

TOWN in FOCUS

La Mesa Dam
barometer of water
supply

p.5

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PCLEDO CONDUCTS PRODUCT CLINIC FOR MSMEs



Cavite/photo courtesy)

IN its aim to further enhance quality and develop the local products of Cavite, the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO), with assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), conducted a product clinic for MSMEs under food category for aspiring entrepreneurs from different cities and municipalities of the province on March 15, 2019 at Cavite Cooperative Development Center in Trece Martires City.

Entrepreneurial Division Head, Ms. Liza C.

Gabatan oriented the participants on the activity overview and assured everyone that PCLEDO will always be of help to the MSMEs for the development of their products. Likewise, DOST-Cavite Provincial Director Engr. Raul D. Castañeda mentioned DOST's willingness to support local entrepreneurs through the provision of small equipment that can contribute to production upgrade and pointed out the livelihood opportunities that can be obtained from trash. In his message, OIC-PCLEDO Atty. Khervy B. Reyes encouraged the participants to become

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DILG validates LGUs' compliance with envt'l laws

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigwe

QUEZON CITY— The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has started validating the compliance of local government units (LGUs) along the Manila Bay area through an introduced audit.

The DILG said the LGUs would have to undergo an Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) in order to assess their environmental impact in the area.

The agency added that the audit is being done with the following objectives: Assess the compliance of LGUs to basic environmental laws particularly, R.A. No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000; Ensure that public officer tasked to implement environmental laws comply and sustain such compliance; Serve as a monitoring tool and database of LGU performance; and Institutionalize a rewards systems to the LGUs within the Manila Bay watershed area that

are compliant with environmental laws;

The DILG Manila Bay Program Management Teams in Regions III, IV-A, and NCR along with the Regional Inter-agency Committee led the Regional ECA Validation with LGUs. The LGUs that ranked the highest based on the results of the validation were endorsed to the national Inter-agency Committee for a National Validation.

The MANILA BAYanihan awardees will be determined through the ECA National Validation and deliberation meetings.

The National Interagency Committee is composed of representatives from agencies who shall complete the duration of the validation. The result of the Validation shall serve as basis for the declaration of the National ECA Top Performer. The Board shall declare the national ECA winner through the Issuance of a Resolution.

The indicators under the LGU Compliance Assessment are: Composition

of the City /Municipality Solid Waste Management Boards; Functionality of the SWM Board: The Local SWM Board meets every quarter; at least once WITHIN the quarter; (Existence of the ordinance/s on the three policies on: Littering, Open Burning, Illegal Dumping; Status of 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan; The LGU Implements a Segregated Collection System; Presence of an Open Dump; (g) Percentage of households that practice segregation is at 70 percent; Percentage of barangays with functional MRF/MRS; The LGU disposes their Residual Waste in an approved/accredited Sanitary Landfill; and Waste Diversion based on Solid Waste Management Plan.

The validation team will also check the percentage of barangays with functional

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PH celebrates World Water Day 2019

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is raising calls for greater water security for the country's future needs, as it leads a weeklong activity to highlight the celebration of the 2019 World Water Day (WWD) today, March 22 with focus on accessibility to clean water and sanitation as a basic human right.

This year's WWD celebration will adopt the objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD) which calls for concerted actions both on rich and poor countries to end poverty and tackle climate change while leaving no one behind.

A series of activities have been lined up nationwide

from March 15- 31 to raise awareness about the importance of water and sustainable development, highlighting the 6th of the 17 Sustainable Goals of the 2030 ASD which is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030.

The activities center around the local theme "Hawak-Kamay, Tubig-Kaagapay" in support of the 2019 WWD's international theme "Leaving No One Behind" which forms the core of the 2030 ASD.

Topping the weeklong celebration is the holding of the World Water Day Awards on March 22 and the launching of "The Battle for Esteros" on March 31

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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN BACOR

Cavite provincial government's environmental awareness campaign continues as the Lingap sa Kalikasan program goes to the City of Bacoor on March 15, 2019. The first stop was at Barangay Banalo Covered Court followed by another leg at Barangay Maliksi 1 Covered Court. Governor Jonvic Remulla, on behalf of Governor Boying Remulla, delivered inspiring messages and words of encouragement to continue

saving the environment for future generations. Participants included senior citizens who were also inspired to take part in the cleaning activity despite their age. Joining the governor were Board Members Edralin G. Gawaran and Rainier A. Ambion, and Mr. Dennis Padilla who represented former Assistant to the President Bong Go. They were warmly welcomed by Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla and the Sangguniang Panlungsod members.





Learning visit to Los Baños Cavite GFPS

Cavite GFPS goes on a learning visit to Los Baños

IN line with the goal of becoming a more gender-responsive province, the Technical Working Group of Cavite Gender and Development Focal Point System spearheaded a learning visit at the Gender and Development Office in the Municipality of Los Baños, Laguna on March 1, 2019.

Municipal GAD Officer Karen Lagat-Mercado oriented the group on the Best Practices in GAD mainstreaming of Los Baños LGU with emphasis on the development of GAD Database. It is a manifestation of the municipality's strong commitment to the advocacy since it serves as basis for gender responsive planning, programming and policy formulation. There were 449 types of data needed in the database gathered from 14 barangays using results of the Community Based Monitoring System survey and data coming from various offices of the municipal government. It was narrowed down into several sectors such as social development, economic development, infrastructure and environment sector, institutional sector and gender mainstreaming for ease of identification and appreciation of end users.

Ms. Mercado also highlighted that the success of the LGU's GAD advocacy is mainly attributed to the commitment of the Local Chief Executive and the strong support of the legislative body which gave way to the passage of gender-responsive local policies, fiscal administration and

governance, in general. Community involvement also contributed to successful implementation of the GAD programs.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Civil Registrar and ICMS Head, Mr. Glenn N. Arieta shared to the participants their milestone in creating the database which started with the issuance of Executive Order No. 59 series of 2016 directing the Organization of the Los Baños Information & Communication Management Services (ICMS). After series of meetings with other offices, agencies, the academe and with the combined effort of GAD Council thru the GAD Office and the ICMS Team, the Los Baños GAD Database was formally launched on August 8, 2018.

After the briefing, the delegation made a courtesy call to Municipal Mayor Caesar Perez who welcomed the team and shared some of his undertakings in local administration. He encouraged each participant to do his own share towards a successful government. "Ang pagbabagong hinahanap nyo ay magsisimula sa bawat isang mamamayan hindi lamang sa aming nanunungkulan," he added. He thanked everyone for coming with a hope that they have imparted new learnings to the group.

Municipal Councilor Josephine "Baby" Evangelista, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family and a prime mover in the GAD campaign was also present during the activity.

DOH...

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kahulugan ng pagtutuloy ng ating mga outbreaks at mga measles cases," he told local officials.

From January 1, 2019 to March 19, 2019, the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU) reported a total of 2,737 measles cases in the province of Rizal with 121 deaths. This figure is 7,503 percent higher compared to the same period last year with 13 measles cases and 6 recorded deaths.

Antipolo City has the highest number of measles cases in the province with 1,007 cases and 32 deaths followed by the municipalities of Rodriguez with 308 cases and 7 deaths; Cainta with 264 cases and 7 deaths; Taytay - 260 cases and 6 deaths; San Mateo - 248 and 7 deaths; Binangonan - 188 and 3 deaths; Angono - 93, 4; Baras - 91, 2; Tanay - 86, 5; Pililla - 29, 2; Teresa 30 cases, no death reported; Cardona 26, 2; Morong - 23, 2; and Jala-Jala with 5 cases, no death.

A total of 5,646 measles cases recorded in CALABARZON for the same period with 121 deaths. Cavite with 929 cases and 15 deaths recorded; Laguna has 847 cases with 12 deaths; Batangas with 577 cases and 9 deaths; and Quezon with 556 cases and 6 deaths.

Regional Director

Eduardo C. Janairo acknowledged the timely response and continuing efforts of LGUs in the province in the on-going measles mass immunization campaign.

"We have augmented manpower in areas where there are high number of measles cases by deploying additional vaccinators to assist in the house-to-house immunization and manage additional fixed vaccination posts in the communities," he emphasized.

Local government units also reported accomplishments in the measles campaign and continues to lobby with the private schools, Muslim community in Cainta and the religious sector to submit their children for vaccination.

Total number of vaccinated children in the province of Rizal is 333, 581 (95.84%) from the target population for Measles-Rubella Supplemental Immunization Activity (MR-SIA) of 348,076. There is 124,491 children ages 6-59 months old more for vaccination.

"We have the capability, we have the manpower, the funds and logistics...there should be no excuse. We need to collectively ensure and commit to bring back herd

immunity to 95%. Let's be 10 steps ahead para sa ganun ay hindi kumalat ang mga vaccine preventable diseases," Secretary Duque stressed.

"Let us be united in this call for a deliberate, well focused, strategic solutions to reverse the outbreak that is now happening and continues to happen because if we do not do something about this, other vaccine preventable diseases cases will rise and it will going to be a tremendous concern in the future," he added.

Regional Director Janairo on his part, assured LGUs that the regional office is ready to provide support should there be requests for assistance on the on-going measles mass immunization campaign. "We have the measles task force and vaccination teams to address and respond to any queries and support."

"Even with the downtrend of measles cases, we still need to maximize our efforts to safeguard all fully immunized children to prevent the onset of another outbreak. That is why I again call to parents of children to bring their unimmunized child to the nearest health center to avail of the free anti-measles vaccine. It is the only way to protect your children and prevent the spread of the virus," he appealed. (DOH4A)

San Miguel Corporation will continue to invest in modern toll roads and expressways that are at par with our neighbors in Asia. We are proud to support the government's Build, Build Build program," Ang noted.

Also present in the groundbreaking of the four (4) lane toll road project are DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catalina E. Cabral; Quezon Governor David "JayJay" Suarez; Quezon Vice Gov Samuel Nantes; Quezon 3rd District Representative Danilo Suarez; Quezon 1st District Representative Anna Katrina M. Enverga; Congressman Mark Enverga; Tiaong, Quezon Mayor Ramon Preza; DPWH Public Private Partnership Service Director Alex Bote; DPWH Legal Service Director Rodil Millado; and District Engineers Salvador Salvana and Rogelio Crespo. (DPWH)

PRRD...

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to inaugurate the finished expressway. Under the leadership of President Duterte and Secretary Villar, the TR4 project has become a reality. Masaya kami na makasama kayong lahat sa araw na ito. With this new toll road comes progress. New businesses will emerge and bring growth to the level of small towns and barangays," Ang noted.

"We estimate that 17,000 vehicles will pass through the toll road every day," he added.

The SLEX TR4 will be implemented by concessionaire South Luzon Tollways Corporation (SLTC) within four years, divided in six packages starting with: 11.32-kilometer

Package A from Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Makban, Laguna; 12.75-kilometer Package B from Makban to San Pablo, Laguna; 7.5-kilometer Package C from San Pablo to Tiaong, Quezon; 15-kilometer Package D from Tiaong to Candelaria, Quezon; 10.21-kilometer Package E from Candelaria to Tayabas, Quezon and the 9.96-kilometer Package F from Tayabas to Lucena City, Quezon.

When completed, it will be 4-lane toll road which will have a total of seven interchanges in the following areas: Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Makban, and San Pablo City in Laguna; Tiaong, Candelaria, Tayabas, and Lucena City in Quezon Province.

"Moving forward,

Former...

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Presence of millennials

The former DILG Undersecretary cited the demographic presence of young Filipinos or the "millennials" who play vital roles as consumers, producers, and composites of the labor force, taking up a statistically huge chunk of both the employed and unemployed population while also filling up posts in the government in many cases, as reflected, he said, in the body of PMDP scholars and alumni who are as young as 35 years old.

"You need to step up to define the governance arrangements and institutional spaces for the young Filipinos or millennials - as they are now claiming economic prominence in the country... The future of the country is theirs. It is no longer ours to define for them... We need organizations like (the) DAP to open up the possibilities of research and futures thinking and to engage them in conversations (about) the institutions of the future," Panadero stressed.

Recognizing the strength of collaboration among rank-and-file employees with career executives, Panadero pressed on a collective effort for a successful adaptation to transitions going on in the bureaucracy, going so far as

to encourage the participation of millennials in helping create the best political landscape for the country.

Local Government Code passage

As DILG Undersecretary for 20 years, Panadero assumed office at a transformative time in Philippine governance with the passage of the Local Government Code in 1991, which decentralized the decision-making power of the national administration and thus granted more resources to local government units. Despite this system overhaul, Panadero continued with his approach of inclusive and participatory governance, localizing national government priorities such as the Magna Carta for Women, disaster resilience interventions, and the welfare of families in conflict-affected areas.

Prior to his DILG stint, Panadero also served as senior vice president of the DAP itself where he took his first steps in the government service as a technical staffer. He retired from public office in 2018 and is now the executive vice president of Zuellig Family Foundation, a nongovernmental organization focused on strengthening health outcomes in rural communities. (DAP)

EML will not discourage women employment -- DOLE

MANILA -- The labor department allayed fears that the effectivity of the Expanded Maternity Leave Law (EML) will discourage the hiring of women employees, and limit their participation in productive work.

At the same time, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III urged enterprises to give the new law a chance to effectively uphold the welfare of women workers and employees.

"We do not see this perceived fear as having any effect on the employment of women. Companies and enterprises hire workers based on their competencies and skills, and not on the basis of gender," Bello said.

The labor chief said the law is a milestone legislation that will enable women to be economically active by helping them manage a healthy work-life balance, which translates to higher productivity at work.

Bello said the EML will also address the issue of low participation rate of women in the labor force, now ranging between

45 to 50 percent, attributable to their multiple role at home.

"The law will boost the employment participation of women as they are given longer time to rest and attend to their maternal obligations during childbirth period. It also addresses health issues among women as they are given ample time to recuperate after giving birth before reporting back to work," he said.

The EML, signed into law by President Duterte last month, grants a 105-day or three months of paid maternity leave for female workers in both government and private sectors regardless of the civil status or the legitimacy of her child.

The labor department together with the Civil Service Commission and Social Security System are working on the law's implementing rules and regulation.

Female workers may already avail of the benefits provided for in the new law. (DOLE/Abegail De Vega)



SENIOR CITIZENS SUPPORT PGC'S KALINGA SA KALIKASAN

Age did not stop the senior citizens of Naic from taking part in saving the environment for future generations as they joined the Kalinga sa Kalikasan program initiated by the Provincial Government of Cavite held on March 13, 2019 at the municipal covered court. Governor Boying Remulla was represented by his brother, Governor Jonvic Remulla together with Vice Governor Jolo Revilla who delivered words of encouragement to maintain a clean and green environment and always practice proper waste management that will contribute to the prevention of global warming. They were also joined by 7th District Board Member Rainier Ambion, Alfonso Mayor Virgilio Varias and warmly welcomed by Municipal Mayor Junio Dualan, Vice Mayor Rogelio Pangilinan and councilors.

DILG...

MRF/MRS, LGUs' compliance of disposing their Residual Waste in an approved/accredited Sanitary Landfill, and their Waste Diversion based on Solid Waste Management Plan.

Other indicators include: Effectiveness of the Implementation of Segregation at the Household Level; Effectiveness of the Implementation on no-littering, no open burning, and no illegal dumping policies; Maintenance

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of Cleanliness in Major Thoroughfare and Waterways; Management of Transfer Station/Sanitary Landfill; Innovation in the Implementation of Solid Waste Management; and Creation of Barangay Ecological Solid Waste Management Committees.

In 2017, the MANILA BAYani Awardees for the National Category are Teresa, Rizal of Region IV-A for the Municipality, and Pasig City of National Capital Region for the city. (DILG/EPC/MAPA/PIA-ICC)

PH...

which will be highlighted by the simultaneous massive cleanup of some 65 esteros and waterways within the National Capital Region.

At the forefront of the cleanup are concerned barangay executives and their constituents linking up with officials and employees of the DENR, including those of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Tourism, who will be deployed for the cleanup.

The award-giving event will honor some 20 individuals, institutions, and programs that made strides in achieving water and environment sustainability in the Philippines. It is to take place at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Since 2015, a total of 54 "water champions" have been recognized which include leaders of indigenous peoples, community workers, media personalities, local government units and academe based organizations.

The following are the awards to be given out this year: KAVANTOG DO'T AWED (OvuManubo term

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for "Hero of the Water"); KaagapaysaTubigKanlungan; Kampeon ng Lawa; HuwaringLingkodTubig; Kampeon ng Katubigan; HuwaringLingkod; Planet-Wise Organization; Water Leadership Award; HuwaringAlagad ng Ilog Pasig; and Water Warrior Award for Advocacy Leadership and for Water Education.; and KaagapaysaTubigKanlungan.

Other activities lined up include launch of "Tubig Para saLahat", a coffee table book and an exhibit at the DILG Central Office (March 18-22); Water Philippines 2019 Expo and Conference at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay (March 20-22); DPWH Cleanup and Hiking Activity in Mount Pulag National Park in Benguet (March 23-24) and 20-kilometer bike tour and cleanup "Padyak Para saKatubigan" from the DENR Central office in Quezon City to the Navotas Centennial Park in Navotas City.

The 2019 WWD kicked-off with Water Fair and SiningIpoSungka Tournament held in Taytay, Rizal last March 15.

Meanwhile, other

PCLEDO...

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members of cooperative and shared insights on how a well-developed product could lead to a long-lasting business.

Consultation covers the discussion on Product Quality led by Mr. Alex M. Palomo of DOST-FNRI and Ms. Lyn F. Aggangan of DOST-CALABARZON; Packaging Material by Ms. Grace D. Noceja of DOST-ITDI and Ms. Ana Maria Veronica A. Solano of DLS-CSB; and Label Design by Mr. Jaime Zeus Agustin of DLSU-URO. During the

activities already conducted in various parts of the country in consonance with WWD include the following: DILG and NWRB information and education campaign dubbed "Nangangalaga ng Water Resources ng Bansa in Lipa, Batangas on March 18; "PistasaTubig: Water and Green Enterprises Fair in Gen. Nakar, Quezon last March 19; Mangrove Planting and Cleanup in Kawit, Cavite and Pututan, Muntinlupa, March 16 and 19; "DaloyDunong + BuhayKyut" in Ramos, Tarlac and Baliuag, Bulacan; ARTIVISM at the DENR Central Office; Forum on "The Philippines Water Sector: Gaps and Opportunities at Joy Nostal Hotel Manila in Pasig, March 20; and "National Water Summit at Novotel Manila Araneta Center Hotel in Quezon City, March 21. (DENR)

consultation, the participants learned from the experts several important points on product weaknesses, proper labelling design, appropriate packaging and recommendations for the development of products.

Meanwhile, seminar on Food Safety and Current Good Manufacturing Practices was tackled by Mr. Patrick Glenn C. Ilano, Assistant Professor II, Cavite State University-Indang and Member of the Regional Food Safety Team. The topic focused on sanitation, personal hygiene and proper procedure of

handling and processing of food products to avoid contamination. Mr. Andrew Delos Angeles, FDRO II talked about the Food and Drug Administration guidelines on Licensing Requirements elaborating the steps and procedures to acquire a license. This was followed by the discussion on food labelling, registration requirements and step by step procedure delivered by Ms. Givinia Tuason, FDRO II.

In closing, certificate of appreciation to the consultants and certificate of participation to the participants were awarded.

DOLE urges enterprises to give EML Law a chance

MANILA—Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III urged enterprises to give the Extended Maternity Leave (EML) Law a chance to effectively uphold the welfare of women workers and employees.

The labor chief allayed fears that the effectivity of the EML will discourage the hiring of women employees, and limit their participation in productive work.

"We do not see this perceived fear as having any effect on the employment of women. Companies and enterprises hire workers based on their competencies and skills, and not on the basis of gender," Bello, in a statement said.

The labor chief said the law is a milestone legislation that will enable women to be economically active by helping them manage a healthy work-life balance, which translates to higher productivity at work.

He said the EML will also address the issue of low participation

rate of women in the labor force, now ranging between 45 to 50 percent, attributable to their multiple role at home.

"The law will boost the employment participation of women as they are given longer time to rest and attend to their maternal obligations during childbirth period. It also addresses health issues among women as they are given ample time to recuperate after giving birth before reporting back to work," he said.

The EML, signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte last month, grants a 105-day or three months of paid maternity leave for female workers in both government and private sectors regardless of the civil status or the legitimacy of her child.

The labor department together with the Civil Service Commission and Social Security System are working on the law's implementing rules and regulation. (PIA InfoComm)

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EDITORIAL

The party of drug traffickers

If the Liberal Party (LP) wants to regain the trust of the public then as a first step it should disown two of its highest-ranking members implicated in the deadly drug trade that swept the country under Benigno Aquino III. The evidence is clear. One is backed by officers of the law whose testimonies have been vetted and scrutinized. The other, by a confession.

Against no other political party has the issue of illegal drugs and the sudden and steep ascension of deadly narco-politics been more intimately linked than with the LP, and in particular, with two of its self-proclaimed celebrity stalwarts.

Of the two, one is languishing in detention due to deliberate dilatory tactics to delay if not thwart eventual criminal accountability. The accusations brought against her span the spectrum from distasteful moral depravity and nauseating indecencies, to the trafficking of illegal narcotics whose monetary viabilities impact directly on ambitions, campaign funding and the perpetuation of her political party.

After all, one of the deadliest protocols of the illegal drug trade is how its tentacles slither and snake into the pockets of criminals and from there fund the campaigns of protectors, coddlers and political beneficiaries whose ambitions are nourished by broken lives.

Never mind that the accused might also be charged with engaging in illicit relationships.

Adultery, as sleazy as it is, is nothing compared to the heinous violence that comes with illegal narcotics.

The other LP stalwart is running to resurrect congressional immunities and privileges that shield and protect those facing possible criminal and administrative cases. Unlike charges brought against Leila de Lima, all of which she labels a "sham," the self-admission of Manuel Roxas to personal knowledge of specific drug trafficking and proliferation while derelict and doing nothing about it is a virtual confession.

Where illegal drugs are concerned dereliction is also a crime. Let's go into specifics. This goes beyond simple journalistic commentary. Statutes have been brazenly violated.

In 2016, Roxas bragged that he knew exactly where in two jurisdictions he could easily purchase illegal narcotics. As the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) he had direct supervision over local officials, including those on the "narco list." He also had direct authority over the police mandated to ferret out drug lords and suppliers.

The statutes are clear on what he deliberately failed to do.

Republic Act (RA) 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Article I, Section 3 defines a protector or coddler is any person who knowingly and willfully consents to unlawful acts. Section 5 specifies these as the "Sale, Trading, Administration, Dispensation, Delivery, Distribution and Transportation of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals."

On Roxas' declaration that he knows where but does nothing indicates that his illegal drug source was currently being maintained. Section 6 adds that "according to the Definitions found in Article I, Section 3, a den, dive or resort is a place where any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical is administered, delivered, stored for illegal purposes, distributed, sold or used in any form."

De Lima faces the same Section 5. Her second charge sheet accuses her "of tolerating the widespread drug trade" inside a maximum-security compound. The third includes a charge of extortion.

If proven, do these not establish both politicians as drug traffickers as well? Both are among the most visible in the LP. Their influence, the protection and coddling of criminals that their status and positions offer, is a cause for alarm when viewed against a public that holds political personages as models of behavior.

A crooked politician is one thing, but crooks whose criminality eats at the moral fiber of decent society, ravages families and fends the most gruesome and heinous drug-crazed crimes elevates our concern way beyond alarm.

More so when one, defiant of our system of justice and familiar with its shortcomings, takes liberties to delay the inevitable.

The other, fueled by wealth and a cabal of complicit conspirators whose agenda is the fall of duly constituted authority, crisscrosses the country inciting hatred, igniting intrigue and fomenting dissent if only to regain a political foothold thinking the Senate a criminal's safe-haven.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Bayan ng Makasalanan: Huwag po, Father!

NAALALA ko tuloy ang kuwento ng isang kaibigan, na itago natin sa pangalang Sarah. Minsan, may pinuntahan siyang forum sa isang unibersidad. May dumalo ritong isang propesora ng agham panlipunan – hindi ko sasabihin kung alin. Takang-taka at natatawa si Sarah dahil nagkalat ang lipstick ng propesora: lampas-lampas sa labi at mayroon pa raw sa ngipin sa itaas. Sa gitna ng forum, nagpunta sa comfort room ang propesora. Akala ni Sarah, aayusin nito ang itsura. Laking gulat niya noong pagbalik nito, lalong nagkalat sa mukha ang lipstick. "Ano kaya iyun, nanginginain ng lipstick?"

Para ngang nanginain ng lipstick ang mga obispo sa huling pagpupulong ng CBCP o Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines nitong Pebrero. Akala ng marami, aayusin nila ang nauna nilang malamyang tindig sa pampulitikang krisis sa bansa. Iyun pala, sa harap ng pag-igting ng nasabing krisis, lalo nilang papasagwain ang tindig nila. Kung hindi man masyadong pangkalahatan – sa puntong wala nang kongkretong kahulugan o walang kuwenta – madaling dalhin ang mga pahayag ng mga obispo sa interpretasyong sinusuportahan nila ang rehimen ni Gng. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sa bungad ng pahayag nilang "Seeking the Truth, Restoring Integrity," depensibo agad ang mga obispo: "Hindi kami lumalapat bilang mga pulitiko ang bokasyon ay ayusin ang lipunan para sa kagalingan ng lahat." Siyempre naman: Hindi naman talaga sila pulitiko. Pero hindi iyun ang punto. Hindi naman inasahan ni Sarah na paglabas ng propesora sa comfort room, maging beauty queen na ito. Pero may unawaan ang mga tao sa paggamit ng lipstick – at may unawaan sa ano dapat ang mga obispo. Hindi man sila pulitiko at hindi man sila dapat mamuno sa pag-aalsa, dapat tumindig sila sa tama.

Sabi pa nila, "Nag-aambag ang mensahe namin sa pagyabong ng isang demokrasyang hindi dapat itindig sa mga pormulang pampulitika lamang." Hindi ko ito maintindihan. Hindi ko ito maidugtong sa isang mayor na pampulitikang tesis para sabihin ng mga obispo sa bungad ng pahayag nila. Ang alam ko, ang madakdak ngayong tungkol sa "mga pormula" ay si Alex "Sammy Lagmay" Magno, na kesyo de-pormula ang People Power – na, siyempre, tinututulan niya. Pagtutol ba sa isang People Power ang sinasabi rito ng mga obispo? Possible. Pero puwedeng sabihing hindi – makikita natin sa baba.

Dapat daw, "determinado at walang humpay" ang paghahanap ng katotohanan. Dapat daw, "walang sagka" ang landas tungo sa katotohanan. Dahil dito, mariin nilang "kinokondena ang nagpapatuloy na kultura ng korupsiyon mula taas hanggang baba ng ating panlipunan at pampulitikang hirarkiya." Lahat naman, panahon pa ni Mahoma, sinasabi na iyan. Siguro, itinuturing ng

mga obispo na bahagi ng "Kristiyanismo" ang pagsasabi ng ganitong pangkalahatang pahayag. Alalahanin nga naman natin ang kasalanan natin sa harap ng kasalanan ng iba, ng pagkakadiin sa pamilyang Arroyo. Pero, sa pinakamainam, iresponsable ang pagsasabi ng ganito sa harap ng pampulitikang krisis. Bakit, nangotog ba tayo – tayong karaniwang mamamayan – ng bilyun-bilyon sa proyekto ng gobyerno na pababayaran natin sa karaniwang tao? Bakit kailangang biglang idamay sa pangangaral ang "baba" ng "hirarkiya" ng lipunan at pulitika sa panahong tododong nadiidiin ang pamilya ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo? Nag-utos ba tayo ng ekstrahudisyal na pamamaslang? Nandaya ba tayo sa mga halalan? Ganito na ba ang paglalapat sa buong lipunan ng "pagpukol ng unang bato"?

Sa ganitong diwa rin ako nababanas sa mahalagang pahayag na ito: "Sa pamamagitan ng internal na pagbabagong-loob patungo sa maturity ni Kristo sa pamamagitan ng komunal at mapagdasal na paghugas at aksiyon matutuklasan at mawawasak ang mga ugat ng korupsiyon. Naniniwala kaming papalaganapin ng gayong aksiyong komunal sa antas ngrassroots ang diwa ng People Power na buong husay na ipinakita sa mundo sa Edsa 1. Ito ang People Power with a difference. Mula sa mga grassroots sisibol ang kultura ng katotohanan at integridad na taimtim nating hinahanap at itinatayo."

Sa isang banda, puwede itong unawain na panawagan para magpalaganap ng kamalayan tungkol sa mga eskandalo ng rehimen. Pero susi sa akin ang "kultura". Hindi "kultura ng pagbabantay" ang sinasabi, kundi "kultura ng katotohanan at integridad". Naniniwala akong hindi kulang sa pagtataguyod sa katotohanan at integridad ang karaniwang tao, kahit sa harap ng mga kalagayang pumipigil sa kanilang makamit ang mga ito. Pero kahit ipagpalagay na nating bulok nga tayong karaniwang tao, ibig bang sabihin, sa atin nagmumula ang kabulukan ng rehimen? Tayo pa ang may kasalanan?

Ito, sa pinakamasahol, ang implikasyon ng pahayag ng CBCP. May tawag ang mga feminista diyan: "Blaming the victim". Tayo na nga ang kinukurakot, ang pagbabayaran sa kinurakot, ang dinadahas, ang dinadaya sa eleksiyon, tayo pa rin ang siyang makasalanan. Buti sana kung ang panawagan ay pagmamatyag sa rehimen ng Arroyo, pagpapalaganap ng kaalaman, sama-samang pagkilos. Aba'y hindi. Ang panawagan ng kagalang-galang na mga obispo, sa panahong bumubuhos na tayo sa lansangan para pagbitiw si Gng. Arroyo, ay ang magtika at magbuo ng bagong kultura – nating lahat.

Pinakamainam sa pahayag ang panawagan ibasura ang Executive Order 464 na humahadlang sa pagtestigo ng mga tauhan ni Gng. Arroyo sa mga pagdinig ng Senado at Kongreso. Gayundin ang panawagan pagyan ni Gng. Arroyo ang

kanyang mga tauhan na isiwat ang mga nalalaman sa katiwalian sa pamahalaan. Ito na kasi ang pinaka-kongkreto. Pero para namang hindi alam ng mga obispo na puwede pa ring mahadlang ng tusong rehimen ito ang katotohanan kahit mangyari ang lahat ng ito. Hindi ba't tumestigo na nga si Benjamin Abalos at ang mga tauhan ni Gng. Arroyo?

Sumusuporta rin sa "masamang pagbasa" ko ang panawagan nilang pamunuan ng "Presidente at lahat ng sangay ng pamahalaan" ang paglaban sa katiwalian. Hindi ba't iyan na nga ang ipinaghihiyawan ngayon ni Gng. Arroyo at ng kanyang mga tauhan? Parang si Gng. Arroyo rin ang nagsasalita sa panawagan nilang gamitin ng mga senador – at ng maka-Arroyong ombudsman! sila lang ang nagtitiwala sa ahensiyang ito! – ang "natatangi at magkakaibang kapangyarihan nilang mag-imbetiga... hindi para sa kanilang sariling interes, kundi para sa pakinabang ng lahat." Linya ni Gng. Arroyo ito!

Panawagan din nila sa midya ang kalokohang "maging positibong rekurso sa paghahanap ng katotohanan at paglaban sa korupsiyon sa pamamagitan ng obhetibong pag-uulat nang walang pinapanigan at pagkiling, di selective at walang kiling na pag-uulat ng mga datos." Panahon pa ni Mahoma, tinitibag na ng matatalinong mamamahayag ang ganitong pagtingin. Ang nakakabuwisit nga ngayon sa midya ay ang pagsisikap nitong maging "obhetibo". Narito sa isang banda ang malalaking pagkilos ng mga mamamayan. Pagkatapos, kukuhanan pa ng reaksiyong nanggagayo si G. Raul Gonzalez. Patas?

Alam nating may mga obispong tutol sa rehimen ito, kung hindi man tahasang nanawagan na ng pagbibitiw ni Gng. Arroyo. Dapat silang papurihan. Napakahirap siguro ng pakikitunggali nila sa kapulungang iyon para igit ang kanilang panawagan. Nakakarimarim isipin kung ano ang sinabi ng ibang obispo. Pinakamainam na siguro ang maghintay sa mas matindi pang ebidensiyang katiwalian at pagkatapos ay doon manawagan ng pagbibitiw ng pangulo. Pero mas grabe siguro ang tindig at sinabi ng nakararami, dahil parang si Ignacio Bunye o si Mike Defensor ang nagsulat ng pahayag.

Maganda ang sinabi ni Prop. Luis V. Teodoro hinggil sa isyu. Aniya, "bumigay" ang CBCP "sa pang-akit ng kapangyarihan at suhol." Sabi pa niya, "Ang mga taong alam na nakikinaabang ang ilang obispo sa biyaya ng gobyerno gaya ng pondo ng Pagcor – para sa pakinabang ng kanilang mananampalataya, siyempre – ay mapapatawad kung ipagpapalagay nilang ang agnostisismo moral na ipinakita ng CBCP ay para protektahan ang gayong materyal na mga interes, at iba pa." Naghahanap tayo ng liwanag sa panahong ito. Ang nakuha natin ay kalituhan, kung hindi man pagpangni sa demonyo. **03 Marso 2008**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

Foreclosure Case NO. F-055-19

BANGKO MABUHAY
(A RURAL BANK), INC.,
Mortgagee,

-Versus -

ARCHANGEL C. CEPILLO
Married to TERESITA M. CEPILLO,
Mortgagor/s.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by Mortgagee, BANGKO MABUHAY (A RURAL BANK), INC. with principal office address at A. Soriano Highway, Daang Amaya III, Tanza, Cavite against the Mortgagor/s, ARCHANGEL C. CEPILLO Married to TERESITA M. CEPILLO, with residence and postal address at 195 Brgy. Paradahan I, Tanza, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of January 29, 2019 amounts to EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY THREE THOUSAND SIXTY FIVE and 67/100 (P823,065.67) Philippine Currency, including/excluding interest, penalties attorney's fee, miscellaneous fees and all legal fees as specified and provided for in the promissory note, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on May 14, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property/ies with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-497396
(TAX DECLARATION NO. 19-0033-01359)

A parcel of land (Lot 3311-F of the subd. Plan Psd-04-051063, being a portion of Lot 3311, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in Brgy. Paradahan, Mun. of Tanza, Cavite. Bounded on the N., along line 1-2 by Lot 3311-] (Road 6.00m wide); on the E., along line 2-3 by Lot 3311-G, both of the subd. Plan; on the S., along line 3-4 by Lot 3310, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate; on the W., along line 4-1 by Lot 3311-E of the subd. Plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan. x x x containing an area of ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT (1,198) SQ. METERS x x x

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said time and date, it shall be held on May 21, 2019 without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property/ies and encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Trece Martires City, March 19, 2019

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES, JR.
Counsel for Bangko Mabuhay (A Rural Bank) ,Inc.
A.Soriano Highway, Daang Amaya III, Tanza, Cavite

SPS. ARCHANGEL & TERESITA CEPILLO
Brgy. Paradahan I, Tanza, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

Ang Caviteño
March 25, April 1 & 8, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 89
CITY OF BACOR

LRC-8843-2018-139
For: Issuance of
Owner's Duplicate
Copy of Title

ALEXANDER S. MANCE represented by
SIDNEY TY, his Attorney-In-Fact,
Petitioner,

-Versus-

Register of Deeds of Trece
Martires City,
Respondent,

x-----x

ORDER

This is a petition instituted by Alexander S. Mance represented by Sidney Ty, his Attorney-In-Fact for issuance of owner's duplicate copy of title.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the petition is set for hearing on 30 April 2019 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning. All those interested are cited to appear and show cause why it should not be granted.

Let this order be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of General circulation in the Province of Cavite.

The Sheriff of this court is ordered to post copies of this Order in three conspicuous places in Bacoor City, Cavite where the subject property is situated.

Furnish copies of this Order and petition the Registry of Deeds of the province of Cavite.

SO ORDERED

City of Bacoor, 27 November 2018

EDUARDO ISRAEL TANGANCO
Executive Judge

Ang Caviteño
March 25, April 1 & 8, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

Foreclosure Case NO. F-278-18

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND ,
Mortgagee,

-Versus -

EMILY N. JAVIER,
Mortgagor.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, with business address at 14TH Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center, No.409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the mortgagor/s, EMILY N. JAVIER, with residence and postal address at #1119 A. Fruto Santos Avenue, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 13, 2018 amounts to TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT PESOS AND 12/100 (P282,138.12), Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges as of said date but excluding foreclosure expenses and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on JUNE 4, 2019 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property/ies with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-72066

A parcel of land (Lot 35, Blk. 33 Of the cons. Subd. Plan, Pcs-04-011578, being a portion of the cons. Of lots 3521, 3524, 3526 & 3528, all of Fls-1839, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in the Brgy. Of Inocencio, Trece Martires City, Is. Of Luzon. Bounded on the W., along line 1-2 by Lot 33, Blk. 33; on the N., along line 2-3 by Rd. Lot 27 (6.50 m. w.); on the E., along line 3-4 by Lot 37; & on the S., along line 4-1 by Lot 36, both of Blk. 33, all of the cons. Subd. Plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan. x x x containing an area of FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS x x x

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on JUNE 11, 2019 without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property/ies and encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Trece Martires March 4, 2019

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

COPY FURNISHED:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
14th Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

EMILY N. JAVIER
#1119 A. Fruto Santos Avenue, Pulang Lupa,
Las Piñas City, Metro Manila

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

Ang Caviteño
March 11, 18 & 25, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

Foreclosure Case NO. F-277-18

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND ,
Mortgagee,

-Versus -

MICHELLE SAPAD LALAGUNA,
Mortgagor/s.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, with business address at 14TH Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center, No.409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the mortgagor/s, MICHELLE SAPAD LALAGUNA, with residence and postal address at #68 Gen. M. Malvar St., Bagumbayan, Quezon City, Metro Manila to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 13, 2018 amounts to SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE PESOS AND 08/100 (P771,973.08) Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges as of said date but excluding foreclosure expenses and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on JUNE 4, 2019 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property/ies with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-1342282

A parcel of land (Lot 14, Blk. 4 Of the Subd. Plan, Pcs-04-179397), being a portion of lot 66-R-1, Psd-04-176006, (LRC) Rec. No. 5964), situated in the Brgy. Of Mangahan, Mun. of Gen. Trias, Prov. Of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 13 Blk. 4; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 12, Blk. 4; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Rd. 4 (6m. wide), and on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 16 Blk. 4, all of the subd. Plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan. x x x containing an area of FORTY FIVE (45) SQUARE METERS x x x

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on JUNE 11, 2019 without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property/ies and encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Trece Martires March 4, 2019

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

COPY FURNISHED:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
14th Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

MICHELLE SAPAD LALAGUNA
#68 Gen. M. Malvar St., Bagumbayan,
Quezon City, Metro Manila

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of

Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

Ang Caviteño
March 11, 18 & 25, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ADELA RAMOS SALVA, who died on December 14, 2018 at Block 39, Lot 9, Brgy., San Miguel II, Dasmariñas, Cavite leaving a parcel of land situated at Block 31, Lot 7, Area A-3, Brgy., San Miguel I, Dasmariñas, Cavite, with 100 square meters has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 159; Page No. 32; Book No. 03; Series of 2019, Notary Public ATTY. CRISANTO U. PASCUAL JR.

Ang Caviteño
March 18, 25 & April 1, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF CAVITE
CITY OF DASMARIÑAS

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

I, Ernesto M. Bautista, of legal age, married, Filipino citizen and residing at Blk. 49 Lot 12, Brgy. San Miguel 2. City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, after having been duly sworn according to law depose and state:

1. That I am the Branch Manager of Pagasa Philippines Lending Company Inc.;
2. That unfortunately, on December 11, 2018, the Certificate of Registration issued by B.I.R. was lost/misplaced and/ or missing;
3. That I exerted earnest efforts to recover the aforesaid COR but all my efforts proved to be in vain;
4. That I am executing this Affidavit to attest to the truth of the foregoing statements and for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this January 28, 2019 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Ernesto M. Bautista
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this January 28, 2019 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite showing to me his Employee ID with No. 2315.

Atty. REINA M. VILLA
Notary public

Doc. No. 318
Page. No. 64
Book No. 314
Series of 2019

Ang Caviteño
March 11, 18 & 25, 2019

NAPOLCOM launches Search for 2019 PNP Model Families

QUEZON CITY—The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) has launched the 2019 Search for Model Philippine National Police (PNP) Families.

Interior and Local Government Secretary and NAPOLCOM Chair Eduardo M. Año said the search aims to strengthen and encourage partnership between the community and the police by highlighting the PNP's capability as a leader and partner of the community in the maintenance of peace, order and security for an improved socio-economic system.

NAPOLCOM Vice-Chair and Executive Officer Atty. Rogelio T. Casurao said the nationwide search is intended to help the PNP uniformed personnel induce positive change in the community by serving as role models.

"Moreover, it aims to highlight the image of the police as a family person and emphasize the importance of having strong family ties that is consequential to the overall success of preventing crime in the communities," Casurao added.

The search is open to all uniformed members of the PNP with legitimate or legally adopted child/children, legally married and living together with their spouse for at least five (5) years, and has been in the police service for at least five (5) years at the time of the search.

Almario, naglunsad ng bagong aklat

By Lucia F. Broño

LUNGSOD QUEZON - - Inilunsad ni G. Virgilio S. Almario, Pambansang Alagad ng Sining at Tagapangulo ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) noong Sabado, Marso 16, ang kanyang panibagong aklat na may titulong "Bakit Kailangan natin si Pedro Bucaneg?"

Kasabay sa paglulunsad ang ika-75 taon kaarawan ni Almario, kung saan sinabi nito na handog niya ang aklat sa mamayang Filipino upang muling pukawin ang pagmamahal sa Inang Bayan sa pamamagitan ng paglingon sa nakaraan.

"Hanggang ngayon, napakahalaga pa rin ng "paglingon"- -ang paggunita sa lumipas, ang pagbabalik sa kasaysayan- -upang higit na matukoy ang isang magandang hinaharap," mensahe ni Almario na matatagpuan sa paunang salita ng aklat.

Binigyang diin ni Almario na kailangan ng wastong paglingon at pagsisiyasat para sa kalusugan ng pambansang gunita na makapag-aambag sa pagbigkis ng higit na matibay at progresibong Filipinas.

Ipinaliwanag ni Almario na si Bucaneg ang sinasabing orihinal na may akda ng epikong Ilokanong, Biag ni Lam-ang. Subalit, dahil bulag si Bucaneg mula pagkabata, may mga pagdududa kung siya nga ang sumulat at kung sakaling idinikta lamang niya ito, kanino at bakit.

Kailangan si Bucaneg dahil maaring sa wastong pagsisiyasat ng kaniyang mga ginawa, ating matutunton ang iba pang yamang pangkalinangan tulad ng epikong Lam-ang; ang kuwento ng ating bayan; ang iba't ibang

dayalekto, ang ating katutubong alpabeto at iba pang aspeto ng ating kultura na naibaon sa paglipas ng panahon at sa pagsasalinsalin sa iba't ibang mga kamay.

Sa panulat ni Almario sinabi niyang mahalaga si Bukaneg upang mabigyang linaw ang katutubong simula ng ating epikong-bayan at kulturang bayan sa kabuoan.

Siya'y isang simbolikong mohon ng ating dinakasulat na lumipas, ng sari-sari't sinaunang malikhaing gawain ng ating mga ninuno bago ang panahon ng pananakop.

Ang aklat ay nagtataglay ng siyam na artikulong nagbibigay ng napakataas na pagpapahalaga sa metodiko, masinop, malawakang pananaliksik.

Samantala, ang paglulunsad ng libro ay nagsilbi ring pagtitipon ng mga alagad ng sining na pinangungunahan ng apat na mga Pambansang Alagad ng Sining na sina: Ginoong Bienvenido Lumbera, Ramon P. Santos, F. Sionil Jose at Ryan Cayabyab.

Ang palatuntunan para sa paglulunsad ay naging tanghalan ng kalinangang palabas. Nagtanghal ng sayaw ang UP Dance Company at umawit si Lara Maigue.

Kabilang din sa pagtatanghal ang pagbigkas ng mga gawa ni Almario na ginampanan nina Vim Nadera Jr., Juan Miguera Severo at ng sikat na rapper na si Negatibo.

Nagpakitang gilás naman sa balagtasang mga taga KWF sa pangunguna ng mga makatang sina RR Cagalingan, Karl Santos at Dax Gutab.

Nagkaroon din ng eksibisyon ng mga gawain at lathalain ni Almario sa loob ng limampu't tatlong taon, bilang bahagi ng paglulunsad na nagtapos sa pag awit ng kundiman ng isang koro. (PIA InfoComm)

BARMM is for everyone: Galvez told Bangsamoro communities in Metro Manila

QUEZON CITY – The beauty of the newly-established Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) lies in its principle of inclusiveness and goal of serving the best interests of the Moro people regardless of where they are residing in the country.

This was emphasized by Presidential Adviser on Peace, Unity and Reconciliation Carlito Galvez Jr. during the 4th National Peace Forum held at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Quezon City on Wednesday.

"Napakaganda po ng provisions ng Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It is not only for those residing in the five core territories, but for all Moros residing anywhere in the country," Galvez said in his keynote address.

"BARMM is a concrete indication that we can work together, regardless of tribe or religion, and achieve results. This is the power of convergence. Despite our differences, we are bound by our common vision for our people and peoples' welfare," he added.

According to the peace adviser, one of the most effective ways of addressing the rise of radical extremism and the prevailing culture of violence in the country is to educate the people, particularly the youth, women, orphans and the vulnerable sectors on these issues.

He also underscored the need for all stakeholders to come together and work hand in hand to ensure the

success of the new political entity which replaced the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"While opportunities abound in the Bangsamoro, these will not materialize without the contribution of everyone. There is a lot we can do from our end regardless of our stature in life. All of us can make a difference," he said.

Galvez called on everyone to "contribute their time, knowledge and skills in this concerted undertaking".

"We must seize this opportunity to help our Moro brothers and sisters achieve their longtime dream and aspirations," he said.

Around 300 participants composed of ulamas, interfaith representatives, women, youth, and representatives of Rotary Club Districts attended the event.

They were led by Rotary Club officials to include Liza Elorde, Yussuf Candidato Macalangcom, and PSUPT Ibra Moxir.

The forum aimed to, among others, promote sustainable peace initiatives not only in the country but throughout the world by creating local and international partnerships among peace stakeholders.

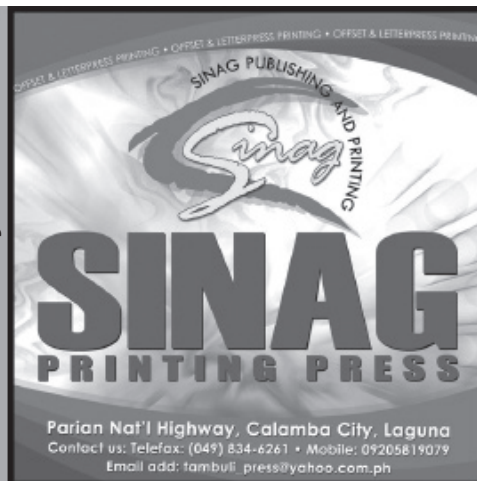
The event was organized by the Rotary Club of Manila, in partnership with the Imam Council of the Philippines and Salam Advocates of the Philippines Foundation. (PIA InfoComm)



NAPOLCOM Vice-Chair and Executive Officer Atty. Rogelio T. Casurao (FILE PHOTO)

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DOH calls for Emergency Command Conference for Rizal Province to resolve Measles Crisis

Secretary of Health Francisco T. Duque through DOH -CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo on Monday convened the local governments of Rizal Province for an "Emergency Command Conference on Measles" in order to have a sustainable plan and collected effort in the elimination of cases and to resolve the measles crisis in the province.

"Ngayon at nanunumbalik ng unti-unti ang tiwala ng publiko sa ating mga health centers, na dulot na rin ng kanilang takot na magkaroon ng komplikasyon ang kanilang mga anak sa tigdas, let us seize this opportunity and communicate to our people, to our parents, to the mothers in particular, on the extreme urgency of having

their children brought for immunization in their respective health centers," Secretary Duque said in his message during the command conference on measles held at the Sulo Riviera Hotel in Quezon City on March 18, 2019.

"We need to have a successful immunization plan dahil ito lamang ang pinakamabisang paraan sa mga nakamamatay na mga vaccine preventable diseases. And it is only through this strategy I believe strongly that we can muster everyone's capacity to respond with a sense of urgency to reverse this dire situation that is confronting the entire Philippine health system. And it's going to be worse if we don't do this. Kailangan nating magkaisa, magsama sama at intindihin natin kung ano po ang
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DOH-CALABARZON Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo shows the maps of municipalities with high number of measles cases in Rizal Province during the Emergency Command Conference on Measles held at the Sulo Riviera Hotel, Quezon City on March 18, 2019. (DOH4A)

Former DILG Usec to DAP-PMDP graduates: Respond to younger generation's needs

PASIG CITY -- Former Department of the Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Austere Panadero recently dared 53 graduates of the Development Academy of the Philippines-Public Management and Development Program's Middle Managers Class Batch 17 and Senior Executives Class Batch 7 to respond to the needs of today's tech-savvy Filipino while working together as civil servants functioning in an era of complex change.

Speaking at the 16th graduation ceremony of the DAP-PMDP last March 1 at the DAP Conference Center in Tagaytay City, Panadero shared his insights as a public service veteran with a career spanning more than 30 years in the government. He picked up from the evolving nature of the public sector as an encouragement to the graduates to adapt to the changing times, comparing the past governance model he grew in as "interactionist, local, and territorial" versus today's need of the government to hinge its services on the "vulnerable, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous" circumstances faced

by the Filipino public.

Technological advancements Panadero noted the rising public disputes brought by technological advancements such as transportation-hailing applications, homestay-booking platforms, and online marketplaces, among others, and he noted how these defy "the hospitality industry and our own notions of proper zoning, movements of people, and the dynamics of public safety."

With these emerging issues, Panadero asked the PMDP graduates, "How will you design institutions that will respond to the needs and aspirations of the tech-savvy, highly mobile, and cosmopolitan Filipino? And how will you work together as civil servants and career officials under complex, persistent and relentless change?"

"At your age, I was then helping steer institutional reforms, fostering revolutions of the mind. With peers within and outside government, we wanted to disrupt the status quo and unlock the full potentials for governance and development," Panadero related.

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Construction begins to extend SLEX all the way to Lucena City, Quezon Province

MANILA -- Traveling to and from Manila to Batangas, Quezon and Bicol is expected to reduce by as much as three (3) hours with the now ongoing P13.1 Billion South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Toll Road 4 (TR4), Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar said.

Villar and San Miguel Corporation President Ramon Ang on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, led the groundbreaking ceremony of

the toll road project which covers the 66.74-kilometer extension of SLEX from Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Lucena City, Quezon Province. The project had at least seven groundbreaking ceremony spanning two administrations. This is the first time that civil construction will immediately commence after the groundbreaking.

"During rush hour, motorists have to endure a long 4-hour drive due to the lengthy

and busy Daang Maharlika between Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Lucena City, Quezon. This will only take an hour once TR4 is completed," said Secretary Villar.

According to Secretary Villar, TR4 will significantly benefit motorists going in and out of southern provinces especially during summer and holiday season.

"In 36 months, I am confident we will be back

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Photo courtesy of PIA