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PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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FAVA FILIPINIANA
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Duterte wants explanation on release of convicts

BY ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte wants the Bureau of Corrections (Bucor) to explain why more than 1,900 inmates convicted of heinous crimes have been freed early even if they are not eligible under the good conduct time allowance (GCTA) law.

Senator and former presidential aide Christopher Go said the President did not approve the release of the inmates.

“He will ask those responsible to explain,” Go said in Filipino in a text message yesterday.

Republic Act 10592 or GCTA law signed by former president Benigno Aquino III allows shortened prison terms of convicts for good behavior.

The law, however, does not cover those found guilty of heinous crimes, escapees, habitual delinquents and recidivists.

Despite the exception, 1,914 prisoners convicted of heinous crimes have walked free since 2014, according to Bucor.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson has also revealed that four convicted Chinese drug traffickers were freed last June.

Malacañang has said the prisoners should be sent back to jail because they are



Senator and former presidential aide Christopher Go said the President did not approve the release of the inmates.

not covered by the GCTA law. While the law says the grant of GCTA cannot be revoked, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the provision only applies to qualified inmates.

Meanwhile, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has distanced itself from reports that BuCor chief Nicanor Faeldon signed the supposed order to release rapist-killer Antonio Sanchez on Aug. 20.

“Let’s wait for director general Faeldon’s reaction first,” Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said yesterday when sought for comment on Faeldon’s reportedly signing Sanchez’s release order.

Faeldon has not faced the media since news of Sanchez’s near release from prison broke out.

But a report from GMA News said that Faeldon’s signature was on the release order for prisoner “Antonio Leyva Sanchez” on Aug. 20.

The release order allegedly stated that Sanchez was found to have served 40 years in prison under the retroactive application of RA 10592.

The report also stated that based on the release order, Sanchez is “certified to have no other legal cause to be further detained” and therefore “shall be released from confinement.”

Asked if Faeldon could be sanctioned – or possibly removed – for allowing the release of Sanchez, Guevarra said “only the President can answer that.” –

FILIPINO GARDEN at EAST LAWN



Vista Point Pavilion

BY LILIA RIVERA

The Filipino Garden Project at East Lawn Elk Grove was formally launched on August 31, 2019 with a special Informational Seminar. The project is a partnership

between the Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity (FCSV) with Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation (PRHF) and East Lawn. The project has two objectives:

to create a beautiful resting place for our loved ones, and to help raise funds to help our Filipino Community Center.

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International Philippines Association (IPA)

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 24 Aug 2019, International Philippines Association (IPA) celebrated its 15th Anniversary Dinner and Dance at A & A Tasty Restaurant on Florin Road.

The dancers were Remy, Josie, Lilia, Lilah, Ann, Betty and Lucita to the music of Rosas Pandan and Paruparong Bukid.

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Photo by Dale Esperante

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Gina Lopez - our modern day hero

BY SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

The reported possible inclusion of former Mayor Sanchez in the list of convicts to be released because of a retroactive re-computation of Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) under Republic Act 10592 literally reopened the wounds that never fully healed since the gruesome 1993 rape with homicide case, aptly described by the trial judge as “a plot seemingly hatched in hell.”

With the ensuing public outrage, the government immediately announced that the former mayor is not eligible to avail of the benefits under the new law. But some quarters are saying otherwise, thus the suggestion for an immediate amendment to disqualify certain prisoners from availing of the GCTA.

For his convictions in the 1991 Peñalosa killings and the 1993 Sarmenta and Gomez rape with homicide case, Sanchez was meted out a total of nine penalties of Reclusion Perpetua, which by earthly standards, should justify his rotting in jail for 270 years and burning in hell for the rest of eternity. Under the “three-fold” rule, however, Sanchez can only be required to serve a maximum of 40 years of imprisonment. But after only 26 years in jail, the convicted rapist-killer may be released because the 40-year maximum period was substantially reduced by his GCTA under R.A. 10592, which substantially increased the credits from the previous 5, 8, 10, and 15 days per month of good conduct to the present 20, 23, 25, and 30 days, respectively. The DOJ wanted this new computation to apply prospectively. But the Supreme Court in a very recent ruling said that the new law should be given retroactive effect because it is favorable to the accused.

But was it not announced by no

less than the Secretary of Justice and the Presidential spokesperson that Sanchez is not entitled to GCTA because he is not eligible for credit of preventive imprisonment (before conviction) under Article 29 of the same law, which stipulates that “recidivists, habitual delinquents, escapees and persons charged with heinous crimes are excluded from the coverage of this Act”? I really hope so, but with the fundamental principle that any doubt should be resolved in favor of the accused, the Supreme Court may again rule against the position of the DOJ. A reading of Article 97 reveals that the deduction from the period of the sentence is available to: (1) Any offender qualified for credit for preventive imprisonment pursuant to Article 29 of this Code; or (2) Any convicted prisoner in any penal institution. It does not appear that the GCTA for the convicted prisoner is conditioned upon his prior qualification to be credited for preventive imprisonment. The disqualifications in Article 29 were not intended to apply to Article 97 otherwise the latter provision should have also expressly disqualified those who were convicted of heinous crimes.

But how can a convict, who was allegedly caught in possession of illegal drugs at least twice in prison, be considered in good conduct? He even stashed the prohibited drugs in the statue of the Virgin Mary. Sanamagan! The problem is that the determination of good conduct credits is on a monthly basis, which means that the credits the prisoner would have earned for the months he conducted himself properly will not be forfeited by his bad behavior in a succeeding month. What is clear is that he would not earn credits for the months he had violated prison rules or failed to observe good conduct. To my mind, this would defeat the purpose of reformation.

The objectives of Republic Act 10592 may be laudable, but perhaps

Congress should have considered balancing limitations. It is important, as the IRR provides, to “redeem and uplift valuable human material towards economic and social usefulness” or “to implement the state policy of restorative and compassionate justice by promoting the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.” But prisoners who prove to be unworthy should not be benefitted as this would result to a mockery of our criminal justice system.

The present confusion would have been avoided if Congress made it clear that the GCTA would not also benefit persons convicted of heinous crimes and prisoners who commit infractions of law or serious violation of rules while in prison. In this regard, an amendment of the law may be urgent. With respect to Mr. Sanchez, it appears that no further amendment would change the undeserved favor he got under the new law. Without an outright disqualification in the law, his release will depend on the retroactive determination of his GCTA computed on his monthly good conduct as borne by his prison records, unless there are other reasons to curtail his liberty longer, as intimidated by the BUCOR chief. Yet, whatever happens, karma is eternal!

I remember the day when the cruel and disgusting news came out about Sanchez and his men in 1993. The lives of Eileen Sarmenta and Allan Gomez were brutally taken by the mayor of a town in Laguna. Whatever plot they created about the murder, at the end of the day, we know that Sanchez was the mastermind of it all. As our Star columnist Bum Tenorio (who saw Ellen’s body at the University of Phil-

ippines Police Headquarters) said upon hearing the news of Sanchez’ possible release, “He deserves to rot in prison.”

The people of Laguna and the Philippines were alarmed and disheartened to hear the news of Sanchez’ release. After the rape and the murder of Eileen and Allan, the townfolk had difficulty healing from the acts done by the “mad-mayor” of Calauan. Laguna became a ‘ghost-town’. Today the wounds may have healed but something as gruelling as this will never be forgotten and forgiven.

Today, is National Heroes’ Day. Of course we thank the many heroes and martyrs who have fought and lost their lives to protect our nation. But today, we also have heroes who continue to burn the midnight oil and put their lives at stake for our country.

The late Gina Lopez who passed away just last week is a true model for Filipinos to look up to. Her perseverance was invincible. She was an epitome of a “real” modern-

day hero. From her pure deeds I learned that: Whether in the quest of virtue or in the pursuit of material gain, whether in the achievement of glory or in the search for gold, you need that sturdy quality that knows no doubt, no wavering, no discouragement. When you see a woman who made a name for herself, one whom destiny seems to have made its favorite child, don’t you deceive yourselves into



Gina Lopez

believing that she has achieved eminence through mere good fortune or luck. Known to the world is her brilliant achievement, but unknown to the world are the long, dreary years of unremitting and patient labor, of obscure and wearing drudgery that precede the dazzling and joyous day

of her triumph. Thomas Edison is often quoted to have said of what men call genius that it is two percent inspiration and ninety-eight percent perspiration. This was Gina’s dedication because she loved our country and our people. Rest now dear warrior, thank you!

Asia’s best

Music provides a glimpse into a nation’s soul, and Ryan Cayabyab has devoted much of his career to crafting and promoting original Philippine music. In pursuing his life’s calling, the National Artist for Music has also mentored countless budding artists in developing OPM.

For his work, Cayabyab is one of this year’s recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards. He was cited for “showing us all that music can indeed instill pride and joy and unify people across the many barriers that divide them.”

Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize, the prestigious award recognizes individuals whose work embodies the competent and dedicated service to the public that marked the life of former president Ramon Magsaysay, whose 112th birth anniversary is celebrated today.

Honored along with Cayabyab are two journalists. The awardee for emergent leadership, Ko Swe Win, 41, works in Myanmar, one of the most challenging places for media members. He had been arrested, tortured and spent seven years in prison for joining anti-government protests when he was a university student. Upon release, he studied journalism and now edits the online paper Myanmar Now. He has been sued, harassed and briefly jailed for criticizing hate speech and violence targeting the Muslim minority.

The other journalist is Ravish Kumar, senior executive editor of NDTV India. Kumar was cited for being “most vocal on insisting that

the professional values of sober, balanced, fact-based reporting be upheld in practice” in a media environment “toxic with jingoist partisans, trolls and purveyors of ‘fake news.’”

Thailand’s National Human Rights Commissioner Angkhana Neelapajit, founder of the Justice for Peace Foundation, is being honored for her work in building a network that documents the rights situation in southern Thailand where there is Islamic unrest. The foundation

also provides legal assistance to victims and trains women on human rights and the peace process. Neelapajit started her advocacy after her husband was kidnapped in 2004 in Bangkok and later killed after he publicly accused the military of torturing detainees in southern Thailand.

South Korea’s Kim Jong-ki is being honored for transforming his grief over the suicide of his 16-year-old son into a crusade to end school bullying and violence. Kim, a businessman, set up the Foundation for Preventing Youth Violence, which has helped raise public awareness on school violence. South Korea now has a law on the prevention and handling of school violence, and incidence has dropped from 20 percent in 1995 to three percent.

On Sept. 9, the five will be formally conferred the Magsaysay Award for their “courage undaunted in their commitment to build solutions to vital and complex issues in their societies.”

PhilippineStar



Editor’s Note

Philippine Fiesta news online is exactly what it has been, only without the paper copy to read. The convenience of having to access the latest issue is as easy as going on Facebook on smartphone, tablet, or desktop computers. Pages can be saved through screenshots or by saving them to the personal files. They can be retrieved and shared instantly.

For a few of our community friends, we’ve shown how a PF News icon can be created and be saved on home screen for easy access. This can be done by going on PhilippineFiesta.net on any web browser and then saving the site on the home screen on any computer devices. I know this may sound so technical but this is the technology of today and the future ahead. Please reach out to us, for further assistance.

I want to remind everyone the importance of the Census 2020 campaign. This happens every 10 years for many reasons, besides just having to be part of the count.

The East Lawn Memorial Park and Mortuaries has the Filipino Garden project especially for our Filipino-American community in Sacramento and vicinity. It may sound too good to be true, but being informed by merely inquiring or attending one of their future meetings, can help. Reach out to the Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation or the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity officers to find out more details of the project. Activities and advertising of this project are also included on this issue of Philippine Fiesta news online.

We try our best to attend every Filipino community events for coverage on the issues of PF news. Please don’t hesitate to email us of your organization’s functions or even any personal or family celebrations for publication.

Enjoy the rest of what’s left of the summer season.

With love always,
Dinnah San Pedro

Some freed convicts have left the Philippines – DILG

65 heinous crime convicts surrender – PNP

BY EMMANUEL TUPAS

MANILA, Philippines — Several of the 1,914 convicts granted freedom under the Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) law have left the country, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said yesterday.

“I received a report that several of those prisoners are already abroad,” Año told radio station dzBB.

Año said the report is not clear on the number of convicts that have left the country, but he said the Philippine National Police (PNP) is coordinating with the Interpol to track them down.

Año said the Interpol had agreed to locate the convicts and provide information on their whereabouts.

“The PNP is still in the process of locating the convicts that were on the list,” Año told The STAR, referring to the names of the freed convicts listed by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor).

Año admitted it would be difficult to rearrest the convicts if they have fled to a country that has no extradition treaty with the Philippines.

“There is nothing we can do about that,” he said.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, on the other hand, said there has been no report from authorities that any of the freed convicts had left the Philippines.

“So far none of the (pris-



Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said the report is not clear on the number of convicts that have left the country, but he said the Philippine National Police (PNP) is coordinating with the Interpol to track them down.

oners) has been seen at the terminals (airports and seaports). All (of the) immigration and National Bureau of Investigation agents in our ports have been alerted,” Guevarra said.

Department of Justice spokesman Mark Perete said the Bureau of Immigration has initially reported that no one among the prisoners in the list submitted by BuCor has left the country.

Guevarra recently issued an Immigration Lookout Bulletin covering the 1,914 prisoners who were granted freedom under the GCTA law.

Perete added they received information that a total of 76 have surrendered as of Saturday night.

The PNP said they have accounted for 65 of the convicts that surrendered.

Most of the convicts who surrendered were from Cagayan Valley with 24 followed by 11 in the Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan region

with 11 and seven in Central Visayas.

The other convicts were from other parts of the country, including two in Metro Manila. However, no one among the convicts from the regions of Ilocos, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao, Soccsksargen and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have surrendered.

The figure is way below the 1,914 prisoners convicted of heinous crimes who were granted freedom under GCTA or Republic Act 10592 that reduced their sentences upon showing good behavior.

President Duterte on Wednesday ordered the released prisoners to surrender and register with BuCor within 15 days or they would be considered fugitives.

Duterte voided the release orders following reports of irregularities and corruption in the computation of prison sentences under the GCTA law.

Dela Rosa classmate named BuCor OIC as gov't probes prison scandal

Retired police general Ramon Buenafe of PMA Sinagtala Class of 1986 is entrusted with overseeing BuCor in the middle of a big mess involving good conduct time allowances of convicts

BY LIAN BUAN

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Friday, September 6, assigned retired Deputy Director General Melvin Ramon Buenafe as officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) after President Rodrigo Duterte fired Nicanor Faeldon.



BUCOR OIC. Deputy Director General Melvin Ramon Buenafe is the officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Corrections amid GCTA anomalies.

Buenafe has been appointed OIC of BuCor before when his classmate, now Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, quit the post to run for the elections.

Buenafe, along with Dela Rosa, is part of the Philippine Military Academy’s Sinagtala Class of 1986, the current ruling class in the Philippine National Police.

Guevarra has a tall order for Buenafe: “To adopt strict measures to ensure the integrity and proper safekeeping of official records of good conduct time allowances (GCTA) and other similar time credits,” as said in the secretary’s department order assigning Buenafe as OIC.

Buenafe would oversee BuCor as the bureau deals with the revocation of earlier granted release orders to heinous crimes convicts.

But he could find him-

Año appealed to the remaining convicts to surrender, not to wait for the authorities to arrest them.

PNP spokesman Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac also appealed to the other convicts to heed the presidential order for them to surrender.

“We give them enough time to think it over and de-

self in a tight situation. Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said previous BuCor chiefs, including Buenafe’s classmate Dela Rosa, should be covered by the investigation.

Guevarra instructed Buenafe to “take appropriate steps for the formal revocation of release orders improvidently issued and for the recommitment of Persons Deprived of Liberty erroneously released from prison by reason thereof.”

The freedom of earlier released 1,914 heinous crimes convicts is at stake. It will also open the BuCor to possible suits from these convicts.

Guevarra also created a committee composed of his men – Undersecretary Deo Marco, as well as Assistant Secretaries Neal Bainto

and George Ortha – “to exercise close administrative supervision over the bureau pending appointment by the President of a new director general.”

Guevarra said he would launch an investigation into the alleged “GCTA for sale” scheme following a testimony in the Senate of a convict’s wife who said BuCor officials asked money from her in exchange for her husband’s early release.

and George Ortha – “to exercise close administrative supervision over the bureau pending appointment by the President of a new director general.”

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“That will be part of the investigation because after we have completed the guidelines or even before that I intend to conduct an inquiry into what’s going on at the BuCor in connection with the GCTA allowances,” Guevarra said.

The Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior and Local Government are currently conducting a joint review of the GCTA law guideline, with the goal of excluding heinous crimes convicts from Republic Act No. 10592 or the expanded GCTA law.

Previous posts

Before bowing out of the police service, Buenafe served as the top cop of the Bicol Region. Prior to the commander post, he led the police Highway Patrol Group. He is a native of Naga City.

attempted rape with homicide, robbery with homicide, illegal drugs, parricide, rape with homicide and rape and arson.

Officials said the 65 convicts were turned over to the BuCor after undergoing booking procedures and medical examination.



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Duterte should investigate attempt to free Sanchez – Demetriou

Retired judge wants Faeldon, Panelo, Dela Rosa grilled by Congress

BY MARK FRANCIS BANAY

The judge who had sentenced former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez to seven 40-year prison terms urged President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday to investigate the attempt to free the rape-murder convict.

Harriet Demetriou, now retired from the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, also called on Congress to “grill” Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Nicanor Faeldon, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo, who was Sanchez’s legal counsel, and Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, Faeldon’s predecessor.

“I’m calling on the President to investigate the attempted release of Sanchez from prison. I know he is a fair man. He knows the drill. He knows the law,” she told reporters in an interview at her home in this city. “The President should investigate on who is responsible.”

Demetriou, 72, made the call following statements by Sanchez’s family that he was supposed to have walked free on Aug. 20 after his prison term was shortened in accordance with the good conduct time allowance under Republic Act No. 10592.

The release of the former mayor was aborted amid public outrage. Faeldon and Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra later said that Sanchez was not eligible for release under that law.

Sanchez and six of his henchmen were convicted of the brutal 1993 rape and murder of Eileen Sarmenta and the murder of her friend Allan Gomez, both University of the Philippines Los Baños students.

In 1996, a year after they were convicted, another court sentenced Sanchez to two 40-year prison terms for the 1991 murder of Nelson Peñalosa and his son, Rick.

Accountability

Demetriou said prison officials who had a hand in the supposed release of Sanchez should be made accountable.

“Just because the President has already stated that Sanchez will no longer be able to go out doesn’t mean that the prison officials would no longer be held liable, like Faeldon, from being investigated and punished for using the law crookedly in favor of Sanchez,” she said.

Demetriou said the officials “twisted the law” and “have made a mockery of the law.”

RA 10592 shaves time off a convict’s prison sentence based on good behavior. Section 1 of the law states that “recidivists, habitual delinquents, escapees and persons charged with heinous crimes are excluded from the coverage of this Act.”

Congressional hearing

She said Panelo, Faeldon and Dela Rosa should face a congressional hearing to “let the truth come out.”

“They must explain to the people, to the entire Philippines, why they want to free Sanchez on good conduct time allowance when he is not qualified,” Demetriou said. When word came out early last week that Sanchez would be among about 11,000 convicts who might be freed under RA 10592, Panelo said he had nothing to do with his former client being among them. He added that the government could do nothing but implement the law.

Guevarra said then that no one, including Panelo, needed to intervene for Sanchez’s release. He also said he was told by Faeldon that 200 of the 11,000 could be



Harriet Demetriou

freed within two months.

He said he would look into Sanchez’s supposed Aug. 20 release, noting that Faeldon had denied signing an order to free the former mayor. The Department of Justice also received no such order, he added.

Panelo statement

Speaking to reporters in Beijing on Wednesday ahead of Mr. Duterte’s visit to China this week, Panelo reiterated that he was not involved in the so-called attempt to free Sanchez.

“She’s wrong,” Panelo said of Demetriou.

He, however, acknowledged that the law was “very clear” that Sanchez was “ineligible.”

Commenting on what appeared to be Sanchez’s imminent release, Dela Rosa last week said the rape-murder convict should be given a “second chance” and should be freed if that was allowed by law, although he had preferred the death penalty for the former mayor.

His remarks drew public con-

demnation, including from Demetriou, who called him out for the many poor people who were killed in the brutal war on drugs that he led when he was chief of the Philippine National Police.

Heinous crimes

Demetriou said it was possible that prisoners held for heinous crimes had already been released.

“This is a very serious issue,” she said. Reacting to statements from Sanchez who said he was wrongly convicted, she said: “He can’t

say I railroaded his right to due process.”

She noted that Sanchez had shown no remorse for his crimes and maintained his innocence. “He is beyond reformation,” she said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the justice committee, said he would open the Senate inquiry into the implementation of RA 10592 on Monday.

Among the issues he would probe is the lack of transparency in the

enforcement of the law.

Gordon said he also would check whether BuCor had too much discretion to determine whether a prisoner had shown good conduct. He would also look into whether there was corruption in the process of granting good conduct time allowance to inmates.

On Twitter, Sen. Panfilo Lacson took a dig at Faeldon, who had served as head of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) but was forced to resign after a huge cache of “shabu” (crystal meth) was found to have slipped through the BOC.

‘Tara’ at Bucor

“From the release of smuggled goods to release of convicts. Has the Bureau of Customs ‘tara system’ migrated to the Bureau of Corrections?” Lacson said in a tweet, referring to bribes to customs personnel for the release of imported goods.

He said the Sanchez controversy showed that public sentiment was important.

“The fact remains that public outcry matters after all in preempting malevolent attempts to do injustice to victims of heinous crimes who will not be able to recover from the pain and trauma, regardless of how much time is served by those responsible for their lifetime ordeal,” he said.

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Check out Sacramento State's new mural depicting the story of Filipino migration

BY THEODORA YU

The first Filipino migration-themed mural in Sacramento was unveiled at Sacramento State on August 17, 2019. Eliseo Art Silva, an L.A.-based Filipino artist who created the mural, said the community engagement aspect is what made it unique.

The first Filipino migration-themed mural in Sacramento was completed over the weekend at Sacramento State, a week before fall classes start.

The project is a part of Wide Open Walls, the nation's largest mural festival, which returned to Sacramento for a third year. The event featured 44 artists and 30 new murals in the Sacramento region.

Eliseo Art Silva, a Los Angeles-based artist who moved to the United States with his family 30 years ago, designed and painted the Sacramento mural in 10 days.

The theme of the mural is "Together We Rise," to tell the central role of women in the Filipino story of migration and neighborly cooperation, Silva said. "It is

about honoring our ancestors and our history both in the Philippines and the United States."

Vince Sales, who oversees the Philippine National Day Association's LahiARTS program, pitched the idea of a mural dedicated to the Filipino community in Sacramento to David Sobon, founder of Wide Open Walls, as well as the university.

"They had a notion of creating an outdoor type of museum," Sales said.

Timothy Fong, professor of ethnic studies at Sacramento State, said the event is important because Filipino American history is significant to the Central Valley.

Dressed in the Barong Tagalog, a traditional embroidered formal shirt, Silva explained the ideas and history behind the mural, recalling the dates, numbers and names in detail. He said the hands of the mother and the child, which are holding fans, symbolize the stories of the parents and children woven in the Filipino and Filipino American narrative.



Filipino artist Eliseo Art Silva works on his mural at Sacramento State on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019./ Theodora Yu

"One hand signifies Filipino women who left their kids in the Philippines to work as nannies and caregivers in other countries," Silva said. The other hand signifies families who strive to blend in after moving to the United States and forget about the Filipino stories.

On the right side of the mural are two symbols of Philippine mythology, including the Sarimanok, the guardian of the sun and moon that determines the harvest season and appears in the form of a bird with a fish on its beak. The Nāga, the guardian for a lake that determines planting season,

is presented in the form of a serpent, according to Silva.

The inspiration for the artwork came from Silva's personal experience and observation of the Filipino community in America. Instead of giving up one culture for the other, he hopes Filipinos can connect both cultures.

"I wanted future migrants in this country to not experience the same dilemma that my own family had to go through," he said. "That is the idea of not valuing your own stories, your own traditions in your own country and only replacing that with another culture entire-

ly. And I believe we should choose the best of both worlds and look at the bigger picture, and what will work when you migrate and move to another country, because there will be good and bad in both countries."

Community engagement distinguished this mural from others. Youth members recited self-written poems that were inspired by the theme of the mural and drew their interpretation of their migration stories on fabrics that were pasted on the mural.

Edmari Gutierrez, a senior at Sacramento State, recited a poem she wrote about her grandmother at the event. She said she felt honored to have her poem chosen as a part of what the mural represents.

"Once school starts, it (the mural) is something that will turn heads on campus, and hopefully some students will be intrigued enough to look at it, study it and learn about the inspirations behind it," Gutierrez said.

up at Sacramento State this year. Hoxhoh, Miami-based artist, and Los Angeles-based Jilian Evelyn also brought their unique styles to campus buildings.

Sheree Meyer, the dean of the College of Arts and Letters of Sacramento State University, said she was excited about having a mural on campus dedicated to the Filipino and Filipino American experience.

"While the details may be unique, there are many individuals on our campus who have had similar experiences," Meyer said. "In this mural, as in our college, we take history and combine it with the arts, which gives multiple expressions to the story. It's a perfect combination."

With the artistic goal of reconciling the history of his lineage with the history of painting, Silva said he is moving back to the Philippines next year to work on a mural project for the 400th anniversary of a school he attended.

"Every migrant who comes to America should offer something new from their culture, and create something to advance the culture of America," Silva said. "And the only way you can do it is to embrace your own culture."

Domestic Violence Advocate Training

September 7, 14, 21
October 5 & 12, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Current domestic violence advocates, legal experts, and local community leaders will cover topics such as:

- ▶ Domestic violence and its history
- ▶ Asian/Pacific Islander community and culture
- ▶ Community resources for victims and survivors
- ▶ Crisis line skills development
- ▶ Holistic, culturally competent approach for serving immigrant women

The curriculum is based upon state standards for domestic violence shelters.

Donation: \$35

Participants are strongly encouraged to attend a monthly volunteer orientation prior to attending training.

Class size is limited. Class is not offered again until Spring 2020.

Training sign up and information:
www.my-sisters-house.org
volunteermsh@gmail.com
(916) 930-0626

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- ♥ Shelter for abused women and children

Source: gettyimages.com

24/7 Multilingual Crisis Line
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My Sister's House

'Now or never': Hong Kong protesters say they have nothing to lose

BY REUTERS

HONG KONG – Exasperated with the government's unflinching attitude to escalating civil unrest, Jason Tse quit his job in Australia and jumped on a plane to join what he believes is a do-or-die fight for Hong Kong's future.



Hong Kong native and Australian resident Jason Tse poses for a portrait in a tunnel adorned with protest notes, known as Lennon Wall, in Hong Kong, China August 10, 2019.

The Chinese territory

is grappling with its biggest crisis since its handover to Beijing 22 years ago as many residents fret over what they see as China's tightening grip over the city and a relentless march toward mainland control.

The battle for Hong Kong's soul has pitted protesters against the former British colony's political masters in Beijing, with broad swathes of the Asian financial center determined to defend the territory's freedoms at any cost.

Faced with a stick and no carrot – chief executive Carrie Lam reiterated on Tuesday protesters' demands were unacceptable – the pro-democracy movement has intensified despite Beijing deploying paramilitary troops near the border in recent weeks.

"This is a now or never moment and it is the reason why I came back," Tse, 32, said, adding that since joining the protests last month he had been a peaceful participant in rallies and an activist on the Telegram social media app.

"If we don't succeed now, our freedom of speech, our human rights, all will be gone. We need to persist."

Since the city returned to Chinese rule in 1997, critics say Beijing has reneged on a commitment to maintain Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms under a "one country, two systems" formula.

Opposition to Beijing that had dwindled after 2014, when authorities faced down a pro-democracy movement that occupied streets for 79 days, has come back to haunt authorities who are now grappling with an escalating cycle of violence.

"We have to keep fighting. Our worst fear is the Chinese government," said a 40-year-old teacher who declined to be identified for fear of repercussions.

**"For us, it's a life or death situation."
"If we burn, you burn"**

What started as protests against a now-suspended extradition bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party, has evolved into demands for greater democracy.

"We lost the revolution in 2014 very badly. This time, if not for the protesters who insist on using violence, the bill would have been passed already," said another protester, who asked to be identified as just

Mike, 30, who works in media and lives with his parents.

He was referring to the 79 days of largely peaceful protests in 2014 that led to the jailing of activist leaders.

"It's proven that violence, to some degree, will be useful."

Nearly 900 people have been arrested in the latest protests. The prospect of lengthy jail terms seems to be deterring few activists, many of whom live in tiny apartments with their families.

"7K for a house like a cell and you really think we out here scared of jail," reads graffiti scrawled near one protest site. HK\$7,000 (\$893) is what the monthly rent for a tiny room in a shared apartment could cost.

The protests pose a direct challenge to Chinese leader Xi Jinping, whose government has sent a clear warning that forceful intervention to quell violent demonstrations is possible.

Some critics question the protesters' "now or never" rallying cry, saying a crackdown by Beijing could bring an end to the freedoms in Hong Kong that people on the mainland can only dream of.

The campaign reflects concerns over Hong Kong's future at a time when protesters, many of whom were toddlers when Britain handed Hong Kong back to Beijing, feel they have been denied any political outlet and have no choice but to push for universal suffrage.

"You either stand up and pull this government down or you stay at the mercy of their hands. You have no choice," said Cheng, 28, who works in the hospitality industry.

"Imagine if this fails. You can only imagine the dictatorship of the Communists will become even greater ... If we burn, you burn with us," he said, referring to authorities in Beijing.

"The clock is ticking," Cheng added, referring to 2047 when a 50-year agreement enshrining Hong Kong's separate governing system will lapse.

'Not China'

As Beijing seeks to integrate Hong Kong closer to the mainland China, many residents are recoiling.

A poll in June by the University of Hong Kong found that 53% of 1,015 respondents identified as Hong Kongers, while 11%

"Climate Apartheid" Is Imminent. Only the Rich Will Survive.

A UN report predicts the global poor won't be able to escape the worst of the climate crisis.

BY DAN ROBITZKI



"Climate Apartheid"

If our global climate change catastrophe continues unchecked, vast swaths of the world will likely become harsher and far less hospitable for humanity.

When that happens, an even greater rift will appear between the global haves and have-nots, as many people will be left without the means to escape the worst effects of the climate crisis, according to a new report published Tuesday by the U.N.'s Human Rights Council that describes an impending "climate apartheid."

While the rich hire private firefighters or move to more expensive habitable areas, the report predicts that 120 million people will be pushed into poverty by 2030 by climate change. Many more will die.

Unequal Distribution

The report describes how the poorest 3.5 billion people in the world are responsible for ten percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, while the richest ten percent of the global population is respon-

sible for half.

"Perversely, the richest, who have the greatest capacity to adapt and are responsible for and have benefitted from the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions, will be the best placed to cope with climate change," U.N. poverty and human rights official Philip Alston wrote in the report, "while the poorest, who have contributed the least to emissions and have the least capacity to react, will be the most harmed."

Pay To Win

In the report, Alston writes how the wealthy's access to lifesaving resources has caused humanity to adapt to the climate crisis in the wrong direction — instead of acting to prevent or reverse the worst of climate change, the rich can afford to personally avoid the problem.

"An over-reliance on the private sector could lead to a climate apartheid scenario in which the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict, while the rest of the world is left to suffer," writes Alston.

identified as Chinese, a record low since 1997.

With the prospect of owning a home in one of the world's most expensive cities a dream, many disaffected youth say they have little to look forward to as Beijing's grip tightens.

"We really have got nothing to lose," said Scarlett, 23, a translator.

As the crisis simmers, China's People's Liberation Army has released footage of troops conducting anti-riot exercises.

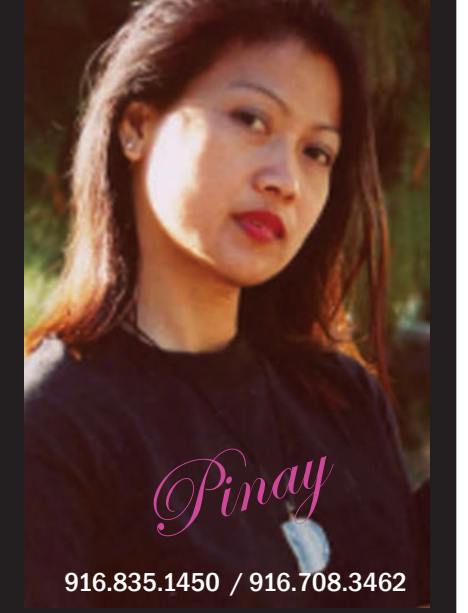
But graffiti scrawled across the city signals the protesters' defiance.

"Hong Kong is not China" and "If you want peace, prepare for war" are some of the messages.

Tse said he believes violence is necessary because the government rarely listens to peaceful protests.

"Tactically I think we should have a higher level of violence," he said. "I actually told my wife that if we'll ever need to form an army on the protester side I will join."

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TIMELINE: SOGIE equality in the Philippines

The fight for equality and anti-discrimination for the LGBTQ+ community is one that has known almost two decades of legal struggle

BY MICHELLE ABAD

MANILA, Philippines – After trans woman Gretchen Custodio Diez was barred from using her preferred restroom in a Cubao mall last August 13, one wonders how gender equality has fared in the country over the years.

The State's commitment to upholding the dignity and equality of all persons is enshrined in the 1987 Constitution and in several international covenants it is signatory to, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

While the protection of the LGBTQ+ is promised on paper, the Philippines is no stranger to notorious cases of hate crimes and abuse against the community.

In its latest version, Senate Bill No. 689, entitled "Anti-Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression," has not been passed in Congress after almost two decades.

It seeks to penalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression (SOGIE), and is more commonly known as the anti-discrimination bill or the SOGIE equality bill.

Early movements

Years before a nationwide measure to specifically protect LGBTQ+ members was filed by lawmakers, activists had begun taking to the streets. An initiative by young lesbian feminists called The Lesbian Contingent joined the International Women's Day march in 1993. Australian socialist magazine Green Left Weekly claimed it was the first time a lesbian contingent marched in public.

On June 26, 1994, the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay Philippines) and Metropolitan Community Church organized what came to be known as the first Pride March in the Philippines and in Asia.

Various LGBTQ+ organizations had begun budding in the country. For instance, the University of the Philippines' Babaylan claimed itself to be the country's oldest LGBTQ+ student organization in 1992.

History in Congress

The earliest version of the SOGIE equality bill was filed in 2000 by the late senator Miriam Defensor Santiago and former Akbayan representative Loretta Rosales under the 11th Congress.

Refiled in the 14th Congress, the bills reached the committee level only. More senators would file similar bills in the 15th and 16th congresses to no avail. Other significant events are as follows:



Ruel Mendiola, who imitates actress Cherry Pie Picache, participates in the 2019 Metro Manila Pride March as one of The Golden Gays.

2010-2012

Party list Ang Ladlad, which aimed to represent the LGBTQ+ community, files a petition to run in the 2010 national elections. An ABS-CBN report says the Commission on Elections (Comelec) denied the petition twice, citing "immorality" as basis. Its registration is eventually granted by the Supreme Court.

The Department of Education issues an order in May 2012 for the protection of children, including their sexual orientation and gender identity.

2013

On August 3, then-Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chair and pioneer SOGIE bill sponsor Loretta Ann Rosales says the CHR is working on a database on LGBTQ+ hate crimes to better their prosecution and investigation.

By the end of the same month, then-Laguna representative Sol Aragon introduces House Bill No. 2572, which would make LGBTQ+ hate crimes an aggravating circumstance for crimes against persons and chastity.

Shortly after, then-Albay representative Grex Lagman files a measure that would help same-sex couples acquire property together. Neither bill has been passed.

2014

Trans woman Jennifer Laude is murdered by a US Marine on October 11.

Laude's case catalyzes discussion and action toward advancing transgender rights.

In the local government scene, former mayor Herbert Bautista signs the gender-fair ordinance in Quezon City on November 28. Prohibited acts include discrimination against the LGBTQ+ in the workplace, educational institutions, and in delivery of goods, services, and accommodation.

The ordinance also includes affirmative acts, such as equal pay and sensitivity training in the workplace.

This would become the law that protected Gretchen Diez when she faced illegal detainment at a mall office in Quezon City.

2016

During the election campaign, then-senatorial candidate Manny Pacquiao calls same-sex couples "masasahol pa sa hayop (worse than animals)" in a viral video interview by Bilang Pilipino. He has served two terms as a congressman by this time.

Bataan congressional candidate Geraldine Roman makes history as she takes her seat as the first-ever elected transgender woman in the House of Representatives in May.

The first Senate version of the anti-discrimination bill is filed on August 11 by Senator Risa Hontiveros, while its

House counterpart remains pending.

2017

After 17 years since its first filing, the anti-discrimination bill is passed by the 17th Congress on its third and final reading on September 20 with a vote of 197-0 in the House of Representatives.

2018

On August 8, CNN Philippines reports that 5 senators who include Hontiveros, Loren Legarda, Ralph Recto, Franklin Drilon, and Juan Miguel Zubiri express support for the bill. Opposing senators include Manny Pacquiao, Joel Villanueva, and Senate President Tito Sotto.

The CHR backs the passage of the bill through a position paper dated October 8.

2019

The anti-discrimination bill is due for passage by June before the 17th Congress adjourns. The bill languishes after suffering 3 years of interpellations.

On August 13, Gretchen Diez is blocked by a female janitress from using the women's restroom. The janitress apologizes, but Diez vows to keep fighting for the rights of her fellow LGBTQ+ members. (READ: Gretchen Diez comes out)

After Hontiveros delivers a privilege speech on August 14, renewing her call for Congress to pass the SOGIE bill, Senators Imee Marcos and Bong Go throw their weight behind it.

Meanwhile, several senators express confusion. Senator Aquilino Pimentel III asks for a definition of trans woman, Senator Panfilo Lacson brings up the danger of voyeurism, and Senate President Tito Sotto wonders, "why that lengthy letters? Why not just Homo sapiens?"

Diez meets with President Rodrigo Duterte on August 19, and says he supports her and her push for the SOGIE bill.

Sotto strikes back with another remark about the bill having "no chance" of passing the Senate if it "transgresses on academic freedom, religious freedom, and women's rights."

Arrest Jose Rizal

BY ANTONIO MONTALVAN II

I belong to the ROTC generation. Don't even get me to define what the acronym stands for. There is no need. Every Saturday morning we woke up early to report in our green military uniforms, only to endure not just martial drills under the sun's heat, but insults and invectives from our officers. To my mind, mostly bullies and braggarts wanted to become ROTC officers.

One drill day, I had to report to the school's ROTC headquarters. The lower ranked were required to knock and say something like "Sir, may I enter, Sir!" My military entreaty, instead, became a pain in the neck for the officer. He, the battalion commander, was right there behind the halfajar door in a compromisingly intimate position with his cadette sponsor of a girlfriend. Abuse of office truly begins in small ways. End of imaging ROTC as love for country.

Sen. Ronald dela Rosa makes the essentialism that "your love for your country is measured by your love for ROTC." Well, that is not the love that I saw in that ROTC office. Fact: ROTC was abolished because money collected from students went to military corruption.

If the Senate has sunk to lower depths in recent years, expect it to be a dog pound in the next three years. I am being kind; in fact, it will be a descent into barbarism. That is the danger of putting small minds in the Senate. If they do not chortle for words, they mismanage their anger as if they had diarrhea in the session hall, or simply parrot the braggadocio of their populist leader.

Consider, for example, Dela Rosa's unilinear mind.

When the iskolar ng bayan Raul Manuel, president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, referenced Dela Rosa's shocker on giving convicted rapist-killer Antonio Sanchez a "second chance," the new senator raged.

"Ang layo mo, ang layo mo, ang layo mo (You are off-topic)" was all I could remember him reiterating. And then, the Duterte line: "If China will attack us, who will defend us, the NPA's?" Anti-China militants Indonesia and Vietnam have never been attacked yet, nor even threatened with nuclear war by China. We expect senators to read the geopolitics of the day, not parrot propaganda boogies designed to induce 104 million Filipinos into ignorance. Taxpayer money

puts food on his table. Anytime we ask for accounting, we do so. That was what the brilliant student leader meant. By the way, Manuel graduated summa cum laude in applied mathematics. It was a fated match.

But the question begs. Why, indeed, Dela Rosa's instant defense of Sanchez, who was caught with P1.5-million worth of "shabu" in prison? As Bureau of Corrections director, was Dela Rosa a coddler of drug lords in the New Bilibid Prisons? Does he even know that he is contradicting himself? The death penalty was, in fact, in place during Sanchez's sentencing. But it was Leo Echegaray who got the death sentence, not the influential and landed Calauan mayor, whose family remains in power until today.

Then, we have Dela Rosa's solution to student activism — militarize universities. Can he even count how many universities we

have, that the private ones outnumber the state institutions?

The academe must not be other than what it is, even as far back as the Socratic era: an arena of ideas. Ideas are immune from death, unlike the victims of Dela Rosa's favorite portmanteau "tokhang." Ideas

are defended in the bar of public opinion. Kill the advocates, but the idea lives.

Activism is not necessarily bad. Women's suffrage would not have been here today had it not been for suffragettes who advocated what was once thought of as an outlandish idea—women in the polls. Mindanao Moro suffrage would not have come in the 1950s (they had no rights of suffrage previously) had it not been for Moro leaders who advocated for it through their activist writings and political push.

Dela Rosa once claimed that he is a kin of the national hero Jose Rizal through a common ancestor named Ines dela Rosa. Talk about imagined genealogies. But for his puerility and silly ideas ("Shit happens"), let us oblige him with an equally senseless proposal: arrest his activist cousin Jose Rizal.



Sen. Ronald dela Rosa

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View of the area with natural water front and access to the Vista Point Pavilion with the Saint statue of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Saint Pedro Calungsod.

“Filipino Garden at East Lawn”

BY LILIA RIVERA

A predetermined section in the Shasta Garden at East Lawn consisting of 492 pre-need graves facing a natural water front with a beautiful gazebo, will be renamed and offered for sale with 20% of the sale price donated to PRHF, which is a 501 c-3 fundraising arm of FCSV.

Specific details about endowment care fee,

internment fees, markers and other options are clearly discussed including what the purchaser will donate to PRHF in the transaction. East Lawn president Josh Tuttle also agreed for East Lawn to make a charitable donation to the building fund.

There were several meetings (August 5, 16) between East Lawn Elk Grove Unit Sales Manager, Daniel Lam and management staff where the new East Lawn President Josh Tuttle and Brian Baker and leaders of the community including Josie Patria, Lilia Rivera, Mercy Guerrero, Joe

Gonzales, Dick Mazon, Vince Sales, met to listen and discuss the proposal. At the meeting on August 16, twelve other leaders of various organizations expressed support of the project. At a special meeting on August 20, 2019 PRHF officially accepted the partnership.

Project Leaders Josie Patria and Lilia Rivera will be asking the community leaders

and members to support the project so that the long awaited dream of a Filipino Center will come true.

Outreach Coordinator:
 Mercy Guerrero: 916.266.1923
 Joe Gonzales: 916.396.7863
 Edna Delos Reyes: 916.549.0058
 Aida Azurin: 916. 606.1040
 Mina Guerra: 916.995.9976



Seminar hosted by Brian Baker, director of sales at Eastlawn Elk Grove on Aug. 31, 2019.



Daniel Lam with the Filipino Community



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Free Lunch Seminar August 31st 2019, 11:00 AM
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Contact Daniel Lam
 Phone: 916-895-6878
 Email: DanielL@eastlawn.com

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BY DALE ESPERANTE

The Culture showed up in its full glory on 17 Aug 2019 at the Jose P. Rizal Community Center in South Sacramento. Those involved in the Sacramento Filipino Community should know by now that FAVA stands for Filipino American Veteran Association, Inc. FAVA Filipiniana 2019 invited all to proudly attend in their Filipino sartorial elegance. Most men came wearing Barong Tagalog in various shades, while the women modeled either the Terno or Meztiza dress.

According to online definitions, the word Terno in

Spanish refers to a matching set of clothes made of the same fabric, while the Meztiza dress is known for its elegance and butterfly sleeves.

The opening rituals included the national anthems (US and Philippines), both sung by FAVA member Joe Zaragoza, accompanied by Fortunato Delacruz on the keyboard. Prior to the Invocation, Rick Rafanan asked everyone for a moment of silence to remember recently departed member, Jose (Joe) Dante Rivera. MC Pete Delacruz then introduced the longest tenured president of the Filipino American Veteran Association to deliver his opening remarks. Filipino by heart, President Richard (Dick) Weitzenberg expressed his gratitude to all who attended in support of the veteran organization. He stood straight and proud as he spoke wearing his light-green Barong Tagalog, encouraged by the sight of the Ternos, Meztiza Dresses, and Barong

FAVA Filipiniana



Tagalogs around him. Paraphrasing President Dick, "we should have more occasions to wear our finest clothing of the Philippines." Indeed we should Mr. President., thank you for loving

our culture.

FAVA Filipiniana is normally the same occasion to present scholarship awards to children (meaning children or grandchildren or great-great grandchildren) of FAVA members who academically excelled in their last year of high school. No award presented this evening means the FAVA children have passed the age of eligibility, or the NEW requirements could not be met. FAVA's Scholarship Committee may have to reevaluate the eligibility criteria for the award.

Instead, FAVA presented a surprise Best Dress award to a couple of guests. Rose B. Camerino received the Best Terno/Meztiza Dress Award, while Ruben Pangilinan accepted the Best Barong Tagalog Award of the Evening.

Having no scholarship award presentation on the program allowed more time for socializing and partying. HIGH TECH DJ Edward Cordero did not disappoint. The vast expanse of the Jose P. Rizal dance floor was non-stop occupied all evening. For entertainment, a special performance by a hip-hop dance group called RAW LEGACY made the community center's dance floor look like the World of Dance television show hosted by J-Lo, Nayo, and Derek Hough. RAW Lega-



Photos by Dale Esperante



cy did their thing and more. Managers Caesar Coloma and Gavin Pecson must be so proud of the special performance.

After the ala World of Dance performance, the music invited all dancers, including the ballroomers, the line dancers, and social dancers. Amongst the Ballroom Dancers, we've seen the pride of Vacaville, Rusty and Zeny Bal-

uyot; Sacramento's Bests, Mildred Mabitad Go and Rayben Manandeg, Ruben Pangilinan and Eva McMillon, yours truly and Melita, Rick and Warnita, and other impressive ballroom dancers. Social dancers included Fortunato and Yolly Delacruz, Rose and Nestor Camerino, Elmer and Elena Dy, Phillip and Fay, and many more. The leading line dancers: Lilia Rivera, Zeny Baluyot, Tina Bambao, Leila Pereira, Rudy and Sonia Delizo, Fortunato and Yolly Delacruz, Melita Esperante, Elena Dy, Mercedes Descargar, Linda Marasigan, the Descargars, the Marasigans, the Corderos, Fay Alvarez, Warnita Avillanoza, Marilyn Molina Soliven, the Raw Legacy dancers, and much more. For those whose name I missed, my camera apologizes, for its lens couldn't capture or identify all.

In summary, FAVA's Filipiniana is an annual event embraced by the Filipino American Community of Sacramento and Vicinity! Let us meet up again next year!

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International Philippines Association (IPA)

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 24 Aug 2019, IPA celebrated its 15th Anniversary Dinner and Dance at A & A Tasty Restaurant on Florin Road.

A sense of homecoming greeted our arrival, mingling with old friends we haven't seen for some time. The friendly atmosphere included one of the guests providing the vocals to the tune of the disc jockey's music, while Mildred Mabitad Go and Rayben Manandeg gracefully traversed the dance floor. Mildred, at a break, happily shared that they have been dancing since the start at 5 pm. She said this when we arrived after 6:00 pm. This was Mildred's first time to attend an IPA function and by the looks of it, she'll be back for more because of the dancing. Social dancing is indeed fun, and also a great way to stay in shape.

Mistress of Ceremonies Ann Vienes opened the official program with a welcome address, and then invited everyone to singalong the national anthems of the United States of America and The Philippines. Followed by Reverend Feliciano Ursos for the Invocation. After the prayer, the servers of A & A Tasty Restaurant started serving a delicious mix of Chinese cuisines, true to the name of Tasty.

For dinner entertainment, cute little Lirienne Lucero Cielo started by performing a Hawaiian dance. Then the ladies of IPA showcased the following: a group sang "Ang Dalaga sa Bukid" and "Ubi Apali" accompanied by Lloyd Bonachita



Photos by Dale Esperante

and Fred Padayhag (guitars). The singers were Remy, Josie, Eppie, Lilia, Lilah, Ann, Betty, Lucita, & Purie). Dance numbers came next

to the music of "Rosas Pandan" and "Paruparong Bukid" (dancers: Remy, Josie, Lilia, Lilah, Ann, Betty, & Lucita). Vocal soloist

Eddie Umapas rendered a great Filipino ballad titled "Wire". Last but not least, another Hawaiian dance by Lirienne Lucero Cielo.

Former IPA President Brian Jumawan's introduction of the guest speaker echoed his admiration and respect for Mr. Rom Francisco. Mr. Francisco is a Certified Public Accountant who is also a Consulting Firm partner based in Elk Grove, CA. His invaluable assistance secured a business tax exemption for the IPA organization. After his speech, a number of members approached the guest speaker to express their personal appreciation for the substance of his words and deeds.

Current IPA President Josie Canlas delivered the closing remarks buoyed with inspiration, hope, and encouragements for the future of the organization.

Then the music played and the dancers swayed. The little kids ran the perimeter of the dance floor while the disco, rock, samba, tango, waltz, boogie dancers took center floor.

A generous raffles break rewarded those who waited, with monetary and delightful surprises. The evening ended when the dancers finally switched from their dancing shoes to walking shoes. A first-time guest who may become a constant guest for IPA, Mildred indicated that the evening was so much fun. Being the one who shared the event with Mildred, I am so happy and proud. Congratulations International Philippines Association on a fun-filled 15th Anniversary Dinner and Dance!



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Bicolandia Association of Sacramento & Vicinity



First day of novena for Our Lady of Penafrancia st St. Joseph Catholic Church. With members of the Bicolandia Association.



On August 30, 2019, 8th day of our novena to Our Lady Virgin of Penafrancia hosted by Tony and Erma Granado.



Our Lady Virgin of Penafrancia Fiesta will be celebrated on Saturday, August 31 at St. Joseph Church in Elk Grove, CA. Rosary starts at 10:30 followed by mass at 11:00. Reception will be at Msgr O'Connor Hall from 12:15 to 3:00 pm. A short entertainment program has been prepared. Come join us in the festivities!

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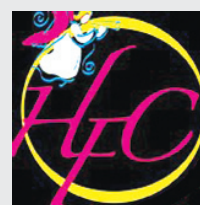
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Green Fee: \$110 includes Lunch and Awards

Contact/RSVP: Mark Bamba - 916.872.3477
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EULOGY: LUCIANO REYES PRIETO

BY MICHAEL GALINATO

Good morning everyone. I would like to thank you all for coming today to pay your respects to and commemorate the life of Luciano Prieto. On behalf of my family and I, we are eternally grateful for all your continued love & support throughout this challenging time.

For those I have not met, my name is Michael Galinato, and I am the nephew of Luvimine Prieto, and thusly the nephew of Luciano by marriage. He was a loving husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and friend, who was a respected member of the Filipino, military, and police communities. To many, he was known as "The General." To me, he was "Uncle Lou," for whom I would like to say a few words about.

Luciano Reyes Prieto was born on January 12, 1924 in Ormoc City in the Leyte province in the Eastern Visayan region of the Philippines. He is survived by 9 children in the Philippines (5 girls and 4 boys) – with more than 40 grandchildren, great grandchildren, & great great grandchildren. On August 15, 1999, he married my aunt, Luvimine Valbuena Prieto, who for close to 20 years, was faithfully by his side in "sickness and in health" until unfortunately, death ultimately did them part. On July 29, 2019, Luciano took his last breath.

With Death, there always comes terrible sadness mourning the loss of a loved one. But we are gathered here today to celebrate the life of Uncle Lou – and what a full life it was. He served in World War II, and he was one of the surviving intelligence officers under Douglas McArthur, where he became a Prisoner of War and went Missing in Action twice. His bravery in service thusly earned him 2 Purple Hearts. Before he was called to military duty, he was a filing clerk and a musician.

In the late 70s, he was even an actor/director for Filipino films under LVN Studio Tagalog Ilong Ilong Productions. For those who knew him, this explains his love for entertaining people. Uncle Lou loved to dance and play music, whether it was the piano or guitar. Even as most recently as his 95th birthday celebration earlier this year, he had his keyboard at the ready to play for everyone.

After the military, Uncle Lou served as a police officer for many years, culminating in him being nominated Chief of Police of Basilan City in the Philippines. Throughout his life, he was very active in serving the community and advocating for the various organizations he was affiliated with. In the 1960s, he organized the American Legion in Mindanao, and served as a member and past vice commander under Post 392.

In September of 1966, he founded

the International Police Commission, and served as the president, chairman, and Supreme Commanding General. Since its induction, he was vital in its growth & development, and he helped register the commission in Sacramento in 2000 and remained actively involved until his death.

In 1996, he joined the United States Filipino War Veterans Legion. In 2005, he joined the VFW (the Veterans of Foreign War) under Post 67 under George Young. Uncle Lou was also an active member of the Visayan Association and of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and surrounding vicinities.

These were just some of organizations Uncle Lou was affiliated with, and just some of the many accomplishments he garnered throughout his long, fruitful life. If I were to mention everything, I would probably be here for a few more hours. But as you can see, Uncle Lou lived a FULL life. A common theme throughout it all was his strength and fighting spirit. Uncle Lou was a proud man with a keen wit and intellect. Although he battled terminal colon cancer in the latter part of his life, he maintained his mental faculties until the very end. As he fought in the war, fought against crime, fought against injustice, and fought to advocate for the community and his organizations, he put up a valiant fight against cancer.

Although he lost his life, he ultimately won in the end because he went out on his terms. Despite this arduous battle with cancer and his declining physical health, he remained "sharp as tack" and was able to let us, his family know, his wishes. On his final hospitalization, he let us and the medical team know that he no longer wanted further medical interventions, which can be torturous on the body, and per his wishes, he was transitioned to Comfort Care. Even up to the last day, he still had the where-with-all to say his final words to his family in the Philippines via FaceTime and to those of us at his bedside.

The next morning, Luciano Reyes Prieto passed away peacefully in his sleep at 6:17 AM on July 29th.

Uncle Lou, we are greatly saddened by your passing, but we take great comfort knowing that you were at peace & ready to see God in Heaven and reunite with your own long-lost loved ones. We thank you for ALL your service – to the military, to the community, to your friends, to your family; but more importantly, we thank you for your love and for always being willing to give yourself to others....thank you for being a Man for Others. Personally, I want to thank you for the unconditional love you gave and shared with Auntie Luvy....I can tell you guys loved each other very much,



"General" Luciano Reyes Prieto



Luciano Reyes Prieto with Auntie Luvy



as she was by your side through it all – through the thick and thin. In closing, I leave you all with this fitting poem.

Not How Did He Die, But How Did He Live?

Author Unknown

Not how did he die, but how did he live?
Not what did he gain, but what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed?

But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he passed away.

Rest in Peace, Uncle Lou. We all love you and we miss you. Thank you all again for coming to celebrate the life of the "General," Luciano Reyes Prieto.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

On behalf of the Prieto family, we'd like to thank you all for your prayers, kind words, support, & love bestowed upon us in our time of grief. We are grateful, humbled, & awed by your love & friendship.

We would like to give a very special thank you to the services of the St. Mary's Cemetery staff.

1. American Legion
2. Veterans of Foreign War (VFW)
3. United States Filipino War Veterans Legion
4. International Police Commission
5. Filipino Community
6. Filipino Family Fraternity



In celebration of Filipino Cuisine and Culture in California's "Farm-to-Fork Capital" and Filipino American History Month, the Philippine National Day Association is hosting its 3rd annual Filipino Fork Food Festival.

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Melchora Aquino: The Old Lady the Spaniards Couldn't Break

Melchora Aquino was a very fierce protector of the Katipunan.

BY MARIO ALVARO LIMOS

Over 120 years ago on August 29, 1896, the Spaniards on suspicion of collaborating with Filipino rebels forcefully arrested Melchora Aquino at her home. She was 84 years old at the time. They were right, of course. But Melchora, affectionately called Tandang Sora, was a collaborator and never a member of the Katipunan. The Spaniards thought they could pressure the frail woman into divulging information about the rebels, but they were most mistaken.

These days, any mention of Tandang Sora evokes images of a busy boulevard in Quezon City. But the name was actually a form of endearment used by Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros to call Melchora. It derives from two words: matanda (old person) and Sora, a contraction of how they pronounced Melchora (Melsora). Back in those days, attaching "Matanda" to a name was considered respectful, acknowledging a person's wisdom and seniority, as opposed to its modern usage that often offends people because of insinuations of senility, inutility, and loss of vigor. But Melchora, even in her advanced years, was far from senile or inutile. She was a vigorous enabler of the Revolution, using her wealth and resources to further its cause.

Many envision Melchora Aquino as an old, hunched woman whose face is telling of the passage of years. Not many people know that when she was younger, she captivated her entire town with her beauty.

As a young maiden, Melchora was often chosen to portray Reyna Elena during Santacruzán on feasts of Flores de Mayo (Flowers of May). Santacruzán is the religious ritual held on the last day of Flores

de Mayo in honor of Empress Helena of Constantinople who allegedly found the True Cross, remnants of the wood on which Jesus was crucified.

By tradition, young and beautiful maidens were selected to portray Reyna Elena who would walk in procession around town while reciting prayers in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

Apart from her beauty, Melchora was also a talented singer. She would often perform at local fiestas, parties, and plays. She also sang at church.

Although Melchora never went to school, she was a person who was born into a family of means. Her parents managed a farm, which she inherited along with other business interests. She would not have been able to support the Katipunan had she been poor. She was no donya, but she powered the Katipunan with all the resources she could muster, and that proved enough.

She also lived in a decent house in an area that is now Balintawak in Quezon City. The house was large enough to accommodate several dozen guests. It also had a sprawling yard.

In fact, she hosted 1,000 men in her home's yard during the Cry of Balintawak. This was just one of the numerous material things she offered to the Katipunan to further its cause.

Melchora as an Enabler of the Katipunan

Like many Filipinos at the time, Melchora found livelihood in farming. Her parents were farmers, and so was she. When she was older, she married Fulgencio Ramos, who was cabeza de barangay, one of the few government posts that Filipinos could hold. Together, they had six children.

Fulgencio died shortly after their sixth was born, leaving Melcho-



Tandang Sora Shrine

ra to raise them all on her own. Although she never received a formal education, she was very intelligent and was literate at a very early age. With the grit she learned from her farmer parents, she made sure that all her children received the proper schooling she never had. Many years later, her children would help her with her livelihood, some of whom would become supporters and members of the Katipunan.

The hardships she endured as a single mother only bolstered her resolve to support the Katipunan, to which she sacrificed almost everything in her possession: her house and even her children.

Her home became one of the headquarters of the Katipunan, where revolutionaries would frequently hold secret meetings. Bonifacio also frequented her home and sought her advice and wisdom.

Although she was not a member of the secret society, her very close connection with Bonifacio and the Katipunan meant that she had a very deep knowledge of many of their most sensitive plans and operations. She also knew many of Bonifacio's group quite well, including his top officers. They were like sons to her. She protected them very fiercely.

To these men, she provided food, shelter, and medical care using her own resources. She also provided crucial aid to its members by giving 100 sacks of rice and 10 carabaos, the cost of which were more several years' worth of wages.

The Old Lady They Couldn't Break

In 1896, the Katipunan was discovered by the Spanish colonial government, thanks to the confessions of one of its members to a Spanish priest. The discovery prompted Andres Bonifacio to launch the Revolution during the Cry of Balintawak. Melchora Aquino was there, supporting them. But it also marked the start of sufferings that she would undergo in the hands of the Spaniards.

The confession of Teodoro Patino resulted in the Spaniards raiding everything that had connections with the secret society. They raided hideouts, printing presses, and houses, not leaving a stone unturned. They confiscated secret documents, maps, and plans of the Revolution. One of the casualties of the discovery was 84-year-old Melchora, who paid heavily for her actions.

The Spaniards immediately targeted the old woman. They knew that she was a top figure who knew

intricate details of the Katipunan's plans: its members, its officers, its hideouts, its financiers, how it operated, and more.

On August 29, 1896, just six days after Melchora participated in the tearing of cedula in the Cry of Balintawak, the Spaniards collected her without regard for her age or frailty. She was shaken, but not afraid. A day later, she was transferred to Bilibid Prison in Manila. There, she was aggressively interrogated, under threat of imprisonment and death, but she refused to divulge any information about the Katipunan. To punish her, they deported her to Guam where she was forced to work as a household helper.

Perhaps the Spaniards thought the elderly woman would succumb to her situation, expecting her to die in time, but the old Melchora simply had no intention of giving up. Having lost everything she had – her family, her house, her country – she gave the Spaniards one last laugh: she outlived the Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines.

After seven years of exile, on February 26, 1903, the Great Old Woman of the Revolution was allowed to return home to the Philippines where she received a grand welcome by her children, her neighbors, and the former Katipuneros she sheltered.

The American government offered to give her pension and monetary rewards for her sacrifices but she declined the offers, saying she was content with the fact that she helped the Revolution's cause. She lived out her life until her death on February 19, 1919 at the impressive age of 107.

In 2012, Melchora's remains were transferred from Himlayang Pilipino to its current resting place in Tandang Sora Shrine along Banlat Road, Quezon City.

MOST INCREDIBLE FILIPINA WARRIORS OF WWII "BATAAN ANGELS" - FILIPINA NURSES IN BATAAN

Since their horrifying firsthand encounter with the "Death March" victims, Dr. Guedelia M. Pablan and nurses Carmen Lanot and Bruna R. Calvan had promised not to leave Hermosa town in Bataan during WWII.

And boy did they stay true to their word. One by one, other medical professionals left Bataan until there were only three of them—and a few who arrived later—remained. Dr. Pablan said that their decision was partly because they were all single. But it wouldn't be long before they finally realized that they stayed there for a reason.

A UST graduate, Dr. Pablan's

mission was to survive the war so that others could survive as well. Their resilience saw them transferring to a convent after the Japanese burned their hospital to the ground. And when the convent was burned as well, they had no choice but to move into fish ponds and start all over again.

Describing what they had been through as difficult would be an understatement. Nipa huts served as their makeshift hospitals. And for all the services they rendered, they were only paid monthly with Japanese money equivalent to about 30 cents—barely enough to even buy food. But that was just the tip of the iceberg, considering the many times their lives were put

in danger.

For instance, the three of them had the difficult task of faking documents so the enemies wouldn't notice that they were secretly giving quinine to the malaria-infested guerrilla camps in the mountains. The Japanese became suspicious, so they decided, later on, to just assign the task of delivering the goods to someone unsuspected by the enemies.

As for the reason why they all risked their lives, Dr. Pablan was quoted during the aftermath of the war saying: "We have lied and we have cheated, perhaps, but we do not care. We have tried to care for our people in need. Now we are free again, and are



happy."

Poster tribute made by Mr. Philip Garcia. Original photos came from the May, 1945 issue of the Ameri-

can Journal of Nursing. Source: May 1945 issue of the American Journal of Nursing

What Is Manny Pacquiao's Net Worth?

BY TERIN MILLER

Emanuel 'Manny' Pacquiao has made a name for himself as a boxer, but he also plays basketball, sings, is a Philippine Army officer and is a senator in the Philippines government.

Emanuel "Manny" Pacquiao has made a name for himself as a boxer, but he also plays basketball, sings, is a Philippine Army officer and is a senator in the Philippines government. As noted by sports announcers during his fight against Keith Thurman, who he defeated in July 2019 in a split decision to win the World Boxing Association's Welterweight title, he's got to worry about the Philippines' budget after the fight.

Manny Pacquiao's Net Worth

At last word, Manny Pacquiao's net worth was between \$190 million and \$220 million.

Manny Pacquiao's Salary

"Pac Man," as the 5-foot-5 1/2 inch, southpaw, 8-title-holding boxer has been dubbed, had earned about \$26 million by June of 2019, according to Forbes.com. That was before his Thurman fight, and not including his Philippine government salary.

Forbes estimated his average annual salary since he began professional boxing at the age of 16, about 24 years ago, at \$24 million.

In 2012, he was considered by Forbes as the second-highest-paid athlete in the world, earning a salary of \$56 million, with \$6 million in endorsements. He was behind only rival boxing champion Floyd "Money" Mayweather Jr., who earned \$85 million.

In 2016, "Pac Man" declared plans to retire, with his \$500 million in lifetime earnings after defeating rival World Boxing Organization Welterweight title-holder Timothy Bradley, who had defeated Pacquiao for the title in 2012. Of course, he didn't retire. And still hasn't.

Manny Pacquiao's Career

Speaking of money and boxing, the latest talk has been that his out-earning and triple-title-holding rival, Mayweather, might be willing to come out of retirement to fight Pacquiao one more time, for the pay-per-view fees and big purse.

But it won't be until after August 2019.

Pacquiao fought Mayweather in what was billed "The Fight of the Century" at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nev., in 2015. Mayweather handed Pacquiao a defeat in a unanimous decision, taking Pacquiao's WBO Welterweight title to add to his WBA Super World Welterweight and WBC World Welterweight titles. Mayweather hasn't fought since defeating the Ultimate Fighting Championship star-turned-boxer Conor McGregor in August 2017. Mayweather was declared boxing's first \$1 billion athlete when he cashed in on the McGregor fight.

With his win against Thurman,



Emanuel "Manny" Pacquiao

Pacquiao became the oldest World Welterweight champion in the history of boxing. To date, his professional record is 62 wins, with 39 knockouts; 7 losses, being knocked out 3 times, and 2 draws.

Manny "Pac Man" Pacquiao has been boxing since he was 14 years old before turning pro. And as noted, he's given no indication of stopping now that he's 40.

Emanuel Dapidran Pacquiao was born Dec. 17, 1978, in General Santos City in the Philippines. At 14, he left his family on a ship to Manila, where he says he survived on the streets for a short time before turning to boxing.

He made it onto the Philippine national amateur boxing team, where he amassed a record of 60 wins to 4 losses.

Two years later, at 16, in January 1995, he made his professional boxing debut, winning a unanimous decision as a "Light Fly Weight" over Edmund Enting Ignacio at 106 pounds in four rounds.

He had 10 fights that year. He lost none, notably knocking out Arman Rocil in the third round of an 8-round fight in September of that year.

The next year, 1996, he had 7 fights, but was knocked out by Rustico Torrecampo, in the third round of his second fight that year. He was undefeated except by Torrecampo that year.

He came back in 1997, defeating Mike Luna in his first fight of that year in a first-round knockout. In June of the same year, he knocked out Chockchai Chokvivat in the fifth round, to claim his first Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation title as a "Fly Weight." In December, he defended his OPBF title with a first-round knockout of Narong Datchthuyawat.

In 1998, he fought only two fights. The first one, in May, against Shin Terao, he won with a knockout in the first round. The second, in December of that year, he added some weight and fought Chatchai Sasakul, to win the WBC World Fly Weight title with a fifth-round knockout.

He fought four fights in 1999, defending his WBC title against Gabriel Mira in a fourth-round technical knockout. The WBC World Fly Weight title became vacant when Pacquiao lost his third fight of that year, against Boonsai Sangsurat, in a technical knockout decision in the third round.

But by December of that same year, Pacquiao won the WBC International Super Bantam Weight title,

defeating Raynante Jamili with a second-round technical knockout.

By the start of the next decade, he was named "Fighter of the Decade" for the 2000s by the Boxing Writers Association of America, even though he had only three fights that year, all of which he won in technical knockouts.

But in 2001, "Pac Man" started having some difficulties, challenging himself to collect more titles. Pacquiao won the International Boxing Federation's World Super Bantam title from Lehlo Ledwaba at the MGM

Grand in Las Vegas in a technical knockout in the sixth round, in his third fight that year. In his last fight of that year, defending both his WBC International Super Bantam Weight title and his IBF World Super Bantam Weight title against Agapito Sanchez, he was handed his first "draw," a technical decision by the judges after 12 rounds.

He came back, again, and reclaimed his IBF World Super Bantam title in a technical knockout in the second round against Jorge Eliecer Julio, in his first fight of 2002. "Pac Man" fought only once more that year, in October, defending his IBF World Super Bantam title against Paryat Sawaigam with a first-round technical knockout.

In 2003, Pacquiao fought three fights, winning them all.

But, in 2004, again aiming for new titles, the WBA Super World Featherweight and the IBF World Featherweight, the first of two fights was decided a draw between him and Juan Manuel Marquez after 12 rounds, in a split decision. He won his second fight handily, defeating Narongrit Pirang in a technical knockout in the fourth round.

And, in 2005, in a fight for the vacant WBC International Super Featherweight title, and the International Boxing Association World Super Featherweight title, he lost to Eric Morales, again at the MGM Grand, in a unanimous decision after 12 rounds. He had one other fight that year, against Hector Velazquez, which he won in a technical knockout in the sixth round, defending the WBC International Super Featherweight title.

His first fight of the next year was against old rival Eric Morales, again defending the WBC International Super Featherweight title, which he won in a technical knockout in the 10th round. In three fights of 2006, he fought and successfully defended his WBC International Super Featherweight title, twice against Morales, the second one being won by a technical knockout in the 10th round, and the third being against Oscar Larios, which he won by unanimous decision in the 12th round.

He fought just two fights in 2007, defending his WBC International Super Featherweight title, and won both, winning the first, against Jorge Solis, with a knockout in the eighth round.

In 2008, he defeated WBC World Super Featherweight title holder Juan Manuel Marquez, in a split decision in the 12th round. He also

defeated WBC World Lightweight title holder David Diaz with a technical knockout in the ninth round. But that year's prime card was the match-up between "Pac-Man" and Oscar "The Golden Boy" de la Hoya, also called "The Dream Match" for the Welterweight class. Pacquiao, at the MGM Grand, beat him with an eighth-round "RTD," or corner retirement, in which de la Hoya refused to continue the fight when the bell rang in the ninth round. Pacquiao had put on weight for the fight, and weighed in at 142 pounds, while De La Hoya weighed 145.

The next year, Pacquiao continued his winning streak with just two fights, first for the IBO World Super Lightweight title, defeating Ricky Hatton with a second-round knockout. Next, he defeated Miguel Cotto for the WBO World Welterweight title, and WBC Diamond Welterweight title, in a 12th-round technical knockout.

In 2010, he defended his WBO World Welterweight title, and claimed the vacant WBC World Super Welterweight title.

The following year, he defended his WBO World Welterweight title, against Shane Mosely and former opponent Juan Manuel Marquez. He won against Mosley by unanimous decision, while he defeated Marquez in a majority decision after 12 rounds.

But in 2012, he lost the WBO World Welter title to Timothy Bradley Jr. in a split decision after 12 rounds, and lost his only other fight that year, against old rival Marquez, in a sixth-round knock out.

Once again, "Pac Man" came out swinging in 2013, and took the WBO International Welterweight title, defeating Brandon Rios in a unanimous 12th-round decision in his only fight that year.

In 2014, he reclaimed his WBO World Welter title from Timothy Bradley, Jr., in another unanimous 12th-round decision, at the MGM Grand. He defended the title in only one other fight that year, against Chris Algieri, also by a unanimous 12th-round decision.

Then came 2015, and Pacquiao's first fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr., who put up his WBA Super World Welterweight and WBC World Welterweight title against Pacquiao's WBO World Welter title, at the MGM Grand. Pacquiao lost his title, and Mayweather retained his, in a 12th-round unanimous decision. It was his only fight of the year.

In 2016, Pacquiao returned, and in two fights claimed two titles: The first against Timothy Bradley, Jr. again, for the vacant WBO International Welterweight title, and the second, against Jesse Vargas, for the WBO World Welterweight title. He won both fights by unanimous decision.

He was defending his WBO World Welterweight title in 2017 when he suffered another loss, against Jeff Horn, in a unanimous decision. It was his only fight that year.

In 2018, he fought only once as well, against Lucas Martin Matthisse, for the WBA World Welterweight title. He defeated Matthisse in a seventh-round technical knockout.

And so far in 2019, he has fought

twice, defending his WBA World Welter title against Adrien Broner, at the MGM Grand, by unanimous decision in the 12th round, and against Keith Thurman, winning in a split decision in the 12th round. Manny Pacquiao's Endorsements

Back in 2010, a marketing executive, Lucia McKelvey, declared she thought Manny Pacquiao had earning potential of more than \$50 million, just from commercial endorsements.

He had endorsed McDonald's back in the Philippines, and also San Miguel beer, Nike (NKE - Get Report) and Hewlett-Packard (HPQ - Get Report).

In 2015, Forbes still considered him the second-highest-paid celebrity, with earnings of \$160 million, including \$12 million in endorsements.

But he ran into difficulties when he expressed his personal beliefs, speaking out against same-sex couples.

Nike terminated its endorsement contract with him in February 2016, after he'd been endorsing its products for eight years.

Manny Pacquiao's House

Manny Pacquiao spends his money largely on housing. The poor boy who used to live on the streets as a teenager has at least nine houses. And he paid for 1,000 homes to be built for underprivileged families in his home town of General Santos.

Pacquiao has a home in Beverly Hills, a 7-bedroom, 8-bath mansion in an exclusive gated community called Summit Circle, overlooking the Hollywood Hills. He paid \$12.5 million for it, according to Ptamanet, a Philippines entertainment site.

He also has a 5-bedroom, 5.5-bath two-story home in Los Angeles, Calif.

But that's not all. He has a house in a compound in General Santos, and bought his first house in Laguna Village, in General Santos.

Pacquiao also owns a 14-bedroom beach house in a protected marine sanctuary, on Tuka Beach in Sarangani Province; a mansion in a private subdivision called Forbes Park in Makati City; and another one near it located in Dasmariñas Village, also in Makati City; a house and lot at Laguna; and in 2016, Manny and his wife, Jinkee, shared photos of a house under construction, without revealing its location.

How Does Pacquiao Spend His Money and Time?

According to the Philippine site, Pacquiao said his family of seven lived in a cardboard box when he was growing up, so he is known for his philanthropy and generosity toward those in need.

According to The Asia Society, Pacquiao has directed "a large chunk of his boxing fortune toward hundreds of student scholarships, farming equipment in poor areas, churches, hospitals, disaster relief, environmental causes, and numerous international charities."

A portion of his time is spent on his political ambitions. In 2010, Pacquiao was elected to the Philippines House of Representatives, representing the province of Sarangani. He was elected again in 2013, and in June 2016, he was elected senator, serving until 2022.

'Kay bilis maglaho': John Lloyd's cryptic post triggers speculation

ABS-CBN News

MANILA — Amid rumors surrounding the relationship of John Lloyd Cruz and Ellen Adarna, the actor's choice of lyrics in a cryptic Instagram post Thursday fueled speculation as to the status of the former "Home Sweetie Home" co-stars.

Cruz, who has been on hiatus from showbiz since late 2017, shared a photo of a portable speaker inside a plastic bucket, apparently to amplify its sound.

His caption: "From nosi balasi to kay bilis maglaho ng kahapon (minsan)."

"Nosi Balasi," or "sino ba sila," is the Sampaguita song about defying expectations and shrugging off criticism in the pursuit of one's aspirations.

"Kay bilis maglaho ng kahapon," meanwhile, is a portion of the lyrics of "Minsan," the

Eraserheads song about looking back on a relationship that's already ended.

Followers of Cruz on social media were quick to link the lyrics to the actor's own personal situation in the past two years.

His relationship with Adarna, with whom he now has a year-old son, started contro-



John Lloyd Cruz gives a rare interview in June 2019 about his endorsement project.

versially, with viral videos of the two in drunken enjoyment.

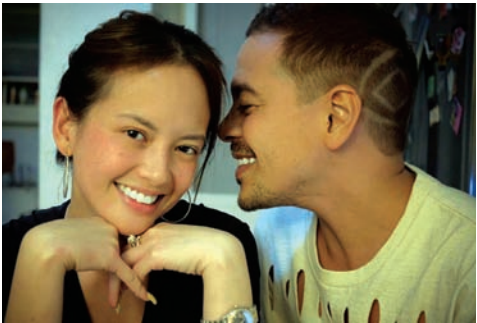
Cruz, whose two-decade career was built on a wholesome and "boy-next-door" image, issued a public apology over the videos, citing in particular the young audience who looked up to him.

As his relationship with Adarna progressed, Cruz slowly stepped away from the limelight until, in October 2017, his long-time home network ABS-CBN announced he would be on "indefinite leave."

Subsequent fan sightings of Cruz and Adarna together were characterized by their "simple" lifestyle. Cruz would be seen buying fruits at the wet market or eating street food on the sidewalk, while a then-pregnant Adarna would do groceries with her partner.

In recent weeks, however, rumors of a separation have swirled online, with PEP.ph citing sources saying the situation has even reached a Cebu court.

Neither Cruz nor Adarna has made a direct statement about the rumors.



Ellen Adarna and John Lloyd Cruz.

Alden Richards wins in Seoul

BY RUTH L. NAVARRA

Alden Richards bagged the Asian Star Prize (male category) at the recent 14th Seoul International Drama Awards 2019.

Alden received the award from Korean actor Seo Ji-suk and Canadian actress Andrea Bang in a ceremony held in Seoul, South Korea, on Aug. 28.

He read his speech from his phone and shared how special the award was for him.

"Good evening. It is such an honor to receive this award ... for a Filipino to be recognized on [the] international scene among the amazing and talented artists here," he said. "This award is also extra special to me because it comes at a time when we are celebrating 70 years of friendship between the Philippines and Korea."

It can be recalled that the Philippines was one of the first nations to send aid to South



Alden Richards wins in Seoul

Korea during the Korean war.

Alden continued his speech by thanking the award-giving body.

"So thank you to the Seoul Drama Awards Committee, to the Korean Broadcasters Association. As actors, it is always our hope to make more

people happy and inspire them with our passion. Kamsahamnida!"

There are two winners of the Asian Star Prize. Aside from Alden, the other winner this year is Japanese actor Miura Haruma.

Dennis Trillo was the first Filipino to win the award two years ago.

The Seoul International Drama Awards is South Korea's only international television festival. The award-giving body recognizes excellence in global dramas.

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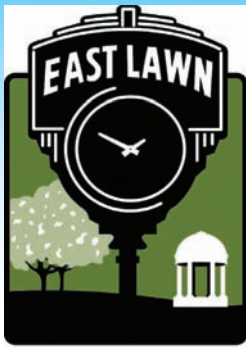
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