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CHO reports 2 dengue casualties in LC

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
 STAFF REPORTER

THE LAOAG City Health Office reported that there have been two casualties from dengue aside from the 39 victims that survived the dreaded disease as of September 30, 2009. City health officer Dr. Renato Mateo made the announcement after the casualties were confirmed by the admitting hospitals. The victims were identified as Jingle Ventura, 18 of

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INPCA questions NEA memo on INEC polls



By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ AND LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
 STAFF REPORTERS

THE ILOCOS NORTE Power Consumers Association (INPCA), through its officers, has questioned National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Editha S. Bueno's issuance of Memorandum Order No. 2009-011 and the approval of Board Resolution No. 62-09-2009.

Former Laoag City Mayor Roger C. Fariñas, current INPCA president, said the memorandum which was given to the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative on March 15, 2009 stating that the additional qualification requirements for candidates to the Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and Officers of the Board has proved to be restrictive to potential candidates.

The memo states that a candidate must have attended an annual general membership assembly at least twice within five years prior to the filing of candidacy.

In the letter questioning the NEA memorandum, it states:

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CLOSED. Authorities from the Bureau of Internal Revenue closes a business establishment in Laoag City as security personnel from the PNP and RMG secure the area.

LANIE ADRIANO

BIR padlocks business establishments for 'undeclared taxes'

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
 STAFF REPORTER

SOME LOCAL business establishments here in Laoag City were temporarily closed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue after their owners failed to settle their tax liabilities and for non-issuance of receipts.

On September 29, at least three establishments in Laoag City and neighboring San Nicolas town were padlocked after a closure order from the BIR commissioner was served.

"We are just implementing rules

and regulations, BIR district officer Melanie Soriano said after serving the closure order and at the same time padlocking the commercial establishments that were recommended for closure.

The said business establishment owners were given a 48-hour notice and then an additional five-day notice but they failed to appropriately act on the matter resulting in their business' temporary closure.

Soriano said it's "hard" to padlock a business establishment considering the consequences it may

bring but they had to do so because it is in accordance with the national revenue code.

Soriano added that she is hopeful that with the closure of these establishments, this would serve as a stern warning to all business people in the province to settle their tax liabilities before they are issued a mandatory closure order with appropriate penalties.

Lawyer Beverly Milo, chief of the assessment division of the BIR regional office based in Calasiao,

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Nuns serve nunciatures, elderly, countrymen abroad

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
 STAFF REPORTER

SARRAT, Ilocos Norte—Philippine nuns, with their reputation of good humor and hard work are in great demand in retirement homes, hospitals and nunciatures around the world, says a religious institute's regional coordinator.

Sister Eleanor Manuel says that some members of her group, Workers of Christ the Worker (WCW), are contracted by apostolic nunciatures and charitable institutions in countries as diverse as New Zealand, Switzerland, Italy and Sri Lanka.

Most of the sisters, however, work among the poor in the Philippines.

The WCW coordinator said in overseas missions, her nuns not only serve the poor materially, some also do clerical work in Church offices, and cook and carry out household tasks for nuncios, or Vatican ambassadors.

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LOCAL residents line up to avail the mobile passport services the Department of Foreign Service in cooperation with the PGIN and Provincial Tourism Office conducted on Sept. 19 at the Capitol Auditorium in celebration of MMK's weeklong birthday activities. That day, about 700 residents were served.

JOEL RAPACON

IT columnist national finalist in Philippine Blog Awards

JOHN VINCENT TORIBIO
CONTRIBUTOR

HERDY La. Yumul, opinion columnist of THE ILOCOS TIMES, joins the ranks of stellar bloggers in the country as he was chosen national finalist in the 2009 Philippine Blog Awards (PBA)—Commentary Category.

Out of a thousand bloggers nominated for the awards, 14 were chosen as national finalists in the said category. The blogs were evaluated based on: content, 80 percent; and design and usability, 20 percent. The awarding ceremonies will be held at the PETA Theatre in Quezon City, Oct. 9. Separate dates were set for regional awards.

"I am glad that PBA recognized our efforts in promoting the blog as a potent channel of information," says Yumul, who considers blogging as "an activity which is fun and rewarding, but time consuming and occasionally exhausting as well." The twenty-eight year old pundit posits that while good writing skills is an important tool of a writer, "social responsibility and purity of purpose" are more important considerations.

A native of Laoag City, Yumul began writing a column for THE ILOCOS TIMES August last year. He named it *Riknakem*, from the Ilocano "rikna" and "nakem," which mean feelings and consciousness. Shortly after, he created his blog with the same name. His commentaries tackle sociopolitical, cultural, and even religious issues.

Yumul said he started the blog only as an online storage of his articles which appeared in THE ILOCOS TIMES, but he was surprised to see it evolve into something bigger. Since then, the blog has attracted a loyal following, and been visited by over 30,000 web users from over 30 countries. Less than a year old at the time of its nomination, *Riknakem* is among the youngest blogs to be shortlisted for the annual awards, which is now on its third year.

Filipinos have become more abreast with topics ranging from the arts, culture, technology, and politics, because of the fast growing blogging industry here and abroad. PBA, the first and the most prestigious award-giving body for bloggers, aims to recognize notable Filipino-owned blogs in their respective niches.

A faculty member of the Social Sciences Department of Mariano Marcos State University, Yumul is also chief of the Print Media Section of the Communication and Media Relations Office in the same institution.

He initiated the news blog of MMSU and the organizational blog of its faculty association.

INPCA questions NEA memo on INEC polls

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"The memorandum is not reactive per se, but the means by which to comply with the additional requirement is, in effect, retroactive, which would render it invalid and prohibited by law.

It stressed that this would restrain potential candidates who failed to attend at least two general meetings.

The letter also stressed that the memorandum cannot be applied to widen or broaden the qualification requirements for board of director candidates set forth by the election guidelines on the Electric Cooperative Election Code, since any modification on the latter should be made at the instance of the NEA Board, which in this case was not observed.

In view of this, INPCA is requesting the NEA to lift the said memo.

In a related development, INPCA also questioned the board resolution which postpones INEC district elections this October.

In the said resolution it states: "A resolution postponing the district elections scheduled in October 2009 until the tension subsides and the situation nor-

malizes and repealing Resolution No. 58-08-09 which sets the district election for October."

The INPCA quoted Section 4 under Art. 1 of the 2005 guidelines on the conduct of district elections for electric cooperatives which provides:

"When for any serious cause such as violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of election paraphernalia of records and force majeure, the holding of a free, honest and orderly election shall become impossible, the DECOM shall postpone the election therein. Such decision shall be subject to affirmation of the NEA representative, if any, supervising the actual conduct of election. In no case shall the postponement of election extend to more than 20 days within which the Board with the affirmation of NEA, shall reset the holding of the election."

In view of this, INPCA also requested that the postponement of district election be adjusted to 20 days, instead of 90 days as based on the above mentioned law.

Reacting to this, INEC legal counsel Atty. Marlon Wayne D. Manuel said he has seen and read the INPCA letter but it

would be up to the NEA to answer INPCA's questions and that the cooperative would only wait for NEA's order.

Meanwhile, Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon pointed out that the INEC election postponement for three months is to ensure that "no one should benefit from the death of Ruiz," referring to the murdered former INEC Board President Lorenzo G. Ruiz.

"Whoever is involved in the murder of Ruiz should not benefit. The only way we can ensure that they won't benefit is to postpone the election," Keon said.

The governor added that he has also received intelligence reports that another assassination attempt on INEC board directors may again be in the offing. He however did not elaborate on who the possible targets are.

CHO reports 2 dengue casualties in LC

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Barangay 32-B La Paz and Justo Ancheta, 44 of Barangay Madiladig.

In an interview, Mateo said the dengue case in Laoag is not yet considered alarming, compared to last year which had a total number of 171 dengue victims with five fatalities.

Mateo reiterated their call for a cleanliness and orderliness campaign in all households in the city to eliminate any possible breeding ground for dengue-carrying mosquitoes, especially stagnant water.

He also clarified that the lady victim of dengue did not get the dengue virus here but she had been suffering from fever upon her arrival from Cagayan province.

In relation to this, Mateo also discouraged the use of fumigation as per a Department of Health announcement earlier.

He however advised barangay

officials to conduct fumigation in areas that reported positive with the dengue virus, especially those that had casualties.

He explained that fumigation is no longer advisable as this is only a secondary measure in eliminating the spread of the dengue virus and that although it could kill and drive away mosquitoes, this cannot eliminate the mosquitoes' breeding stations.

He advised the public that cleanliness is the best way in combating the dengue virus.

Reacting to this, Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas also advised the public that those suffering from on-and-off fever should immediately consult the nearest hospital or rural health unit for them to determine their actual condition.

Fariñas based this advice on personal experience as he was also hit by dengue last year and he was diagnosed early and later on cured.

BIR padlocks business establishments for 'undeclared taxes'

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Pangasinan, said the closure order came after a BIR evaluation found that these establishments were not complying with section 115 of the Tax Code of 1997 or Republic Act 8424.

Soriano stated further that there are still other 10 local businesses that are also being evaluated.

The serving of the closure orders and the subsequent closure of the business establishments were witnessed by members of the local Philippine National Police, the PNP Regional Mobile Group as well as barangay officials where the establishments are located.

The "Oplan Kandado" program of the BIR is being implemented

nationwide and it started several months back and it was only on September 29 that the BIR regional office in Pangasinan and Laoag City implemented the said program to erring business people here.

Milo also reported that on the same day, 11 business establishments in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union were simultaneously padlocked by various BIR teams to implement the order.

"We don't have [any] choice [but to] implement the program. They need to comply and settle their tax liabilities," Milo stressed.

After serving the closure order, no business transaction is allowed unless the business owner complies with BIR order.



BIR district officer Melanoe Soriano serves the closure order to a caretaker of a business establishment that has been ordered temporarily closed by the BIR on September 29.

LANIE ADRIANO

GSIS allots P5 B in emergency loans for Ondoy victims

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) today said members affected by tropical storm "Ondoy" can apply for GSIS emergency loans starting Thursday, October 1.

This after GSIS President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia announced that the state pension fund has allotted P5 billion for this loan program, which the GSIS provides to members who are victims of calamities.

The emergency loan—worth P20,000—is available to eligible members working in government offices located in areas declared by the National Disaster Coordinating Council as under "state of calamity."

These areas include the whole of National Capital Region, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Bataan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, and Camarines Sur.

The emergency loan can be availed of in any GSIS Wireless Automated Processing System kiosk or G-W@PS kiosk. Qualified members can apply for emergency loans from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. They have to bring their eCard Plus when applying thru kiosks.

The GSIS emergency loan program is the most generous of its kind in the country. The loan bears an interest rate of eight percent per year and payable in equal monthly installment for a term of three years.

Qualified members have

until October 31, 2009 to submit their application for the emergency loan.

"The GSIS Emergency Loan Program is in response to the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to provide the much-needed helping hand to those who were adversely affected by Ondoy," said Mr. Garcia.

"We hope that by making this program available, we can somehow help them get back on their feet, especially those who suffered great losses because of this calamity," he added.

To qualify for the emergency loan, the member-applicant must be: a bona fide employee of the government office within the declared calamity area; be in active service and not on leave of absence without pay; has no pending criminal or administrative charges; has no arrearages in the payment of mandatory social insurance contributions; and has no loan that has been declared in default.

Non-permanent employees, including co-terminus, casual, contractual, temporary can also apply for the emergency loan as long as they have at least three years of continuous service and that they are in active duty.

In addition, the agency of the member-applicant must not be suspended due to non-payment and non-remittance of premiums and loans. If the member-applicant still has an outstanding emergency loan, this will be deducted from the proceeds of the new loan.



A dog and his master display their 'tricks' during the World Rabies Day celebration at the Provincial Capitol Tennis Court. Animals, mostly pet dogs were dressed up and paraded during the affair.

LEI ADRIANO

Statistics month focuses on security

By CARLO P. CANARES
PIA-ILOCOS NORTE

THE CELEBRATION of the National Statistics Month (NSM) this October focuses on the security sector with the theme, "Enhancing Security Sector Statistics for Good Governance, Peace and Sustainable Development."

This annual event is now on its 20th year after it was first observed in 1990 pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 647 signed by the late President Corazon Aquino on September 20 1990, declaring the month of October of every year as the NSM nationwide.

The month-long observance is held primarily to promote, enhance and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics and at the same time ensure the support of the public in improving and enhancing

the quality and standards of statistics in the country.

The celebration has also become a showcase of unity and cooperation among the members of the Philippine Statistical System and a forum for tackling issues and developments affecting the System, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

In line with the observance this year, the NSCB issued Memorandum Circular No. 01-09 last July, enjoining all agencies of the government, academic institutions and the private sector at the national and sub-national levels to actively participate in and support the celebration.

In Ilocos Norte, the Provincial

Government has lined up various activities for the celebration, including a Statistics Quiz on October 7 to be participated in by secondary and tertiary schools; a Flood Drill and Rescue Exercise on October 5; a Coastal Clean-Up drive for environmental awareness on October 13; Fire & Earthquake drills including a lecture and demo exercises on October 10. Other activities include an Information Education Campaign led by the Philippine Information Agency and DWFB-Radyo ng Bayan; a Symposium on Prohibited Drugs & Responsible Adolescent Sexuality Symposium on October 16; an On-Line Job Fair at the Capitol on Oct. 19-20; and Mangrove Planting in Pasuquin on October 21.

Nuns serve nunciatures, elderly, countrymen abroad

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Sister Manuel, 49, herself worked in the nunciature in New Zealand from 1996 to 2002, serving as household helper. "I worked in the kitchen to prepare and cook food for the nuncio and his secretary. I also helped in the chapel," said the nun during the interview at her convent in Sarrat town, Ilocos Norte province.

For her second three-year contract, she was assigned as assistant to the nuncio's secretary doing paperwork and running errands.

While serving in nunciatures, she said, WCW nuns also work with Filipino migrants and other foreigners during weekends.

Noting the problems that may arise when a family member is away from home, she said that nuns have counseled married Filipino men who had set up a second family in the country they were working in.

The nun also added that her overseas experience had made her aware of the plight of Filipinos who work abroad to support relatives back home, many of whom do not adequately value such sacrifices.

WCW Nuns also serve the elderly in the countries they are posted to.

Sister Marian Lanuza, 55,

worked for Casa di Riposo home for elderly people in Italy in 2003.

"I treated and took care of them as I would my parents," the nun said. She said that some elderly people in such homes were depressed as their children could not find time to visit them.

At Casa Di Riposo, she said nuns provide spiritual guidance, motivating those who are depressed.

Former Holy Spirit Sister, Mother Deolindis Luza, originally from Manila, founded WCW in Sept. 8, 1971, in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, more than 175 kilometers north of Manila.

According to WCW Sister Maria Socorro Floresca, Sister Luza, now 82, formerly served as national spiritual adviser of the national peasant group Federation of Free Farmers. She was later inspired to establish an institute of Religious women dedicated to serving poor, rural communities, organizing farmers, fisher folk and doing pastoral and catechetical work primarily in rural areas.

Sister Floresca, the WCW superior in Linmansangan, Pangasinan, south of Ilocos Norte province, said most of the group's 70 professed nuns work among poor people in the Philippines.



SISTERS Marian Lanuza (left) and Eleanor Manuel

LEI ADRIANO

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.

Edited and published in Laoag City, the paper contains 80% English and 20% Iloko, with a primary circulation covering the Ilocos Region and subscribers in Metro Manila and other provinces, and Ilocanos abroad.

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Bitter math

(The following is an article written by Juan L. Mercado—Ed)

ARE PEOPLE of Ilocos cities and environs headed, like Metro Manila residents, to slosh in a world of typhoon muck and submerged streets? We very well could. Shrug off Storm “Ondoy’s” lessons—and see.

This typhoon unleashed the worst floods to inundate the National Capital Region in 40 years “Ondoy” lashed Vietnam, before petering out in Cambodia. By the time you read this, Super-typhoon “Pepeng” may have slammed the door on the way out.

At “Ondoy’s” peak, only a fifth of the metropolis remained above water. The 277 death toll is still climbing. And 1.8 million were displaced. They waded through sewage, stalled vehicles and garbage, to ruined homes. Economic losses could run into billions...

Editorial

Can that happen here? “What we are seeing is a phenomenon that will affect many major cities in Asia,” says Neeraj Jain, Asian Development Bank country specialist for the Philippines. “Urbanization has been so rapid. Yet, the planning processes have lagged.”

Over 12 million people are crammed into 1669 barangays of the metropolis. Yet, all Metro Manila had was a sketchy obsolete barely-funded emergency plan. Perpetually feuding over territorial limits, metro mayors gave lip service to preparedness.

Thus, government’s action was patchy, late and directionless. All the scrawny underfunded National Disaster Coordinating Council could field, for example, were 25 rubber boats. And half lacked motors.

Can you say this city is better equipped? No? Then, who in City Hall or Capitol will wail, as NDCC’s Anthony Golez did in “Ondoy’s wake.” The system was overwhelmed. Local government units were overwhelmed.

What system? snaps Inday Espina-Varona on Facebook. “Do the math” instead. The bill for Le Cirque and Van Steakhouse dinners for President Arroyo, the First Gentleman and hangers-on alone could have bought 25 bancas.

“But that’s spare change to Mrs. Arroyo’s travel expenses”, she added. Commission on Audit reports showed P95 million incurred, by the Office of the Press Secretary were charged to Palace’s contingent funds. That sum would have provided more than half the boats Metro Manila-Rizal needed.

The President, meanwhile, declared a “state of calamity”. She threw Malacañang open to evacuees. Fine. A government, spilling over with VAT taxes, meanwhile, held out the begging bowl for international aid. Here is the bitter math of greed multiplied by official myopia.

“Such tragedies bring out the best in the Filipinos”, wrote Fr. Shay Cullen in his Hong Kong column, “As politicians and officials covered in their mansions...ordinary citizens saved hundreds. Laborer Muelmar Magalanes, 18, pulled 30 women and children to safety, only to be swept to his death. Judge Raph Lee yanked over a 100 people to dry land with his jet ski... NGOs and church workers pitched in.

This is greatness of spirit. A nation is perpetually marginalized without such treasure. “A man’s life does consist in the abundance of his possessions”. How can we, of this city, ever thank these legions of generous self-effacing Filipinos?

Citizens must insist that reforms, long ignored by officials, be finally undertaken. Lack of preparedness, by national and local governments, has been criminal. Nobody again should die because officials were. “Nothing is ever done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done,” George Bernard Shaw once wrote.

Like Metro Manila, this city’s rivers are treated as latrines. They’re clogged with plastic are waste. Sanitation systems are primitive. BBC’s film “of desperate people riding floating pontoons of garbage down inundated streets were a sign, not just of the consequences of the flood, but also its causes”

Squatter colonies proliferate on rivers and creeks—source of their drinking water and gastroenteritis. The likelihood of floods is high, says the think tank: Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia.

“Much of the blame for poor urban management ought to be leveled at the government. National Institute for Policy Studies Lambert Ramirez told Time magazine while salvaging appliances from his own flooded home “There’s no coordinated policy for cleaning up garbage. There’s no political will to get even simple things done.”

Long term planning is often the first victim of short term election plans. And the horizons of many politicians today don’t go further than 2010. What will separate the men from the boys are those who can factor in population growth, jobs, nutrition, zoning, deforestation to potable water, budgets—and climate change. “

“Ketsana or “Ondoy” was a startling, unique event,” says Herminia Francisco of the EEPSEA in Singapore. “But then I think this is going to happen more and more frequently in the future.”

And officials of this city court disaster if they continue business as usual with bitter math of greed multiplied by official myopia.

Useless government

FOLLOWING is a shared note from a close friend who constantly renders remarks on my column through the web. With seven to eight hours of rain, Ondoy was not that strong to devastate several cities and municipalities of the Metro and nearby towns. Many questions has enthused the eyes of the many Filipinos - where in the hell did the mud came from (?) This is history. Some blame climate change and others the clogging of canals and the rest is history. At any rate, let us ponder a true to life storey from Ondoy’s result.

“Yesterday, at the height of the floods, my sister’s husband Rey whose family lives at Provident Village in Marikina got a call from his brother. They were already at the roof of their 2-storey house—his brother, his wife, two kids, his sister, and their 85-year old dad who just got out of the hospital last week.

Not wanting to rely on our USELESS government to rescue them, Rey went to Makati and scoured the

SERIOUS BUSINESS

JAY S. RAMOS



stores for a motorized boat that he can buy. At around 6 pm, he finally found a store at Reposo Street selling a six-seater motorized boat for over 100k. But since water at Reposo was lagpas-tao, he persuaded the storeowner to just ride the boat and bring it to Greenbelt where he was.

Immediately after, Rey put the boat on his pick-up and drove as far as he could en route to Marikina. The nearest dry land was the Sta. Clara Church, which was still way too far from Provident. Suffice it to say that for somebody who was maneuvering a motor boat for the first time in his life, Rey arrived Provident at 12:30 am. When he entered the village, everyone was screaming thinking that it was already the government’s rescue

team. REY WAS THE FIRST TO BRAVE PROVIDENT ON A MOTORIZED BOAT with just SHEER WILL steering him. Meanwhile, our USELESS GOVERNMENT was holding a press conference announcing their relief operations as they kept on

saying that they could not get into Provident just yet to save people hanging on to their dear lives on top of their roofs because the currents were too strong for them!! HELLO!!! Please tell me why they cannot and my private citizen brother in law who does not even know how to drive a boat before he purchased it could???

Rey had to turn a deaf ear to people screaming for help as he entered their village because he had his family, especially his 85-year old dad in mind. The waters were too high that he was actually holding on to the Meralco wires! He was shouting for his brother’s name as he could not even locate where their house was amidst the sea of mud

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Visual cleanliness

No HOLDS BARRED

IKE SEÑERES



ENGINEER Ben Eusebio is a Balibayan from the United States who served with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for more than thirty years. He was previously a visiting scientist under the Transfer of Knowledge thru Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), a project of the United

Nations Development Program (UNDP) that I managed when I was still the head of technology transfer at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). Ben was the first scientist who made me aware about the fact that here in the Philippines, our environmental managers and advocates are pursuing the wrong orientation of “visual cleanliness”.

When I asked him to explain what he meant, Ben gave me the example of our wrong orientation towards river cleanup, wherein we are inclined to clean up only the surface of the rivers, without seeing to it that the entire river is actually clean from top to bottom, not just clean of debris, but also clean of chemicals and other contaminants. Thereafter, he explained to

me that there are many other solid matter in the rivers that we do not see, but still have to be cleaned up, eventually making me realize that “visual cleanliness” is not the same as “actual cleanliness”.

Dr. Ernie Gonzales is the second scientist to educate me about “visual cleanliness”. Ernie is a Fellow of the London School of Economics and is presently the President of the National Economic Protection Association (NEPA). He cited as an example the Napindan facility in Laguna which was funded by the Japanese government for the purpose of enabling the Philippine government to measure the flows of water in the Pasig River for early warning purposes, using the science of telemetry. He said that the implementing agency for this is the

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) but unfortunately it was not maintained. The problem is, it is located in an area that is not seen by the public, and is therefore outside the realm of “visual cleanliness”.

Based on its name, MMDA is supposed to be responsible for the economic and social development of Metro Manila, meaning that it is supposed to have a bigger scope than just traffic and garbage. Seemingly pursuing a myopic interpretation of its functions, the MMDA is giving us the impression that it is doing its job very well because it is “taking care” of the traffic and the garbage supposedly. With so many pronouncements, the MMDA told us that it has already solved the problem of flooding in the Metropolis, adding that it is now a “clean city”.

As we have recently experienced it after the recent rains however, the problem of flooding is far from being solved, and the flow of traffic still becomes a nightmare

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Let a thousand cellphones bloom

AS TYPHOON Ondoy hit, the scrawny fund-short disaster management systems of a VAT-rich government crumbled. Laborer Muellmar Magallanes drowned after rescuing his 31st victim: a six-month old infant. This is a country where each congressman burns P1-million for travel but can't buy rubber boats. *Onli in da Pilipins?*

Flood, fire and looters ignore legal city limits. Yet, petty turf-guarding, by local mayors, gut-crafting needed metro-wide program. This is true whether in Manila or Cebu. Private citizens, meanwhile, mustered cellphones and Facebook to patch "Ondoy" rescue and relief projects.

"Let a thousand cell phones bloom" urged an unlikely coalition of trapos and rebels in July 2005. Phones would send People Power boiling into streets after the President's State of the Nation address.

"They did that to oust Joseph Estrada" in 2001, "Viewpoint" recalled then. "But cellphones didn't ring twice this time."

First generation cellphones appeared six years after People Power One. Underground radio, a samizdat press and tele-women formed the 1986 Edsa uprising's network. Foreign TV and radio broadcast that peaceful rebellion. Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Revolution" and Ukraine's "Orange Upris-

IN-DEPTH

JUAN L. MERCADO



ing" cloned Edsa.

Today's phones have built-in SMS, Internet, video cameras. Iranians broadcast the Revolutionary Guards' brutal suppression of demonstrators. Japanese use the phones as "electronic wallets", mainly to shop. Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus linked Bangladesh's poorest families to credit by pooled cell phones. Grameenphone now has 10 million subscribers

Seven million Chinese hefted cellphones in 1996. A 38-fold explosion resulted in 269 million subscribers by 2003, Worldwatch Institute notes. Today, over 600 million Chinese—approximately six Philippines—text or call.

Phones morphed into cultural symbols. Chinese funerals feature paper cellphones, so in the after-life, the deceased can call, "The phone is a metaphor of cultural practices," notes Anthropologist Genevieve Bell.

Mobile cellular subscribers are scattered from Sao Paulo, Manila to Johannesburg. They exceeded four billion this year, International Telecommunications Union records

show. "Every second person in the world today, in theory at least, could be using a mobile phone."

Year-on-year growth, in cellphone subscribers, never dipped below double digits, since the century's turn. In 2000, mobile phone penetra-

tion reached 12 per cent. By early 2008, it breached the 50 per cent mark.

Filipinos became first in the world to wage revolution with cellphones in 2001. They "provided the first real test of text messaging". Howard Rheingold writes in "Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution".

Minutes after Juan Ponce Enrile and 10 other senators sealed the second envelop, in the Estrada impeachment trial, text messages exploded. "Black-clad protesters (were) summoned together by a single texted line: "Go 2 Edsa. Wear black." Cellphones ringing twice sent Erap packing.

Lebanese cloned Filipino tactics to whip up rallies that "resembled Edsa's human waves," wrote Christian Science Monitor's Cathy Hong. Beirut's "Cedar Revolution" forced Syria to end its 29-year occupation.

Numbers and technology have boosted the Filipino's communication reach. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company tallied 35.2 million subscribers last year,

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More destruction, worse than what Ondoy wrought, will come to RP

EXPECT finger pointing and recriminations to erupt anytime now, with people laying the blame on everyone else but themselves for the tragedy brought about by the flooding Ondoy caused Saturday.

But this is all our fault. Yes, it is our fault, and we are just being called to account and pay for this fault.

Again, even if I will now sound like I have become a broken musical record, the truth must be told: the floods and the intense rains that killed 40 or so people and rendered hundreds of thousands homeless and devastated occurred because of our own doing.

Why am I saying this? First, we have in one way or another contributed to the denudation of our forests and to the wan-

ton destruction of the trees that, in earlier times, have maintained the requisite ecological balance which prevented rains and floods from rampaging and wreaking havoc in our lives.

Many of us, particularly those who are high and mighty either because of position in government or because of too much money, killed these trees in exchange for the proverbial 30 pieces of silver, in much the same way that Judas gave away Jesus Christ just so he can get his own 30 pieces of silver.

Then, many of us, instead of being angered by the rape of our forests across the country, chose to be silent, either because we have become cowardly against the forest thieves, or because we have benefited somehow from such rapacity, one way or the other.

And then, all of these greed and timidity gripped everyone of us for as long as we can remember, and are still gripping many of us even now, because Filipinos have stopped having fear and love of God in their hearts.

Because we no longer have the true fear and love of God in our hearts, and because our faith in Him has become a faith only in words but no longer in deeds, we have become capable of doing every evil thing, including destroying trees which are necessary to sustain our lives here on earth just so we can raise millions of pesos for ourselves.

This is the reason why any Filipino who is put in any position of responsibility in government, or who manages to acquire wealth, will, without fail, endeavor to steal and abuse, living their lives as if there is no more tomorrow, as if they will not stand before God one day and account for whatever they did, thought and said.

They could be devilish and really do evil things, even out-devilling the devil in many instances, because God is no longer with them.

How did this happen? The reason is simple. It is because for a long, long time now, Filipinos have been growing up without being seriously and sincerely taught the Word of God—either from the Christian Bible or from the Muslim Koran.

Almost every Filipino now (because they have not been instructed on what God can do and what God will really do to those who no longer fear and love Him) no longer feel any love or fear of God, so that there is no longer any Filipino who will have a second thought, or give a second look, before indulging in venalities.

The fact is that, under Deuteronomy 6:5-10 of the Holy Bible, every believer is required to teach their children to love God with all their hearts, with all their souls and with all their might, but this is no longer happening, for quite a long period of time now, among Filipinos.

So many of us grew up without knowing that it is our obligation to love God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our might, and many of us grew up without knowing that Jesus Christ Himself commanded us to "love our fellowmen as we love ourselves."

This malady has brought us to the brink of destruction. In Deuteronomy 28:20 and almost in every other verse from Deuteronomy 28:15 to 68, we are repeatedly told that we will be brought to sudden ruin, we will be destroyed, and we will be punished severely, for turning our backs on God.

But then, nobody is reading the Bible anymore, nobody cares to know anymore what the Bible is saying, and almost everyone is saying that the Bible is a good book but that it is no longer to be taken seriously in our lives.

This is the ultimate cause of the natural and man-made calamities we are now experiencing, and unless and until we reform ourselves, go back to learning the Word of God once again, and obeying His commands, laws and decrees without fail, we have no other future but destruction.

The deaths and destruction Ondoy has wrought upon us are just the start, and it is actually nothing compared to what is yet to come, if we do not heed God's prescription for our salvation.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Bible quoted God as saying: "If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek his face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land."

Challenges popular piety poses

A CHURCH document defines popular piety as follows: "those diverse cultic expressions of a private or community nature which, in the context of the Christian faith, are inspired predominantly not by Sacred Liturgy but by forms deriving from a particular nation or people or from their culture."

Note that it is supposed to spring from Christian faith and that it expresses itself not so much in terms of strictly liturgical norms as of a people's cultural character. It's more of a people's response to the faith they receive, understand and live.

It's truly a great blessing when we have popular piety breaking out, as it has, in many places of our country. It can only mean that in spite of our warts and all, we have an inculturated, if rudimentary, faith that can't help but show itself in public in some specific forms.

It means our faith has already entered deep into our people's psyche and ethos, such that it more or less spontaneously, and surely under God's grace, bursts forth in public display. It means the Holy Spirit is at work and we are responding to his promptings.

The devotions and other pious practices surrounding our faith and love for the Black Nazarene, Santo Nino, our Lady and saints attest to this wonderful phenomenon, now hardly seen in many other countries, especially the more developed but already secularized ones.

We have to do all to keep, nourish and protect such popular piety from forces that seek to undermine, weaken or empty it of its proper substance and spirit.

More than this, we need to realize that such popular piety should be purified and enriched, made to

ANALYSIS

FR. ROY CIMAGALA



the day, be it political, social, economic, etc.

The ardor loses consistency when applied to the other aspects of our life. Thus, we continue to see a lot of discrepancies and anomalies in our socio-political life. People can be hot in public, but cold

in their personal prayers, feeling holy in extraordinary times, but spiritually dry in ordinary times.

One time while visiting a popular shrine of Our Lady, I felt uneasy to see people showing great piety to the image of the Virgin while giving practically no attention to the Blessed Sacrament just beside it.

Repeatedly people tell me they just light votive candles to their favorite patron saint instead of fulfilling the Sunday obligation. Their doctrinal grounding is shallow. They often fail to harmonize their popular piety with the standards of faith and liturgy.

With this situation, it's no wonder that abuses can emerge and fester. Acts of exploitation erupt as in the commercialization of religious items and even outright simony. Many tricks and gimmicks can be played on the gullible.

In its worst cases, it can foster or perpetuate emotional infantilism, psychological imbalances and religious fanaticism.

There's no doubt that continuing formation and catechesis is needed by all, but especially among the Church leaders or any religious group directly involved in the popular piety.

Highly disciplined and motivated, they should know how to cope with the fast-changing challenges of popular piety, knowing how to maneuver between the dangers and the good potentials it can have. Official vigilance is a must! Email: roycimagala@gmail.com

mature and bear concrete fruits not only of personal holiness and apostolate, but of vast social transformation.

It would be wrong to leave popular piety alone, thinking that by itself it can grow and develop into maturity. It has to be trained and egged to aspire to reach higher levels and degrees of perfection. Obviously some supernatural forces are at work, but these do not exempt us from doing our part in nurturing it.

We cannot deny that many difficulties, barriers and corrupting elements need to be surmounted. A good part of it can be generated merely by a passing curiosity, not much different to the one associated with the UP oblation run.

Or it can be due also to a fit of sentimentalism, very common among people not yet exposed to modern developments. Or it can just be a public desire at certain special occasions to be socially showy of our official creed.

It needs to be purified, deepened and strengthened. Especially at its early stages, it can be vulnerable to superstition and outright errors in the understanding of one's faith. Confusion and a mix-up of priorities and hierarchy of values can also spoil it.

Thus, the fervor it generates often has only short shelf life. It's also one that can hardly translate into action, or grapple with the daily routine of work and the issues of

Nasken nga Ilokano ti pagisuro

ITI AGTULTULOY a panagsuek ti kalidad ti edukasion iti pagilian ken iti umad-adu a sukisok a mangipakita a nasaysayaat ti panagadal dagiti ubing no maaramat ti nakayanakanda a pagsasao iti panagisuro kadakuada kadagiti umuna a tukad ti elementaria, impaulog ti Departamento ti Edukasion ti DepEd Order No. 74 Series 2009 a napauluan iti *Institutionalizing Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education* (MLE). Iti Kailokuan, maaramat ti Ilokano kadagiti umuna a tallo grado iti elementaria. Kalpasanna, in-inut a maiserrek ti Filipino ken Ingles kadagiti nangatngato a tukad.

Adtoy ti makuna ti maysa nga eksperto, ni **Dr. Lily Ann C. Pedro**, agdama a hepe ti Center for Teaching Excellence iti MMSU College of Teacher Education, maipanggep daytoy nga isyu.

SAAN a nakaskasdaaw no adda dagiti maisupadi ti kapanunotanna. Ngamin, naipasagepsep iti panunot ti

adu a nabilbileg ti Ingles no idilig iti Ilokano. Isu a kasta la unay ti panagtamed ti gimong kadagiti nalaing nga agsao iti Ingles. Ngem adu ti rason a nakaibatayan daytoy kabarbaro a pagalagadan nga inyentag ti DepEd.

Maysa a panangbigbig daytoy iti karbengan ti maysa nga ubing a maisuro ken makasursuro iti bukodna a pagsasao. Kas nailanad iti *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* ti UNESCO nga impatarus daytoy nga autor: "Maikari iti tunggal tao ti amin a karbengan ken waya nga awan panagisupadi gapu iti puli, maris, katatao, sao... wenna dadduma pay a kasasaad." Ti panangilaksid iti bukod a pagsasao ket maysa a panagisupadi wenna, iti deretso a sarita, diskriminasion! Ta kasano a patas ti gundaway no ti ubing a dimmakkel iti maysa a pagtaengan nga Ilokano laeng ti maus-usar a sao ket maitipon kadagiti timmanor iti familia a naruum nga agsasao

RIKNAKEM

HERDY LA. YUMUL



iti Ingles malaksid iti nakayanakan a pagsasao?

Kas naibatad iti ngato, addan dagiti sukisok a mangpaneknek a nasaysayaat ti panagadal ti ubing no maaramat ti bukodna a pagsasao. Kas koma iti kapadanan ti Lubuagan, Kalinga iti Rehion ti Cordillera. Segun kadagiti manursuro, kasla awan kano idi ti biag ti klaseda ta kaaduan kadagiti adalanda ket nakamulengleng ken saan a makasurot iti leksion. Ngem idi maaramat ti bukodna a pagsasao, adu kano metten dagiti agitayag iti imana tapno sumungbat. Nangatngato pay ti markadan kadagiti eksamen. Amang a nangatngato ti nagun-odda a marka iti eksamen iti Ingles, matematika ken siensia ngem dagiti naisuro iti Ingles sipud

Grade I. Isuda pay ti nakagun-od iti kangatuan a marka iti *national examination* iti sibubukel a Kalinga ket nangatngato pay ti *averageda* ngem iti *national average*.

Adda pay sukisok ti Region IV a napauluan iti *Double Exposure in Mathematics: A Glimpse of Mother Tongue First*. Impakita ti resulta daytoy a panagadal a nalaka met gayam nga awaten ti Matematika no bukod a pagsasao ti panagisuro. Sarurunganna ti paliw dagiti edukador a dagiti nakagun-od iti nangato a marka iti *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)* ket aggapu kadagiti pagilian nga agisuro iti matematika ken siensia iti bukodna a pagsasao. Ditoy Pilipinas, Ingles ti mausar a pangisuro kadagitoy mapagbutbutngan nga asignatura. Ket anian! Kadagupan dagiti pagilian a nakipartisipar ti TIMSS, maikatlotayo manipud iti baba.

Adda met kaasping a panagadal idia Amerika nga

insayangkat da Ramirez, et.al. (1997) ken Thomas and Collier (1997; 2002) kadagiti minorya a grupo ti estudyante nga agsasao iti *Spanish*. Ania ngay dagiti resulta? Dagiti naladladaw a naipasango iti English ti nakaadawan ti kapipintasan a resulta iti English, Mathematics ken iti General Academic Achievement. Kuna pay dagiti nagsukisok a nalaklaka a nakaadal iti sabali a lengguahe dagiti ubing a naisuro iti nakayanakanda a sao iti nasapa a tawenda iti pagadalan idi addadan iti nangatngato a tukad ngem dagiti nagadal a nasapa iti ganggannaet a sao. Natartarus pay ti panagawatda kadagiti komplikado a konsepto. Ket apay koma a saan a kasta ti mapasamak? Ngamin no isurom a sigud ti ubing iti ganggannaet a sao, natural, bassit no di man awan ti maawatanna. Ta iti kastoy a kondisyon, dua ita kasta ti adalenna - tay lengguahe a damona a mangngep ken tay konsepto a naibinggas iti kurikulum ti pagadalan. Makuriro ti naganus pay laeng

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Samtoy-Bannatiran

Ni CRISTINO I. INAY, SR.

ITI DAYTOY a gundaway ipeksak man ti napnuan liday a riknak iti riribuk a rimsua iti ikub ti GUMIL Filipinas. Masmadaawanak man no apay a kastoy metten ti banag ken tungpal ti gunglo dagiti mannurat nga Ilokano a nabuangay idi dekada 60. Naundayen a panawen ti napalabas ngem ita laeng a rimsua dagitoy a klase a parikut. Diak la ammo no sadino ti pagturongan ti nasao a gunglo dagiti mannurat nga Ilokano. Iti langit, purgatorio wenna iti rumubrubrob nga IMPIERNO? Ita awisek ngarud dagiti pudno a mannurat nga Ilokano tapno agtitinnulongtayo koma a mangripuog kadagiti karasaen. Ur-urayenmi iti tututulongyo tapno iti

kabiitan a panawen maurnos met laeng daytoy a riribuk. Matdakami nga agur-uray kadakayo amin, Patgenmi a Kamannurat.

Ay-ayatek a Kailian, ita a kasapa saantayo koma nga ipalubos a makibiang ti America iti masungad nga eleksion inton 2010. Damag nga umayto kano manen ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ditoy Nueva York sakbay nga agpakada ti tawen 2009 tapno kasaritana kano ni Presidente Barack Obama. Ti nakaskasdaaw saan man laeng nga agbain ni Presidente Arroyo a pasiar a pasiar. Sapay sinsinan kuansit kadi ti kantidad ti kuarta a gastosenda agraman dagiti disipulosna kadagiti a biaheda? Presidente Arroyo, ang kapal naman ng mukha mo.

Agraira manen ti hueteng dita Ilokandia, Kailian? Kayatna a sawen a saan latta a makaidna dagiti napeklan a sugador. Ket, wen, imbellengdan, a, ti bainda. Ngamin dayta kano laengen ti mabalinda nga aramiden tapno agpaut pay ti biagda iti ikub daytoy a lubong. Anian! Sigurado nga aggunay manen dagiti politiko! Ngamin umasideg manen ti eleksion, Kailian. Ugali dagiti awanan ti kararua! Agsiimtayto man ketdi.

Wen, immay met ni Senador Manny Villar ditoy Jersey City ken Nueva York itay nabiiit. Diak la ammo no ania ti rinantana ditoy. Immay nagkampania? Sapay nangrugi kadin ti panagkampania dagiti kandidato? Dipay met nagikkat a senador ket? Ti makapades ket adda dagiti agkunkuna nga isu kano ti umno nga agtugaw a presidente ti pagiliantayo. Sapay nalipatanyon, aya, a nalaing nga agkamkam iti daga a dina kukua? Ti nalawag kayatna a tagikuaen ti sibubukel a Filipinas. Sapay la koma, Kailian, ta makitam ti makitak. Ita a isingasingko a saantayo koma a butosan dayta a tao a para presidente. Pangngaasiyo koma.

Kasta met a saantayo koma a palusoten dagiti agkandidato a narugit ti pakasaritaan ti biagda. Iti ababa a paannao no nagbasol a ket saan koman a mabalin nga agkandidato. Nalawag dayta. Nakababain. No dayta ti mangabak ken agtugaw a presidente kunanto dagiti taga-sabali a pagilian ti kastoy: PRESIDENTE TI FILIPINAS ADU TI BASOLNA. Anong sey mo, Kailian? Ay, diak la mairusok. Usarentayo koma ti utektayo. Awan ti umuna a babawi.

Agingga ita saan pay a limmaka ti presio dagiti agas. Adda agat-baraniw a maangotko. Amangan ta adda saritaan dagiti akinkukua kadagiti botika ken Presidente Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Daytan ti nakabutbuteng nga eksena wenna ladawan. Ania ngay ti ranta ti agdama a nakatugaw iti Palasio ti Malakanyang? Tapno agurnong ti kuarta? Anian!

Sapay nagpukawen, aya, a kasla asuk ti makunkuna a GOLDEN

ERA OF THE ILOKANO LITERATURE, Kailian? Malagipmo ti dekada 60? Namaris dayta a panawen. Ngamin no kasta a luklukibek ti panid dagiti agkupkupasen a panid dagiti BANNAWAG nga urnongko diak magawidan nga agaludad nga agsubli dagiti kalman a nakayabelan dagiti namaris a laglagip a dinto pulos malipatan. Ket saak agsenaaay ta awan... awandan dagiti makunkuna nga adigi, tulang ken lasag ti GUMIL Filipinas ken Literatura Ilokana. Manmanodan a nabati. Ket malagipko ita tay patanor ti away ti Tabucolan, Santa, Ilocos Sur a sangsang-awan ti naindaniwan a baybay China a managan ti Jose A. Bragado a no makitak sigurado a makasuratak iti daniw wenna sarita, napatak latta met a makitak tay maymaysa ken kakaisuna a propeta-naindaklan a mannurat-nobelista ti Tomana, Rosales, Pangasinan ken AMA ti GUMIL Filipinas... dayta ni Apo Juan Sanchez Peralta Hidalgo, Jr., a paratignay dagiti agdadamo a mannurat ken tarubinbin dagiti nabayagen nga agsursurat a kamannuratayo nga Ilokano. Ken diak la ammo no ania itan ti kalkalbiten tay naindaklan met a mannurat a patanor ti away ti Bagani Ubbog, Ciudad ti Candon, Ilocos Sur nga agiduldulin kadagiti ginabsun a plake a tanda-batonlagipna kadagiti binunton a nakisalipanna iti panagsuratan ti sarita, daniw, salaysay ken dadduma pay. Pudno a naisangsangayan daytoy a kamannurat. Dayta ni Apo Reynaldo A. Duque. Ita a kasapa masapul koma a mayarimadanen iti rebultona iti sangnguanan ti city hall ti Ciudad ti Candon. Ne, dinak koma katawaan, Kailian. Kasta met a kalbiten ita tay anak ti Sta. Teresita, Cagayan, mannarita, nobelista ken mannalaysay. Dayta ni Apo Dionisio Bulong. Ngem kuna tay kaanakak iti lugarda nga adu kano ti manokna. Diak la ammo no ania dagita a manok. Ne, dinak iseman, Kailian. Agsasaoak la ti pudno. Gayam para tadi dagiti uggorna. Yeheeyyyyy! Esta bien. Estandies!

Estandies!

Manglagitkayo koma, Patgek a Kamannurat, a kameng ti GUMIL Filipinas. Panunotentayo koma ti adayo a masakbayan tapno iti kasta nasayud ti panaglayag ti gunglotayo. Kunak manen a naisangsangayan ti GUMIL Filipinas. Pudno unay dayta. Saan nga ang-angaw. Pasublientayo koma ti sigud nga urnos, talna ken kappia ti gunglotayo. Dayta ti masapul a mapasamak itan... saan nga iti kasangaldaw. Ngem saantayo koma met a sardayan a gaikan wenna dalusan ti gunglotayo tapno iti kasta saantayo a maitebbag wenna maikursong iti gukayab ni lipat. Rupa ken batonlagiptayo ti GUMIL Filipinas. Ketdi igaedtayo koma ti agsurat. Idiantayo ti agpardaya iti padatayo a mannurat nga Ilokano. Asino ngay ti agtitinnulong koma no di met la datayo a mannurat, Kailian? Agpanunottayo koma.

No maysaka a mannursuro iti elementaria masapul nga igaedmo koma ti mangisuro. Saan la a ti sueldom ti taltaliawem. Maysa a naindaklan a sakripisio ti panangisuro, Kailian. Saan a sinsinan-kuansit dayta a trabaho. No makaadal ken makapagturpos iti napilina a kurso dagiti adalanda iti elementaria, ayna, sigurado la ketdi a maragsakanka... pudno dayta. Malaglagipnakanto a kanayon. Kasta met a malaglagipmonto a kanayon dagita a sigud nga estudiantem iti elementaria. Ket no sikanton ti bumaket ken lumakay ragsakemton nga agnayanon no ammodakanto latta no kasdiay nga agkikitakayo. Kasta ti biag ditoy rabaw ti daga. Ket naragsakkanton nga agawid inton dumteng ti malememo.

Ngem sapay, Kailian, nga adda latta dagiti mangngalap nga agus-usr ti dinamita no kasdiay nga agkalapda? Igunamgunamko a saantayo koman nga agusar iti dinamita no kasta nga agkalapdayo. Dadaelen ti dinamita ti umok dagiti lames ti baybay. Di bumurong a dumtengto ti panawen nga awanton ti makalapantayo a lames iti baybay. Agpanunottayo koma, Kailian.

Let a thousand cellphones bloom

From page 4

disclosure statements to Security and Exchange Commission reveal. Smart accounts for 20.9 million subscribers and PhilTel another 14.3 million.

What do those numbers mean? Can media, this time around, "stop another martial law" debacle?" asked Cebu Press Freedom Week panels. Marcos padlocked centralized facilities like Manila Times and jailed journalists. And Malacañang shifting of PMA Class '78 favorites into command positions is causing jitters.

The 1987 Constitution has features designed to block a President from cloning Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship. The President, for example, must immediately convene Congress to review martial law imposition

Unlike 1972, there'd be "instant public resistance to any attempt to impose martial law," UP professor Randy David replied. For an answer, look beyond Internet and the cellphone, he said. Track instead the phenomenal rise of new media, Inquirer's Manolo Quezon suggested

Worldwide, eight out of every

10 persons on social networks like YouTube or Multiply are Filipinos, Jane Paredes of Smart Communications said. And 2.47 million Filipinos use Facebook, Pinoys account for half the two million photos uploaded daily. One out of five Friendster users is Filipino. On average, Filipinos spend 19 minutes daily in the "networked surreally flattened world of social media."

The new media is dispersed. How do you seize 70.4 million cellphones? Not even President Arroyo's former presidential security chief can firewall Internet, let alone Twitter which emerged this year.

Dictatorships straitjacket the consensus worldview of those they rule, Time magazine notes. "Tyranny, is a monologue." And Twitter's 140-character bursts shoved Iran's President Ahmadinejad into "a court of world opinion where even Khrushchev never had to stand trial."

President Arroyo doesn't want to become an Asian President Ahmadinejad She should welcome Filipinos who opt to "tweet" Malacañang: "Let 1000 celfons bloom."

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Notices

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 18, BATAAC, ILOCOS
NORTE

IN RE: PETITION FOR CANCEL-
LATION OF THE CERTIFICATE
OF LIVE BIRTH OF ONE
PAGALA (MIDDLE NAME)
EDROZO (LAST NAME)
WITHOUT ANY FIRST NAME

KATHLEEN PAGALA,
Petitioner,

-versus-

THE OFFICE OF THE REGIS-
TRAR GENERAL, NATIONAL
STATISTICS OFFICE, MANILA,
Respondent.

SP. PROC. NO. 5072-18
x-----x

ORDER

This is a verified Petition for the Cancellation of the Certificate of Live Birth filed by petitioner Kathleen Pagala of Brgy. 19 Napu, Badoc, Ilocos Norte through counsel seeking the Court after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be issued ordering the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Manila, to cancel this particular Certificate of Live Birth and instead issue a Certificate of Live Birth (Late Registration) in favor of the herein petitioner. Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance the Court hereby sets the initial hearing of the same on **December 4, 2009, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning**, at the session hall of this Court located at the Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Bataac, Ilocos Norte, on which date, time and place, all interested parties may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

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

Let also copies of this petition and this Order be furnished the City Civil Registrar of Manila, the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Quezon City, the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, and the Office of the Solicitor General, Manila, SO ORDERED.

Bataac, Ilocos Norte, September 4, 2009.

(SGD) ISIDORO T. POBRE
Acting Presiding Judge
October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ANSELMO DOMINGO and FILOMENA DOMINGO consisting of a parcel of land designated as Lot 4, PCS-01-004089, being a consolidated subdivision of Lots 15214 and 15215, Cad-576, Currimaoc Cad., L.R.C. Rec. No. ___ under TD No. 05-004-00258 containing an area of 2,031 sq. m. situated in Brgy. Torre, Currimaoc, Ilocos Norte has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously sold to Sps. Candido G. Corpuz, Jr. and Narcisa A. Calacal-Corpuz, Francisco Calacal married to Gloria Ampania-Calacal, Visitacion Corpuz, Sps Richard Arreza and Nelia A. Calacal-Arreza and Sps. John Cooper and Macaria A. Calacal-Cooper ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Da Vinci M. Crisostomo as per Doc. No. 94; Page No. 20; Bk. No. CLXVIII; S. of 2009. October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL
SETTLEMENT AND ABSOLUTE
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the deceased SPS. PROCESO DE LOS SANTOS and PRISCA LABUGUEN consisting of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 8298 of the Laoag Cad. covered by OCT No. 19788 containing an area of 620 sq. m. situated at Brgy. Buttong, Laoag City has been adjudicated by their heirs and simultaneously sold to Thomas N. Bernabe, Jr. married to Maria Bernabe ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Juan Conrado A. Respicio II as per Doc. No. 481; Page No. 97; Bk. No. CXL; S. of 2002. October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ROGIE REYES consisting of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 12926-B-4, Psd-01-054506 covered by TCT No. T-34399 containing an area of 400 sq. m. located at Brgy. Sta. Joaquina, City of Laoag has been adjudicated by his heirs and simultaneously sold to Daniel Kristoffer R. Go ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Marcelino M. Qitoras, Jr. as per Doc. No. 182; Page No. 19; Bk. No. LX; S. of 2009. October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late EMITERIO MASIAN consisting of two (2) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 24266 and 24291 under TD Cert. Nos. 05-043-04028 and 05-043-04052 containing an area of 3,048 sq. m. and 1089 sq. m. situated at Brgy. No. 17, Tabug, Bataac, Ilocos Norte has been adjudicated by his heirs extra-judicially and simultaneously sold to Eleuterio A. Salamangkit married to Quilie T. Salamangkit ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Jesus C. Nalupta, Jr. as per Doc. No. 90; Page No. 15; Bk. No. V; S. of 2009. October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late LOURDES S. EUGENIO consisting of four (4) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 16222, 16221, 15894 and 15893 all covered by OCT-P-60323 containing an area of 1,112 sq. m. 609 sq. m., 1,668 sq. m. and 753 sq. m. situated at Brgy. No. 35, Billoca, Bataac, Ilocos Norte has been the subject of Extra-judicial Settlement of Estate executed by her heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Melvyn T. Guillermo as per Doc. No. 790; Page No. 156; Bk. No. XIV; S. of 2008. October 4, 11, 18, 2009*IT

make it a habit to
read

THE ILOCOS TIMES

“The longest running
newspaper in the north”

Nasken nga Ilokano ti pagisuro

From page 6

a panunotna kadagiti agsisimparat a sursuruenna. Pagangayanna, agkuriteg ti ulona ken maawan pay ti interesna a mapan agbasan ta dina met maw-awatan ti ibagbaga ni Ma'am wenna Sirna.

Iti met biang ni Ma'am ken ni Sir, kunada a ti panagusar iti naringan a pagsasao iti uneg ti pagadalan ket makatulong a mangtunoy kadagiti panggep a nailanad ti Learning Competencies ti DepEd. Gapu ta nasaysayud ti pannakaipaawatda ken pannakaawat dagiti ubbing iti leksion, ad-adu a konsepto ti maileppasda. Ket anian a pannakapnek iti inda marikna! Ad-adda a gumanaygay ken pumasnekda nga agisuro tapno lumalaing dagiti adalanda.

Napintas daytoy a mandar ti DepEd ta bareng isu ti solusion para iti agtungtunglab a kalidad ti edukasion ditoy pagilientayo. Iti sabali a bangir, saan ngata nga iti pannakaaramat ti Ilokano ken no ania man pay a rehional a sao, ket mangpakapsut iti nailian a lengguahe ken iti panagkaykaysatayo a Filipino?

Kastoy man ti kapanunotak. Saan a rehionalistiko ti pannakaasar ti Ilokano iti edukasion. Iti kinapudnona, nasionalistiko daytoy. Ti pannakaaramat ti Ilokano iti edukasion ket

mangpabaknang ken mangtaripato iti daytoy a lengguahe. Ket no mapabaknang, mapabaknang met ti nasional a lengguahe ta ti sao a Filipino, kas intuyang ti Konstitusion, ket masangal manipud kadagiti nadumaduma a lengguahe iti Pilipinas. Iti pannakapasantak ti pagsasao nga Ilokano, tumibker met ti opisyal a pagsasao nga intuyang ti linteg ti pagilientayo. Saan kadi?

Ti lengguahetayo ket maysa a gameng-kultural a kasapulan a taraknen, taripatuken ken ipateg. Naibinggas ditoy ti kinatao ken kinasiasinotayo. Nasken ngarud a sursuren dagiti ubbing ti Ilokano tapno matagiben ti kinaisangsangayan ti pulitayo. Kas nakuna iti maysa nga Maori iti New Zealand, “Agingga nga adda ti pagsasaotayo, adda ti kultura kadatayo. Agingga nga adda ti kultura kadatayo, mataginayon ti daga kadatayo.”

Panawenen, naladaw pay ketdin, ti idadateng ti mandar ti DepEd. Nababan ti kalidad ti edukasion iti pagilian, ken adun dagiti pada nga Ilokano ti di mangikankano iti bukodtayo a sao. Ngem saan a ti kaladaw ti nasao a mandar ti nasisita ita no di ket ti kaaddana. Sapay ta mangrugin ti ibabangon ti kalidad ti edukasion iti pagilian ken makaungaren ti Ilokano

manipud iti di panangikankano.

MAINAIG iti pannakaiyeta ng ti DepEd Order No. 74, series 2009 a mangilunglungalong iti pannakaaramat ti nakayanakan a pagsasao iti panagisuro iti ubbing manipud Grade I inggana iti Grade III, impadamag ni Propesor Edna C. nagtalon nga inangay ti MMSU College of Teacher Education (CTE) ti agdua nga aldaw a taripong idi Setiembre 17-18, 2009. Kangrunaan a panggep ti ganuat ti adadda a pannakaawat dagiti mangisursuro iti nasao a pammilin a manamnama a maipatungpal iti sumaruno a panagseserrek.

Manipud iti Departamento ti Edukasion (DepEd) ken kasta met dagiti Teacher Education Institutions iti Rehion I, agdagup 135 dagiti dimmar-ay a mangisursuro iti Grade I - III, administrador, ken faculty iti kolehio a mangisursuro kadagiti professional education courses. Addada pay Day Care Workers a nagpartisipar.

Dimmar-ay pay ni Dr. Cherrie Melanie A. Diego, chief ti Technical Services Division ti Commission on Higher Education-Region.

Sapay koma, patpatgen a karikna, ta agbunga daytoy a bukel a naitunek.

www.riknakem.wordpress.com

Baguio, LC sisterhood ties proposed

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

TO FOSTER better relationship with the City of Pines, Laoag Councilor Sonia B. Siazon proposed that a sister city relationship be formed between Laoag and Baguio City.

Siazon, who chairs the Sangguniang Panlungsod's committee on tourism, culture and international affairs, said the proposal came after Baguio City Mayor Reynaldo Bautista and his party visited Laoag recently.

Siazon said Bautista and his group requested for the establishment of a sister city ties with Laoag for the two cities to have a closer relationship.

She said that it is very fortunate that there are plenty of socioeconomic, political and geographic factors that are common to residents of both cities.

Relative to this, Siazon

said she believes Laoag City would then also be included as one of the "hub of regional growth" as Baguio is considered to be one of the most progressive cities in the Region.

She added that it should also be noted that some original settlers in Baguio are from Laoag and Ilocos Norte.

The proposal is now at the council for approval.

Siazon further stated that should this be approved, there would be a signing between the two cities, represented by official.



TESDA GRADUATE. Regal John Agustin, one of the slaughtering operations graduate of the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority, receives his certificate from MMS Development Training Center-Marketing Director Orlean Sison during the graduation rites held at the Ilocos Norte National High School campus after completion of the 35-day training. Others in the photo are (from left) Jethro Chancoco, RB Ablan, Isabel Sandi and TESDA Ilocos Norte OIC Charito Santos.

DOMS DELA CRUZ

LC 2009 model families named

From page 10

Their children are also all college graduates and are currently working in their respective fields of specialization.

Oscar currently works as a mechanic while Preciosa is a plain housewife.

Other model family search winners are the families of Servillano Aguada of Barangay 18, which finished runner-up; Corazon dela Cruz of Barangay 54-A, and Vicente Bonoan of Barangay 17, which tied for second runner-up all in the professional category.

In the non-professional category, the other winners are the families of Alexander Juan of Barangay 50 Buttong and Benjamin Agustin

of Barangay 61 Cataban, which finished first and second runners-up, respectively.

The top three model families will receive cash prizes of P5,000, P4,000 and P2,500 along with plaques of recognition.

The other nine families for the professional category and five families in the non-professional category will also be given certificates of appreciation.

The formal awarding ceremonies are set on October 9 at the Laoag City Auditorium with Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas as guest of honor and speaker.

The mayor congratulated this year's model families for making their families progressive with faith in God.

COA tabs LC accounting office as 2009's best

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY Mayor Michael V. Fariñas announced with pride that the city government's accounting office has been chosen by the Commission on Audit (COA) as 2009's Outstanding Accounting Office.

Fariñas made the announcement after the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines (AGAP) Inc. through their national president, Evelyn

Guerrero informed him about the award for the city accounting office in recognition of its quality, timeliness and accuracy of their 2008 financial reports submitted to COA.

Reacting to this, city accountant Edgar Pascual expressed his elation with the award as he said that this would not have been possible without the help of his subordinates.

Pascual also thanked the mayor for his support in providing whatever his office needs in their pursuit of their

programs and activities.

The awarding will be held on October 12, 2009 during the opening of the AGAP convention seminar in Bacolod City.

THE ILOCOS TIMES also observed that this office is one of the busiest office in City Hall and most of its employees would do even do overtime work without pay.

Relative to this, the city accounting office was also advised to submit a picture of its staff for publication in the AGAP journal.

Useless government

From page 4

water. When he finally found them, he had to hold back from breaking down as he saw his dad at the apex of their roof holding to a string of blankets just so he will not get swept by the currents! He "parked" his boat on their roof gutter and first loaded his dad and eight-year old nephew who by that time were already chilling from the cold. They have been atop the roof since 1 pm with wet clothes on and no food or water to even drink.

It took Rey two hours to navigate back to Sta. Clara church to drop off his dad and nephew, came back for his sister in law and another nephew. It was 3 a.m. by the time Rey reached Sta. Clara church again, with his sister-in-law and nephew, before making a final trip to get his sister. By this time, media were there and NDCC people assisting his sister-in-law to get off the boat. GIDO TEODORO had the gall to tell media that government rescue operations are now on going, alluding to the footage of my brother in law rescuing his family!!! And these stupid NDCC people were even asking Rey's sister in law to remove her life jacket and return to them! Hello, everything was theirs, from the boat, to the life jackets, to the sheer will and determination to keep their family alive!!!

He wanted to keep coming back

to save his other neighbors but his tired body could not anymore. So he decided to take a rest at his sister's house at Valle Verde till around 9 am today. Then they went back only to find how cars were piled up like matchboxes. His brother's Patrol, Camry, and Galant were supposed to be safely parked at the village main avenue as historically this was the highest point of the village. Sadly, the cars were nowhere to be found, washed away like toy cars... but what was even worse was seeing bodies already floating around, including the body of a three-month old baby stuck in a car windshield!

As it was too devastating a sight for them to take already, they decided to just lend the boat to for others to use to save more lives.

Meanwhile, we see our government making all these excuses why they cannot save people faster... Meanwhile we hear of Devil Gloria Arroyo spending the P 800 million emergency contingency fund to finance her recent foreign trips... Meanwhile we hear of Mikey Arroyo shamelessly admitting how his net worth ballooned within the few years that his family has been in power! SUCH SHAMELESS GREED!!!

I love the Philippines and I do wish for a better Philippines for my children's sake. But during times like these, it makes you wish that you

Visual cleanliness

From page 4

when the floods come. As it turned out, the floods became worst because there were many places in our water systems which were not cleaned up, and were therefore clogged, simply because these were far from our visual views.

It may be slightly far from the topic, but I would like to mention here that there is a trade off in allowing political appointees to prevail over the professional work of career public servants, particularly those in the career executive ranks. We are allowing political appointees to serve us on the presumption that they could do a better job than we could, or compared to our career executives. When these political appointees fail to do their jobs as we expect them, we somehow feel that we are

were living in another country where you dial 911 and help will be forthcoming.

Rey had the presence of mind, sheer will, and financial resources to buy a boat on the spot and put matters into his own hands. However, what if it was the other way around and he had to wait for our USELESS GOVERNMENT to rescue his dad? We only shudder at the thought of what would have happened to his family, especially Lolo Manny, if and when rescue finally comes—which for many less fortunate souls, until now have not come!

in the losing end.

If political appointees are only capable of delivering shallow governance solutions based on what they could see visually, why don't they simply just give way to the career public servants who could possibly do better than them, perhaps potentially giving us more depth in their governance actions? Under our laws, all public servants from the Undersecretary rank and below are supposed to be career people. Nowadays however, even section chiefs are now political appointees.

Truth to tell, beautification is only one of the shallow reasons for cleaning up our environment. The more profound and deeper reason is really envi-

ronmental protection or public safety to put it another way. By limiting itself to the visual beauty of our environment, the MMDA and many other agencies are now responsible for the ugly scenes of death and destruction that we now see around us. How are we going to seek justice for this punishment that was brought upon us? Don't we have the rights to punish those who are guilty by at least removing them from public office?

Watch my TV show "Bears & Bulls", a daily coverage of the Philippine Stock Exchange. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Global News Network. Email iseneres@yahoo.com or text +639293605140 for local cable listings.

RC Ramos Construction wins LCGH upgrade bidding

From page 10

joined was Hilmarc's Construction, builder of the Laoag City Commercial Complex, which submitted a bid of P254,884,102.70.

Meanwhile, city government legal counsel Atty. Marlon Wayne D. Manuel said that this simply means that the proposed upgrading of the city hospital is in the process as the bidding has

been conducted.

He added that the project will push through despite the motion for a temporary restraining order filed by four Laoag councilors until such time when the court issues an order to that effect.

The said motion is the second of the same kind after an earlier motion for temporary and permanent injunction was also filed by the Ilocos Norte Provincial government.

RC Ramos Construction wins LCGH upgrade bidding

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

AS THE CONTROVERSIAL Laoag City General Hospital upgrade project continues, city government administrator Gloria F. Peralta announced that RC Ramos Construction submitted the lowest bid in the project bidding held September 28 at the Laoag City Hall.

Peralta, chairperson of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), said the construction firm submitted a bid of P253,950,088.42 for the project.

She however stressed that RC Construction is not the official winning bidder yet as there would still be a post-qualification to be conducted to examine and evaluate the documents the firm submitted in as far as the financial aspects are concerned by the technical working group.

The technical working group has been given two weeks to examine and evaluate RC Construction thoroughly and if the said group finds the documents good then a notice of award will come next.

If, however, the firm fails in post-qualification, Peralta said there would be no recourse but to go to the next lowest bidder, which is Tokwing Construction, builder of the Baguio Medical Center in Baguio City. Tokwing Construction submitted a bid of P254,647,099.79.

Other qualified bidder who

Turn to page 9



BEST OTOP IMPLEMENTORS IN REGION I. The Sugarcane Product Producers' Association, headed by Ms. Nora dela Cruz receives their three plaques of recognition and P15,000 cash prize from the Department of Trade and Industry-Region I office for winning the Best One Town, One Product (OTOP) Implementors award for Region I. Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas also received a certificate of recognition for being the Best Supporting Local Government Unit in Region I with regards to the OTOP implementation.

DANNY SABIO

LC 2009 model families named

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY Population Commission officer Felicitas Santiago announced that the families of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Farinas and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar V. Bagoisan are this year's model families of the city in the professional and non-professional categories, respectively.

Santiago said the two families garnered the highest ratings based on the following criteria: self reliance and adequacy in providing basic needs, 40%; health and sanitation, 35%; values and spirituality, 25%.

William and Soledad Farinas are both college graduates and currently residing in Barangay 9, Laoag City with their four children namely Charmaine, Constante III, Catherine and Charles, who are also all college graduates and are all working.

The Farinas couple has been married for 41 years and their source of income comes from real estate sales commissions and trading business. They are also fond of planting ornamental plants as they have an orchard outside the city.

THE ILOCOS TIMES also learned that the Farinas family also actively participates in barangay and church programs as William is presently serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister and President of the Parish Pastoral Council of St. William Parish.

The family of Oscar and Preciosa Bagoisan, on the other hand, lives in Barangay 3, Laoag City with their six children: Ma. Corazon, Oscar Jr., Cheryl, Walter, Bernard and Verena Leah.

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Pamulinawen Festival, finalist in DOT's Best Festivals

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY Tourism and Social Concerns Council (LCTSCC) chairperson Chevylle V. Fariñas announced that the city's Pamulinawen Festival is among the finalists in the Department of Tourism's Best Festivals in the country.

Fariñas said she was surprised by the news as she was not aware that there is an ongoing search for the best festivals in the country.

She however stressed that the inclusion of the Pamulinawen Festival was not a surprise since the event is not only for Laoag residents but also those who have migrated to other countries as well as the people of Ilocos Norte and which promotes the Ilocano culture as well as local tourism.

Relative to this, Fariñas said she is now more inspired to further improve future staging of the Pamulinawen Festival to give more fame and prestige to the city.

In line with this, she has asked the public's participation, particularly non-government organizations, the private sector and local tri-media to suggest matters that would better the annual celebration as she said her office is open to any suggestion, comments and reactions and that they would address these immediately.

She stressed that everything has a room for improvement which is why she reiterates the need for everybody's cooperation.

Meanwhile, Fariñas expressed her gratitude to all who helped in the staging of previous Pamulinawen Festivals as she hoped that they would again do so in future endeavors.

She pointed out that the inclusion of the Pamulinawen Festival in the DOT's Best Festivals would not have been possible without the help they have extended which is why she is also sharing this award with them.

Fariñas said that the city's festival becoming a national finalist means a lot since there are also other big festivals around the country and the honor it has achieved should not only be for the Fariñas clan but more so for the people of Laoag who celebrates this.

The awarding was held on October 3 at the Gen. Santos City with city community affairs officer Mylene Pascual, city civil registrar Lilian Abijero and Marvin Nolasco representing the city. The said Laoag City government employees were already at the said place during the awarding as they were attending a seminar.