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Filipina claims employer burned her with flatiron

By Vir B. Lumicao

Hard luck struck two Filipina sisters at the weekend, after the younger one was reportedly burned on her back with a hot flatiron by her elderly male employer. Her sister, who was employed by the elderly man's son, was subsequently sacked for allegedly colluding to make up the scalding story.

The alleged burn victim, Rizza del Rosario from Piat, Cagayan, said she was also

forced to terminate her contract by her employer of just over a month. Rizza was accompanied by The SUN to the Mission for Migrant Workers on Dec. 13 to seek help the morning after the reported attack.

Rizza's photograph showing two ugly blistery burn marks on her back were posted overnight Saturday by her friends along with an appeal for help to bring her justice.

At about the time The SUN

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Victim shows her injuries.

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Rosita Ner Pogon

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Complainants against Roldan opt out of DOLE inquiry

By Daisy CL Mandap

The complainants in the grave misconduct case against former labor attache Manuel Roldan have ignored an invitation from the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) to submit evidence in its reinvestigation of the case.

The groups that make up the Coalition of Service Providers are instead looking at consulting a lawyer who could pursue the case in other venues, including the Office of the Ombudsman.

This was according to Cynthia Tellez, general manager of the Mission for Migrant Workers. She said this was the reason her group decided to consult with a group of lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the

Philippines who came to Hong Kong recently to provide free consultation to overseas Filipino workers.

This was confirmed by Consul General Bernardita Catalla, who introduced the group to the IBP lawyers on Nov. 14.

"I did not call them to a meeting regarding DoLE's reinvestigation of the case," Congen Catalla clarified. "They (CSPEM) wanted to take advantage of the presence of the IBP lawyers so they could consult about the case".

However, the consultation did not result in any lawyer from IBP taking up the case. Some CSPEM leaders are now reportedly planning to confer with another Philippine lawyer who has initially indicated an interest in pursuing the case.

Meantime, there has been no news on the progress of DOLE's reinvestigation of the case, which followed a meeting between Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and Rep. Leah Paquiz of Ang Nars Partylist.

The party-list representative sought the meeting to inquire about the status of the case. She and her fellow members of Congress' committee on overseas workers affairs (COWA) conducted a public hearing on Roldan's case in Hong Kong last year, but failed to pursue their investigation.

After meeting Baldoz, Paquiz told The SUN: "They (DoLE) are opening the case of Labatt Roldan. You can send DoLE complaints, evidence, etc."

DoLE had earlier found Roldan guilty only of simple misconduct, and ordered him suspended for a month and one day, or pay a fine in an equiv-

alent amount.

CSPEM and other community leaders in Hong Kong immediately assailed the decision, saying only Roldan was allowed to present evidence and not his accusers.

Baldoz deflected the criti-

cism by saying the case could still be appealed to her.

The charges against Roldan ranged from his act of endorsing the accreditation of an employment agency owned by the daughter of his driver who was on DoLE's payroll, to accredi-

ing about 90 new agencies despite a long-standing ban.

He was also accused of widening the scope of the conciliation proceedings at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in violation of department orders.

Filipina claims employer burned her with flatiron

FromPage 1

had established contact with the victim, her elder sister Rona was given her walking orders by the son of the alleged assailant. Both father and son are surnamed Tang.

"I was folding the clothes that I had just ironed when the old man suddenly pressed the flatiron against my back. I screamed in pain and cried," related Rizza, who arrived in Hong Kong on Nov 10 to serve the 82-year-old elder Tang and

his 80-year-old wife.

Photographs posted online by her friends clearly showed two red burn marks on both sides of her upper back.

She said the attack happened in the early evening of Dec 12, when only she and the old man were in his flat in Mei Foo Sun Chuen. When the wife arrived and saw the distressed helper, she accused Rizza of lying, telling her that her husband was a kind man.

"They called the police and when an officer came to the flat, the couple told him I myself inflicted the burns, and the officer apparently believed them. He asked me to sign a document which said I caused the injury myself," Rizza said.

Later, when the younger Tang came over to the old man's flat, he opposed Rizza's plea to go to the hospital for medical treatment, allegedly telling her that they won't treat her there and that he was certain about it because he supposedly worked in the hospital.

The victim also showed The SUN a resignation letter which the couple had allegedly ordered her to write and sign before she could leave the house that evening. "I signed it because they told me I won't be able to leave if I didn't do so,"

Rizza said.

In that letter, Rizza informed the employer that she was resigning effective Dec 12 for an undisclosed reason. The latter part of the document stated various amounts totaling \$4,000 that she was to receive, including \$2,000 for her plane ticket and \$200 for her transport cost from Manila to her hometown.

Rizza told The SUN that since her arrival, the old man was always nagging her or throwing things at her when he was displeased.

"He would also ask me to massage him often but would scold me if I did not press too hard. If I told the wife about it, she'd only smile," the Filipina said.

She said it was her sister Rona who enticed her to come to Hong Kong when Rizza was working in Malaysia, and recommended her to the elder Tang.

She quit the job in Malaysia and waited for a month in Manila while her papers and Hong Kong visa were being processed.

"I've made a mistake, my employers in Malaysia were kind," she said with regret.

On Dec 13, Cynthia Tellez, executive director of the Mission, interviewed Rizza, who was later joined by Rona at the NGO's offices. After lunch, they went to Ruttonjee Hospital in Wanchai for a medical checkup and treatment of Rizza's burns.

Rizza was also made to fill up a form and make a written statement about her ordeal, which, together with the medical certificate, would support a complaint to be filed with the police against the employer.

As of the evening of Dec 13, Bethune House executive director Edwina Antonio said the shelter was making space available for Rizza and Rona.

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BUHAY PINAY

Note: Unless properly identified, people reported here have been given fictitious names to protect their privacy.

Trapik!

Kamakailan lang ay umuwi sa Pilipinas si Jay para dumalo sa kasal ng kanyang pamangkin. Maayos naman na nakarating nang maayos ang sinakyan niyang eroplano, at nasa oras. Medyo natagalan nga lang ang pagdating ng bagahe mula sa loob ng airport. Nagpatuloy ang kanyang swerte nang dumating sa tamang oras ang kanyang sundo at masaya siyang nakipagbatian sa mga ito. Tantiya ni Jay ay mga isang oras lang ay makakarating na sila sa kanilang bahay sa Cainta dahil tanghali naman noon, kaya malamang na hindi sila mata trapik. Pero ganoon na lang ang pagkadismaya niya nang paglabas pa lang ng airport ay tila gitgitan na ang mga sasakyan. Halos usad pagong na agad ang daloy ng trapiko hanggang makarating sila ng C5, kaya inabot na sila ng mahigit dalawang oras sa kalsada. Kahit saan dumaan ang tsuper ng kanilang sasakyan ay naiipit pa rin sila sa trapik. Napabuntong hininga na lang si Jay nang maisip na mas mahaba pa ang oras ng biyahe niya pauwi mula sa airport kaysa sa paglipad niya mula sa Hong Kong na tumagal lang ng dalawang oras. Para siyang nabunutan ng tinik nang makarating na sila sa kanilang bahay.- Jo Campos

Nakuha ang loob

Hindi naging madali ang mga unang buwan ni Maria sa mga bagong amo na Briton. Halata kasi niya na malayo ang loob sa kanya ng kanyang alagang lalaki, bagamat wala siyang problema sa kapatid nitong babae. Hindi naman niya ito inilihim sa mga amo. Ipinaalam niya na halata niya na mabigat ang loob ng bata sa kanya, at sinabi naman ng kanyang among babae na pagpasensiyahan na lang muna ang bata. Intindihin na lang daw niya dahil bagong lipat lang sila sa Hong Kong mula sa London, at ito ang unang pagkakataon na may kasama silang ibang tao sa kanilang bahay. Sinabi naman ni Maria na naiintindihan niya ang bata, at susubukan na lang daw niyang mapalapit dito. Gabi-gabi kapag dumarating ang amo ni Maria mula sa trabaho ay lagi nitong kinukumusta ang ipinapakitang ugali ng kayang anak. Isang gabi

kamakailan ay dumating ang amo niya na halatang masaya. Pagpasok pa lang niya sa bahay ay sinabihan niya agad si Maria na may importante silang pag uusapan kapag napatulog na niya ang kanyang mga alaga. Hindi nga naglaon mula nang makatulog ang mga bata ay tinawag ng amo si Maria, at masayang ibinahagi na malaki daw ang naging pagbuti ng ugali ng kanyang anak. Mismong ang batang lalaki daw mismo ang nagsabi sa ina na panatag na ang loob nito na may iba silang kasama sa bahay. Ni hindi daw ito tinanong ng ina tungkol dito, kundi ang bata mismo ang bumanggit dito habang sila ay nasa beach. Hindi maitago ang saya sa mukha ni Maria, lalo na at hindi matapos-tapos ang pasasalamat ng kanyang amo sa kanya, dahil natitiis daw niya ang ugali ng anak nito. Ang laki daw ng ipinagbago ng ugali ng kanyang anak magmula nang lumipat sila sa Hong Kong, at malaki ang naging papel niya dito. Sinabi na lang ni Maria na tinatrato niyang parang mga anak ang dalawang alaga. Nagpasalamat din siya sa mga amo dahil sa kabutihang ipinapakita nila sa kanya. Si Maria, 30 taong gulang, may tatlong anak at taga Mindanao, ay naninilbihan sa among Briton na nakatira sa Wan Chai. — **Grace Gonzaga**

Nahiya

Araw ng Linggo, at umaga pa lang ay aligaga na si Erlinda sa paghahanda ng kanyang mga dadalhin para sa isang salu-salo kasama ang kanyang mga kaibigan. Dahil tinanghali siya ng gising ay nagkukumahog siyang nagluto ng pagkain na babaunin niya. Nahihiya siya na baka magising na ang kanyang amo at makitang nagluluto siya ng baon. Pagkatapos nito ay naligo lang si Erlinda at umalis na ng bahay. Mabuti naman at hindi siya nahuli sa kanyang lakad at maghapon siyang nakipagkwentuhan at nagsaya kasama ang kanyang barkada sa isang beach. Gabi na ay tuloy pa rin ang saya, at dahil medyo nakainom ay hindi na namalayan ni Erlinda ang paglipas ng oras. Naalala niyang umuwi na nang mapansin na malalim na ang gabi. Pagdating sa harap ng kanilang pintuan ay hinanap niya ang kanyang susi ngunit hindi niya ito makita. Kinabahan si Erlinda na baka nahulog iyon kung saan at tiyak na mapapagalitan siya ng kanyang amo. Dahil dis-oras na ng gabi, hindi magawa ni Erlinda ang mag doorbell dahil tiyak na tulog na lahat ang mga tao sa kanila. Isa pa ay baka magising ang alagang bata at tiyak na pahirapan na naman ang pagpapatulog dito kapag ito ay nagising. Sinubukang tumawag ni Erlinda sa Pinay na kapitbahay nila para makitulog ngunit naka off na ang cellphone nito. Wala naman siyang kilala na malapit na pwede niyang tuluyan para magpalipas ng gabi. Nagdesisyon si Erlinda na matulog na lang sa may pintuan ng kanilang bahay, kaya nang nagbukas ng pinto ang kanyang amo para kunin ang diyaro ay nakitang nakatalungko siya doon. Nagpaliwanag si Erlinda na naiwan ang kanyang susi at ayaw na rin niyang maistorbo pa ang mga ito kaya't natulog na lang siya sa labas. Hindi naman nagalit ang kanyang amo at sinabi lang na tiyaking dala niya ang kanyang susi sa susunod para di siya



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parang basang sisiw na natutulog sa labas ng kanilang pintuan. Si Erlinda ay dalaga at nagtatrabaho sa isang pamilyang Briton sa Mid Levels.-Jo Campos

Nainis

Mag-iisang buwan pa lamang si Victoria sa bago niyang trabaho sa Shatin nang may dumating na bisita ang mga amo na galing sa kanilang bansa. Buwan ng kapaskuhan kayat maraming dalang regalo ang bisita para sa pamangkin na amo ni Victoria at apo niya dito na apat na buwan pa lang. Habang nagpapadeda si Victoria sa alagang sanggol ay panay ang kwento ng bisita tungkol sa kung saan binili ang bawat regalo. Natuwa na nainis si Victoria nag sabihin ng bisita ang, "I bought these two hand-made dress from a charity sale in the Philippines because I hate to see people leaving their families to look after other families abroad. I was thinking that would help them stay with their families." Biglang sumama ang loob ni Victoria dahil hindi man lang naisip ng kausap na isa siya sa mga natamaan sa tinuran nito. Buti sana daw ay isang kahon ang binili nitong damit para siguradong na

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Pinoy DH number grows to 182,000

By Vir B. Lumicao

There has been a 3% increase in the number of Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong in the last four months alone. As of the end of October this year, there was a total of 182,469 Filipino migrants, as compared to 177,000 in June, according to figures made available by the Consulate.

The increase drove up the Filipino population in Hong Kong to 199,148, up 2.78% from 194,000 in June, with residents numbering about 16,700.

Vice Consul Fatima Quintin told The SUN the growth in the domestic worker numbers was apparently driven up by a combination the strength of the US currency that had also lifted

ed the Hong Kong dollar, and the recent increase in the minimum salary for helpers.

"Dumarami. Kasi mataas na ang palit, at tumaas na rin ang minimum," said Quintin, who noted that there was also a slight rise in the number of Filipino residents.

The minimum salary for newly hired domestic workers in the territory was increased to \$4,210 a month, or roughly US\$543 at the current exchange rate. In peso terms, that would mean P25,554 a month.

Hong Kong is the sixth-largest source of OFW remittances with the workers in the territory sending US\$576,884 in January to September this year, up 14.7% from US\$503,096 for the same nine-month period in 2014.

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Hundreds mark International Migrants' Day

By Marites Palma

Hundreds of migrant workers from Southeast Asia staged a protest march on Dec 13 calling for better working conditions, higher wages, and an end to modern-day slavery and social exclusion of foreign domestic helpers.

Police escorts directed vehicular traffic as the protesters marched from Causeway to the Central Government Offices to mark the 25th International Day of Solidarity of Migrants.

The atmosphere was festive as the protesters, mostly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Nepal, sang protest songs and shouted slogans to the jingle of tambourines and beat of mini-drums as they made their way to the Indonesian Consulate and down Hennessy Road to Central.

The march coincided with International Migrants Day declared by the United Nations General assembly on Dec. 18, 2000, when it adopted a resolution protecting the rights of

migrant workers.

The Hong Kong Government has so far refused to acknowledge and follow the international human rights covenants and international labor rights standards.

Countries around the world mark International Migrants' Day to recognize the contributions of migrants to the economies of both the home and host countries.

But the Hong Kong government gave minimal increment of \$100 to the monthly allow-

able wage and added \$31 to the monthly food allowance of those who are receiving it.

According to the Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body, the year 2015 started with a legal victory of Erwiana Sulistyaningsih over her employer Law Wan-tung, who was sent to jail for 6 years.

But, unfortunately, the Hong Kong government downplayed Erwiana's ordeal as an isolated case that did not merit a review of the conditions of foreign domestic workers with a view

to reforming policies detrimental to FDWs' rights, the two-week rule and the mandatory live-in policy.

"Justice can only be achieved if the detrimental policies are ended, human rights are upheld and the dignity of migrants is promoted," the AMCB said.

The group said that the existing policies perpetuate the vulnerability of FDWs to abuse and exploitation as what happened to Erwiana.

Eman Villanueva, AMCB



spokesman, said migrants from Sri Lanka and Thailand were not around this year as they had important events planned earlier. The location of the assembly area also affected attendance, with a smaller number of protesters this year.



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HK gov't says FDHs do not need recruitment agencies

The Hong Kong government has categorically stated that a foreign domestic worker need not go through an employment agency to get a job here.

“We wish to clarify that it is in fact not the government’s requirement that foreign domestic helpers must be recruited through employment agencies,” said a government spokesperson in a statement released on Dec. 9.

The Philippines and Indonesia, which supply the most number of domestic workers in Hong Kong, however, require the workers to go through recruitment agencies.

“The government will continue to strengthen its monitoring over employment agencies and work closely with the relevant governments to protect

the well-being of FDHs," said the spokesperson. "In fact, where there is evidence that an FDH has been abused or exploited, discretion would be given to allow him/her to change employer in Hong Kong without being required to return to his/her place of origin first," the spokesperson said.

The statement was issued after the United Nations Committee against Torture in Geneva issued its concluding observations on the third report of the HKSAR under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

The spokesperson also defended the Kong government's "two-week rule" policy for terminated foreign domestic

workers, as well as its live-in requirement for helpers, which it calls as the cornerstone of its FDH policy.

He said the two-week rule's main purpose is to allow foreign domestic workers sufficient time to prepare for their departure and "not to facilitate them to find new employers".

He also said any change to the requirement that domestic helpers must stay in their employers' homes "will go against the rationale for allowing the importation of FDHs to

meet the acute and long-standing shortage of local live-in domestic helpers and the fundamental policy that local employees (including local domestic helpers) should enjoy priority in employment”.

He said each year, the government receives around 5,000 applications for change of employer after premature termination of contract for various reasons. "Less than 20 (0.4%) of these cases involved FDHs who had been abused or exploited by their ex-employers,"

he said.

The Government has been working closely with relevant consulates in Hong Kong in raising the helpers' awareness of their rights and encouraging them to report cases of abuse or exploitation to relevant authorities as soon as possible, the spokesperson said.

The committee "commended Hong Kong in a number of important areas" during its hearing of the report in Geneva on Nov 17-18, the spokesperson said. The HKSAR delega-

tion was led by Permanent Secretary for Security Joshua Law.

One of the Hong Kong government's important actions which the committee praised was the amendment of the Prosecution Code in 2013 providing guidelines for prosecutors to handle cases relating to forced labor, the spokesperson said.

The government's next report under the CAT is due in 2019 and will contain its detailed response to the committee's recommendations.

Another agency fined for overcharging

Employment agencies have again been warned against collecting any fees from jobseekers other than the 10% commission on the latter's first month's salary upon successful placement as prescribed by law.

The Labour Department said in a press release that failure to do so could lead to prosecution and possible revocation or refusal of renewal, of the agencies' licenses.

The department issued the warning after the licensee of 3sion Employment Agency in Tin Hau was convicted and fined \$6,000 at Eastern Court recently for overcharging a jobseeker. The court also ordered 3sion to refund \$7,389 to the jobseeker, the government said.

In July 2015, the Employment Agencies Administration received a complaint against 3sion for overcharging commission from a job-seeker.

An investigation revealed sufficient evidence that 3sion had collected excessive placement fees from a foreign domestic helper, and the agency was prosecuted.

"We are glad that the FDH concerned was willing to come forward to report her case to the EAA and act as prosecution witness," a Labour Department spokesman said.

"The department will not tolerate any agencies overcharg-

ing jobseekers and will act promptly upon receipt of any complaints. Prosecution will be initiated when there is sufficient evidence and the Commissioner for Labour will consider revoking, or refusing to renew, an agency's license upon its conviction," the spokesman said.

He urged jobseekers who suspect that they had been overcharged by agencies to report their case to the EAA as soon as possible and act as prosecution witnesses.

3sion is the ninth employment agency that has been convicted of overcharging this year. Its license expired in November and the commissioner will consider refusing to renew it, the spokesman said.

The other eight agencies convicted of overcharging this year are Bagus Employment Agency in Central, Satisfactory Employment & Travel Centre Ltd in Tai Wai, Vicks Maid Consultant Co in Sha Tin, Joyce Agency in Kwai Chung, Maidhouse Employment Agency Co Ltd in Tsuen Wan, Smile Sunshine Employment Ltd in North Point, Shun Tat Employment Agency Co in Causeway Bay and Artellect Ltd in Tuen Mun.

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COMMUNITY

PAHK elects new officers

Edith Gomez of PLDT has been elected as the new chairman of the Philippine Association of Hong Kong during the initial meeting of the 2016 Board of Directors held on Dec. 7.

The other officers are: Eric Quizon (ABS-CBN), vice-chairman; Michael Vincent (Metro Broadcast), secretary; Emilie Veringa (Wimlér), assistant secretary; Edna Hui (PNB), treasurer; Stephen Go (BPI), assistant treasurer; Fred Valencia (Metrobank), auditor; Leah Nicolas (PAL), internal PRO; Kissa McDermott (Home Journal), external PRO. The committee heads are Rex Aguado (freelance journalist) and Jun Paragas (Metro Broadcast), events; Tom Magno (PAL) and Joanna Uson (PLDT), membership; Yanyan

Boyce (Peya Travel), business development; and Arnold Grospe (Peya Travel), sports.

The officers are expected to take their oath early next year.

Earlier, the members of the board were chosen in an uncontested election during PAHK's annual general meeting held on Dec. 2 at Mano Restaurant in Central.

At the AGM, outgoing chairman Gilbert Legaspi reported on the activities conducted by PAHK during the past year, including its earnings from several events, including the annual Philippine Independence Day Ball. Out of the money earned, the PAHK donated to several charities, including Bayanihan Trust, \$60,000; Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge, \$40,000; and Wimlér, \$15,000.



First Meeting of PAHK Board 2016 at Metrobank office in United Centre to choose the officers from among the 15 elected as members of the board. Those present (in photo) were Edith Gomez, who was elected chairman, Fred Valencia, Arnold Grospe, Rhea Donna Bayona Boyce, Federico Mendez Paragas Jr., Michael Vincent, Rex Aguado, Edna Hui, Tom Magno and Kissa Castañeda-McDermott.



PAHK also provided scholarship grants to the children of eight overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong, seven of whom are in their last year in college. They are: Maryknoll Abellera, daughter of Imelda Abellera; Jon Bon Lacaten, son of Ruena Corpuz; Maria Ysabel Landong, daughter of Yvonne de Guzman; Samantha Esteban, daughter of Marilou Esteban; Jan Ryan Pacalda, son of Merylin Pacalda; Mary Rose Ramos, daughter of Medina Ramos; Marisol Rivera, daughter of Soledad Rivera; and Joseph Tanael, son of Jesus Tanael. Everyone is expected to graduate in April or June next year, except for Mary Rose Ramos, who is finishing at the end of this month.

Beneficiaries of PAHK Scholarship Grant: Merilyn Pacalda, Jesus Tanael, Medina Ramos, Yvonne De Guzman, Imelda Abellera, Marilou Esteban and Ruena Corpuz.

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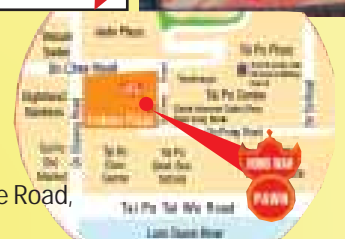
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Double Christmas cheer for Musang, Imaso members

A joint Christmas party attended by around 100 people was held by Musang Martial Arts Society and the International Marshal Society (Imaso) at Empire Hotel in Wanchai on Dec. 13.

The two groups which are both led by Joseph Bautista, had guests from various mar-

tial arts, business and professional groups.

Guest speaker was Deputy Consul General Christian de Jesus who said he shared the group's wish that the next president of the Philippines will have the interest of the overseas Filipino workers.

"Ipanalangin natin na

magkaroon tayo ng pangulo na pinili ng ating mga OFW," he said in his speech.

The celebration was capped with a toast to The SUN's 20th anniversary and to its publisher Leo A. Deocadiz and editor Daisy CL Mandap, who were among the guests at the event.

Officers and members of Musang Martial Arts Society and the International Marshal Society offer a toast to The SUN on its 20th anniversary. Below, the guests for the customary souvenir photo.



Members of Road HK pose for souvenir photo before giving gifts to people on Chater Road. This is their way of sharing their blessings in celebrating Christmas.

Giving love on Christmas

This year, instead of spending money on a lavish party, the Radiant Organization of Amiable Drivers (Road) Hong Kong chose to celebrate Christmas in a different way.

Armed with their song sheets, red hats and some care-

fully wrapped gifts, Road members who all work as family drivers in Hong Kong, took to Chater Road to sing Christmas carols and distribute goodie bags to fellow Filipinas.

Their merriment and gesture of goodwill was so contagious

a few Chinese and expat residents along with their children, joined in the fun. It was truly a memorable Christmas for the members who managed to prove to themselves that truly, sharing is caring, especially on this holiest of seasons.

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Guardians' group donates to Bethune

By Ramon Dizon Jr.

Newly founded Hong Kong Legendary Chapter of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. undertook its first charity work on Nov 29, picking Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge as its first beneficiary.

"Today, we are going to conduct a 'sagip' program for (the shelter) on Jordan Road. We heard that they (need help regarding) the daily basic needs of OFWs who have been unfortunate in their employment," the group said in a statement.

Chapter president Susan Diaz visited Bethune House to deliver grocery items, inquire about the residents' conditions and find out how her group can help further.

Shelter coordinator Esther Bangcawayan spent almost two hours sharing with them the plight of the migrants, who are mostly Indonesians.

"Some are seeking help and justice against abusive employers, which is only one of the many reasons why they are in the shelter," said the chapter



Officers and members of PGBI Legendary Chapter bring their gift to wards of Bethune House.



PathFinders held a Migrants' Health Day event in Yuen Long on Dec 13. About 1,000 migrant workers came to the event to avail themselves of various health- and job-related services offered by 10 partner NGOs or watch cultural presentations. The most popular booth was that of Chinese Medicine for All, where visitors were given free accupressure massage or accupuncture for those with more serious body pains. At right, David Siu, project officer of HKAids Foundation, hands out kits to a migrant worker.



statement.

Diaz, a former OFW who is now a Hong Kong resident, is looking to seek help from her local friends to meet the legal needs of migrant workers. She said most of the funds the group used to buy the grocery items were collected from her friends and customers at the

restaurant where she works.

She said her group has only 26 members, and they were all part of a group they had previously set up, and became inactive seven years ago.

Prospective members need to attend the group's activities for two months and pass an examination about their by-laws

to be officially accepted.

The group promised to do more charity work especially for Bethune House, in addition to supporting its member in times of financial emergencies.

"But not very soon, we just reorganized last March," said Diaz.

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Mission gets top approval rating from clients

By Daisy CL Mandap

Staff and volunteers at the Mission for Migrant Workers had reason to celebrate when they launched the non-government organization's 10-year Impact Evaluation Report at Li Hall of St John's Cathedral on Dec. 4. Nearly all, or 97% of migrants who sought assistance said that they were helped by the Mission, and more than half of them (57%) said they would recommend the NGO to others.

The result was an overwhelming endorsement of the Mission, which has been providing assistance to migrant workers in Hong Kong for more than 30 years.

In her speech at the launch attended by around 100 guests, the Mission's general manager Cynthia Tellez said the landmark evaluation process was conducted with help from Antonio Tujan, Jr. of the Institute for Social Concerns and the IBON International in the Philippines.

She said the exercise allowed them to look at their strengths and weaknesses through an analysis of how their services have impacted migrants.

"The evaluation exercise we did this year was a humbling experience, a learning activity and a process that brought more vigor to the MFMW to continue with our two-fold mission of bringing timely, responsive and quality service to migrants in distress while pursuing the rights-based empowerment of the community for a better, more harmonious and inclusive Hong Kong," said Tellez.

Among the guests at the

event were Philippine Consul General Bernardita Catalla, members of the Mission's Board of Directors and its supporters and partners over the years.

Among the services provided by the Mission, the most widely availed of is its labour and employment assistance program. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of clients who sought help under this program averaged around 4,400, which represented a

four-fold increase from the 1,000 recorded before 2012.

Most of Mission's clients, or 71%, paid placement fees which in most cases, were far higher than what is allowed by law.

As a result, the Mission has helped in the recovery of \$2.5 million on average of illegally collected or overcharged agency fees.

Another service that has given the Mission a high profile is its know your rights seminars,

where a total of 1,700 participants were recorded in 2013.

In 2011, with support from the Love Ideas, Love HK program of the Li Ka Shing Foundation, it pioneered the highly successful Give Care to Our Caregivers project, which provides day-long pampering to migrant workers.

Six GCC events were held that year, which catered to around 15,000 clients. The number of beneficiaries peaked to 24,000 in 2013.

Ayala house winners

Bellavita, an Ayalaland company, thru Ayalaland Hongkong's Country Manager Tesha Bancod, handed over the certificates of the 2 Gemelli house and lots from its Alaminos, Laguna project to 2 lucky winners during Smart Pinoy's 11th anniversary celebration on Dec 6 near piers 9 and 10 in Central.

Joining Bancod were the Smart Pinoy HK Team and special guests/artists Eric Quizon, Vandolph, Epy Quizon, Jake Cuenca, Arci Munoz and Long Mejia.

The first winner to receive her certificate of ownership

was Lou Anne Anosa, while the second winner was Wendyline Casibang. Both were ecstatic when their names were called during the lucky draw.

Bellavita is a brand of Ayalaland group of companies whose affordable and socialized housing programs are located in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Pangasinana, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Cagayan de Oro. For more information about Bellavita homes, visit Ayalaland Hong Kong's office at Shop 331, 3/F Worldwide Plaza in Central, or call 2810-1190.

UPAA-HK has new officers

For the 11th straight year, the University of the Philippines has chosen its new officers at a party held to also gather members for a Christmas celebration. The party and election was held on Dec. 10 at Osteria Felice in Central.

Elected uncontested as officers for the coming year were: Euvi Regis, president; Rey Asis, vice president; Bea Siasico, secretary; Dave Centeno, treasurer; and Cyndi Ang, press relations officer. They will take their oath of office early next year.

The gathering was also highlighted by a report from outgoing president Jeko Abila and an awarding of token gifts to people who extended help to the alumni group over the past year.

The gathering was also highlighted by a report from outgoing president Jeko Abila and an awarding of token gifts to people who extended help to the alumni group over the past year.



UPAA-HK members and guests during the party.

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New scheme shortens OEC queues, foils form-selling

By Vir B. Lumicao

The long lines of Filipino migrant workers clogging the pedestrian bridge in Admiralty in previous days have virtually disappeared, as a new scheme intended to avoid chaos during the seasonal rush for overseas employment certificates went into effect on Dec 9.

But the sheer number of OFWs going home for the Christmas holidays resurrected the long queues again on Sunday, Dec 13, as application forms for the OEC reportedly ran out.

The scheme which took effect at the prodding of Consul General Bernie Catalla, involved designating time slots for OEC applicants queuing up on the Admiralty-United Centre footbridge.

It also cut short attempts by some people to make money by selling copies of OEC forms for up to \$4 each to those on the queue. The original forms are free.

Staff at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office who handled crowd control on the footbridge leading to their offices have also begun issuing number cards to people on the queue for more orderly passage.

Applicants immediately welcomed the change, saying it should have come much earlier,

although many of them insisted the OEC should be junked.

The crowd that used to stretch all the way towards the Government Centre before 11am on Dec 9 numbered just 46 -- just a fraction of the 400 or so who lined up the day before.

Another 38 were slouching on one side of the bridge waiting for their turn to line up.

Those who received the forms with the time slot were told to queue up again 15 minutes before their appointment. However, on reaching the POLO on the 16th floor of Admiralty Centre, some 300 people were still packing the hall.

A woman said she arrived at 8:30 am and was still near the rear end of the queue.

The timed appointments and number cards also eliminated a widely known and criticized selling of OEC forms which some enterprising people had thought of to cash in on the shortage of forms on the previous days.

Applicants who had bought the forms said a photocopying shop in Admiralty Centre was selling them for \$4 a copy.

"Grabe, wala man lang nag-aabot ng free form doon. May bumibili na ng form doon dahil takot silang mawala yung pila," Trisha Mae Reyes commented on a Facebook post.



Consul General Bernie Catalla and Deputy Consul General Kit de Jesus oversee the OEC processing at POLO;

Vicky Serrano suggested that the crowd should have taken a photo of a man who came offering forms for \$4 each.

"Dapat kinunan ng picture, baka taga Consulate lng yun. \$4 eh, grabe, tapos sakripisyo pa sa pagpila," she said.

Cecile Yraola Diala also welcomed the change. "Mabuti naman... grabe pinila ko noong Sunday grabe kahaba... maski makapag-rest naubos lang sa pagpila. Pagdating sa taas hin-



... But the long lines for OEC are back on Dec 13

ihilo kaapa..9:00 am until 6:00 pm grabe," she said.

Others suggested what they thought were better options, such as POLO staff setting up tables on the footbridge where

the OEC could be issued, instead of sending the people up the building.

But one applicant, calling herself Ri Tah, made a more practical solution to the

queues: "Bakit di na lang kasi tanggalin ang OEC na yan? May kontrata namang ipapakita kung babalik. At makikita naman sa passport kung tapos na ang kontrata mo o hindi."

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Congen moves to shorten OEC queues

By Daisy CL Mandap

All it took was one meeting with concerned Filipino community leaders, and the long queues for the overseas employment certificate or OEC during the pre-Christmas rush was gone in a flash.

Starting Dec. 9, a numbering system was introduced to get rid of the long lines for the OEC to the 16th floor of Admiralty Center where the OECs are being issued in the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) annex.

Those who stand in line for the document are issued a form stamped with a time period during which they can go directly up to the Polo office to get their OEC.

Before the indicated time, they can while their time somewhere else, doing other things they need to do like running errands.

Each applicant is given only one time-stamped form to avoid people lining up for others, or foil those who have reportedly been selling the blank forms for up to \$4 each to those in the queue.

The move came a day after a dialogue was held between leaders of United Filipinos - Migrant Hong Kong and other advocates for the scrapping of the OEC, and Consulate officials led by Consul General Bernardita Catalla.

Unifil secretary-general Eman Villanueva sought the meeting, saying that even if his group was against the OEC requirement, they saw the need to help find ways to ease the burden on the thousands who have been lining up for the document during peak season.

"Walang kain, walang pahinga, walang ihi" was how he described the condition of those who have been lining up to up to seven hours just to secure the document needed by an OFW returning from the Philippines.

Their pitiable plight was reportedly made worse by the building's security staff requiring the Filipina applicants to take the service elevator to the 16th floor, instead of the regular lifts used by other tenants.

One of those herded to the service lift told The SUN: "Nakakasama ho ng loob, kasi di

ba discrimination yun?"

The practice, first noted during a massive post-holiday surge in the number of OEC applicants on Dec. 1, was immediately stopped after it was brought to the attention of Consulate officials.

But the meeting which started on a friendly note nearly turned sour when Villanueva lost his cool after repeated stalling by acting labor attache Ma Nena German on various proposals set before her to address the queuing problem.

Villanueva also got irked because of his perception that German was accusing OFWs of not being tolerant enough over the problems related to OEC.

"This is not all about inconvenience, it is also about securing the welfare and safety of our kababayans", he said.

Villanueva said he got the feeling that the meeting was going nowhere because German resisted all suggestions raised to solve the problem, like returning the OEC issuance to Bayanihan Centre even only during the peak season.

German had earlier said the

Bayanihan issuance which had been in place for at least 12 years was stopped because Polo now has enough space to accommodate OEC applicants. She also said the shifting of personnel from OEC issuance to other tasks is easier if they are all in the same building.

As to the numbering system which Congen Catalla had put in place when the OEC issuance was still being done at the Consulate, German said Polo decided to stop it after receiving complaints, but did not elaborate.

Catalla forestalled a breakdown in the talks by announcing she was resuming the appointment or numbering system.

The next day, she and her deputy, Christian de Jesus, personally supervised and monitored the OEC issuance at the Polo offices.

Polo records show that at the peak of the OEC applications on Dec. 6, a total of 2,150 OFWs were served, the highest for any single day. Since the start of the month, the number of applicants has reportedly averaged around 1,000 per day.



Protesters parade their banners on Chater Road.

Migrants urge: scrap 'illegal' fees and policies

By Marites Palma

Filipinos in Hong Kong celebrated International Migrants' Day by handing a petition to the Consulate demanding the abolition of the overseas employment certificate and a halt to the collection of a Php550 terminal fee, "tanim bala," and opening of door-to-door boxes.

The protesters solidified their ranks by forming an alliance called NO FEE (Network of OFWs Against Excessive Government Fees).

They also demanded the removal of Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina who initiated the opening of balikbayan boxes, and Manila airport general manager Jose Honrado, who insisted on adding the terminal fee to OFW air ticket prices.

The petition was accepted by Vice Consul Fatima Quintin.

Some 100 organizations joined the march-rally from Chater Road to Admiralty.

During the assembly, different leaders spoke in front of the marchers expressing their anger at the Philippine government for collecting different fees from the OFWs illegally.

They said the government only knew how to extract money from millions of OFWs worldwide, but they did not even care for them and neglect their rights as OFWs.

"Sila ay mga bingi at bulag dahil hindi nila naririnig ang hinaing ng mga OFWs, hindi nila nakikita ang paghihirap at paglapastangan sa mga karapatan ng bawat Pilipinong manggagawa sa labas ng bansa," Sanny delos Santos said, directing his tirade at the Philippine Consulate.

Migrante director general Eman Villanueva said International Migrants' Day was a celebration of all the fruits of the overseas workers' sacrifices in fighting for the rights of every foreign domestic worker, just like the successful legal battle of Erwiana Salustianingsih against her abusive employer, the recent \$100 increase to the minimum wage, and the implementation of an appointment system in securing OEC.

The new system of obtaining OEC ended the agony of OFWs queuing up 4-7 hours on the Admiralty footbridge just to get that piece of paper.

He ended his speech by saying, "Ngayong taong 2016, kailangang paghandaan ang nalalapit na election, kailangang maging usapin sa eleksyon ang mga issue tungkol sa migrante, tanungin ang mga kandidato kung ano ang kaya nilang gawin at kung ano ang mga nagawa na nila sa mga OFW."

"Kailangang magbantay kung sino ang dapat maluklok sa gobyerno sa darating na halalan."

Pila sa OEC, nakatawag-pansin sa pulis

Ni Gina N. Ordon

Napasugod ang mga pulis habang nagsasagawa ng kilos protesta ang mga militanteng grupo sa ibaba ng Admiralty Centre noong ika-6 ng Disyembre dahil sa maling akala.

Naunang dumating ang apat na pulis upang siyasin kung may pahintulot ang mga nagrally at nang matiyak na nasa ayos ang lahat ay umalis din ang mga ito. Ngunit pagkalipas ng ilang sandali ay mas malaking grupo ng mga pulis ang sabay-sabay na dumating.

Tinanong ng isang pulis si Eman Villanueva kung kasama sa kilos-protesta ang maraming taong nakapila sa footbridge na nag-uugnay sa Admiralty Centre at Citic Tower. Mariin itong itinanggi ni Villanueva at sa halip ay sinabing ang maha-bang pila ang dahilan ng kilos-protesta. Matapos marinig ang kanyang paliwanag ay umalis din ang mga pulis.

Ang kilos protesta na binuo ng mga kasapi ng Unifil-Migrante Hong Kong ay naglalayong manawagan sa Philippine Overseas Employment



Protesta sa ibaba ng tulay, pila sa itaas (sa itaas na larawan). OEC ang dahilan. Sa kaliwa, ang mga nagpoprotesta at ang kanilang ipinaglalaban.

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Bawat OFW na uuwi sa Pilipinas ay kailangang makakuha nito bilang patunay na ang mga may-hawak ay isang

Administration o POEA na tanggalin na ang overseas employment certificate o OEC na ipinapataw sa bawat OFW na

CALENDAR

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THE SUN'S 20th Anniversary Celebration -

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Dec. 20, 10 am- 6pm, Chater Garden, Central

Organized by: The SUN, with the support of the Mission for Migrant Workers

Guest Performers: Jennifer Palor, Satur Tiamzon, William Elvin and surprise guests. Featured activities: Care to Caregivers, Filcom parade, Launch of The Sun Radio and Coins for Bethune projects, Free art and craft lessons, and counseling and consultations at the PCG and HK Labour Department booths

All Filipino community organizations, especially those that have worked closely with The SUN over the past 20 years, are invited to take part. For details, call 2544 6536

PaStaran 2015

Dec. 24, 7pm, Chater Garden, Central

Yearly parol-making contest organized by the Philippine Consulate General and the Chaplaincy of Filipinos in Hong Kong. This year's theme is "Pagsilang ng Pag-asa at Bagong Simula". For contest rules, call the Cultural Affairs Section, 2823 8537

Christmas Celebration

Dec. 25, 9am onwards, Chater Road, Central. Organizer: Unifil-Migrante HK. Contact, Dolo Pelaez, 9747 2986

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Jan. 7, 9:30pm-12midnight, Orange Peel Music Lounge, D'Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Central. Chill to SYZYGY's unique sound - taking iconic pop songs and mixing them with jazzy grooves and flowing harmonies. Tickets available at door - \$200 includes one standard drink.

PCG ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Philippine Consulate will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Dec. 22 (Tue) Chinese Winter Solstice Day

Dec. 24 (Thu) Additional Special Public Holiday

Dec. 30 (Wed) Dr Jose Rizal Day

Dec 31 (Thu) Last Day of the Year

In addition, the PCG will remain closed every Friday and Saturday

Distribution of Voters' ID

Voters IDs may still be claimed personally or through authorized representative at the PCG service area, Monday to Thursday, from 9am to 4pm, and on Sunday, 9am-2pm.

To facilitate the distribution of the voters ID and avoid long queues, the PCG requests Filcom organizations to claim the voters ID of their members by authorizing any representative. For details, please email cultural_hk@yahoo.com.

Hiring of SBEI Members

Applications for SBEI members who will serve in the 2016 elections are now being accepted. Kindly submit the curriculum vitae of interested applicants either personally or via email to cultural_hk@yahoo.com, attention: Mr. Jethro Dela Cruz, not later than Nov 15. Applicants must submit a Certificate of Good Moral Character duly signed by the organization's president or chairperson. Shortlisted applicants will also be interviewed by the PCG prior to submission of their names to the DFA Overseas Voting Secretariat.

Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar for Newcomers

(held twice a month). Lecture Room, POLO Office, 11th floor, Admiralty Center Tower 1

Junior Association of Migrants gives free zumba lessons every Sunday, 10-11am on Chater Road. Open to the public.

OWWA refusal to shelter elderly overstayer stirs FB firestorm

By Vir B. Lumicao

The refusal of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration officers in Hong Kong to house a sick and elderly overstaying worker who had surfaced and surrendered has triggered an online OWWA-bashing from the Filipino community here.

The Dec 6 drama, captured in a voice recording and posted online by the group "OFWs in Hong Kong," highlighted a serious need for a bigger government shelter for distressed overseas workers here.

The case of 68-year-old Tarcila Alabastro, who was shown on a Facebook post being helped down a stairway, has generated almost 1,100 reactions, 827 shares and 226 comments, mostly chastising OWWA for its alleged insensitivity.

Contacted by The SUN, welfare Officer Judith Santos did not deny refusing shelter to Alabastro. But Santos said this was because OWWA's three-bedroom Filipino Workers Resource Center in Kennedy Town, with space for just nine persons, already had 14 tenants at the time.

"Ganoon po ang ipinaliwanag namin sa kanya, labing-apat na ang nandoon sa shelter at yung iba ay sa salas na natutulog. Hindi naman namin siya pwedeng pahigain sa sahig dahil malamig," Santos said.



Tarcila Alabastro gets help getting down stairs.

But this explanation did not sit well with those commenting on the FB post.

"Ang laki ng ibinabayad ng mga OFW every contract...sa napakadaming OFW sa HK na nagbabayad ng \$200 every contract, yan lang ang allowed sa shelter nila, 9 to 14 katao lang? Ano ito, OWWA, bigasan ng gobyerno ng Pinas ang mga OFW... para sa akin, ang OWWA ngayon walang silbi," a commenter calling herself Flower R. Rose said.

OFWs in HK said: "Hindi usapin ang legal o TNT (tago nang tago). Dapat aksyonan ng Konsulado ang sinoman na humingi ng tulong dahil yun ang tungkulin nila, ang pangalagaan ang kapakanan ng lahat ng mga manggagawang Pilipino sa labas ng bansa."

The government's sparse accommodation for OFWs in distress is in sharp contrast to the luxurious office space currently being rented by the Philippine Overseas Labour Office for nearly \$500,000 a month.

Nanay Tarcila, from Cadiz, Negros Occidental, reportedly limped painfully to the OWWA offices at about 4:30 pm on Dec. 6 supported by three fellow OFWs. She had asked for temporary refuge while awaiting the outcome of her case, after surrendering to the Immigration Department.

It was not clear whether she had also asked for financial help, as she was destitute after almost a decade of eking out a living illegally, and needed \$2,000 for her bail and \$200 for her travel document.

According to Alexise Tiu of OFWs in HK, the elderly woman literally dragged herself into the room of Santos and Welfare Officer Lorna Obedoza in the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Admiralty Centre Tower 1 to seek help.

The old woman begged the two officers to take her in but was turned down. "Ang problema po niyan, napakadami na pong tao sa shelter namin. Ang bilang po namin ay nasa katorse na po sila eh," Santos was heard saying on the recording.

"OK lang basta may matulugan, basta may matuluyan," Nanay Tarcila retorted, insisting she could sleep on the sofa.

"Saan naman kayo patutulugin? Talagang puno na kami," Santos said.

Continued on Page 27



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NEWS FROM HOME

No politics on poll-related cases: SC

With at least one — and possibly two disqualification cases in the presidential race — the Supreme Court has assured the nation politics will not dictate its decisions.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno said that all cases will be discussed and decided based on “utmost wisdom” and not on politics.

She said the high tribunal is anticipating a “not so usual” Christmas season because of the urgent election-related petitions, such as those involving disqualification cases and the “No Bio, No Boto” program of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The justices, she said, have been undertaking preliminary research in preparation for discussions on the cases.

Disqualified presidential aspirant Rizalito David had taken his petition to unseat Senator Grace Poe after his defeat in the Senate Electoral Tribunal

(SET). Poe, on her part, said her lawyers will ask the Supreme Court to reverse the rulings of two divisions of the Comelec to cancel her certificate of candidacy (CoC) because she failed to meet the 10-year residency requirement under the Constitution.

Another disqualification case involves Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, whose candidacy as substitute for a candidate who had withdrawn is being questioned before the Comelec.

Poe herself counts on the Supreme Court to allow her to seek the presidency in the May 2016 elections by reversing two Comelec decisions.

The second division had voted 3-0 on December 1 to grant the petition of lawyer Estrella Elamparo to disqualify Poe because she is not a natural-born Filipino and she failed to comply with the 10-year residency requirement under the Consti-

tution.

Ten days later, the first division voted 2-1 on three consolidated petitions to cancel Poe’s certificate of candidacy (CoC) on the same issues involving her citizenship and residency.

The Comelec panel said Poe “committed material misrepresentation in her CoC when she declared that she has been a resident of the Philippines for a period of 10 years and 11 months as of the day of the election on May 9, 2016.”

The panel cited inconsistencies in Poe’s declarations in her CoCs when she ran for the Senate in 2013 and her CoC for president filed last October. Based on its interpretation, the Comelec panel said Poe’s residency in the Philippines could be reckoned from April 2006, not May 2005 as she claimed in her CoC for president.

Poe took to Facebook minutes after her disqualification, saying that she has no plans to

abandon her presidential bid. “I am still a candidate for President,” she posted on the social media tool. “Let’s fight for democracy, where the people’s welfare takes front & center.”

She added: “It is sad that the Comelec First Division has chosen to ignore the facts just to deny me the chance to better serve our countrymen, and to also deny our people their choices in an open election.”

Poe won at the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) that voted 5-4 on Nov. 17 to dismiss the petition of another presidential aspirant Rizalito David to unseat her as senator. Five senators voted to uphold Poe’s argument that she is a natural-born Filipino while the three Supreme Court justices and Sen. Nancy Binay voted in favor of the petition.

The case reached the Supreme Court on Dec. 9 when David filed a petition for the reversal of the SET decision.

He said people should not be afraid to kill criminals who prey on civilians and molest minors.

According to him, the country needs a firm resolve to punish wrongdoers such as those who peddle illegal drugs, which he considers as the prime factor that pushes people to commit crime.

Presidential contenders trade barbs

Verbal exchanges among the leading presidential contenders have been heating up as part of effort to in pre-election surveys toward the fourth quarter polling.

Senators Grace Poe and Francis Escudero, independent candidates for president and vice president, have separately accused administration standard bearer Mar Roxas II of flexing his muscles on the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to disqualify Poe, adopted daughter of action king Fernando Poe Jr. who ran but lost in a fraud-tainted election to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

Roxas, in turn, took potshots

at Rodrigo Duterte, the tough-talking mayor of Davao City, for his martial-law type of keeping law and order. Unlike Duterte, Roxas said he was against the restoration of the death penalty and vowed to fight against summary justice which, he said, would mark a return to the dark ages.

Roxas said the claim that Davao is peaceful is a myth, noting that it is the fourth in rank among the cities with worst crime rate.

For his remarks, Roxas came under fire from Duterte and his diehard supporters. Duterte shot back by saying that Roxas’ credentials as a graduate of the Wharton School of Business in the US was a myth. Roxas promptly showed evidence he graduated from Wharton.

Duterte likewise narrated in interviews alleged incompetence of Roxas in handling emergencies in the aftermath of the Yolanda storm surge in Tacloban.

Roxas and Duterte were friends but their relationship has turned sour after the latter accused the LP of spreading rumors that he has cancer. Roxas has clarified he has nothing to do with the newsman who wrote on Facebook that Duterte has cancer.

NEWSBRIEFS

Tieup to curb smuggling

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) has signed an agreement with DHL Group, the largest courier service in the Philippines, for an exchange of information and consultation on shipments meant to curb smuggling. The BoC said in a statement that it is the first-of-its-kind public-private partnership that aims to counter smuggling. Under the agreement, the Germany-based global courier will provide technical assistance to BoC to upgrade the capability of its personnel on tracking deliveries in and out of the country. BoC, for its part, vowed increased efficiency on clearance of air consignments.

NBI confirms ‘tanim-bala’

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed robbery-extortion and graft complaints against six individuals including four policemen involved in a “tanim-bala” incident at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) passenger terminals. While the NBI has found sufficient evidence to file criminal charges against airport personnel, it concurred with the assertion of President Benigno Aquino III and Transportation Secretary Jose Emilio Abaya that while the “tanim-bala” extortion racket happened, those involved were not organized as a syndicate. Those charged were airport personnel involved in the case of Lane White, an American missionary victimized by the scheme last September.

OFW lawyer wants Honrado out

Lawyer Spocky Farolan, pro-bono counsel of overseas Filipino worker (OFW) Gloria Ortinez who was detained for several days at the ASG office over the “tanim-bala” scam, has urged Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Jose Angel Honrado to resign out of delicadeza. Farolan said Honrado, a distant cousin of President Benigno Aquino III and close-in security of his late mother, should resign “to allow a more competent and qualified manager to manage the airport.” Ortinez, 56, was prevented from taking her flight on October 28 back to Hong Kong where she has been working for more than 20 years after airport personnel found a bullet for a carbine rifle in her hand-carried bag. She was detained after failing to pay P80, 000 bail on charges of illegal possession of ammunition filed before the Pasay prosecutor’s office. But Honrado refused to heed calls for his resignation.

455 years for pyramid queen

The Makati regional trial court had sentenced so-called “pyramid queen” Rose Baladajay and her husband to imprisonment of up to 455 years after they were found guilty of scamming investors of the Multinational Telecoms Investors Corporation (Multitel) in 2001. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in a statement on December 9 that Makati RTC Branch 56 had sentenced Baladajay and her husband, Saturnino, to 7 years imprisonment for each of 65 counts of violation of Section 8 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) for selling or offering unregistered securities to the public. The Baladajay couple was also ordered to pay P8 million to the victims of the pyramid scam. Each violation of the SRC is punishable, upon conviction, with a fine of not more than P5 million (\$106,033.30) or imprisonment of 7 to 21 years, or both. The SEC said the ruling was dated Nov. 2 yet but was transmitted to the SEC only on Dec. 2. The Baladajay couple operated under Multitel which was not registered with the SEC. The SEC then issued multiple cease and desist orders against Multitel and its officers, prompting the couple to register Multitel International Holdings, Incorporated (MIHI) with the SEC. MIHI, while registered with the SEC, used several conduit corporations to continue their illegal operations. Multitel managed to attract investors by offering them a guaranteed 4 percent monthly interest or 48 percent per year, for a minimum investment of P10,000 (\$212.02). Investors were also offered an alternative of double-your-money scheme for a period of 18 months.

THE 2016 CAMPAIGN

Binay entices LGUs with higher IRA

In an apparent bid to lure local government executives to support his presidential bid in 2016, Vice President Jejomar Binay promised to build major infrastructure projects across the country and provide higher funding through the internal revenue allotments (IRA) to local government units.

Appearing at a Galing Pook forum at the Ateneo de Manila campus in Quezon City on December 11, the opposition United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) standard bearer in the 2016 elections, said each of the Philippines’ 18 regions will have at least one mega project and each of the 81 provinces will have a major project.

Binay had earlier said he would overspend in infrastructure development projects if and when he is elected president in 2016. “I will convene the regional development councils to identify, implement, and monitor major infrastructure projects in their re-

gions. Our aim is to have one mega project per region and one major project per province,” he said at the forum attended by about 100 people.

Duterte wants 5 thugs killed weekly

Living up to his image as Davao City’s “The Punisher”, presidential aspirant Rodrigo Duterte said he believes that law and order problems can be solved by “killing five criminals” every week.

The 70-year-old Duterte, incumbent mayor of Davao City, vowed to make sure that when he is elected president in 2016, Filipinos could walk the streets even at night without fear of being victimized by criminals. Eradication of crime will be his top priority, he said.

The tough-talking mayor, has admitted having killed more than 1,000 criminals over the years.

Duterte also said he would revive the death penalty, and mobilize the police and the military to maintain law and order across the country.

Service to Filipinos is the theme of The SUN 20th Anniversary Celebration

True to its original motto of being of service to Filipinos in Hong Kong, The SUN will focus on giving back to the community during its 20th Anniversary Celebration on Dec. 20 in Chater Garden, Central.

The centerpiece of the celebration is the "Give Care to Caregivers" program of the Mission for Migrant Workers, which acts as co-organizer of the event. A total of 15 booths will be set up as part of this activity, all aimed at providing various kinds of free service to Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong, from blood pressure check-ups to therapy and acupuncture, as well as financial and work-related consultation.

Also providing direct service to Filipino migrants are the various agencies under the umbrella of the Philippine Consulate General, including the assistance to nationals section, Social Security Service and Pag-IBIG Fund.

At the Consulate's behest, officers from the Hong Kong

Labour Department will also be on site to extend free work-related consultation with Filipino migrant workers. The rare service is part of the Labour Department's effort to reach out to more domestic workers in the community.

Service is also very much in the mind of three groups that will occupy separate booths at the event.

Pintura Circle through its artist-officers Irene Bernarte Haagen and Grace Pineda Camacho will offer two separate art lessons free to migrants, from 11:30am to 12:30 noon. This will be followed by a tutorial on making Christmas decorations between 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm to be led by porcelain artist Abigail Camaya Hills.

Occupying an adjacent booth will be the Balikatan sa Kaunlaran HK Council which will conduct on-the-spot macrame bag and ribbon making as part of its livelihood training.

The third booth will be occupied by CARD OFW Foundation, where trainers will ex-

plain to OFWs how their family members back home could be helped in setting up and running businesses under CARD MRI, the biggest microfinance institution in the Philippines.

On hand to provide advice on how OFWs could attain their dream of owning their own homes are sponsors Ayalaland Hong Kong and Pag-IBIG Fund. Ayala, the premier property development company in the Philippines, offers a wide range of affordable housing for migrant workers in several places across the country. For its part, PAG-IBIG Fund could advise how it could help fund the building or purchase of an OFW's dream house at affordable interest rates.

Rounding up the list of sponsors is AFreight, the foremost cargo company serving Filipinos in Hong Kong. AFreight holds the distinction of being the first advertiser of The SUN, and a firm supporter of the newspaper in its various campaigns and advocacies over the past two decades.

Top local artists to shine in The SUN's anniversary show

The SUN has always been a friend and an avid supporter of Filipino artists in Hong Kong, from painters to actors and musicians, to dancers and other performers.

To underscore this commitment, its 20th Anniversary Celebration in Chater Garden will feature all Hong Kong-based talents representing various sectors.

The morning entertainment will be a showcase of the best and the brightest among the top performing OFW groups in the city, starting off with the Mindanao Workers Federation, whose brass and bugle corps will lead the singing of the Philippine National anthem. Later on in the program, MinFed will feature the beautiful "Singkil", which is more of a spectacle than a dance, showing the colorful courtship rituals of Muslims.

Kicking off the program is

the Isabela Federation with its prize-winning street dancing routine for the Bambanti Festival. Not to be outdone is Leyte Achievers, which will showcase its multi-awarded dance sequence for the "Sinulog", the most popular religious festival in the Visayas.

Also providing top entertainment are the "Balagtas" group from the National Organization of Professional Teachers - Hong Kong, the socio-realist drama dance group from Likha Cultural Group, the martial arts masters from United Philippines Taekwondo Organization, and the comedy-dance performers from the Radiant Organization of Professional Drivers. An entertaining take on Philippine TV's AIDub phenomenon will be provided by its official fan group in Hong Kong.

The day-long celebration will be kicked off with a Cath-

olic mass from 10-11am, followed by a parade of participating organizations.

The event will be capped with a concert by artists belonging to the Hong Kong Musicians Union to be led by jazz diva Jennifer Palor, drummer Satur Tiamzon and singer-musician William Elvin.

The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 2544 6536/ 2541 7869.

Schedule of Events:

11:30-12:30:

Acrylic painting conducted by Grace Grace Pineda Camacho and Oil pastel workshop conducted by Irene Bernarte Haagen

3:30- 4:30:

Jewelry making by Gail Camaya Hills



Messages

Taos-pusong pagbati sa pahayagang The SUN sa pagdiriwang nito ng ika-dalawampung taong anibersaryo.

Ang okasyong ito ay patunay na ang pagtulong at pagbigay ng serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan ay may kapalit na pagpapala mula sa ating Maykapal.

Sa pamamagitan ng mahusay na pamamahayag, pagpapayo, pagpaalala, at pagkokomentaryo, ang The SUN ay nakakatulong magpapayaman ng kaalaman at pananaw sa buhay ng ating mga kababayan sa Hong Kong.

Isinusulong ng Konsulado ang malayang pamamahayag na tumatalima sa mga paman-tayan ng katotohanan, walang pagkiling, at patas na paglalahad.

Umaasa kami na magpapatuloy ang maayos at matibay na samahan ng Konsulado at ng The SUN.

Muli ang aking maalab na pagbati. Mabuhay!

Bernardita L. Catalla

Konsul Heneral ng Pilipinas sa Hong Kong

The Mission For Migrant Workers expresses its congratulations to The SUN in its 20th year of existence in Hong Kong. It is not only a Filipino community newspaper for our compatriots to read important news in Hong Kong and in our homeland, but it also provides

services to our compatriots who encounter difficulties as migrant workers. With The SUN's many projects that address community concerns, from scholarship for deserving indigent youth to Coins for Bethune House, The SUN's social concerns make it a natural supporter in implementing the Mission's core program of crisis intervention.

The SUN is an institution in the community of Filipinos in Hong Kong and we look forward to more years for it to continue serving our migrant compatriots.

Mabuhay !

Cynthia Abdon-Tellez

General Manager, Mission for Migrant Workers

Congratulations to The SUN on its 20th anniversary!

My deep admiration goes to Leo and Daisy for their commitment in maintaining a community newspaper for the overseas Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Special recognition should also be given to their involvement in other community activities, especially in the development of the writing and journalistic talents of Filipinos.

I wish you continued success.

Noel Servigon

Former Philippine Consul-General in Hong Kong

On behalf of the board and staff, our residents in our two shelters, and the hundreds - thousands - of women who stayed with us through the years, the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge extends our warmest greetings to the The SUN on the occasion of your 20th anniversary celebration.

We are most grateful for all the help that The SUN has extended to Bethune House through the years. From active promotion and participation to the Coins for Bethune initiatives to providing us free space for announcements and calls for support; from featuring stories of our shelter and residents to connecting us with Filipino organizations for further support; from patronizing our activities to direct support to our residents, The SUN has proven that its service to the community is not only to bring news and information, but it also has a heart for those who are in most need of support from the community.

We wish for more success to The SUN. May you continue to shine brightly and your rays touch more of those in the margins and in need of help. Thank you for all your support and more power.

Edwina Antonio

Executive Director
Bethune House

I wish to greet The SUN as it celebrates the 20th year of its founding! Yes it has been 20 long years of honest-to-goodness, fearless yet fair journalism that has benefited in particular the Filipino community in Hong Kong hungry for news in the vibrant city and at home. The Sun has served its noble job of empowering the Filipino community thru information vital to their interest and well being. For that reason alone, The SUN deserves everyone's praise and respect.

Yet The SUN over the years has also engaged in advocacy for migrants in HK. Partnering with the Consulate General of the Philippines, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, lawyers, the academe, religious and other advocacy groups as well as various workers' associations, The SUN has taken up issues affecting the rights and welfare of migrants in the city. Through its vigilance, a number of individuals and institutions out to defraud migrant workers have been exposed, prosecuted and had their de-

plorable activities stopped. Through lobbying and appearances before concerned bodies including the Philippine Congress and Hong Kong's Legislative Council, measures were taken to further advance the interest and promote the welfare of migrants workers. This, obviously, is another reason to thank The SUN for.

I'm confident that in the years to come The SUN will remain relevant and will continue with its objective of empowering people through news gathering and dissemination.

Bernie B. Julve
Commissioner, National Labor Relations Commission
Former Labor Attache to HK

In behalf of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente/Philippine Independent Church community here in Hong Kong please accept my greetings and heartfelt congratulations on this your 20th Anniversary.

The SUN has not only been the source of reliable information for the Filipino community. The community news and announcements of activities of the different migrants' organizations provide us with a sense of neighbourliness and of the vibrancy and the creativity of the Filipino. The commentaries and the regular columns provide the readers comprehensive views and important guides to the issues and topics at hand. The cooking tips and the jokes lighten up the otherwise routine lives of the migrants. But most important of all, The SUN is the voice of Filipino migrants on a number of concerns that affect their lives, rights and welfare and those of their families, This, for me, is the greatest contribution Daisy and Leo, and all your staff, are doing for us.

I know publishing a newspaper like The SUN is not an easy job; probably often a thankless job. But it is my ardent prayer that God will continue to bless and prosper you in this crucial work you are doing in the service of the Filipino community here in Hong Kong --- and around the world.

The impacts of your advocacy are immeasurable.

Fr. Dwight de la Torre
Philippine Independent Church

Congratulations, THE SUN, the leading Filipino Newspaper in Hong Kong, on your 20th Anniversary!

We thank you for all your

valuable and unwavering support to migrant workers in HK.

Indeed, your service to the Filipino community reflects your principles and aspirations for better living conditions and common good of Filipinos in Hong Kong and our families back home.

More Power and more years to come to celebrate!

Dolores Balladares-Pelaez
Chairperson, United Filipinos (Migrante) HK

Isang mainit at mapagpalayang pagbati ang ipinaaabot namin sa inyong lahat sa pagdiriwang ng ika-20 taong anibersaryo ng The SUN. Bagama't napakaraming pagsubok ang patuloy na dinaranas ng mga OFW, ang inyong taos na serbisyo ang nagsisilbing liwanag sa pagtahak nila sa tamang landas. Kaming nasa hanay ng groupong pangkalusugan, ang Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines - Hong Kong (IMAP-HK), ay sama-samang nananalangin para humaba pa ang buhay ng The SUN. Nararapat lang ipagbunyi ang araw na ito.

Happy Anniversary!
Brenda Atrero
President, IMAP - HK

The SUN is an extraordinary enterprise; its CSR mission is no mere appendage but an integral part of its core philosophy, which, to my mind, is to inform and empower and thus enrich the lives of The SUN's readers, who are mostly Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong.

News in this age of the Internet and smartphones is within everyone's easy reach, but what The SUN uniquely provides its avid readers is information that truly matters to their lives and times in the territory and which is focused by the lens of truth and honesty and analyzed and dispersed through the prism of caring advocacy. The SUN has transformed journalism into a high art and practice of public service.

Twenty years of public ser-

vice can tire many but not The SUN's people; their dedication to truth and commitment to Filipino migrants' welfare sustain them.

Congratulations and more power!

Claro Cristobal
Former Consul General in Hong Kong and Ambassador to Egypt

On behalf of the CARD MRI OFW Foundation Hong Kong, we extend our warmest congratulations to The SUN on its 20th Anniversary.

The team behind The SUN, led by publisher Leo Deocadiz, editor-in-chief Daisy Mandap and their untiring editorial staff, has been fearless champions of the rights and welfare of the Overseas Filipino Workers—empowering the powerless, defending the oppressed and helping uplift the economic condition of our kababayans here in Hong Kong and beyond.

We share and celebrate these values with The SUN and the people behind it, all of whom have been our staunch allies in promoting economic empowerment for our OFWs and their families back home. Here's to 20 years more of indefatigable service to the Filipino global community!

Rex Aguado
Chairman, CARD MRI OFW Foundation Hong Kong

On behalf of Ayalaland HongKong (ALIM-HK) and Ayalaland International Sales Inc (ALISI), I wish to congratulate The SUN and its team, under the leadership of Daisy Mandap and Leo Deocadiz, on the occasion of the newspaper's 20th Anniversary this December, 2015.

Since Ayalaland office was launched at 3/F Worldwide Plaza last February 2014, The SUN has always been one of our most reliable media partner in promoting the company's presence in Hong Kong and its house and lot projects specially the affordable housing brands in the outskirts of Metro Manila. This helps to inform

our Filipino community that in fact, they can finally achieve their dream home at such affordable payment terms.

Again, my warmest congratulations and looking forward to more fruitful years!

Tesha Bancod
Country Manager
Ayalaland HongKong

Maraming, Maraming salamat po, ma'am Daisy and The SUN. Happy, Happy 20th Anniversary po..!

Mercy Permales
President, United Philippine Taekwondo Organization

Pagbati at pagpupugay sa ika-20 Taong Anibersaryo ng The Sun!

Maraming salamat sa pagiging tulay upang ang bawat Pilipino sa HK ay magkaroon at makapagbasa ng balita at malaman ang kaganapan sa ating komunidad dito at maging sa ating bayang Pilipinas. Nawa ay maipagpatuloy pa ninyo ang misyon na ito sa susunod na dalawampung taon o higit pa.

Mabuhay!

Lenlen Mesina
Enrich HK

Congratulations to The SUN on their 20th Anniversary! May you continue to support the Filipino community by providing relevant news and various services. Pintura Circle would want to further extend collaborative works with your organization in the future!

Irene Haagen
President, Pintura Circle

Happy 20th Anniversary to The SUN!

As all of us in Hong Kong (and beyond) know Daisy & Leo's newspaper, The SUN, has served the Filipino migrant worker and professional community in the territory long and well.

They have kept alive the spirit of Bayanihan and made us Pinoys aware of our rights and responsibilities away from home, as well as conscious of the need to fulfill our obligations to Inang Bayan.

Participating organizations

Mindanao Workers Federation
International Marshal Society
Musang Martial Arts Society
Isabela Federation
Likha Cultural Group
Leyte Achievers
United Philippines Taekwondo Organization
National Organization of Professional Teachers HK
Radiant Organization of Amiable Drivers Hong Kong
Abra Tinguian Ilocano Society
Gabriela Hong Kong
OFC AIDub Maiden
Section Juan
Hong Kong Musicians Union
Balikatan sa Kaunlaran HK Chapter
CARD OFW HK Foundation
Pintura Circle
Bethune House Migrant Workers Refuge
Mission for Migrant Workers
Philippine Association of Hong Kong

Through their journalistic efforts they have constantly championed the rights particularly of vulnerable women who have had to leave their families and homes to toil in foreign places, both hostile and hospitable.

The world today may be a smaller place, and because many Filipinos have chosen to migrate to other countries, it is always good to have publications like The SUN reminding us of our roots and fostering not just a narrow nationalism but the universal fellowship required by all would-be citizens of this world.

Congratulations to Daisy & Leo—may your creation continue to flourish!

Isabel Escoda
Writer and
Migrant Rights Advocate

When I was connected with the IBP National Center for Legal Aid, I witnessed how my classmate Daisy worked courageously and tirelessly for the welfare of OFWs in HK and for that, I salute her and Leo. For establishing and maintaining The SUN and the help, support and encouragement that you have extended to our kababayans, congratulations on your 20 years of success and I look forward to working with you in your cru-

sade.

June Ambrosio
Lawyer and
ex-columnist for The SUN

Happy 20th anniversary, The SUN. Congratulations. Maraming salamat sa mga balita at mga impormasyon na hatid ng The SUN newspaper. More years to celebrate. More power and God bless!

Ching Baltazar
President, Balikatan sa Kaunlaran Hong Kong

Happy 20th anniversary, The SUN: Services of Undefeated Newspaper...God bless.

Joseph Bautista
President, Musang Martial Arts Society

Happy Platinum Anniversary to The SUN-Hong Kong! Wow, 20 years and counting...

Lanie Cadera-Charles
Ex-HK OFW/Visayas Alliance Chairperson

Being OFWs in Hong Kong with limited access to media, The SUN newspaper has always been a very effective means for us to get a glimpse of what is currently happening locally as well as abroad, from news and current events, law-related issues, financial literacy concerns, to cooking tips and jokes and a lot more. Those who need a reliable and sound source of information should always pick The SUN.

Happy 20th anniversary, The SUN. Keep up the great job. We at ROAD Hong Kong will always be grateful for your service to the Filipino community in Hong Kong.

Ma. Weena Advincula
President, Radiant Organization of Amiable Drivers

Acknowledgments:

Consul General Bernardita Catalla
Ms. Cynthia Abdon-Tellez
Ms. Edwina Antonio
Ms. Ruth Grospe
Mr. Arnold Grospe
Mr. Saturnino Tiamzon, Jr.
Ms. Jennifer Palor
Mr. William Elvin Manzano

Mr. Nicky Flores
Mr. Raymond Perez
Ms. Yanyan Boyce
Ms. Susan Lozano
Ms. Tesh Bancod
Ms. Babes Mercado
Mr. Joseph Bautista
Mr. Rex Aguado

Sponsors

PEYA Travel
AFreight
Ayalaland Hong Kong
Pag-IBIG Fund
Metrobank
Emry's
Asian Dragon
Smart-PLDT

The Band

William Elvin, guitar and vocals
Satur Tiamson Jr., drums
Andrea Charity Battad, acoustic guitar and vocals
Gabriel Gallardo, keyboard and vocals
Matt Alvarez Mateo, bass

The Mission

(This was the speech delivered by the Mission for Migrant Workers' general manager, Cynthia Tellez, at the launch of the 10-year Impact Evaluation Report of the Mission's work held on December 5, 2015 at the Li Hall of St. John's Cathedral)

To the MFMW Board members; fellow outreach ministries and the St. John's family; members of church-based and various other NGOs in Hong Kong; members of the Coalition of Service Providers for Ethnic Minorities; long-time partners and supporters of the MFMW; migrants and ethnic minorities communities; distinguished guests, (I wish to recognize the presence of the Philippine Consul General Ms. Bernardita Catalla) and; the Mission's staff (past, present, old and new) and volunteers (from overseas, in Hong Kong universities and even from the secondary school like Cheryl, our pianist) – thank you very, very much for gracing us with your presence tonight as we release to the public the results of the comprehensive and painstaking evaluation process of its programs and services the MFMW conducted this year.

The evaluation exercise we

did this year was a humbling experience, a learning activity and a process that brought more vigor to the MFMW to continue with our two-fold mission of bringing timely, responsive and quality service to migrants in distress while pursuing the rights-based empowerment of the community for a better, more harmonious and inclusive Hong Kong.

Guided by our external evaluator, Mr. Antonio Tujan, Jr. of the Institute for Social Concerns and the IBON International in the Philippines, the evaluation process let us look at our strengths and our weaknesses, analyzed the impacts of our work to our service and support constituencies, and made clearer the path we must take to realize our goals. Mr. Tujan had intimate knowledge of the MFMW as he also did a program evaluation of our organization in 2003.

Looking back to the past 10 years, we are very much heartened at the accomplishments we made and the lives we were able to touch. From the survey and focus group discussions we conducted, we learned that:

- More than half of FDWs are first timers in Hong Kong and went through recruitment agencies
- Contracts violations and

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

By Cynthia Tellez

This is the monthly column from the Mission for Migrant Workers, an institution that has been serving the needs of migrant workers in Hong Kong for over 31 years. The Mission, headed by its general manager, Cynthia Tellez, assists migrant workers who are in distress, and focuses its efforts on crisis intervention and prevention through migrant empowerment. Mission has its offices at St John's Cathedral on Garden Road, Central, and may be reached through tel. no. 2522 8264.



problems in the living and working conditions are the prevalent concerns of FDWs

· The MFMW enjoys a relatively high awareness among FDWs who know about us from their friends, social media and from migrant organizations

· 57% of those who are aware of the MFMW will recommend us to others

· 97% of those who approached us said that we were able to help them

Many more facts were discovered or affirmed in the evaluation exercise. What was really striking for us was the revelation that our services and activities are recognized and well-appreciated. These have

shown to us that the hours, days, months and years spent on making a difference are bearing fruit.

Beyond the statistics – the thousands per year who we counseled, sheltered, and helped refer to professionals; the HK\$2.5M per year we were able to help our clients claim; the thousands members of FDW organizations we partner with and whose capacity to be an empowered community in Hong Kong we tried to develop; the researches completed and tens of thousands of resources published; the interventions made to make the life and condition of migrants more humane, and; the numerous more members of the Hong

Kong public we were able to reach – there are also the stories of hope we kindled, courage we helped them find, confidence built, awareness developed, and other unquantifiable impacts we were able to achieve through our services and programs.

In the words of a pastor, “Hong Kong is a far better place in having the Mission.” Our heartfelt thanks for such a description.

From our gains and the identified shortcomings, the MFMW will continue to persevere with our mission.

We affirm our belief that migrant workers are integral in HK society and thus, they deserve care, respect and the protection of their rights. We shall endeavor to provide comprehensive services to migrants in distress, empower their communities, promote harmony in households and work for a more multicultural and inclusive society because without these, marginalization and exclusion in Hong Kong will persist.

As an outreach ministry of St. John's Cathedral and a HK NGO, we hope to contribute to developing harmonious and productive households that are for the good of all concerned. We will work to ensure that both employers and domestic workers are adequately informed about labour laws and

are culturally sensitized to promote better understanding, mutual trust, positive attitudes and respect of rights.

We will work to develop even more partnerships with important sections of the HK society such as local community groups, schools, churches and faith-based organizations, policymakers and even local authorities so that services to migrants in distress are further expanded and made more available. More so, we shall work with every section of the HK society to work towards the elimination of exclusion and marginalisation of migrant workers for these hurt not only the hundreds of thousands of foreign domestic workers who are mostly women, but the whole HK society.

We hope that in our continuing journey, you will remain with us and even help us reach out to more people the message of love, care, charity, harmony, service and empowerment.

What you are holding now is the concise version of the report.

Here, we included the highlights of our programs and services for the past 10 years including what we considered as milestones of our work. You can also find the results of the awareness survey and the impact to beneficiaries survey we conducted, as well as the major points in the focus group discussions with beneficiaries, employers and members of the HK public.

This publication also included the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. It can give you a glimpse of the direction that the MFMW will take in the next years of our service.

Should you wish to get a copy of the more detailed one, please do not hesitate to ask us and we'll gladly provide you as soon as we can.

Again, on behalf of the MFMW, I wish to thank everyone for being with us. Do enjoy your night with everyone. You can approach any of the MFMW staff if you wish to know more. We also have a photo booth for souvenir pictures that we can send you after tonight.

For your support and for a future that truly cares for people and upholds the dignity of migrants and everyone, we request everyone to raise your glass. Cheers!

Thank you very much.

Magpapasko pa lang, sa 'Via Crucis' na ang mga OFW

Kauumpisa pa lang ng Disyembre ay init ng ulo na ang nangingibabaw sa mga OFW sa kahabaan ng tulay mula sa Admiralty Centre hanggang sa bagong lugar ng Government House sa Tamar.

Kahit palamig na ang simoy ang hangin ay nag-iinit pa rin ng damdamin kapag nakikita mo ang daan-daang kababayan natin na muling pumipila nang ilang oras sa tulay na iyon upang kumuha ng isang dokumentong nagkakahalaga ng 20 dolyar.

Unang nag-init ang ulo namin noong Dis 1, nang sa pagdalaw namin sa Philippine Overseas Labor Office sa Admiralty Center Tower 1 ay napansin naming ang bawat Pilipinong dumarating sa lift lobby ay pinapupunta ng mga guardiya sa isang sulok.

Nang tiningnan namin ay sa fire exit ng gusali pala pinapupunta ang mga kababayan nating may pakay sa POLO, na matatagpuan sa ika-11 at ika-16 na palapag. Sila ay pinabababa sa hagdanan at pinapipila sa sidewalk na nakapaligid sa gusali upang dumugtong sa may mahigit 200 na nauna nang pumila roon paakyat muli sa hagdanan.

Nawawalan ng lakas-loob ang mga Pinoy, lalo yaong mga nagpaalam lang sandali sa kanilang mga amo para saglitin ang OEC, kapag nalaman nilang ang mga nakapila roon ay nakakatatlong oras na pero ilang metro pa lang ang iniaabante.

Nang tanungin namin ang mga tauhan ng building management kung bakit nila pinapipila ang mga Pilipino sa



KURU-KURO

Ni Vir B. Lumicao



kalye, pinaakyat sa masikip na hagdanan at pinasasakay sa masikip na service lift o elevator na gamit ng mga naghatid ng mga abubot ito ang sagot ng isa sa kanila: “Kasi naiinis ang mga taga-Hong Kong kapag nasisiko o nagigigit sila ng mga katulong.”

Sinabi naming diskriminasyon laban sa isang lahi iyon at kapag nakarating sa gobyerno ay magkakaproblema ang mga may pakana. Umiling-iling lang ang lalaki at hindi na kumibo.

Binanggit namin iyon kay Assistant Labor Attache Henry Tianero nang matiyempuhan namin siyang nasa labas ng kanyang salaming hawla sa OEC counter. Ang sagot ni ALA Henry, “Ni-request namin iyon, kasi dumami na ang tao rito sa itaas, mahirap nang kuntrolin.” Noong araw na iyon ay 950 ang kumuha ng

OEC, sabi niya.

Kinabukasan ay lalong dumami ang mga kumuha ng OEC, kaya doon na sila pinapila sa tulay pa-Tamar. Ang bilang ay umabot ng 1,300 noong araw na iyon, ani ALA Henry.

Sinabi ng mga nakapila na apat na oras na raw sila sa kinatatayuan at halos hindi umuusad ang pila. Ang karamihan ay OEC talaga ang pakay.

Tuwing tatanungin namin kung bakt pinili nila ang pumila nag ilang oras dono kaysa sa magrehistro sa BM Online at sa internet na lang kumuha ng OEC ay iisa ang sagot nila: “Ano iyon, paano iyon?”

Kung ang pagpila nang matagal ay isang paraan para matuto nang mag-apply ng OEC sa internet ang mga OFW, harinawa'y nakuha nila ang mensahe.

Kailangan ding pag-ibayuhin ng POLO, sa tulong ng mga organisasyon ng mga OFW dito sa Hong Kong, ang pagmumulat sa mga kababayan natin na kailangang magrehistro na sila sa BM Online upang sa internet na lang sila mag-a-apply ng OEC.

Hangga't hindi lubusang na tatarok ng mga OFW ang kaalwanan ng pag-aayos ng mga dokumento tulad ng OEC sa internet at hindi mawawala ang pila sa POLO.

At lalo pang hahaba ang “daang pa-Kalbaryo” na iyon ng mga manggagawang Pilipino dahil dumarami ang bilang nila rito sa Hong Kong habang kumakaunti ang mga kasambahay na taga-Indonesia.

Ngunit ang pinakamabuti ay alisin na lang ang OEC dahil nakararagdang lang iyon sa mga sinisingil sa mga manggagawang nating maliit lang naman ang sinasahod. Kapag nagawa iyon ng gobyerno, isang pako iyon na mababawas sa kanilang pasang krus.

By Ramon Dizon Jr.

(2nd of 2 parts)

The tough-talking mayor of Davao City, presidentiable Rodrigo Duterte, turned sentimental towards the end of an expletive-rich exclusive interview with The SUN on Nov 24.

He said he feels strongly for overseas Filipino workers longing to go home to a better Philippines.

“Hindi naman ako nagpapa-sentimental pero (naririnig ko): ‘Mayor, sana maayos na ang Pilipinas para makauwi na kami doon’”, he shared.

He said he can’t promise an immediate solution but that if he wins the presidential election next year, he would work on improving the economy *“para balang-araw, in the fullness of God’s time, baka iba na ang ekonomiya, uwi kayo, meron ng trabaho”*.

But it’s not only economic progress he said he is after but also peace and security. *“Maubos itong mga kriminal, mawala ang droga, safe mga anak ninyo”*, he said. “I cannot promise you heaven but I will make the Philippines a comfortable place, a comfortable country.”

In his bailiwick, Davao, he said he challenged the police and the military to let their children wander the streets in the wee hours.

“Kung hindi sila nagalaw, walang namolestiya, iyon ang gusto ko”, Duterte said.

The recent spate of ‘laglag bala’ cases at Manila airports also caused the mayor to raise his hackles. He said the OFW from Hong Kong who fall prey to the apparent extortion racket could have called him and being a lawyer, he could have defended her.

“Kung may mangyari tawagan ako, sabihin n’yo nabayaran na ninyo ako (bilang abogado). Ipapakain ko sa kanila ang bala, sipain kita diyan ah, ipakain ko talaga, baka akala mo nagbibiro ako,” he said, partly in jest.

While he believes that there are airport personnel who victimize passengers, he does not think there is an organized syndicate behind it.

But he said OFWs are particularly vulnerable.

“Ang paborito talaga nila ay mga OFW kasi takot yan magkakaso, (kapag) ‘di makasakay (sa eroplano), mawalan ng trabaho.”

He said the scam would not

From shooting criminals to kicking extortionists, Duterte vows better Philippines for OFWs



be a big concern if he becomes president.

“Pu....i., huwag mo ako big-yan ng problema na ganun, maraming problema sa Pilipinas, wala na nga makain yong (mga) tao eh pasukan mo ng ganung gimik”, he warned.

Duterte recalled an incident in March 1995 when he burned a Singaporean flag in protest over the hanging in the city state of OFW Flor Contemplacion.

“Sinunog ko ang flag ng Singapore dahil sa galit ko. Ganun ang simpatiya ko sa mga OFW.” Duterte said. *“Ako lang ang unang opisyal sa Pilipinas na nagsunog ng flag. Yong umagang yon, sinindihan ko na kaagad (ang watawat)”*, he said in recollection on how he set fire to the flag in the early morning after Contemplacion was hanged to death in Singapore.

He said that then President Fidel Ramos and Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan III urged him to apologize but he resolutely refused, saying it was “because of his principle”. *“Gusto ng Presidente Ramos, pati si Alunan noon, humingi*

ako ng tawad. Ayoko. Isali mo na lang rin ako kay Contemplacion, patayin mo na rin, ‘di mo ako mapahingi ng tawad. Eh prinsipio yan eh, importante sa akin yan, yan lang ang maiiwan ko sa (mga) anak ko.” he said.

Showing his awareness of OFW-related concerns, he said he hoped alleged drug mule Mary Jane Veloso won’t suffer the same fate in Indonesia.

“Sana eh hindi na lang nila patayin, kawawa naman”, he said.

He stated it was also because of principle that he decided to run for the presidency at the last minute. He said he threw his hat into the ring only after the Senate Electoral Tribunal ruled that leading presidential contender Grace Poe was a natural-born citizen, and was thus eligible to run for the post.

Duterte said this was a clear violation of the Constitution and he could not accept it.

As a founding Senator Poe did qualify to be a citizen of the Philippines, but not as a natural-born, which is the foremost qualification for a presidential candidate.

tao, at isang forum kasama ang ilang lider ng mga organisasyon sa Hong Kong.

Gaya ng dati, pinakamarami ang tanong tungkol sa hiwalayan, annulment o separation, at ang epekto nito sa ari-arian ng mag-asawa. Ayon kay Bembol DL. Castillo na isa sa mga abugadong nagsalita, conjugal o magkahati pa rin ang mag-asawa sa mga ari-arian na napundar nila kahit hiwalay na sila ng ilang taon. Sa mata ng batas ay nanatili daw silang mag-asawa hanggat hindi na-

“Ang pinag-uusapan hindi yang founding-founding... ngayon nagbubulahan tayo, ginagamit lang nila yan pang-drama! Kasi sa batas, maski dito sa Hong Kong, kinukuha talaga ng gobyerno yan (founding), considered citizen, period. Wala naman idinagdag na natural-born.”

He went on to explain why the Constitution explicitly requires presidential candidates to be natural-born citizens.

“Itong presidency sagrado ‘to... para yan sa tunay na may dugong Pilipino”, said Duterte. He also accused Poe of continuing to use her United States passport even after she had supposedly given up her American citizenship.

“Bumalik na sa pagka-Pilipino, pero ‘pag lumalabas siya sa bansa, ang ginagamit niya ay ang American passport”, he said.

According to a case decided by the Supreme Court, he said doing amounted to Poe renouncing her Philippine citizenship all over again.

Had the SET disqualified Poe, Duterte said he would’ve not considered running at all.

“Kung wala yong desisyon na mali.. hindi ako talaga tatakbo”, he reiterated.

Proof of this, he said, was his act of declining to board a private plane sent by a friend to fetch him from Davao to file his candidacy in Manila on the last day of submission.

“Wala talaga kasi akong kaambi-ambisyon maging presidente, o tumakbo man lang. Kontento na ako sa buhay ko bilang mayor at isang term na congressman.”

He said he is already tired and old having spent 30 years in politics, but changed his mind because of principle.

“Prinsipyo lang talaga nagtutulak sa akin, kailangan ipagtayo ko at masunod yan, mamatay man ako diyan”, he said.

According to him, he doesn’t care whether he wins or loses, or even be disqualified by the Commission on Election, saying “I needed only one day to face the Filipino people and to say my truth”.

“Alam mo kasi ganito yan eh. Itong Pilipinas, marami tayong tribu-tribo: Ilokano, Bisaya, Tausug, Maranaw, Pangalatok... pero iisang dokumento lang ang nagpadikit-dikit sa atin. Iyon ay ang Konstitusyon.” he explained.

“Ang may hawak sa unity natin is that piece of paper called the Constitution. If you don’t obey it... then that is trouble. Pag walang naniwala diy-an talagang sasabog ang bayan na ito.”

“Kaya ang sabi ko, na kung ganito, eh wala namang naniwala sa Konstitusyon, kung ayaw ninyong maniwala, eh hindi na rin kami maniniwala. Yong mga Moro people magsabi ako... magsarili na lang kami sa Mindanao. Eh yong Konstitusyon pala eh binabale-wala ninyo. Pinipilit nin-

yo kaming maging parte ng Pilipinas ayaw n’yo namang sundin ang Konstitusyon.”

Still, he is not gunning for the presidency empty-handed. He told The SUN he has a five-fold campaign platform, which he said, are of equal weight.

“It’s not one after the other, tabla lahat yan, sabay sabay yan,” was how he put it.

These are:

1. Criminality and drugs - *“Tatapusin ko talaga yan maniwala ka, kasi yong mga kriminal, (pu... i...), pinapatay ko talaga. Drugs, baha talaga sa Philipinas. Mga snatcher at holdaper, papatayin pa rin kita, eh di sige, kayo rin! Ayokong magsalita ng patay atayan, pero itong (pu... i...) Pilipinas sumusobra na ang kriminal.”* He bragged about killing three kidnappers of a Chinese national.

2. Graft and corruption - *“Eh ilan taon ng nag-e-enjoy yong mga nasa gobyerno, tama na, tama na.”*

3. Government reform - *“Putulin ko yong mga opisina na may digression sa pera-pera. Yong BIR, doon mag-file pero ang bayad sa bangko na. Customs ganun rin. Hindi na sila makahawak ng pera.”*

4. Peace and order - *Makikipag-usap ako sa lahat, sa mga rebelde, si Nur Misuari, si Jose Maria Sison.. propesor ko yan. Sabi naman niya na uuwi siya pag nanalo ako. Sabi ko, ‘Sige Sir’”*

5. Economy - *Magpapagawa ako ng marami pang railways para (maibsan) yong traffic congestion.*

Duterte ended by saying he would not shirk from any debates with the other presidential contenders.

“Sanay naman tayo sa yakyakyak diyan eh, hindi ko kinatatakutan yan. Hindi ako takot, abogado ako eh!”, he said.

Usapang batas: ano ang mahalaga sa OFW

Ni Marites Palma

Napuno ang conference room ng Konsulado noong Nob 15 at 16 ng mga Pilipinong may problema o katanungan tungkol sa pamilya, utang at scam para sa muling pagbabalik ng may 40 abugado na miyembro ng Integrated Bar of the Philippines o IBP.

Ang dalawang araw na sesyon ng “Idulog Mo sa IBP2” ay nahati sa dalawang parte: personal na konsultasyon tungkol sa batas ng mga indibidwal na

papawalang bisa ang kanilang kasal. Ganunpaman, may mga paraang legal upang mapaghiwalay ang kanilang mga ari-arian. Kabilang dito ang legal separation, o ang paghihiwalay na may basbas ng korte; pre-nuptial agreement o kasunduan tungkol sa paghahati ng kanilang mga ari-arian bago pa man sila ikasal; pagsampa ng “petition for dissolution of property” o ang pagpapangalan sa anak na may edad 18 ng lupain o anumang pag-aari upang hindi ito mahabol ng

asawang kinamumuhian.

Nilinaw ni Castillo na ang legal separation ay pagkahiwalay lamang sa higaan dahil bawal pa ring mag-asawa ng iba. Ito ay maari lamang kung nagkaroon na ng annulment, o pagpapawalang-bisa sa kasal. Ayon kay Castillo, hindi maaaring makakuha ng annulment nang dahil lang hindi na magkasundo ang mag-asawa. Dapat daw ay may mabigat na dahilan, katulad ng “psychological incapacity”, na dapat patunayan sa korte ng dala-

wang eksperto. Ang kaso para sa annulment o dissolution of marriage ay maari daw tumagal ng isang taon o mahigit pa, at maaring gumastos ng Php150,000 pataas, depende sa lugar kung saan isasampa ang petisyon. Kailangan din na personal na humarap sa korte ang mag-asawa para tumayong saksi sa petisyon. Payo ni Castillo, mas maigi kung pwede pang ayusin ang relasyon ng mag-asawa para muling mabuo ang kanilang pamilya.

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Gov't turning blind eye to forced labor in HK: researcher

By Vir B. Lumicao

Hong Kong employers' practice of requiring their migrant domestic helpers to work up to 18 hours a day is tantamount to forced labor, as the workers obey out of fear and are vulnerable to abuse because of the live-in policy, a visiting researcher says.

Petty issues such as arguments between the employers and helpers seem to be given more weight by the government than violations of worker's labor and human rights, said Reginald Frection from the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights.

"Excessive working hours is one of the indicators of forced labor, and the law says that if a worker is working substantially more hours than the national average, you're working excessive hours," Frection said.

A Labour Department study in 2012 showed the average worker puts in 48 hours a week, and in a worst-case scenario, a security guard was found to have worked 69 hours a week. On the other hand, domestic helpers work 16 hours on average, or up to 18 hours a day, or 96 to 108 hours a week, he said.

"If you're working 96 to 108

hours a week, the only reason for that is your employer is abusing your position of vulnerability," Frection said.

He said "if you're living in your employer's home, you depend on them for your shelter, food and wages, and if you work 15 to 16 hours a day and your livelihood depends on it, how can you say no?" he said.

Frection says his research focuses on the human rights violations such as the very long working hours and very little food common in Hong Kong households, which put the city in a category where forced labor exists, based on International Labor Organization norms.

Another issue he considers a human rights violation is the ban on domestic workers living outside their employers' homes.

Frection came to Hong Kong in May this year as close to finishing his study of the plight of foreign domestic workers for his PhD in Human Rights Law. He told The SUN that from his interviews with migrant workers here, he thought "there's a space in the law" where the issue of human rights has not been considered properly.

"When you look at the circumstances of employment

and regulation of employment, I think very little attention is being paid to the seriousness of the offense," said Frection.

"The government seems to consider simple labor disputes, such as arguments between employer and employee, as the bigger issue and I think there's an opportunity to probably try and change that".

Frection said setting up an NGO was one option he had been considering to achieve change. "If you want to raise the issue then you have to have that avenue," he said, but the minimum he could do was work with another NGO that's already providing advice.

"So, I think there's still an avenue for working with that NGO or set up something differently," Frection said in an interview in a coffee shop in Sheung Wan on Nov 19.

The former US Army soldier and police officer who had worked for three years with Helpers for Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong before returning to the United States, said he would rather focus on the human rights side of labor issues.

"When you think about it, what you're dealing with now is actually a human rights violation," Frection said. "It's just that you are looking at the very

vague end of it which is called a labor dispute."

His research on local labor laws was prompted by an incident when he moved to Hong Kong in 2010 and lived in a block where one night a live-out Sri Lankan helper came knocking on his door complaining she was starving. The couple who employed her had not yet returned from dinner and she was not allowed to touch anything in the fridge.

Frection learned the helper could not leave until the bosses arrived and food she brought was only for lunch. She said she was not properly treated by her employers.

The incident led him to research Hong Kong labor laws, and found there was nothing in those laws governing working hours. That was also when he came across Helper for Domestic Helpers and offered his services to the NGO.

"My focus is on the conciliation process (which he called Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms) and how they do it here, not only in the Labour Department, resolving so-called labor disputes," Frection said. He said the focus is on micro-level conciliation, "but when you look at it on a bigger scale, it's more about an alter-

native to judicial and non-judicial mechanisms of redress".

Frection questioned whether the conciliation process in Hong Kong provides protective remedies for any harm or violation of human rights as required under human rights law. His argument is, during conciliation for claims, the domestic worker is under pressure to settle because of fear when she is fighting for money that she has already worked for, such as salary, vacation pay, or allowance that are stipulated in the contract.

One issue in contention, he said, is wages in lieu of notice, when one party terminates without giving the other party a month's notice as agreed in the contract a worker should not "negotiate and give up something for money that (he) had already worked for.

"Nobody's educated about the plight of migrant workers when (conciliation is) handled in secret. No laws are applied when it happens in secret, and no judicial decisions are rendered that will impact or change the way things are happening, so there's no benefit."

He said it is only the employers who benefit from this conciliation system and this certainly leads to further labor



Frection

exploitation. "So, there's a lot of abuses happening in secret," he said.

For the first part of his research, Frection interviewed about 80 domestic workers. He is now trying to find out who among them are in a forced labor situation based on 11 indicators identified by the International Labor Organization.

In the second part of his research, which deals with conciliation, he has talked to another six and accompanied them to the Employment Claims Board or the Labour Tribunal.

He said he was on the last month of his field work and would spend the next year writing his report.

Fate A pounds rival Feliz, 20-4

By Emz Gaborno

All-Filipina team Fate A combined brilliant playing and tight defense to engineer a 20-4 victory over local squadron Feliz in a Hong Kong Softball Association women's league match on Nov 29.

The triumph gave Fate, the fifth places last season, a 2-1 win-loss slate in the 2015 open

league following a 2-5 loss to last year's No.3 team Sieger on Nov 22.

Zenny Badajos of the away team started the game at Tin Kwong Road with a free walk on pitching errors by Feliz. Then Myra Japitana slammed the ball to the center outfield that allowed her to reach second base, and base runner Badajos to the third.

Don Gaborno also blasted the ball to the center outfield, sending base runners Badajos and Japitana to the home base unhampered, and the team captain herself sailing safely to second base.

Ma. Eva Mendez also smashed the ball to the outfield while Lyka Algoniez was caught on first base. But Emily Mabaquiao struck another out-

field ball that took her to second base and sent Mendez returning to home base.

At their turns on the batting plate, Carol Baguitan took a free walk while Edith Hidalgo struck the ball to the center outfield that took her safely to second base. Hidalgo's hitter also allowed Mabaquiao to dash to home base and Baguitan to third base.

Cherry Octaviano was put out on first base.

Fate scored five more runs via Badajos, Japitana, Gaborno, Mendez and Algoniez to put the Filipinas safely ahead at 12 in the first inning.

The rattled Feliz players hoped to gain ground as they took over the batting plate, but first batter Michelle Lee was caught on a fly ball by third baseman Badajos.

Playing with what seemed to be ironclad defense, Fate gave Feliz no room to score. Only four of the local players got a chance to swing their bats, as the Filipinas did not let the ball

touch the ground.

Poon Ku Lam was put out on second base, Ng Yin Yi managed to reach second base but failed to go home when batter Wu Yau Yin was caught on first base.

Hidalgo batted first in the second inning and got safely to first base. Octaviano was caught on first base, but Hidalgo managed to run to the home plate when Badajos slammed the ball to the left outfield.

The feat allowed Badajos, a former Philippine National Team and UP Diliman player, to run all the way to third base. She later dashed to home base when Gaborno struck another outfield ball.

Gaborno, however, was stuck on second base when Mendez was caught on first.

When it was Feliz's turn to bat, pitcher Gaborno swapped positions with third baseman Badajos, giving the latter a chance to pitch and train for that role as well.

SPORTS

Feliz first batter Wong Mau Ting got a free walk as Badajos adjusted to the new role.

Next batter Chau Wing Yee was put out on first base with a pass ball from Gaborno to Japitana, but Chow Yee Ling also had a free walk.

Leung Ka Po keyed Feliz's first two runs when she blasted the ball to the outfield, sending base runners Wong and Chow dashing unhampered to home base while Leung herself sailed to second base.

In the third inning, coach Ma. Eva Mendez reshuffled the players to give others a chance to play.

The Filipinas continued to score, courtesy of Algoniez, Sherlyn Gamata, Romela Osabel, Sarge Cepe, Badajos and Japitana.

Feliz also scored two more runs in their last chance to bat via Wu Yau Yin and Wong Mau Ting, 4-20, to stay at the bottom of the ladder with a 0-3 win-loss slate.



Christmas party at the beach: Members of Mindanao (HK) Workers Federation spent a fun-filled Christmas Party at Repulse Beach on Dec. 13. Special dishes were served for lunch, after which Christmas carols were sung during a short program. Some members took advantage of the warm weather to frolic on the beach and take part in parlor games. --Gina N. Ordona

PCG holds Christmas visit to jailed Pinoys

By Vir B. Lumicao

Christmas has come early for 83 Filipinos languishing in eightjails in Hong Kong for various offenses. Since the first week of December, the inmates have been visited by officials of the Consulate bearing gifts consisting of basic items that they need in the prisons, such as bath soap, shampoo, chap sticks or lip gloss for winter, and food items.

The annual prison visits came as Consulate officials indicated a sharp rise in the number of Filipinos locked up in jail this quarter compared with the quarter ending Sept 30.

Vice Consul Fatima Quintin, head of the assistance to nationals section of the Consulate, told The SUN on Dec 2 that Filipino convicts in Hong Kong prisons had increased to 83. That figure is 29.7% more than the 64 reported at the end of September.

The officials kicked off the yearly prison visits with a Christmas program for the Filipino inmates at the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre on Dec 3, Quintin said.

Leading the visits was Con-



PEOPLE

sul General Bernie Catalla, who delivered the Christmas message to the inmates, according to Quintin.

Catalla was joined by Quintin and other ATN officers who took turns in escorting the consul general on the visits.

In the second week of December, the Consulate officials visited Lowu on Dec 7, Siu Lam on Dec 8, Tai Lam on Dec 9, and Stanley, Tung Tau and Pak Sha Wan on Dec 10, Quintin said. The last visit will be at Pik Uk on Dec 21, she said.

Aside from those in Lowu, Filipino inmates at two other major detention facilities, Stanley Prison and Tai Lam Correctional, were treated to a full Christmas program with a band led by Nicki Flores, who has been providing music to the annual treat.

"Masaya, aside from the gift-giving, meron pang kantahan at dancing kasi ngayon lang sila nagkasama-sama, Nagkaroon ng opportunity na nagkita-kita sila," said Quintin.

As in previous years, the emcees for the program were radio show hosts Jun Paragas, better known as "Tita Kerry" and Michael Vincent.

Quintin said the top three offenses of which the Filipinos had been convicted were theft, breach of condition and over-staying.

The majority of the 83 convicts are in Lowu Correctional, a major detention center for immigration offenses, mainly breach of condition of stay such as taking on other jobs than their contractual domestic work and living outside their employers' homes.

The longest-held Filipino prisoner, who was sentenced for murder, has been in Hong Kong's maximum security prison in Stanley for more than 20 years.

One of the bands that performed (upper photo) made their drums sing. In the lower photo, the crowd is one of the biggest in years.

Concert in the Park rocks Hong Kong for 29th year

By Ramon Dizon Jr.

From the classic "Heaven" by Bryan Adams to the AIDub nation's national anthem "God

Gave Me You" by Bryan White, nine of the city's top bands dished out a rich repertoire of songs as they rocked and regaled the public in the

29th Concert in the Park on Dec 6.

Around 2,000 people from different walks of life, mostly

Continued on page 26



Damayan HK holds kare-kare cooking contest

By Jo Campos

A traditional Filipino recipe done in different ways was the focus of Damayan OFW Hong Kong's Pamaskong Handog 2015 held in Admiralty Garden on Dec. 13.

Five confident cooks took part in the "kare-kare" cooking contest held to highlight the celebration, with the judges carefully selected from the Consulate and the professional and business sectors.

Taking top prize was Naty Manalo of Diwa't Kabayan Benlife Society who dished up her entry in a slotted tray where the ingredients were served separately. She said her sauce



The winning entry.

was made entirely from scratch.

Lorna Villano of Capiz Achievers who took second place used all natural and fresh ingredients in her dish that one could still see traces of the crushed peanuts she used to make the sauce.

Tying for third place were Janine Erastain of Sikap Association and Grace Cejeben of

the National Organization of Professional Teachers. Erastain made her dish distinct by pre-frying her eggplants in virgin coconut oil to give it a smoky flavor. Cejeben did hers in the most unpretentious but eye-catching way, with the tripe so soft it could almost melt in the mouth.

Vicky Adriosula of Consolidated Filipino Community Bri-

gade who took the last slot presented her dish in a no-nonsense way, though it tasted almost as good as the rest of the entries.

The judged were asked to rate each dish based on taste, texture and presentation.

Each entry was unique, with the cooks using different kinds of meat, from the usual oxtail and ox tripe to the non-tradi-

tional pork trotter. Even the vegetables used varied from one dish to the other, with some using banana blossoms, okra, green chili and the usual eggplant, string beans and pechay.

Kare kare is a Filipino dish that acquires its distinct flavor from its thick and creamy soup base made from ground peanut and rice flour. Annato or

achuete seed extract is used to add color to the dish. It is always served with bagoong or shrimp paste, which is often sauteed in pork oil, or spiced up with chili.

Although every region in the Philippines has its version of kare-kare, Filipinos never seem to tire of eating this much-loved dish whichever way it is served.



FOOD TRIP



Damayan members and guests led by Congen Bernie Catalla join in the feasting.

Buhay Pinay

From Page 4

katulong nga ito sa mga naghihirap na pamilya sa Pilipinas. Dahil sumama ang loob ay tumayo si Victoria sa kinatatayuan at dinala ang sanggol sa kwarto nito. Nahalata naman ito ng mga nag-uusap kaya pinuntahan siya ng bisita at inabot ang regalo, sabay sabi ng, "Thank you Victoria for looking after my grand-daughter. Merry Christmas," sabay yakap sa kanya. Tumango lamang si Victoria, at hindi na nakuhang magpasalamat pa sa inis. Totoo man ang sinabi ng bisita ay masakit pa rin sa ka-looban niya, lalo pa't ang kahirapan sa Pilipinas ang talagang nagtulak sa kanya para magtrabaho sa ibang bansa at iwanan ang nag-iisang anak sa kanilang bayan sa Cagayan Valley. - **Marites Palma**

Tsokolate

Anim na taon nang naninilbihan si Ana sa mga among puti sa Shatin, at masayang masaya siya dahil hindi nagbabago ang magandang pakikitungo nila sa kanya, lalo na ang kanyang mga alaga na binata't dalaga na. Itinuturing siyang kapamilya ng mga ito, at lahat ng kanilang kinakain ay natitikman din niya, maliban sa isang klase ng tsokolate na paborito nilang kainin at hindi niya pwedeng pakialamanan. Lahat ng mga regalong tsokolate ng mga amo ay inaabot nilang lahat kay Ana, kaya madami siy-

ang naiipon na ipinapadala niya agad sa pamilya tuwing may magbabakasyon. Kapag siya naman ang umuuwi ay hindi na siya bumibili ng mga pasalubong na tsokolate dahil sa dami ng kanyang naiipon. Gayunpaman, tuwing makakakita niya na may uwing tsokolate ang mga amo na paborito nila ay agad niya itong itinatabi sa refrigerator. Sa tuwa ng mga amo sa pagiging maala-lahanin ni Ana ay lalo pa siyang inuuwian ng iba't ibang klase ng tsokolate na ayaw nilang kainin. Si Ana ay isang Ilokana, may asawa at dalawang anak. - **Marites Palma**

Takot

Biglang nagbago ang ugali ni Nelia magmula nang lumipat siya ng amo. Hindi na siya ang dating palapansin at madaldal na Pinay na matagal na nilang kakilala dahil palipat-lipat lang ito ng amo sa iisang gusali. Ayon sa mga kapwa niya katulong ay hindi na ito sumasabay sa kanilang kumain kapag wala ang kani-kanilang mga amo, hindi na namamansin, at kahit kausapin mo ay hindi sumasagot. Kahit makasabay daw nila ito sa paglalakad papunta sa pagsusunduan sa kanilang mga alaga ay lagi daw mabilis ang lakad nito, bago bigla na lang mawawala. Medyo naliwanagan lang sila nang minsang mabanggit ng amo ni Nelia sa isa pa nilang kasamahan kung magkano ang ipinapasahod niya dito. Medyo malaki sa karaniwang sahod ang nabanggit na halaga, kaya napag-isip isip nila na marahil ay ito ang dahilan kung bakit iniwasan na sila ni Nelia. Gayunpaman, ipinagkibit-balita lang nila ang nalaman. Hindi naman daw dapat pinipilit na

kausapin ang tao kung halatang umiiwas ito sayo. Mula noon ay hindi na lamang niya ito pinapansin kahit magkasabay pa sila sa pagsundo. Si Nelia ay sampung taon na dito sa Hong Kong, tubong Iloilo, may asawa at naninilbihan sa mga among Briton sa Midlevels. ---**Grace Gonzaga**

Buking

Ilang buwan pa lang si Rosie sa kanyang matandang amo kaya hindi pa niya kabisado kung saan nakalagay ang mga gamit nito. Nag-for good na kasi ang dating nag-aalaga dito kaya kung may kailangan ang amo ay naghahalungkat muna siya para makita ang anumang hinahanap. Isang umaga ay hinanap ng amo ang cardigan niya na Hermes pero nailabas na lahat ng laman ng aparador ngunit wala siyang nakita. Hindi mapakali ang amo kaya iminungkahi ni Rosie na tawagan na lang ang dating katulong. Sandali lang nag-usap ang amo niya at dating katulong dahil nadala daw nito pauwi ang hinahanap na cardigan. Hindi naman nagalit ang amo pero bago ibinaba ang telepono ay mariin nitong sinabi sa dating katulong na kailangang ibalik ang cardigan sa lalong madaling panahon. Makalipas ang ilang araw ay dumating nga ang nawawalang damit sa pamamagitan ng koreo. Bagama't hindi kilala ni Rosie ang pinalitan ay nahihiya pa rin siya sa naging asal nito. Buti na lang daw at umamin naman agad dahil kung hindi ay baka siya pa ang napagbintangang kumuha. Si Rosie, may asawa, ay taga-Laguna. ---**Gina N. Ordona**

Nasunog

Naka-iskedyul na operahan si Jenny sa isang ospital dito sa HK pero nag-desisyon siyang gawin na lang ito sa Pilipinas para may mag-aasikaso sa kanya na kamag-anak. Maganda naman ang resulta ng kanyang desisyon dahil nang pumunta siya sa opital sa Maynila ay sinabi ng doktor na hindi siya kailangang operahan. Sumailalim siya sa iba pang pagsusuri at sa huli ay sinabi ng doktor na kailangan lang daw siyang i-raspa upang malinis ang kanyang matres. Simpleng operasyon lang naman ang raspa kaya madali din lang itong natapos. Pero paglabas ni Jenny sa operating room ay napansin niyang nasunog ang kanyang kanang tuhod. Nang tanungin niya ang nurse tungkol dito ay sinabing baka allergic siya sa gamot. Pero ayaw maniwala ni Jenny dahil nang sumunod na araw ay nahalata niya na talagang nasunog nga ang kanyang balat. Bandang huli ay umamin din ang nurse na hindi daw namalayana na bumagsak ang droplight sa kanyang tuhod. Hindi na siya nagreklamo pa pero nang lumabas siya ng ospital na mas ininda pa niya ang sakit ng tuhod kaysa sa ginawang pag-raspa sa kanya. Si Jenny ay may asawa at dalawang anak. ---**Gina N. Ordona**

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Cargo box business picks up ahead of holidays

By Vir B. Lumicao

Door-to-door cargo volumes from Hong Kong have started to bounce back this quarter following a slight slowdown triggered by the Bureau of Customs' foiled attempt in August to inspect all balikbayan boxes and tax all dutiable goods.

But the pace of recovery is uneven, with the market leader reporting a significant increase in volume and other players saying business is just starting to pick up, or simply has not climbed back to previous levels.

There have been protests from OFWs in Hong Kong and elsewhere after Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina ordered the opening of door-to-door

boxes sent home by overseas Filipinos purportedly to curb technical smuggling.

The largest Filipino freight forwarder in the city, A-Freight, said it had achieved a 10% rise in cargo shipments following the temporary setback in September.

Yolly Marquez, manager of the A-Freight shop in World-Wide House, Central, told The SUN there was a brief slowdown when OFWs delayed their shipments as they waited and watched out with concern for the next Customs move regarding the boxes.

The only delay happened during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila last month, when the capital was off-limits to all land, sea and air transports.

Deliveries of OFW boxes were held back by delayed releasing of containers.

"Actually, nagkaroon lang ng delay yung releasing dahil sa APEC, pero ngayon, so far so good. Wala namang effect yung pagbubukas ng box sa amin," Marquez said. So far, everything has returned to normal.

Focus Door to Door, which has been in the Hong Kong-Manila freight-forwarding business for the past 29 years, said there had been no change in its sales volume since the Customs started opening boxes.

World-Wide House branch officer-in-charge Evelyn Cruz said Hong Kong, in fact, was not affected by the Customs policy.

"Hindi naman talaga naapektuhan ang Hong Kong, eh. Naniwala lang ang mga tao. Mas maganda nga po ang nangyari na dinala sa yard dahil nababantayan namin," Cruz said, adding that if a box from Hong Kong was opened, Focus would ask the inspectors to put back the contents into the box properly.

It was a different story for Super Ace Cargo, which still has to see volumes return to levels before the balikbayan box controversy, said a staff in its shop in World-Wide House.

"Since nagkaproblema sa Customs, hindi na namin (maabot) yung dati," the staff said.

"Kung nakita nyo sa TV, yung binubuksan-buksan nila ang mga box, that is so bad,

exceed 3 yards per cut.

Lina said home appliances were not allowed in balikbayan boxes unless these are consigned to returning Filipino residents and overseas contract workers.

The regulations are meant to prevent OFWs taking advantage of their tax-free privilege to engage in business.

The Customs head also said the law allows only one consignment per sender during a one-month period.

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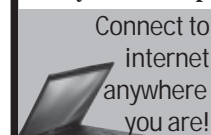


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Kaalaman sa long-distance parenting, mahalaga sa OFWs

Ni Grace Gonzaga

Paano mo pangangatawanan ang pagiging magulang kung ikaw ay wala sa piling ng iyong mga anak, dahil ikaw ay nasa ibang bansa upang magtrabaho?

Ito ang binigyang kasagutan ni Irene Padasas, isang mananaliksik sa Psychology Department ng Ateneo de Manila University, sa isang seminar na ginanap sa Konsulado noong Dis 6, at dinaluhan ng may halos 20 katao.

Ayon kay Padasas, mas

malaki ang epekto sa mga anak kung ang ina, kaysa sa ama, ang mangingibang-bansa, lalo na kung hindi kaya ng pag-iwanan ng mga anak na alagaang mabuti ang mga ito.

Ang matinding epekto ng paglayo ng isang ina ay lalo raw nakikita sa mga sanggol hanggang sa limang taong gulang na mga bata.

Sinabi ni Padasas na ang edad 0-5 taon ang pinakamahalagang yugto upang mabuo ang relasyon ng anak sa kanyang mga magulang at dapat ay nasa piling siya ng kanyang

nanay at tatay.

Kung talagang kinakailangan magtrabaho sa malayo, sa edad na 6-10 umano ang marapat na pag-iwan sa isang anak, ngunit kailangan ding tiyaking maayos ang sistema ng suport sa mga naiwan.

Sa isang isinagawang pag-aaral, natuklasang isa sa pinakamahirap na karanasan ng isang magulang o sitwasyon ng isang pamilya ay yaong nasa ibang bansa ang magulang at parang hindi na siya kilala ng anak na iniwan.

Ayon sa pag-aaral na iyon,

ani Padasas, nangyayari ang ganoong sitwasyon at alam ng isang magulang na may kulang pa rin kahit naibibigay niya ang mga pangangailangan ng kanyang anak.

Dito umano pinakamahalaga ang komunikasyon sa pagitan ng isang anak at ng magulang na malayo sa isa't isa, ayon kay Padasas.

Sinabi niyang kailangan sa ugnayang ito ng mag-ina ang mga tanong at pag-uusap na may kalidad, kaysa sa tanungin kung anu-anong mga bagay ang gusto ng anak. "Kahit na

malayo ka sa iyong mga anak, dapat masiguro na hindi lamang materyal ang naibibigay mo sa iyong mga anak, kundi pati ispiritwal, emosyonal, at sosyal na pangangailangan," ang payo ni Padasas.

Ang nasabing pagbabahagi ng kaalaman tungkol sa pagiging isang magulang na nawalay sa mga anak ay programa ng Ugnayan at Tulong sa Maralitang Pamilya Foundation, Inc.

Isa sa mga nagtatag sa grupo, na mas kilala sa tawag na Ugat Foundation, ay si Fr. Nilo Tanalega SJ.

Ang Ugat Foundation ay may misyon na tulungan ang mga pamilya ng mga OFW na maibsan ang lungkot ng pagkakalayo. Ang layuning ito ay nasasaad sa kasabihan ng grupo na "We seek to help Filipino families ease the pain of separation and to strengthen them through healing and empowerment."

Ang mahalaga sa OFW

From Page 21

Tungkol naman sa usaping scam, payo ni Socrates Padua ng IBP na iwasan ang magpabuyo sa mga investment na nangangako ng mabilisang pagyaman, lalo na kung nakasalalay ito sa dami na iyong mare-recruit na maglagay din ng pera. Huwag daw maniwalag agad sa mga nakaimprentang testimonya na nagsasabing yumaman ng walang kahirap-hirap ang isang tao sa maikling panahon. Magtanong sa Securities and Exchange Commission kung lehitimong nakarehistro ang kumpanyang lalagyan mo ng pera.

Dagdag pa ni Padua, huwag maging inggitera at umasa na yayaman agad dahil maaring maging dahilan ito ng pag-aaway ng isang pamilya kapag ang pinaghirapang pera ay mawawalang parang bula. Ayon pa sa kanya, kung naloko na minsan ay huwag nang ulitin pa ang pagpasok sa isang investment na kaduda-duda.

Ang isa pang isyu na binigyang linaw ay ang tungkol sa mga pag post sa social media kabilang ang Facebook ng mga malalaswang litrato ng isang dating ka-relasyon. Maari daw ireklamo ang taong gumawa nito, pero sa lugar lang kung saan ito nangyari.

Ayon kay Kimberly See na isa rin sa mga nagsalita, hindi ilegal ang pag-post ng litrato ng isang nangutang na hindi nagbayad, basta hindi malaswa ang litrato, at tama lahat ang mga impormasyon inilagay.

Sa tanong naman ng isang ginang na natatakot diumano na baka hulihin siya paglapag niya sa airport, sinabi naman ng mga abugado na maari niyang malaman kung may lumabas nang warrant of arrest laban sa kanya. Alamin lang daw niya ang case number at lumapit sa IBP Bulacan Chapter upang mabigyan siya ng kaukulang tulong.

Concert in the Park rocks HK for 29th year

From Page 22

overseas Filipino workers, sang and swayed to "The Beat is On" theme of the loud and lively free concert presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Philippine Consulate General and organized by the Hong Kong Musicians Union.

Starting off the program was the ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by Consul General Bernardita Catalla and

HKMU chairperson Manuela Lo. This was followed by the presentation of certificates of appreciation to all participating bands and the show's sponsors.

A mix of pop, rock, punk, hip-hop, blues and samba music interspersed with Tagalog rock and ballad songs ushered in the Christmas season as the bands pitted against each other in the annual event at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The bands' rendition of "Sweet Child o' Mine" by Guns N' Roses, "Always" by Bon Jovi, the more contemporary "Mr. Brightside" by the Killers, and "Diamonds" by Rihanna further electrified the crowd.

The marshals eventually gave in to the swaying and stomping after their few failed attempts to keep the crowd on their seats on the outdoor stairs of the piazza.

The high energy sent mid-performer T4Band starting its slot wild on hip-hops but ended up with its female lead vocalist turning emotional.

She was handed tissue paper to wipe off her tears while a "last song" flag was waved when the group performed beyond its allocated time.

Local Filipino bands such as the Black Widow, Call of Duty, D'bloodFunk and Mish-mash played a wide array of foreign and Filipino songs.

New Filipino youth organization Section Juan also sent its young performers for the first time on stage as the band Amusika.

Kick-starting the whole-afternoon concert was Stacs, a local rock band comprising Japanese, Chinese and American musicians.

Blues band 852Blue belted out a series of British blues

during their half-hour on the stage.

The final act was percussion ensemble Salvaje, a group of African, British, Chinese and Filipino musicians, "performing Afro-Brazilian rhythms using traditional samba batucada instruments".

The band received an enthusiastic welcome from the crowd as it performed popular Christmas carols and even the iconic Filipino pop song, "Anak".

As in previous years, the show was hosted by Filipino radio personalities Michael Vincent and Jun "Tita Kerry" Paragas with Jay Martinez as the disc jockey.

The concert "aims to promote cultural exchange and the joy of music for the Filipino community and locals alike", according to a flier promoting the event.

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Filipina tourist fined for stun gun in luggage

By Vir B. Lumicao

For bringing in a stunning device given by her bodyguard, a woman from Manila ran afoul of Hong Kong law and was fined \$1,500 by a Tsuen Wan magistrate on Nov 30.

Ma. May Getulio appeared before Acting Principal Magistrate Cheang Kei-hong and pleaded guilty to a charge of carrying an unlicensed weapon.

The defendant, a tourist, was

arrested at 7:13 am on Nov 28 after a security scanner at the Hong Kong International Airport detected the weapon in her suitcase.

Police checked the device and said it was a stunning device.

"Hong Kong prohibits persons from carrying such weapons. You are convicted of the offense of possessing an unlicensed weapon on your own admission," the magistrate said.

"I'm sorry, your Honor. My bodyguard gave it to me, saying it was for my protection. But I use it only as a flashlight," Getulio said.

There was no indication in court as to what the defendant needed a bodyguard for.

The magistrate said this being Getulio's first offense, he was fining the Filipina \$1,500.

Hong Kong laws prohibit carrying of offensive weapons such as tear gas, bullets, stun guns, flick knives and knuckle

dusters in their checked in or hand-carried luggage.

This year, about 85 Filipinos including Getulio have been convicted of carrying offensive weapons. Most of the offenders were seafarers visiting or transiting Hong Kong.

Vice Consul Fatima Quintin,

head of the assistance to nationals section of the Consulate, has urged Filipino traveling or transiting Hong Kong to avoid bringing offensive weapons in their luggage as these could put them in trouble.

She said the Department of Foreign Affairs had asked the

airport authorities in Manila to warn travelers about the restriction.

Frequent travelers to Manila, however, say there are no posters at any of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminals warning people about the prohibited gadgets.

Drug carrier's case adjourned

A Filipina tourist charged with trafficking more than one kilo of suspected cocaine in September returned to Tsuen Wan court on Nov 30 but the magistrate ordered her to return in January pending test results on the drug seized from her.

Ma. Cristina D. Dia was arrested by customs agents at Hong Kong airport on Sept 5 after the drug, with a street value estimated at \$1.3 million, was found hidden in a secret compartment of her luggage.

Dia arrived on a flight from Manila and was about to clear customs when the dangerous

drug was detected when her suitcase was run through an x-ray scanner.

Acting Principal Magistrate Cheang Kei-hong granted the prosecution's application for an adjournment of the hearing to Jan 11 and ordered Dia remanded in jail custody.

Around 10 Filipina drug couriers have been arrested at Hong Kong airport this year while attempting to smuggle cocaine and methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly called ice, into the city from Manila.

At least two cases involved Filipinas who traveled from

Brazil via Abu Dhabi.

The slew of drug trafficking cases originating in Manila has led concerned groups to ask why Ninoy Aquino International Airport security cannot detect kilos of drugs being taken to destinations abroad, while they could intercept such tiny things as bullets.

Even officials of the Consulate in Hong Kong have expressed concern and suggested that trained dogs be used to sniff baggage at the NAIA terminals before they are loaded onto planes to ensure they are free of drugs. — **Vir Lumicao**

OWWA's refusal to shelter sick, elderly overstayer sparks firestorm on Facebook

From Page 18

The welfare officer learned from her colleague Obedoza that one shelter client was leaving but that another distressed worker was already booked for the place to be vacated.

"Meron hong aalis na isa, kaso mauuna ho muna ang nasa likuran nyo, kasi OFW yan," she said.

Tiu, who helped Nanay Tarcila walk to the OWWA, found Santos' comment offensive. "Sa ganitong sitwasyon hindi ba siya puwede sa shelter?" Tiu asked. Santos explained the shelter was full.

"Puwede naman ako kahit sa sofa, sanay naman ako kahit nakaupo," the woman insisted.

Tiu and her colleagues in OFWs in HK then took Nanay

Tarcila to the assistance to nationals section of the Consulate where she was issued a one-way travel document.

The group then contacted Cynthia Tellez, general manager of the Mission for Migrant Workers, who was able to arrange a place for Nanay Tarcila

at Bethune House in Jordan.

On Dec 9, Bethune House officers accompanied the elderly woman to the Immigration Department to surrender. She was told to post bail of \$2,000 and go for a medical check-up on Dec 15, before returning for another interview.

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Pinoy Jokes

From Page 31

She tried with her right hand, then with her left, still nothing. She tried with her mouth, first with the teeth in, then with her teeth out, still nothing.

"We even called up Arleen, the lady next door and she tried too, first with both hands, then an Armpit, and she even tried squeezin' it between Her knees, but still nothing."

The doctor was shocked!

"You asked your neighbor?"

The old man replied, "Yep, none of us could get the jar open." —**Carolyn E.**

Preggie

Hillary Clinton goes to her doctor for a check-up, only to find out that she's pregnant.

She is furious. Here she is — in the middle of her election campaign — now this has happened to her!

She calls home, gets Bill on the phone and immediately

starts screaming: "You bastard! How could you have let this happen? With all that's going on right now, you go and get me pregnant! How could you? I can't believe this! I've just found out I'm five weeks pregnant and it's all your fault! Well, what have you got to say?"

There is nothing but dead silence on the phone.

She screams again, "Did you hear me?"

Finally, she hears Bill's very, very quiet voice, in a barely

audible whisper: "Who's calling?" —**Andre Kahn**

Farmer who?

Inutusang mag-grocery si Yaya. Pagdating doon, nag-text agad ito sa amo.

Yaya: Mam, wala po silang farmer sanchez dito.

Amo: Ha? Ano yun, Yaya?

Yaya: Farmer sanchez po. yung inilagay nyo sa ispageti.

Amo: Yaya, it's parmesan cheese.

Yaya: Ay, ganun? Thanks, Mam.

Dangerous

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When you drink whisky over ice, you can get heart

problems.

When you drink gin over ice, you can get brain problems.

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Naanakan

Anak: 'Nay, buntis po ako!

Nanay: Walang hiya ka!

Binigyan ka ng maayos na buhay kahit hirap kami ng tatay mo, iyan pa ang igaganti mo!

Anak: Mayaman po yung ama, 'Nay.

Nanay: Bakit hindi naman sinabi agad, anak. Sige, magpa-checkup tayo bukas. Samahan kita. Love you, anak!

Relaxing

Nagbakasyon si Juan sa

Boracay. Nakahiga siya alapot sa beachnang duman ang isang Amerikano.

Amerikano: Hey, are you relaxing?

Juan: No!

May dumaang Intsik.

Intsik: Are you relaxing?

Juan: No!

May dumaang Hapon.

Hapon: Are you relaxing?

Juan: No I'm not relaxing.

Nabuwisit si Juan dahil araming nagtatanong sa kanya. May nakita siyang Koreano, ay itinanong ang kinaiinisan niya.

Juan: Are you relaxing?

Koreano: Yes, I'm relaxing Binatukan ito ni Juan.

Juan: Buwisit ka. Ikaw pala si Relaxing. Kanina ka pa hinaanap ng mga turista dito! Nagpagkakamalang pa tuloy ako.

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Balitang Artista

From Page 30

VIC, PAULEEN NASA HK

Dumating sina Vic Sotto at ang kanyang fiancée na si Pauleen Luna noong Dec. 11 sa Hong Kong. Balitang dito bibili ng sapatos si Pauleen at iba pang gagamitin sa kanilang kasal.

Wala pang sinasabing mga detalye sa magaganap na kasal at sabi ni Vic ay hindi nila itatago, pero malamang na sa January na ito maganap, pagkatapos maipalabas ang kanyang pelikula na kasali sa Metro Manila Film Festival. Sa ngayon ay nais lang daw muna nilang magkaroon ng privacy. Tatlong daang katao na raw ang kumpirmadong dadalo, kaya sana ay makontrol ito ng maayos.

Sa presscon ng pelikulang "My Bebe Love", ganito ang sinabi ni Vic: "Gusto namin 'yung solemn na seremonya. Simple, hindi grandioso, wala masyadong fanfare. Kumbaga, it's more of family and friends. I don't call it exclusive. It's more private, para solemn ang seremonya. Hindi naman namin itatago o ipagkakait sa ating mga Dabarkads, dahil isi-

share namin at the right time. "Basta lahat na announcement, lahat na pangyayari, makikita nila sa Eat Bulaga."

CRISTINE AT ALI, TU-LOY ANG KASAL

Hindi natuloy ang pagpapakasal nina Cristine Reyes at ng fiancé niyang si Ali Khatibi sa buwang ito dahil hindi pa tapos ang bahay na ipinapatayo nila. Garden wedding sana ang balak nila na gaganapin sa bakuran ng bago nilang bahay, pero hindi nga natuloy.

Sa interview sa kanila ni Kris Aquino sa KrisTV, sinabi nila na sa January na nila itutuloy ang kanilang simpleng kasal na dadaluhan lang ng kani-kanilang pamilya. Bayad na raw sila sa gagawing prenup pictorial sa Balesin island resort, kaya doon na rin daw gagawin ang kanilang beach wedding. Mas gusto raw ni Cristine na naka-dress at slip-pers lang siya.

Noong 2013 nagkakilala ang dalawa sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga kaibigan, kabilang na si Champ Lui Pio na parehong malapit sa dalawa, pero nang panahong iyo ay may girlfriend si Ali. Noong nakaraang taon sila naging magon, at isinilang ni Cristine ang kanilang anak na si Amarah noong February 2015.

MGA NANALO SA AWIT AWARDS

Napanalunan ni Sarah Geronimo ang Album of the Year para sa kanyang album na Perfectly Imperfect sa 28th Awit Awards noong December 9 na ginanap sa Music Museum.

Panalo bilang Song of the Year ang awiting "Ikaw" na nilikha ni Yeng Constantino, samantalang nakakuha naman ng dalawang awards ang batang singer na si Darren Espanto para sa Best Performance by a New Male Recording Artist para sa "In Love Ako sa Iyo" at Best Album Package of the Year.

Si Julie Anne San Jose ang nakakuha ng Best Selling Album of the Year para sa album niyang "Deeper", at Best Rap Recording, kasama si Abra.

Ang iba pang nanalo:

BEST PERFORMANCE: Female Recording Artist -

Janice Javier ("Never Knew Love (Until I Met You)

Male Recording Artist - (Buntong Hininga) Johnoy Danao

New Female Recording Artist - Kiana Valenciano (Dear Heart)

New Male Recording Artist - Darren Espanto (In Love Ako Sa Iyo)

Group of Recording Artists - Koro Ilustrado (Krismas Na)

New Group Recording Artists - Innervoces (Paano)

Best Collaboration - Lani Misalucha ft Angeline Quinto, KZ Tandingan & Yeng Constantino (May Bukas Pa)

Best Performance by a Child/Children: Lyca Gairanod (Narito Ako)

CREATIVITY:

Album of the Year - Perfectly Imperfect (Sarah Geronimo)

Song of the Year - "Ikaw" (Yeng Constantino)

Best Ballad Recording - "Mahal Ko o Mahal Ako" (KZ Tandingan)

Best R&B Recording - "Torpe" (Kris Lawrence)

Best Inspirational/Religious Recording - "Ipagpatuloy Mo, Galing ng Pilipino" (Gary Valenciano)

Best Jazz Recording - "Hindi Magbabago" (Arthur Manuntag)

Best Rock/Alternative Recording - "Salbabida" (Kyla, Jungee Marcelo)

Best Rap Recording - "Dedma," (Abra & Julie Anne San Jose)

Best Dance Recording - "Dyosa" (Yumi Lacsamana)

Best Novelty Recording - "Di Sinasadya," (Crazy as Pinoy)

Best World Music Recording - "Salubong," (Johnoy Danao)

Best Christmas Recording - "Pamaskong Anyaya" (Musi-

ca Chiesa)

Best Regional Recording - "Usahay" (Pilita Corrales ft. Chad Borja)

Best Song Written for Movie/TV/Stage Play - "Ipagpatuloy Mo, Galing ng Pilipino" (Gary Valenciano, TFC 20th Anniversary)

OTHER AWARDS:

Best Selling Album of the Year Award - "Deeper" (Julie Anne San Jose)

Music Video of the Year - "Out of Control," (Pupil)

Best Album Package - Darren Espanto

Most Downloaded Song - "Nakakamiss"

Most Downloaded Artist/s - "Smugglaz, Curse One, Dello & Flic G

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Mas malaki ang MMFF 2015

Puspusan na ang promotion ng mga pelikulang kalahok sa Metro Manila Film Festival 2015 na magsisimulang itanghal mula sa December 25. Ngayon pa lang ay inaabangan na ang pagsasanib-puwersa ng mga fans upang suportahan ang kani-kanilang idolo at magka-alaman na kung kaninong pelikula ang tatanghaling top grosser at mananalo ng awards.

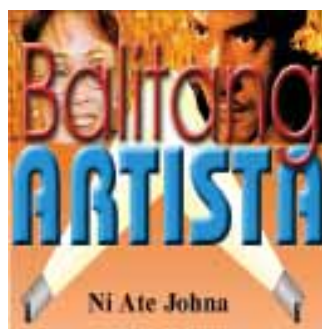
Kaabang -abang ang resulta ng unang pelikula ni Maine Mendoza (aka Yaya Dub), katambal si Alden Richards (AlDub), lalo na at kasama nila sina Vic Sotto at AiAi delas Alas, na dati nang nag-hari at reyna ng takilya sa mga nakaraang taon.

Masusubukan din kung

malakas pa rin ang hatak sa publiko nina Vice Ganda at Kris Aquino. Isinali sa kani-kanilang pelikula ang dalawang sikat na love team na sina Kim Chiu- Xian Lim (KimXi) at James Reid at Nadine Lustre (JaDine) para mas masiguro ang pagtabo nila sa takilya. Ang tanong na lang ngayon ay kung alin sa tatlong pelikula ang tatanghaling "top grosser" sa MMFF.

Ang mga pelikulang maglalan-laban-laban:

1) All You Need is Pag-Ibig (Star Cinema) - Kris Aquino, Derek Ramsey, Kim Chiu, Xian Lim, Jodi Sta Maria, Ian Veneracion, Bimby Yap, Nova Villa, Ronaldo Valdez at Pokwang. Kasali rin sina Julia at Talia Concio na mga apo ni



ABS CBN President Charo Santos-Concio. Directed by Antoinette Jadaone.

2) Beauty & the Bestie - (ABS CBN Film Prod./ Viva Communications Inc) starring Vice Ganda, Coco Martin, James Reid, Nadine Lustre, Alfonso Muhlach. Directed by Wenn Deramas.

3) Buy Now, Die Later (formerly Death and Senses) - Vhong Navarro, John Lapus, Rayver Cruz, Alex Gonzaga, TJ Trinidad, Lotlot de Leon & Janine Gutierrez. Sa direksyon ng baguhan, at batang director na si Randolph Longjas.

4) Haunted Mansion - (Regal Entertainment) - Janella Salvador, Marlo Mortel, Jerome Ponce. Directed by Jun Lana

5) My Bebe Love (dating Romcom-in Mo Ako) - Octoarts Films./ MZET Prod./ APT Entertainment. Starring Vic Sotto, AiAi Delas Alas, Alden Richards, Maine Mendoza Directed by Jose Javier Reyes.

6) Nilalang (The Entity) - (Haunting Towers Pictures Inc.), Cesar Montano, Maria Ozawa, directed by Pedring Lopez

7) Walang Forever - (Quantum Films), starring Jericho Rosales, Jennylyn Mercado, Lorna Tolentino, with guests Derek Ramsey & Maja Salvador, directed by Dan Villegas

8) Honor Thy Father - (Reality Entertainment). John Lloyd Cruz, Tirso Cruz III, Merryl Soriano. Directed by Erik Matti. Pinalitan ng pelikulang ito ang naunang finalist na "Hermano Pule" na umatras dahil sa kakulangan sa budget.

Ang awards night ay gaganapin sa December 27. Gaganapin naman sa December 23 ang tradisyunal na parade of stars, kung saan ay sasakay sa makukulay na floats ang mga artistang kasali sa ipapalabas na mga pelikula.

ALA EH FESTIVAL NI GOV. VILMA, DINAGSA

Masayang nairaos ang 2015 Ala Eh Festival na pinamunuan ng Batangas governor Vilma Santos. Nakilahok ang 31 bayan at 3 siyudad ng Batangas sa taunang festival para sa pagdiriwang ng 434th foundation day ng lalawigan. Ginanap ang festival mula Dec 1 hanggang Dec 8, at sa unang pagkakataon ay ginanap ito sa bayan ng Sto. Tomas, na dati ay hindi sumasali ang Sto. Tomas sa mga ganitong pagtiti-

pon dahil kalaban sa pulitika ni Vilma ang dating mayor nito. Ang nakaluklok ngayon na si Mayor Edna Sanchez na biyuda ng dating mayor ay nakipagkasundo na rin sa kanila at na-kiisa sa kanilang magandang layunin.

Ito na ang huling Ala Eh Festival sa pamumuno ni Vilma dahil huling termino na niya ito bilang gobernadora, kaya ang hiling niya ay sana ipagpatuloy rin ito ng hahalili sa kanya. Mahalaga raw ito dahil nagkakaisa ang mga Batanguenos upang maipakita ang kultura, tradisyon at produkto ng kanilang lalawigan.

Gaya ng mga nagdaang taon, may mga kaibigan ang gobernador mula sa showbiz ang dumalo at makipagsaya. Sa event na Voices, Songs ang Rhythms ay nag-perform sina Pops Fernandez, Vhong Navarro, Christian Bautista, Billy Crawford, Alex Gonzaga at ang mag-asawang Dingdong Avanzado & Jessa Zaragoza. Sana raw ay mapakiusapan niya ulit ng mga kaibigan niya sa showbiz na muling dumalo sa susunod pang taon para mapasaya ang mga Batanggenyo.

Samantala, naitanong din kay Vilma kung kailan mapapanood ang pelikulang "All of My Life" na pinagsasamahan nila ng kanyang future daughter in law na si Angel Locsin at ni Xian Lim. Hindi pa raw siguradong maipapalabas ito sa January dahil may anim na shooting days pa silang natitira. Nahinto raw ito dahil kinailangan nang magpa-opera si Angel sa iniindang sakit sa kanyang likod.

Baka pagbalik ni Angel mula sa bakasyon sa Amerika, kasama ang kanyang boyfriend na si Luis Manzano, ay itutuloy agad nila ang kanilang pelikula.

Continued on Page 29



Vice Ganda shows app.

Remittance can now be done by phone — for free

A new system to send money to the Philippines through a smartphone has been launched in Hong Kong.

The mobile app, available for download at www.bux.com, promises to lower the cost of sending money home or paying bills in the Philippines, while doing it from anywhere and at any time. With the app, an OFW needs only to buy load at 7-11 convenience stores, from which her remittances will be deducted.

Vice Ganda, a bux.com brand ambassador, said remittance is no longer a product but a value added service and soon remittance from Hong Kong to the Philippines should and will be a free service.

With the app, the service means no bank account and no credit card is needed.

One also no longer needs to go to banks and remittance shops to remit amounts to the Philippines because this is now a function of one's mobile phone, the company said. "The mass deployment of the Internet-enabled smart-phone is already starting to turn retail, customer interaction and payment experiences upside down," the company said.

"The world of remittance has changed forever," it added.

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TV bloopers

Bihira akong manood ng TV kaya hindi ako naambunan ng talino nang pinalabas ang mga quiz segments na ito:

Q: Kung ang light ay ilaw, ang lightning ay ...

A: Umiilaw!

Q: Kung ang tawag sa kumakain ng gulay ay vegetarian, ang tawag sa kumakain ng tao ay ...

A: Humanitarian?

Q: Sina Michael at Raphael ay mga ...

A: Ninja?

Q: Ang isang sikat na Willie ay si ...

A: Willie da pooh!

Q: Kung ang bansa ng mga Pakistani ay Pakistan, ang ban-

sa naman ng mga Hindu ay ...

A: Hindunesia?

Q: At ang bansa ng mga Canadianians ay ...

A: Canadia!

Q: "Kumpletuhin - Little Red ..."

A: "Ribbon!"

Q: Beauty is in the eye of the ...

A: Tiger?

Q: Ang "S" na tawag sa duktor nag nago-opera ay ...

A: Sadista?

Q: Si Dr. Jose Rizal ay binaril sa ...

A: Likod!

Q: Kung ang dengue ay nakukuha sa lamok, ang sakit na AIDS ay nakukuha sa ...

A: Motel?

Q: Kung ang H2O ay water,

ang CO2 ay ...

A: Cold water!

Q: Ang sagot sa bugtong na "Heto na si kaka, bubuka-bukaka" ay ...

A: Operadang bakla?

Q: Sa Biblia, ang higitang G na tinalo ni David ay si ...

A: Godzilla?

Q: Kadalasan ang TV ay pinapatay pag oras na ng ...

A: Balita (aray ko!)

—Chelo B.

New job

A businessman hailed a cab from his hotel and asked to be driven to the hospital about a mile away.

The driver started driving but he was only going about 15 mph.

The passenger banged on the partition and said speed it up.

The driver screamed, hit the gas and plowed into a tree.

The passenger said, "What the heck is wrong with you?"

"This is my first day driving a cab," the driver said. "I drove for a funeral home for 15 years



Haaay, ang saraaap!

and no one ever banged on my partition. You scared the living-daylights out of me!"

Old problems

Old people have problems that you haven't even considered yet!

An 85-year-old man was re-

quested by his Doctor for a sperm count as part of his physical Exam. The doctor gave the man a jar and said, "Take this jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow."

The next day the 85-year-old man reappeared at the doctor's office and gave him the jar,

which was as clean and empty as on the previous day.

The doctor asked what happened and the man explained, "Well, doc, it's like this — first I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing. Then I asked my wife for help.

Continued on Page 28

HOROSCOPE

Ni Ate Johna



Kambing

TUPA Isinilang noong 1919/31/43/55/67/79 at 91

Magtatagumpay ka sa ginagawa mo ngayon, pero mag-ingat sa mga naiinggit na nasa hanay ng iyong kaaway at maging ng mga kaibigan. Bantayan ang kinakain upang mapababa ang cholesterol level. May oras ka ngayon para sa intelektuwal na bagay: pagbabasa, at pagkakaroon ng interes sa iba't ibang bagay. Hangga't maaari, iwasang magkaroon ng love affair sa mga kasamahan upang makaiwas sa problema at maingatan ang reputasyon. Lucky numbers: 13, 19, 25 at 36.



Unggoy

UNGGYOY. Isinilang noong 1920/32/44/56/68/80/92

May kutob kang napapagkaisahan ka; pakalmahin ang lumolobo mong self pride at ang lahat ay magiging maayos para sa iyo. May pag-asa ang mga lonely hearts ngayon dahil sa mga bagong kakilala. May perang darating, ang iba ay tatanggap ng mana. Maganda ang relasyon sa mga taong malalapit sa iyo. May

problema sa panunaw ngayon, iwasan ang pagkaing matitigas, at nguyaing mabuti ang kinakain. Lucky numbers: 7, 18, 23 at 44.



Tandang

TANDANG Isinilang noong 1921/33/45/57/69/81/93

Kung walang karelasyon, marami kang pagpipilian ngayon. Piliting makita ang kabutihan sa mga bagay, at isipin ang magagandang bagay sa iyong buhay. Huwag pahirapan ng husto ang sarili sa mga problema! Ugaliing kumain ng tama at mag-eher-sisyo. Sa trabaho, mas mainam ang maingat kaysa sa mabilisan na lagi namang may mali. Sanaying gumawa ng maayos at ibuhos ang atensyon sa trabaho. Lucky numbers: 15, 21, 31 at 45.



Aso

ASO. Isinilang noong 1922/34/46/58/70/82/94

Negatibo ang pananaw mo sa lahat ng bagay, kaya hindi ka nakakatulog at nakakakain ng maayos. Kumilos at ayusin mo ang iyong pananalapi. Sa love life, magkakaroon ng mga pagtatalo, away o hiwa-

layan, pero hindi nawawala ang iyong masimbuyo at pisikal na hangarin. Maiiwasan din ang hindi pagkakaunawaan dahil mabilis kang makapag-isip at makagawa ng paraan. Makakaasa ng tulong sa kaibigan Lucky numbers: 22, 28, 30 at 41.



Baboy

BABOY. Isinilang noong 1923/35/47/59/71/83/95

Huwag maiinggit sa iba dahil marami rin silang problemang gaya mo. Sa pag-ibig, maging mapagbigay at dagdagan ang pasensiya. Kung nainsulto sa sinasabi ng iba, piliting kalimutan ito. Kung mas mabilis ka pa kaysa sa musika, mabawasan ang pagiging epektibo ng galaw. Oras na upang pangalagaan ang iyong kinikita. Maaaring lumago ang pera sa tamang pamamahala at pag-iingat. May swerte ring darating. Lucky numbers: 6, 18, 29 at 32.



Daga

DAGA. Isinilang noong 1924/36/48/60/72/84/96

Magiging mapangahas ka sa pakikipag-relasyon ngayon. Mag-ingat. Kahit sa tingin mo ay maaga pa, pag-isipan mo na rin ang pag-iwanan mo ng iyong mga ari-arian kapag dumating ang tamang oras. Mag-eeenjoy ka ng husto sa piling ng iyong barkada. Mainit at

maayos ang relasyon sa malalapit sa iyo, lalo na sa mga anak dahil maipapadama mo ang pagmamahal. Lucky numbers: 11, 19, 27 at 44.



Baka

BAKA. Isinilang noong 1925/37/49/61/73/85/97

Huwag pakasiguro sa mga kilos, kontrolin ang sarili. Mag-ingat na baka matuksong sumugal sa isang bagay na maaring ikapahamak mo sa halip na kumita. Malakas din ang loob mong pumasok sa isang relasyon na maaring magdulot lang ng kabiguan. Mahihirapan kang makisama sa malalapit sa iyo dahil ikaw lagi ang hinihingan ng tulong, pero wala kang nakukuhang kapalit. Huwag mahiyang banggitin ito sa kanila. Lucky numbers: 7, 25, 26 at 37.



Tigre

TIGRE Isinilang noong 1926/38/50/62/74/86 at 98

Hindi mapakali at balisa ka ngayon. Sa trabaho, unti-unti mo nang nakikita ang positibong resulta ng pinaghirapan. Mag-ingat na ipagkamali ang panaginip sa totoong pangyayari dahil magdudulot lang yan ng katamaran o kaya ay sama ng loob. Pagkakaroon ng love affair o pagkakaibigan ng magkaibang henerasyon ang maaaring mangyari sa panahong ito. Magiging

masaya ka sa piling ng mga taong kinagigiliwan. Lucky numbers: 3, 17, 25 at 30.



Kuneho

KUNEHO Isinilang noong 1927/39/51/63/75/87

Mag-ingat sa isang taong pinagkakatiwalaan dahil ito pa ang maglalagay ng hadlang sa iyong patutunguhan. Isantabi muna ang nakasanayang gawin at lumabas upang makakita ng mga bagong mukha. Hindi ito ang tamang panahon para sa transaksyong pinansyal o hinggil sa lupa. Isang masaya at nakakalokang love affair ang namumuo. Upang makamit ang inaasam, sundin ng buong higpit ang mga plano at huwag hayaang madiskaril ito. Lucky numbers: 10, 29, 30 at 35.



Dragon

DRAGON Isinilang noong 1928/40/52/64/76/88

Iwasan ang mga taong namimilit na umanib ka sa kanilang grupo o organisasyon. Makikilala mo na rin ang pinapangarap na karelasyon, at kung nagsasama na, magiging maligaya ka. Bawasan ang pag-inom ng alak o matatamis na inumin kung ayaw mong lumobo ang katawan. Malaki ang tsansa mong ma-promote o tumanggap ng umento. Kung may sariling negosyo, mag-ingat sa mga delikadong

transaksyon. Lucky numbers: 16, 20, 23 at 40.



Ahas

AHAS Isinilang noong 1929/41/53/65/77/89

Masayahin ka sa pakikipag-usap ngayon. Ang love life ay patuloy ding mainit at maligaya. Maganda rin ang lagay ng kalusugan, maliban sa iba na nakakaranas ng hindi regular na pagtibok ng puso. Sa trabaho, hindi ka takot sumugal pero alalahanin na hindi matibay ang kalagayang pinansyal ngayon. Huwag magtiwala sa kaunting pagbabago sa pananalapi dahil panandalian ito; iwasan ang malaking pamumuhunan. Lucky numbers: 9, 15, 24 at 45.



Kabayo

KABAYO. Isinilang noong 1930/42/54/66/78/90

Magbabalik ang tiwala ng mga tao sa iyong kakayahan. May magagaling kang ideya na sayang kung hindi magagamit. Mag-ingat sa mga gastusin, at iwasan ang mungtong. Makikilala mo ang isang taong makakasundo mo sa maraming bagay. Mas mataas ang ambisyon mo ngayon at makakaasa ka ng tulong sa mga taong kailangan mo. Huwag mag-alinlangang subukan ang matututuhan upang maisagawa ang plano. Lucky numbers: 12, 26, 28 at 39.



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