



## 6 killed in Pagudpud road mishap

By CRISTINA ARZADON  
CONTRIBUTOR

SIX PEOPLE were killed Sunday night, May 24, when a speeding cargo truck lost its breaks and slammed on one side of a mountain while it tried to negotiate a curve in Pagudpud town, 74.6 kilometers from Laoag City.

The Pagudpud police identified three of the victims as Redel Taal, BJ Arellano and Bernardo Molina. The three other fatalities including a woman have yet to be identified.

Noli Taal, whose son Redel was one of the victims, said the truck was running at high speed when it lost breaks forcing the

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# LIA holds info campaign on influenza A (H1N1) virus



By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTER

WITH THE number of victims of influenza A (H1N1) virus rising to 10 as of press time, Laoag International Airport officials, led by quarantine officer Dr. Rosito Tamayo conducted a multi-sectoral “information with understanding campaign” about the said virus at the airport terminal building on May 29.

The campaign was aimed at educating the public and other concerned stakeholders that the virus is not as “deadly” and “dangerous” as initially perceived six weeks ago when the outbreak started in Mexico.

As of May 29, the World Health Organization lists 13,398 H1N1 cases around the world with 95 deaths.

Tamayo in his presentation stressed that like an ordinary influenza virus, this can be contained with proper coordination and understanding of the nature of the virus.

As preventive measures, Tamayo reiterated that wearing masks should be practiced and to avoid contact with persons having symptoms with flu. Observing proper hygiene like frequent hand washing is also advised, he added.

Like an ordinary flu, a person with influenza A (H1N1) have the

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H1N1 ALERT. A Taiwanese passengers wear surgical masks to protect themselves against A(H1N1) flu virus during their at the Laoag International Airport on May 26. (inset) Quarantine officer Dr. Rosito Tamayo and other airport crew at LIA get ready as Taiwan flight resumes on May 26.

LANIE ADRIANO

## Ilocos Norte health officials on alert for swine flu virus

By CRISTINA ARZADON  
CONTRIBUTOR

HEALTH officials in Ilocos Norte have put in place quick-response teams from local government units following reports of a confirmed swine flu virus infection in the country.

Dr. Rosito Tamayo, quarantine officer, said the health department has sent the alert to local authorities from the provincial level down to the barangays to follow the quarantine protocol in checking the pres-

ence of the H1N1 virus.

Tamayo said the Laoag International Airport has its own quarantine protocol and thermal scanner to check on passengers arriving at the airport.

He said health officials are vigilant on the entry of the H1N1 virus because many Ilocanos are living in the United States which is identified as one of the infected countries.

“We are monitoring the entry of our balikbayans who are likely to enter the country through the Ma-

nila airport and other modes of transportation,” he said.

Tamayo said it probably helped that the Laoag airport does not service international flights at the moment but that there is still possibility that flu-infected passengers from the US could carry and spread the virus.

“What we need at the moment is proper information and education so that we can be better prepared if and when the virus reaches our area,” he said.

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## Prov’l dads back passage of Anti Cyber-boso bill

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTER

VINTAR, Ilocos Norte—The controversial sex video of a cosmetic surgeon and a young actress has underlined the need for new laws on voyeurism to protect women who are at risk from this violence.

This was the message of Sangguniang Panlalawigan member Kris Ablan as he condemned the proliferation of sex video scandals, this time featuring Dr. Hayden Kho Jr. and actress Katrina Halili.

Reminded of a similar sex video scandal that has also rocked the province recently involving a Sangguniang Kabataan official and a minor, Ablan said in his privilege speech that he is proud to be a member of the provincial board of Ilocos Norte which acted on the issue and ordered the suspension of the SK official.

The SK official however has filed a case questioning the legality of his suspension.

Ablan described the Kho sex tapes, which also involved a Brazilian and Filipina models, as “irresponsible and shameful” and that

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MS NTA 2009. Ms Febie Diana Gacho poses with Ms NTA 2009 Farah Jane Dalo after the search.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NTA

## SEARCH FOR MS VIRGINIA TOBACCO HELD IN bet is Ms NTA 2009

By ELAINE A. TINIO  
CONTRIBUTOR

**FOR THE past years, Candon City, in cooperation with the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) and some private tobacco firms have been conducting the Search for Ms Virginia Tobacco primarily to promote the tobacco industry and to give tribute to the alluring and talented Ilocana.**

This year, the Search for Ms Virginia Tobacco Pageant Night was held once again at the Candon Civic Center in Candon City on March 27, 2009. The activity served as

one of the highlights of the Candon City Fiesta as it coincided with its cityhood anniversary.

A total of 12 candidates from Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur (Vigan and Candon Cities), Abra and La Union participated in the three-day event. Candon and La Union fielded three candidates each while the rest fielded two candidates, respectively.

Earlier, the candidates were presented at a pictorial at the Candon City Hall on February 12 while the talent competition was held March 26, 2009.

Ilocos Norte bet Farah Jane A. Dalo, Ms Tourism-Ilocos Norte 2008 was crowned Ms National Tobacco Administration, or second runner up. She was rewarded with P25,000 cash prize plus trophy and sash.

Dalo is a first year college student at Mariano Marcos State University in Batac.

The other Ilocos Norte bet was Febie Diana G. Gacho, Ms Laoag City Pamulinawen International 2008 second runner up.

Winning the Ms Virginia Tobacco crown was Kashmir Hernaiz of Candon City.

## LIA holds info campaign on influenza...

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following symptoms: fever, sore throat, coughing, body or head aches, loss of appetite and other advanced symptoms including diarrhea and vomiting.

Meanwhile, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center assured that they have established international protocols if ever the virus enters the province.

Earlier, 103 Taiwanese passengers that arrived at LIA were checked for their temperatures lasting about half an hour. The inspection was done inside the plane. Passengers then disembarked wearing surgical masks from the plane to undergo further screening.

An ambulance with a physician and three nurses

from the Provincial Health Office was also on standby following the precautionary procedures being strictly implemented at LIA to ensure that any passenger who will display any flu-like symptoms would be properly handled.

Tamayo said an action plan is already in place at LIA even before the H1N1 virus made its appearance in the country. He also assured that

internationally accepted protocols are being observed at the airport.

Tamayo explained further that the body temperature check of passengers was undertaken inside the plane to ensure that the virus would be contained if any of them were positive.

As of press time, Taiwanese passengers that arrived on the said flight were free of any flu-like symptoms.

## 6 killed in Pagudpud road mishap

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driver identified as Michael Olivas to ram the vehicle on one of the mountain in Barangay Pasaleng, Pagudpud.

Seven other passengers including the driver have been

taken to a nearby hospital.

The victims came from Lasam, Cagayan where they brought vegetables and fruits and were on their way home to Ilocos Sur when they met the accident. (PIA Laoag)

## Ilocos Norte health officials on alert for swine flu virus

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Tamayo said he was more concerned about the apparent complacency of the community in facing the virus.

"While there is no cause for panic, we should not be lax as well," he added.

Health Secretary Dr. Francisco Duque III on Thursday night confirmed the first case of Influenza A(H1N1) infection in the country—in a 10-year-old Filipino girl who arrived from the United States with her parents on May 18.

"The DoH confirms today the first case of AH1N1 in the Philippines. She is a female traveler who arrived in the country on May 18 from the United States, whose throat specimen tested positive based on results from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)," Duque said.

Duque, who is in Geneva, Switzerland attending a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting, held a video conference with reporters at the WHO regional office in Manila to break the news Thursday night.

"I talked with the president and from the tone of her voice she was very concerned. In fact, she gave me the go signal to conduct this press conference," Duque added.

Dr. Eric Tayag of the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center said the girl, who was not identified, had also

been to Canada.

The girl, he said, developed a fever, cough and sore throat on May 19, the day after arriving, and was brought to the RITM in Muntinlupa City where the diagnosis was confirmed May 21.

Despite the index case, Duque said: "There is no community outbreak in the country, measures are being done to prevent transmission, including quarantine of immediate household of the first case. The first case is something we have been preparing for as a result of public and private sectors' effective surveillance system."

Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde said the test results came Thursday afternoon from RITM and the patient was immediately given antiviral Oseltamivir.

The first case no longer had fever and cough but still has sore throat, said Villaverde.

Tayag said specimens from the index case will be sent to a WHO collaborating center in Melbourne as routine procedure for all specimens that will test positive for the novel AH1N1.

"The child developed the symptoms a day after arrival, so this is also a call for vigilance on the part of the public that people in the country and incoming travelers from abroad, especially from infected areas, submit them-

selves to quarantine screening and continuous monitoring of health, especially body temperature for 10 days, and to report to the DoH any flu-like symptoms," said Villaverde.

Villaverde reiterated that the public should observe proper hygiene, strengthen resistance and do social distancing—avoid going to crowded areas if the need is not urgent.

Since there is only a single confirmed case, Villaverde said, there is no need to postpone the opening of schools in June.

Up till then the country had been flu-free despite the disease afflicting citizens of nearby countries like Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan.

In Geneva, a month after the world was alerted to a potential influenza pandemic, doubts fostered by the mild symptoms of the new swine flu virus have prompted the WHO to think twice about sounding the maximum alarm despite the spread of infection in 41 countries.

The WHO on Thursday raised its tally of swine flu cases around the world to 11,034 and 85 deaths. Most of the 791 new cases have been reported in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Mexico confirmed three more deaths linked to the A(H1N1) virus, while the United States confirmed two additional deaths since Wednesday's tally.

# CAREERS

# IN

# MANILA

**mitsubishi**

**MOTORS**

# Re-echoing the 2009 Dinaklisan Festival of Currimao

By ELIZABETH MADARANG-RAQUEL  
CONTRIBUTOR

**AN IMPOSING stride of perfection happens in the Municipality of Currimao nowadays, it is not rushing but leaping with a perfect calculation as it lands in comfort, style and contentment.**

Today, Currimao is enjoying within the nucleus of limelight while **DINAKLISAN FESTIVAL** hits at the top of its popularity that people with gusto of enjoying and frolicking are looking for. The Local Government of this fishing town was in perfect mood when it launched in 2007 its Dinaklisan Festival.

With its theme **Paraburti Taaw: Biag ti Currimao (The High Seas Riches: Currimao's Life Sources)**, brings real scenario of what a kind of life is enjoying by the people. Truly, the abundance of fish caught in high seas at any day of

the year has definitely transformed the lives of people engaged in fishing.

Yes, transformation is real, not a fantasy. How many children of fishermen have already become professionals? All are enjoying this unending process. The sweat and blood of their fathers braving the waves in the high seas to catch fishes have empowered them to reach heights in their educational endeavors.

Brainchild of the great and well-respected mother of the town, Mayor Rosario Chua-Go, this unique Dinaklisan Festival is now in its third



ALL "Bancas" of Currimao were on parade during the Fluvial Parade.

year and it is enriched yearly of its entertaining forms. Myriads of people have already witnessed and felt its cultural essence. They were satisfied especially with the reenactment of the Tuno fiesta where they witnessed this traditional way of cooking fresh fish caught from the sea. This is one of the many different lined-up activities that people who are looking for an ocean respite should never fail to see.

Of course, seeing the whole scenario and the glamour of songs and dances performed by dancers gaily wearing different attractive colored costumes like rainbow dancing on the streets plus the sounds of drums and lyres that filled the air to have made the town noisier as it was expected.

What is the real score the town achieved since then?

The score is really encouraging. The u-shape seashore of white sands and forming corals has already been dotted with commercial establishments most especially hotels and restaurants. The launching of Dinaklisan Festival three years past has doubled the income of these commercial establishments due to influx of visitors and tourists in the area. To date, tourism has greatly improved and it's one of the sources of income of the municipality to beef up its coffer, according to our beloved mayor.

Let me therefore account that glorious scenario for the information of others who did not have the time to

witness the recent Dinaklisan Festival of Currimao.

Highlighting the Feast of Nuestra Seniora de la Paz y Buen Viaje, Patron Saint of Currimao was the Dinaklisan Festival commenced in the early morning of April 29, 2009. At 5:00 AM, the whole town arose of the sound of Diana that went around the town, signaling the opening of the three-day fiesta and the Dinaklisan Festival.

As a customary tradition of the people in early days, people from all walks of life had to wake up early, wear their best attires and would trek in bunch on their way to the poblacion in time for the festivity. Of course, this tradition is still alive thus it drives them reaching

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NUESTRA Seniora de la Paz y Buen Viaje, Patron Saint of Currimao



Street Dance Parade



DR. Jovencio Cuanang, owner of Sitio Remedios Resort Hotel, Board Member Mariano Marcos II, Mayor Rosario C. Go, Ms. Tintin Babao of ABS-CBN and the author.



PICTURE taken before the Fluvial Parade starts (L-R) Mayor Joseph E. de Lara of Solsona and Pres. of LMP-Ilocos Norte Chapter, Mayor Rosario Chua-Go of Currimao, Mayor Anunciacion D. Pagdilao of Pinili and the author.



THE Mayor of Currimao, Hon. Rosario C. Go is telling to Ms. Tintin Babao of ABS-CBN the history of Tuno Fiesta ti Igid ti Baybay. (L-R) Mayor Go, Mrs. Doddie Go-Ong (daughter of Mayor Go) Tintin and Ben of Sitio Remedios).



THE DepEd School Administrators with Mayor Go during the Tuno Fiesta.

## Re-echoing the 2009 Dinaklisan...

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the poblacion to see for themselves the Dinaklisan Festival.

In the opening program with the presence of Honorable Angelo M. Barba, Senior Board Member of the Province of Ilocos Norte, as guest of honor and speaker, and introduced by this writer, he said in his speech that the festival is unique in nature involving and recognizing the role of people especially the fisher folks who are now in spotlight in the affair.

"I appreciate the ingenuity of the promoters and creators of this festival led by our energetic mayor of Currimao, Hon. Rosario Chua-Go. They are not only enlivening the ethnic traditions but indeed are realizing how important the culture and traditions of the fishermen in this town and in a way put them alive at this moment," the Sangguniang Panlalawigan lawmaker said.

Then the Honorable Mayor Rosario C. Go declared the opening of the 2009 Dinaklisan Festival amidst the resounding applause of the audience.

The winning floats, best in costumes and the biggest delegation were selected and announced by the designated chairman of the Board of Judges during the program.

The Sangguniang Kabataan took the limelight in the evening at the Ernesto G. Go Mega Complex where it held the Search for 2009 Miss Sangguniang Kabataan of Currimao with the presence of Hon. Joseph E. de Lara, Mayor of Solsona, Ilocos Norte.

The mayor in his speech exalted the role of the youths of Currimao through their participation in the stewardships of an efficient governance of the local government unit towards the realization of the needed social, industrial and political development of Currimao.

"I ask you to stay on foot and use your energies and commitments in the best way you can contribute towards a brighter atmosphere of this town where young people like

you live decently and comfortably," he said.

The chosen 2009 Miss Sangguniang Kabataan of Currimao, Miss Rechille Villanueva I was crowned by the Honorable Joseph E. de Lara, Municipal Mayor of Solsona and currently President of League of Municipal Mayors (LMP), Ilocos Norte Chapter. Other SK Muses are Karen Mae Musni, 1st Runner-up, Julie Ann Butardo, 2nd Runner-up, Novel Joy Salaan, 3rd Runner-up and Maylene Grace Cadang, 4th Runner-up.

The second day of the festival was opened by a Mass Wedding at the Ernesto G. Go Mega Complex officiated by Rev. Fr. Joel C. Barut, Parish Priest of St. Michael Church. It was coordinated by Mrs. Myra S. Ragonjan.

At 3:00 PM, the Dance Parade was presented to the viewing public at the Currimao Seawall Boulevard. Thousands of spectators including visitors and tourists were all there and braved the heat of the afternoon sun to witness the show. The street dance was participated in by the different barangays and civic organizations of which the best street dancers were chosen by the Board of Judges.

The winning street group dancers are: 1st - District 8 (Pangil, Paguludan, Bimmanga); 2nd - District 4 (Gaang, Anggapang Sur and Anggapang Norte); 3rd - District 3 (Salugan and Victoria).

Major Awards: Best in Costume - District 6 (Pias Sur and Pias Norte); Most Creative - District 8 (Pangil, Paguludan, Bimmanga); and Most Festive - District 3 (Salugan and Victoria).

The street dance competition was witnessed by Honorable Robert P. Castro, Board Member of the Province of Ilocos Norte who served as guest of honor and speaker.

The multi-sectoral night was held where the Honorable Vice Governor of Ilocos Norte, Atty. Windell D. Chua was the guest of honor and speaker. It

was introduced by this writer.

In his speech, he lauded the local government unit of Currimao under the stewardship of an untiring and energetic Mayor, Honorable Rosario Chua-Go, for the splendid and cohesive efforts in holding the Dinaklisan Festival.

"This is now your trademark here in Currimao. I am confident that beginning today and goes on through the years, this unique festival of songs and dances shall remain its cultural substances attracting more tourists to witness it," the second highest official of the province told his audience.

The last day of festivities was highlighted with the "Panangiyawat iti Daklis" and the Tuno Fiesta 'diay Igid ti Baybay held at Barangay Gaang/Victoria Beach. The Daklis Fishing in action was performed by the expert dumadaklis of the town with the accompaniment of the Agdakkaklis singers.

The real scenario was more than a feast with the presence of Ms. Tingting Bersola-Babao of ABS/CBN who represented her husband as the guest of honor and speaker during the coronation night. Earlier, Mrs. Babao even joined Mayor Rosario C. Go of Currimao, Board Member Mariano Marcos II and visitors pull the rope of the fishing net to the shoreline.

The activities in the afternoon are the "Tuno Fiesta" Seafood Lunch, the Banca and Rakit Race and the Fluvial Parade held at the old Pantalan of Barangay Poblacion I. Before the sun set at the vast China Sea, the fishermen riding on a boat paraded the image of Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje, Patron Saint of Fishermen as a demonstration of their faith that the Icon will protect them while they are fishing at sea.

The night of the same day was the Community Night and Coronation of the 2009 Ms. Dinaklisan Festival, Her Majesty Queen Hazellyn I. The Ernesto G. Go Mega Complex that time



TUNO FIESTA 'diay Igid ti Baybay



Currimao Mayor Rosario Chua-Go with Ms. Tintin Babao of ABS-CBN are pulling the Daklis.

was jam-packed with people from all walks of life. The guest of honor and speaker, Mr. Julius Babao, popular news anchorman of ABS-CBN who did not make it, was represented by his wife, Ms. Tingting Babao who hails from Abra.

Recapping the last staging of Dinaklisan Festival has achieved a mile of resounding success that in the future shall be a must to see for relaxation and entertainment.

(Mrs. Raquel is the Public Schools District Supervisor of Currimao, Ilocos Norte)



THE Guest of Honor and Speaker, Hon. Windell D. Chua, Vice Governor of Ilocos Norte when he delivered his speech during the NGO Night of the 2009 Dinaklisan Festival of Currimao, Ilocos Norte.



Hon. Rosario Chua-Go, Municipal Mayor of Currimao, Ilocos Norte and the creator of the Dinaklisan Festival

CEBU

PACIFIC

**THE Ilocos times** is the longest running community newspaper in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte, founded in 1920. Its regular weekly publication started in October 1957.

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*Publisher / Editor-in-Chief* EFREN S. RAMOS, JR.  
*Managing Editor* MICHAEL T. ESMINO  
*Staff Reporters* DOMINIC B. DE LA CRUZ  
LEILANIE G. ADRIANO

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Telephone Nos. (077)772-0976 • (077)771-1378

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Website: [www.ilocostimes.com](http://www.ilocostimes.com)

PHILIPPINE  
PRESS  
INSTITUTE 

## Soul of the economy

ONE PRECIOUS lesson learned in the current global financial crisis is that business and the economy just cannot be handled as if they are soulless institutions and practices governed by purely economic laws without any regard to morality.

This anomaly was evident in the heady housing boom in the US generated by the notorious subprime housing loans which were and still are at the eye of the present economic typhoon.

They were a reckless way of doing business, driven by false socio-economic principles and greed. It was as if our Lord's words were completely forgotten: "It's not by bread alone that man lives, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

### Editorial

We have to understand that unless we recognize the soul of the economy, going beyond its purely technical aspects, and act accordingly, we would be not only going nowhere but also exposing ourselves to tremendous dangers.

Now, the US economy, and together with it, that of the whole world, notably Europe, are paying dearly for these mistakes. Top businessmen and investors, like Warren Buffet, are claiming that the American economy will be "in shambles" in 2009 and probably well beyond. Imagine ours!

This crisis should remind us of the need to imbue our economic activities with a keen sense of justice and solidarity, as well as temperance, prudence and an abiding concern for the common good.

It might be good to download the relevant social teachings of the Church and upload them in our society so as to be better known by everyone, especially those who are active participants in the business-and-economic arena.

In the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, we have the following points that can shed light on the nature and purpose of the economic activities. They can serve as guiding principles in doing business:

"Goods, even when legitimately owned, always have a universal destination; any type of improper accumulation is immoral, because it openly contradicts the universal destination assigned to all goods by the Creator." (328)

We have to know what improper accumulation of goods means. For this and other pertinent concerns, everyone, of course, should be involved. But the greater responsibility falls on our leaders, especially our spiritual leaders who have to give prompt and effective guidance to the faithful.

"Riches fulfill their function of service to man when they are destined to produce benefits for others and for society." (329)

We have to help everyone develop this mentality of continually attuning his pursuit of wealth with the needs of the others.

"The relation between morality and economics is necessary, indeed intrinsic: economic activity and moral behavior are intimately joined one to the other. The necessary distinction between morality and the economy does not entail the separation of these two spheres but, on the contrary, an important reciprocity." (331)

"The economy has as its object the development of wealth and its progressive increase, not only in quantity but also in quality; this is morally correct if it is directed to man's overall development in solidarity and to that of the society in which people live and work." (334)

Let's hope that these points at least get well known and assimilated by all, because even at these times of supposedly high level of development, there is still a lot of ignorance and confusion regarding these basic economy-and-morality principles.

An ongoing social and cultural formation driven by a genuine spiritual stimulus, of course, has to be undertaken to infuse these vital moral values into the mentality and practices of everyone.

Besides, we need to develop the proper mechanisms where these ethical and moral requirements get protected and upheld juridically as far as possible.

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## The Center at Hawaii and Maui's Barrio Fiesta

AT FIRST, I found it difficult on how to introduce my hometown Laoag City and Ilocos Norte over a batch of young and old folks in relation to retiring and investing in Ilocos. Apparently, peace and order situation has something to do with their reluctance though most killings in Ilocos Norte and Laoag are or were of the remote.

However, some close friends indeed have supported my embellishment that Ilocos Norte and Laoag are one of the most peaceful places in the Philippines. At exactly 3 pm Hawaiian time of May 15, with the go-signal of Ms. Evangeline Burcena, airtime manager/announcer of one of the most credible and popular radio station in the island of Oahu, requested this writer together with a long time friend David Cordero to talk briefly about the latest development of Laoag and Ilocos Norte. KPHI is a Fil-AM programming radio station in Oahu, Hawaii tuned at FM 101.5, at AM 1130 and at channel 882 Oceanic

### SERIOUS BUSINESS

JAY S. RAMOS



Burgos as an eco-tourism adventure. Being the principal broker in Hawaii of the VENVIDevelopment Corp., David on the other hand, was busy presenting soon-to-rise at the Center Balai Condo (residential condominium) blue print.

However, there was a catch when one of the callers mentioned about the lack of facilities, which I obviously did not refute as the caller, was stating a very important point such the lack of ATM machines outside of Laoag and tourist information kiosk when going farther north or sought of Laoag. Well, this is very quite interesting though I have already presumed that some of the queries would touch more of being a convivialist place and relaxation rather than squander the time finding common needs of a traveler. Other added info of concern that pretty needs attention is transport facilities, availability of a detailed brochure including maps and well-placed keepsake stores.

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## The fugitive?

### IN & OUT

STEVIE T. BARREIRO



IN THE JANUARY 29,1997 issue of the Los Angeles Times, Local section, it was reported under the news article headline, "Bogus Cash Found, Couple Arrested" by Scott Hadley, that "An Oxnard man and his wife were in Ventura County Jail on

Tuesday awaiting arraignment on charges that they possessed more than \$10,000 worth of counterfeit cash and traveler's checks. Edgar Gamboa, 36, and 33-year-old Marynette Gamboa, who is a citizen of the Philippines, were arrested Monday evening at the Macy's department store at 477 S. Mills Road in Ventura for allegedly passing counterfeit travelers checks to the sales staff there, a Ventura Police Department spokesman said. Police later found \$9000 worth of counterfeit travelers checks and \$1300 in counterfeit US currency on the couple, the spokesman said. The U.S. Secret Service was contacted and is participating in the investigation with police detectives."

Another article appeared a year

and a half later, in the August 03,1998 issue of the Los Angeles Times, Local section, pertaining to the same incident under the news article "Public Help Sought in Finding Fugitives" again by Scott Hadley "The Ventura County Sheriff's Department is asking the public's help in locating four fugitives wanted for alleged crimes ranging from rape to forgery... Deputies are also searching for Marynette R. Gamboa, a 34 year old Filipino who was arrested in January 1997 on suspicion of forgery. She was released and had been attending hearings until she failed to show up in April for a court date. Gamboa is 5 foot 3, 125 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes".

Is this reported fugitive, Marynette R. Gamboa; arrested for

passing counterfeit traveler's checks, found to be in possession of fake U.S. Dollars, and who was a fugitive from the U.S. Police, and the Marynette Romero Gamboa who is currently, the mayor of the municipality of Dingras, Ilocos Norte, one and the same person? Or is this an uncanny case of mistaken identity?

The outspoken *mayora*, had already been embroiled in other controversies prior to her assumption as mayor of Dingras, particularly the well-publicized D'Bodies or Baywalk Bodies issue.

As the current Dingras town mayor, she has again been involved in several more issues.

In particular, there are allegations that she was involved in a SARO scam in October 2007. Accordingly, the *mayora* set up a meeting at the Northview Hotel in Laoag City, in which she invited various municipal mayors and contractors. Allegedly, she along with two DBM employees presented a SARO docu

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## A republic of letters

THE PRESIDENT ain't deaf. Press Secretary Cerge Remonde gave that spin to Ms Arroyo's sensible order to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves: scrap taxes, clamped by Bureau of Customs, on imported books and reading material.

"Books give light to my eyes," the Ibanag proverb says. Thus, "President Arroyo wants books to be within reach of the common man," spinmeister Remonde explained. "She believes reading as an important value for intellectual formation, which is the foundation of a healthy public opinion necessary for a vibrant democracy."

Manuel Quezon III opened protest sluiceways by showing, in Inquirer columns, that Finance Department Order 17-09 fractured the Florence Agreement. The Philippines is party to this 1950 treaty. It would spur "free exchange of ideas and knowledge", Quezon wrote. Tax collectors instead clamped on a premium for ignorance.

Customs claimed that the word—only—in Republic Act 8047 authorized taxes by way of exception. Nonsense. "The word seems to be a Customs intercalation," constitutional scholar Joaquin Bernas, SJ noted.

"I don't believe Congress would attempt to repeal a treaty commitment by the mere insertion of one word," he added. "Neither may Customs attempt to insert for whatever purpose what Congress did not insert".

This book levy uproar re-

### IN-DEPTH

JUAN L. MERCADO



sembles the firestorm that earlier engulfed Cebu City officials. Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Councilor Joy August Young tried to padlock the 69-year old Rizal Memorial Library. Like our taxmen, they cited "reasons of economy"

But citizens, who built the library in 1939, beat them back. Today, the library is undergoing a million-peso renovation. That's a significant victory too. This is, after all, a country where half of those between 7 and 21 don't read anything—not even comics. And by grade four, many students still can't read.

Illegal book taxes interlock with flawed textbooks. Antonio Calipjo Go, for example, documented, for over a decade, errors that studded science and English textbooks. Some columnists pounced on Go. They didn't question his findings or concern over miseducating students. Rather, they fretted over publishing moguls' balance sheets. A Senate probe fizzled.

Twelve years after the Lower House documented textbook errors, German national Helmut Haas—who lodged the complaint—found flaws yet again. His Grade 5 son's copy of "The Wonderful World of Science" textbook claims "algae as

a fish," and "dust as a minute organism"

"The Department of Education's committee on instructional material has not done a single thing since the 1997 inquiry," Haas told Sun Star "How will the Philippines come out of this economic situation when they teach this in schools?"

Led by Rep. Raul del Mar, the inquiry found error-filled textbooks proliferate nationwide. The problem stems from negligence and apparent graft. Then Education secretary Ricardo Gloria promised reforms.

Nothing came of that too. So, is it any surprise why our kids landed in the cellar of the last three International Mathematics and Science tests?

"The best way of gauging enlightenment of a nation is to examine the attitude of its officials towards books," Manila Chronicle's I.P. Soliongo wrote in 1957. "If this test were applied to the Philippines, it would be found we're one of the most backwards in the world," the late "Yeyeng" wrote.

Quezon provided this overdue test. *Amor proprio*, however, prodded customs bureaucrats to stonewall, noted Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Jr. That underscored the bureaucratic mindset.

We have no monopoly on narrow-minds. The paranoid Burmese junta bans even travel books like "Lonely Planet". Malaysia's Internal Security Ministry uses the draconian Printing Presses and Publi

Turn to page 8

## Brillante Mendoza Cannes film unfair to RP, PNP and Pinoys

**JESUS CHRIST MUST HAVE CRIED A BUCKETFUL OF TEARS:** Our Lord Jesus Christ must have cried a bucketful of tears while the passengers of MB Commando 6 were drowning and dying off the coast of Verde Island in Batangas last Friday.

Why? Because, as survivors from the tragedy recounted later, while the passengers were fighting for their lives and trying to stay afloat after their boat started to sink, not one of the passengers of two boats which approached them did anything to help, and instead got busy with their cameras and their video cams taking snapshots of people helplessly sinking to their deaths.

I am sure Jesus must have been asking Himself, quite bewilderingly if that is at all possible with Him, why people whom He loved so much He willingly died on the cross to save them and whom He commanded to love others as they love themselves, could afford to simply sail away after taking pictures of the tragedy, presumably for souvenir, and then ignore frantic and desperate calls for help, leaving the hapless victims to drown and die.

What is happening to people who profess to be Christian believers, whether foreigners or native Filipinos, that they no longer care to help those in great distress? What if Jesus Himself did not care to sacrifice His life on the cross for us?

-o0o-

**CAN LAWYERS BE SAINTS?** Can lawyers be saints? Opinions will differ on this point, but Atty. Loreto Santiago, a fraternity brod of mine from the Sigma Rho Fraternity of the UP College of Law stumbled upon an article which says there are many saints who were lawyers before they became "holy".

Here is his piece, containing the article on lawyers, earlier posted at the egroup of the fraternity: "The Sigma Rho Fraternity is fortunate to be blessed with lawyers and brods who have taken it upon themselves to carry on Jesus Christ's mission to keep saving mankind by, for one, steadfastly shedding light for the sake of the brods on the truth of the Gospel.

"Let me share with you excerpts of an article that highlight the late but still new revelation - the phenomenon that lawyers not only can gain admission to Heaven but also become saints, and that on earth, there are holy lawyers alive and around. Quick to see reality, the optimist in me says that we do have holy brods with us in the fraternity.

"But can lawyers be saints? According to popular mythology, this is a contradiction. People love telling lawyer jokes and commonly place them in hell.

"Yet the early church, at least, knew many lawyer-saints. Cyprian, Ambrose, Jerome, Benedict, Thomas Becket and many others were all lawyers before they became clerics, monks, preachers and saints..." More of this next issue.

-o0o-

**BRILLANTE MENDOZA FILM UNFAIR TO RP, FILIPINOS AND TO PNP:** Brillante Mendoza, the Filipino director who won as "best director" in the Cannes Film Festival for 2009 for a film which depicts policemen abducting, raping, killing, and then chopping into pieces a prostitute who allegedly turned traitor against them, made a very serious charge against the Philippine National Police in the movie.

Reports coming from Cannes said that Mendoza, in an interview, confirmed that abduction, raping and killing by the police in the Philippines are not just mere stories but are real events.

Of course, I can understand the need to sensationalize the scenes in a movie which is submitted to a prestigious film competition such as the Cannes Film Festival, but then, can a movie director be permitted to claim that local policemen are in the habit of committing the most heinous of crimes in the country and yet go scot-free?

What does that make of the PNP leadership? What does that make of the entire government as well? And what does that make of the Filipino people who, if Mendoza is to be believed, have all turned cowards as they are not doing anything to fight criminals who wear the police uniform?

In our quest for recognition and glory abroad, can we be allowed to trash our country and our people?

-o0o-

**TEVES AND MORALES SHOULD NOW RESIGN:** President Arroyo's decision to scrap the controversial taxes imposed by the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs on imported books should cause the resignation of top finance and customs officials.

Whether these officials would care to admit it or not, the presidential rebuke was a resounding slap on their faces, and an indication of the displeasure that the President feels over the matter.

The fact is that the tax on imported books caused a dent not on the public images of the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs, but against President Arroyo, who was made to look like a villain who wanted to curtail intellectual development in the country.

Granted that the idea was to raise revenue for the government, but finance and customs officials should have had the common sense to know that books are an indispensable element of our country's educational advancement and, ultimately, of our people's economic progress.

Now that the President has disowned the idea, the better part of prudence for Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Customs Commissioner

Turn to page 8

## Thinking big and peripherally

I'M AFRAID this is something we have to learn to do, and learn it quick and fast. Before some burning issues, especially those asking for legalization, we just should not look at what is explicitly said. We have to be more wary of the implications and the consequences.

These controversial issues do have a moving spirit behind them, and we just have to discern what kind of spirit it is. They are no inert, abstract concepts that hardly have any impact on our lives as individuals and societies. They are alive and are meant to influence our thoughts and behavior.

In short, they have a prominently moral impact on us. They just cannot and should not be treated as mere technical items that should be judged only in terms of the convenience and practical advantages they give.

They touch the very core of our being, and our true relationship with God and among ourselves. They can question fundamental things like who and what we are, what our purpose is, etc.

They certainly have to be assessed slowly and thoroughly. We have to read between the lines, look into their inspiration and motives, know the ideologies behind those advocating them, etc. This is not paranoia. This is prudence, foresight and even common sense.

In short, we cannot be naïve and accept things at face value. Times are now so very complicated we have to be watchful and cautious in sorting and identifying things—factors, elements, circumstances, etc.—giving each its proper value.

Perhaps, the underlying crisis

### ANALYSIS

FR. ROY CIMAGALA



that gives rise to this complication is the crisis of values. There are signs many of us are confused about what values should truly govern us. Giving proper value judgment to things seems to be missing in action these days.

We have to be wary of how things are framed and presented, the beautiful language used that's cleverly attuned to what may be considered at the moment as being politically or socially correct. Intense and covert maneuverings are done, you can be sure of it.

Tricks are already done in this level, tricks that count on a massive support structure in terms of ideology, finances and linkage network. Besides, they can count on many prominent social and political leaders, and yes, some significant following.

There will be attempts to limit the discussion and debate within the field of economics, for example, or of social pragmatism, making any consideration of faith and morals, of religion, as taboo, or as uncalled for.

Polls and surveys are conducted to show how the people are supposed to favor certain positions. But we all know that there are things that cannot be determined by polls and popularity.

We have to be careful when these gimmicks are resorted to. They are clever ruses that take advantage of people's current prob-

lems and difficulties to make a general rule about how we ought to behave.

We have to go into the real essence of things, plunging deep into their nature, passing beyond the made-up or even made-over appearances and their cultural and social conditionings.

To do this, we have to realize that our ultimate source of knowledge and guidance cannot be just what we see and understand. We have to go into the sphere of faith and beliefs.

We have to go past the sciences, especially the so-called social sciences that often give fluid and inconclusive findings. We even have to go past ideologies which are man-made and often biased attempts to have a world-view of things. Many of them are downright questionable and rotten.

These can be materialism that denies the existence of the spirit, liberalism that corrupts freedom, Marxism and socialism that tramples on rights of persons, unrestrained capitalism that usually spawns greed and individualistic culture.

The gospel has warned us to be clever as serpents even as we ought to be simple as doves. We have to know the hidden agenda of many activists who tend to ram their positions on all of us.

As much as possible, we should nip in the bud any attempt of these ideologies to take a foothold in our legal system, our culture and our society. We need to think big and peripherally when we discuss issues like the Reproductive Health Bill and the Magna Carta of Women now pending in Congress.

Email: roycimagala@hotmail.com

## PRANGKAHAN

Ni CARLOS JUAN

## 'Behind the hidden cam'

May nabili daw na lote ang Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative diyan sa Barangay 1, Laoag City?!

Ok!

Pero, tatlong matataas na opisyal ng INEC, matataas din daw ang "share?"

Hindi Ok!

Ang kakapal naman ng tatlong ito mga walang hiya!

Ang kakapal ng bulsa!!!!

Ang isa daw sa nabigyan ng "share," nangibang-bansa pa raw?!

Hindi siya POOR!

Nagdidilim daw ngayon ang paningin ng mga tao sa tatlong ito dahil sa sila'y buwaya?

Nagbibigay nga ng ILAW pero KADILIMAN naman ang tanglaw!

Sino naman itong isang department head ng Laoag City Hall na puro failed umano ang kaniyang grado?

Mababa ang grado as in Ma-LOW???

Every staff meeting daw susmaryosep, lagi na lang ma-low este mali ang department head na ito?!

Hindi niya kaya PINAGAPLANUHAN ang kaniyang mga gawain???

Lagi daw niyang hindi nagagawa ang kaniyang mga assignment??!

Paano ka magkakaroon ng DEVELOPMENT kung ganyan???

Ano naman kaya ang masasabi ng Mayor Michael Fariñas sa department head na ito?!

Ano ang PLANNING este plano mo sa kaniya, Mayor?!

Sigurado magkaka-award ang department head na ito!

Hands down choice for the KALABASA AWARD!

Matapos magkasalo sa iisang lalaki sina Katrina Halili at Dr. Vicki Belo, paano na kaya ang kanilang friendship?!

MARERETOKE pa kaya ang kanilang pagkakaibigan???

Sa lahat ng problemang ito ni Dr. Kho, still Dra. Belo is behind him!

Behind the HIDDEN cam??

Sabi ni Dr. Vicki kay Dr. Hayden, "Hayden is the only one that makes me happy!"

Happy BELOW??

Pati perang ibinibigay ni Dra. Belo kay Dr. Hayden buwan-buwan, isiniwalat?! P300,000 per month daw!

Hindi daya BELOW the belt na ito?!

Panay ang suporta ni Sen. Bong Revilla kay Katrina Halili dahil sa istorya niya tungkol kay Dr. Hayden Kho!

Kap thinks it is an AMAZING STORY!

Paalala lamang po! Ang pikon ay hahayaan kong mapikon! Ang sa akin lamang po ay Prangkahan lang, walang personalan!

**INBOX :** Binabati ko si Mrs. Cynthia Gorospe at of course si Ate Mely Ortega diyan sa PTO lalo na sa kanilang "boss," si Treasurer Josephine P. Calajate! Happy reading din kay Engr. Ellis Corpuz ng CEO! At saka, oo nga pala..Kumusta ka na friendship Jovy? Ok na ba kayo ni Gov? Okey na ba kayo ni IO? Hehe!

## A republic of letters

From page 7

cations Act 1984 to ban over 45 books lest they "disrupt peace and harmony."

Expect Beijing to explicitly ban the Chinese version of the hottest item on the book circuit today: "Prisoner of State: The Secret Journal of Premier Zhao Ziyang."

The Politburo thrust their former secretary general into house arrest for protesting brutal suppression of Tiananmen Square protesters 20 years ago, come June 4. Jose Maria Sison and other Filipino communists cheered that massacre.

Zhao died in 2005. But he smuggled out 30 hours of secret tapes. Zhao's daughter, Wang Yannan, told BBC that she knew nothing of the book until the English version appeared this month. In it, Zhao denounced the killing of protesters on 3-4 June 1989 as a "tragedy."

"On the night of 3 June, while

sitting in the courtyard with my family, I heard intense gunfire," he writes. "A tragedy to shock the world had not been averted... "If we don't move toward this goal (of democracy), it will be impossible to resolve the abnormal conditions in China's market economy."

"One day, China will have to change its view of Tiananmen Square," says Bao Tong, Zhao's secretary. Jailed for seven years, he admits to smuggling the tapes. But he can no longer accept interviews "starting right now", he told a CBS team. Websites which carried Zhao's memoirs are now blocked.

Such developments impact the Philippines. If Customs had its way, we would know of them only if we paid taxes for books. Within a library, books form "a republic of letters," philanthropist Andrew Carnegie wrote." That's the real matatag na republika. Ask Cerge Remonde.

E-mail: [juanmercado@gmail.com](mailto:juanmercado@gmail.com)

BLISS WALLOWED in Mario's heart as he applied the finishing touch on his *obra maestra* – a painting of a man and a woman interwoven on a burning altar of skulls, naked and feeding on each other's sex organ.

"Salvation!" cried Mario. "This piece will bring salvation to my name in the world of art! Plus the cash, of course, bundles of cash!"

He sat viewing his work, giggling frantically as his tears comingled with the spots of paint on his cheeks, turning his face into a web of dark, liquid colors.

A week ago, Mario's application for membership in *Arte* was again denied.

*Arte* was the region's elite art group which held the primary market and promotion leverage for art works. In the last five years, Mario has been seriously trying to join the group, but his sample works consistently fell into *Arte*'s garbage bins.

The group's reason for junking his application was simple: his works lack imagination.

Mario spent more than a year for his most recent sample works for *Arte* – thus, the latest rejection hit him hard, very hard. It crushed his strongest spirits, his staunchest hopes, even the last morsel of his will to live.

Mario locked himself in his art room at the basement of their house. The room was filled with painting equipment, paint containers, crumpled magazines, soiled clothes and leftover food and drinks. It was a nook of scatterings, like uncertain colors splattered on a messed up canvass.

For hours, Mario remained recoiled at a corner of the room – crying, trembling and cursing *Arte*.

He was about to gush another soliloquy of curses when something on the floor tugged his interest.

The floor was a spread of large slabs of cut marble, refined and polished. Each slab held a series of waving and colliding lines in different length and thickness. There Mario saw the images.

The lines in each slab seemed to form appearances, scenes and events. It was like clouds outlining beings. But in the

## The thief

## THE BARD OF BLAISE

JOPO GUERRERO



case of the marble slabs, the forms were more vivid, dramatic, some were even highly radical – certainly worthy of serious works on canvass!

"Masterpieces," Mario mouthed. "Yes, these are materials for masterpieces! Much better than the best of the *Arte* snobs."

Hastily, Mario set his painting equipment and poised to render the images on his blank, seemingly hungry canvass.

"Which should I paint first?" he asked himself as he looked intently at the slabs.

"What's this?" he stared at the slab near his feet. "Naked couple? Burning altar of skulls? Man and woman nibbling each other's organs? Dark winds lapping the flames?"

"This is it! This will be my first *obra maestra*! Mario cried as he commenced on his initial strokes on the canvass.

All night Mario worked on the piece. It was near dawn when he finally applied the finishing touch.

"Salvation!" he cried. "This piece will bring salvation to my name in the world of art! Plus the cash, of course, bundles of cash!"

"And this is just the first! I will translate all the images in these slabs into my own masterpieces!"

Then he sat viewing his work, giggling frantically as his tears comingled with the spots of paint on his cheeks, turning his face into a web of dark, liquid colors.

Bliss was still inundating Mario's heart when he was startled by a faint, muffled sound from the floor – weak groans and mutterings.

Though fear started to seep into him, he trained an ear to the floor. The

mumblings persisted but still unintelligible. He fell to his knees to listen closer, and closer, and closer, and then the slab he was inspecting suddenly roared at his face.

"Thief!" the slab growled. "You are stealing our masterpieces! It took us thousands of years to form these images in our hearts, and we will not let you take

them away from us! We will destroy you! We will kill you! We will be your unrelenting gravestone, so that your poor soul won't be able to steal even just a drop of mercy! Death to you, thief!"

Mario frightfully cried for help as he retreated to a corner – his hands and face turned ashen.

The other slabs also started to yell at him. "Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief!"

Mario wanted to run to the door but it has been barricaded by angry marble slabs, while the angrier ones inched toward him.

Mario desperately cried and shouted for help. But his voice was drowned by the sliding and growling of the slabs.

"Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief! Death to the thief! Death to the thief! Death to the thief! Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief!"

After an hour of investigation, the authorities concluded that Mario died of heart attack. The maid found him dead in his art room – eyes wide open, clawing hands stiffened.

The investigators were about to leave the room when one of them saw a canvass behind the door.

"Is this one of his works?" the policeman asked his companion. "What kind of painting is this? He painted his own floor?"

"Whatever it is," answered the other officer. "It certainly lacks imagination."

-o0o-

**BARD NOTES:** A happy bard-reading to Mr. Ray Villanueva, INWD General Manager John Teodoro, INEC Director Virgilio Calajate and Provincial Treasurer Josephine Calajate.

Email – [jopo\\_guerrero@yahoo.com](mailto:jopo_guerrero@yahoo.com) / URL – [www.redroom.com/member/jopoguerrero](http://www.redroom.com/member/jopoguerrero).

## The Center at Hawaii and Maui's Barrio Fiesta

From page 6

At any rate, the combination of presenting our place as a slighter languish and the development of The CENTER as a supplemental curiosity has further revolutionize life in Ilocos Norte. To note a circumstance is from a provincial lifestyle into the stylish suburban way of life of the Metropolis. I find our place lucky enough where VENVI Corporation has applied what we commonly describe as novelty, which has somehow stirred up real progress in this province.

Thanks to Atty. Hilario "Larry" Valdez, VENVI's president, an Ilocano from San Nicolas. We expect the government to do their share into pushing for superior economies of scale without any political gimmickry. In one of its major launching here in Hawaii on May 24 at Max's Manila restaurant in Waipahu shopping plaza, the CENTER is a more than 20-hectare property strategically positioned, master planned development that will be home to the only upscale commercial area in the north. It will be home-based to the Robinsons mall of Ilocos Norte, which accordingly will open September 2009.

As of this date, The CENTER already has the 365 Plaza, which houses several well-known trademarks such as David's Tea House and Restaurant, Red Ribbon, David's Salon and among others. McDonalds, on the other hand has its own building within the Center. Aside from the first ever-residential condominium to rise, the Center will also house a Casino Hotel, several commercial and recreational strips, and business offices. At that time, I brought along some of my Filipino

friends now living in Hawaii who were peculiar about this latest development and were elatedly impressed by the portfolio.

As asked by David to be his temporary PR man for VENVI in Hawaii, subsequently we went on further to the island of Maui to discuss the same. Similarly, Filipino-owned radio station (tuned at WILD 105.5 FM) Manong Rey and Tita Cecille Piros took the opportune time to discuss with me live in the vernacular about our objective. Venvi group likewise will be presenting their group of investments on May 26 and 27 at the Maui Beach Hotel and Pacific Realty in Maui, respectively.

It was also timely that the Filipino community in Maui was celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Barrio Fiesta and we were fortunate enough to be part and to be one of their judges in one of their activities for the best Nipa booth. It was a very successful event wherein hundreds of Fil-AM attended the three-day Barrio Fiesta. One of its main event

was the coronation of 2009 Miss Barrio Fiesta.

With such a huge organization participated by about 20 various Fil-Am groups hosted by BINHI AT ANI, Maui Mayor Charmaine Tavares and some of Maui's representative and council members graced the yearly prestigious event. Perhaps, to a Filipino celebrating a fiesta is an occasion of thanksgiving and of furthering camaraderie and friendship with relatives, friends, and the greater community. To Filipino overseas, it is a centerpiece event where we display our unique customs and traditions. Thus, such an annual gatherings we honor and strengthen our sense of identity as Filipinos and proudly pass them on to the next generation.

Again, as we voluntarily geared towards bringing Ilocos Norte and Laoag City a no more snail paced but moving it up to the epoch, we persuade our fellow Ilocanos to do their part in boosting our native home town as a superb place to live.

## Brillante Mendoza Cannes...

From page 7

Napoleon Morales should be to let others lead the two agencies now.

-o0o-

**REMINDERS:** Please watch Atty. Batas Mauricio give free legal advice at the Internet, through "YouTube", "metacafe" and "iGoogle", and listen to his radio programs: **DZRB RADYO NG BAYAN 738 khz.** in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, at 5:30 in the morn-

ing (simulcast worldwide at [www.pbs.gov.ph](http://www.pbs.gov.ph)); **DZRM RADYO MAGASIN, 1278 Khz.** also in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, 6:45 in the morning (also simulcast worldwide at [www.pbs.gov.ph](http://www.pbs.gov.ph)); **DYKA 801 khz.** in San Jose, Antique (simulcast over [www.kinaray-a.com](http://www.kinaray-a.com)), Mondays to Fridays, at 10 in the morning; and **DYMS Aksiyon Radyo** in Catbagan City, Samar (simulcast at [www.samarnews.com](http://www.samarnews.com)), Mondays to Fridays, at 11 in the morning.

# Legal Notices

# Legal Notices

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
First Judicial Region  
BRANCH 13, LAOAG CITY

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE  
CORRECTION AND/OR  
CANCELLATION OF ENTRY IN  
THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE  
BIRTH AND THE BIRTH  
CERTIFICATE, BOTH IN THE  
GENDER COLUMN OF ROVIE  
GAEY SACLAYAN

ROVIE GAEY SACLAYAN,  
Represented by his father  
PEDRO SACLAYAN  
Petitioner,

-versus-  
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR  
OF BANNA, ILOCOS NORTE  
AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR  
GENERAL, NATIONAL  
STATISTICS OFFICE, MANILA,  
Respondents.

Sp. Proc. No. 14623  
x-----x

**ORDER**

Before the Court is a verified petition for the correction and/or cancellation of entry in the certificate of live birth and in the birth certificate, both in the gender column of Rovie Gaey Saclayan filed by petitioner thru counsel on May 13, 2009.

The petition being sufficient in form and substance, the hearing of the same is hereby set on June 26, 2009 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at the Marcos Hall of Justice, Laoag City, at which date, time and place, any person who is adversely affected by the said petition may file opposition or appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality of Banna, Ilocos Norte and in the Province of Ilocos Norte at the expense of the petitioner.

Likewise, let copies of the Order and the petition be furnished the Office of the Civil Registrar General, NSO Manila, Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City, the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, Laoag City and the Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar of Banna, Ilocos Norte, which latter office is hereby ordered to file and submit its comment or opposition to the petition, if any, at least five (5) days before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009 at Laoag City.

**(SGD) PHILIP G. SALVADOR**  
Presiding Judge

Cc:  
Pros. V. Pacua  
PAO  
Civil Registrar General  
Municipal Civil Registrar, Banna,  
IN.  
May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH  
ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late PEDRO ANDRES and NICOMEDES ANDRES consisting of two (2) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 23410 and 11389-B, Psd-1-007392, being a portion of Lot 11389 covered by TCT Nos. T-18409 and T-18624 containing an area of 788 sq. m. and 165 sq. m., respectively, situated in the Barrio of Nuestra Señora de Visitacion, Laoag City has been adjudicated by their heir and simultaneously sold to DIVINE WORD COLLEGE OF LAOAG, represented by its President, REYNALDO JIMENEZ, SVD ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Sandro Marie N. Obra as per Doc. No. 210; Page No. 27; Bk. No. I; S. of 2009.

May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Ilocos Norte  
Municipality of Pinili

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ELSA G. OASAY has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from CRESENCIA to MARILYN in the Certificate of Live Birth of CRESENCIA BIGSOT who was born on July 28, 1960 at Pinili, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Jose Bigsot and Clarina Baitiong.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than June 8, 2009.

(SGD) ELVIE M, AYUNGAC  
Municipal Civil Registrar

May 25-31, June 1-7, 2009\*IT

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Ilocos Norte  
Municipality of Currimao

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that BENITO A. CACAS has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from DIONISIO to BENITO in the birth certificate of BENITO A. CACAS who was born on June 28, 1962 at Currimao, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Angel Cascas and Juanita Alega.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than June 8, 2009.

(SGD) MYRA S. RAGONJAN  
Municipal Civil Registrar

May 25-31, June 1-7, 2009\*IT

RA Form 9048 No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Ilocos Norte  
Municipality of Currimao

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that BENITO A. CASCAS has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from DIONISIO to BENITO in the birth certificate of BENITO A. CASCAS who was born on June 28, 1962 at Currimao, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Angel Cascas and Juanita Alega.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than June 8, 2009.

(SGD) MYRA S. RAGONJAN  
Municipal Civil Registrar

May 25-31, June 1-7, 2009\*IT

RA Form 9048 No. 10.1 (LCRO)

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that BENITO A. CASCAS has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from DIONISIO to BENITO in the birth certificate of BENITO A. CASCAS who was born on June 28, 1962 at Currimao, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Angel Cascas and Juanita Alega.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than June 8, 2009.

(SGD) MYRA S. RAGONJAN  
Municipal Civil Registrar

May 25-31, June 1-7, 2009\*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH  
ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late LICERIA D. DATON has been adjudicated by her heir and simultaneously sold to MARLENE S. RAGONJAN, SVD ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Melvyn T. Obra as per Doc. No. 502; Page No. 27; Bk. No. XVII; S. of 2009.

May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

Legal  
No-  
tices



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE**  
 Laoag City 2900

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG  
 PANLALAWIGAN  
 SEVENTH SANGGUNIANG  
 PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES  
 OF THE 25TH REGULAR SESSION  
 OF  
 THE SANGGUNIANG  
 PANLALAWIGAN, HELD AT THE  
 SANGGUNIANG  
 SESSION HALL, PROVINCIAL  
 CAPITOL, LAOAG CITY,  
 AT 3:00 O'CLOCK P.M., MONDAY,  
 21 JAN. 2008.

Present:

Hon. Windell D. Chua, Vice-Governor and  
 Presiding Officer,  
 Hon. Angelo M. Barba, Member,  
 Hon. Albert D. Chua, Member,  
 Hon. Ma. Elena M. Nalupta, Member,  
 Hon. Portia Pamela R. Salenda, Member,  
 Hon. Renato Ma. R. Peralta, Member,  
 Hon. Shirley Ong Sin, Member,  
 Hon. Yvonne B. Ranada, Member,  
 Hon. Kristian R. Ablan, Member,  
 Hon. Robert P. Castro, Member,  
 Hon. Vicentito M. Lazo, PCL-IN, Member,  
 Hon. Jessie E. Galano, ABC-IN, Member, and  
 Hon. Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas, PPSK-IN, Member.

Absent:

Hon. Mariano V. Marcos II, Member.

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 015-2008**

**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS TO GIVE**

**EXACT CHANGE TO CONSUMERS.**

WHEREAS, the practice of giving insufficient change or giving no change at all to consumers by product sellers or service providers is something that is often taken for granted;

WHEREAS, this is usually because the change involves only a matter of five, ten, fifteen, or twenty-five centavos, or small bills, which when added up at the end of the day, by reason of the power of geometrical progression, amount to thousands of pesos;

WHEREAS, the failure to give the change or the exact change constitutes a trade malpractice that must be stopped;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained that:

Section 1. Short Title This Ordinance shall be known as the "Exact Change Ordinance of 2008"

Section 2. Scope and Coverage. This Ordinance shall apply to all establishments doing business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Section 3. Objectives. This Ordinance has the following objectives:

- (a) To protect the interests of the consumer against deceptive, unfair and unconscionable sales acts and practices;
- (b) To provide for adequate rights and means of redress; and
- (c) To provide penalties for offenders.

Section 4. Definition of Terms.

- (a) "Department" means the Provincial Office of the Department of Trade and Industry;

- (b) "Consumer" means a natural person who is a purchaser or recipient of consumer products, services, or credit;
- (c) "Business Establishment" means any person or entity, whether single proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, including government-owned and controlled corporations or a government entity exercising its proprietary functions, engaged in, or doing business in the Philippines;
- (d) "Common Carrier" means any person or entity, whether single proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, engaged in the business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods or both, by land, water, or air, for compensation, offering their services to the public;
- (e) "Consumers Products and Services" means goods, services and credits, debts or obligations which are primarily for personal, family, household or agricultural purposes, which shall include but is not limited to food, drugs, cosmetics, and devices;
- (f) "Services" means services that are subject of a consumer transaction, either together with, or separate from, any kind of personal property, whether tangible or intangible;
- (g) "Price Tag" means any device, written, printed, affixed or attached to a consumer product or displayed in a consumer retail or service establishment for the purpose of indicating the retail price per unit or service;
- (h) "Change" means the excess in the payment given by a consumer for products or services purchased or received; and
- (i) "Insufficient Change" means a change that is less than what is due the consumer.

Section 5. Regulated Acts.

(a) In General — It shall be unlawful for any business establishment or common carrier, to give insufficient change or no change at all to consumers who purchased or received products or services, even if such change is only of a small amount. It shall be the duty of the business establishment or common carrier to give the exact change to the consumer without waiting for the consumer to ask for the same.

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan hereby exercises its prerogative under Sections 16 and 468(a)(1)[iii] of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, in enacting ordinances for the general welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the province.

(b) Other Prohibitions — It shall also be unlawful for any business establishment or common carrier, which sells products or provides services to give the change in any other form other than the present currency or to ask the consumer for permission to be exempted from the provisions of this Ordinance for any reason including the non-availability of small bills or coins.

(c) Posting of Signs — It shall be the duty of business establishments and common carriers to put signs in every counter which states: "Demand Your Exact Change".

(d) Price Tags — It shall likewise be the duty of business establishments to put price tags, appropriate,

indicating the exact retail price per unit or service which already includes the taxes applicable to the goods or services being offered. These establishments shall also put signs in conspicuous places within the establishment or reflect in the official receipts issued, the taxes incorporated in the retail price per unit or services. This is to avoid misleading the consumer as to the exact price they have to pay for the goods or services and consequently, the exact change due to them.

Section 6. Information Campaign.

All Cities and Municipalities, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and the Department, shall undertake to implement an education campaign to inform consumers of this Ordinance

Section 7. Rules and Regulations. It shall be the duty of the Department, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, and other government agencies which may be involved, to formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Penalties. Any violation of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction by a Court of proper jurisdiction, be liable of the following penalties:

For the first offense, a violator shall be fined Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P250.00); for the second offense, a violator shall be fined Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00); for the third offense, a violator shall be fined not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00), but not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00), upon the discretion of the Court; and for the fourth offense, a violator shall be fined not less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) but not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) upon the discretion of the Court, with cancellation of the business

permit in the case of business establishment and a strong recommendation for the revocation of the franchise in case of common carriers.

Section 9. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Ordinance or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. All Ordinances, executive Orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect on the day following its posting or publication, whichever occurs first

*(Voting in Favor: Members Barba, Chua, Nalupta, Salenda, Ong Sin,*

*Ranada, Ablan, Castro, Lazo, Galano and Fariñas;*

*Voting Against: None;*

*Abstention: None;*

*Hon. Chua and Hon. Peralta were out of the session hall during the voting on the Ordinance)*

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Provincial Ordinance No. 015-2008.

**MILDRED NIRMLA R. LAMOSTE**  
Provincial Board Secretary

ATTESTED:

**WINDELL D. CHUA**  
Vice-Governor and  
Presiding Officer

May 24, 31, 2009\*IT

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE  
NO. 034-2008**

Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE**  
Laoag City 2900

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG  
PANLALAWIGAN  
SEVENTH SANGGUNIANG  
PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE  
MINUTES OF THE 61<sup>st</sup>  
REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
SANGGUNIANG  
PANLALAWIGAN, HELD AT  
THE SANGGUNIAN SESSION  
HALL, PROVINCIAL CAPITOL,  
LAOAG CITY, AT  
3:15 P.M.,  
MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER  
2008.

Present:

Hon. Windell D. Chua,  
Vice-Governor  
and Presiding Officer,  
Hon. Angelo M. Barba,  
Member,  
Hon. Albert D. Chua,  
Member,  
Hon. Ma. Elena M.  
Nalupta, Member,  
Hon. Mariano V. Marcos  
II, Member,  
Hon. Portia Pamela R.  
Salenda, Member,  
Hon. Renato Ma. R.  
Peralta, Member,  
Hon. Shirley Ong Sin,  
Member,  
Hon. Yvonne B.  
Ranada, Member.  
Hon. Kristian R. Ablan,  
Member,  
Hon. Vicentito M.  
Lazo, PCL-IN, Member,  
Hon. Jessie E. Galano,  
ABC-IN, Member,  
Absent:  
Hon. Robert P. Castro,  
Member,  
Hon. Rudys Caesar G.  
Fariñas, PPSK-IN, Member.

AN ORDINANCE  
BANNING THE USE OF  
TRAWL LOCALLY  
KNOWN AS "KARKAR"  
FOR FISHING IN THE  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS  
NORTE.

WHEREAS, Trawl, locally known as "Karkar" made of net attached to a rectangular steel frame, is a fishing gear operated by towing by a motorized fishing boat/banca or raft to haul or gather fish;

WHEREAS, indiscriminate use of illegal fishing method, such as blast fishing, cyanide fishing, electro-fishing and use of compressor, has been intensified with the continuous use of trawls causing great damage to the fisheries and coastal resources;

WHEREAS, the government is mandated to protect and conserve the fishery and environmental resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained that:

SECTION 1. Trawl. A fish net made of fine mesh measuring less than three (3) centimeters between opposite knots, attached to a rectangular steel frame.

SECTION 2. The use of trawl, locally known as "karkar" or any of its variants in hauling, gathering, or, in any manner, catching fish within the municipal waters in the Province of Ilocos Norte is prohibited;

SECTION 3. No person, group of persons, association or organization or corporation is allowed to use, cause to use, have in possession of, or attach trawl or any of its variants and its accessories to any fishing boat/banca or raft;

SECTION 4. The discovery of trawl and/or any of its variants attached to, mounted, placed or stacked in any fishing boat/banca or raft, or placed, piled or stacked within the immediate vicinity of the house, hut or storehouse of the owner, possessor, or person in-charge/

keeper of the house, hut, storehouse or warehouse is using such fishing gear in fishing;

SECTION 5. Violators of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction by the appropriate court, suffer the following penalties:

First offense – a fine of P3,000.00 and confiscation of catch and fishing gear;

Second offense – a fine of P3,000.00 and confiscation of catch, fishing gear and boat;

Third offense – a fine of P5,000.00 and confiscation of catch, fishing gear and boat/banca or raft and cancellation of fishing permit if applicable.

SECTION 6. All confiscated items shall be impounded in the Philippine National Police (PNP) station, or in the PNP Maritime Police Station (MARPSTA) compound or in any office authorized by law for custody of such confiscated items, for proper disposition of the same. Confiscated fishing gears and paraphernalia shall be burned in the presence of the Chief of Police of the Municipality/City where the confiscation was made or the Chief of the MARPSTA whichever is applicable, the Local Chief Executive (LCE), representative/s from the Television, Broadcast and Print Media and a Fishery Technologist or Fishery Officer;

SECTION 7. The confiscated fish which shall be fit for human consumption shall be donated to the Provincial Jail through the Provincial Warden; Provided, that in cases of big volume of confiscated fish, the same shall be distributed to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the different municipalities and cities in the Province; Provided further, that confiscated fish no longer fit for human consumption shall be buried or properly

disposed of under applicable environmental laws or ordinances;

**SECTION 8.** The Philippine National Police, PNP-Maritime Command, Deputy Fish Warden and other Law Enforcement Officers, Barangay, Municipal/City and Provincial Officials and employees authorized to implement and enforce fishery laws are tasked to implement and enforce this Ordinance.

**SECTION 9.** Fines which shall be paid to the Provincial Treasury shall be distributed as follows:

Province – 30%

LGU where the apprehension was made – 30%

Apprehending Officer/s, team – 40%

**SECTION 10.** This Ordinance shall take effect 15 days after its publication in a newspaper with general circulation in the province.

*(Voting in Favor: Members Barba, Chua, Nalupta, Marcos, Salenda, Peralta, Ong Sin, Ranada, Ablan, Lazo & Galano;*

*Voting Against: None; Abstention: None.)*

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Provincial Ordinance No. 034-2008.

**MILDRED NIRMLA R. LAMOSTE**  
Provincial Board Secretary

ATTESTED:

**ATTY. WINDELL D. CHUA**  
Vice-Governor and Presiding Officer  
May 24, 31, 2009\*IT

**NOTICES**

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH QUITCLAIM**

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late SPS. ROMAN VENTURA and BRIGIDA DURAN consisting of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 10648 of the Laoag Cad. covered by OCT No. 0-23446 containing an area of 701 sq. m. situated in the Poblacion (Barrio San Pedro), City of Laoag has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously quitclaimed the ½ or 350.5 sq. m. ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Francisco A. Musni as per Doc. No. 257; Page No. 52; Bk. No. XXXII; S. of 2009. May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

**EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late SATURNINO M. GARCIA consisting of a parcels of land covered by OCT No. P-6964 under TD No. 05-004-00692 equivalent to Lot 25733, Cad-737-D containing an area of 1,496 sq.m. and TD No. 05-014-00261 together with the building and improvements thereon situated in Banna, Ilocos Norte has been the subject of Extra-judicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights executed by his heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Jerry D. Alejandro as per Doc. No. 293; Page No. 59; Bk. No. XLVIII; S. of 2009. May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH QUITCLAIM**

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late SPS. PIO CUDAL and LEONCIA ANTONIO CUDAL consisting of one-third (1/3) western portion of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 4056 of the Laoag Cad., Cad. Case No. 19, L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 1151 containing an area of 8,512 sq.m. situated at Brgy. Araniw (formerly Brgy. Gabu), Laoag City has been the subject of Deed of Adjudication with Quitclaim executed by their heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Ferdinand M. Agustin as per Doc. No. 09; Page No. 02; Bk. No. XII; S. of 2009. May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF ILOCOS NORTE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 12 – LAOAG CITY**

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION/CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE BIRTH RECORD OF CLARISSA RAMOS IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LAOAG CITY AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, MANILA

CLARISSA RAMOS CADAY A.K.A. CLARISSA RAMOS, Petitioner, -versus- THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LAOAG CITY AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, MANILA AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE OR CLAIM TO HAVE ANY INTEREST THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED THEREBY, Respondents.

SPEC. PROC. NO. 14619-12 FOR CANCELLATION/CORRECTION CIVIL OF ENTRIES x-----x

**ORDER**  
Filed with this Court is a verified petition for the cancellation/correction of entries in the birth

record of Clarissa Ramos in the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Laoag City filed by herein petitioner through counsel.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, notice is hereby given that this petition is set for hearing on June 6, 2009 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 12, Laoag City at which time, date and place, any interested person who is adversely affected may appear and show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at the expense of the petitioner, the last date of publication being at least one (1) week prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Let copies of this Order and the petition be furnished the Local Civil Registrar of Laoag City and the Office of the City Prosecutor, the Civil Registrar General, Manila and the Office of the Solicitor General, Manila.

SO ORDERED.  
Done in the City of Laoag, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**(SGD) CHARLES A. AGUILAR**  
Judge  
May 31, June 7, 14, 2009\*IT

**Soul of the economy**

*From page 6*

Insofar as the clergy is concerned, it's truly a big challenge for the bishops and priests to be updated with the developments so we can put our preaching and guidance in proper context.

Lastly, my favorite point of social doctrine is the following, which I think explains much of our problems these days:

"A financial economy that is an end unto itself is destined to contradict its goals, since it is no longer in touch with its roots and has lost sight of its constitutive purpose." (369)

We have to be most wary when we make our business and economic activities to serve only our own self-interests. That's the sure way to perdition.

Email: roycimagala@hotmail.com

**The fugitive?**

*From page 6*

ment (Special Allotment Release Order) purportedly from the DBM (Department of Budget and Management) allocating P20,000,000 as ARF (Agrarian Reform Fund) to the municipality of Dingras for the implementation of alleged infrastructure projects (rehabilitation of Farm-to-market roads in ARC) for the fiscal year 2008. Further the *mayora* reportedly namedropped that she was close to DAR ASEC Andres and to Malacanang. Salestalk? Reportedly, a group of contractors were sufficiently "convinced" and shelled out a reported P1.6 Million as an "advance". Charmed? Convinced? Conned?

Upon verification however, it was found out that the SARO being brandished by the two DBM employees and Mayor Gamboa, was a spurious, FAKE, document. Reportedly, the two DBM employees, a certain Sagun and a Jane Doe, were subsequently arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation after attempting a similar scam in Rizal province.

Was Mayor Marynette Gamboa involved in the alleged "Northview scam"? Rumours about a shadowy past abound; detention in Hong Kong, allegations of estafa, reported involvement in the peddling of spurious Gold Bullion Certificates of Deposit and fake U.S. Treasury Bonds. Coupled with the Baywalk controversy. And involvement in counterfeit money and traveler's checks if the LA Times report is true.

Now, rumours of a shadowy present.

Was the *mayora* acting in connivance with these unscrupulous DBM employees? Was the *mayora* a perpetrator of the scam? Or was the *mayora*, like those contractors who allegedly paid up, herself, the victim of a

con?

Has history repeated itself? Is the *mayora* rumoured to be involved in the alleged passing on of fake SARO documents at the Northview hotel in October 2007, the same Marynette R. Gamboa arrested in Ventura for passing fake traveler's checks and possessing fake US Dollars, on January 1997? Why is the *mayora* being consistently rumoured to be involved in scams? Is the *mayora* the same Marynette R. Gamboa branded by the LA Times in August 1998 as a "fugitive" wanted by the Ventura Police Department?

-o0o-  
IN response to such issues as the "Northview Scam", DAR Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Office (FMAO) Narciso Nieto issued a memorandum, dated March 2008, alerting all DAR Regional Directors to such scams.

The memorandum states that there is "rampant proliferation of FAKE Special Allotment Release Orders, Notices of Cash Allocation, and

different lists of projects being claimed/ presented as annexes of said SAROs/ NCAs..." Further, "Some of these documents even contained DBM 'bar codes' to exhibit a semblance of authenticity to further bolster the claim that such documents came from said agency. Most often the targets of this misrepresentation are those in the Local Government Units which are induced to give favors just to facilitate the implementation of much needed infrastructure projects in their areas." The memo concludes by advising "to exercise caution in dealing with individuals claiming that a particular project is funded and ready for implementation." and to verify such claims with the FMAO first.

Individuals like Mayor Marynette R. Gamboa?

-o0o-  
*As of press time, the Ilocos Times is seeking verification from the Ventura Police Department, as to the identity and status of the case. Stay tuned.*

MAKE IT A HABIT TO READ

THE ILOCOS TIMES

"The longest running newspaper in the north"



# LC traffic division prepares for opening of classes

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**LAOAG CITY'S** deputy traffic division chief SPO4 Romelito Piedad announced that they are now preparing for the heavy influx of vehicles into the city on the opening of classes next month.

According to Piedad, he has instructed all traffic enforcers and traffic aides to be more vigilant in implementing traffic rules and regulations of the city.

All the said personnel, Piedad added, have been distributed to the different schools around the city to help the city's Philippine National Police.

Relative to this, Piedad also instructed traffic personnel to monitor tricycles-for-hire from outside the city.

Piedad also disclosed that he has been advised by Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas with regards to this matter as he was told that the "Not For Hire" signs should be prominently displayed in tricycles-for-hire from outside the city for them to ascertain that they are not in the city to ply their trade.

Piedad further stated that he has also asked the assistance of the City Engineering Office for traffic signs as these serve as additional guide to motorists.

The deputy traffic chief also appealed to the motoring public for Castro Ave. to be used as a one-way street with the ongoing construction there.

He also asked motorists to cooperate by observing the city's traffic rules for them not be fined or penalized for violating them.

Meanwhile, Laoag City police chief P/Supt. Sterling Blanco also asked the public to be more vigilant in coming to the city especially when they go to places where huge number of people gathers.

Blanco said this would be the time when petty theft happens as pickpockets are scattered on business establishments with the coming opening of classes.

Recently, a group of women was apprehended in one department store in the city after they attempted to steal assorted goods.

These women were allegedly from Ilocos Sur and have been questioned by the city police.



PAGUDPUD Mayor Marlon Sales shows their innovative trash bins

# Green thumbs-up for Pagudpud's innovative trash bins

By VERONICA TINA TAN  
CONTRIBUTOR

ADDRESSING proper waste segregation, one of the environmental issues of the times, the municipal government of Pagudpud—headed by Mayor Marlon Sales, one of the young mayors in Ilocos Norte and a trail-blazer in ecotourism and environment protection—is creating awareness among its citizens about their rights and responsibilities towards solid waste and cleanliness of their town. We are hoping other places will follow this admirable initiative for a greener

environment.

Among the numerous benefits of waste segregation is that the segregated waste like plastics and paper has been a valuable commodity sellable to local and foreign markets. It encourages communities to adopt waste segregation practices for income generating activities.

### Segregation of Waste

WASTE can be segregated as biodegradable and non-biodegradable.

Biodegradable waste include organic waste, e.g. kitchen waste, vegetables, fruits,

flowers, leaves from the garden, and paper. Non-biodegradable waste can be further segregated into:

a) Recyclable waste – plastics, paper, glass, metal, etc.

b) Toxic waste – old medicines, paints, chemicals, bulbs, spray cans, fertilizer and pesticide containers, batteries, shoe polish.

c) Soiled – hospital waste such as cloth soiled with blood and other body fluids.

Toxic and soiled waste must be disposed of with utmost care.

(Article arranged by Primo Jay S. Ramos)

# INEC to construct own 69 KV line for Burgos substation

From page 16

finance the project and offer lower interests compared to the bank but he stressed that it would be the INEC board that would decide on this.

With the construction of its own 69 KV line, Balintec is hopeful that other renewable power producers that would operate in the province would also connect their lines to this.

Balintec further disclosed that he has also asked the INEC board for the formation of a committee that would further study the proposed project.

Reacting to this, INEC board President Lorenzo Rey G. Ruiz referred the proposal to the committee of the whole to be presided over by chairman of special projects Benigno Aquino.

Ruiz said this matter needs a careful study because this project is for the benefit of the member-consumers.

A meeting should then be con-

ducted as soon as possible to come up with a solution regarding the problems that arose from the tapping of Northwind's line.

With this development, Balintec said about P100 million is needed for the project which would cover 35 kilometers.

# Calcium-Cee<sup>®</sup>

The non-sodium, non-acidic Vitamin C

FINALLY, a Vitamin C that is non-acidic and non-sodium – Calcium Cee. Taking mega doses of Vitamin C is one of the keys to having a good health. It plays a crucial role in the proper functioning of different parts of our bodies. It even prevents us from getting deadly diseases like diabetes and cancer.

But drinking pure ascorbic acid could cause gastric irritations. Likewise, taking Vitamin C that contains sodium could lead to hypertension and kidney problems.

Good thing there's Calcium Cee.

It is ascorbic acid in Calcium Ascorbate form.

Calcium Ascorbate is the most popular form of Vitamin C in the United States and Europe today because of its non-sodium and non-acidic properties.

It incorporates Calcium, the mineral essential for bone health and the perfect complement to the collagen-building properties of Vitamin C.

Calcium Cee has a pH level between 7 and 8 (alkaline) so it is easily absorbed and retained in the body without upsetting the stomach and digestive system.

Why take Mega doses of Calcium Cee?

Megascorbic therapy is a new branch of orthomolecular medicine. It prescribes the daily intake of mega doses of vitamin C to prevent deadly diseases like cancer, heart disease, stroke, mental illness, diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease, and hepatitis.

Experts of the new therapy agree that at least 3000mgs of Vitamin C should be taken daily to maximize its therapeutic effects.

According to Dr. Ron Hunningdale, Chief Medical Officer of Olive W. Garvey Healing Arts, USA: "Cancer cells depend upon glucose as their primary source of metabolic fuel. Vitamin C is synthesized or made from glucose; hence the molecular shape of Vitamin C is similar to glucose. Cancer cells actively transport Vitamin C into themselves, possibly because they mistake it for glucose. If large amounts of Vitamin C are presented to cancer cells, large amounts are absorbed. Vitamin C destroys the cancer cell from the inside out."

Taking large doses of Calcium Cee also creates and strengthens collagen in our tissues thus preventing cancer cells from forming or spreading.

For a disease-free and healthier body, take Calcium Cee – the non-acidic, non-sodium Vitamin C.

Calcium Cee is available in all leading drugstores nationwide.



# Laoag student-workers collect 20-day pay checks

By CRISTINA ARZADON  
CONTRIBUTOR

SOME 200 high school students received their salaries from the city government following the completion of their 20-day summer employment on May 25.

Laoag City Mayor Michael Fariñas formally lauded the students' participation in the city government's annual summer job program during a brief ceremony on Monday.

The students said their office exposure was a worthy experience while the money they earned during their employment would go a long way in supporting their family's needs.

The students were carefully selected from the applicants who came from different public secondary schools and those who qualified were deployed to various city offices for assorted assignments.

The student-workers were given workloads that dealt primarily with clerical jobs and other minor office administration needs.

City Community Affairs Officer Mylene Pascual said each student-worker was given a daily compensation of P265.54 and a corresponding insurance for 20 days.

The city government and the Department of Labor and Employment jointly shouldered the students' salaries on a 60-40 sharing agreement. (PIA-Laoag)

# Prov'l dads back passage of Anti Cyber...

From page 1

such act is considered a "psychological violence" against women.

Ablan stressed that Ilocanos should also "condemn" the proliferation of sex video scandal tapes and help in stopping it.

Reacting to Ablan's speech, SP member Ma. Elena M. Nalupta, chair of the board's committee on women, said she felt "humiliated" by media reports that the sex videos spread over the internet, mobile phones and black market, prompting Halili to file a complaint at the National Bureau of Investigation on May 20 as she considered filing criminal charges against Kho.

In a television interview, Halili claimed that she did not consent to the videotaping of their sexual act. Her lawyers have also denied claims

later made by Kho's lawyer that the doctor had acted under the influence of drugs allegedly given to him by Halili.

As a mother and a woman, Nalupta said she backs the immediate passage of the anti-voyeurism measure currently pending at the House of Representatives.

The said bill proposes that making a video recording of private or sexual acts becomes a criminal offense if it violates an individual's privacy. Circulating this sort of video through cell phones, internet, video discs and other media, would also become an offense.

The said law would also make it a crime to possess such video or photograph.

For her part, SP member Yvonne B. Ranada advised fellow women to be extra careful when "dat-

ing" with men so they would end up as victims.

A 2004 Philippine law that defines violence against women and their children, otherwise known as Republic Act 9262, includes as criminal acts punishable by law those that cause mental or emotional anguish, public ridicule or humiliation to a woman or her child.

This law should be strengthened, said Ilocos Norte Vice Gov. Windell D. Chua, a lawyer, who added that any "private affair" when being "scattered" in the internet or by any other means should not be tolerated but punished.

"It's not only the adults but also children have access to the internet," Chua said adding, "We support the passage of a new bill and we hope that it will give more teeth [to] existing laws to protect women and children."

# INEC to construct own 69 KV line for Burgos substation

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**FOR BETTER** services to its member-consumers, the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (INEC) is set to construct its own 69 KV line for its Burgos substation.

INEC general manager Renato Balintec made this announcement during the coop's regular board meeting held at the Laoag City substation on May 15.

Presently, the Burgos substation is using Northwind's 69 KV line and the 7% discount from their contract for power bought from Northwind has been reduced to 5% for the use of the latter's line.

Another problem with this, Balintec said, was the transmission charge Northwind is paying to the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), which the wind farm operator is now saying that it should be INEC that should pay this, resulting in the negation of all benefits.

Another reason for the construction of INEC's own line, according to Balintec, is the deteriorating voltage and voltage fluctuation and to arrest this they need to tap the line.

Construction of the said line would take a year and another three months for the approval of Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Balintec said.

Relative to this, INEC's technical personnel had started a survey on the line and that they have asked for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for the project.

Balintec however said the National Electrification Administration had later expressed willingness to

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**GRABSMH FIRE.** Fire broke out at about 2 pm at the doctor's quarters of the provincial hospital. The said quarters is adjacent to the hospital's emergency room as at least two patients that were being treated at the time were immediately moved to safety. Elements of the Bureau of Fire Protection responded to the scene quickly and the fire was extinguished later. Initial reports point to an overheated airconditioning unit as the source of the fire.

LANIE ADRIANO

## LC Rang-ay introduces new services

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY community affairs officer Mylene Pascual announced that the city government's Rang-ay ti Barangay (RTB) program is set to introduce additional services to the city's residents.

Pascual said that aside from the basic service given by the city government during RTB sessions, the Mariano Marcos State University-Institute of Technology has also expressed their willingness to conduct food processing and cooking demo during sessions but not on a regular basis.

According to Pascual, the "Miki Malunggay", which was MMSU-IT's latest demo during an RTB session got good feedback as it was nutritious and can be done at homes.

In view of MMSU-IT's inability to attend RTB sessions regularly, Pascual said she has requested city agriculturist Oscar Recta for one of his staff to attend as the staff mentioned also knows the procedures for the Miki Malunggay demo.

In addition to this, a free haircut dubbed "Gupit Sulit na Sulit" program would also be added to RTB sessions.

Pascual said the free haircut would help the public in saving money as they would no longer spend on barbershops or parlors for hair trimming.

Likewise, a basic free massage lecture—which is a return demo—is again available during RTB sessions. The lecture is open to all as they may also enjoy a free massage.

## MVF stands firm on endorsed measures as urgent

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY Mayor Michael V. Fariñas is standing firm on the measures he has endorsed to the Sangguniang Panlungsod as "urgent" as he pointed out that under the Local Government Code, a local chief executive has the right to recommend measures that needs legislation.

Fariñas added that even the governor and municipal mayors could also do the same.

THE ILOCOS TIMES learned that some of the measures endorsed by Fariñas as urgent have been questioned by Laoag Councilor Vicentito M. Lazo.

Lazo questioned the inclusion of measures such as the city's adoption of nationally prominent figures.

In reaction to this, Fariñas said it is the prerogative of the mayor to endorse resolutions such as these

as urgent as it is one way of extending gratitude to the people for their help to the city and its residents. He added that it has long been his plan to do this.

Lazo also questioned the endorsement of Fariñas as urgent measure the P10 million donation from Senate Pres. Juan Ponce-Enrile through the Department of Health for the Laoag City General Hospital.

Lazo stressed that this should not be considered as urgent as there is a pending case in court against the proposed upgrade of the LCGH.

Fariñas however said the P10 million donation is not part of the proposed LCGH upgrade as he explained that if the P10 million for infrastructure project would not be used until December 31 this year, it would revert back to the general fund of the national government budget.

This made Fariñas certify the

measure as urgent as there would still be a bidding process of 45 to 90 days.

The P10 million Enrile donation was proposed to be allocated for the construction of a charity ward at LCGH.

Fariñas explained further that the proposed LCGH upgrade project comprises of three buildings, one of which is a charity ward and based on engineer's computations, the P10 million Enrile donation would be sufficient for the constructions of the said ward. This, however, would not include medical equipments needed by the ward.

He added that the P10 million donation would not be removed from the proposed P350 million LCGH project as whatever excess funds from the said project would be used for the purchase of more medical equipments.