

By Nestor Corrales/Anthony Q. Esguerra

Rody apologizes to Sereno: 'Harsh words never intended'



DUTERTE SERENO

Senate summons 'Bato'

PNP CHIEF SAYS HE'LL FACE THE COMMITTEE

RONALD "Bato" dela Rosa is unfazed and will enter the lion's den once summoned.

The chief of the Philippine National Police is set to be called to a hearing of the Senate committee on justice and human rights on Aug. 22-23 on the spate of alleged extrajudicial killings in President Duterte's war on illegal drugs.

"Yes, we will face it," Dela Rosa said on Thursday in an interview with reporters in General Santos City. "It's part of our job, if we will be required to attend."

SENATE / A2



'BATO' DELA ROSA

Sereno appreciates Duterte's apology, says SC official

By Tetch Torres-Tupas

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno on Friday said she appreciates the gesture of President Rodrigo Duterte who apologized for his "harsh" remarks in reaction to her letter.

"I get tangled with the Chief Justice. I would apologize to the Chief Justice for the harsh words. It was never intended," Duterte said in a televised news briefing in Davao City.

RODY / A2 SERENO / A3

Clinton, Trump spar over Islamic State claim, economy

(Agence France-Presse)

WASHINGTON, United States - Hillary Clinton admonished Donald Trump on Thursday for claiming she and President Barack Obama were the founders of the Islamic State group, as the White House rivals also clashed on plans to improve the US economy.

CLINTON OBAMA TRUMP

CLINTON / A2

ENTERTAINMENT

Clarisma Sison faces Sunshine Dizon and Timothy Tan in court for the first time

"Annulment, no, never. Why would I give them the happiness to be together, di ba? They should pay for it!" - Sunshine

PAGE B3



Juday embarks on movie marathon

JUDY ANN SANTOS

PAGE B4



SPORTS

'Welcome for Hidilyn Diaz bigger than beauty queen's'

PAGE A8



Aiza Seguerra appointed chair of National Youth Commission

Seguerra's partner Liza Diño was named chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines

By Leila B. Salaverria & Kristine Angeli Sabillo

MALACAÑANG on Friday announced the appointment of singer-actress Cariza "Aiza" Seguerra as chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC).

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said Seguerra would serve for three years.

LIZA AIZA

AIZA / A2

'Drug supplier to stars,' cohort killed; Robin Padilla's cousin, 2 nabbed in Laguna

By Maricar Cinco

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna - A man believed to be the top supplier of drugs to showbiz stars and an unidentified cohort were killed while three others, among them

'DRUG / A2

No pay hike for cops, soldiers until 2018 - Ping

By Tarra Quismundo

PRESIDENT Duterte may have promised salary increases for soldiers and policemen but there's no money for raises until 2018, according to Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

NO PAY / A3



LACSON

QC mayor Bautista admits to aides: My brother Hero failed drug test

By Jovic Yee

IN a closed-door meeting with department heads on Wednesday, an "emotional" Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista admitted that his brother, Hero, was the councilor who tested positive for marijuana and

Mayor Herbert Bautista (left) and brother, Councilor Hero Bautista

QC / A3

Home is the heroine: Hidilyn eyes gold in Tokyo Games

MANILA, Philippines - Her passion for weightlifting reignited, Rio Olympics silver medalist Hidilyn Diaz banished any thought of retirement and expressed willingness to carry the country's hopes and dreams again in the next staging of the quadrennial games.

HOME / A3

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From page A1 Senate summons 'Bato'

PNP CHIEF SAYS HE'LL FACE THE COMMITTEE

Sen. Leila de Lima, the committee chair, said other PNP officials, Commission on Human Rights officials and witnesses would be invited to the hearing on the relentless campaign of the administration that has claimed more than 700 lives.

"We will accord them due respect," said De Lima, a vocal critic of Mr. Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

"We have to determine the facts. We have to know the truth. We have to find out exactly why this is happening, find out how many have been

killed in the course of this intensified drive against drugs," De Lima said, adding that both deaths in police operations and vigilante-linked incidents would be investigated.

The inquiry aims to draw up legislation that would institutionalize respect for human rights in the conduct of police operations, said De Lima.

The PNP put the toll of lives at 449 at the week-

end from police operations against drug dealers since Mr. Duterte took office. An Inquirer count places the death toll at 711 from July 1 to Aug. 9, including 242 cases attributed to vigilantes.

Timing questioned

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, who is not a member of the committee but attended the closed-door meeting on Thursday morning, expressed

concern at the timing of the hearing.

"There are so many things that the police need, the judges and prosecution services need toward a successful antidrug campaign. Why should we do the investigating first?" said Cayetano, Duterte's running mate in the May 9 elections.

Turn to page A3

From page A1 Rody apologizes to Sereno: 'Harsh words never intended'

"Ako kasi because of the magnitude of the problem, it is my way of solving my problem within the ambit of my powers as President," he added.

Duterte hinted that his outburst was triggered when reporters asked him to react to Sereno's concern.

"Kayo ang humihingi eh, even the media...kaya...," he added.

Warning of a possible constitutional crisis, Sereno, in a letter, reminded the President of the separation of powers that is enshrined in the Constitution.

Sereno also questioned the intelligence report that linked the judges to illegal

drugs trade in the country.

She cautioned the judges from turning themselves in to police custody, reminding them that only the Supreme Court has the sole authority to discipline them.

"It would matter greatly to our sense of constitutional order if we were given the chance to administer the appropriate preventive measures without the complications of a premature public announcement," Sereno said in the four-page letter.

But Duterte lashed back at Sereno, warning her to get out of his way in his no-nonsense war against illegal drugs or he would declare martial law.

"I'm giving you a warning.

Don't create a crisis because I will order everybody in the executive department not to honor you," Duterte said.

"Please do not, you say, create a constitutional issue. There will be. Don't order me, I'm telling you. I hope you are listening," he added.

Duterte reiterated that he was just doing his duty to inform the public of the condition of their society when he announced the personalities, including the judges, who allegedly involved in the drug trade. (*Nestor Corrales and Anthony Q. Esguerra@inquiredotnet-INQUIRER.net*)

Clinton, Trump spar over Islamic State claim, economy

From page A1

economy. "No, Barack Obama is not the founder of ISIS," Clinton tweeted as she accused her 2016 election rival of a "smear" against the president.

"Anyone willing to sink so low, so often should never be allowed to serve as our commander-in-chief."

The Republican nominee roiled the campaign late Wednesday by telling a rally in Florida that Obama "is the founder of ISIS."

"And I would say, the co-founder would be crooked Hillary Clinton," Trump added.

A furious Democratic National Committee on Thursday called on the real estate mogul to "apologize for his outrageous, unhinged and patently false suggestions."

Instead, amid a flare of renewed controversy less than three months before the November 8 election, Trump doubled down, repeating to homebuilders in Miami Beach, Florida that Obama and Clinton founded the violent extremist group.

"ISIS will hand her the most valuable player award," he said of Clinton, 68.

Her campaign issued a stern statement saying Trump has "an aversion to the truth."

"This is another example of Donald Trump trash-talking the United States," Clinton senior policy advisor Jake Sullivan said in the statement.

Trump was "echoing the talking points of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and our adversaries to attack American leaders and American interests, while failing to offer any serious plans to confront terrorism or make this country more secure," he added.

While Trump's remarks landed him in fresh controversy, they did manage to push another deeply divisive row - his remarks that could be interpreted as advocating gun violence against Clinton - out of the headlines.

Trump has struggled to right his campaign following two weeks of stumbles, sliding poll numbers and rejection by a series of fellow Republicans.

He eyed a reset Monday by rolling out his economic policies. But then dozens of respected Republican national security experts announced their opposition to a Trump presidency.

The following day, Trump caused alarm when he suggested "Second Amendment people" - Americans who support gun rights - could act against Clinton.

'Truth-teller'

Republicans have long stated that the foreign policies of Obama and his then-secretary of state

Clinton share blame in helping create conditions that allowed IS to grow in Iraq and Syria.

IS was founded in 2013, months after Clinton left the State Department. It was born out of the terror group Al-Qaeda in Iraq that grew in strength in 2006 following Republican president George W. Bush's decision to invade the country in 2003.

The group flourished with Obama's withdrawal of US troops from Iraq in late 2011.

Republicans said Obama was slow to recognize the threat when he said in 2014 that the Islamic State was a "JV" - junior varsity - team even though they gained ground in Syria and Iraq.

Trump stood firm when asked by CNBC whether it was appropriate to say a sitting US president founded a jihadist group determined to kill Americans.

"Is there something wrong with saying that?" Trump, 70, said. "Are people complaining that I said he was the founder of ISIS?"

"All I do is tell the truth. I'm a truth-teller."

Trump endured a barrage of recent criticism, particularly over the Second Amendment remarks, which Clinton said had "crossed the line."

Family members of Democratic president John F. Kennedy, shot to death in 1963, expressed revulsion over Trump for voicing "the possibility of political assassination."

Relatives of Republican president Ronald Reagan, who was shot and wounded in 1981, and slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr also condemned Trump for his gun remarks.

Economy

Clinton meanwhile turned toward the economy, telling supporters in Michigan she will defend US interests against China and reject the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement if she is president.

She also attacked Trump for his economic positions, saying he was peddling a "myth" that "he will stick it to the rich and powerful."

"Don't believe it," she said. "He would give trillions in tax cuts to big corporations, millionaires and Wall Street money managers," she added.

Trump hit back, arguing in Miami Beach that Clinton will raise taxes dramatically.

"I'm going to cut taxes big league," Trump said. His campaign also predicted Clinton, who supported TPP during the negotiation process, would ultimately approve the pact. (*@inquiredotnet-Agence France-Presse*)

'Drug supplier to stars,' cohort killed; Robin Padilla's cousin, 2 nabbed in Laguna

From page A1

a cousin of actor Robin Padilla, were arrested Thursday in San Pedro City, in Laguna province, in police operations.

Supt. Harold Depositar, San Pedro police chief, said policemen, who were serving an arrest warrant against Alvin "Vergel" Comerciante, were met with gunfire when they approached the latter's house in Adelina Subdivision in Barangay San Vicente at 10 a.m.

Depositar said policemen returned fire, resulting in a brief shoot-out that killed an unidentified man and Comerciante, live-in partner of Criselda Padilla.

Depositar said Comerciante and his partner Padilla, who was identified by the police as the actor's cousin, were supplying illegal drugs, such as shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and ecstasy, to

showbiz stars. They allegedly belonged to group that catered to showbiz personalities.

Criselda and two other men were arrested after the fire-fight, according to a report from the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) police.

The warrant against Comerciante's arrest was issued by Judge Agripino Morga of the Regional Trial Court in San Pablo City, Laguna. The operation was led by the Philippine National Police's Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) based in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Depositar said Comerciante was also known as a "hit-man" of a drug lord detained in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City. He did not identify the drug lord but said their information showed that Comerciante had targeted

pushers who failed to remit drug money to financiers.

"The [couple] had been renting the house [in San Pedro] for two years. They were not what you call street pushers. Even village [officials] did not know about their activities," Depositar said.

He said the police recovered a still undetermined amount of shabu, weighing scales and several passports from the suspects' house.

In a separate telephone interview, Senior Supt. Randy Peralta, AIDG supervisor for Southern Luzon, said the police, as of Thursday afternoon, were still documenting the evidence recovered from Comerciante's house, as well as establishing the identities of the other suspects. (*SEM (Maricar Cinco@inquiredotnet-Inquirer Southern Luzon)*)

Aiza Seguerra appointed chair of National Youth Commission

Seguerra's partner Liza Diño was named chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines

From page A1

State-run PTV posted on its Twitter account that, "Aiza Seguerra is incoming Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC)."

NYC Commissioner JP Peñol also posted on Facebook that Assistant Secretary Earl Saavedra "announced the Presidential appointment of Usec. Cariza Yamson Seguerra as newly [appointed] Chairperson and CEO of the National Youth Commission - Office of the President."

The announcement coincided with International Youth Day.

In an interview with CNN Philippines, Seguerra said her appointment papers were signed on August 8 and were given to her on Thursday.

She will officially assume the position of NYC chair on Tuesday.

Seguerra, who supported President Rodrigo Duterte during the 2016 elections, said she was "scared but excited."

"This is a very big thing dahil kabataan ito at napakaraming sektor ang kailangang matuunan ng pansin (because we are dealing with

the youth here and so many sectors need to be focused on)," she said.

The singer-songwriter said she will also use arts and culture to engage the Filipino youth.

"Arts and culture malaking tulong yun para mabalik ang nasoyalismo ng ating kabataan (are a big help to reignite nationalism among the Filipino youth)," she said.

Because she wanted to be more inclusive, Seguerra said she will visit the youth in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to learn more about



the problems that they face.

She said she will focus on education and will carry her advocacy for the indigenous peoples.

Other issues that she would like to address are illegal drug use among the youth, teenage pregnancy and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

NYC, which is under the Office of the President, was established in 1995 as a policy-making body on youth affairs.

On the other hand, Seguerra's partner Liza Diño was named chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines and would also serve in the post for three years.

Seguerra and Diño are the latest supporters of Mr. Duterte to get government posts.

The two are both in show business.

Seguerra started as a popular child actor before becoming a well-known singer.

Diño is a beauty titlist and is also an actress. She is the daughter of Martin Diño, a party mate of the President.

Martin Diño had paved the way for Duterte to run for President, because the latter had substituted for him in the 2016 elections.

/rga / CDG

Panelo tells Drilon: Don't interpret Constitution literally

From page A1

Panelo reiterated that President Rodrigo Duterte could declare martial law "if public safety requires it."

"What am I saying is right now, we have a situation which is akin to an invasion or to a rebellion because public safety is imminently in danger. And therefore,

we cannot be chained into literally reading the constitutional provision as it expresses itself like invasion or rebellion," Panelo said in an interview with reporters.

Panelo said Drilon should interpret the Constitution with depth.

"We have to go beyond

that. We have to look at whether or not the situation requires a declaration because the safety of the Filipino nation is at stake. The Supreme Court does not really rule on the literal provisions of the Constitution. It depends on the situation," he said.

Drilon had said that even a freshman law student could "easily debunk" Panelo's claims, pointing out that it had no legal basis.

But Panelo asserted that Drilon was missing "a very important operative act" on the grounds for declaring a martial law.

"Now he says that I'm missing an element in my statement. Because according to him, under the Constitution, only when there is invasion or rebellion that you can declare martial law," he

said. "I agree. Except that he forgets the very important operative act, which is when public safety requires it. In other words, even when there is an invasion or rebellion, but public safety does not require a declaration of martial law, you cannot," he added.

Panelo said his statements were based on the "Duterte Constitution."

"The former Senate President Drilon is asking what Constitution I was referring to or reading when I made the statement that when public safety requires it, the President has duty and the right to declare martial law. May I inform the good senator that I am reading the Duterte constitution, which is actually the Philippine Constitution of 1987," he said. (*Nestor Corrales@NCorralesINQ-INQUIRER.net*)



'Ninja' cops charged in court for recycling seized 'shabu'

THE Department of Justice (DOJ) has charged in court four "ninja" cops for their alleged failure to account for two suitcases containing more than 50 kilograms of "shabu" seized during an "unreported" buy-bust operation in Pampanga in 2013.

Police officers who take part in antidrug operations, seize the contraband, and then turn around and sell the confiscated drugs are dubbed "ninja" cops.

Charged in the Regional Trial Court in Angeles City with violation of Republic Act No. 9165—the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002—were Chief Insp. Bivenildo P. Reyado, Chief Insp. Arnulfo G. Ibañez, Senior Insp. Romel N. dela Vega, PO 1 Rommel

C. Raquipo and eight John Does. They face charges of misappropriation, misapplication and failure to account for confiscated and seized dangerous drugs.

Chinese suspects released

The complaint accused Reyado, head of Pampanga's Criminal Investigation and Detection Team, and the other respondents with failure to account for the suitcases of shabu confiscated in an operation on Aug. 28, 2013.

The group also allegedly failed to account for a Hyundai Starex van and a Toyota Camry sedan taken in the same operation.

The complaint included testimony by two witnesses who were part of Reyado's team who said

the latter instructed them not to document the operation and not to process the Chinese nationals who were arrested as a result.

The two Chinese, Yang Fang Ping and Tony Sy Chan, were eventually released, according to the witnesses who were also police officers.

One witness, SPO1 Oliver Padilla, said he and the other witness, SPO1 Martin Santiago, were accused by Reyado and the others of "burning" their "personal" drug operations by reporting them to higher-ups.

Unlicensed guns

During service of the search warrant, the authorities found several unlicensed firearms, vehicles and

P2.6 million in cash in Reyado's "safe house" in Balagtas, Bulacan.

Among the vehicles were a blue Mitsubishi Montero and two Yamaha motorcycles. Ferro said the vehicles were not listed in Reyado's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

He said that a check with the PNP Crime Laboratory showed Reyado's group failed to turn over the confiscated drugs.

Reyado denied the accusations, saying a court had dismissed the search warrant issued against him.

But the DOJ said the warrant that was quashed by the court was for illegal possession of firearms. (*Tetch Torres-Tupas@T2TupasinQ-INQUIRER.net*)

Sereno appreciates Duterte's apology, says SC official

From page A1

Duterte, in a speech, even threatened to declare martial law if the Chief Justice will interfere in his anti-drug war.

Sereno opted not to comment on Duterte's remarks.

On Thursday evening, Duterte said: "I get tangled with the Chief Justice. I would apologize to the Chief Justice for the harsh words. It was never intended."

Atty. Theodore Te, the high court's Information Chief said: "The Chief Justice appreciates the President's latest remarks. As previously announced, she will no longer say anything on the matter."

The high court is already conducting a fact-finding probe on the judges mentioned by Duterte as those with links to narcotics trade. **RAM**



Home is the heroine: Hidilyn eyes gold in Tokyo Games

From page A1

"Parang ayoko nang mag-retire. Ngayon pa lang nami-miss ko na ang magbuhat (It seems I no longer want to retire. Even now I already miss lifting)," said Diaz, who arrived yesterday to an appreciative crowd at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 after a 25-hour flight from Rio de Janeiro.

Prior to leaving for Brazil, Diaz had hinted the Rio Olympics could be her last hurrah.

But after breaking the Philippines' 20-year medal drought, she's now determined to return to the gym and go for the top prize four years from now in Tokyo.

"Siguro hindi na ako papayag na silver lang. Gusto ko gold na (Perhaps I won't settle for silver next time. I want the gold)," she said.

Diaz was touched by the love from her compatriots. Her parents, Eduardo and Emelita, led well-wishers at the airport, and Hidilyn readily showed her precious medal to them.

"Sobrang saya ko, gusto kong umiyak (I'm overjoyed, I want to cry)," said Diaz, who was also greeted by her fellow Air Force members and Philippine Sports Commission officials led by chairman Butch Ramirez and commissioner Charles Maxey.

Diaz said she wanted to offer her medal to her mother who celebrated her 53rd birthday last Monday.

The country's newest sensation fielded questions from the media upon her arrival.

A couple of hours later, Diaz took a plane to Davao for her eve-

ning courtesy call on President Duterte. The Chief Executive was expected to hand over the P5-million check to the Olympian at the Presidential Guest House in Davao.

"Excited at honored akong ipakita kay Presidente ang medalya ko (I'm excited and honored to present my medal to the President)," she said.

She added that she intends to buy a 300-square-meter lot in front of their house in Zamboanga City to build a weightlifting facility and help those who want to follow her footsteps.

Diaz is also expected to appeal for more government support for sports in her audience with the President. **- By Olmin Leyba (The Philippine Star) with Rudy Santos**

No pay hike for cops, soldiers until 2018

- Ping

From page A1

Lacson explained on Thursday that the 2017 national budget has already been drafted without any provision for salary increases for the military and the police.

"That's not possible anymore because the 2017 budget is about to be submitted. I don't see how the salary increases for police and military officers can still be incorporated," Lacson told reporters.

"I think for 2018, [the President will] make sure [raises are provided for]. But for 2017, it's highly improbable, if not impossible," said Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief.

No allocation

Congress is expected to start considering the proposed 2017 national budget next month.

President Duterte told soldiers and policemen last month that they would be getting an incremental pay hike starting this month.

But Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno told the Senate on Wednesday that there was no allocation for the salary increases under the national budget.

"We cannot promise this August because, as you know, there is nothing in the budget for that. I don't want to commit a violation of the DAP



(Disbursement Acceleration Program) rule. You cannot spend on something that is not authorized by Congress," Diokno told the committee on civil service, government reorganization and professional regulation in a briefing.

Unconstitutional

Diokno was referring to the Aquino administration's DAP program, an economic stimulus put together from unspent agency funds for other initiatives not approved under the national budget.

The Supreme Court struck down the DAP as unconstitutional in 2014. Diokno told the committee chair, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, that the administration was "looking at a three-year trajectory" for the pay hikes.

He said the government was "trying to supplement" the income of soldiers and policemen in other ways, including the provision of a monthly rice allowance.

Trillanes said Diokno should tell the President not to make rash promises. **(Tarra Quismundo@TarraINQ-Philippine Daily Inquirer)**

Binay Jr. gets court permission to travel

FORMER Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr. has been allowed by the Sandiganbayan to leave the country next week to bring his young daughter to the United States for medical consultation.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division, where Binay was charged with graft for alleged anomalies in the city hall building project, granted the former mayor's request to travel to Los Angeles, California, from Aug. 14 to 26.

Binay, the only son of former Vice President Jejomar Binay who was included in the same graft case after he stepped down from office, had told the court he would bring his 6-year-old daughter to see an allergy expert in the United States for a "very uncommon"

skin disease called the staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome.



He said his daughter's appointment with the doctor is on Aug. 19 and 20.

The antigraft court ordered Binay to post a P608,000 travel bond and to appear before the court five days after his expected arrival.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division issued a hold departure order last Feb. 26 against Binay Jr. and 11 former city officials and employees who were charged with him with graft, malversation and falsification of public documents for alleged irregularities in the public bidding of the P2.2 billion Makati car park project from 2007 to 2013. **(Dona Z. Pazzibugan@inquirerdotnet-Philippine Daily Inquirer)**

SENATE... From page A2

"We can look at the Whistle-blowers Act first, the [restoration of the] death penalty, strengthening the courts," he said.

Misgivings

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the committee on public order and dangerous drugs, said: "I am attending the hearings if only to focus on the summary killings perpetrated by nonpolice personnel. But I have misgivings about indicting the police organization, that they are involved in summary killings. But let's find out, let's see how things develop during the hearing."

Lacson earlier expressed apprehension about the De Lima-led inquiry premised on allegations of police overkill, citing his experience going through lengthy court proceedings for the alleged use of exces-

sive force in the death of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng crime syndicate in 1995.

Lacson, a former PNP chief, was cleared of the charges for lack of probable cause in 2013, with the Supreme Court ruling on the case with finality.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella on Thursday defended the anti-drug campaign mounted by Mr. Duterte, who was elected on a platform that centered on eliminating the drug menace, criminality and corruption in three to six months of his presidency.

Abella said the President had "never ordered extrajudicial killings."

"He is deeply concerned about what's happening," Abella told a news conference in Malacañang.

He said Mr. Duterte had ordered the PNP and the National Police Commission

to look into allegations of summary executions of drug suspects.

1.3 million drug users

The public, he added, should be thankful to the President for presenting the country's drug problem, which, according to the Dangerous Drugs Board, had affected 99 percent of barangays in Metropolitan Manila and 27 percent of the nation's 42,000 barangays. The board said 1.3 million Filipinos were using illegal drugs.

Abella defended what critics called the President's "name and shame" campaign when he released on Sunday the names of 159 officials, judges, soldiers and policemen allegedly involved in the narcotics trade.

"I think we should appreciate the fact that he is calling our attention to it," he said. "It's not, by the way, (making) accu-

sations. It's an ample warning that your name is on the list and for you to clear (your name)."

In a statement yesterday, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines urged the administration to submit to the Supreme Court complaints against judges allegedly involved in illegal drugs.

"The President, as head of the executive department, may have been impelled by urgent considerations in his public censure of government officials under him, but on the other hand, judges perform unique functions so essential in the dispensation of justice that require insulation or protection from all types of unwarranted pressure," said IBP president Rosario Setias-Reyes. **(Jerome Aning, Marlon Ramos, Tarra Quismundo@inquirerdotnet-Philippine Daily Inquirer)**

QC mayor Bautista admits to aides: My brother Hero failed drug test

From page A1

Sources present in the meeting told the Inquirer on Thursday that Bautista's voice "cracked" when he made the announcement, ending days of speculation on who among the 36 city councilors came up positive in voluntary drug tests conducted at city hall last week.

It remained unclear what sanctions would be imposed on Hero, who was elected councilor of the fourth district in the May polls.

One of the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said Bautista vowed to have his brother undergo "drug and spiritual counseling."

Another added that the mayor had said he would not use his influence to get Hero out of his predicament.

The Inquirer tried to reach Bautista for comment but was told by his staff that he would not speak on the matter for now.

Hero's staff, on the other hand, said the councilor would deliver a privilege speech before the city council to air his side on Monday.

Earlier this week, Bautista told reporters who were pressing him on the councilor's identity that he had yet to see the official report on the drug tests.

"I really don't know [who the councilor is]," he said, stressing that the person concerned should voluntarily undergo rehabilitation.

"If he's my sibling, he should be rehabilitated," he added, prompting reporters to ask why he had to mention his brother.

Bautista replied: "He has just been elected councilor. Maybe it's him, we do not know."

Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, who announced last week that one of the councilors' confirmatory drug test results had come back positive, said that Bautista already knew who it was as early as Thursday last week.

She added that it was up to him to decide what sanction he would impose on the official whom they tagged a "victim" of the drug menace.

Under Quezon City's drug-free workplace ordinance, those who test positive for drugs will be required to undergo "guidance counseling" (for occasional users) and a "mandatory six-month treatment and rehabilitation program" in a government-run facility (for chronic users).

It was unclear if this would mean Hero's suspension or dismissal.

Sought for comment, Senior Supt. Guillermo Eleazar, the Quezon City Police District director, said that if it was indeed Hero who had tested positive, they would leave it up to the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council to deal with him based on civil service regulations, pointing out that they did not consider him a drug suspect. **TVJ**



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EDITORIAL

Losing it

After President Duterte named several judges in his list of government officials or employees involved allegedly in the illegal drugs trade, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno wrote him a four-page letter detailing "some observations" about his accusations and airing some concerns about his very public tack. (The letter was almost immediately made public.) But the letter also emphasized that the judiciary shared the administration's alarm over the drug problem, and prayed for the administration's success. In response, the one person entrusted by the Constitution with commander-in-chief powers issued a startling threat. "Would you rather that I will declare martial law?" President Duterte apostrophized.

To appreciate just how disproportionate, and problematic, Mr. Duterte's response is, it is only necessary to stipulate the following undisputed facts:

One, the President included seven judges in his so-called "narco-list," out of over 150 names.

Two, the Chief Justice observed that there were errors in the naming of the judges. One had already been dismissed (in 2007), one had been assassinated (in 2008), a third had just retired, and three (plus the one just retired) generally did "not have jurisdiction over drugs cases."

Three, Sereno noted that, in sharing the public "consensus" on the dangers posed by drugs, the Supreme Court also abhorred the drug trade's "ability to even destroy public institutions." She also said, pointedly: "We are currently investigating a report on a judge who may be so involved. He is not on the ... list."

Four, Sereno argued, in the most diplomatic terms, that the President's tack had an adverse impact on the work of the judiciary as an institution: "A premature announcement of an informal investigation on allegations of involvement with the drug trade will have the unwarranted effect of rendering the judge veritably useless in discharging his adjudicative role. Thus this Court has been careful, all too aware that more often than not, a good reputation is the primary badge of credibility and the only legacy that many of our judges can leave behind."

Five, she gave the following advice to the judges named: "To safeguard the role of the judges as the protector of constitutional rights, I would caution them very strongly against 'surrendering' or making themselves physically accountable to any police officer in the absence of any duly-issued warrant of arrest that is pending."

Six, she ended with a plea for context: "Mr. President, the judiciary shares with you and the Filipino people a common desire to see a country that is rid of drugs, in the same manner that you share with the judiciary and the Filipino people a common desire to see a country that is governed by the rule of law."

Altogether, this was an elegantly worded response to the President's listing of the judges, based on a sure sense of institutional dignity (the judiciary as the protector of constitutional rights), on a firm grasp of reality (the Court is aware of the problem, and is currently investigating a judge who is reportedly involved), and on an unshakable faith in the role of the rule of law.

But, Fact No. 7: Mr. Duterte saw Sereno's letter as a form of obstructionism. Addressing her, he said, in a mix of Filipino and English: "You are the kingpin of the judiciary." (A sexist metaphor from organized crime, but let's let that slide.) "I'm the President. I have a job to do; this is not your job. No judges patrol the streets. None of your sheriffs make arrests. That is my heavy burden, which I inherited [from previous administrations], including the one that appointed you. Please, don't even ... I'm not a fool. If this continues, that you'll stop me, then, all right. Anything goes. Or would you rather that I will declare martial law?"

Aside from the obvious, that the Constitution allows the President to declare martial law only in cases of invasion or rebellion, Mr. Duterte is demonstrating an inability to accept criticism if he perceives it to be directed at himself. It is all right, as he has himself said, for the public to gather en masse to protest his decision to bury the remains of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani; the criticism is aimed at an unrepentant Marcos family. But let the country's top judge issue a diplomatic rejoinder reminding him of the rule of law, and suddenly he's talking martial law.

In debates, that's called losing the argument.



Filipinos should reject Trump

I'm not sure if I even wanted to add my voice to the chorus of people from both sides of the political fence in denouncing Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for his bigotry and reckless demagoguery, but with his recent attack on the Philippines and Filipinos, I know I just have to.

Trump touched the nerves of Filipinos when he lumped the Philippines with the likes of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Uzbekistan as countries whose citizens should be barred from immigrating to the United States because they could potentially be recruited into Islamic terrorist groups.

"You have no idea who they are. This could be the great Trojan horse of all time," he said, repeating his warning that terrorists, including members of the Islamic State extremist group, will sneak into the United States as refugees. This is a practice that has to stop."

"We're dealing with animals," he said. His unforgivable attack on Filipinos exposed his unmatched duplicity because some years back, when he launched his real estate project bearing his name in Manila, he had high praises for the country: "I've always loved the Philippines. I think it is just a special place and Manila is one of Asia's most spectacular cities."

His recent remark also highlighted his ignorance of history. He has been very busy exploding tirades against Latinos and Muslims, he ignored the fact that hundreds of thousands of Filipinos lost their lives fighting side by side with Americans against the Japanese in World War II and that the some four million Filipinos in the US are contributing significantly to American economy and society.

But Filipinos are not the only ones shocked and worried by Trump's tirades. Even some ranking members of the party that nominated him have openly said they would not vote for Trump with 50 former national security officials warning he would be the "most reckless president in American history" if elected.

The group, which included former homeland security chiefs, intelligence directors, senior presidential advisors and a former US trade representative, said: "We are convinced that he would be a dangerous president and would put at risk our country's national security and well-being."

They said the brash billionaire is unfit for office, saying that Trump "lacks the character, values, and experience to be president" and displays "alarming ignorance of basic facts" of international politics. They warned that Trump's "erratic behavior" has alarmed America's closest allies and that he fails to recognize the indispensable nature of such diplomatic relationships.

Trump first showed his bigotry and racist character when early in the campaign, he called Mexico a nation that sends its illegal drug traffickers, rapists and killers as immigrants to the US. He then vowed to build a wall between the US and Mexico.

And when pressed on the cases against Trump University, Trump said Judge Gonzalo Curiel, who was handling the cases, can not effectively preside over the cases because of an "inherent conflict of interest" due to his stated call to build a wall on the United States'



Val G. Abelgas

ON DISTANT SHORE

southern border and Curiel's Mexican heritage.

And then he turned his attention to Muslim immigrants. He said he would stop all foreign Muslims from entering the United States. Last month, Trump belittled the parents of a slain Muslim US serviceman who had strongly denounced Trump during the Democratic National Convention. The soldier's father, Trump suggested, delivered the whole speech because his moth-

er was not allowed to speak.

Pakistani immigrant Khizr Khan galvanized the Democratic National Convention with a tribute to his dead son in which he rebuked the Republican nominee for having "sacrificed nothing" for the country.

US billionaire Warren Buffet rebuked Trump for belittling Khan's speech. "How in the world can you stand up to a couple of parents who have lost a son and talk about sacrificing because you were building a bunch of buildings?"

Buffett is one of several extremely wealthy Americans to back Clinton for president, including billionaire and independent former mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.

It is not just his fellow billionaires dumping Trump. Every time Trump opens his mouth, the list of dissatisfied Republicans who refuse to support him in the elections are growing.

I've never seen a political party divided this badly by its presidential nominee. Only last Thursday, 75 former Republican officials wrote a letter asking the Republican National Committee to divert the funds set aside for the presidential campaign to ensure that the party would keep its majority in Congress by sending funds for the Trump campaign to House and Senate candidates struggling against Democratic rivals.

If he can't unite his own party, how can anyone expect Trump to unite the whole country? In his campaign to become the president and commander-in-chief of the world's most powerful nation, he has only sown hatred, fear, anger and divisiveness.

Many ranking Republicans in both national and state levels have expressed dissatisfaction with Trump and some have even vowed not to vote for the billionaire demagogue. Even longtime Republicans, including several Filipinos, have said they cannot support Trump because he would be a dangerous president.

After just a few days of blabbering and blunders, Trump's three-point lead in the polls over Democratic nominee Clinton just before their respective national conventions has turned into a 15-point margin for the former First Lady, senator and Secretary of State.

The 50 former Republican national security officials have every reason to be concerned about a Trump presidency. With the world precipitously threading on the precipice of war in various fronts, it is frightening to think that a man as imbalanced and as reckless as Trump would be holding the code and the key to the launching of nuclear missiles that could send the world to oblivion.

Filipinos should unite this time and join the only course of action available to Americans - reject Trump.
(valabelgas@aol.com)

DUTERTE, THE MOVIE

Who's willing to bet that even the most peace-loving human rights advocates lustily cheered whenever Rambo annihilated a whole battalion of villains? And who can deny that they also instinctively nodded in approval whenever Dirty Harry told a soon-to-be-killed criminal, "Go ahead, make my day"?

The harsh fact is that there is a secret Rambo and Dirty Harry in many of us. We relish seeing the villains annihilated in droves, without mercy, not just in the movies but in real life, too. We like to talk about due process and how an accused should be considered innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt. But the fact is that we find the wheels of justice moving too slowly while allowing the guilty to get away. And thus, we impatiently want the "obstacles to speedy justice" dismantled and the Rule of Rambo and Dirty Harry applied.

That cynicism is particularly true in the Philippines, where average folks are convinced that the justice system is for sale and politicians and the wealthy can literally get away with murder. This explains why so many are lustily cheering and approving President Rodrigo Duterte's mailed-fist, shoot-them-dead war against suspected drug lords, pushers and users. Those cheering in the bleachers are not just average individuals who may have become victims of selective justice, but also include so-called intellectuals and civil society leaders - even a Catholic Cardinal. And they are eager to see the war expanded to include thieving politicians, crooked cops, abusive military men, and plundering business magnates.

As far as these people are concerned, doing away with "due process" is forgivable when it comes to dealing with "the guilty." Just like the movies.

I wrote dozens of kiss-kiss-bang-bang films during several decades in Tagalog movies, and I don't recall ever allowing "due process" to get in the way of liquidating the bad guys in my stories. I wrote the screenplay of Nardong Putik, which told about the life of Leonardo Manecio, a notorious bandit and gun-for-hire in Cavite. The film was such a big hit, the star who played Putik's role, Ramon Revilla, revived his moribund film career and won a seat in the Senate.

In a society that routinely drills "good manners and



Greg B. Macabenta

Street Talk

right conduct" into the heads of children in school, murder and mayhem are, at the same time, being glamorized and exposed to kids through video games. In the movies, the lives of criminals like Nardong Putik are glorified and those who bring them to justice, dead or alive, are the ones branded as villains. American folk lore immortalizes such killers as Jesse James in fireside tales and song.

Indeed, the methods of Duterte appear to have gained the approval of a large percentage of the citizenry. A July poll conducted by

Pulse Asia placed his trust rating at 91 per cent, nationwide. A reading among netizens gave him a higher approval rating of 95 per cent. While these surveys included belief in his vow to "bring change" to the country in various aspects of governance, the main promise in his election campaign was peace and order, brutally expressed as the killing of drug lords and other criminals. It may thus be assumed that the majority of our people approve of the extra-judicial killings.

Since Duterte assumed office, masked killers and elements of the Philippine National Police have been making good on that campaign promise. One wonders, however, how different Duterte's methods are from those allegedly employed by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, during the years that he gained notoriety as "The Butcher."

As commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, Palparan waged anti-insurgency campaigns in Mindoro, Samar and Central Luzon that reportedly resulted in the deaths of hundreds of New People's Army fighters and suspected sympathizers. According to human rights activists, many of the victims were innocent farmers who may have been unwittingly associated with the NPA. Some of the victims were students. The killings were reportedly not always in the course of combat but were summary, extra-judicial executions.

Palparan became such an object of loud protests by human rights activists, the Church and civil society that I dashed off a satirical column entitled, Palparan, The Movie. Making no effort to hide my sarcasm, I wrote: "Indeed, it is when you view Palparan's exploits in the context of an action film that you begin to appreciate the things that he has been accused of doing. In an action film (example, Sylvester Stallone's First Blood), it is mandatory that the hero have a complete disregard for the law which, as usual, is portrayed as 'getting in the way of justice.'"

In the bloody tradition of the Dirty Wars in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, Palparan reportedly had a self-righteous rationale for the deaths of both the guilty and the innocent. In the case of the former, many were considered "guilty" on mere suspicion and executed without due process. But the justification was that it was better to liquidate a suspect than to leave him to do harm (what if he was really guilty??). The innocent were simply counted as "collateral damage" or inevitable and unfortunate casualties in a conflict where the end justified the means.

Of course, this was not unique to Palparan or the military in Central America. If urban legend is to be believed, at the height of the anti-insurgency campaign under then Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay, his CIA adviser, Col. Edward Lansdale, and Col. Napoleon Valeriano, commander of the dreaded AFP Neni Unit, were said to have applied more grisly methods. This included decapitation of Huks and hanging their dead bodies upside down and pricking their necks with ice picks. This was to drain their blood and to encourage the belief that the victims were feasted on by swang.

For his successful campaign against the Huks (Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon), the forerunner of the NPA, Magsaysay was catapulted to the presidency. For his own "effective" tactics against the NPA and the Left, Palparan was twice promoted by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and publicly commended in her State of the Nation Address in 2006.

But fortunes change. As soon as Arroyo's term ended, Palparan became a marked man. Not long after the assumption of the presidency by Benigno S. Aquino III, Palparan, already retired from the military and serving as a party list member of Congress, was ordered arrested by Justice Secretary



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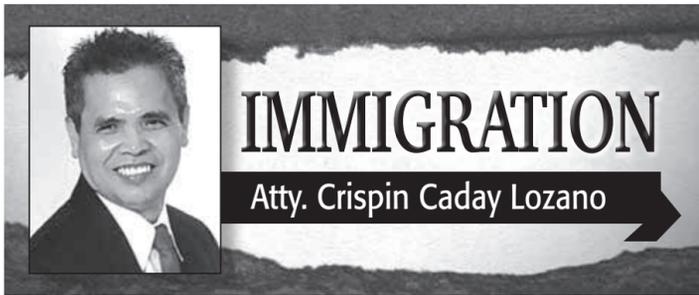
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IMMIGRATION

Atty. Crispin Caday Lozano

The Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum on July 29, 2016, expanding eligibility for a provisional waiver of the 3 and 10 year bar for unlawful presence which takes effect on August 29, 2016.

Q. What has been expanded?

A. The provisional waiver of unlawful presence was expanded to cover all individuals who are eligible to apply for green card in the employment and family based preferences. Originally, only immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are covered by the provisional waiver. Under the new rule, all individuals are covered for as long as they have an approved immigrant petition that has a current priority date and the applicant can show extreme hardship to his or her U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident spouse or parents.

Q. What is the purpose of provisional waiver?

A. The purpose is to allow those who are qualified to apply for green card but could not adjust status in the U.S. because they are subject to the 3 and 10 year bar for unlawful presence in the U.S. Unlawful presence means the nonimmigrant visa of the alien has expired or the alien entered the U.S.

without inspection. Once a provisional waiver is approved, the applicant can travel to his or her country of birth and have his green card process at a U.S. Consulate there.

Q. Who benefits from this provisional waiver?

A. The following individual may benefit from this provisional waiver rule:

- Seaman or Crewman (jump ships), who do not have Section 245(i) eligibility;
- Those who entered the U.S. without inspection (EWI), but do not have Section 245(i) eligibility or a close family member who is on active duty or US veteran;
- K-1 fiancée visa entrants, but did not marry the US citizen who petitioned them.

Q. What is the procedure to avail of this new rule?

A. All individuals who have an approved I-130 or I-140 petition that is currently being processed under Visa Bulletin Chart A by the Department of State may file a Form I-601A with proof of extreme hardship to the U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident parents or spouse. Once approved, the applicant may travel to his or her country of nationality and process his or her visa

DHS expands I-601A Provisional Waiver coverage

at the U.S. Consulate there.

Q. What is not covered by the provisional waiver rule?

A. If you have been deported, removed or excluded from the United States, you must first file the I-212 waiver and receive conditional approval before proceeding with the I-601A application. Approval of I-601A waiver does not eliminate any other grounds of inadmissibility the applicant may have accrued in the United States. The I-601A waives only the unlawful presence that is subject to the 3 and 10 year bar.

Note: This is not a legal advice. The Law Office of Crispin C. Lozano has successfully received approvals for many Provisional Waiver cases

SUCCESS STORIES

1. On July 29, 2016, we received an approval of Naturalization from USCIS for an alien who has an approved waiver for entering as single but actually married.
2. On July 21, 2016, we received an approval of Naturalization from USCIS for an alien who has an approved waiver for using a different name.
3. On July 11, 2016, we received an approval of I-360 self petition by abused spouse from USCIS.
4. On June 15, 2016, we received an approval of I-601 waiver for a client who made a misrepresentation when she entered on an A2 visa under another person name.
5. On May 25, 2016, we received an approval of green card for a client who used a different name from her birth certificate. We proved that she has been using her different name since she was in grade school.
6. On April 28, 2016, we received an approval of PERM for a client who is employed in the Philippines.
7. On April 19, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS for naturalization of a client who has a crim-

inal record that happened five years ago.

8. On April 11, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS for adjustment of status for a client who used a different name on her passport.
9. On April 5, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS for petition by son to a father. The son was born out of wedlock and the father's name was not on his birth certificate.
10. On March 8, 2016, we received an approval of immigrant visa for a former crewman with whom we filed for provisional waiver.
11. On February 3, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS of naturalization for client who has an approved waiver of misrepresentation.
12. On January 28, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS for an I-360 self petition for abused spouse of U.S. citizen.
13. On January 26, 2016, we received an approval from USCIS for an adjustment of status for client with big age difference with the U.S. citizen spouse based on good faith marriage.
14. On December 18, 2015, we received an approval of petition for adoption that was previously denied because client did the petition by them.
15. On December 11, 2015, we received an approval of DACA for a client who was in removal proceedings.
16. We have more success stories at our website at www.crispinlozanolaw.com

CRISPIN CADAY LOZANO, Esq. is an active member of the State Bar of California, the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Association of Consumers Bankruptcy Attorneys, and the Consumers Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. He specializes in immigration law, personal injury and bankruptcy law. He is also a CPA and a licensed Real Estate Broker. (crispinlozano@gmail.com/ 1-877-456-9266)

Duterte stands by 'gay' remarks

LABANGAN, Zamboanga del Sur—President Duterte stood pat on his controversial statement on Thursday, saying US ambassador to Manila, Philip Goldberg, deserved to be called "gay" and a "son of a whore" for interfering in the country's internal affairs.

"Just leave me be in my broadsides," said Mr. Duterte in a speech before soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division here.

"They were true anyway."

In a speech also before soldiers in central Cebu City last week, Mr. Duterte said he was annoyed at Goldberg, who at the height of the May campaign expressed disappointment at the President for joking about how he missed the queue when an Australian missionary was being raped during a prison siege in Mindanao in 1989.

Goldberg was widely quoted as objecting to the statement, saying that his government did not condone statements that trivialized rape.

While Mr. Duterte said he had no problems meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry in June, he said he had a "fight" with the American official's "gay ambassador" referring to Goldberg. "I am annoyed by him. Son of a bitch. He meddled in the elections, giving a statement. You're not supposed to do that," the President said in Cebu.

Washington was displeased with the "inappropriate" homophobic remark and subsequently summoned Manila's charge d'affaires Patrick Chuasoto early this week to clarify.

President Duterte's office has been trying to manage the diplomatic fall-out of his controversial statement, arguing that it was not meant to be made public, even as the speech was broadcast live on government television.

The United States remains as the former American colony's largest defense and trade partner, and there have been concerns the remarks could

affect Filipinos living and working there. It also comes at a time when Manila is facing an expansionist China in the South China Sea, despite a UN-backed court ruling favoring the Philippines.

Ernesto Abella, the President's spokesperson, said Mr. Duterte's statement had been sufficiently explained.

"The explanations have been made. The explanations have been properly made," Abella told a press briefing when asked if the government would offer an apology.

As for Mr. Duterte calling the ambassador gay, Abella said this was "not meant to be a public statement."

"It was really addressed to a certain audience and the comments were confined specifically to that audience, and the charge d'affaires already made proper explanations to the state department," Abella said.

Abella also did not answer directly when asked if the Philippines was apologizing for the slur. "I'm saying that he [the charge d'affaires] went and explained," he said.

Local issue

But the President appears unaffected, instead accusing Goldberg of wading into a purely local issue.

"Why would you give a statement when the election is going on?" Mr. Duterte asked. "That is our business."

The President, however, conceded it was but logical for the Philippines to turn to the United States for defense logistics because the two countries enjoyed a long history of military cooperation.

The Philippines and United States are signatories to the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, a controversial defense pact that allowed for the strategic prepositioning of American troops and military hardware on local soil. (**Leila B. Salaverria, Ryan D. Rosauero@inquirerdotnet-Inquirer Mindanao**)

China welcomes Ramos for talks in Beijing

HONG KONG — Former Philippine president Fidel Ramos says China has welcomed him to come to Beijing for discussions in the wake of last month's international arbitration panel's ruling in favor of the Philippines over China's South China Sea maritime claims.

Ramos said in a statement Friday that he met in Hong Kong with the Chinese legislature's foreign affairs chief Fu Ying and a leading government-backed scholar



RAMOS

on the dispute and agreed on the need to reduce tensions through talks.

However, Ramos told reporters that the ruling had not been directly discussed and gave no indication of when the Beijing talks might be held and suggested another negotiator might take his place.

The July 12 ruling by the panel in the Hague, Netherlands, ruled China's maritime claims had no basis in international law.

The death of world heritage sites

By Martin Wagner and Noni Austin

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Climate change has claimed another victim. Almost one-quarter of the coral in Australia's Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area—one of the world's richest and most complex ecosystems—has died this year, in the worst mass coral bleaching in recorded history. Even in the far northern reaches of the reef, long at a sufficient distance from human pressures like coastal development to preserve, to a large extent, coral health, a staggering 50 percent of the coral has died.

The above-average sea temperatures that triggered this bleaching were made 175 times more likely by climate change. As the ocean continues to absorb heat from the atmosphere, large-scale coral bleaching like that which has decimated the Great Barrier Reef—not to mention other destructive phenomena spurred by rising temperatures—is likely to become even more frequent and devastating.

The future of priceless World Heritage sites—and, indeed, our planet—depends on the immediate reduction of climate-change-inducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Yet many of the governments responsible for protecting these sites within their borders are not only failing to take strong climate action; they are actively pursuing dirty energy projects like coal mines and coal-fired power plants.

Even as the Great Barrier Reef dies before our eyes, Australia continues to increase its exploitation of dirty fossil fuels. In the past year, the Australian government has approved both the massive Carmichael coal mine and the Abbot Point terminal, located near the Reef, to facilitate the global export of output from the Carmichael mine. The emissions attributable to the Carmichael mine will be some of the highest resulting from a single project anywhere in the world.

And the problem isn't limited to Australia. In low-lying Bangladesh, one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, the government supports a proposal to build two huge coal-fired power plants adjacent to the Sundarbans World Heritage site. India, too, supports the proposal.

Not only will these power plants emit large quantities of greenhouse gases; they will also devastate the Sundarbans, where the Ganges and other rivers meet the Bay of Bengal in a spectacular delta of mangrove islands that is home to endangered Bengal tigers and river dolphins. The power plants will pollute the waters with toxic coal ash, bring constant coal-barge traffic, and require the dredging of riverbeds. Mercury from the smokestacks will accumulate in the marine life, permanently contaminating the food supply of hundreds of thousands of people and vulner-

able wildlife.

It is true that Bangladesh is energy-poor, a problem that must be addressed if it is to continue to develop economically. But there are alternatives. The country has significant potential for renewable-energy production, and it is already a world leader in rooftop solar energy.

Of course, the responsibility to avert dangerous anthropogenic climate change does not fall only on countries that are home to World Heritage Sites. But, knowing what we know today, initiating such damaging dirty energy projects is indefensible.

With governments failing to protect our natural heritage, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) must step up, in order to help bring an end to the relentless exploitation of fossil fuels. Specifically, the WHC should make recommendations to governments for reducing fossil-fuel-related threats, identify sites that are in particular danger from such threats, and carry out monitoring missions.

The objective should be, first and foremost, to encourage governments with the capacity to reduce fossil-fuel-related threats to designated sites to take action. Such action from the WHC would also help to educate and empower civil society, while placing pressure on financial institutions to withhold the funding required for massive development projects.

The WHC's annual meetings, such as that which just ended in Istanbul, are the ideal forum for such an effort. Already, dozens of organizations and more than 60,000 individuals have called on the committee to urge India and Bangladesh to cancel the proposed coal plants and invest in renewable energy instead. Similarly, dozens of renowned scientists, NGOs, and international and Australian lawyers have demanded that the WHC counsel Australia not to continue supporting developments that will exacerbate the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.

As the threat of climate change grows increasingly menacing, influential institutions like the WHC must take a stand against the toxic and insidious legacy of dependence on coal and other fossil fuels. If the committee remains silent on this crucial issue, World Heritage Sites around the world will suffer. **Project Syndicate**

Martin Wagner is the managing attorney of the International Program of Earthjustice, the largest nonprofit environmental law organization in the United States. Noni Austin is an Australian lawyer in Earthjustice's International Program.

DUTERTE/Street Talk... From page A4

Leila de Lima. He decided to go into hiding but was eventually arrested by the NBI in August 2012. Jailed on charges of extra-judicial killings, kidnapping and illegal detention, and the disappearance of two student activists, Palparan is currently being held at the Philippine Army Custodial Center at Fort Bonifacio, conceivably friendlier quarters than the Bulacan provincial jail.

Duterte, dubbed The Punisher during his long tenure as Mayor of Davao City and now being both loudly praised by admirers and condemned by human rights officials in the United Nations, has begun to raise the stakes in his war against the drug menace. Where he had previously been accused of concentrating mainly on poor, slipper-shod suspects, Duterte has begun to name prominent individuals, including senior police officials, judges and politicians. Fearing for their lives, many of those he has publicly named have "surrendered," while vehemently denying the accusations made against them. Duterte has vowed to expose even more higher-ups and has also announced a parallel campaign against allegedly plundering businessmen and bigtime tax evaders.

Are we witnessing a Philippine version of The Inquisition or the aftermath of the storming of the Bastille and the bloodbath at the guillotines? And will some enterprising movie producer decide, one day, to produce Duterte, The Movie?

Who knows?

But whether or not President Rodrigo Duterte will be honored like Ramon Magsayay and never held to account for the alleged extra-judicial killings or hunted down and thrown behind bars like retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, I'm willing to be that Duterte, The Movie will be a bigger box office hit than Nardong Putik.

Meanwhile, let's applaud Duterte for his fight against the drug lords, and make sure we and our loved ones keep out of sight. We could become collateral damage.

(gregmacabenta@hotmail.com)



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LAS VEGAS

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Ebdane twits Deloso on alleged Chinese reclamation near Zambales

IBA, ZAMBALES – Former Zambales governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. urged incumbent Gov. Amor Deloso to stop sowing panic and confusion among Zambaleños by making absurd claims about Chinese missile silos in the vicinity of the province that faces the West Philippine Sea. “Get real,” Ebdane called on his political rival during an interview over a local radio station here on Wednesday.

Calling the claims of Deloso “foolish,” Ebdane urged his successor to stick to facts and not spread rumors that unnecessarily cause terror among residents.

This was the first time that Ebdane responded to allegations after Deloso started telling the media last week that Ebdane sold to the Chinese three mountains in Zambales to create an artificial island where they put up missile silos.

“I didn’t want to pay attention to this at first, but it’s getting worse,” Ebdane said, noting that Deloso’s allegations had spread like wildfire on social media and became the subject of several newspaper articles.

“A lot of people, including Zambaleños abroad, have become worried over this claim of Chinese missile silos in Zambales because they fear

for the safety of their families,” Ebdane said.

“Ang pakiusap ko lang sa mga nakaupo, magpakatotoo kayo,” Ebdane added, referring to Deloso. “Kung ano ang totoo, ‘yun sana ang sabihin. We must be responsible for our statements.”

Deloso last week claimed to the media that Ebdane sold mountains in Zambales, and that the Chinese had used soil and rocks to reclaim and create a 500-hectare island near the Scarborough Shoal.

Deloso also said that the Chinese military has a base at an airport built by China in a reclaimed area 85 kilometers from Santa Cruz town and 65 kilometers from Masinloc town in Zambales.

Local fishermen who have long fished in the waters off Zambales and in the Scarborough Shoal, however, said they never knew any island that existed in the area, especially one that contained a Chinese missile base.

“Mahirap maniwala sa sabi-sabi,” Ebdane said. “There is already Google, so why not find out if there is really an island where there is a Chinese military base. Or you can ask fishermen who go near Scarborough if this was true.”

Ebdane also pointed out that

Deloso’s claim that China has been using nickel mined in Santa Cruz, Zambales to build artificial islands was absurd.

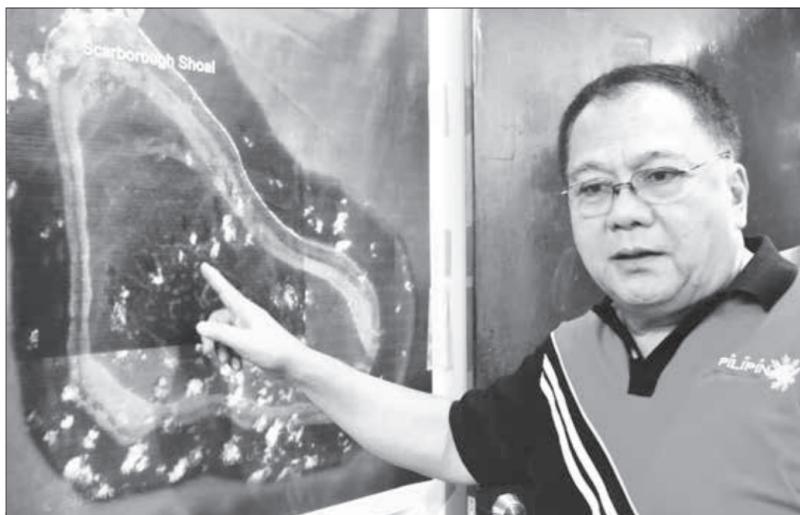
“The nickel that is being mined in Santa Cruz is actually clay topsoil, and clay gets diluted in water so that will be like diluting chocolate powder. The things used for reclamation should have a specific gravity that is greater than water,” said Ebdane, a former secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

“Besides, the Chinese are not crazy enough to buy nickel from miners just to use it for reclamation purposes,” he added.

Ebdane also said that Deloso is waging a hate campaign against him. “Why, what have I done? Nana-lo na nga s’ya sa eleksyon, sisiraan pa n’ya ako ngayon?” he lamented.

He also pointed out that it was under Deloso’s term when mining companies in Santa Cruz intensified their operations in 2008, after receiving permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“But the truth is that the governor doesn’t have the authority to stop mining. I can’t stop mining, and neither can Deloso, because it is the DENR that allowed it,” Ebdane added. **(Dante Salvana)**



Former Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. disputes claims of a reclaimed area near the Scarborough Shoal where the Chinese military had allegedly put up a missile base. **(Photo by Dante Salvana)**

Rains to continue this weekend

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - Rainy weather will continue to prevail over the western section of the country, including Metro Manila this weekend due to the southwest monsoon which is being enhanced by two low-pressure areas off Luzon.

Moderate to occasionally heavy rains would persist over Western Visayas, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro and Northern

Palawan.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned residents in these areas against possible flashfloods and landslides.

Strong winds and heavy rains pounded parts of Metro Manila yesterday afternoon, causing floods that triggered traffic jams in major thoroughfares.

Afternoon classes were again

suspended in some parts of the metropolis and nearby provinces yesterday due to monsoon rains.

PAGASA said two low-pressure areas – one located north of Itbayat, Batanes and the other hovering east of Luzon – were intensifying the southwest monsoon.

The low-pressure area off Itbayat was outside the Philippine area of responsibility. – With Janvic Mateo **(Helen Flores-The Philippine Star)**



High school students avoid a flooded portion of a street as they exit the school premises yesterday. Classes in Metro Manila schools were suspended due to heavy rains brought by the enhanced southwest monsoon.

(EDD GUMBAN)

LPA spotted off Batanes

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – The state weather bureau is keeping a close eye on a low pressure area inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

As of 4 a.m. Saturday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the low pressure area was located at 350 kilometers north of Itbayat, Batanes.

The state weather bureau, mean-

while, warned the public of southwest monsoon affecting Luzon and Western Visayas.

In its Saturday forecast, PAGASA said there will be moonsoon rains over Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and the provinces of Mindoro and Palawan, which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Western Visayas and the rest of

Luzon will experience cloudy skies with light to moderate rains and thunderstorms.

“Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms will prevail over the rest of the country,” PAGASA said.

“Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail throughout the archipelago and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough,” it added. **(philstar.com)**



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'Welcome for Hidilyn Diaz bigger than beauty queen's'



ZAMBOANGA CITY – Olympic silver medalist Hidilyn Diaz will be welcomed with a motorcade and a shower confetti when she returns home here on Friday (Aug. 12).
"She will definitely be treated more than a beauty queen," Mayor Maria Isabelle Salazar told reporters on Thursday.
Diaz is expected to arrive here Friday afternoon. She met with President Duterte in Davao City on Thursday night and he personally congratulated her for the honor she brought to the Philippines when she bagged the first silver medal for a

Filipina athlete in the Olympics and the first medal for the Philippines in 20 years.
Salazar said Diaz would receive an incentive of half a million pesos for bringing home a silver medal from the Rio Olympics.
"Let us go out on the streets and show our love and gratitude for Hidilyn, Nestor (Colonia) and Coach (Alfonso) Aldanete tomorrow," Christian Olasiman of the City Information Office said.
Colonia, who is also from Zamboanga, competed in the Men's 56-kg division weightlifting event.

Emelita Diaz, Hidilyn's mother, said they thought of a simple welcome party for her daughter, but some groups wanted a grand one.
Leonard Aliangan, the village chair of Mampang where the Diazes live, said they prepared a welcome program to honor Diaz. The program includes a special presentation by some 20 young weightlifters of Mampang.
The Philippine Air Force (PAF) will hold a simple program for Diaz when she returns to her military duties.
SFM (Julie S. Alipala@inquirerdotnet-Inquirer Mindanao)

Hidilyn Diaz gets P2M bonus from Duterte

OLYMPIC silver medalist Hidilyn Diaz will receive an additional P2 million aside from the P5 million cash incentive.
President Rodrigo Duterte gave this bonus to Diaz when she paid a courtesy call on him in Davao City on Thursday night.
Duterte vowed to give Diaz an additional P2 million after he handed her a check worth P5 million, which was earlier pledged by the government.
"It is with great pride that I present Hidilyn Diaz, a

Zamboanguena. If we put just put in the discipline and a little help from the national government, we'd get miracles and surprises along the way," he said in a televised courtesy meeting with Diaz.
Diaz was with her parents Eduardo and Emelita when they met with the President.
Diaz, who hails from Zamboanga, has ended the 20-year medal drought of the Philippines after she bagged the silver medal in weightlifting at the 2016 Rio Olympics in Brazil. **(Nestor Corrales@NCorralesINQ-INQUIRER.net)**

Fiji celebrates 1st-ever Olympic gold medal

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND – The Pacific Island nation of Fiji erupted into celebration on Friday after its rugby sevens team defeated Britain to capture the country's first Olympic medal. The fact it was gold made it even more of a reason to party.
In the capital of Suva, fans packed the 15,000-seat National Stadium to watch the final of the Olympic tournament on a big screen. Tense at first as they saw the nation poised on the brink of an historic achievement, fans relaxed as Fiji ran away to an emphatic 43-7 victory on Thursday evening in Rio de Janeiro.
Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, in Rio for the games, issued a statement hailing "a wonderful moment in the history of our nation. We have won our first gold medal at a summer Olympic Games and every Fijian is rejoicing at home and around the world."
The match was played at 10 a.m. local time and the nation of around 900,000 mostly stopped as fans gathered around television sets. At the University of the South Pacific in Suva, classes were halted to allow students to watch the match, and banks sent notices to customers saying they would be closed for 20 minutes to allow staff to watch the game.
Social media was awash with expressions of joy and congratulations and for a time Fiji was the No. 1-trending search on Google.
National carrier Fiji Airways said it would be serving only Fijian beer on its flights in a gesture of celebration. A post on the airline's official Twitter account said "history is for the brave, for the warriors and the proud. Today, pride soars!"
The Fiji Sun online news website reported "the dream of winning Fiji's first Olympic gold medal has finally become a reality ... our Fijian boys sang from the depths of their hearts after an outstanding performance."
The Sun said Suva "came to a standstill as people were stuck to a TV screen for the 20 or so minutes."
At the offices of the Fiji Olympic Committee immediately after the match, staff began planning for the team's return and for national victory celebrations. A spokesman said it was too soon to say what form those celebrations would take.
Bainimarama said "a wonderful reception awaits our boys when they arrive back in Fiji."
"Never before has the Fijian spirit soared so high as it does today," he added. "Never have we stood so tall as a nation. So let us rededicate ourselves to the task of building our beloved Fiji. One nation, one people, playing an even greater role in the region and the world."
In deeply religious Fiji, fans visited churches to give thanks for the victory and some said they had fasted in the hope of improving Fiji's gold medal chances.
Rugby sevens is Fiji's national sport and almost every village, no matter how small, usually has a team. Some villages do not have electricity, creating a challenge for some fans to watch the game.
The Fiji Village website reported that 51-year-old Peni Matai from the village of Serua had traveled by minibus from 2 a.m. Friday to be in Suva in time for the game. Matai, who works for the Asian Development Bank, said Serua has no television reception.
He watched the match in his office in Suva, providing updates to the village by phone.
(@inquirerdotnet-Associated Press)



Fiji's rugby team poses after winning their country's first Olympic medal after taking gold by defeating Britain in mens rugby sevens at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016. (AP)

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He likes to be called "President Rody"
DAVAO CITY—He has been called many names: Du30, Dirty Harry, DoDirty, The Punisher, Digong, and possibly by PGong, to go by the media's headline-making shortcuts. But presumptive President Rodrigo Duterte prefers to be called "President Rody," according to his close friend and campaign manager, Leoncio Evasco.
It was how his mother used to call him, Evasco said, referring to her son's school name, Nassy Soladad Duterte, or Nassy Soladad Duterte, or Movement against the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s.
In fact, it was Nassy Soladad Duterte who had asked to sit as President Duterte's press secretary following the ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.
Evasco said he was surprised to see Duterte use the name "President Rody" in a recent interview with CNN.
Duterte's use of the name "President Rody" is a nod to his mother's name, Nassy Soladad Duterte, and a nod to his school name, Nassy Soladad Duterte, or Nassy Soladad Duterte, or Movement against the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s.
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'New script' in PPCR server programmed
By Charlie V. Manalo and Angie M. Rosales
SERIOUS charges of tampering with the Maroon camp yesterday were leveled by the lawyers of one of the lawyers of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. saying the script, or the program, had been tampered with.

Poe used 1951 SSN as College ID
The former president used a Social Security Number (SSN) issued in 1951 as his college ID, a report from a former aide said.

2000 psych report: Du30 a mental case
A 2000 psychological report described President Duterte as a "mental case" and "a person who is not sane." The report was obtained by a former aide of Duterte.

Duterte set for wild election policy ride
Duterte is expected to announce a series of bold and unpredictable policies during his campaign for president.

DU30 to cut ties with US, Australia for rape criticism
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Manila's disco sound of the '70s coming to Los Angeles



Joel Quizon, co-curator of Disco Manila in Los Angeles

by Cecile Ochoa
Inquirer.net

LOS ANGELES – Manila's disco music of the '70s is coming to downtown Los Angeles as part of the popular Grand Performances Outdoor Summer Series.

Produced by filmmaker and local DJ-host Joel Quizon and Rani de Leon, "Disco Manila" will relive familiar sounds of the martial law years.

Much of the "Manila sound" derives from Original Pilipino Music (OPM) compositions popularized by the HotDogs ("Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko"), Apo Hiking Society ("Mahirap Magmahal ng Syota ng Iba"), VST & Co ("Awitin Mo at Isasayaw Ko"), among others.

Among the "Disco Manila" performers are Spanky Rigor and Roger Rigor of VST & CO, Jet Montelibano, Eva Caparas (Music & Magic); Jessica Casas (Something Special); Nino de Jesus (New Minstrels); JoAnn Visitacion; Fulton Montoya; 4700 Band; Maricar Cabrera, Ninette Tenza, Alvin Reyes, Val Villar. It will feature a special performance by Mark Redito FKA SPAZZKID, a contemporary electronic artist. Redito will be reinterpreting and remixing classic tracks of the '70s.

Quizon who traces his roots to the Philippines' iconic entertainer-comedian Dolphy, his uncle, said there has been a resurgence of Manila disco music in the last few years both in the Philippines and the US. "Proof is the heightened demand in eBay and other auction sites for vintage copies of these sounds going for \$50 upwards."

Quizon cited '70s artist Bong Penera's "Samba Song" album, which he said fetched a handsome \$500 in a recent auction. Fact check on eBay showed that in 2008, two bids for originals ended at \$300 and another for \$139; the bids started at \$50.

"It's fascinating how the martial law era music that featured sentimental sounds of Tagalog and English (Taglish) lyrics would draw upon nostalgia among the generations of Baby Boomers and Gen Xers (born between 1960 and 1980 in the United States)," said Quizon.

He added: "Filipinos in general are very musical – they sing during happy times and bad times, and these disco tunes may have helped many go through the repressive times of the martial law era." He said he was seven when he came to the US, but he still vividly remembers the songs that pervaded radio and TV.

"Manila Sound and OPM brings back the smell, the sights of one's neighborhood, the barkadas, the 'hood that we have now left behind," Quizon reminisced.

"Pumapatak na naman ang ulan sa bubong ng bahay
Di maiwasang gumawa ng di inaasahang bagay
Laklak ng laklak ng beer magdamagan
May kahirapan at di maiwasan
Mabuti pa kaya, matulog ka na lang at baka sumakit ang tiyan."

(Rain falls on the rooftop as usual, we gather among friends to drink some beer
Perhaps it's better to stay home and sleep, avoid getting sick)
Like other OPM, this sentimental rendition by Apo Hiking Society ("Pumapatak Na Naman Ang Ulan") captures snatches of Filipino life among the rich and the poor.

Quizon is also a music curator and arts organizer. As a documentarist, his latest work is directing "The Cotabato Sessions," a short music documentary featuring kulintang music from Southern Philippines, in partnership with New York based musician/composer Susie Ibarra.

The co-producer of the show, Rani de Leon is a DJ, music curator and arts presenter, has steadily established a solid reputation and extensive network over 15 years of involvement in events, theater, music, film and cultural scenes. He is driven by the belief that arts and culture have a unique power in bringing people together for profound and unifying experiences.

One of the performers, Jet Montelibano from Music and Magic band, is an exponent of OPM and had performed with "Boysfriends," "Hotdogs," Kuh Ledesma, among others.

"Disco Manila" music had its peak during the final days of the martial law because at the time Filipinos were searching for an easy escape from politics," said Montelibano who, like Quizon, is based in Los Angeles.

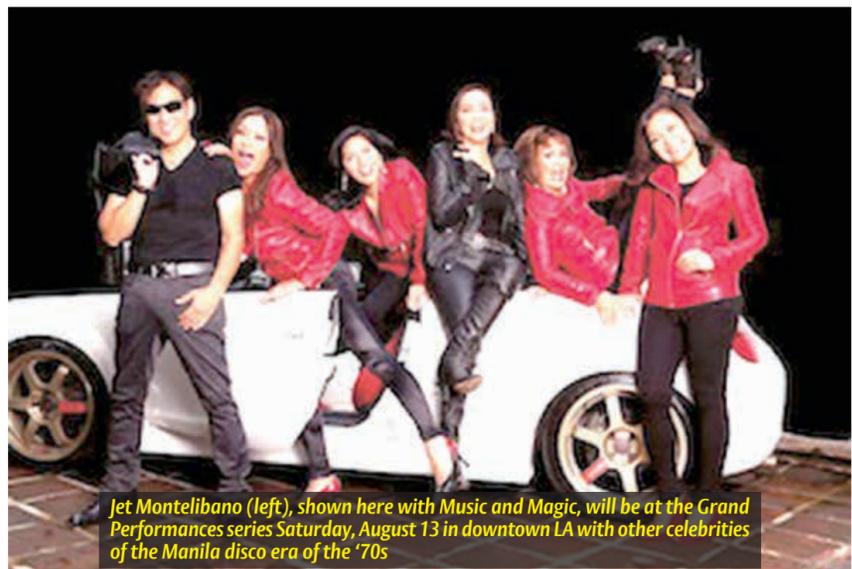
Montelibano, who owns a promotion firm "Creative Concepts" with wife Edith, said the Manila disco sound is one of the most requested in events that he manages locally. "Our community here likes to hear these songs by Haji, Florante, VST and the like because these remind them of happy times back in the days. As performers we bring them back to those memories," he said.

Grand Performances hosts events at the California Plaza 350 S. Grand Ave in downtown LA. It has been recognized as the "Best Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series" by Los Angeles Magazine and called "a grand gift to the public" by the Los Angeles Times. It is celebrating its 30th anniversary season this year.

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Jet Montelibano (left), shown here with Music and Magic, will be at the Grand Performances series Saturday, August 13 in downtown LA with other celebrities of the Manila disco era of the '70s



Arnis players pose in front of the Manila Express booth

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PROUDLY PINOY

Si Bienvenido "Boi" Sibug at ang Pastel ng Buhay

By Vics Magsaysay, Ph.D.

Ang pastel ay hindi lang isang magandang medium sa pagpinta. May mga katangian itong napakagandang ihambing sa ating buhay.

MABUTI na lang at nandito and isang malapit na kaibigan, si Bienvenido "Boi" Sibug, at maipapaliwanag niya ito sa aktwal na paggamit niya ng medium na ginagamit na nuon pang panahon ng Renaissance. Kahanga-hanga talaga ang galing niya sa paggamit ng pastel sa kanyang mga obra – ganuon din sa watercolor, charcoal o oil paint.

Sa 43 taon niyang pagpipinta walang bahid ng duda ang mastery ng pagdibuho at pag-apply niya ng kaukulang hagod at kulay sa mga special paper na kanyang ginagamit. Magmula nang mag-umpisa siya, nakatala na rin siya ng may mga 100 art shows sa Pilipinas, Guam at Amerika. May limang taon na rin nang matapos niya ang B.S.Fine Arts degree – major sa advertising – sa University of Santo Tomas nang magsimula siyang magpinta. At magmula nuon, nakakamit na rin si Boi ng may higit 200 awards sa iba't-ibang art kumpetisyon. Kung tutuusin mo, sa dami ng kanyang accomplishment may lisensya na siya upang "magyabang" pero nanatili pa rin sa puso niya ang maging mapagkumbaba.

Kamakailan lang nakatanggap ulit siya ng "Best of Show" award sa Santa Paula, Ventura, California – maliban pa sa apat na award na ipinanalangin nito pati kapuwa niyang mga artist ibinoto siya dahil sa kakaibang galing

na kanyang ipinakita sa exhibition at competition. Nuong 2006 nakuha rin niya itong pinakamataas na award na may mataas na cash award, kasama din ng dalawa pang ibang kategoryang pinalunan niya.

"Isa itong magaling na therapy sa akin," sabi ng mega-awarded painter. "Istudyante pa lang ako, at hanggang ako ay napasok sa larangan ng advertising, itinuturing kong isang active at continuous practice itong aking ginagawa," sabi niya, "at isa pa, ito ay art pa rin," dagdag niya.

"May kasabihan kasi sa Ingles na 'What you don't use, you lose,' na tulad din ng boksingero kapag hindi nagpraktis, nawawala na ng lakas ang suntok niya. Isa pa, kapipinta, may mga bago akong discovery, at nakikita ko pati ang aking improvement," paliwanag ni Boi. "Dahil happy ako sa aking resulta, natutulak ulit akong gumawa na naman ng bago – siyang nagiging inspiration ko para tumuloy-tuloy ang aking pagpinta," dugtong ng ating master painter.

"Gawa rin nga ng palagi akong nananalo sa mga art competition, malaking tuwa at fulfillment ito para sa akin kaya lalo akong nagiging masigasig at mapanatiling mas maganda ang mga susunod ko pang obra," pahiwatig ni Boi.

Ang pastel ay may dalawang importanteng sangkap – pigment at binder. Para mas maganda ang kulay kailangang mas maraming pigment at kaunting binder lang, at ang tawag dito ay soft pastel; at kung marami namin iyong binder at kaunti ang pigment, ang labas ay hard pastel na maganda naman para sa mga detalya bagamat hindi maangat ang kulay.

Si Boi ay tulad ng isang conductor ng orchestra – alam niya kung paano timplahin ang "tunog" ng soft at hard pastel sa tamang balanse. Hindi siya nalalayo din sa isang acupuncturist na nagto-tonify o nagse-sedate sa pasyente para mailagay sa tinatawag na "homeostasis" upang maibalik ulit sa dating sigla ang katawan. Makikita ito sa obra niyang matandang lalaki na pinamagatan niyang "Bearded Man." Maraming mga master ang nagsasabing kung gusto natin ang ating buhay ay tahimik at maganda, kailangang tayo ay nasa gitna, o balanse, 'ika nga.

"Ang magandang papel na gamitin ay iyong parang 'papel de liha' o sandpaper. Gawa nga ng may 'ipin' ito, mas umiige ang 'kagat' o kapit ng pastel dito," eksplika niya. Naisip ko na tulad din sa buhay, hindi puwedeng hindi ka kumapit – sa isang positibong pananalita – sa iyong kapuwa. Sa madali't sabi, kailangang ikaw ay kumunekta sa kapuwa mo. "No man is an island," 'ika nga. Kapag walang "dikit," eh, wala ring init ang buhay. Kaya nga ang pastel ay hango sa salitang "pastellus" na ang ibig sabihin ay paste o pandikit.

Sa pananaw ni Boi, "Mas maganda kung may kulay na iyong background ng papel dahil lalong umaangat ang aking subject gawa ng masangat ang highlights kumpara sa putting background." Ganuon nga naman sa buhay

– kung gusto mong makulay ang iyong buhay, nasa sa iyo na ito kung lalagyan mo ng kulay ang background ng buhay mo; at hindi na kailangang hintayin pang dumating ito sa iyo.

"Ang malaking inpluwensiya sa akin sa pagpinta ng pastel ay ang National Artist na si Vicente Manansala at si Romulo Olazo," nabanggit ni Boi. Nuong mga '70s malaking tulong sa akin iyong napasama sa Saturday Group na nagkikita sa Taza de Oro sa Maynila. Napalapit din ako sa isa pang National Artist, si Cesar Legaspi, na humahatid sa akin dahil wala pa akong sasakyan nuon. Hindi rin tumagal, napasama rin ako sa GrUPo, isang asosasyon ng mga artist na nangagsipag-aral sa UP. Hindi man ako graduate duon, tinanggap na rin ako dahil magkakaibigan kami din. Isang kasapi ng GrUPo, si Magoo Valencia, na hanggang ngayon ay tuloy pa rin ang samahan namin dito sa Amerika. Naruruon iyong magkakasama kami sa studio ni Raffy Maniago o sa aming 'plein air' painting session o pagpinta sa outdoor," magiliw na kuwento niya.



Bienvenido Sibug

© vics magsaysay

Para kay Boi ang pagpipinta ay kailangan at dapat palagi ang gagampanan. Hindi mo puwedeng alisin sa kanya ito. Para bagang isa siyang isdang inalis mo sa tubig. Gayun din ang ating matutunan sa ibinabahaging katangian ng pastel sa ikabubuti ng ating buhay.

(Vics Magsaysay, Ph.D., is a Los Angeles-based writer, fine art nature photographer, painter, graphic designer, "makata" (Pilipino poet) and holds a doctorate degree in clinical hypnotherapy.)



"BLUE & RED BARN"
 Pastel on canson me-teintes pastel paper, 9" x 12"



"BEARDED MAN"
 Black pan pastel & charcoal on canson me-teintes pastel paper, 20" x 15"

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Clarisma Sison faces Sunshine Dizon and Timothy Tan in court for the first time



Sunshine with her lawyer Atty. Claire Castro, Atty. Ruth Castelo [3rd from left], and Timothy

by Arnel Serato

HINDI nagbigay ng anumang pahayag si Clarisma Sison, ang diumano'y third party sa hiwalayan nina Sunshine Dizon at Timothy Tan, sa hearing ng concubinage complaint na inihain ni Sunshine laban sa kanilang dalawa ni Timothy. May dala pa itong bodyguard sa korte upang magtakip sa kanya sa mga nakatutok na kamera.

Nagharap na sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon si Sunshine Dizon, ang estranged husband nitong si Timothy Tan, at ang diumano'y third party sa kanilang hiwalayan na si Clarisma Sison.

Nangyari ang paghaharap ng tatlo sa tanggapan ni Senior Asst. City Prosecutor Fabinda delos Santos sa Judge Cecilia Munoz Palma Hall ng Quezon City Regional Trial Court (QC-RTC) ngayong Miyerkules ng hapon, August 10.

Ang kanilang paghaharap ay kaugnay ng concubinage complaint na inihain ni Sunshine laban sa asawang si Timothy at sa diumano'y kalaguyo nitong si Clarisma.

Mga bandang 1:30 ng hapon dumating si Clarisma kasama ang dalawang lalaki.

Hindi kaagad nakilala ng media si Clarisma, ngunit kinutuban ang lahat na siya ang pumasok sa Hall of Justice dahil bigla itong

nagsuot ng shades.

Kasunod na dumating sa korte si Timothy, at kalaunan ay dumating na rin si Sunshine.

Pinayagan ang media na makuhanan ng maikling video at litrato ang paghaharap ng tatlo sa loob ng opisina ni Fiscal Delos Santos.

Matapos lamang ng ilang minuto ay natapos na ang pagdingig dahil humingi ng reset ang kampo ni Timothy.

Itinakda ang kasunod na hearing sa August 25, Huwebes.

NO COMMENT. Naunang lumabas ng korte si Sunshine at nagpaunlak naman ito ng interview.

Sumunod sa kanya si Clarisma, kasama ang abugado nitong si Atty. Jonathan Amoroso at isang personal bodyguard.

Sinikap naming na kunan ng pahayag si Clarisma ngunit tinabig kami ng kanyang bodyguard.

Hindi makadaan si Clarisma sa pasilyo ng korte dahil puno ito ng media crew na nag-interview kay Sunshine kaya minarapat nitong bumalik sa tanggapan ng fiscal.

Sinubukan muli naming hingan ng reaksiyon si Clarisma sa reklamo ni Sunshine, ngunit tago ito nang tago sa likuran ng kanyang bodyguard.

Minabuti naming hingan ng statement ang kanyang abugado, ngunit sabi la-



Clarisma Sison

mang nito: "We cannot say anything about the merits of the case. Pending na sa fiscal."

Matapos nito, sinubukan muling dumaman ng tatlo sa lobby ng ikatlong palapag ng korte at nakadaan naman sila.

Hanggang sa parking lot ay sinundan si Clarisma ngunit hindi talaga ito nagbigay ng pahayag.

Sunshine Dizon: her OOTD in the middle of storm

by FM Ganal

Sunshine Dizon shows the look of a lady ready to face life's challenges ahead

TRUTH be told, the Hall of Justice in Quezon City Hall is the least likeliest place to turn into a runway.

But fashion builds confidence and confidence hones fierceness. Take it from Sunshine Dizon who had already brought back to fashion the statement of a red lipstick.

In her closely-followed legal battle with estranged husband Timothy Tan, Sunshine had been attending court hearings for the charges she filed against him and the alleged third party Clarisma Sison.

In the two occasions she had to see Tim and the lady whom she accused of ruining her family, Sunshine had shown both fierceness and finesse.

This kind of mindset begins with how one would dress herself up in the middle of a storm.

OOTD: During their first closed-door hearing last July 28, Sunshine came in black top and jeans.

That was her first court meeting with Tim.

During the preliminary hearing held on August 10, she wore a Warehouse dress emphasizing her slimmer figure.

She decided however not to wear her shades during her second trip to the court.

With nothing to hide, Sunshine faced Clarisma and her legal battle head on.



“Annulment? No, never. Why would I give them the happiness to be together, di ba? They should pay for it.”



by Rose Garcia

Sunshine Dizon on her refusal to give annulment: “No, I will not give them that. Siguro, the most I can give is legal separation. Pero annulment, no, never. Why would I give them the happiness to be together, di ba? They should pay for it.”

SA kabila ng pagsasampa ni Sunshine Dizon ng reklamo laban sa asawa at kalaguyo nito, civil na raw ang pakikitungo niya ngayon sa kanyang estranged husband na si Timothy Tan para na rin sa kanilang dalawang anak.

Nakikita na rin daw ni Tim ang mga anak nila.

Sabi ni Sunshine, “Sinusunod niya sa bahay.

“You know, I’m trying my best to be civil with my husband dahil kahit anong gawin natin, tatay pa rin siya ng mga

anak ko.

“And I will not show my children naman na disrespecting their father despite of what happened.”

Alam din daw ng dalawa niyang anak ang nangyayari sa kanila ni Timothy.

“From the very start, my children know everything.

“I never lied to them, alam ng mga anak ko.”

Ginagawa raw ni Sunshine ang lahat ng ito para sa kanyang mga anak.

FORGIVENESS. Pero kaya ba niyang patawarin ang asawa?

Tugon ni Sunshine, “He will always be the father of my children.

“But forgiveness, that is something that, you know... I don’t know, I don’t know pa.”

Galit na lang ba ang nararamdaman niya para sa asawa?

“Yung totoo, wala na akong

nararamdaman.

“Hindi ko alam, hindi na ako galit.

“Minsan, naaawa na lang ako.”

Kumusta siya sa pamilya ni Timothy?

“Okey naman, nag-uusap pa rin naman.”

Suportado ba siya ng pamilya ng kanyang mister ito nang tago sa likuran ng kanyang bodyguard.

Sabi ni Sunshine, “Well, not necessarily suportado in the sense... kumbaga, nilalagay lang nila sa tama.

“Hindi naman nila kinukunsinti yung mali.”

Si Clarisma Sison, kaya niyang patawarin?

“Diyos na lang ang bahala sa kanya,” may diing sagot ni Sunshine.

Kung sakaling humingi ng kapatawaran at umamin sa kanya sina Timothy at Clarisma, iurong ba niya ang kaso sa mga ito?

Sagot ni Sunshine, “Hindi ko pa talaga kayang sagutin for now, walang kasiguraduhan.

NO ANNULMENT. Ngunit pagdating sa usapin ng annulment, sigurado raw si Sunshine na hindi niya ito ipagkakaloob.

“No, I will not give them that.

“Siguro, the most I can give is legal separation. Pero annulment, no, never.

“Why would I give them the happiness to be together, di ba? They should pay for it.

“Some people nga are saying na parang naghahabol pa ako, no.

“No, no, no, that’s not true. Kaya ko na ito.”

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For Jean Garcia, dating younger men a thing of the past

By Marinel R. Cruz

JEAN Garcia likes spoiling her granddaughter.

ACTRESS Jean Garcia, who used to go out with men 10 years younger than her, is now interested in dating someone her age — that is, 47 years old.

"I used to find going out with younger men exciting. Later on, I realized that most of them are too shallow and are still not serious about life," Jean explained at the story conference of Regal Films for her latest film, "Mano Po 7."

"[Now] I prefer those who are the same age as I am, but are not married or separated," the actress said.

Jean broke up with her nonshowbiz boyfriend of three years in April 2015. "I really thought that he was the one, but I guess

God has other plans for me. I have no regrets. I realized that I'm happier now. It could have been worse for us if we chose to stay together longer," said Jean.

She explained why she's happy being loveless for now. "I just don't want to commit to anyone yet. I can make decisions without having to consider how another person will feel. I can go anywhere I want to, make movies any time I wish. I am now able to do more for myself."

These days, Jean's attention is also focused on her year-old granddaughter Athena Mori. "She calls me Lala or Mama La," Jean proudly said of her daughter Jennica's firstborn with husband Alwyn Uyttingco. "She is so cute. She is like a doll. It's easy to take care of her because she only cries when she's hungry. Mori and her parents visit me during weekends."

Jean also has a 14-year-old son, Kotaro, with her Japanese ex-boyfriend.

"I don't feel like a lola. Mori makes me feel younger because I treat her like my own baby. I told Jennica and Alwyn that it's their responsibility to discipline their child, but I will spoil her. When she is with me, the sky is the limit," said Jean.

On her new movie, Jean said she has not seen any of the "Mano Po" installments but was excited to be part of the latest one, which also stars Richard Yap, Enchong Dee, and Janella Salvador.

A portion of the movie, to be directed by indie filmmaker Ian Loreños, will be shot in Putuoshan — the Buddhist sacred mountain in Zhejiang Province, China.

Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde said she hoped that the film would be chosen as an entry in the 2016 Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

"Direk Ian is Chinese so I'm assuming that he knows what he is doing. He's only 33... I know he will have a different take on doing a project that already has had several versions," Jean pointed out. Joel Lamangan and Erik Matti directed the six previous "Mano Po" series.

Loreños, who had to watch the other "Mano Po" versions as part of his research, said he preferred that Jean does not see any of them.

He explained: "I want her to be different from the other actresses. I want her to give her own unique flavor to the latest installment. I've seen a lot of her films. I'm impressed by her acting. I guess I would just have to orient her on Chinese culture and history."

Juday embarks on movie marathon

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



AS expected, the crowd went wild (read: cell phone-snapshot crazy) upon seeing actress Judy Ann "Juday" Santos, who attended the gala screening of David Corpuz and Cenon Palomares' "Kusina," with husband Ryan Agoncillo in tow, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on Tuesday.

Santos later posted on Instagram that she couldn't sleep after watching the magic-realist drama, an entry in this year's Cinemalaya. "Adrenaline still high," she quipped.

She has blocked off an entire day to watch other fest entries and experience the Cinemalaya movie marathon for herself.

Filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes said of Santos' performance in "Kusina": "She is in a league all her own... They don't make actresses like her anymore. Give her a phonebook to read and she will deliver an award-worthy, original performance." Due to audience demand, "Kusina" will have an additional screening tomorrow, 12:45 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater.

A Fil-Am actor's life: Dion Basco

By Ruben V. Nepales
@inquirerdotnet

(This is fifth of a series on the struggles and triumphs of Filipino-American actors in Hollywood.)

LOS ANGELES — For Dion Basco, finding roles for a Fil-Am actor like him is hard. But to have to compete for the few parts available against his brother, Dante, especially when they were kid actors, was tougher.

"When I was younger, it would eat me up," admitted the youngest of the four actor-brothers: Dante (whom we featured in the fourth installment of this series), Derek and Darion. He learned to take it in stride. "Handling rejection has become a part of my life," Dion said.

He has carved a career of his own, after starting as a break dancer with his brothers, who performed as The Street Freaks in the streets of San Francisco.

Dion's credits include NBC's "City Guys," where he was a series regular as Alberto "Al" Ramos for five seasons.

Both he and Dante costarred, not competed against each other, in several films: "The Head Thieves" (completed and to be released February next year), "Biker Boyz" and the award-winning Fil-Am indie film, "The Debut."

He is cautiously optimistic: "I have to believe that it's getting better for actors of color, or else, what am I doing here? The industry has changed a lot in recent years."

Excerpts from our conversation:

How would you describe your journey as an actor so far?

I've been in the industry for 30 years, so I've had my share of ups and downs. When I started, I was a child, so all I wanted was to have fun — and I did. It wasn't a career yet.

In high school, something changed. I fell in love with acting. I was always in a class, studying the craft, watching classic movies and doing scene study.

I left high school to shoot a movie called "Race the Sun" with Halle Berry in Hawaii and Australia for four months. I thought I was well on my way to becoming a star. Then, I didn't work for a year. There were no roles for Filipinos.

I auditioned for a show that took place in New York. Casting was looking for a Latino, but when I went in, they had no idea what I was. I ended up getting the role and when I got fan mail, it was from different ethnic people — Hispanic, Korean, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Filipino, etc. — thanking NBC for hiring one of their kind.

The show was "City Guys," and we shot 105 episodes. Those are the highs — working and getting paid well.

But there are many times when there's no work and money is tight. That's the life of an artist. You have to be able to enjoy the highs and lows. Luckily, I come from a tight family that supports each other, even if we're in competition. It's a blessing and a curse to have three older brothers who are also actors.

How do you prepare for an audition? Any good luck rituals, etc.?

For auditions, I try to be as off-book as possible. When rehearsing the lines, I do different accents and line readings.

I also tape myself to see if I like my performance. If I'm having a hard time finding the character, I'll have my brothers help me out or get coached by a friend.

What is the most frustrating part of trying to land roles in Hollywood?

Not enough roles for Filipino actors — now, we're no longer Latino or Asian enough, sometimes. We have to wait for an "ethnically ambiguous" casting.

What's even more infuriating is that the roles we're reading for have no character arc. It's never the lead and rarely a supporting [role]. Also, they want an accent or "must speak (insert foreign language here)." We're seen as foreigners in our own country. They don't get that the face of America has changed. And it is diverse.

How do you handle rejection?

Handling rejection has become a part of my life. When I was younger, it would eat me up. Especially



when I lost the role to my brother, Dante. I was mad, but then I had to be happy for him.

Now, it's a bit different. I see an audition like a performance. You do the best you can. I try not to think too long about whether I'm going to get the job or not.

Have there been times when you almost gave up? What motivated you to keep trying?

As I get older, the thought of quitting sometimes creeps in my mind, but I quickly dismiss it. I live an artist's life. I've travelled the world, met amazing people, and made people laugh and cry through art. It's an amazing feeling.

Do you, as an actor of color, feel that opportunities for minority actors are improving or getting worse?

I have to believe that it's getting better for actors of color, or else, what am I doing here? The industry has changed in recent years. Asians are finally in lead roles on television! And the shows are successful.

What's your stand on whitewashing — or the casting practice in which white actors are cast in nonwhite character roles — in Hollywood?

Whitewashing should have stopped a long time ago! But I fear it will continue. The Hollywood system says it needs a stellar name to get a movie made.

But the system doesn't give star-making roles to Asian actors. Now that there's the Internet and everyone's voice can be heard, maybe it'll change.

To people who are planning to pursue acting, what should they prepare for?

I say, study. Find a teacher who tries to bring the best out of you. Don't try and be someone else. There's always going to be someone better than you.

Study film. Watch the classics. Find out why observing a star is stars. Start the world as an artist. Don't chase fame because fame fades.

You will have highs and this industry, so surround yourself with support system. And stay humble.



Coco Martin cheers on kid brother Ronwaldo

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
@inquirerdotnet

AT THE CCP (from left): Maria Isabel Lopez, Coco Martin, Ronwaldo Martin and Ferdinand Lapuz. Photo courtesy of Maria Isabel Lopez

TAKING a break from his hectic taping schedule for "Ang Probinsyano," actor Coco Martin graced the gala screening of kid brother Ronwaldo Martin's Cinemalaya entry, Eduardo Roy Jr.'s "Pamilya Ordinaryo," on Saturday.

Ronwaldo told the Inquirer that his kuya (elder brother) liked his film — a gritty drama on homeless teenagers surviving on the mean streets of Manila.

Coco said that he was reminded of his strug-

gling days as an indie actor while watching Ronwaldo's film. "I see myself in him," he remarked. He insisted that he makes it a point not to meddle in Ronwaldo's journey as an actor. "I want Ron to discover himself on his own... to go through the same process that I experienced as a newcomer."

Coco, however, encourages Ronwaldo to watch more indie films and told the neophyte actor to check out the other entries in Cinemalaya.

He said he has several concepts for a possible teamup with Ronwaldo. "But I want him to stand on his own first and learn from indie films."

"Pamilya Ordinaryo" will have an additional screening today, 12:45 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater.



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 - Pencil tip
 - Bugle call
 - Big book
 - Liberal lobby
 - Objects of sculpture
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 - Brooks or Torme
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- Tendencies
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- Defeats
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Baklang komedyante, nangutang agad sa ex-boldie

TSIKAITO ng isang showbiz friend na minsang kinaray ng isang dating bold star sa isang resort sa Laguna.

By chance ay naroon din pala ang isang gay stand-up comedian. First time nilang nag-meet ng ex-boldie.

Mukhang natunagan ng baklang komedyante na mapera ang hitad, kaya naman may emote itong kesyo problemado sa pera at kailangan niya ng P60,000. As in agad-agad!

Dahil kilalang bukas-palad naman ang ex-boldie ay agad-agad din niyang pinahiram ng pera ang beki, who promised to pay her back



in two monthly installments kapalit ng dalawang post-dated cheques na inisyu niya.

Mula ngayon ay ilang araw na lang ay malapit na ang takdang petsa ng unang tsekeng inisyu ng gay comedian, na ang idinadasal ng dating hubadera ay harinawa'y may pondo ang banko ng gay comedian na lang natin sa alyas na Athena Gaya-gaya.

Mayamang business woman, ibinuking ang isang showbiz mom

SA ISANG steak dinner, bumabangka ang isang mayamang negosyanteng babae na nagkukuwento kung paano siya naging malapit sa isang showbiz mother.

"Kinuha kami pareho para mag-anak sa binyag, kaso wala siyang ka-partner kaya ako ang ipinares sa kanya," simulang kuwento ng businesswoman na simple lang kung gumayak.

Mula noon ay dumikit na raw sa kanya ang showbiz mom, napagbentahan pa nga siya nito ng mga mamahaling alahas. "Pero nu'ng ipina-appraise ko, naloka ako, mababa ang uri, pero siningil niya ako nang pagkamahal-mahal!"

Pero hindi roon natuldukan ang kanilang 'ika nga'y friendship for convenience. "One time, tumawag 'yan. "Day, saan ka? Sabi ko, nasa bahay ako. 'Yun pala nakapasok na siya sa bahay ko, nasa sala. "Day, dito ako sa ibaba n'yo, bumaba ka na." Pero nu'ng sumunod na pagpunta niya sa bahay ko, pinagtaguan ko na talaga siya!"

"Eto pa ang kuwentong ikinabaliw ng businesswoman. "One time, medyo sinuwerte ako sa casino. Eh, nandu'n siya, kasama 'yung driver niya. Siyempre, inabutan ko naman siya. Inabutan ko rin 'yung driver. Sabi ba naman niya sa driver niya, kaharap ako, ha? 'Oy, ibabawas ko 'yan sa suweldo mo, ha? Hay, naloka talaga ako!"

Da who ang showbiz mom na itey? Itago na lang natin siya sa alyas na Sunflower Romulo.

Fil-Am DJ and his dying dog's Great American Adventure

by Momar Visaya
@inquirerdotnet

NEW YORK CITY — Meet Poh. He's a 15-year-old mixed yellow Labrador retriever. His owner, Neil Rodriguez, known in the music world as DJ Neil Armstrong, is a Filipino American born and raised in New York. Neil adopted Poh when the dog was barely eight weeks old from the North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, the world's largest no-kill animal rescue and adoption organization. That was in December 1999.

Earlier this year, Neil and his fiancée received terrible news from the veterinarians: Poh had renal failure, and his kidneys are failing. They adjusted his diet and returned to the doctors after a month only to be told of worse news. The vets found a softball-sized tumor in his liver and multiple tumors in Poh's abdomen, which they deemed inoperable.

Confronted with this development, Neil decided to make a bucket list for them to do in the next few months while Poh can still walk around and travel. He said he had always wanted for Poh to experience the waters off the Pacific coast.

To document their big coast-to-coast adventure, Neil started an Instagram account for Poh, who incidentally was named after Edgar Allan Poe.

Around March this year, Neil, his fiancée Yuko Ogino and Poh began their journey as a family, stopping in tourist spots and taking photos for Poh's IG followers. On March 5, Neil posted the first image of Poh, with the hashtag #pohthedogsgigadventure.

My name is #pohthedog. Along with the photo, Neil wrote: "Hi everyone, my name is #pohthedog. I look like a pup but I'm 15 years old, 105 in dog years, and although I am young at heart and my mind is willing, my body is going through the natural process of old age."

"My parents found out that I have a couple of very large tumors growing in my abdomen which are inoperable. So my dad @dneilarmstrong



decided to give me a bucket list trip across the good old US of A... traveling from #nyc all the way to the west coast, from sea to shining sea."

"I knew then that he had a limited time to live. I just didn't want to leave him and go to a gig. If he passed away while I'm gone, that would be devastating," Neil shared.

That is why he and his girlfriend then (now fiancée) decided to go on a road trip to the West Coast, anchored on a show he was supposed to do in Phoenix. It ended up as a 35-city tour across America done in 46 days.

The doctors told them Poh could die any moment so it was imperative for them to leave. Poh and his great adventure has been featured on websites such as Good News Network, Mashable and Huffington Post to major stations such as ABC, PIX and CBS.

Asked how much he loves Poh, Neil paused and composed himself, "I've started, ended a bunch of relationships, got fired from jobs, started new jobs, became Neil Armstrong and have all these crazy things happen to me, the only thing

constant during those periods was my dog, Poh so he's like my child, my constant, the reason I would come home. He's definitely one of the most important in my life."

With a tinge of regret, Neil said he should have done this when Poh was stronger so that he could have ran as much as he wanted when they visited the Southern California beaches. "I wish I was able to do this with my dog when I didn't have to put him in his cart and would just let him run wild in the ocean," he quipped.

He is thankful though that they got to spend seven wonderful weeks with Poh on this road trip of a lifetime.

"Dogs are hyper-perceptive. When you get sad, they sense it and they come to you and take care of you. He's always been weird with me, he thinks he's in charge and he owns me," Neil added, laughing.

"I'm just hoping now that I don't have to deal with that situation where I have to put him down," Neil responded when we asked if he has considered all his options, particularly if and when Poh becomes too sickly and will be in too much pain. "If ever we come at a point where Poh will make it clear that he is in a lot of pain and that he can't take it anymore, of course, as much as I want him to stick around as much as possible, I wouldn't want him to suffer."

A liver of good news for Neil, fellow dog owners who have been on this path have told him that Poh looks like he is nowhere near that point where there is extreme suffering because he still has full control over his bowel movements and he is still eating.

That, and a hundred thousand followers (and counting) in the online community who have become avid supporters offering prayers for Poh's health and wellbeing.

"You want unconditional love, go get a dog. They'll love you no matter what and I hope that people who have the financial means and have the time do that. When all is said and done, you will realize that it's the pet taking care of you," Neil said.



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Aries
Keep the motto 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' in mind today. Because if you want to get the most out of your life right now, you need to step out and do some riskier stuff. Nothing risky in terms of your health or the law of course, but risky in terms of your emotions. You don't necessarily have to wear your heart on your sleeve, but you should at least let someone catch a fleeting glimpse of it! Open up your shell a little bit wider and you will be rewarded.

Taurus
Things are about to equalize in all aspects of your life, so get ready to enjoy a healthier period that will give you a stronger sense of security and confidence. You're standing on a firm foundation again, which means you can reach higher and try harder for the things you want. It's time for bolder action and bigger stakes. You are feeling totally in control and it looks like no one is standing in your way. Ignore your fears and move ahead at full steam!

Gemini
Someone you thought you were starting to take a shine to is going to disappoint you today. Something in their personality will put you off -- their arrogance is a very ugly accessory, and it's not doing much for your interest level. Crushes can be fleeting things, do don't feel shallow if their actions kill off any interest you had in them. There is no need to tolerate a rude person, no matter how attractive they are, or how powerful they may be. Just move on.

Cancer
You can't get so obsessed with starting something new that you forget to finish up something you've been working on for a while! Things are not going smoothly with this project, but that doesn't mean you should bail on it too soon. Whatever stress is involved in tying up all these loose ends is nothing compared to the pride you will feel knowing that you were thorough and detail-oriented. Powerful people are watching, and you need to make sure they see you at your best.

Leo
You know that having fun does not mean you have to turn off your brain, but someone close to you might not. They are doing some stupid things in the name of having a good time. It could be time to wake them up to the dangers of what they are up to -- even if you run the risk of being seen as a wet blanket. If you care about people, you have to show them. And sometimes showing them you care means sacrificing your popularity -- temporarily. Tough love is the most valuable, sometimes.

Virgo
This is a wonderful day. You're going to be reminded just how loved you are by your closest friends. There's a lot of warmth coming your way today, and it's all coming from the people who choose to walk the same path as you. They bring a lot of honesty to every discussion you have with them, and this is their true value in your life. What this means is that when they tell you something you don't like hearing, it is coming from a place of love. Remember that.

Libra
You've been flirting with someone a lot lately and they might be interested in turning up the heat -- get ready for an overture of sorts to happen today. Think long and hard about whether or not you want to get closer to them. Once you move beyond the flirtatious stage, you lose a little bit of freedom. And if you're not looking for a new romance right now, you need to be up front about it with them. Flirting for the sake of flirting is fine -- you haven't been making promises to them. Yet.

Scorpio
It's true that patience is a virtue, but it's also true that you can control things and push them along if you wish to do so. You've got to act now if you want to make the most of the opportunity that is placed in front of you today. There is nothing wrong with elbowing your way to the front of the line just this once. Be polite, but be aggressive. There is a lot of complacency around you, so you will never have a better chance to get ahead of everyone else.

Sagittarius
It's the perfect day to hang out with a blue friend and start cheering them up! You are capable of giving them whatever experience they need to get out of the doldrums -- whether it's fun and laughter, physical activity, quiet conversation, or sitting on the couch watching television together. They just want to be in a situation where they don't feel like they have to prove themselves. And no one makes people feel calm and at ease quite the way you do.

Capricorn
A few fresh ideas will not only add some pizzazz to your life right now, they will increase your romantic potential! So if you are in the mood to start a new romance, start exposing yourself to new ways of thinking. Step out of your oh-so-comfortable comfort zone today and put yourself in front of some unfamiliar thinking. Explore new cultures, music and religions. You will find a whole new way of thinking. Things that are strange can also be very invigorating.

Aquarius
Could an attraction could be growing between you and someone you have never considered your intellectual equal? Could it be that there is more to someone's attractiveness than their brain? You should look at this person with different eyes starting today. Pay attention to how they treat other people, and you will get a whole new appreciation for who they are and what they could bring to your life. You may have been looking for love in the wrong places.

Pisces
A strong flirtatious energy is going to be all around you today, and it could spice up one or two of your relationships! Before you get all excited about your romantic prospects, remember that flirting is just flirting. Whether or not things are meant to go to the next level is not certain. So play it safe -- keep things light and breezy instead of pushing for a commitment. After all, you need to get to know them better before you know how they really feel.

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ATTITUDE IS A LITTLE THING THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

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PRAYER

WHEN human words are lacking to say what's in our hearts, we beg You Lord to touch our souls and trigger us to start. Oh there are things that are too deep that mere words just can't say, and so we start to cry and groan do lead us as we pray. When prayer from our lips may fail

to take us to Your light, let Your Sweet Spirit take us now to Your throne clear and bright. Dad make our soul so crystal clear that wholly we may yield - each of our deepest longing with every sin concealed. In Christ we pray... Amen.

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FROM ENSAYMADA PROJECT, WITH LOVE

By Chari Heredia-Reyes

Our company is all about proofing, snailing, baking, and wrapping.



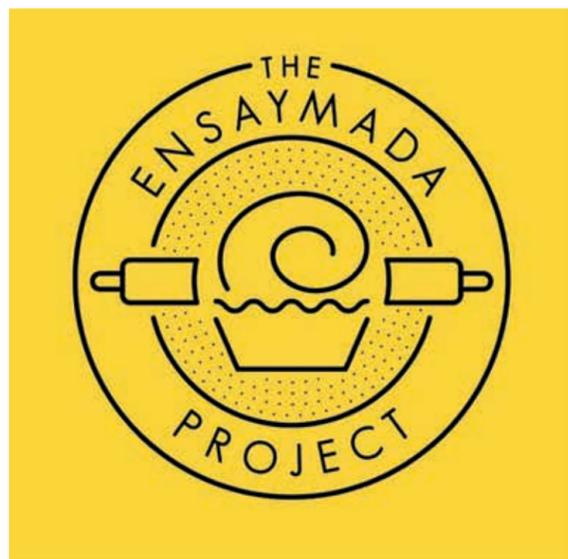
Twenty-two flavors, collectively boxed yet individually wrapped, finished off with a ribbon whose colors change with the seasons: The passion and dedication that go into each ensaymada are what define Ensaymada Project. Over the last decade, the steady growth of my company definitely took more than just the churn of dough or the snip of a ribbon to get it to what it is today.

The inspiration for the idea that is Ensaymada Project harks back to my childhood in Manila, in a bustling household of eleven children. My Mom's famous ensaymada-making marathons were the highlight of every Christmas season. Even now, I vividly remember the comforting smell of a fresh batch of ensaymadas baking in the oven. Years later, while raising four children with my chef husband in Los Angeles, I decided to take up the challenge of recreating my Mom's ensaymadas and adding them to my growing repertoire of home-baked goods.

It seemed an insurmountable challenge because baking one batch of ensaymadas involves a tedious, ten-hour process. As the demand for my ensaymadas grew, the slapping and kneading of dough by hand gradually made way for the giant Hobart mixer – my kids fondly call it "Humphrey" – to churn larger batches of dough. For the perfect rise, the yeast-filled dough is put into proof boxes that mimic the humid temperatures of Manila. As I improved upon my Mom's recipe, I introduced new flavors like Pink Velvet Truffle, Blue Butterscotch, Cinnamada, Mocha Nutella, Oreo, Red Velvet on top of timeless Filipino flavours like Classic Cheese, Queso de Bola, and Ube. I ensure that each ensaymada is snailed by hand. I have done away with the individual metal containers of old and wax paper. Each ensaymada sits in a brown paper floret and is wrapped in cellophane to display my unique variety of flavors.

After years of trial and error and numerous recipe adjustments to outmatch the current, commercially-sold ensaymadas that I feel do not do justice to this centuries-old pastry, my ensaymadas have evolved into what one loyal customer describes as "what a Filipino ensaymada truly should be."

No matter where Ensaymada Project will take me, two things will always remain the same: My commitment to using only the finest, carefully selected ingredients, and my passion to make each ensaymada with utmost care. Ensaymada Project is commit-



ted to paying homage to this beloved treat that will forever hold a special place in our Philippine heritage. It is Ensaymada Project's mission to evoke nostalgia among my Filipino customers, to introduce the authentic Filipino ensaymada to the world, and showcase the versatility of what I respectfully call our national bread.

Here's to more proofing, snailing, baking, and wrapping for years to come!

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World Film Institute's Gellini to visit Pangasinan in August

LOS ANGELES — Dr. Antonio Gellini, founder of the World Film Institute, The Family Film Awards on the CBS TV Network and Olympic Arts Institute and The Olympia Awards, will visit the Philippines and will proceed to Pangasinan from August 23 to 27 to see where he can have the participants enjoy rest and recreation after the Olympia Awards.

Gellini, with his travelling companions Lino F. Caringal, Jr., President of Pangasinan Brotherhood — USA, and Felix B. Lopez, President of the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce — South East Corridor (FACC-SEC), all based in Los Angeles, will call on Governor Amado Espino III. Gellini will see the beautiful beaches of Bolinao and the scenic and historical Hundred Islands. He will also visit Sual, San Carlos City, Binmaley, Laoac and Urdaneta City.

Gellini has brought into fruition with the creation and maintenance for the last 29 years of The World Film Institute, and the Family Film Awards, which was celebrated its 20th anniversary on August 2015. His Family Film Awards has awarded great actors since 1996, such as Sandra Bullock, and Tom Hanks.

Gellini said that there are 7 dynamics of art that an artist or performer can use to demonstrate, or manifest his or her craft and touch the world and they are, music, dance, film, theatre, painting, sculpture, and literature. "In my opinion, these 7 dynamics are 'legal tender' in the art world as dollars, stocks, and derivatives are to the monetary system in the world," he said.



Courtesy Call to the Philippines' New Consul General Los Angeles Adelio Cruz by Dr. Antonio Gellini, Olympia Awards Founder; Felix Lopez, PCGA chairman; Lino Caringal, Jr., PB-USA president; and Justin Wallner, VP, Olympia Awards

Gellini founded not only The World Film Institute, The Family Film Awards, but also The Olympic Olympia Arts and The Olympia Awards, which is the first award system to be awarded to the best films from a competition comprised of all major film festivals across the world. He and President Allen Jay Friedman were recently honored, via Princess Maria Amor's, at the UN building in New York City during her 2nd Annual G.O.D. Awards, which is becoming an international barometer of a dignitary's, or performer's success.

He said that much like the Olympics, it will be held every four years as well. In addition, it will consist of a talent of pool of 250 and a panel of respectable and notable entertainment experts and film critics will choose the top three choices from among 15 different categories.

Gellini's Family Film Awards are given to films that are family oriented and are G and PG ratings. Such world-renowned stars as Sandra Bullock, Ron Howard, Steven Spielberg, and Clint Eastwood have passed through The Family Film Awards circles and Gellini is not letting up in his quest to take films and send it around the world touching and changing hearts and minds for peace as best he can. In fact, Gellini was awarded The Ambassador for Peace Award in 2015.

The Olympia Awards is being finalized in Turkey. After this, the Philippines is planned to be the site of the next Olympia Awards.

THE OTHER PACQUIAOS

Mr. and Mrs Ha Ha, owners of Mayflower Seafood Restaurant in Chinatown in Los Angeles, with Councilor Bobby Pacquiao, brother of boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, during the latter's visit to the famous restaurant. In the poster the couple are holding, Mayflower congratulates Bobby and brother Congressman Reoger Pacquiao for their victory in the recent elections.

(Photo by Bobby Crisostomo)



HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The 2016 Filipino-American Basketball Tournament opened this year's league last Sunday at the Lake Community Recreational Center, 227 N. Lake St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 at the Historic Filipinotown. The Binibining Pilipinas USA and Binibining Pilipinas Teen USA with their courts graced the opening ceremony as special guests. Above, the 2016 Binibining Pilipinas winners with the various teams entered in the tournament. At right, Manila Express chairman Fernandico Gonong Jr. with one of the teams, coach and muse.

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