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MMDA urges film producers to submit "quality, innovative" entries for 45th MMFF
p.5

What's Inside?

- DepEd to broadcast networks: Observe Child-Friendly Content Standards...p 2
- Imus City inaugurates new, bigger jail facility .. p 3
- Kapirasong kritika p 4

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Lakbay Aral participants visit Pantawid beneficiaries in Cavite



Lakbay Aral photo courtesy of Cavite.gov.ph

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE – Several representative employees from the different offices of the Provincial Government of Cavite, DepEd, DSWD IV-A and the LGUs of Magallanes and Alfonso recently participated in the Lakbay Aral tour of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office-IV A.

The said activity was initiated by the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) thru the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office that sought to inform and provide learnings on the implementation of the anti-poverty programs of DSWD.

The group visited several Pantawid program beneficiaries in the municipality

of Magallanes namely: Kabulusan Community store with 24 members; San Sebastian Hog-Raising Project also with 24 members; Baliwag Community Store with 25 members; Pacheco Water Refilling Station with 65 members and Bigasan sa Pacheco with 24 members while Angat Kababaihan ng Alfonso in Brgy. Taywanak Ilaya in the municipality of Alfonso with 46 members was also visited.

The above mentioned business enterprises are Pantawid beneficiaries under the Sustainable Livelihood Program, a community-based capacity building program that seeks to improve the program participants' socio-economic status particularly

continue to page 3

Dialysis Center ng Taguig City, bukas na

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

LUNGSOD TAGUIG -- Magandang balita para sa mga taga Lungsod Taguig! Binuksan na ang Taguig City Dialysis Center kamakailan na matatagpuan sa 3/F ng Center for the Elderly sa Ipil-Ipil St., Brgy. North Signal.

Pinasinayaan ni Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano ang pagbubukas ng dialysis center noong nakaraang Abril 30, 2019.

Ang naturang dialysis center ay bukas Lunes hanggang Sabado, mula 6:00AM hanggang 10:00PM.

Libre ang dialysis process sa bawat pasyente gayundin ang dialyzer at erythropoietin. May libre ding laboratory services din ang mga pasyenteng mangangailangan.

Para sa screening process, maaaring magpunta sa center tuwing Lunes, Martes at Miyerkules, mula 8:00 AM hanggang 12:00 ng tanghali at dalhin lamang ang mga

continue to page 3

BI, partner agencies to tighten rules on foreign work permit

MANILA -- Following concerns in the rising number of foreign nationals working in the Philippines, the Bureau of Immigrations (BI), along with Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) signed the joint guidelines on the issuance of work and employment permits to foreign workers.

According to Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente, they have observed a rise in the number of foreign nationals in the previous years due to emerging industries such as the online gaming industry.

Morente said the previous regulation in the issuance of special work permits (SWP) did not have any restrictions, apart from the duration

"The old system was prone to abuse, hence, we saw the need to tighten our regulations to ensure that jobs that can be done by Filipinos will not be given to foreigners," he stated.

An SWP allows a foreign national with a tourist status to render service for a maximum period of 6 months, and does not bind a foreigner in an employer-employee arrangement. In contrast, a 9(g) visa is a working visa for aliens employed in the

country, with contracts usually lasting for 1 to 3 years.

"A permit would allow a foreigner extended business activities here up to 6 months—say for example transfer technologies or perform in concerts or shows in the Philippines, while a visa binds a foreigner as an employee by a company in the country," Morente clarified.

continue to page 3

PCLEDO'S BIZ iCREATE PROGRAM DEVELOPS ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

CAVITE Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO) continues to educate and equip aspiring entrepreneurs with proper knowledge as it facilitated Session 3 of BIZ iCREATE – Cavite's Responsible Entrepreneurs Aiming Toward Economic Sustainability program on April 30, 2019 at PCLEDO Training Area, CaCoDeC in Trece Martires City. DLSU-Dasmariñas Graduate School of Business Professor, Dr. Aldrin Antivola continued the discussion

on Entrepreneurial Skills Development (Part 2) to twenty entrepreneur partakers. The topic dealt with operational, human resource, financial and cash flow management, communication skills, and legal aspect which can provide a significant impact on the growth and success of managing a business. He also stressed out the relevance of satisfying the needs and wants of the target market. Last two sessions which will cover the topic of Strategic Business Plan and Business Plan Preparation are scheduled on May 2 and 28, 2019, respectively.





Attendees during the launch of NCCT's Child-Friendly Content Standards include: Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya; the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Assistant Secretaries Marijoy Segui and Rhea Peñaflor; NCCT Chairperson for Child Development Specialists Sector Luis Gatmaitan, M.D.; council member for academe sector Alice Pañares; council member for broadcast media sector Ramon Osorio, APR, CPR; council member for parents sector Ma. Lourdes Carandang, PhD; and council member for the child-focused non-government organizations sector Yasmin Mapua-Tang. Representatives from National Telecommunications Commission, Council for the Welfare of Children, Kapisanan ng mga Brodcaster ng Pilipinas, ABS-CBN, GMA Network, UNTV, PTV 4, Catholic Mass Media Awards, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine Press Institute, and students and teachers from the Schools Division of Quezon City, Caloocan City, and San Juan City. (Photo courtesy of DepEd)

DSWD...

from page 8

land-based emergency radio system, a set of UHF repeater, and a set of High Frequency (HF) transceiver.

The second batch, consisting of six units of wing vans, will be delivered to DSWD within this month.

"Rest assured that the vehicles and the equipment will be immediately distributed to our regional offices which need them the most, so that the delivery of relief services will no longer be hampered by the lack of transportation," Bautista said. "Furthermore, the communication equipment we now have in our

possession will contribute to widening our reach in terms of sending messages for help and assistance, especially in hard-to-reach communities," Bautista added.

The project is part of the Five Hundred Million Japanese Yen grant extended by Japan to the Philippines in 2015 for the purchase of equipment for disaster risk management, disaster response, and disaster restoration.

The DSWD identified the purchase of wing vans and communication equipment to be funded by the grant due

to the logistical limitation of DSWD Field Offices to deliver relief goods to disaster-affected population in times of calamities.

The Agency submitted its proposal for the purchase of the vehicles and equipment to Japan's International Cooperation System (JICS), the entity commissioned by the Government of Japan to conduct the procurement of the vehicles and equipment.

The wing vans and communication equipment will be released to DSWD Field Offices and Disaster Response Centers nationwide to aid them in their disaster response and relief operations. (PIA InfoComm/ DSWD)

incorporated into the national plan submitted to and approved by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on April 15, 2019.

Earlier, Duterte wrote in a message to YFP-BB, "I recognize this noble undertaking of Yes for Peace-Bayanihan ng Bayan because it promotes a newfound culture of harmony and cooperation among our communities and across our regions. I am also glad that many government agencies and partners are participating in this project... "Together, let us show our solidarity in effecting real and lasting change in our society."

The President subsequently issued Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018, which institutionalized the "whole-of-nation approach" as a government policy for the attainment of inclusive and sustainable peace.

Drawing from EO No. 70, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., Vice-Chairman of the NTF-ELCAC said, "the government shall heretofore prioritize and harmonize the delivery of basic services and social development packages in conflict-affected areas and vulnerable communities, facilitate societal inclusivity, and ensure active participation of all sectors of society in pursuit of the country's peace agenda." (PIA)

DepEd to broadcast networks: Observe Child-Friendly Content Standards

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY--The Department of Education (DepEd) expressed hope that every broadcast network in the country would observe the Child-friendly Content Standards (CFCS) recently launched by the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT).

In a statement, DepEd Undersecretary for Administration Alain Del Pascua said the set of standards allows government agencies and other stakeholders that are involved in shaping the future generations of Filipinos to be in-step with the quick-paced information revolution by keeping Filipino values intact, and ensuring that children gain proper knowledge and are not led astray by negative content

"DepEd and other stakeholders will work together to better prepare Filipino learners to face various societal issues in the fast-changing modern world," Del Pascua said.

"We hope that every broadcast network in the country will religiously bear in mind the required 15% allotment to children's programs and child-friendly programs," Del Pascua added.

Pursuant to Section 9 of Republic Act (RA) No. 8370 or the Children's Television Act, NCCT shall formulate and promote CFCS which requires broadcast television networks to allocate a minimum of 15% of their daily total airtime to children's programs and/or child-friendly programs to be shown during child-viewing hours.

Based on the CFCS, children's television programs

shall be: educational or must promote, protect, and develop the child's physical, emotional, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; value-laden or must foster and nurture the positive value formation and overall development of a child; and age-appropriate or must be suitable according to the formative and developmental stages of a child.

Television programs not specifically designed for viewing by children shall be considered child-friendly only if they meet the set criteria on the theme, values, dialogue, language, nutrition, sex and nudity, violence, substance use, gambling, and advertisements.

NCCT also considers hours between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and/or between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to be appropriate for children to watch television, taking into consideration other activities necessary for their balanced development.

Broadcast networks are given sufficient time to comply with the minimum 15% allotment of the daily total airtime to children's programs and/or child-friendly programs.

From the date of effectivity until December 31, 2019, the compliance to the minimum 15% shall be on a voluntary basis.

But in 2020, every broadcast network shall have at least five % compliance, while at least 10% minimum allotment should be attained in 2021.

By 2022, the required 15% of the total everyday airtime for children's programs and/or child-friendly programs shall be complied. (PIA InfoComm/ DepEd)

Peace...

from page 8

of teachers' salaries, wages and benefits, as well as non-teaching personnel of DepEd and other government agencies will continue to be wasted if they do not put an end to what they are now doing to keep them from being irrelevant and no longer needed to pursue the interests of the Filipino people."

Brasette Espiritu, a former regional officer of Alpha Phi Omega and a peace advocate questioned the flagrant act and said it was also the CPP-NPA's way of taunting government security forces in order to intensify offensive military operations.

"Do the NPAs and their legal front organizations really believe that the government can reduce military expenditures and channel savings to economic development and social services if the communists themselves will not STOP killing people, including former comrades, to instill fear among the people?" he said.

Meanwhile, Don Nicart, a former student activist who romanticized the national democratic movement in the Philippines during his youth said, "They (rebels) are simply repeating what they did to Conrado Balweg and leaders of the Cordillera People's

Liberation Army (CPLA) who entered into an agreement with the government. They feared that Balweg's decision would create a bandwagon and weaken their so-called armed revolution."

Yes for Peace-Bayanihan ng Bayan is a non-government initiated peace education, advocacy and mobilization movement born in the University of the Philippines in 1988, and eventually supported by government institutions.

Among others, it seeks to assert the Filipino people's human right to peace and the full play of democracy; the conduct of open, transparent and inclusive peace talks, at the national or local levels or both, here in the Philippines; and the pro-active and collective participation of the people in the identification, planning and effective and efficient implementation of development projects and livelihood programs. The Sectoral Unification, Capability Building, Empowerment and Mobilization Cluster of the National Task Force to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) recommended the adoption, refinement, and the facilitation of the implementation of Yes For Peace as a whole-of-nation undertaking. The cluster recommendation was

PACC...

from page 8

Comelec Commissioner Al Parreño confirmed there are 10 pending cases of vote-buying before the Comelec based on the records of its legal department.

Parreño said the poll body will pursue the investigation and filing of criminal charges against those involved in vote buying.

"So even if they win in the elections, they can still be disqualified from holding public office," he said.

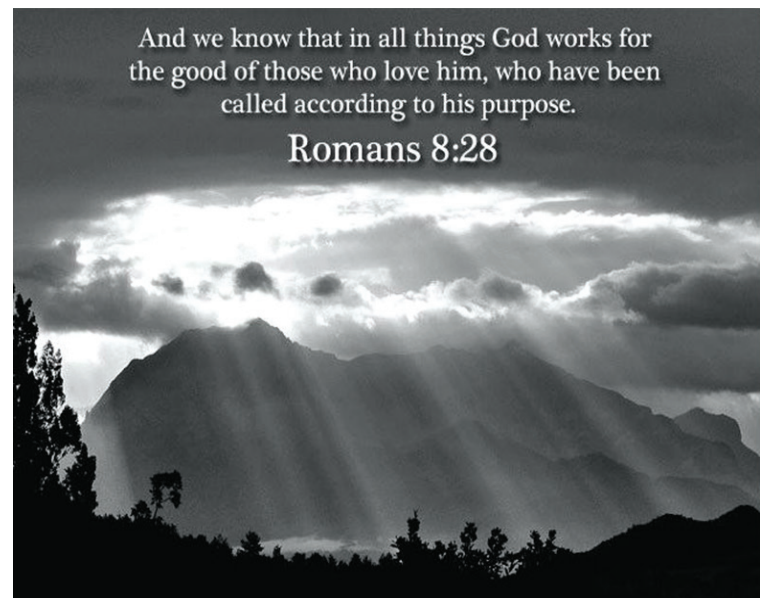
Under the law, any person found guilty of committing election offense, including vote buying, shall be perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

Aside from facing imprisonment, those convicted of vote buying also lose their right to vote.

The Comelec official said those found selling their votes would also be charged. (PIA InfoComm)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



Imus City inaugurates new, bigger jail facility

MANILA--The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) conducted another massive river clean-up operation in different areas along the Pasig River in the City of Manila last weekend, April 27-28, 2019.

Around 15,000 kgs of garbage were collected in just half a day during the clean up at Lawton and Parola, Manila.

There were 60 PRRC personnel composed of its River Warriors, River Patrols, River Watch, and other employees deployed to help during the manual clean-up with limited cleaning implements and two trashboats.

According to PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia, the large volume of waste coming from Manila Bay originated from the cities, municipalities, and provinces surrounding the bay.

“During high tide, seawater with garbage come into the Pasig River. This is a natural phenomenon most especially observed during summer due to the changing weather conditions,” Goitia said.

The clean up, according to the PRRC head, will continue in the coming days until the volume of garbage entering the river are significantly reduced.

Goitia appeals to the public to be more responsible in disposing their wastes, and help maintain the cleanliness of the Pasig River and also Manila Bay.

The Manila Bay is the primary priority of the comprehensive rehabilitation program by the agencies comprising the Manila Bay Task Force being led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (PIA InfoComm/PRRC)



PCLEDO BIZ iCREATE PROGRAM IN ITS 4th SESSION

Twenty aspiring entrepreneurs who are eager to learn essential tips in managing a business attended the session 4 of BIZ iCREATE-Cavite's Responsible Entrepreneurs Aiming Toward Economic Sustainability program on May 02, 2019 at PCLEDO Training Area, CaCoDeC in Trece Martires City. After a thorough discussion on Entrepreneurial Mindset and Entrepreneurial Skills Development with Dr. Aldrin Antivola, Professor in DLSU-Dasmariñas Graduate School of Business, participants were divided into four groups to prepare their own strategized business plan outline based on what they have learned throughout the training. Each group was partnered with business coaches to guide them towards improving their business plan. Coaches were Greziel M. Baylosis, Marketing Manager of RGER SERVICES; Zandro M. Catacutan, Faculty Researcher of Cavite State University- Main Campus; Allan G. Reclusado, Manager/Owner of Aqua Four A Purified/Alkaline Water Station; and Ashley C. Espino, BSBA Marketing Management graduate of Polytechnic University of the Philippines- San Pedro Laguna Campus. The said business plans will be presented on May 28, 2019.

Lakbay...

thru the Microenterprise Development Track that supports micro-enterprises in

from page 1

becoming organizationally and economically viable. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite/with reports from PICAD)

Energy Task Force Election ensures adequate energy supply on May 13

QUEZON CITY -- The Energy Task Force Election (ETFE) met with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) on Thursday (May 2) to ensure continuous and adequate energy supply during the National and Local Elections on 13 May 2019,

DOE Undersecretary and EFTE Chairperson Alexander S. Lopez and Director Teopisto E. Elnas, Jr., chief, Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Comelec led the discussion to ensure that preparations are in place and ready seven days prior to elections.

Lopez underscored the importance of communication and coordination before, during and after elections and to ensure that all contingency plans are in place specifically on energy facilities and other critical assets.

He also pointed out the importance of close coordination with the security group composed of National Security Council, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Elnas stressed that the efforts of the energy sector with the help of the security group will help the conduct of peaceful, orderly, honest and credible elections.

During the final meeting of the ETFE, member agencies that include National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Power Corporation (NPC), National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC). Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines Inc. (IEMOP), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) and Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), presented their final preparations and contingencies to critical areas during the meeting.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Cusi assured the public that the energy sector will be working 24/7 to help ensure a successful National and Local Elections.

“Our main goal is to ensure that there will be adequate and uninterrupted supply of energy during the election period,” Cusi said.

“Filipino voters deserve clean and unquestionable elections with the stable provision of energy during the voting until the full transmission of results,” Cusi added. (PIA InfoComm/DOE)

Dialysis...

sumusunod: Medical abstract o history; Pinakahuling hepatitis profile - HBsAg, Anti HCV, AntiHBs (nakuha sa nakaraang tatlong buwan); Pinakahuling complete blood count (CBC) (nakuha sa nakaraang buwan); Pinakahuling resulta ng Creatinine, K, CA, Phosphorus, Albumin (nakuha sa nakaraang

from page 1

buwan). Para sa mga pasyente ng nangangailangan ng mga nabanggit na laboratory tests, bibigyan sila ng referral para sa libreng eksaminasyon.

Gayundin, kailangang dalhin ang mga sumusunod: Pinakabagong chest X-ray (nakuha sa nakaraang taon); Kopya ng treatment monitoring

sheet/record (huling tatlong treatment) mula sa huling dialysis center; Voter's registration/certificate; kung menor de edad ang pasyente, dalhin ang voter's registration/certificate ng magulang; PhilHealth ID, kung mayroon; at Taguig City CSWD social case study report, kung mayroon.

Para sa katanungan, maaaring tumawag sa 0927-377-9168. (PIA InfoComm)

BI...

Morente stressed that “they are in constant talks with DOLE to craft policies that will ensure the protection of the Filipino worker”. However, he assured the foreign community that the new guidelines will not compromise the ease of doing business.

“We have made it easier for foreign nationals to comply with our laws,” said Morente. “The procedures are simple, the

from page 1

process is now quicker, so there's really no excuse for foreign nationals to not follow,” he added. Morente likewise vowed to “rid of all illegal aliens who disregard immigration laws”.

Apart from the updated rules on work permits, the BI also announced that it will include in the requirements for visas and permits proof that the alien applicant has paid his taxes.

“It's really about

government agencies working together to harmonize rules and procedures,” said Morente. “It's high time we put our heads together to ensure that the government gets what it is due,” he added.

In 2018, the BI issued a total of 83,760 SWPs, while the DOLE reported issuing a total of 54,241 Alien Employment Permits, which is the primary requirement for securing the 9(g) visa. (PIA InfoComm/BI)

Japanese Government Scholarship open until May 31

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

MANILA – Do you want to study in Japan? Good news! The Japanese Government is offering scholarships for high school and college graduates.

The Embassy of Japan in the Philippines announced scholarship opportunities for students who want to pursue their studies in the land of the rising sun. Fields of study include Social Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Technology, Personal Care and Nutrition, among others.

Application forms and detailed information on prerequisites are available at the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC)

Library or may be viewed and downloaded from the Embassy website: (http://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000193.html).

The Embassy strongly advises all interested applicants to carefully read the guidelines and prerequisites uploaded on the Embassy website prior to submitting an application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The deadline for submission of applications is on Friday, May 31, 2019. Likewise, applicants are reminded that hard copies printed on A4-size paper and mailed through courier or hand-delivered to the Embassy will be accepted.

The application process consists of a document screening, written exams, and interview.

Free scholarship consultations are also offered at the JICC Library every Friday from 9 AM to 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Interested individuals and walk-in visitors are welcome but must present a valid ID at the gates to secure access to the Embassy premises.

For inquiries, please call or visit the JICC, Embassy of Japan located at 2627 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City or call (02) 551-5710 locals 2313, 2318, or 4210, or visit the Embassy website at www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp. (Embassy of Japan in the Philippines/JICC)

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papi

EDITORIAL

What the opposition wants

IN this penultimate editorial on the eve of the elections where the opposition is staking their best bets to achieve a return to power enough to overturn the mandate of the electorate set in 2016 and perhaps gradually reinstall elitist comforts and the hubris-laced governance they had become accustomed to under Benigno Aquino III, allow us a campaign valedictory.

Discerned from the hate speech recklessly regurgitated, slavered and subsequently spat out against the greater public, we know exactly who and what the opposition hates. By redirecting their fire from the original campaign issues of high prices, unemployment and poverty to directly attacking the President and his family, the opposition effectively draws the line between themselves and 80 percent of the public who've constantly awarded the President both satisfaction and approval ratings.

These statistics situate the opposition among the very small minority and among the elitist apex in an upright social pyramid representing our Filipino socio-economic classes.

Through their choice of candidates, however, lets travel to the other end. Allow us to go into the specific details of what the opposition wants as they peddle eight who they believe represent not just their objectives but more important, the best that they have to offer.

The latest survey ranks 30 senatorial candidates. Of the eight drafted by the opposition, only seven are included in the set of 30. We will divine the opposition using only the seven that the public has included. This is a mathematical misfortune for the opposition where they need eight voted into the existing Senate mix to prevent what the opposition fears might be a supermajority.

By raising the specter of a feared supermajority, the opposition assumes the Senate writes legislation and votes along bloc partisanship lines. They should have done their homework. A majority of those endorsed by the administration have voted independently.

This is not likely for the seven in the opposition where the public is asked to vote the bloc blindly.

Paolo Benigno Aquino IV is the opposition front-runner. His candidacy shows what the opposition wants. He is as much a symbol of political dynasties as he is of personality politics. He likewise represents mediocrity.

Lying halfway among the 30 and outside the Magic 12, Manuel Roxas represents the opposition's elitism and arrogance. The lack of empathy and self-absorbed indulgences he exudes underlie the trail of ineptitude, incompetence even corruption scandals linked to his record. Where his politics lies, his candidacy tells us the opposition not only allows for ineptitude and gross corruption but it also values fakery, falsehoods and publicity stunts.

Samira Gutoc-Tomawis is an unknown. Going by the information released through her campaign, she is one-dimensional. Her major merits are related to a single incident. Her candidacy shows us the opposition's desperation and how they have a propensity to inflate political personages the way they inflated a dubiously qualified Leonor Robredo from mere nothingness to severe extraneousness.

Jose Manuel Diokno who is basically an academician is the opposition's only upside.

Unfortunately his candidacy has blinded him. He would do better to be more equitable. When he says he will run after grafters, he should see several both past and present party stalwarts standing beside him.

Lawyering for both Gloria Arroyo and Robredo — the latter on charges of electoral fraud and cheating — characterizes Romulo Macalintal and shows us that the opposition would readily shift between the plain vanilla unprincipled to the dubiously principled depending on who pays higher. It's akin the oldest profession in the world and the sex industry has a name for those workers who ply their trade based on monetary criteria.

The opposition shows its total lack of respect for the rule of law and our sacred Constitution through the candidacy of Gary Alejano. His candidacy likewise reveals to us that the opposition virtually endorses extra-legal means such as sedition, insurrection, mutiny and armed coups as means to force their will.

Lorenzo Tañada's candidacy reinforces what Aquino's Senate run tells us about the opposition — their preference for dynasties, their politics of personalities and their propensity for mediocrity.

These represent unacceptable desires of the opposition. In the next days we will see just how unacceptable these are.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Walang Ilusyon sa Eleksyon

BAGO ito: isang araw pagkatapos ng eleksyon, parang tapos na rin ang bilangan — hindi katulad dati na umaabot nang ilang linggo at buwan. Presidente na si Noynoy Aquino at bise-presidente na si Jojo Binay, kung hindi umaapela si Mar Roxas sa Malakanyang.

Kondukta ng eleksyong automated

Para sa tulad kong sinikal sa takbo ng eleksyon sa ilalim ng sistemang panlipunan sa bansa, parang hindi kapani-paniwala ang ipinapakitang kredibilidad ng halalan. Oo, hanggang ngayon, kalat-kalat at hindi malalaki ang mga ebidensya para kwestyunin ito — kaya pwedeng sabihing wala akong patunay para tuligsain ito. Pero nasaan naman ang mga patunay na magpapatibay sa kredibilidad ng eleksyon? Masyadong sarado ang sistemang automated sa pagsipat at pagberipika ng ibang grupo bukod sa Comelec. At hindi ito usapin ng pagbanat sa mga nanalo, kundi historikal na duda sa proseso.

Noong umaga lang ng eleksyon, usap-usapan ang hindi pagboto ng maraming botante — dahil sa pagbungkos ng mga presinto at sa samu't saring problema ng mga makinang PCOS na parehong nagdulot ng paghaba ng pila sa botohan. Naniniwala akong nagpunyagi ang mga tao para makaboto — hinabaan ang pasensya, ininda ang init, tynaga ang pila — para maranasan ang unang eleksyong automated ng bansa at para magprotesta rin sa rehimgeng Arroyo. Pero hindi ako makumbinsi ng 75% turnout na sinasabi at ipinagbubunyi ng Comelec. Hindi kaya lumobo ito sa ibang dahilan?

Mula sa dating kaliwa't kanan ang reklamo sa eleksyon, tahimik ngayon ang mga dapat nagbantay ng botohan at bilangan. Ang PPCRV nga, naging tagabilang na lang ng resultang inilalabas din ng makina ng Comelec. Sa isang banda, iyun naman ang layon ng eleksyong automated, ang alisin ang mga bulnerabilidad sa pandaraya ng proseso. Pero ang nangyari, hindi na rin maberipika kung tama pa ang nagaganap — natatakpan ng plastik ng kable, dumadaloy sa alambre at ere. Ang nakakatanaw lang sa buo at pwedeng magsabi na ayos ang lahat ay ang Comelec. Lubos ba ang tiwala natin dito?

Sa mata ng publiko siguro, may kredibilidad ang inilalabas ngayong resulta dahil tugma sa tinakbo ng mga sarbey bago ang botohan. Bago ang 10 Mayo, marami ang nangambang "Garci na de-kompyuter" ang magaganap. Pero noong lumabas ang mga resultang tugma sa sarbey, wala nang pumalag. Ganoon na lang ba iyun? Tiwa-tiwala na lang — sa Comelec, Smartmatic-TIM at sa rehimgeng Arroyo? O dapat napapatunayan ang kredibilidad ng eleksyon sa kongkretong pagmamamata? Ano ito, kaisahang ipinapatanggap bilang demokratiko sa pamamaraang kaduda-duda o awtoritaryan?

Pagkatalo ni Manny Villar

Tumanggap na ng pagkatalo si Sen. Manny Villar kay Noynoy. Tugma ito sa sinabi niya noong bumoto siya noong 10 Mayo, na tatanggapin niya ang resulta basta't may kredibilidad ito. May mga nakapansin ding nabawasan ang mga patalastas niya

sa telebisyon ilang araw bago ang botohan — at pinalitan naman ng katakut-takot na patalastas ni Noynoy. Siguro, naramdaman na niyang patalo na ang kampanya niya kaya hindi na siya lumaban pa. Pero posible ring totoo ang usap-usapan tungkol sa kanya: na hindi siya kumprontasyunal, dala ng pagkahubog sa pagiging negosyante.

Ano man ang dahilan nitong huli, ang pag-iwas ng kampanya niya sa mga bakbakang pulitikal ang tampok na kahinaan nito, at malaking salik, kung hindi man siyang pinakamalaking salik, sa pagkatalo niya. C-5 at Taga, Villarroyo, iba't ibang isyu ng katiwalian at kalokohan — hindi maagap at matalas ang sagot niya sa mga ito. Eh sa kulturang pampulitika natin, "Mukhang guilty" ang kahulugan ng pananahimik na ganito. Habang agresibo ang kampo ni Noynoy, at nitong huli maging ang kampo ni Erap Estrada, sa pag-atake sa kanya, hindi rin siya agresibo sa pag-atake sa mga ito.

Pagkapanalo ni Noynoy Aquino

Pwedeng kilalanin na nanalo si Noynoy dulot ng malakas na sentimyentong kontra-Arroyo ng mga mamamayan. Matagumpay niyang naipakilala ang sarili bilang kaiba kay Gloria, at kontra pa nga rito — kahit sa larangan lang ng korupsiyon, dahil nga hindi naman ito totoo pagdating sa mga patakaran pang-ekonomiya. Mahalaga sa pagkapanalo niya ang positibong propaganda (Mama at Papa, walang bahid) at negatibong propaganda (pag-atake sa mga kalaban) niya — na buong giliw namang ibinudyong sa mga mamamayan ng midyang halatang kamping-kampi sa kanya.

Masaya ang imperyalismong US sa pagkapanalo niya. Napalitan si Gloria na mabaho na sa mga mamamayan, at ng isang pulitikong mabango naman — gayung katulad din ni Gloria na taguyod ng mga neoliberal na patakaran. Tapos, dahil sa pagiging popular ni Noynoy, na ipinakita ng mga sarbey at kinumpirma ng resulta ng halalan — kahit pa kaduda-duda ang aktwal na kondukta nito — wala gaanong angal at protesta sa resulta ng eleksyon, wala gaanong gulo. Tumulong din ang midyang imperyalista at burgis-komprador na ipanalo siya. Sa kabuuan, napapatatag ang sistemang neokolonyal.

Ang tanong: mapapatunayan ba ni Noynoy ang mga ipinangako niya? Tutugis ba niya si Gloria dahil sa marami't malulubhang kasalanan nito sa bayan? Higit pa ryan: babaguhin ba niya ang mga patakaran ni Gloria na nagdulot ng kahirapan, gutom at sakit sa nakakaraming mahihirap? Kung batay sa walang kalatuy-latoy na rekord niya sa pulitika, sa papel niya sa Hacienda Luisita, at sa plataporma niya, nakakapagduda. Pwedeng hindi siya mangurakot, pero mapapatunayang hindi sapat iyun, na ang kailangan ay pagbabago sa patakaran, sa sistema, at hindi lang sa namumuno sa bansa.

Pagkatalo nina Satur Ocampo at Liza Maza

Pustahan tayo: sasagarin ng mga kontra-Kaliwa ang pagkatalo sa halalang pang-senador nina Satur Ocampo at Liza Maza para sabihing patunay ito

ng pagbasura ng mga mamamayan sa Kaliwa — at may iba ring magsasabing dahil ito sa pakikipag-alyansa kay Villar. Para maupakan ang Kaliwa, kinakaligtan nila ang bulok at elitistang katangian ng pulitika't eleksyon sa bansa at ang malakas na atakeng hinarap at laging hinaharap ng mga kandidato ng Kaliwa — mga pag-atake sa propaganda, red-baiting, militarisasyon ng mga erya ng mga tagasuporta, kawalan ng pondo, at iba pa.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng kahirapang ito, hindi rin biro ang nakuhang tatlong milyong boto ng dalawa. Nagamit ang kandidatura nila bilang pagkakataon para umabot ang Kaliwa sa mas marami, at makapagmulat at makapag-organisa para sa matagalang pakikibaka para sa tunay na pagbabago. Nagbigay sila ng halimbawa ng kampanya para sa Senado na prinsipyado at tunay na makabayan — at inilantad ang mga reaksyunaryo sa proseso. Naghahawan ng landas at magbibigay ng maraming aral ang pagtakbo nilang ito para sa mga susunod pang paglahok ng Kaliwa sa reaksyunaryong eleksyon sa bansa.

Ipagyayabang din ng mga kontra-Kaliwa ang ika-13 pwesto ni Risa Hontiveros ng Akbayan, grupong tinawag ni dating Hen. Hermogenes Esperon na "mabubuting maka-Kaliwa." Pero bukod sa mataas na pwesto, ano ang nakamit nila? Puhunan ba ito para sa anumang proyekto para sa pagbabagong panlipunan? May ganoon pa bang proyekto ang Akbayan? Sa kabila ng pagpabor sa kanya ng Liberal Party, ng pondo niya para sa mga patalastas sa telebisyon, ng pagpuhanan sa "ganda" niya (sabay-sabing "feminista" siya), at kahit repormista lang siya, hindi pa rin siya nanalo.

Ang hinaharap sa rehimgeng Noynoy

Lalakas ang pagpanawagan at paghamon sa rehimgeng Noynoy na tuparin ang mga pangako nito sa sambayanan. Titindi ang krisis pang-ekonomiyang hinaharap ng bansa, kaya lalakas din ang pagpanawagan ditong baguhin ang mga patakaran ni Gloria. Walang ipinakita si Noynoy na kakayahang gawin ang mga bagay na ito. Sa ganitong kalagayan, malalantad ang rehimgeng Noynoy bilang walang ipinag-iba sa naunang mga rehimgeng papet, pahirap at kontra-mamamayan. Sasamantalain ng Kaliwa, na walang ilusyon kay Noynoy, ang pagkakataon para lalong magpalawak at magpalakas.

Ngayon pa lang, gusto nang siraan ng mga kontra-Kaliwang maka-Noynoy ang Kaliwa kung lalaban ito sa rehimgeng Noynoy. Kesyo magiging kahanay ng Kaliwa si Gloria sa oposisyon. Marami namang hindi kanais-nais na karakter noong rehimgeng Arroyo na kontra-Gloria, pero hindi nakaapekto sa Kaliwa dahil may mga isyung batayan ang pagkontra nito. Napakainam ng kalagayan para sa Kaliwa: ang mga sosyal-demokrata at mga grupong tulad ng Akbayan ay nilamon na ni Noynoy; hamon sa pambansa-demokratikong Kaliwa na pamunuan ang masa at ilinaw ang tunay na alternatiba.

11 Mayo 2010

TOWN in FOCUS

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MMDA urges film producers to submit “quality, innovative” entries for 45th MMFF

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY--The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the organizer of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), is urging film producers to submit “quality and innovative” film entries that will make Filipinos proud.

In a press briefing held Monday at the MMDA headquarters in Makati, MMDA and concurrent MMFF Chairman Danilo Lim said they are hoping to receive quality and innovative entries to this year’s MMFF – excellent stories that will capture the hearts not only of many Filipinos but also the international audience.

During the event, Lim praised last year’s entry “Rainbow’s Sunset” that made it big at the 52nd Annual World Fest in Houston, Texas recently. He recognized the team behind the film for making Filipinos, particularly, the local film industry proud while at the same time pose a challenge to succeeding production outfits

that will join the film festival this year.

“I hope that this will not be the first and last time that we will win big in international film festivals and there will be more success in the future,” Lim said.

“The MMDA and the MMFF will continue to back up our local films and filmmakers for the Philippines to have its rightful place in global filmmaking industry,” Lim said. According to Lim, the MMFF is gearing up for a “double celebration” this year with the commemoration of its 45th

anniversary, which coincides with the centenary of Philippine cinema.

“We have big plans for MMFF, not only during December but all-year-round so we are holding seminars and caravans to develop talents of more students,” said Lim.

The deadline for submission of entries on script format for this year’s film fest is on May 31; deadline for Short Film Student Competition entries is on July 15; and entries for finished film format is on September 20. (PIA InfoComm/MMDA)

CAVITEVIEW

Facebook inadvertently creates jihad videos

WASHINGTON — The animated video begins with a photo of the black flags of jihad. Seconds later, it flashes highlights of a year of social media posts: plaques of anti-Semitic verses, talk of retribution and a photo of two men carrying more jihadi flags while they burn the stars and stripes.

It wasn’t produced by extremists; it was created by Facebook. In a clever bit of self-promotion, the social media giant takes a year of a user’s content and auto-generates a celebratory video. In this case, the user called himself “Abdel-Rahim Moussa, the Caliphate.” “Thanks for being here, from Facebook,” the video concludes in a cartoon bubble before flashing the company’s famous “thumbs up.”

Facebook likes to give the impression that it’s staying ahead of extremists by taking down their posts, often before users even see them. But a confidential whistleblower’s complaint to the Securities and Exchange Commission obtained by The Associated Press alleges the social media company has exaggerated its success. Even worse, it shows that the company is inadvertently making use of propaganda by militant groups to auto-generate videos and pages that could be used for networking by extremists.

According to the complaint, over a five-month period last year, researchers monitored pages by users who affiliated themselves with groups the U.S. State Department has designated as terrorist organizations. In that period, 38% of the posts with prominent symbols of extremist groups were removed.

In its own review, the AP found that as of this month, much of the banned content cited in the study — an execution video, images of severed heads, propaganda honoring martyred militants — slipped through the algorithmic web and remained easy to find on Facebook. The complaint is landing as Facebook tries to stay ahead of a growing array of criticism over its privacy practices and its ability to keep hate speech, live-streamed murders and suicides off its service.

In the face of criticism, CEO Mark Zuckerberg has spoken of his pride in the company’s ability to weed out violent posts automatically through artificial intelligence. During an earnings call last month, for instance, he repeated a carefully worded formulation that Facebook has been employing.

“In areas like terrorism, for al-Qaida and ISIS-related content, now 99 percent of the content that we take down in the category our systems flag proactively before anyone sees it,” he said. Then he added: “That’s what really good looks like.”

Zuckerberg did not offer an estimate of how much of total prohibited material is being removed.

The research behind the SEC complaint is aimed at spotlighting glaring flaws in the company’s approach. Last year, researchers began monitoring users who explicitly identified themselves as members of extremist groups. It wasn’t hard to document. Some of these people even list the extremist groups as their employers.

One profile heralded by the

black flag of an al-Qaida affiliated group listed his employer, perhaps facetiously, as Facebook. The profile that included the auto-generated video with the flag burning also had a video of al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri urging jihadi groups not to fight among themselves.

While the study is far from comprehensive — in part because Facebook rarely makes much of its data publicly available — researchers involved in the project say the ease of identifying these profiles using a basic keyword search and the fact that so few of them have been removed suggest that Facebook’s claims that its systems catch most extremist content are not accurate.

“I mean, that’s just stretching the imagination to beyond incredulity,” says Amr Al Azm, one of the researchers involved in the project. “If a small group of researchers can find hundreds of pages of content by simple searches, why can’t a giant company with all its resources do it?”

Al Azm, a professor of history and anthropology at Shawnee State University in Ohio, has also directed a group in Syria documenting the looting and smuggling of antiquities. Facebook concedes that its systems are not perfect, but says it’s making improvements.

“After making heavy investments, we are detecting and removing terrorism content at a far higher success rate than even two years ago,” the company said in a statement. “We don’t claim to find everything and we remain vigilant in our efforts against terrorist groups around the world.”

But as a stark indication of how easily users can evade Facebook, one page from a user called “Nawan al-Faransa” has a header whose white lettering against a black background says in English “The Islamic State.” The banner is punctuated with a photo of an explosive mushroom cloud rising from a city.

The profile should have caught the attention of Facebook — as well as counter-intelligence agencies. It was created in June 2018, lists the user as coming from Chechnya, once a militant hotspot. It says he lived in Heidelberg, Germany, and studied at a university in Indonesia. Some of the user’s friends also posted militant content.

The page, still up in recent days, apparently escaped Facebook’s systems, because of an obvious and long-running evasion of moderation that Facebook should be adept at recognizing: The letters were not searchable text but embedded in a graphic block. But the company says its technology scans audio, video and text — including when it is embedded — for images that reflect violence, weapons or logos of prohibited groups.

The social networking giant has endured a rough two years beginning in 2016, when Russia’s use of social media to meddle with the U.S. presidential elections came into focus.

Zuckerberg initially downplayed the role Facebook played in the influence operation by Russian intelligence, but the company later apologized.

Facebook says it now employs 30,000 people who work on its safety and security practices, reviewing potentially harmful material and anything else that might not belong on the site.

Still, the company is putting a lot of its faith in artificial intelligence and its systems’ ability to eventually weed out bad stuff without the help of humans. The new research suggests that goal is a long way away and some critics allege that the company is not making a sincere effort.

When the material isn’t removed, it’s treated the same as anything else posted by Facebook’s 2.4 billion users — celebrated in animated videos, linked and categorized and recommended by algorithms.

But it’s not just the algorithms that are to blame. The researchers found that some extremists are using Facebook’s “Frame Studio” to post militant propaganda. The tool lets people decorate their profile photos within graphic frames — to support causes or celebrate birthdays, for instance. Facebook says that those framed images must be approved by the company before they are posted.

Hany Farid, a digital forensics expert at the University of California, Berkeley, who advises the Counter-Extremism Project, a New York and London-based group focused on combatting extremist messaging, says that Facebook’s artificial intelligence system is failing. He says the company is not motivated to tackle the problem because it would be expensive.

“The whole infrastructure is fundamentally flawed,” he said. “And there’s very little appetite to fix it because what Facebook and the other social media companies know is that once they start being responsible for material on their platforms it opens up a whole can of worms.”

Another Facebook auto-generation function gone awry scrapes employment information from user’s pages to create business pages. The function is supposed to produce pages meant to help companies network, but in many cases they are serving as a branded landing

space for extremist groups. The function allows Facebook users to like pages for extremist organizations, including al-Qaida, the Islamic State group and the Somali-based al-Shabab, effectively providing a list of sympathizers for recruiters.

At the top of an auto-generated page for al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the AP found a photo of the damaged hull of the USS Cole, which was bombed by al-Qaida in a 2000 attack off the coast of Yemen that killed 17 U.S. Navy sailors. It’s the defining image in AQAP’s own propaganda. The page includes the Wikipedia entry for the group and had been liked by 277 people when last viewed this week.

As part of the investigation for the complaint, Al Azm’s researchers in Syria looked closely at the profiles of 63 accounts that liked the auto-generated page for Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham, a group that merged from militant groups in Syria, including the al-Qaida affiliated al-Nusra Front. The researchers were able to confirm that 31 of the profiles matched real people in Syria. Some of them turned out to be the same individuals Al Azm’s team was monitoring in a separate project to document the financing of militant groups through antiquities smuggling.

Facebook also faces a challenge with U.S. hate groups. In March, the company announced that it was expanding its prohibited content to also include white nationalist and white separatist content — previously it only took action with white supremacist content. It says that it has banned more than 200 white supremacist groups. But it’s still easy to find symbols of supremacy and racial hatred.

The researchers in the SEC complaint identified over 30 auto-generated pages for white supremacist groups, whose content Facebook prohibits. They include “The American Nazi Party” and the “New Aryan Empire.” A page created for the “Aryan Brotherhood Headquarters” marks the office on a map and asks whether users recommend it. One endorser posted a question: “How can a brother get in the house.”

Even supremacists flagged by law enforcement are slipping through the net. Following a sweep of arrests beginning in October, federal prosecutors in Arkansas indicted dozens of members of a drug trafficking ring linked to the New Aryan Empire. A legal document from February paints a brutal picture of the group, alleging murder, kidnapping and intimidation of witnesses that in one instance involved using a searing-hot knife to scar someone’s face. It also alleges the group used Facebook to discuss New Aryan Empire business. But many of the individuals named in the indictment have Facebook pages that were still up in recent days. They leave no doubt of the users’ white supremacist

affiliation, posting images of Hitler, swastikas and a numerical symbol of the New Aryan Empire slogan, “To The Dirt” — the members’ pledge to remain loyal to the end. One of the group’s indicted leaders, Jeffrey Knox, listed his job as “stomp down Honky.” Facebook then auto-generated a “stomp down Honky” business page.

Social media companies have broad protection in U.S. law from liability stemming from the content that users post on their sites. But Facebook’s role in generating videos and pages from extremist content raises questions about exposure. Legal analysts contacted by the AP differed on whether the discovery could open the company up to lawsuits.

At a minimum, the research behind the SEC complaint illustrates the company’s limited approach to combatting online extremism. The U.S. State Department lists dozens of groups as “designated foreign terrorist organizations” but Facebook in its public statements says it focuses its efforts on two, the Islamic State group and al-Qaida. But even with those two targets, Facebook’s algorithms often miss the names of affiliated groups. Al Azm says Facebook’s method seems to be less effective with Arabic script.

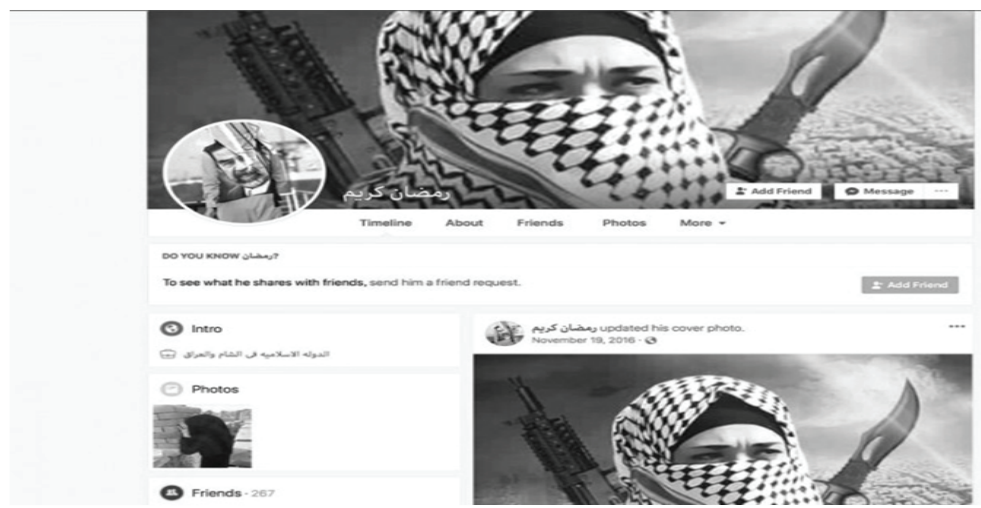
For instance, a search in Arabic for “Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula” turns up not only posts, but an auto-generated business page. One user listed his occupation as “Former Sniper” at “Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula” written in Arabic. Another user evaded Facebook’s cull by reversing the order of the countries in the Arabic for ISIS or “Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”

John Kostyack, a lawyer with the National Whistleblower Center in Washington who represents the anonymous plaintiff behind the complaint, said the goal is to make Facebook take a more robust approach to counteracting extremist propaganda.

“Right now we’re hearing stories of what happened in New Zealand and Sri Lanka — just heartbreaking massacres where the groups that came forward were clearly openly recruiting and networking on Facebook and other social media,” he said. “That’s not going to stop unless we develop a public policy to deal with it, unless we create some kind of sense of corporate social responsibility.”

Farid, the digital forensics expert, says that Facebook built its infrastructure without thinking through the dangers stemming from content and is now trying to retrofit solutions.

“The policy of this platform has been: ‘Move fast and break things.’ I actually think that for once their motto was actually accurate,” he says. “The strategy was grow, grow, grow, profit, profit and then go back and try to deal with whatever problems there are.”



A Facebook page for user Ramadan Kareem, that when translated into English lists the user as working at “Islamic State in Sham and Iraq.” The page was still live Tuesday, May 7, 2019, when the screen grab was made. Facebook says it has robust systems in place to remove content from extremist groups, but a sealed whistleblower’s complaint reviewed by the AP says banned content remains on the web and easy to find. (Facebook via AP)

NOTICE OF CLOSURE AND LIQUIDATION OF
CHIN-CHING METALWORKS MANUFACTURING
CORPORATION

Please take notice that Chin-Ching Metalworks Manufacturing Corporation (CCMMC) has ceased operations last June 2018. It is currently obtaining clearances from PEZA and the BIR to effect its eventual Cancellation of Registration and dissolution with the SEC through shortening of its corporate term from fifty (50) to ten (10) years.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to contact the undersigned at 4165109 or email jgpagdanganan@pagdangananlaw.com for immediate settlement.

Very truly yours,
PAGDANGANAN ENGO & ASSOCIATES

By:

Atty. JOEFFREYG. PAGDANGANAN
FOR THE FIRM

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH
TRANSFER AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE FROILA AUSTRIA who died on February 5, 2013 in Silang, Cavite leaving a parcel of land together with improvement (house and lot) situated in Block 42 Lot 6, Brgy. Narra 3, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 458; Page No. 92; Book No. XXI; Series of 2019 Notary Public Antonio F. Butial, Jr.

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICIDAD B. CABANELA a.k.a. FELICIDAD B. CABANCLA, who died on May 1, 2018 at GENERAL TRIAS CITY, CAVITE leaving two (2) parcel of Real Estate situated at General Trias City, Cavite with Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1004039, Condominium Certificate of title No. 7240 with Transfer Certificate of Title No. 3296-97 situated at Taguig City, Metro Manila and One (1) Unit Memorial Lot situated at Manila Memorial Park, Dasma Cavite with Deed of Sale and Certificate of Memorial Park Carte Contract No. 025117 with Transfer Certificate No. 536866 has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs, as per Doc. No. 59; Page No. 13; Book No. XVI, Series of 2019, Notary Public Atty. Antonio V. Tiong.

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH
DEED OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO T. REYES JR. AND NENITA GALVEZ PRINCIPIO who died on May 14, 1996 in Manila and September 17, 1998 in Quezon City respectively leaving a parcel of land together with improvement (house and lot) situated in Block 53, Lot 23 Phase V-B, Brgy. Narra 3, Silang, Cavite, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 395; Page No. 79; Book No. XXI; Series of 2019 Notary Public Antonio F. Butial, Jr.

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

Money, guns, brides fuel cattle wars

UDIER, RUMBOK, South Sudan — Weak rays of early morning sun seep through the smoke rising from smoldering piles of dried dung, keeping flies away from the precious cattle.

Children instinctively reach down for the white ash, a natural mosquito repellent, and rub it on their skin as women set to milking and men prepare for a long day seeking pasture at the peak of the dry season.

The passing of centuries seems to have changed little in the ebb and flow of life for herders in remote South Sudan, whose cattle serve as a bank account and play a core role in every aspect of life.

There has, however, been one devastating shift.

Instead of their traditional spears, cowherds now carry automatic rifles that have transformed cattle raids, a generations-old phenomenon, into massacres that have unleashed brutal cycles of vengeance.

“It is good to have a weapon because it helps you to protect the cattle,” said Puk Duoth, 25, a herder from a camp outside the northeastern village of Udier.

While South Sudan’s elites signed a power-sharing truce in September 2018, cattle raids have worsened, highlighting the herculean task required to resolve local conflicts in a society shattered by war.

According to the UN peacekeeping mission UNMISS, 218 members of herder communities were killed in January in tit-for-tat attacks — almost three times the toll of 73 in the four months from October 2017 to January 2018.

Observers blame a deadly cocktail of factors for the rising body count: a breakdown of law and order in the war-torn nation, an influx of guns and inflation in the bride price — paid in cattle.

Cash cows

In these parts, cows are everything.

In the culture of the Nuer and Dinka peoples — South Sudan’s largest herder communities — boys are named after a favoured bull, and songs are written to glorify the long-horned beasts.

“If you are sick, then the cow can be sold and the money used for treatment,” says Beny Chuer, a Dinka chief from Amading camp outside the central city of Rumbek — one of the areas worst affected by raids and revenge killings.

“If a mother dies leaving a small baby, that child will live because a cow will be milked to feed it.”

Cattle is currency — each head worth about \$500 (440 euros). The more a man owns, the more admiration he garners.

“If you are sitting in a community meeting and you are talking rubbish, but people know you have many cows, you will be honored,” said Peter Machar, of the NGO Saferworld working on local conflicts.

In his 1940 study of the Nuer people, British anthropologist Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard found this single-minded preoccupation frustrating in his research efforts.

“I used sometimes to despair that I never discussed anything with the young men but livestock and

girls and even the subject of girls led inevitably to that of cattle,” he wrote.

Costly brides, rampant guns

“For us, a cow is the source of money,” said chief Chuer, well over two meters (6 feet, 7 inches) tall — a genetic legacy perhaps of tall women being viewed as more valuable in herder communities.

He boasts that his tallest daughter earned him a whopping 250 cows.

This is part of the cause of conflict, said Peter Machar’s colleague Majok Mon, his own first name a Dinka word for the markings on a bull.

Bride prices soared as donor money poured into the country after independence from Sudan, allowing politicians, military men and the well-connected to enrich themselves and “get a lot of money” to pay for a wife, he said.

The average price went up from about 20 head of cattle to 100, in a country where the majority of people follow the tradition.

Suddenly, many young men could not afford to get married unless they raided cattle from other communities. Guns flooded the country between the war for independence, achieved in 2011, and the internal conflict that erupted two years later as President Salva Kiir and rival Riek Machar fell out.

Both sides armed young herders and mobilized them to fight, said Peter Machar.

As any semblance of law and order collapsed, the warring also destroyed traditional systems, managed by tribal chiefs, for settling feuds.

“What brought the issue of cattle raids is the gun... if you don’t have a gun, then you will be monitored slowly, slowly until you are shot and your cows taken, but if you have your gun, then you can shoot” in defense, said Chuer.

Out of control

While fighting has stopped in most of the country as a result of the peace deal, this has changed nothing for herder groups nursing long-standing grievances unrelated to the national tug of war for power.

And with the attention elsewhere, armed herders are launching increasingly deadly military-style attacks on rival camps, with women and children among the victims. The reality in these remote communities “is very far from what is happening with the elites in Juba,” United Nations special envoy David Shearer told AFP.

A report on the “militarisation” of cattle raiding in South Sudan, published last year in the Journal of International Humanitarian Action, warned that leaders like Kiir and Riek Machar, “having undermined the traditional mechanisms that once governed violence in order to further their individual political interests, no longer have control over these raiders either.”

All these factors bode ill for prospects of peace in a country whose youth has known nothing but conflict.

“This generation were born in the war and grew up in the war... they are a majority and they are the ones who are fighting, so how do we really transform that?” said Mon.

MMDA Headquarters post-a NCRPO, handa na para sa eleksyon quake inspection

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

LUNGSOD QUEZON -- Nakahanda na ang National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) para sa darating na eleksyon sa Lunes, May 13, 2019.

Ayon kay NCRPO chief Major General Guillermo Eleazar, handa na ang buong puwersa ng NCRPO na magbibigay seguridad sa iba’t ibang presinto, canvassing centers at iba pang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Inatasan ni Eleazar ang mga police district directors ng Metro Manila upang mag monitor sa kanilang mga areas of responsibilities.

Ayon sa NCRPO chief magdadagdag sila ng mga checkpoints at higit na paiiingtingin

ang police visibility hanggang June 13.

Kamakailan, pinangunahan nina Philippine National Police (PNP) chief General Oscar Albayalde, NCRPO chief MGen Eleazar, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Benjamin Madrigal, Jr. at Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Commissioner Al Parreno ang send-off ceremony at inter-faith prayer para sa darating na 2019 Midterm Elections na ginanap sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Samantala, nagpapaalala rin ang PNP sa publiko hinggil sa ipapatupad na liquor ban simula sa Linggo, May 12 hanggang May 13, 2019 bilang bahagi ng security preparations at upang masiguro ang mapayapa at maayos na halalan. (PIA InfoComm)

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Voice

Word Search Puzzle

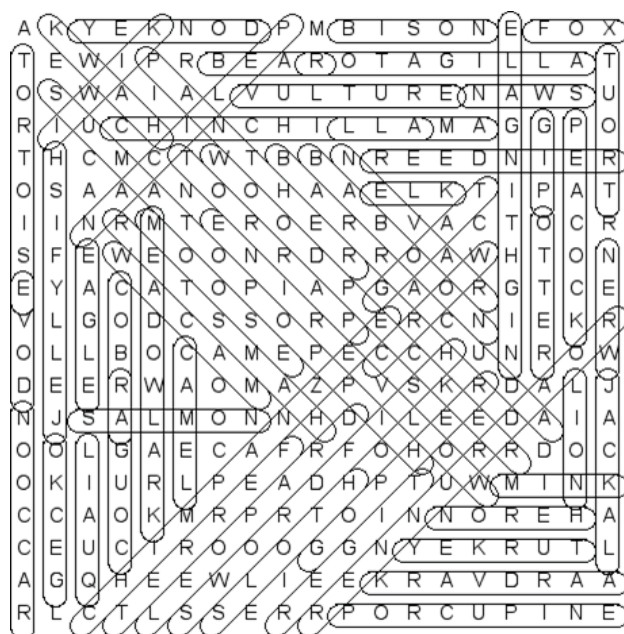
Animals 2

Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.

O R C A N T E E K A R A P B E A V E R
 G G R H M A D L L E M M I N G O O S E
 N I E O E O T U E M U I D O L P H I N
 I X R L C D C U C S O S U R L A W M A
 M N P A L T G K G K A N G A R O O P R
 A Y W U F E O E I N R E K K O A L A C
 L L Z E M F Z P H N A E W E W H A L E
 F Z E B R A E A U O G R H Z Y R F A H
 H A T E E H C L G S G B O T H Y F Y U
 R A T T L E S N A K E P I I N B U B M
 B L P D S T O R K T O G N R N A B A M
 E A E E A H A N N R O O T I D L P N I
 E M E E O B E A P R C A U M J L C T N
 L P H R B K H O I E C G O A R A O E G
 T R S I C P I L R B N U G R O W Y L B
 R E T I E S L O O E S U O L B K O O I
 U Y H L E A S B P E A R R I I A T P R
 T C E E G D I R T R A P F N N Y E E D

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| ANTELOPE | HEDGEHOG | PENGUIN |
| BAT | HORSE | PORPOISE |
| BEAVER | HUMMINGBIRD | PUMA |
| BOBCAT | IMPALA | RABBIT |
| BUFFALO | JAGUAR | RATTLESNAKE |
| CHEETAH | KANGAROO | RHINOCEROS |
| CHICKEN | KOALA | ROBIN |
| COYOTE | LAMPREY | SHEEP |
| CRANE | LEMMING | SHREW |
| DEER | LYNX | STORK |
| DOLPHIN | MARLIN | TURTLE |
| DUCK | MOCKINGBIRD | WALLABY |
| ELEPHANT | MONKEY | WALRUS |
| EMU | MOUSE | WEASEL |
| FLAMINGO | OCTOPUS | WHALE |
| FROG | ORANGUTAN | YAK |
| GAZELLE | ORCA | ZEBRA |
| GIRAFFE | PANTHER | |
| GOOSE | PARAKEET | |
| GORILLA | PARTRIDGE | |

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

			5	4	8		2	
							7	
3	2							6
6		2			4			
	1			9				
			3			4		9
9							1	7
	5							
	8		1	2	3			

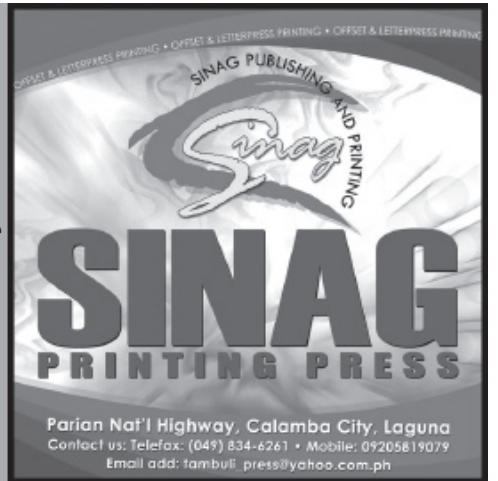
4	6	1	3	9	7	2	5	8
5	7	8	2	1	6	3	9	4
2	9	3	8	5	4	1	6	7
8	3	4	7	2	9	6	1	5
9	5	2	6	4	1	7	8	3
6	1	7	5	8	3	9	4	2
1	8	5	9	3	2	4	7	6
7	2	9	4	6	8	5	3	1
3	4	6	1	7	5	8	2	9

19	8	29				23		20
51	7	52	10	11	13	53		40
		54	30	31	24	41	14	
	2		25	42		55	43	37
15		9	26		21	44	45	12
56	1	57		46	3		47	
	6	32	27	33	17	4		
5		16	28	34	22	48	49	50
18		35				38	39	36

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.
 If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.
 Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers pag if you really get stuck.

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PACC, Comelec to public: Report vote-buying, vote-selling incidents

By Susan G. De Leon

MANILA--The Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) on Friday urged the public to report cases of vote-buying after several reports surfaced recently.

PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica also reminded candidates on Monday's election to heed the President's call for a clean and honest elections.

"The President is serious in having a clean election," Belgica said during a press conference Friday.

Belgica said vote-buying and election fraud has been destroying the country's democratic process.

He said his office is currently processing 15 reports for possible filing at the Comelec.

"Vote-buying is a corrupt election practice that obstructs our democratic process by impeding the exercise of

our rights to freely choose our leaders," he said.

Comelec defines vote-buying as the act of any person who gives, offers or promises money or anything of value, directly or indirectly, in exchange of voting for or against any candidate.

Vote-selling, on the other hand, is the act of a person, association, corporation, group or community, who solicits or receives, directly or indirectly, in exchange of voting for or against any candidate.

"When a candidate chooses to pay for your votes, they show utter disregard for our democratic process and a willingness to use illegal means to further their interests," he added.

Belgica said his office received both verified and unverified vote-buying reports that came from Santiago Isabela City, Ozamiz, Bangued, Abra, La Union, Manila, Pasay and Muntinlupa.

continue to page 2



PACC & Comelec hold a press conference on Friday. In photo are (l-r) PBGen. Bernabe M. Balba, CIDG; Atty. Auralyn Pascual, NBI Deputy Spokesperson; Bishop Reuben Abante, One Vote; PACC Comm. Greco Belgica; Comelec Commissioner Al Parreno; and other Comelec and PNP officials. (Photo by Gabriel Villanueva/PIA InfoComm)

Peace advocates condemn CPP-NPA attack on community

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

QUEZON CITY -- Advocates of Yes for Peace-Bayanihan ng Bayan on Friday joined Presidential Peace Adviser Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. in condemning the recent attack by about 30 members of the New People's Army on a settlement of former armed rebels who decided to forge peace with government through local peace talks earlier.

Ernesto Angeles Alcanzare, organizer of Yes for Peace, said they are one with Galvez in condemning the brazen act of violence that caused the death of two and wounded three members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade-Tabara Padua Group.

"The recent attack proves their hypocrisy and duplicity, ala-'Jeekyll and Hyde' character. They shout-out one thing and yet do everything to make sure that their demands can never be catered to by government even if it is sincere in doing so," Alcanzare said.

"The People's Agenda for National and Progressive Change that they crafted and

published through their exclusive National People's Summit at the University of the Philippines on June 29, 2016, declared a 15-Point Agenda for Change, and among these, is their call to reduce military expenditures (by government) and channel savings to economic development and social services," he added.

For his part, lawyer Domingo B. Aldion, president of the Department of Education National Employees' Union and YFP-BB supporter, denounced the "terrorist attack" and said a reasonable part of the money spent by government in the 50-year conflict could have been "better" used in increasing the salaries and benefits of public school teachers and non-teaching personnel.

"They (communists) claim that they want peace but their actions are not reflective of what they shout in the streets. Billions of pesos have already been wasted in the local communist armed conflict. Billions of pesos that should have been allocated for the increase

continue to page 2

DSWD receives disaster response vehicles, equipment from Japan

By Lucia F. Broño

QUEZON CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) received wing vans and communication equipment from the Government of Japan through its non-Project Grant Aid to boost the Department's response efforts. DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista received

the equipment from Japanese Minister and Consul General Atsushi Kuwabara in a simple turnover ceremony held at the National Resource Operations Center in Pasay City.

"It is with gratitude that I receive, on behalf of the Filipino people, the grant graciously provided by Japan in the form of vehicles and communication equipment which are intended

to help the Department of Social Welfare and Development effectively and immediately dispense the needed assistance to disaster-stricken communities and families," Bautista said.

The assistance, the first of two batches, consisted of seven units of wing vans, 20 units of Ultra-High Frequency (UHF)

continue to page 2



DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista (right) receives communication equipment from Minister and Consul General Atsushi Kuwabara. The communication equipment is part of the donation of the Japanese government to the Department for its disaster response efforts. (Photo courtesy of DSWD)