CHAPLAIN DALE ESPERANTE

# The Crowning of Queen Victoria

History is home to an impressive list of luminary figures, such as, Queen Victoria who ruled over the British Empire, then the superpower of the world, from 20 Jun 1837 to 22 Jan 1901. Another star, relevant to us, actually reached our native shores: Ferdinand Magellan reached the island of Homonhon in the Philippines with 150 crew left on 16 Mar 1521. However, our very own Datu Lapu Lapu ended Magellan's quest to circumnavigate the world, in the Battle of Mactan on 27 Apr 1521. (Source: Wikipedia).

On 31 Dec 2017 in Sacramento, Magellan Hall crowned our very own Queen Victoria. Queen Carlina Victoria, that is, as Ms. New Year's 2018. Accompanying Queen Victoria, Princess Linda Gibson as Ms. Hope, and Princess Letty Matte as Ms. Faith.

The affair to remember began when the door opened at 5:30 p.m. The buffet line catered by Rhuenna Buentipo remained set through 8 p.m. Everyone also indulged in tasty pieces of crispy lechon donated by Ms. Virgie Lara. The chaplain of Magellan Post 604 delivered the invocation followed by the Co-Master of Ceremonies (CMC) "Doc Fred Aquino welcoming remarks. For dinner entertainment, Rodolfo "RJ" Mata belted out an impressive rendition of Delilah ala Tom Jones. More... more... more echoed in the chamber of Magellan Hall after RJ Mata's lilting version of the popular classic song.

After dinner, co-emcees Doc and Dale decided the guests needed a stretch break. CMC Doc Aquino opened the dance floor to un-park the idle bodies. As the crowd filled the dance floor, all lanes were considered busy meaning no-parking on the dance floor allowed. No tickets were reportedly issued for being idle.

After the needed stretch, Commander Luz Molina took a moment to address the audience expressing gratitude for supporting the veterans' new year's program. CMC Dale thanked the commander then explained that Magellan Hall is home not only to the veterans but also to the ladies whose primary mission is to support the veterans—The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604. He then called for President Lilia Rivera. The president explained that one of the best and fun ways to support the veterans is scheduled every New Year's Eve—The Ms. New Year's Eve Pageant.



Photos by Dale Esperante

The president explained the program of the pageantry:

- Farewell walk of the former queen. This year Ms. Carmelita Pangilinan graced us with her outgoing walk.
- The presentation of the candidates: Carlina Victoria, Linda Gibson, and Letty Matte.
- The Money Dance. Supporters dance with their candidates after dropping their votes in the basket. This writer danced with all three candidates.
- Intermission (Time to count the points). The floor opens for dancing.
- Announcement of Winners: Ms. 2018 – Queen Carlina Victoria
- Ms. Hope – Princess Linda Gibson
- Ms. Faith – Princess Letty Matte
- Presentation of sashes, bouquets, and tiaras.
- Serenade and Royal Dance.

1. Can't Help Falling in Love with You
  2. Let It Be Me – the Royal Dance song
- Both songs sung by yours truly
- Photo Ops
  - Congratulations and Thank You to Queen Victoria, Princess Gibson and Princess Matte! These beautiful ladies made significant contributions to the benefit of the Filipino-American Veteran Community!

The festive pageantry concluded approximately at 9 p.m. Now it was time for High Tech Soundz manned by Ed Cordero to rev up the speakers and blast us off to dance mania. For live music, RJ Mata sang a couple more tunes to the delight of swingers and cha-cha enthusiasts. Even my 12-year old grandson, Jai'e, got into the groove and tried to follow Lolo's east coast swing steps. I

overheard my son-in-law Suli remarked that he had never danced this much before in his life. As for my daughter, Vanessa, I rediscovered her natural dance rhythm when she and I danced freestyle. As for my wife, she was very happy because the family partied together. It just goes to show, by my family's experience, that the Magellan Hall's New Year's Eve dinner and dance can be totally fun for the entire family! Other children and grandchildren seen: Fred and Carmelita Calindas' daughter, Carmela Yamamoto, and granddaughters, Caitlin and Lauren Nubla, and Raven Yamamoto. Smaller children were also observed playing to and fro. Congratulations to the following from a secret panel of judges: Best Dance Couple Winners: Ruben Pangilinan and Evangeline Renigen. Best Dressed: Carmelita Pangili-

nan. DJ Ed Cordero started the countdown to 2018. My grandson, Jai'e, and I joined Ed onstage to countdown from 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Balloons dropped and popped, family and loved ones found each other in the crowd, friends met-hugged-or-shook hands, smiles everywhere hoping for a peaceful, happy, and blessed 2018!!!

After the exhilarating euphoria, it was time to replenish the calories burned during the evening. Breakfast consisting of fried rice, eggs, and spam was served with coffee. Looking around, I saw great support from the folks who stayed six to seven hours of merrymaking! An evening of merrymaking that witnessed Magellan's Crowning of Queen Victoria! Maraming Salamat Po and Mabuhay!!!

## To the man who told me to 'get the fuck out' of the U.S.

'You have nothing to fear from me. It is I, judging by the lessons of history, who should be fearful.'

BY IVAR-NICHOLAS FOJAS

"Get the fuck out of my country you fucking immigrant!" yelled a man at me as he slowly drove by in his pickup truck.

I paused in disbelief. There I was, dead in my tracks in the middle of a schoolyard situated right next to a road, on my way to teach a class of middle school kids. Before I could process what just happened, a handful of kids adoringly ran up to me with their hellos and hugs. Thankfully, none of them heard the xenophobic outburst.

I share this experience, not as a commentary on the current political landscape nor to cause division.

On the contrary, I share this because it is so uncharacteristic of my American experience.

In the past half decade, I have been shown nothing but acceptance, kindness, love and friendship. I truly believe my experience today was an aberration.

I attribute my unfortunate experience to ignorance and intolerance, whether it be emboldened intolerance or ignorance that hides behind lips that are mute in the midst of bigotry. I cast no blame on any one group, after all, ignorance is not the sole proprietorship of one single race or ideology. As a scholar, and as a student of history, I believe that learning and education is a means by which to overcome this.

To the man in the gray pickup truck, Sir, you have nothing to fear from me. It is I, judging by the lessons of history, who should be fearful. To me, you are an outlier and my admiration and opinion of America have not diminished.

As you choose to hurl invectives while you hide behind the ambiguity of a moving truck, I choose simply to write and treat this subject with the gravitas that it deserves.

Let me share with you a few lessons in history that may not be known by many, but continues to fester in the consciousness of the Filipinos.

### History by numbers

10 - "Kill everyone over the age of



ten" was the order given by Col. "Howling" Jacob H. Smith to his men when they turned the entire town of Balanghiga on Leyte Island into a howling wilderness.

20 - Twenty million dollars was the amount paid by the U.S. to "purchase" the Philippines from Spain in the treaty of Paris on Dec 10, 1898, later ratified by President McKinley. In defiance to this, anti-imperialist Andrew Carnegie offered to pay the U.S. treasury the same amount so that he could set the Philippines free.

200,000 - Two hundred thousand is the number of civilian Filipino men women and children who died in the U.S. attempt to subjugate and pacify the Philippines. Up to 50,000 Filipinos were killed directly by U.S. soldiers.

1000 - The number of Filipino Moros killed by the U.S. army on a single day, March 7, 1906. The Moros had taken refuge at Bud Dajo, a volcanic crater in the Philippine Island of Jolo.

1898 - The year the water-cure (today known by another name) was first used by the U.S. army to torture Filipinos. William Howard Taft describes water cure as "that torture which I believe involves pouring water down the throat so that the man swells and gets the impression that he is going to be suffocated and then tells what he knows."

1911 - The 1911, or better known as the 45 caliber pistol, was developed by the U.S. Army to put down Filipino warriors in the Island of Mindanao, the Filipino warriors would continue charging even after being shot with the less powerful 38 caliber handgun.

As we cast these events to be forgotten in the annals of history, let us also remember the good things brought by America. Like the Thomasites, a shipload of American school teachers who arrived in the Philippines in 1901 to establish the first ever Philippine public school system, which includes my Alma mater, the University of the Philippines.

I am still hopeful and thankful for the beautiful people I have met in America. I have always and still continue to admire American values.

America did not just wake up one day and decide to rule the Philippines. Rather, the debate raged between the Expansionists like William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Randolph Hearst, and the anti-imperialists such as Mark Twain and Andrew Carnegie. The debate featured in the leading papers of the time, occupying America's consciousness and conscience.

In the end, President McKinley chose to occupy the Philippines, vowing "to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them." Unknown to McKinley, the Philippines Islands were already "Christianized," and had been so for over 300 years.

The lessons of the past liberate while dwelling on them enslaves us, but to forget condemns us to repeat them.

*Ivar-Nicholas is a Fulbright Scholar and doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona School of Music. Prior to his studies in the U.S., Ivar taught at the U.P. College of Music in Diliman and subsequently at the U.P. Los Baños Department of Humanities.*



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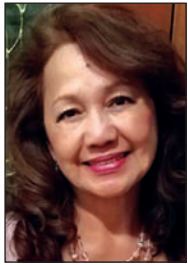
# FILIPINO FIESTA 2018

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BY NANCY CRISTI BAUTISTA

# 365 Guidelines To Live By



Some of the following do not have scientific proofs behind them. They are just personal tips or guidelines on how to live healthy, easily, and happily. Get medical approval prior to the medical applications. Doing just at least one of these everyday may bring a positive outlook in life.

February:

1. Thank You: Do not forget to always say, "Thank You."...and, of course, the "You are Welcome".
2. Check Health: Do a self-check and seek professional / medical advice as needed as soon as possible.
3. Learn A Song: Learn a song, old or new.
4. Do A Patriotic Act: Do something good for the community and / or for the country.
5. Learn To Spell A Challenging Word: Pick a word from the dictionary, a book, or the internet. Learn how to spell it and know its meaning, starting today..

6. Eat Maca: Maca is a vegetable related to radish with a butterscotch-like odor. When eaten, it is good for anemia, for stamina, for fertility, mood balance, immune system, to increase bone density, and for good memory.
7. Always Smell Pleasantly Good: Personal hygiene is a must for yourself and to others. Daily showers, tooth brushing and body deodorizing with mild perfume, without the overpowering scent, are a good practice.
8. New Foreign Word: Learn a new dialect or foreign word / phrase today.
9. Prayers: Do not forget to say a prayer or two today.
10. Drink Water: Hydrate your body by drinking more water everyday. The normal recommended amount for daily consumption of water is about 8 glasses. Have a container of water handy by the bed side at bedtime. Hydration could aid in avoiding morning bad breath and some heart problems.
11. Clutter: Clean after your clutter. Have the habit of putting back an item after use.
12. Face Exercise: Laughing is a good facial exercise. Moderate stretching of the neck and the face, eyes exercising, and little mouth "puffing" are a good way of face exercise.

13. Fermented Foods: Eating fermented foods like sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and yogurt. They are full of probiotics and good bacteria which are good for the gut.
14. Love: Have love in your heart. Be kinder.
15. Teach A Child: Teach a child a good deed that he or she can carry up to his or her adulthood.
16. Lottery Tickets: Buy a lottery ticket once in a while. They help our public schools, and maybe bring you good luck.
17. Handcraft: Learn or go back to sewing, crocheting or knitting.
18. Enroll In A Class: Attend a class that interests you. Adding to your knowledge bank is always a plus.
19. High Carbohydrate Food: Try to avoid the consumption of high carbohydrate food, such as cakes, donuts, cookies, and candies.

20. Fruits And Vegetables: Eat more fruits and vegetables.
21. Driving Manner: Remember to have a patient and good driving manner. Being right but dead is pointless.
22. Chocolate Candy: Indulge or reward yourself just one a day with a regular or a sugar-free dark chocolate candy.
23. Draw Or Paint: Learn or start drawing or painting today. The view from your window is a great landscape to start with.
24. Mirror: Look at the mirror and talk to that person. Admit that the reflection is really you.
25. Don't Compromise Shoes: Do not compromise comfortable, healthy shoes for painful ones because of their physical beauty.
26. Sorghum: Sorghum, a gluten-free cereal grain, is a good source of protein and iron. It has the ability to slow down aging, prevent certain types of cancer, lower risks of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and obesity. It has greater anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties than blueberries, according to a University of Georgia study in June 16, 2014. Ben Franklin introduced sorghum to US in making brooms in 1757.... from "A Collection of the Familiar Letters and Miscellaneous Pieces of Benjamin Franklin", Boston 1933.

27. Pomegranate: Pomegranate has a higher level of antioxidants, even higher than green tea or red wine. "It can help remove the free radicals, protects cells from damage and reduces inflammation." A lot of people avoid it because of the complicated and messy way of eating it. The best way is wash and place the pomegranate in a large zippered plastic bag, and cut the fruit in half while inside the bag. Pluck the seeds with a fork and may be eaten just like that. Keep the uneaten seeds inside the bag, seal it with the zipper and refrigerate it for the next time the urge to eat a delicious and nutritious food comes.
28. Read A Book: Pick up a book, start to read and enjoy it, and plan to finish it as soon as you can. Enjoy the day!

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BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

“Health is the real wealth. And not pieces of gold or silver” - Ghandi

New year brings brighter hope for everyone. It is the best time of the year to commence your new year's resolution. If your goal is to lose weight, this article is for you. Weight loss made simple for all.

Diet is a major factor in weight loss. Seventy five percent of weight loss is contributed to food intake. You are what you eat. It simply means the food you eat directly contributes to your built and weight. Planning is vital in everything. Failure to plan means planning to fail. Food plan is important tool in weight loss. I plan and strictly follow my meal schedule into the following: breakfast at 0600, morning snack with protein drink only at 0900, lunch at 1200, afternoon snack with protein drink only at 1500, dinner at 1800, and last snack for the night with protein drink only at 2100.

A meal must have protein, carbohydrate, vegetables, fruits, and water. The size of protein must be as big as the size of your open hand. One of the functions of protein is to build muscles. The size of carbohydrate must be as big as your closed fist. Carb is the source of energy; it keeps you going. The size of vegetables and fruits must be as big as the size of two open hands placed together. Veggies and fruits are good sources of fiber that make you move your bowel. A challenger must drink at least one gallon of water per day. When you feel thirsty drink some water. Do not let yourself be hungry. Fresh vegetables and fruits are available at your favorite stores or at your organic garden. Learn to cook your own food. The food you cook is clean and healthy. Fresh farm produce taste better and sweeter.

Vegetables and fruits are good sources of micronutrients. Remember micronutrients are not produced by the body. We get it from food sources. Food supplements are available in the market. Glutamine powder drink helps sore muscles heal fast. Powder drink with

## Weight Loss Made Simple

amino acid is excellent in replenishing electrolytes. It is prudent to have your labs check during or after the challenge. It is important to see your blood chemistry like sodium and potassium. For your information, serum sodium is diluted when you drink plenty of water. Serum potassium, on the other hand, goes with the urine when you pee. When sodium is low, a person gets confuse. And if the potassium is low, a person might get arrhythmia or irregular heart rhythm that leads to heart problem. If any of these happens, talk to your



doctor. Banana, avocado, broccoli, and orange juice are good sources of potassium.

What food and drinks to avoid? Avoid drinks with artificial sweetener but you can have water and natural fruit juices. Avoid salty and fatty food. You can use a pinch of Himalayan salt, Ms. Dash, or vinegar to put some taste on your food. Avoid frying your food, steam it. If you can do away with dairy products and alcohol, go for it. These two delay digestion. It is much easier to cut on calories we put in our body than to burn them.

Joule is a unit of energy in the International System of Units but people are familiar and use calorie to measure energy. One small calorie is about 4.2 joules. One big Calorie is about 4.2 kilojoules. A gram of protein is 4 calories. A gram of fat is 9 calories. A gram of carbohydrate is 4 calories, and a gram of alcohol is 7 calories.

Exercise is another major factor in weight loss. Twenty five percent of weight loss is through exercise. One hour of exercises per day, five times a week is good enough to shed off those calories and tone your muscles. Physical activi-

ties improve muscle mass and bone density. Exercise makes you to sweat out those body waste and toxins. Exercise causes your body to secrete endorphin, a hormone that makes you feel happy and fulfilled. Expect your muscles to be sore on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th day of training. It is ok and expected. Just continue with your exercises. The aches will go away. I found interval exercises interesting. It motivates me to finish and repeat the exercise cycle.

The last but not the least important factor in weight loss challenge is mental readiness. Ask yourself: “Am I ready for weight loss challenge?” If your answer is positive, then go ahead and face the challenge without hesitation. Make sure to continue the fight to shed those extra calories and melt those ugly fats from your body and transform yourself into a beautiful creation God made you to be.

Once you follow the above mentioned three important factors with discipline and determination, I bet you will achieve your goal and will never be the same again. A goal will remain a goal if you will not act on it. Check your body mass index (BMI) and make it your target to be achieved this month, couple of month from now, or this year. A person can lose an average of 2 to 4 pounds a week. As a caveat, there will be a time you reaches the plateau phase of your challenge which you do not lose weight for the week, and worst your weight increases. Do not be discouraged because it is part of the challenge. I encountered the same but I stayed positive and kept the momentum. In my case, I did my weight loss challenge at Results Transformation Center in Elk Grove and lost 24 pounds in 6 weeks which exceeded my target of 20 pounds weight loss. I feel way much better today with lighter weight and good muscle tones. I can wear smaller sizes of clothes than I used to and has been at the pink of health since then.

How about you, are you ready for weight loss challenge?  
(gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

## Sustainable Crop Production

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

According to the United Nations, as of December 2017, the world's population is 7.6 billion and it is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and will further balloon to 11.8 billion in 2100. While population growth is tremendously increasing, the land use for agriculture is decreasing which directly affect the quality and quantity of sustainable crop production.

The question now is how do we increase food production? Before I delve into this question, let me explain to you the production situation which I learned from my online study at Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

There are three major categories of this situation. The first category is potential production, the second category is limited production, and the third category is actual production

### Potential production.

It has defining factors and these are the climate and the crop genetics. The climate influences the growth of a plant. A seed germinates faster under controlled temperature in the greenhouse or during spring and summer while it takes time to germinate in fall and harder during winter. A tiny lettuce seed germinates in 5 days during spring and can be harvested in 30 days. It takes over a week to germinate the same during winter. Climate change is a major factor that affect crop production. Climate change is about rising level of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the air. CO2 is a major greenhouse gas. CO2 increase concentration is believed to be caused by human activities. Increase emission leads to increase CO2 concentration in the atmosphere which causes global warming or the greenhouse effect. Climate change has major impact on agricultural production. Measures we can do to counter the effect of climate change are mitigating and adopting measures. We can mitigate the effect of climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an agriculture that sustainable increases productivity and



growth is stunted or its leaves turn purple when it is deficient in phosphorus. Banana peels, crab shells, shrimp peels, grains and nuts are good source of phosphorus. It can be added to farm composts. Plant's leaves becomes yellow while its veins stay green indicate deficiency in potassium. Banana peels, ashes, and used coffee grounds are good source of potassium.

### Actual production.

It has reducing operational factors such as weeds, pests, diseases, and pollutants. Weeds compete with crop growth. It sucks soil nutrients needed by the plant. If the growth of weed is faster than the crop its canopy slows the growth of the crop. Yield reducing factors under pests and diseases are biopatch buster (i.e., moth, fly, virus, and fungus), leaf consumers (i.e., caterpillar), light stealers (i.e., mildew fungus), assimilate suckers (i.e., aphids), xylem blockers (i.e., worms, stem borers), root consumers (i.e., ants), and storage consumers (i.e., locusts, birds). To prevent soil-borne pests and diseases, grow crops in rotation, inter-cropping, use biological control, use chemical (I prefer organic) control, and integrated pest management (IPM) which is a combination of different measures to minimize yield reduction by weeds, pests, and diseases. For yield protecting measures, prevention and eradication can be done mechanically, chemically, and biologically.

### Limited production.

It has limiting factors composed of water and nutrients. Water is life. It plays an important role in crop production. In the absence of water, it is impossible to grow crops. Water determines crop's turbidity, it serves as solvent of nutrients, and a medium for biochemical processes. Crops are watered via flooding method, sprinkler, and irrigation. Precision irrigation provides water to crop in an optimum time. It saves water. Nutrients are needed for plant growth. Three major nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK). Aside from NPK, essential macronutrients such as calcium, magnesium, and sulfur are needed by the plant for crop production. Plant's leave becomes yellow when it is deficient in nitrogen. A good soil has nitrogen but if it runs out of nitrogen, because of over production or soil erosion, we can replenish it by adding vermicast, cow manure, and by planting legumes which fix nitrogen. Eighty percent (80%) of atmosphere is nitrogen gas. During the Great Depression, German scientist Haber-Bosch discovered how to capture nitrogen from atmosphere through a chemical process to make nitrogen fertilizer. Plant's

Sustainable crop production can be attained if we can increase production on existing lands, eliminate limiting factors like water and nutrients, reduction of pre-harvest as well as post-harvest losses which amount to 30% to 40%, reduce yield losses thus increasing resources use efficiency, uses of irrigation system, and land nutrient improvement.

A good understanding of GxExM or crop genetics, environment, and management is vital to successful food production.  
(gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

## Terms of endearment: Ellen Adarna calls 'baby love' John Lloyd Cruz her 'bloggerjowa'

BY CLARIZEL ABANILLA

Is this a confirmation that they are now officially together?

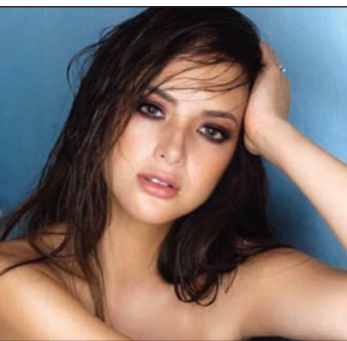
Kapamilya sexy actress Ellen Adarna and blockbuster king John Lloyd Cruz has kept netizens guessing about the real score between them. Now, they're both enjoying a quiet time in Morocco.

However, just as they keep the real deal a secret, the two actors keep exposing intriguing photos, videos and comments that seem to confirm their supposed relationship.

In a recent Instagram post, Adarna uploaded a photo of herself shot by "My photographer @ekoms". The said account is believed to be owned by Cruz.

The caption caught close friend and professional photographer Vito Selma's attention, who asked Adarna if

indeed @ekoms is only her photographer. Another contact of Adarna who goes by the handle @\_idancruz then typed the hashtag "#bloggerjowa". Adarna seemed to agree on both descriptions: photographer and bloggerjowa.



Ellen Adarna

In Filipino slang, "jowa" refers to someone's boyfriend or girlfriend. In the realm of fashion blogging, bloggerjowa refers to boyfriends who either take photos and

or assist their fashion blogger girlfriends on shoots, which sometimes require these bloggerjowas to do difficult or ridiculous tasks just to ensure a good pictorial for their girlfriends.

Just recently, rumors about Adarna being pregnant surfaced when veteran newscaster Jay Sonza posted a conversation he had with a supposed niece who is currently vacationing in Europe. Taking from the post, that niece informed Sonza about her pregnancy and engagement.

A name was revealed on the latter part of Sonza's post: Elena. Could Sonza's niece be Adarna? Is she indeed carrying Cruz's child? Adarna fans await updates from her and her bloggerjowa.

## Filipina model is first runner-up in Miss Intercontinental pageant

BY ROBERT R. REQUINTINA

The Philippines continued to be a pageant powerhouse with model and video jockey Katarina Rodriguez emerging as first runner up at the Miss Intercontinental 2017 beauty pageant in Egypt last Wednesday.

Veronia Salas Vallejo of Mexico was crowned Miss Intercontinental 2017.

Other winners were Catherlijne Heppenhuis, Netherlands, 2nd runner-up; Amanda Cardoso, Brazil, 3rd runner-up; Lizeth Mendieta, Colombia, 4th runner-up; and Lee Su Jin, Korea, 5th runner-up.

The Philippines has never topped this international competition. In 2015, Christi McGarry won first-runner up in the same contest.

Rodriguez is the last of the reigning batch of Bb. Pilipinas beauty queens who competed in international pageants. Other Binibinis who won abroad were Elizabeth Clenci who placed 2nd runner-up in the Miss Grand International pageant and Nelda Ibe, 1st runner-up in Miss Globe.

Rodriguez, 24, is a graduate of Business Management and Philosophy at the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue in Manila.

Aside from reading and modelling, this 5'5 beauty queen is a cycling instructor and a competitive long dis-



Katarina Rodriguez

tance runner.

Before she competed in pageants, Rodriguez was a familiar face on television as a runner-up in Asia's Next Top Model Cycle 2 in 2014. She was also an MTV video jockey and was under contract with Viva Artists Agency.

A few days before the finals of the international pageant, Rodriguez thanked her supporters on social media.

"Philippines! I know that the voting has not been working and for me specifically, but please do not give up hope on me or Miss Intercontinental.

"Instead, just pray to Papa Jesus that I win what I came here for—the crown. I know everyone wants to vote and is frustrated that they cannot vote, but let us remember by grace through faith and that being negative no matter how heavy a feeling we

have will help us triumph;

"Please pray with me and I will do my best here to perform for you, our country and God. Thank you so much for your passion, but let us keep positive. With all the gratitude in this universe, thank you," she said on Instagram.

Rodriguez was referring to the hacking incident of the Miss Intercontinental pageant website at the height of the online voting for the candidates. It was closed prematurely.

The Filipina beauty queen finished third online with 2,213 votes. Miss Korea topped the online voting with 3,638 votes and Miss Indonesia was second with 3,635 votes.

"Due to renewed massive hacking attempts of the voting, we were forced to end the voting prematurely. We regret that people tried to manipulate the election in such a way," organizers of the pageant announced on their website.

A total of 68 candidates competed at the 46th Miss Intercontinental beauty pageant this year.

Other candidates who finished in the Top 18 semifinals were delegates from Serbia, Australia, Egypt, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Russia and Vietnam.

## We Have a Problem with Robin Padilla's Brand of Patriotism

BY JACQUELINE ARIAS

Robin Padilla has been the subject of scrutiny the past week after he forced a Korean contestant on Pilipinas Got Talent to speak in Filipino. On last Saturday's episode, aspiring magician Kim Ji-Wan looked humiliated when Robin started scolding him during his trick. Good thing Angel Locsin stepped in and volunteered to help out the contestant.



Robin Padilla (Art by Lara Intong)

It was a hard video to watch, mostly because of how condescending Robin sounded. Okay, sure, Ji-Wan grew up and studied here in the Philippines. But should people give him crap for not speaking in Filipino? Absolutely not.

Consequently, Robin defended himself and said that his comments had patriotic intent. Like in the show, he kept emphasizing that he joined Pilipinas Got Talent, so Ji-Wan should respect our language. In an Instagram post, he wrote, "Always [fight] for your freedom to gain respect never allow a foreign power to intimidate you in your country just because they are rich. Be a proud Filipino!!!"

Filipino Hospitality is far different from slavery and stupidity.. mahalin mo ang bayan mo at ang lahi mo lalo ang wika mo bago ang lahi at wika at bayan ng dayuhan. Always Fight for your freedom to gain respect never allow a foreign power to intimidate you in your country just because they are rich. Be a

proud Filipino!!! Mabuhay ang lahing kayumanggi!! Mabuhay ang Tagalog Republic!!!

Also, isn't it ironic that he posted a photo of the KKK flag and wrote half the caption in English? It's as if he didn't scold someone for speaking in English in a Filipino show.

Here's another question: How come he didn't reprimand a Lebanese girl who joined PGT two years ago? She didn't speak Filipino as well, except for the occasional "po" and "opo." Is it because she didn't mention that she's lived here for x number of years? Or was it because she's a young woman and you wanted to respect her so you just let it go?

How about the other foreigners like Ji-Wan who will join in the future, don't they deserve the same respect? As many people already pointed out, English is a universal language spoken in any country, including the Philippines. If someone isn't learned in a certain language, we should let them

communicate in any way that makes them comfortable.

Lastly, there are people saying that what Robin did wasn't racist. (Rude, yes, but god forbid it wasn't racist, they said.) Sorry to burst your bubble but it is. Racism is defined as seeing a certain race as superior to another. Robin imposed on this Korean national that he had no right to speak to him or perform if he didn't speak in Filipino. It's no different than when Americans tell off Latinos or Asians to speak in English because they're in the US. They're probably being "patriotic" too.

If there's any lesson here, it's that we should all be welcoming of all people regardless of their race and their ability to speak Filipino. We're always the first to condemn foreigners when they disrespect us in their countries, so let's not treat them like they're inferior as well.

Also, bless Angel Locsin for being a considerate and patient PGT judge. Seriously.

**SIMPLY MAGIC**  
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# Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA hosts another very successful Consulate on Wheels Outreach Mission 2018 – Sacramento

BY CARLE & SARAH ENLOE

On January 20, 2018, the Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA, hosted the San Francisco Philippine Consulate on Wheels' 9th Outreach Mission to Sacramento, CA at the American Legion Magellan Post 604, Filipino Americans Veterans' Hall, 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA.

As in years past, once again, Dr. Tony and Remy Solomon of Bayanihan were the local contacts for coordinating the mission. This year's event was once again chaired by Leila Pereira and co-chaired by Maharlika Lion Sarah Enloe, Cabalen Ning of Sacramento Edna de los Reyes and Rose Delacruz. The San Francisco Philippine Consulate on Wheels Staff was led by Vice Consul General André Peter C. Estanislao, 2018 Consular Outreach Coordinator. On behalf of Bayanihan and the Filipino Community of Sacramento, we would like welcome Vice Consul Andre Peter C. Estanislao to Sacramento and congratulate him for his first and successful Consulate on Wheels Outreach Mission!

Also, of special note



Photos by Sarah Enloe

according to Vice Consul Andre, the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco (<http://www.philippinessanfrancisco.org>) is pleased to announce

its provisional schedule for consular outreach missions for 2018.

Going forward, and in order to streamline operations and provide more comfort-



able and efficient service to the Filipino Community in San Francisco and its areas of jurisdiction, the Consulate General is pleased to announce that all Consular Outreach Missions will now be done through an appointment system handled by the Consulate.

The link for the appointment system will be made available to the public through its website and its social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) three (03) weeks prior to the date of the consular outreach. For the schedule, guidelines, and dates when the appointment system is available for these outreach, please refer to this link: [http://www.philippinessanfrancisco.org/uploads/Consular/SF/General\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_COW\\_2018.pdf](http://www.philippinessanfrancisco.org/uploads/Consular/SF/General_Guidelines_for_COW_2018.pdf)

We would like our community to know that this is the first time the online appointment system for their Outreach Missions has been



used and Sacramento was selected as the first location of their outreach mission. Despite a short notice from the Consulate Office, we were able to successfully implement this new appointment system. The Consulate on Wheels Outreach Mission schedule for next year will be scheduled for March 2019, as in years past.

The Consulate on Wheels Outreach 2018 would not have been possible without everyone's contributions, assistance and commitment. We would like to acknowledge the following sponsoring community organizations for their sup-

port given a very short notice: Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA; American Legion Magellan Post 604; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604; Cabalen Club of Sacramento; Maharlika Lions Club; Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity; Philippine Fiesta News; and United Naguilian, LaUnion Circle of America, Inc.

Once again, we extend our thanks to Vice Consul General Andre and the Consulate Staff – (Armynta Atentara; Noe Nolasco; Manolito Lucido; Annamaria Garcia; Kristine Jane Quibuloy; Ethel Mae Castillo; Nino Ray Samson; Leyden Pacheco; Juan Paolo Rillo; and Marites Marin); and all the volunteers and friends of Bayanihan for all their hard work. A huge thank you to all the participating organizations for sponsoring such a successful and worthwhile event benefiting the entire Sacramento Filipino Community.

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