



**P6** Bayanihan Clinic



**P12** Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2022

## Cavite, Laguna govs guarantee victory for BBM



"Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

The Philippine Star

The governors of Cavite and Laguna have vowed to give presidential frontrunner Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. a landslide victory in their respective vote-rich provinces in the May 9 elections.

Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla and Laguna Gov. Ramil Hernandez made the commitment as they met Marcos in the BBM campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Thursday night.

"Based on our projections he (Marcos) will get 1.2 million votes in Cavite, as per our latest survey dated April 24," Remulla revealed, adding that rival Vice President Leni Robredo will only get up to 400,000 votes based on the same survey.

"I'm 99 percent sure (that is going to be the turnout)," Remulla said.

For his part, Hernandez revealed that Marcos will get at least 60 percent of the Laguna voting population.

"In my calculations, BBM will get more or less 60 percent of the votes from Laguna. I have regular survey where he's getting 57 to 61 percent," he bared.

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## 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 12 Mar 2022, St. Maria Goretti Parish in Elk Grove celebrated the Anniversary of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines. The history of the Philippine Christianity started with Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan. Magellan turned to Spain when his proposal to lead an expedition to reach the Moluccas (the Spice Islands) was rejected by King Manuel I of Portugal. King Charles I of Spain accepted Magellan's proposal and commissioned him with a fleet. In March 1521, Magellan discovered the archipelago that eventually became the Philippines. After setting foot on the islands, the discoverer planted the cross on the island of Cebu, cradle of Christianity in the Philippines. To commemorate the significant event, the organizers invited The American Legion Magellan Post 604 Veterans to bring the national flags for the program.

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Everyone's spirit is lifted, with Presely Sarette, one of the regular lectors of the parish.

Photo by Dale Esperante

## 'Malakas ang kakampi': Robredo marvels at how even weather improves when she goes onstage

BY GABRIEL PABICO LALU

Strong rains or the sweltering heat may have daunted some candidates to cancel their campaign sorties, but Vice President Leni Robredo marveled at how the weather always seemed to favor their campaign sorties, which remained well-attended.

Speaking to another mammoth crowd, this time the attendees of her slate in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Robredo exclaimed that the her supporters, collectively called Kakampinks, may have the weather godsson their side, noting that even light



Vice Pres. Leni Robredo

drizzles stop almost every time she was about to speak onstage, just as it did in the people's rally in the province.

"Akala ko mapapahiya ako ngayong gabi. Alam niyo, 'pag meron kaming grand rally na umuulan, lagi nilang sinasabi 'pag ako raw magsasalita na,

humihinto ang ulan," Robredo told the crowd, which burgeoned to 225,000 according to local organizers as the night wore on.

(Good evening Laguna, I thought I would be embarrassed tonight here. You know, whenever we hold grand rallies and when it rains, people say that the rains stop whenever I go onstage to deliver my speech.)

"Pero kanina, bumuhos 'yong ulan bago ako magsalita. Kaya sabi ko po sa likod, dito yata ako sa Laguna mapapahiya. Pero 'pag labas ko dito, huminto nga 'yong ulan. Talagang napaka-lakas ng kakampi natin," she

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## Isko offers 'peace of mind'

BY CARLA GOMEZ

Despite his poor standing in preelection surveys, Manila mayor and presidential candidate Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso believes he still has a fighting chance with the help of what he called the "silent majority."

In a campaign sortie in Bacolod City on April 28, Moreno said when he ran for Manila mayor in 2019, a survey showed he was in third place one week before the elections.

He, however, still managed to pull off an upset and won by 51 percent.

Moreno held rallies in



Francisco 'Isko Moreno'

Binalbagan town and Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

He met with Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia and supporters of Grupo Progreso at the Bacolod City Government Center on Thursday.

"The people are tired of the infighting of the red and yellow," Moreno told the crowd at the government center. "We don't deserve infighting of warring political colors."

"I am encouraging you,

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# FILIPINO CULTURAL ISSUES THAT CAUSE MUCH HARM:

BY ANDREW LIM

## 1. Why are Filipinos so tribal minded?

## 2. Why do Filipinos use family as justification for corruption?

The 2022 election season has brought into focus once more two perennial, problematic issues that are so backward and harmful and I do not understand why most Filipinos, two thousand and twenty two years after Christ died, have not progressed from it at all and just accept it as part of our culture.

It transcends seasonal politics and will still be a hindrance to progress even fifty or a hundred years from now.

The two issues: tribalism and using family as a justification to go along with evil wrongdoing.

By tribal minded I define this as follows: "I will vote for my kababayan no matter what, even if he is incompetent and evil because I (meaning my tribe) stand to gain from our ethnic ties."

On the second issue, I define it with this statement: "I will go along with everything that my father/mother did because they are my parents and the commandments say I have to honor them."

### 1. ON FILIPINO TRIBALISM

Let me get ahead on this issue by saying this does NOT mean negating ethnic pride and its unique features like dialect, food, a sense of place and traditions. It is simply putting ethics and morals first as well as civic duty above any tribal/ethnic affiliations.

## 'Malakas ang kakampi': Robredo marvels at how even weather improves when she goes onstage

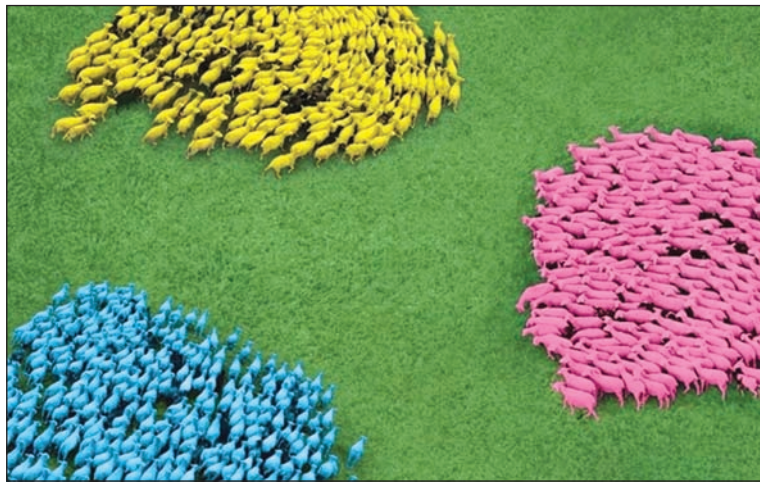
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added. (A while ago, it was raining hard just before I spoke. That's why I told the people backstage, I think the streak ends here. But when I got out, the rains indeed stopped. Our ally above is really very strong.)

Robredo supporter and San Pedro City Councilor Bernadette Olivares said that even she was amazed that rains stopped a day before the rally, which allowed the venue to dry up for a bit — making it less muddy.

"Kahapon po sobrang lakas ng ulan, hindi ho namin inexpect na titigil ngayong umaga dahil kung hindi, putik na putik po ang ating venue. Ngayon ko lang napatunayan, Ma'am pati si Lord kakampink natin," Olivares added.

(Yesterday rains were even stronger, we did not expect that it would stop this morning. If it didn't, then our venue would have been very muddy. That's why I was able to prove, Ma'am, even the Lord is an ally.)



Ethnic origins definitely gives a sense of identity and self worth. But are Filipinos so poor they cannot transcend this and hang on to the fantasy that a kababayan or ka-tribo can uplift them even if they are corrupt and incompetent?

### 2. ON FILIPINO USE OF FAMILY AS JUSTIFICATION FOR CORRUPTION AND EVIL

Have you noticed how Filipinos close ranks on condoning corruption and evil if it's a family member involved?

Contrast this with a different culture, say the US. Here are examples which are quite rare for Filipinos. These family members are the first to point out their relatives' wrongdoing.

The wife of Derek Chauvin (the racist cop who murdered George Floyd by kneeling on him) condemned him and filed for divorce.

Kellyanne Conway's (former Trump political counselor) husband and daughter have called her out frequently on social media for her lies and justifications for Trump's racism and lying.

It has been a running joke within Robredo's campaign team that Robredo seemed to have a calming effect on the weather, such as the sortie in Rizal province last April 5.

Robredo is running for president in the 2022 national elections and while she has drawn huge support — with recent grand rallies attracting thousands and thousands of participants — latest surveys depict her as the number two candidate.

The Vice President still stands behind former senator Bongbong Marcos in the latest Pulse Asia poll, where Robredo got 24 percent of votes while Marcos had 56 percent. This, despite Marcos losing four percentage-points and Robredo gaining nine percentage points.

Still, Robredo's supporters say the fight is not over, pointing to the recent surveys where her numbers increased dramatically, and data of search entry shares in Google Trends.

Americans who ID'd their relatives who joined Trump in that January 6 insurrection.

Bernie Madoff's sons reported their father to the SEC and FBI after he confessed his Ponzi pyramid investment scam to them.

If they were Filipinos, they would probably have closed ranks and

justified their relative's evil acts instead.

Clarifying the fourth commandment: honoring thy father and mother does not mean justifying evil and corruption!

The Church should be adamant about this and how it is twisted by prominent Filipino political families!

Lest the reader think these issues are insurmountable, let me give three examples where the cultural needle has moved in the right direction. Culture can be changed! Prevailing attitudes on these were vastly different twenty years ago thanks to indefatigable activists and citizens.

a. accepting need for environmental action

b. accepting women in leadership

c. acceptance of gays

Although this is a generational thing and it can take decades or more, what's needed is persistent action, specially by certain sectors.

Specifically, there are three institutions/industries that can move the culture to progress in a substantial and decisive manner:

a. Church

b. academe

c. pop culture/media/entertainment

These institutions should persistently include in their teachings, homilies, doctrines, curriculums, TV, books and movies the need to weed out these two cultural anomalies that hold back progress. It should reach the point where Filipinos are ashamed to be considered tribal specially during elections.

"Prinsipyo, hindi tribo!" should be the mantra of modern Filipinos. Or: "Pilinino ako, hindi ako tribo-tribo!"

Most Filipinos grow up accepting tribalism as a permanent good thing and family as justification for everything, including evil. They will have a hard time transitioning but, with push from those three institutions, it is possible.

## Isko offers 'peace of mind'

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come with me, join me, we'll move on. We will not forget what happened in the past so we will remember what not to do and what to copy," he added.

Moreno promised to provide Filipinos with their minimum basic needs and "peace of mind" amid the numerous problems they were facing.



### Editor's Note

I can't help but get emotional in reviewing this PF News' May issue, after my husband Dave, has painstakingly spent several nights to come up with one, and then to remind me of its existence since 2002.

We've been present in our community since before the explosion of online media platform, spending time to deliver weekly hard newspaper copies in Sacramento and vicinity. We were active in the Filipino community and covering events, all the way to San Francisco and Southern California. We were both working full time at the time and still sending our children to college. As I think about those times, I wonder now how we were able to pull them through.

Those throw backs somehow are giving me some "revived energy", especially now, as we slowly come out of the COVID-19 pandemics. I feel that, while we are still able, we can continue to commit to what we have always loved to do in PF News publication, and in serving our Filipino community.

This time around is another chance and opportunities for everyone, young and old alike, to start fresh. Even if we have to go back to basic, to accomplish our goals in life.

Please continue to be safe, as we go back to the normalcy of things.

Cheers to all, in PF News' 20th Year!  
Dinnah S. San Pedro

## Marcos, if elected, vows to 'strengthen' PCGG to target all corruption cases

BY NEIL ARWIN MERCADO

Instead of the agency just training all its efforts against the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, presidential candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday he will strengthen the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to target all graft and corruption cases in the government if he gets elected in the upcoming elections.

In an interview with CNN Philippines aired Tuesday, Marcos was asked about his plans for the PCGG should he be elected.

"Strengthen it. Ang pinag-uusapan mo yung corruption, graft and corruption. 'Yan ang trabaho nila, pagtibayin mo. Give them bigger budget. Give them more staff para habul-habulin talaga nila lahat. Then mag-file sila ng kaso sa Ombudsman," Marcos Jr. said.

PCGG, a quasi-judicial body, has the primary mandate of recovering the ill-gotten wealth accumulated by his father and namesake, former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., his immediate family, relatives, subordinates and close associates.

Asked how he will strengthen the agency, Marcos Jr. said: "Instead of directing themselves against the Marcoses only, I mean if I have—kung mayroon akong corrupt na kamag-anak, edi lalabas yung pangalan n'ya. But not only us, lahat."

According to Marcos, times have changed and the PCGG can be utilized to go after erring public officials.



Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"Kasi nasa ibang panahon na tayo e. Hindi na 'yun ang issue e. Ang issue is just graft and corruption in the government. They're already there, edi gamitin mo na," Marcos Jr. said.

"Patibayin mo pa para mayroon ka tagalang agency na walang ginawa kundi nagbabantay na walang gumagawa ng kalokohan," he added.

According to the accomplishment report of the PCGG, it has so far recovered P172.4 billion. It is still trying to recover more than P125 billion more of the family's ill-gotten wealth, which is still tied up in litigation.

Meanwhile, on the issue of his family's ill-gotten wealth, he said he will let the courts do their work.

"Let the courts do their work. Kami naman lagi naming sinasabi, if the court orders us to do something, we will do it. So, let the courts do their work," Marcos Jr. said.

## Cavite, Laguna govs guarantee victory for BBM

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Based on Commission on Elections (Comelec) records, Cavite is the second most vote-rich province in the country with over 2.3 million registered voters for this year's elections, while Laguna is fourth with over two million voters.

Cebu retained the most vote-rich status among provinces with around 3.2 million registered voters. Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia has committed a landslide victory for Marcos in her province.

Aside from Remulla and Hernandez, also present during the meeting were Governors Melchor Diclas of Benguet; Dale Corvera, Agusan del Norte; Albert Raymond Garcia, Bataan; Roberto Uy, Zamboanga del Norte; Zaldy Villa, Siquijor; Rhodora Cadiiao, Antique; Damian Mercado, Southern Leyte; Roel Degamo, Negros Oriental; and Dax Cua, Quirino.

The other governors also assured Marcos of overwhelming victory as they vowed to protect his votes in their respective provinces.

Meanwhile, Uy belied reports that he is supporting the candidacy of Robredo after several photos surfaced that he was with the Vice President.?

"Don't believe those pictures of us with priests that they keep on posting in the plaza because it's election season. We're 100 percent for BBM," he insisted.?

For his part, Mercado declared that their

province is "Marcos country" even as his opponent in politics is also supporting Marcos. The camp of Marcos earlier claimed that 73 out of the country's 81 governors have already committed support to his presidential bid.

Alarm over breach

Meanwhile, Marcos is alarmed over the reported security breach in the system of automated election system provider Smartmatic.

He said his UniTeam with running mate and vice presidential frontrunner Sara Duterte-Carpio is closely monitoring the matter and how the Comelec is handling it.

"I'm worried about when we talked about the security breach – that the statements of Comelec are changing. At first, they said there was no breach, then they say somebody brought a computer, then it turns out there was really a security breach but that information was not important, and then the information apparently came out in the dark web. So there are things I worry about," Marcos said at a press conference in Cagayan de Oro City earlier this week.

"Everything concerns me, not only Mindanao, not only certain areas but everywhere. Because that kind of wholesale cheating is not really done on the job, it's done in some secret place," he stressed.

## After Skipping COMELEC Panel, Bongbong Marcos Declines Leni Robredo's Debate Challenge

BY BRYLE B. SURALTA

Marcos Spokesperson Atty. Vic Rodriguez further slammed dilawans for negative campaigning.



Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice Pres. Leni Robredo

With 11 days to go before the elections, former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. seems to be sitting comfortably in the lead, according to the most recent surveys. So much so that he has declined yet another public speaking forum—this time, the panel interviews conducted by Commission on Elections (COMELEC), which happens to be a format his team had insisted on.

The Marcos camp earlier pushed for the panel interview format. Spokesperson Atty. Vic Rodriguez said that it "can measure the depth of a candidate who is presenting himself to be the next president of our country, distanced from the usual political noise, personal bickering and worse, gutter politics."

Unfortunately, even with the new format, Marcos said no. His team cited the candidate's hectic schedule as the reason. So far, the lone debate Marcos, Jr. has attended was the Sunshine Media Network International (SMNI) debates last February.

Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, likewise, has declined to participate in the panel interviews by the COMELEC.

"Sa loob ng ilang araw, boboto na ang mga Pilipino. Halos tatlong buwan nang tumatakbo ang official campaign period, at naihayag ko na sa maraming pagkakataon ang track record, mga plano, at mga prinsipyo ko," she said in a statement: "Maraming beses na akong nagbigay ng panayam sa mga panel interview at naka-post online ang lahat ng recording na ito."

The presidential aspirant subsequently challenged Marcos to a debate. She expressed that the public should at least get to hear what the former senator would say about the various controversies that plague the front-

runner's campaign.

Marcos declined Robredo's challenge, too. In a statement, Rodriguez said that he understood Robredo's "frustration," but emphasizes that it will never happen. He acknowledged that both candidates had different ways of conducting their respective campaigns.

He said: "Maaari po na silang dalawa, na parehong naghangad na maging pangulo ng republika, ay magkaiba ng paniniwala hinggil sa pamamaraan ng pakikipagtalastasan sa mamamayan."

Rodriguez reiterated that his camp would only engage in "positive campaigning," further slamming the "dilawans."

"Positibong pangangampanya at walang paninira ang gabay ng UniTeam ni Bongbong Marcos. At derecho sa taumbayan ang mga mensahe nito at ang panawagan ng pagkakisa. Pawan mga negatibo, panlililang at paninira naman ang sa kampo ng dilawan."

In the last Pulse Asia surveys released in early April, Marcos, Jr. leads all candidates at 56 percent with Robredo trailing at 24 percent.

### JR De Guzman: An Evening Theatre Tour!

**JR De Guzman**  
An Evening

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OCT 15 PORTLAND, OR  
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OCT 14 VANCOUVER, BC  
VOGUE THEATRE LOW TICKET ALERT!

OCT 16 SEATTLE, WA  
NEPTUNE THEATRE LATE SHOW ADDED!

## War in Ukraine: Latest developments

Agence France-Presse

### Putin has 'hope' for negotiations

Russian President Vladimir Putin tells the visiting UN chief Antonio Guterres that he still has hope for negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine.

"Despite the fact that the military operation is ongoing, we still hope that we will be able to reach agreements on the diplomatic track. We are negotiating, we do not reject (talks)," Putin tells Guterres.

Guterres, who is seeking to mediate in the conflict, is on his first visit to Moscow since the war began and is then to travel to Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

### US, allies discuss weapons

Defence ministers of 40 countries hold talks at a US airbase in Germany on boosting arms supplies to Ukraine.

The United States and its allies will meet once a month to discuss Ukraine's defence needs, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin says afterwards.

The United States has been pushing its allies to provide Ukraine with heavy weapons.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken tells Congress that Putin has shown "no sign" he is "serious" about diplomacy, but by giving Ukraine the means to fight the invasion Washington can help "strengthen their hand" when meaningful talks do take place.

### Germany to send tanks

German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht tells the meeting that Berlin will send Gepard anti-aircraft tanks to Ukraine, marking a major shift by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who had previously urged a more cautious approach faced with nuclear-armed Russia.

His perceived reluctance to break with Germany's historic policy of detente towards Moscow had drawn fierce criticism from Kyiv and caused tensions with his coalition partners.

### Friendship statue demolished

Authorities in Kyiv demolished a monument symbolising historic ties between ex-Soviet Ukraine and Russia.

"It took some effort but the Soviet sculpture of the two workers — symbolising the reunification of Ukraine and Russia



Ukrainian soldiers sit on a Armoured personnel carrier (APC) near Sloviansk, eastern Ukraine, on April 26, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. AFP

— was dismantled this evening," Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko says in a statement on social media.

### Trouble in Transnistria

Fears of the conflict spilling over into Moldova rise after a series of blasts in its breakaway Russian-backed Transnistria region, which borders western Ukraine.

Authorities in Transnistria say two explosions on Tuesday morning damaged a radio tower relaying Russian stations near the Ukrainian border, and that on Monday evening the offices of the state security ministry were hit in a suspected grenade attack.

Ukraine accuses Russia of trying to "destabilise" Transnistria.

A Russian military chief last week angered Moldova by referring to the "oppression" of Russian speakers in Moldova, an argument used by Moscow to justify its invasion of Ukraine.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian tells his Moldovan counterpart Nicu Popescu France fully backs the country's territorial integrity "in the face of the destabilisation risks to which it may be exposed".

### Gazprom halts gas to Poland via pipeline

Russia's Gazprom will halt gas shipments to Poland via the Yamal pipeline beginning on Wednesday, Poland's PGNiG gas firm says.

"On April 26, 2022, Gazprom informed PGNiG of its intention to completely suspend deliveries under the Yamal contract... on April 27," PGNiG said, adding that Poland was prepared to obtain necessary supplies from other sources. Over 8 million refugees expected

The UN says nearly 5.3 million Ukrainians have fled the country since Russia invaded and warns that three million more could follow by the end of this year.

## Taiwan issues wartime survival handbook for potential Chinese invasion

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Taiwan's military published a handbook on Tuesday advising civilians on how to prepare for a potential Chinese invasion, including where to find bomb shelters and how to stockpile emergency supplies.

China's Communist Party has never controlled self-ruled Taiwan but it nonetheless views the island as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

Those threats have turned more bellicose under Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in a generation.

Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine has also heightened fears that China might one day follow through on threats to annex its smaller neighbour.

The 28-page guide contains information which "the general public can use as an emergency response guideline in a military crisis or natural disaster," defence ministry spokesman Sun Lifang said during an introduction at an online press conference.

It is the first time Taiwan's military has published such a handbook.

Drawn from similar guides by Sweden and Japan, it tells residents where to find bomb shelters via mobile phone apps and what to do in an emergency including how to distinguish air raid sirens.

"The guide is for the public to better prepare themselves before a war or disaster happens," Liu Tai-yi, an official of the ministry's All-Out Defense Mobilization Agency, said.

It includes information on basic survival skills for the public during air



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen speaks to Air Force pilots at a military base in Hsinchu.

raids, massive fires, building collapses, power outages and natural disasters.

"We hope the public can familiarise themselves where the safety shelters are beforehand," he added.

Beijing's increased sabre-rattling has spurred diplomatic support for Taipei and visits from Western nations shaken by China's more muscular tone.

Taiwan remains massively outgunned against China but the mountainous island would be a formidable challenge for any military to conquer.

Taiwan last year stepped up its training regime for reservists and has increased purchases of military equipment such as jets and anti-ship missiles.

The island is also considering extending its compulsory military service to 12 months. Currently all eligible males have to undergo a four-month basic military training.

Unlike South Korea, the Philippines and Japan, Taiwan is not a treaty ally with the United States.

Washington remains Taiwan's main arms supplier but it maintains a policy of "strategic ambiguity", leaving China guessing as to whether an invasion would trigger a response.


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# The return of the 'Sick Man of Asia'

PerryScope  
By PERRY DIAZ

IN 1853, THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE was referred to by Tsar Nicolas I as the "Sick Man of Europe," which was then in a state of decline. After World War I, the phrase was applied to several European countries that included France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany. It was the result of the economic chaos that the war brought to Europe.

Ten years later, the Taiping Rebellion in China brought misery to the Chinese people and once again the "Sick Man" cropped its ugly head again, this time in China; hence, the phrase "Sick Man of Asia" was coined.

In 1896, the North China Daily News published an article saying: "There are four sick people in the world - Turkey, Persia, China, Morocco ... China is the Sick Man of the East." At that time, the ruling Qing dynasty was so corrupt and incompetent that it earned the scorn of the world. The Westerners, who had mocked, humiliated, and insulted China, took advantage of the miserable state of the country and eventually took over its economy. Shanghai was run by the Shanghai International Settlement, which was dominated by the Americans and British. They established the Shanghai Municipal Council (SMC), which was later expanded to include the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, and Switzerland. Hong Kong became a British colony and Macao a Portuguese colony. It was imperialism at its zenith. China also came to be known as the "Sick Man of Asia."

## Martial law

Then the dictator Ferdinand Marcos came to power in 1965.

After his first term as president, he started planning how to stay in power after his second term, which would have ended in 1973. Marcos started planning and he formed two sets of advisers, a 12-member working group called the Rolex 12, with each member given a gold Rolex watch as a symbol of power. Rolex 12 was composed of generals and economic cronies. They were the architects of the martial law plan. But within this group was another group, known as the Omega Five, which consisted of the generals who were also part of the Rolex 12. Their main responsibility was to make sure that Marcos would remain in power. They were the Praetorian Guard whose loyalty was unquestionable.



Ferdinand Marcos declares Martial Law

On September 23, 1972, Marcos announced that he had placed the Philippines under martial law. He said that it was necessary to stop the "communist threat" posed by the newly founded Communist Party of the Philippines. But some sources claimed that he staged a series of bombings and ambushes as justification for the declaration of martial law.

This marked the beginning of a 14-year period of one-man rule. However, opposition figures of the time accused Marcos of exaggerating these threats, using them as a convenient excuse to consolidate power and extend his reign beyond the two presidential terms allowed by the 1935 constitution.

## Marcos' human rights record

Martial law was lifted on January 17, 1981. However, he retained virtually all of his pow-

ers as dictator. It is remembered for the Marcos era's record of human rights abuses, particularly targeting political opponents, student activists, journalists, religious workers, farmers, and others who fought against the Marcos dictatorship. Based on the documentation of Amnesty International, historians believe that the Marcos dictatorship was marked by more than 3,200 known extrajudicial killings, 35,000 documented tortures, hundreds of disappearances or "salvaged" as they were called, and 70,000 incarcerations. There were thousands of human rights violations. The economic standing of the country dropped. The dawn of martial law was hell. It was the darkest chapter in Philippine history.

Although the Philippines had attained improvement in its economy during Marcos' first term, that is not enough to support the claim that considers his presidency as the golden years of the Philippines. But based on data given by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the country experienced the biggest decrease in income per person yet, and it took the country 21 years to recover from that loss. In fact, such a decrease in its economic standing gave it the title of the "Sick Man of Asia" -- a label associated with massive political corruption, unequal growth, and poverty.

On August 21, 1983, Ninoy Aquino was assassinated on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport. The assassination further triggered the economic downturn of the country.

## People Power Revolution

On February 25, 1986, the People Power Revolution ousted the Marcos dictatorship. Ironi-



Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Imelda

cally, the leaders of the rebels who evicted the Marcoses from Malacanang were two members of the Omega Five.

As reported in the news, after Marcos was ousted, "government investigators discovered that the declaration of martial law had also allowed the Marcoses to hide secret stashes of unexplained wealth which various courts later determined to be 'of criminal origin.'"

The Marcos government had to cut overall government expenditures to reduce deficits. Marcos bankrupted the Central Bank; it had to be dissolved and replaced by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Its bad accounts are still being paid for by taxpayers.

After the ouster of Marcos, the country managed to rise economically afterwards. In 2013, under the presidency of Benigno Aquino III, the country was dubbed by the World Bank as Asia's Rising Tiger. In 2014, the Japan External Trade Organization survey showed "the Philippines as the second most

profitable among ASEAN-5 countries, next to Thailand," formally abolishing the "sick man" status of the Philippines.

However, it was reported in the news that "during the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte, several commentators have argued that due to the slow growth of the economy and Duterte's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines seems to be on the brink of restoring its 'Sick Man' status."

Sad to say, the Philippines could once again become the "Sick Man of Asia" if the 2022 presidential election would catapult to power the progeny and namesake of the late dictator.

As Winston Churchill once said, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Here's hoping that the Filipino voters would learn from our dark history and vote wisely on May 9, 2022 and prevent the return of the "Sick Man of Asia."

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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# BAYANIHAN CLINIC

**Student-Run Clinic · UC Davis Nonprofit Organization**



In February of 2002, a group of four UC Davis undergraduates, Julienne Angeles, Thea de Borja, Rosalyn Moya, and Voltaire Sinigayan, recognized the need of a free clinic catering to the Filipino community, specifically the Filipino World War II Veterans. Richard Ikeda, executive director of Health for All, became the group’s sponsor, and supported the development of this community-oriented primary care project. During the following months, a name was chosen, a mission statement was drafted, a major fundraiser was held, and a site was chosen for the clinic. In August of 2002, the clinic was designated a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.



The Bayanihan Clinic of UC Davis

In October of 2002, the group began its efforts to recruit undergraduate clinic volunteers, and specifically targeted Filipino pre-health students in hopes of encouraging students from this underrepresented group to pursue a career in medicine by giving them the rare opportunity of being able to learn and serve while fulfilling community needs. By 2007, Bayanihan Clinic officially joined other student run clinics affiliated with the University of California Medical Center. The UCDMC affiliation has helped clinic in various ways such as having lab services provided by the hospital.



Bayanihan Clinic medical student volunteers

services and care. In addition to serving our patients, Bayanihan Clinic educates and prepares the undergraduate and medical student volunteers for a future in healthcare.

With our new clinic space, we hope to grow our clinic services and manifest a strong relationship with the population of the Greater Sacramento Area. Every year, our innovative clinic interns think of creative ways to help patients in need.

The Tagalog (one of many Filipino dialects) word, Bayanihan, was chosen as the clinic’s name to capture two essences of the clinic:

Bayanihan, when translated from Tagalog into English means “a collective group of people working together towards a common goal.”

Bayani, which is the literal term for “heroes” recognizes the focus of the clinic’s target population, the Filipino WWII Veterans.

The Bayanihan Clinic familia consists of Undergraduate Volunteers, UC Davis Medical and Physician Assistant Students, and volunteer physicians. The small, tight-knit community serves the Sacramento underserved population by providing preventative medical



Helping the Filipino WWII Veterans



With The Filipino Community Leaders and Volunteers



# Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity

## Calendar Of Events

May 5, 2022 - Last Day to FCSV through Big Day of Giving

May 31, 2022 - Scholarship application deadline  
Venue to be announced

July 9, 2022 - Mrs. Philippines 1st Canvassing  
Jose Rizal Community Center - July 9, 2022

Awarding of Scholars to Recipients  
Jose Rizal Community Center

### Brief History

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity was born in 1929. It was organized mainly as a social club that organized weekend dancing and monthly picnics. The association continued throughout the depression years and became a good source of solace and shelter to the thousands of Filipinos without jobs.

In 1945, the Filipino community held its first popularity beauty pageant. The elegant ceremony was held at the Moose Lodge on Stockton Blvd. Not long after this, a group of Filipino farmers decided to purchase a farmland at

the corner of what is now Gerber Road and Elk Grove Florin. In 1950 they built a Filipino Center that was later sold to the American Legion Post #604 and was known as Magellan Hall for many years.

In 1958, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) filed for incorporation and formally included in its by-laws the building of the community center. In 1973, HUD provided the funds to build what is now known as the Jose Rizal Community Center. The Southgate Parks and Recreation District administers the community center.

Sometime in 1973, FCSV under the presidency of Dolores Pizzaro purchased a two-acre lot at the corner of

66th Avenue and East Southgate, not far from the Rizal Center. In 1984, an attempt to build Manila Square failed when it could not obtain financing. The organization was sued and lien was placed on the lot. FCSV spent whatever money it had plus whatever it raised through donations in order to fight the suit and clear the lien on the lot. Now the lot is free and clear. The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity 2012-2013 Officers and Board of Directors filed a 501(c) 3 tax exempt application. This was approved on January 23, 2014.

### Mission

To preserve and enhance understanding of cultural heritage and diversity and to promote the Filipino-American social and economic well-being by fostering

teamwork, participation and leadership in the community.

### Goals

- To enhance the rich culture, heritage and history of the Filipino Americans through educational, cultural and other events and activities for the best interest of the community.
- To build and maintain a Filipino Community Center that will serve as the institution of Philippine heritage and traditions and as a place for charitable, educational, cultural activities and events.
- To provide workshops, training, seminars and outreach services to economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, senior citizens, veterans, and youth in the community.

## Simbang Gabi

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Filipino-American Catholics gathered at St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom on 1 Dec 2021 to celebrate the Sacramento Diocese's first ever commissioning of the Simbang Gabi coordinators. The commissioning was part of our diocese's celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. The Most Reverend Jaime Soto, Bishop of Sacramento, wearing a chasuble or stole with an embroidered logo of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, celebrated the mass attended by priests and representatives of parishes in the diocese. A procession of parols (Christmas lanterns) carried by representatives of the following parishes preceded the mass:

- Natomas: Divine Mercy
- Sacramento: St. Charles Borromeo and St. Paul
- Elk Grove: St. Maria Goretti, St. Joseph, and Good Shepherd
- Folsom: St. John the Baptist
- West Sacramento: Our Lady of Grace
- Citrus Heights: Christ the King Retreat Center
- North Highlands: St. Lawrence
- Fairfield: Holy Spirit
- Vallejo: St. Catherine Sienna.

The Filipino Apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento (FACDS) invited this representative of PF News to attend. The editors of PF News express



The Parols of Good Shepherd, St. Maria Goretti and St. John



The St. John The Baptist Parish Parol

Photos by Dale Esperante

their gratitude to the following FACDS leadership: Fr. Jovito Rata (Vicar), President Johnny Regadio, Treasurer Maricel Lumaquin, Secretary Beatriz (Beep) Alo, FACDS Advisers Vicky Alonzo/

Vicky Watson/Vicky Capati. We are also grateful to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Folsom, their Filipino community, and Fr. Renier Siva (Pastor) for hosting the event.

## City of Elk Grove Mayor's Volunteer Award!



Chris Mateo with son Alan and wife Elaine

Thanks to the City of Elk Grove for this humbling honor. I rarely think about my own volunteerism, let alone being recognized by the one and only Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen!

Thanks, too, to my family and friends that celebrated with me, Elaine and Alan at Chicago Fire! Spending a Wednesday night with some of my favorite people was the real award for me (sorry Elk Grove).

Special shoutout to Dane Amanda NewSan for the nomination and to Dinah and Dave Pacardo San Pedro for your continued support and friendship. I'm blessed to have such a family full of leaders in my corner and around the corner - hey neighbors! And GO WARRIORS!

# 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines

From page 1

The program for the 500th Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines started with Narrator Genaline Andres reading a summary of the history of Christianity in the Philippines. After reading, Ms. Andres called for the military veterans for the Posting of the Colors. The veterans with flags in church portrayed service to God and Country.



The American Legion Magellan Post 604 Filipino American Veterans posting the colors before the mass: Bill Bostock, Bobby Aglubat, Jess Velasco, and Rey Ado.



Father Sylvester's opening remarks before the invocation.



Adviser Maricel Lumaquin, Melita Esperante, and Organizing Chair Maria Tonton Salgado.

After the veterans, a procession entered the church walking in synchrony to the music of Batobalani sa Gugma: Maria Tonton Salgado holding San Pedro Calungsod's figurine\*, Eleanor Salvatin holding Santo Nino \*, Maria Marquez holding San Lorenzo Ruiz \*, Victorio Salvatin carrying the Procession Cross. Candle Holders: Edith Rundle, Presely Sarette, Terie Clark, and Venus Omeara. White Handkerchief Wavers: Josie Ryder, Alice Tay, Cynthia Elmido, Kim Nguyen, Mai Nguyen, and Marinette Babida.



Vicky Ultra, my sister-in-law, reading the Waray Prayer of the Faithful.



The VOOM Choir entertaining during the fellowship in the St. Gabriel Room after the mass.

The 500 Years of Christianity Theme Song is Gifted to Give, and the following children showed the interpretation: Aaron Agamata, Angelyn and Michelle Gonzales, Rianne & Ralyn Moll, Angelica Jane Pebley, Eli Abriam, Chichi Corpuz, Zyrrelle and Zayvier Babida.



The Gifted to Give Kids signing the meaning of the 500 Years of Christianity theme song.

The spirit in Santa Maria Goretti's church has always been warm and welcoming; however, on this day, it seemed like it was at an all-time high!

After a brief break, Father Sylvester Kwiatkowski's procession finally entered the church to start the Holy Mass. Father Sylvester in his welcoming remarks spoke joyfully inserting one or two Filipino phrases to the delight of many. The Pastor clearly connected with the Filipino parishioners. He proved, through his words and actions, his respect for the Filipinos for their contributions, talents, and traditions. Fr. Sylvester is from Poland, and he has been the Pastor of St. Maria Goretti since July 2019.



The Hospitality Group with Josie Ryder and Teresa Reyes. Photos by Dale Esperante

After the mass, everyone gathered in the St. Gabriel Room to enjoy more blessings of the day, such as, litson, lumpia, and other Filipino delicacies. To start, Fr. Sylvester began with the invocation, followed by the veterans presenting the flags as the VOOM choir sang the national anthems of the USA and the Philippines. For dinner entertainment, an all-female group performed a dance number to the music of Inigo Pascual's Dahil Sa 'Yo, to the delight of all. VOOM stepped forward

again with a couple of harmonious melodies that ballroom dancers I know would have enjoyed. Bravo to the performers.

The Legionnaires of Magellan Post 604 asked Fr. Sylvester to please come forward. The veterans presented the Reverend with an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication, devotion, and hospitality as

the Pastor of Santa Maria Goretti Church. Maraming Salamat Po and Dziekuje Ci (thank you in Polish).

Congratulations to the St. Maria Goretti Parish community for hosting a successful, inspiring, and joyful event. Special acknowledgements: Reverend Father Sylvester Kwiatkowski, Organizing Chair Tonton F. Salgado, Co-Chair



Maria Tonton Salgado and Maria Marquez leading the Batobalani Prelude to the Mass.

Dale Esperante, Consultants: Beth Thayer/Maricel Lumaquin/Johnny Regadio, Finance Maria Marquez, Hospitality: Josie Ryder and Jessa Perez, Choir: Voice on One Mission or VOOM composed of Dan & Ging Malabuyo, Leo & Dada Labao, Magin Chavez, Sarrie Peralta, Bob & Maria Marquez and auxiliary members: Benny Acevedo, Irene Perea, and Paula Bonifacio.

Thank you also to the Prayer Group of the Faithful: Tagalog – Presely Sarette, Waray – Vicky Ultra, Kapampangan – May Ganttan, Bicol – Jessa Perez, Ilocano – Gina Maningding.

ONLINE NEWS: Extension of the 500 Years Celebration as reported by Sunstar's Cherry Ann T. Lim on 8 Apr 2022 - Yahoo News: "The

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCF) had sent a letter to the Vatican on 7 Mar 2022 explaining that the planned "ecclesial and spiritual activities" in the dioceses for the Jubilee Year had not been fully carried out amid the quarantines imposed by the government to stem the spread of Covid-19. In response, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, issued a decree last 17 Mar 2022 extending the opportunities for pilgrims visiting any of the "Jubilee Churches" to gain indulgences until 31 Dec 2022." Source: CBCP News, 27 Mar 2022, "By means of the decree, the pope extended the opportunities for pilgrims visiting any of the more than 500 "Jubilee Churches" to gain indulgences until December 31, 2022."



# Magellan Hall

By 2nd Vice Commander Al Garcia  
Updated by Dale Esperante

In 1949, the Filipino Farmers and Labors Association realized their dream of constructing a building for the Filipino community. Their dream became a reality and the Magellan Hall Community Center was born. After completion they gifted in perpetuity the building to the newly formed American Legion Post 604 comprised of Filipino American WWII veterans. The building became known as the Filipino American Veterans Memorial Center and it has served the community at large since “1950”. Like the rest of the world, COVID19 was unkind to the center. When government restrictions closed public events and fundraising efforts halted, the revenue stream of the center was shut off. Our present goal is to raise 100K. We were able to replace the roof last year but our parking lot still needs to be paved. We are reaching out to the community and beyond to help us achieve our goal. Pre-Covid and since restrictions have been lifted, we have been able to raise \$30K plus.

We still need your help to preserve and maintain this historic building. As proud American Veteran Legionnaires, we will continue to promote local fund-raising efforts to meet our goals but we cannot do it without your help. The needs of Magellan Hall Community Center are immediate, please consider donating. Our commitment to you is that 100% of every dollar we raise will be used to preserve this proud Historical building that has served our community for the past 70 years.

To support Magellan Hall, please consider donating through GoFundMe. You will find us when you search for “Veterans Magellan Hall” or “Filipino-American Veterans Memorial Hall.”

To help us raise funds for maintenance, Magellan Hall is available if you are looking for an event venue. The number to call is (916) 230-1332. Thank you and Maraming Salamat Po!



# Filipino war veterans deserve better

BY GEN. TONY TAGUBA

Two years ago, I stood in the Capitol as Filipino Veterans of World War II were awarded one of the highest honors of our country, the Congressional Gold Medal. It was a proud moment as the United States recognized, “The Filipino veterans of World War II fought alongside, and as an integral part of, the United States Armed Forces. The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Filipino Veterans of World War II displayed.” But it seems those words were hollow.

This year, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services issued a notice that it intended to terminate a program intended to support our veterans, known as the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program. The same government that recognized the “bravery, valor, and dedication” of the Filipino World War II veterans and announced that it was “forever indebted” to them is now turning its back on them once more.

The advocacy campaign for the Congressional Gold Medal for our Filipino World War II veterans was one in a series of campaigns to win recognition



and justice for their military service. Many people do not know that the Philippines was a territory of the United States during World War II. The Philippines was attacked by Japan on the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor and was occupied by Japan for the duration of the war. Filipinos who fought with American forces were promised American citizenship for their service, but this offer was then rescinded after the war.

The advocacy campaign for our Filipino World War II veterans to receive the benefits they earned for their military service and bravery has gone on for decades. In 1990, legislation was passed that finally granted American citizenship to Filipino World War II veterans. Many filed petitions as soon as they were able to sponsor fami-

ly members to reunite with them in the United States. Since the wait times for most of the family immigration categories are so long, however, many veterans who had petitioned their fam-

ily members still faced decades long waits for their relatives to be approved for green cards to immigrate to the United States.

The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, a policy that has been in effect for three years, allows certain family members of Filipino World War II veterans who have pending immigrant visa applications to travel to the United States and wait for their visas here. The policy enabled elderly Filipino World War II veterans to have their family members join them in the United States to provide care and support, and it has had a profound impact on the veterans and their families who are now together and able to care for one another and provide support on a daily basis.

In terminating the policy, the federal government is again

breaking faith with the Filipino World War II veterans. I urge all to join me in calling on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the White House to preserve the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program. Our veterans deserve and have more than earned the right to live out their days with dignity and in peace, with family to care for them, and secure in the knowledge that the United States honors their service.

More than 57,000 people were killed in the Philippines in World War II, and thousands more were wounded for life or missing in action. There is an immeasurable cost of life in war, and soldiers like my father defended the United States at a

huge risk to their lives and freedom. Being granted American citizenship for completing their mission is not an entitlement or benefit. Soldiers were willing to die for our country, to suffer the brutality and ravages of war, and many lost their homes and livelihood.

The United States must honor the commitment made to these veterans and their families. Our remaining veterans are now in their nineties, and some have passed the centennial mark. The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program was created to support those who bravely defended the United States during the war. There is no honor in ending it.

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# Jef Cablog: Igorot Artist among 40 Contemporary Portrait Masters in the World

Via Galerie Francesca —

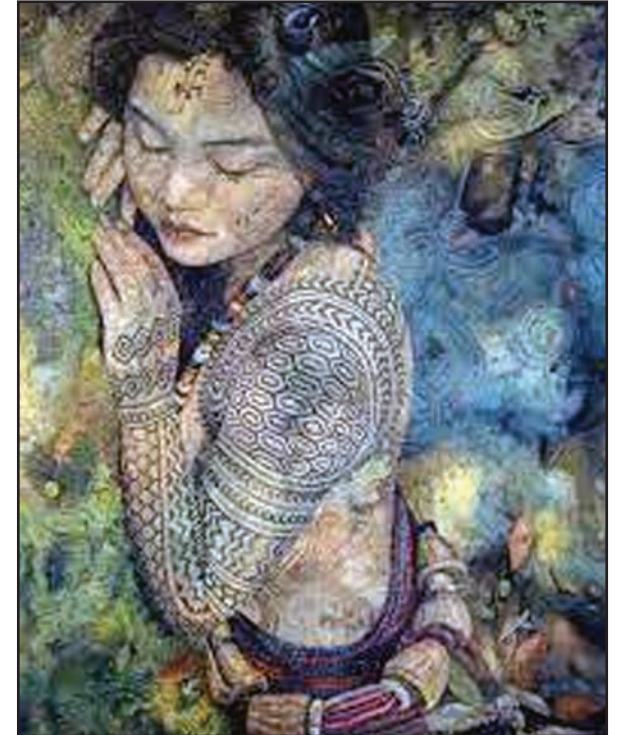
Jef Cawaon Cablog is an Baguio-based visual artist who hails from Barlig, Mountain Province. A native of the Cordilleras region of Northern Luzon, he attended the Fine Arts Program of the University of the Philippines, Baguio.

Cablog is known for his layered portritures and landscapes which evoke the environment and mythologies of his native Cordilleras. His works are highly textured, achieved by using a palette knife instead of a paintbrush to layer oil onto his canvas. The resulting effect is a complex interlude of colors and textures that serve to highlight his chosen subject matter. Cablog was twice semi-finalist of the Metrobank Art Competition and has also been profiled by the US-based Quarterly Art Magazine Bluecanvas. Galerie Francesca hosted his first solo show in 2012, and he has since exhibited around the country and in Hong Kong.

Already well-known in within the Baguio-based art community, Cablog's alluring imagery evokes the strong story-telling customs of the Cordilleras, a region celebrated for its unique and vibrant cultural traditions. The narrative structure of Cablog's works plays with his aesthetic technique that involves his use of layers and light. His highly-textured oeuvre lends an intensely-spiritual aura that is evocative of nature. Cablog work is highly reminiscent of National Artist Vicente Manansala,



Renowned Igorot artist Jef Cablog



whom he considers a major influence. The resulting effect is an indigenous rendering that echoes the National Artist's development of "transparent cubism" that is, at the same time, highly detailed and exemplifies a mature drafting ability. This mastery of fragmented light brings to mind another influence—that of Vienna Secessionist Gustav Klimt. Indeed, Cablog's compositional sensibilities are subtly filtered through the intensely regional orientations of his subjects.

Having been a full-time artist for over ten years,

Cablog and his practice are deeply entrenched in the Baguio art community. His association with the Tam-awan Art Village notwithstanding, Cablog's works have already earned recognition from his Baguio-based peers, including National Artist BenCab, no doubt aware that Cablog's textured works reveal a sensitive and deeply spiritual artist attuned to his heritage.

#### Artist Statement

The rice terraces of Northern Philippines are known for the meticulous and painstaking process it took to build them. When I paint, I adopt the same virtue of patience in my work. I can only hope the impact of the rice terraces as a grand cultural monument would be the same impact I will make in art through my paintings

## CREATING LIFE..

BY MEREMEL ASIS HECHONA

You carried the child in your womb. You tolerate the undescribable discomfort it cause you. Its painful, its unpleasant, its aggravating. You gather all your strength, determined to carry this through, no matter what the consequences maybe, however bad the risk will be.

You're bound and determined. You tried to ignore unpleasanties, changes that creates unfavorable impact on your day to day routine. Day by day, as the life grows, so is the commitment that goes with it. You cannot change. You cannot control. As a mother you tolerate. Everything.

Allowing impossibilities. However hard it is, no matter how intolerable the situation maybe. You just have to stick with it. Accepting to it. By choice. By heart..

Everyday you look forward to the day that you will see the light. That will free your pain, that will resolve your sorrow. You told yourself, this is just temporary. Its gonna end. You will be whole again..

Come the day and the pain is over. A bright new day giving a whole different perspective. The fearful realization hit you. You're a mother. You're beginning a new life. The beginning of a new chal-

lenge. More tougher, more difficult you so unexpectedly faced..

You start raising a new life, physically, emotionally, psychologically. Hard at times but strangely no matter how you're faced with unimaginable hardship, one smile, one kiss from this little miracle made everything worth the agony..

Its a long journey. But you never faltered. You never stop. You never doubt. You continue on. You carry it through with firrce determination and unbelievable strength. You need to raise a child rightfully. Your child will be a reflection of you. You must never fail. You're

a mother. A mother never does..

Its been long and rocky..Looking back, you knew in your heart you gave your utmost best, you knew deep in your soul that you maximize all your strength possible to survive, to create an environment so pleasantly harmonious with what you can attain possible.

As you gaze in the horizon. Old and weary. Wrinkled and withered. You smile. Its been good. You did good. You can say in all honesty, you made it. You can stop. You can rest.

You can close your eyes..

# 2 PH films win in Houston, another selected for Cannes

BY MARINEL CRUZ

Two full-length features, “Ang Huling Ulan sa Tag-araw” and “Broken Blooms,” both directed by Luisito “Louie” Ignacio, bagged Golden Remi Awards for best romantic comedy and best drama, respectively, at the recent 2022 Houston International Film Festival in Texas, United States.

“Ang Huling Ulan sa Tag-araw,” which premiered at the 2021 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), tells the struggles of Luis (Ken Chan), who took a leave of absence from the seminary to reexamine whether or not he really wants to be a priest. Chan works with onscreen partner Rita Daniela.

### Solidarity and warmth

Meanwhile, “Broken Blooms,” which has no local commercial release yet, is set at the beginning of the pandemic. Jeremy (Jeric Gonzales) and Cynthia (Therese Malvar) are newlyweds.

In their poor community, life is filled with difficulties but also solidarity and warmth.

The festival in Houston ran from April 20 to April 24. Ignacio flew to the States to attend the festival.

“Mr. J. Hunter Todd, founder and festival director, personally handed the awards for both films to me,” Ignacio recalled. “Almost all international festivals are already face-to-face. We’ve all missed meeting filmmakers from around the world, and the opportunity to screen our films to foreign delegates.”

Ignacio added: “We already have a question-and-answer session. And the applause that comes after the screenings, I finally heard it again. It was so touching! Participating in festivals abroad is still something else. The audience there doesn’t know the actors of the film they’re watching, but they show appreciation through film language. Face-to-face exhibitions are more exciting because you get to experience firsthand how they show their support. The trip was fun even though



Scene from “Huling Ulan sa Tag-araw”

we had to travel quite far.”

‘Wag magsama ng mas magandang la-



Scene from “Broken Blooms”

laki’, Bongbong Marcos says at rally as crowd looks for son Sandro

Meanwhile, “Plan 75,” a co-production of the Philippines, Japan, and France, has been selected for this year’s Un Certain Regard section of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France.

The announcement was posted on the Facebook accounts of Will Fredo, who is executive producer on the Philippine side, and Aemberg Ang, coproducer.

“With the globalization of content, it is becoming common that countries cooperate in developing content. Coproduction is something new to us Filipinos since most films here are produced by big studios like Star Cinema and Regal, but coproduction practice has been done in Europe for a while already, and basically, we are trying to catch up with such a business model in creating content. Plus, with the proliferation of streaming services with multilingual content, it is about time we should develop more of such content that’s geared toward global consumption,” Fredo told Inquirer Entertainment.

“If you notice on Netflix, the audience

is getting used to subtitles and dubbed movies and series. My goal as a producer is to make sure that Filipino representation is present and promoted in future content. I’m hoping when foreign viewers are getting used to us and our type of sensibilities, they’ll consume more of what we make here locally,” Fredo further said.



Fil-Australian actress Stephanie Arriane

Jason Gray, “Plan 75” expands on the world depicted in Hayakawa’s 2018 short film of the same title. It marks Hayakawa’s feature directing debut. The hottest entertainment news straight to your inbox By providing an email address. I agree to the Terms of Use and acknowledge that I have read the Privacy Policy.

The cast includes Japan-based Filipino-Australian actress Stefanie Arriane (“Melancholic”).

The movie is set in a not-so-distant future Japan wherein a government program, Plan 75, encourages senior citizens to be voluntarily euthanized to remedy a super-aged society. An elderly woman whose means of survival are vanishing, a pragmatic Plan 75 salesman, and a young Filipino laborer face choices of life and death.

The festival in France will run from May 17 to May 28.



“Plan 75” lead actress Baisho Chieko

### Consumers’ consciousness

He then cited content produced by Koreans, Indians, and Chinese as examples. “It took years before they became mainstream. But they planted seeds by inserting their looks and presence in pop culture and mainstream content. Today, we can’t get enough of them. Who doesn’t love Korean stuff? We all consume them both in music and film. In my way, I’m hoping I can contribute in planting that Filipino thing into the consumers’ consciousness and appetite outside.”

“Plan 75” is written and directed by Chie Hayakawa, and starring legendary Japanese actress Baisho Chieko (“Tora-San” Series, “Station,” “Howl’s Moving Castle”).

Based on a story by Hayakawa and

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### A tribute to Bayanihan Clinic

20 years of service to Filipino World War II veterans



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