

Mayor's League Seeks Ouster of DepEd Head



By: Nelson Bolos
Moncada, Tarlac - Get out!
 This is how the message of the mayors of this province is described as they seek the ouster of Department of Education

Division Superintendent Estrelita Cunanan. Cunanan heads all the teaching force of Tarlac province. In the strongly worded Resolution of the League

of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) of this province, Cunanan is being requested to be transferred elsewhere. The LMP resolution which was primarily

addressed to DepEd secretary Leonora Briones was also conveyed to governor Susan Yap-Sulit and the 3 congressmen of the province. "On behalf of the of

the school supervisors and principals of Tarlac Province (the LMP) request(s) the immediate transfer of Cunanan to restore the trust and confidence of the teaching force of Tarlac Province", says the mayors' resolution.

Contained in the resolution were alleged 14 issues of "misconduct and malpractice" of Cunanan including "spending of public funds for leisure, midnight appointment and promotion of non-deserving employee(s), utter bias or favoritism on the ranking system", among others.

"We only acted on the numerous complaints brought to us by school principals and

supervisors. Though she (Cunanan) is cordial to us mayors, we have to act on their complaints. She is unwanted by them", said Moncada town mayor Estelita Aquino, president of the LMP Tarlac, in an interview.

A principal of an elementary school who requested her name withheld for fear of reprisal said, "she (Cunanan) is unfair, conceited, pompous and corrupt. Her management style is dictatorial. Our supervisors are not allowed to visit the schools under them without her consent. She scolds us like school children. We cannot even suggest anything for the betterment of our students and schools".

The resolution was motioned by San Manuel mayor Benjamin Tesoro who was quoted as saying, "napakarami ng reklamo

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CAUSE OF FLOODING - Parts of MacArthur Highway in Tarlac City gets under water at the slightest rain. We have ourselves partly to blame. With this volume of plastic and other nonbiodegradable wastes pulled out from just one drain hole speaks of the entire drainage system in the area. When oh when will we learn to dispose off our trash properly? Isn't proper waste disposal taught at schools?

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Magsumbong sa Weekender!

>Meron ba kayong issue na matagal nang pinaabot sa mga liderato natin ngunit di kayo pinapasin?
 >Meron ba kayong sumbong ngunit di niyo alam kung paano at kung kanino ito ipaaabot?

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HATAW NA KAIBIGAN

- FBI- Face Book Intelligence
- Military Man shot dead by trigger-happy cops

BY: ROLDAN P. RAMOS

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Pustahan, dapat ako manalo!!!

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

“He is Ready to Kill”

Paniqui, Tarlac - Thus, said PSupt Joel Mendoza as he described the killing of a drug pusher in Barangay Abogado.

In his report to Tarlac Police Director PSSupt Ritchie Posadas, Mendoza identified the slain “top drug personality” as Richard Fernandez (AKA Reggie), 38.

“Pag-abot niya (Fernandez) ng shabu at dadakmain na sana siya ng poseur buyer, binaril niya agad ito. Buti na lang naka-ilaga ng pulis ko.”, said Mendoza, this town’s police chief.

Fernandez is listed among this town’s Top 10 Drug Personalities.

A source said Fernandez went into hiding for months when the “intensified anti-illegal drugs operation was launched” but recently returned here and continued his selling of shabu and marijuana.

Mendoza said the entrapment happened right inside the house of Fernandez.

The police of this town hugged the news recently when an Aglipayan priest belonging to a faction of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) was arrested here also for peddling shabu.

Randy Valdez, officiating priest of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church (PICC) in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, along with Mike Raven Quinto of Barangay Poblacion Sur here, and Camille Franilla, 23, of Barangay Poblacion Norte, also from this town, were nabbed in buy-bust operation last week.

“Alam na ng mga pusher ngayon na seryoso ang kampanya namin laban sa droga, kaya handa silang pumatay at mamatay. Natokhang na siya noon pero hindi siya nagbago”, also said Mendoza.

An unmarked cal. .38 pistol, 10 sachets of marijuana and a sachet of shabu were recovered from Fernandez./ **Nelson Bolos**

PIA Region 3 to hold ASEAN Campus Forum Leg 3 in Tarlac Agri U

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga - Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) shall play host this week to the third leg of the ASEAN Campus Forum of Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Region 3.

This coincides with the 2nd ASEAN Festival of TAU on August 24 and 25.

“As part of hyping the Philippine Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this 2017, PIA in Central Luzon will be holding campus forums in different provinces to educate and pitch support from the youth in this endeavor,” PIA Regional Director William Beltran said.

The forum shall feature discussions on the goals of the Philippine Chairmanship and the Political-Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural Community Pillars of the regional bloc.

Representatives from National Economic and Development Authority shall likewise explain the salient points of AmBisyon Natin

2040. “An On-the-Spot Poster Making contest will be held for students of the host university as an ancillary activity. The entries shall be exhibited and winners announced during the Campus Forum proper,” Beltran added.

The Roving Information Kiosk shall also visit TAU



Hundreds of Sta Ignacia residents benefitted from the “Linaw Tingin Vision Screeing Program” at the ABC Hall of the said municipality, Aug 23. Mayor Nora Modom (third from right at the background) and Councilor Donna Folloso (back turned) were spotted giving support at the said event./FB LGU Sta Ignacia



Financial Assistance - The Office of Paniqui Mayor Max Roxas with the help of his Executive Assistant Bien David Roxas II continuously give financial assistance to Paniquenos in need.

Libreng Wi-Fi sa Lungsod ng Tarlac

Ang Pamahalaan ng Lungsod ng Tarlac, kaagapay ang Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), ay nagsagawa ng Internet Media and Information Literacy Training sa Bulwagan ng City Hall, August 22.

Ang pagsasanay ay during the festival, giving students, faculty members, and employees the opportunity to learn more on ASEAN as well as programs and projects of national government agencies.

PIA Region 3 held the first leg of its Campus Forum at Tarlac State University last March 30 and second leg at Central Luzon State University and

isinagawa kaugnay ang pagkakaroon ng libreng Wi-Fi Internet Access sa mga piling pampublikong lugar. Inanyayahan ang iba’t-ibang kasapi ng komunidad na makilahok sa pagsasanay.

Ang Free Wi-Fi Project, o kilala sa opisyal na pangalang Aurora State College of Technology last May.

Other educational institutions it will visit this year include Bataan Peninsula State University, Ramon Magsaysay Technological University, Pampanga State Agricultural University, and Bulacan State University. (CLJD-PIA 3)

PIPOL KONEK!, ay proyekto ng gobyerno na may layong magbigay ng libreng internet sa mga pampublikong lugar upang mas mapadali ang paraan ng komunikasyon. Sa pagkakaroon ng kaunting problema sa antenna at mga kagamitan dito sa Tarlac dahil sa malakas na pag-ulan, sumasailalim sa masusing maintenance at repairs ang wifi equipment.

Sa kasalukuyan, may

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sa kanya, kaya dapat na siyang i-transfer”.

Apparently, the resolution was submitted to Briones almost a month ago, but the DepEd secretary has not acted on the issue.

One other concern raised against Cunanan was her alleged “coddling” of Tarlac National High School (TNHS) principal Yolanda Gonzales who hugged the national news for allegedly collecting P950 per

mga restriksyon ang nasabing proyekto kung saan limitado ang access sa internet. Facebook, Youtube, Google Mail at Yahoo lamang ang maaring maaccess ng publiko upang mafilter ang mga websites para sa dagdag seguridad.

Maaring kumonekta sa libreng internet sa mga hotspot na matatagpuan sa Tarlac City Plazuela at sa Business One Stop Shop ng City Hall./Tarlac

student as “compulsory miscellaneous fee”.

With the controversy, many parents and teachers called for the relief of Gonzales but Cunanan let the beleaguered school head stay on her post.

“We are totally demoralized. We and our supervisors find it hard to work under Cunanan. She should be relieved”, said the same principal.

Cunanan refused to be interviewed.

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Publisher: Roldan P. Ramos
Editor: Sol Suarez
Consultant: Freddie Farres
Circulation: Edgar P. Ramos
Lay-out & IT Services: Mac Gayao
Ceryl Sacpa

Columnists:
Nestor A. Castro
Atty. Batas Mauricio Roldan Ramos
Nelson Bolos
Clyde Sacpa

Cartoonist: Levis
Researcher: Michael Aguilar

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P2.03 M Shabu Seized from 3 Pushers in Cabanatuan

Cabanatuan City - - Mga pushers sira ulo. Hindi takot makulong, hindi takot mamatay.

This was the stern comment of PSupt Ponciano Zafra on the arrest of 3 drug pushers from whom P 2.03 Million worth of shabu was confiscated yesterday.

In his report to Nueva Ecija Police Director PSSupt Danilo Yarra, arrested in separate entrapment operations were Jerico De Guzman y Mateo, a.k.a. JERIC, 40 years old, of Ramirez St., Brgy. Aduas Sur, Harold Harvey Cruz, 38, of Barangay Kapitan Pepe, and Jeric Dominguez y Billion, 25 of Brgy Paliko 4, Imus, Cavite.

Confiscated from De Guzman were around 152 grams of shabu and a digital micro weighing scale while from Cruz were 4 sachets (3.59 grams).

Dominguez, who was nabbed in YUPPY'S Den

Bar, beside NE Pacific Mall, along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Concepcion, was apprehended with 5 sachets of the methamphetamine hydrochloride weighing 13.29 grams.

Cruz is said to be a mere user but lately turned to peddling drugs.

Based from Philippine Drug Enforcement Administration (PDEA) street value of illegal drugs, shabu is valued P12,000 per gram. (The 608 kgs of shabu recently seized by Bureau of Customs chief Nicanor Faeldon was valued P6.4 Billion)

In all, the 168.74 grams of shabu confiscated from De Guzman and 2 others have a street value of P2.03 Million.

Apparently, Dominguez has already delivered most of the illegal drugs he brought from Cavite before he was entrapped.

"Sa aming walang tigil na

anti-illegal drugs operations, halos araw-araw may nahuhuli kaming pusher o user. Pero marami pa rin ang patuloy na gumagamit at nagbebenta ng shabu. Para nga yatang mga sira ulo ang mga addict sa shabu. Hindi sila takot makulong, hindi rin sila takot mamatay", said Zafra.

Since July 11, last year, 372 persons involved in illegal drugs were already arrested in this city.

"When we started our relentless campaign against illegal drugs last year, almost all the known pushers were already arrested, some died in armed encounter, and some left the city. But new pushers appear. Maybe because there are still large amount of shabu from outside Cabanatuan. Hangga't may supply meron at meron magtutulak at bibili", Zafra added. / **Nelson Bolos**

Nueva Ecija gov hopes poultry business back to normal soon

JAEN, Nueva Ecija -- Governor Czarina Umali has expressed hope that the poultry industry will recover and bounce back soon following the issuance of protocols covering avian flu.

"The operations to clear the infected areas in Nueva Ecija of avian influenza virus or what we commonly refer to as the bird flu virus is now on its high gear. After we have undergone the prescribed protocols, these areas will be declared clean and safe, and the province's poultry industry will be business as usual," Umali said in a statement.

The protocols, she said, were set by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) and the Department of Health (DOH).

"First is to contain the poultry farms within the 1-km radius of the known affected site. Within this radius, all feathered animals will have to be depopulated. This is the culling operations. From the 1-km radius, we add a 7-km radius and this area will be quarantined. The entry and exit of all fowls and poultry products to and from within this area will be strictly prohibited. Fowls that will be culled will be treated with lime before being buried beneath a 2-meter thick of soil," she explained.

This, as the Philippine Army committed an additional 100 soldiers to beef up its contingent in San Isidro town.

Masantol is Central Luzon's 1st drug-free town

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga -- The town of Masantol in this province has been formally declared as the first municipality in Central Luzon to be cleared from illegal drugs.

This, as all of the 26 barangays of Masantol were cleared from drug infestation after complying with the parameters set forth pursuant to Dangerous Drugs Board Regulation No 3 series of 2017.

The awarding of the formal certification was held on Friday at the Benigno Hall, Provincial Capitol Compound, City of San Fernando here.

Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino, director of the Police Regional Office 3, lauded the efforts of the local government of Masantol and police in its strong commitment

The additional 100 Army troopers are the same personnel who handled the depopulation campaign in San Luis, Pampanga.

The DOH, however, did not give its go-signal after three soldiers were found to have coughs and colds. Another 103 fresh personnel from the Army's 7th ID were deployed to replace the 100 soldiers.

The Army is tasked with the depopulation of feathered animals within the 1-km radius.

"At the rate we're going, we can possibly finish depopulation operations by Wednesday," she said.

The next stage will be disinfecting the poultry houses. Soaping and spraying of disinfectants will be done from roof to foundation for days.

After which, sentinel chickens will be placed inside. If the chickens die, the same procedures will be repeated. If they survive, they will be sent for laboratory tests where blood and internal organs will be thoroughly examined.

"When it is officially declared safe, the poultry houses can be repopulated," the province's chief executive said.

Only after this that the quarantine will be lifted, said Umali. "By that time, we can confidently declare that the municipalities of San Isidro and Jaen are avian flu-free," the governor added. (PNA)

Central Luzon LGUs among the highest in competitiveness

At least five (5) local government units in Central Luzon were recently ranked in the top 10 in the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) for 2017 of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC). The top LGUs were recognized and awarded by the NCC on August 17, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Leading the awardees for Region III is Baler, Aurora which garnered First Place and the Overall Most Competitive LGU among the 3rd to 6th Class Municipalities Category. It also received recognition as First Place

in the Infrastructure Category and Third Place in the Resiliency Category among the 3rd to 6th Class Municipalities in the country. San Simon, Pampanga ranked 7th Overall in the same class.

The City of San Fernando, Pampanga garnered second place in terms of Economic Dynamism in the Component Cities category. It was also ranked Fourth overall among the component cities in the country.

Other Central Luzon LGUs which were recognized by NCC include Bongabon, Nueva Ecija which was awarded First Place for the Most Improved LGU among the 1st to 2nd Class

Municipalities Category while Baliwag, Bulacan placed Third in the same Most Improved LGU Award.

The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index is an annual ranking of Philippine cities and municipalities developed by the National Competitiveness Council through the Regional Competitiveness Committees (RCCs) with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. For 2017, all of the 130 local government units of Central Luzon participated in the CMCI survey. / **DTI-R3**

DTI warns on new text scams

The Department of Trade and Industry is warning the public on a new wave of scams being done through text messages. The trade department denies sending text messages relating to any commercial promotion.

The DTI issues the advisory to warn the public against the circulation of messages through text messages relative to SIM numbers winning prizes from

GLOBAL REMITTANCE of OFW/BSP. Such messages also advise the public to call a number claiming to be that of DTI Secretary RAMON M. LOPEZ.

The public is advised that such messages are part of a scam. The recipients of such messages are advised to ignore the message, block the number, and file a complaint with the National Telecommunications

Commission (NTC) through its website and to alert them about such SMS scam.

The DTI can be contacted through its official contact center hotline (02) 751.3330 (Monday-Sunday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. except holidays), message us through Facebook at DTI.Philippines or at DTI Central Luzon, or text us at +63917834.3330. / **DTI-R3**

PNP, PAO agree: Kian kneeling when killed

This comes while the Philippine National Police found only 2 bullets, while the Public Attorney's Office found 3 entering Kian delos Santos' body

MANILA – Kian delos Santos was shot kneeling down, the Philippine National Police (PNP) confirmed Thursday, August 24.

“The position of the victim, he was kneeling down. He was kneeling face down when he was shot,” Jocelyn Cruz of the Northern Police Crime Lab told senators during the probe of the boy's slay.

With this information, Senator Bam Aquino asked PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa whether there is a scenario where a suspect shot in a vulnerable position can be “justified.”

Dela Rosa said he couldn't imagine a scenario.

“Hindi ko ma-justify, your honor, kung nakaluhod (I can't justify it, your honor, if he was shot kneeling down),” he told the senator. “Kung nakaluhod 'yan si Kian, at nakatalikod tapos babarilin mo, eh kriminal ka, murderer ka, hindi ka law enforcer (If Kian was kneeling and you shoot him, you're already a criminal, a murderer, not a law enforcer.)”

The findings presented by the PNP's Cruz matched that of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), which concluded that Delos Santos was shot “nakaluhod tapos nasubsob” (while kneeling then fell forward).

Aside from the position before the kill, they agreed that two bullets entered the left side of his head and exited to the right, and that he was shot from at least two feet away.

A glaring contradiction can be found between their accounts, however, as the PNP did not find a bullet that hit Delos Santos' back, claiming his torso was “malinis (clean)” when they did the post-embalming autopsy.

Senators also later found that the ballistics reports pointed to PO3 Arnel Oares killing Delos Santos, confirming the police report./ Rambo Talabong / Rappler.com

What we heard from resigned Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon yesterday about the involvement of the son of Senator Panfilo Lacson in smuggling at the Customs and the alleged attempted bribery are serious accusations.

These are as serious as Senator Lacson's accusations that Faeldon also belongs to the Customs officialdom who are beneficiaries of the Tara System that has plagued the agency for decades. The revelations of Faeldon must be thoroughly investigated in the same way that Senator Lacson's allegations against Faeldon should be the subject of an exhaustive probe.

I join Senator Drilon's call for Faeldon to tell all. Faeldon must also expose all other personalities involved in smuggling or other Customs-related anomalies, including Senators, Congressmen, and other public officials, specifically those belonging to the so-called Davao Group that facilitated the 6.4B-peso shabu shipment.

It is about time that the investigation on smuggling also includes the presidential son, Paolo Duterte. Faeldon has shown the way. If he does not really consider anybody a sacred cow, even a senator's son, he should not stop there. He should go all the way to the top even if it implicates the presidential son. This should be the true test of his credibility. Otherwise, his imputations about Senator Lacson's knowledge of his son's illegal activities will just appear to be a lame counter-attack that is as selective as it is spiteful.

I call on the Senate to direct Faeldon to spill the beans now that he has started to liberally accuse one of us. There should be no whitewash in this investigation. There should be no sacred cows. Let Panfilo Lacson Jr. and Paolo Duterte face the music at the Senate. Anything less will only prove that there is no justice an accountability in this country when it comes to the sons and relatives of the high and mighty.

DISPATCH FROM CRAME

On Faeldon's revelations

BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

13,414
Filipinos killed as suspected small time pushers & addicts. Among them are innocent civilians as collateral damage.
fb.com/JuanNationalist

YOU CAN'T KILL A TREE BY CUTTING ITS BRANCHES & LEAVES. KILL THE ROOTS WHICH IS THE SOURCE OF EVERYTHING.

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Is there a Filipino in whom the Spirit dwells?



BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: “... The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?...” (Psalm 94:1-3, the Holy Bible).

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REVAMP AT CUSTOMS WILL MEAN NOTHING: When will Filipinos ever learn? Yes, this question is worth repeating over and over again, in view of mounting calls once more for the “total and complete revamp or overhaul” of the Bureau of Customs after Commissioner Nick Faeldon was sacked by President Duterte the other day in connection with the P6.4 billion shabu smuggling at the Bureau.

I mean, no amount of “total and complete revamp or overhaul” of the Bureau of Customs, or any other government agency for that matter, in the sense of replacing all its officials from top to bottom at anyone given time, can really stop corruption or stealing of government funds.

What is needed for this revamp and overhaul to truly succeed in eradicating wrongdoing at the Bureau and in all other government agencies is the installation of officials and employees who have the Spirit of God in them. Unless and until people who truly fear and love God are the ones appointed or elected in government, there will be no end to plunder, corruption, and a host of other misdeeds hereabouts.

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CHANGE PEOPLE'S MINDS FIRST BEFORE TRUE CHANGE CAN COME: This is what this column had been harping on for quite some time now. I am of the view that the criminal mind among many government officials and employees today, which causes stealing, misappropriating, and plundering among them, has to be changed radically and transformed into a mind controlled by the Spirit of God.

A mind that is controlled by the Spirit of God will not lie, cheat, or steal, as cadets at the Philippine Military Academy are told repeatedly. A mind controlled by the Spirit of God will possess a healthy fear and love of God, one that will endeavor to love God with all that person's heart, mind, and strength.

It will also be a mind that will compel the person to love his fellowmen as he loves himself. Indeed, a person who has fear and love of God will obey His commands, particularly the commands against stealing anything belonging to another, or coveting the spouse or ox.

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IS THERE A FILIPINO IN WHOM THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Cont. on page 5

• **FBI- Face Book Intelligence**
• **Military Man shot dead by trigger-happy cops**



BY: ROLDAN P. RAMOS

Military Man shot dead by trigger happy cops- Mr. President Dugong-gong, I am sure you have already learned about the slain soldier who was shot by policemen while waiting for a ride to get to his home. A tough, battle-tested soldier who has survived Marawi, only to be snuffed out just like that by some trigger happy members of the PNP. Mr. President, you have created so many monsters within the PNP.

Please, Mr. President, before it is too late, before you, your family, and your close cabal of idiot, corrupt, heartless, thick faced companions end up facing the wrath of a nation that is about to be filled to the brim with your ways.

Change, Mr. President, not the kind of change you falsely promised.

Pati ba naman sundalo na nakalusot sa Marawi, sa kamay ng mga abusado at trigger happy na pulis na tigok? And what now? Cover-up again at palalabasin na yung sundalo ang may kasalanan? Maraming testigo!

TAMA NA, SOBRA, NA MR. PRESIDENT!!!
Basahin ang latest na balita tungkol dito.

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Soldier shot by police unlikely to be suffering from stress: Padilla:

MANILA – The military is not inclined to believe that one of its Marawi veterans, shot by the police in Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur, was suffering from combat stress, Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said late Thursday.

He said that is very unlikely as the companions of Pfc. Rudillo Bartolome in the 53rd Infantry Battalion saw nothing strange in his behavior that would indicate that he is suffering from combat stress before he left camp. Padilla added that, if it is he was, it would have been impossible for Bartolome to commute and reach home.

The trooper was shot dead by police officers after he allegedly pulled his .45-caliber pistol when accosted by the law enforcers Wednesday.

Joint military and police investigations are ongoing. Bartolome was given an overnight pass by his superiors to visit his family in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur. He had been deployed to help neutralize the Maute Group terrorists following the May 23 rampage in Marawi City. (PNA)

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FBI- Face Book Intelligence (fuck off Federal Bureau of Investigation, welcome Facebook Intelligence) - I have said this so many times in the past. A lot of our PNP do not even have an iota on the dynamics of intelligence. Can you imagine the latest joker, who even had the temerity and stupidity to state before a public senate hearing that the basis or part of the basis for their intelligence with respect to the Kian's murder, coming from no less than the head of the Caloocan PNP when he said that their basis on the drug linkages of Kian are the netizens reports at Facebook or FB (note that these are even social media posts after the incident)!

Oh My God, My Dear Lord, what kind of such stupid PNP heads do we have??? How many more innocent lives will be wasted?!

TAMA NA, SOBRA NA, MR. PRESIDENT!!!

The Death That Opened Every Juan's Eye



BY: CLYDE B. SACPA

August 26 is the burial of the teenager who became the victim of this war that is ravaging our community. Though his death is one of the saddest and cruelest event that will haunt our history forever, it had also brought so much light to the abuse of power that the men in uniform is doing. This incident has proven what we always knew about human behavior; "absolute power, corrupts even the very best of men among us.

I am often wondering on the standard operating procedure of the police, is it really necessary to shoot and kill the suspect or do they have a choice to shoot to maim instead? Taking for granted that if the person fought back, once hit by a bullet, for sure they'll think twice of continuing to fight back. That is human instinct for self preservation it is imprinted in our DNA. With all these evidence piling up, it is also imperative to ask how many of those drug related death is a legit operation and how many is a result of summary execution?

Who is to blame in this situation? Do we blame the drug Lord who is never satisfied with what he has? Do we blame the millions of people who are tired of being victimized by drugged people that they don't really care if a drug addict is executed? Do we blame the Police who got tired of arresting people that is later freed due to the limitations of laws that we have? Do we blame the president for saying words he ought not to say and in a way giving the green light to the police to do such thing in fighting criminality?

Well the thing is, all is to blame for the loss of so many lives in this fight against criminality. It always goes back to the Filipinos self-discipline. If we put our personal agenda before anything else then chaos is going to ensue and the worst is, it will cause death.

Kian's life has ended here, abruptly and tragically. But for us, it will continue. And if we will not help in changing this system we will witness more death or the worst we will be one of the many deaths. We must in our ways contribute in changing our community's mindset and in changing our corrupt system. We have done it so many times, we must start doing it again and must continue doing it 'till we achieve the change we are dreaming of.

Kakampi mo ang Batas ...from page 4

DWELLS? The question here is, is there a person in whom the Spirit of God dwells? In answering this, we have to realize that the Spirit of God will dwell only with people who know His Word, the Bible, study it day and night, and carefully obey every command that is contained therein.

The problem with many Filipinos now is that, many of us no longer listen to God's Word, and no longer obey His commands. Many of us no longer read the Bible, nor take time out to study it, much less to obey and fulfill what it ordains, not understanding that God's curses come to us if we don't do these things truthfully.

So, is it right to think that there is no longer any solution to corruption and plunder in our country? Yes, there is no longer any, if we rely merely on the officials we have now. However, there is nothing impossible with God. What we should do now is that, we must strengthen our faith by reading and obeying the Bible as sincerely as we can. God will provide a solution afterwards.

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WATCH "ANG TANGING" **Cont. on page 6**

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Pustahan, dapat ako manalo!!!



BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

I pagpaumanhin na po muna ninyo mga dear readers lang aking kolum, at ito ay hinggil sa madalas na nagaganap ng mga korapsyon daw sa mga local government units particular na dito sa opisina ng mga tongsehal este konsehal.

Siyempre, bilang Director For Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices ng Linis Gobyerno (www.linis-gobyerno.org) isang anti graft and corrupt practices civil society group (NGO), nakakabahala ang ganitong mga impormasyon kaya ko tuloy naisip na talakayin ito at nauwi ito sa pustahan sa isa kong kasamahan sa grupo at sa pahayagan na ito.

Sa tutuo lang, ang pustahan namin ng kasama ko is 10K at siyempre ayokong matalo at hard looser ako.

Ayon sa aking kasama, ang matagal na raw na kalakaran sa land use re-classification ay nagbibigay ng pera sa konseho, sa vice mayor at sa mayor ang may-aring lupa na ipinapa re-classify. Katulad halimbawa, na ang aking kasama ay nais na magtayo ng isang poultry, siyempre kelangan na ma re-classify ang gagamitin nilang site from agricultural to agro-industrial at ang sistema ay kelangan daw itong dumaan sa konseho at siyempre ay pipirma rin ng approval sina Vice Mayor at Mayor.

Ayon sa kasama ko ay OK naman daw ang Mayor at Vice Mayor at hindi naman daw sila interesado na kumuha ng 'por da boys' at mukhang sa ilang miyembro lamang ng konseho ang siyang magmamagaling. Hi! Hi! Hi! Huwag naman sana.

Sabi ko naman sa kasama ko bilang patotsada, eh bakit hindi ka na lang magbigay para tapos na? Sabi naman ng kasama ko ay, "wala pa kasing ibibigay at bank financing ang project (dakel ti gastus)."

Kaya ganun ang sistwasyon ng maraming mga small-time businessmen, na dapat pa nga ay i-encourage, tulungan, suportahan at huwag ng pahirapan kapag nag-uumpisa pa lamang. Ayon sa kasama ko no problem naman daw magmula at magbigay ng ibang suporta later on kapag mayroon ng pagkukunan.

Kaya sana lang ay huwag ng pahirapan ang kasama natin ng hindi na tayo maabala pare-pareho.

In fact dito tatamaan ang mga opisyal na mag-pupumilit na mangotong sa kasama namin, maliban sa RA 3019 na naihayag sa ibaba (portions) ay mayroon din silang tama sa RA 6713 or ang Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees aside from the other media exposes (local and national) and denunciations. NALPAS!

o0o

RA 3019, Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Section 3. Corrupt practices of public officers. In addition to acts or omissions of public officers already penalized by existing law, the following shall constitute corrupt practices of any public officer and are hereby declared to be unlawful:

(a) *Persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority or an offense in connection with the official duties of the latter, or allowing himself to be persuaded, induced, or influenced to commit such violation or offense.*

(c) *Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present or other pecuniary or material benefit, for himself or for another, from any person for whom the public officer, in any manner or capacity, has secured or obtained, or will secure or obtain, any Government permit or license, in consideration for the help given or to be given, without prejudice to* **Cont. on page 6**

Sen. Ping Lacson's Privilege Speech... from page 8

outside the Customs Bureau that I had interacted with over the past two weeks regarding the "Tara" list, we carefully vetted and cross-matched each and every information to come up with an objectively filtered and detailed list of who and how much each office or official in the Bureau collects per container per day.

From the list furnished us by various sources, a "standard tara" amounting to a low of P19,000 to a high of P45,000 is paid to the Customs officials in the Central Office for each container.

On top of the "standard tara" paid to Customs Central Office, Manila International Container Port (MICP) officials and employees also collect payola in the amount of P14,700 (on the low side) and P23,700 (on the high side) for 40-footer containers. Hence, the total tara being paid for each container is from P33,700 to P68,700.

For a 40-footer container for the Port of Manila (POM), the tara of the Customs officials and employees amounts to P15,700 to P26,700. If we add this to the standard tara mentioned above, the total tara ranges from P34,700 to P71,700.

For a 20-footer container, an additional P12,200 to P20,700 tara for the Customs officials and employees in the Manila International Container Port (MICP) is added to their standard tara, making a total tara for each 20-footer container amounting to P31,200 to P65,700.

For the Port of Manila (POM), Customs officials and employees are receiving taras from a low of P13,200 to as high as P23,700 making the total tara for a 20 footer ranging from a low P32,200 to a high of P68,700.

From this, the share of each office or person within the Bureau can range from a low of P200 to a high of P15,000 per container. Believe it or not, officials from the top offices of the Bureau down to those who monitor the "Gates" and "X-RAY" have their share in the tara.

What is amusing, Mr President, ang mga dokumento at listahan ng mga tumatanggap ng "Tara" ay naglalaman ng halos pare-parehong mga pangalan ng Customs officials and offices involved, bagmen at operators, maliban sa mga pangalan, (at syempre naman) ng mismong nagbahagi ng impormasyon sa amin.

Having said that, it is almost an easy job to come up with a very credible "Tara" list. So without much ado, allow me to proceed.

Mr President, I beg your indulgence as I have a lot of names to read from this list.

Allow me to start with the list of alleged bribe givers or "players" at the Bureau of Customs:

Tina Yu	and Ruel Tolentino
Jerry Yu	"Kimberly" Gamboa
Manny Santos	Bobot Sison
David Tan	Marty Pimentel of Cebu
Jude Logarta	A certain "Eunice" of Davao
Eric Yap	Jun Diamante
Edvic Yap	Vic Reyes
Ruben Taguba/Mark Taguba	Gerry Yap
Noel Bonvalin	Arnold Saulong
John Paul Teves	Hope Arnulfo Saulong
Gerry Teves	Boy Sabater
Joel Teves	Nero Andal
Jan Jan Teves	Lea Cruz
Ringo Teves	Aying Acuzar / Eduardo Dio
George Tan	Rey Tubig
Diogenes "Dennis" De Rama	Ruel Sy
Henry Tan	Frank Wong
Bim Castillo	Chi Men
George Wee	Jen Yu
Atty Vener Baquiran	Grace Bisaya
Johnny Sy	Arthur Tan
Armando "Burog" Tolentino	Charlie Tan of Davao Group
	Anthony Ng

At this point, here are the names of identified collectors/bagmen:

Atty. Christopher Bolastig thru Russel and Estrella, and Atty Genefielle Lagmay for the Office of the Commissioner (OCOMM)

Nanie Koh for Import and Assessment Service (IAS); Also included is a certain Lorna Rosario

Joel Pinawin, Ollie Valiente, and Teddy Sagara for

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS)
Atty Larribert Hilario for the Risk Management Office (RMO) /Command Center (COMMCEN)

A certain "Magic" or Major Salamanca for the Enforcement Group (EG)

Bien Rubio, Jerry and Diego Santiago for the Intelligence Group (IG)

Jasmin Obillos for Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG)

Sia Otto and Roy for Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group

Bien Rubio, for Intellectual Property Rights Division

Atty Tom Tagra for Legal Services

Boy Garcia for Accounts Management Office (AMO)

Certain Mamadra, Bobadilla and Mamao for Customs Collector in NAlA

A certain "Hunk" for the Customs Collector in Subic Efren Ambagan and a certain Guiao for the Customs Collector in Clark

Alfred and Daniel Wagwag for the District Collector, Port of Manila (POM)

Jun Rapa for the Dep. Collector for Operations for POM Alex, Atty Mimi Aldave and Atty Vener Baquiran for the District Collector, Manila International Container Port (MICP)

Jayson Calinap for X Ray in MICP

Agama and Junjun Reyes for X Ray at POM

For the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) for Manila International Container Port : Ordoña and Bundukin with a certain "Ante" as runner

Lino Arroyo for the Enforcement and Security Service, Port of Manila

Meanwhile, here's a brief summary of the amounts being regularly distributed in the payola system. Please note that these amounts are given per container.

For Bureau of Customs, Central Office, the following are the standard tara for each office or division:
P5,000 to 10,000 for Office of the Commissioner (OCOMM)
P5,000 to P10,000 for Command Center (COMMCEN)
P1,000 to P3,000 for the Assessment Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG)
P1,500 to P3,000 for the Intelligence Group (IG)
P3,000 to P10,000 for CIIS CENTRAL
P500 to P1,000 for CIIS Director's Office
P1,000 to P3,000 for the Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD)
P1,000 to P2,000 for the Accounts Management Office (AMO)
P1,000 to P3,000 for the Import and Assessment Service (IAS)

For Manila International Container Port (MICP) and Port of Manila (POM):

P9,000 to P15,000 for the Section Heads, Appraisers and Examiners in the Formal Entry Division for both MICP and POM

P1,000 to P3,000 for the Informal Entry Division for both MICP and POM

P3,000 each for MICP and POM Collector's Office

P500 to P1,000 for CIIS Port for both MICP and POM

P500 for Enforcement and Security Service for both MICP and POM

P500 to P1,000 for both MICP and POM

P200 for the Piers and Inspection Division for both MICP and POM

P1,000 to P3,000 for the Deputy District Collector of POM

P1,000 to P1,500 for XRAY

Official records from the Bureau of Customs disclose that, on the average, around 15,000 to 16,000 containers are transacted for release every week at the MICP and POM.

Of this, between 6,000 to 6,400 or approximately 40% of the total weekly containers have tara.

Mr President, mayroon po tayong tinatawag na mga "Big Players." Sila ang mga halos naghahari o namamayagpag sa pagpapalabas ng mga kargamento sa Customs.

A total of 390 to 490 containers per day or 1,950 to 2,450 containers weekly are being facilitated by the so called "Big Players" broken down as follows:

100-110 containers - David Tan

80-100 containers - Davao Group (Taguba belongs to this group)

80-100 containers - Manny Santos

80-100 containers - Teves Group

50-80 containers - "Kimberly" Gamboa

Finally, Mr President, here are the recipients of tara/payola at the Bureau of Customs:

Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon

Deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval – Intelligence Group (IG)

Deputy Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno -Enforcement Group (EG)

Deputy Commissioner Gerardo Gambala of the Command Center

Deputy Commissioner Natalio C. Ecarma III of Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG)

Deputy Commissioner Edward James Dy Buco of Assessment and Operations Coordination Group (AOCG)

Director Neil Estrella – Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service [CIIS] (alleged to collect also for the Office of the Commissioner [OCOMM] together with Chris Bolastig)

Atty. Zsae de Guzman – Chief, Intellectual Property Rights Division

Atty Larribert Hilario of Risk Management Office (RMO)

Joel Pinawin, OIC Chief, Intelligence Division of the BOC (one of the alleged collectors of Director Estrella)

Director Milo Maestrecampo – Import and Assessment Service (IAS)

Atty Grace Malabed, Acting Chief of the Account Management Office (AMO)

Atty Alvin H. Ebreo, Director Legal Service under Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG)

All Section Heads, Appraisers and Examiners in the Formal Entry Division in both the MICP and POM

Athena Dans of the Informal Entry Division MICP

All Section Heads, Appraisers and Examiners in the Informal Entry Division in the POM

MICP & POM Sections 1, 9, 10, & 15 Chief Appraiser and Examiner

For the District Collectors/Officers, the following names were mentioned:

Collector Jet Maronilla of the MICP

Collector Rhea Gregorio of POM

Collector Edgar Z. Macabeo of NAlA

Collector Elvira Cruz of Cebu

Collector Maritess Martin of Clark

Collector Mimel Talusan of Subic

Collector Reynaldo M. Galeno of Batangas

Deputy Collector Mel Pascual for POM

Captain Tikoy Gutierrez of Enforcement and Security Service (MICP) (deceased)

-to be continued next issue-

Magkasangga Tayo ...from page 5

Section thirteen of this Act.

(e) Causing any undue injury to any party, including the Government, or giving any private party any unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference in the discharge of his official administrative or judicial functions through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence. This provision shall apply to officers and employees of offices or government corporations charged with the grant of licenses or permits or other concessions.

(f) Neglecting or refusing, after due demand or request, without sufficient justification, to act within a reasonable time on any matter pending before him for the purpose of obtaining, directly or indirectly, from any person interested in the matter some pecuniary or material benefit or advantage, or for the purpose of favoring his own interest or giving undue advantage in favor of or discriminating against any other interested party.

(i) Directly or indirectly becoming interested, for personal gain, or having a material interest in any transaction or act requiring the approval of a board, panel or group of which he is a member, and which exercises discretion in such approval, even if he votes against the same or does not participate in the action of the board, committee, panel or group.

Kakampi Mo Ang Batas ...from page 5

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No more Red Tape

MANILA -- The Senate on Tuesday approved on third and final reading the Expanded Anti-Red Tape Act of 2017 which seeks to reduce the requirements for starting and operating businesses.

Also called Senate Bill No. 1311, the measure was approved with 17 affirmative votes, zero negative vote and no abstention.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri, chair of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship and co-sponsored by Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto.

Zubiri said this measure is meant "to cure the defects in the current system of the business community's transactions with government."

Moreover, he said the passing of the measure was a response to the call of President Rodrigo Duterte to cut red tape in government processes.

"This landmark legislation is our answer to the clamor of the business sector and government agencies for ease of doing business in the country, to make our country competitive and compliant with sound global business practices and standards," Zubiri said.

The bill sets a new prescribed processing period not be longer than three working days for simple applications involving micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and 10 working days for complex applications from the time the application was received.

For special types of businesses that require clearances, accreditation and/or licenses issued by government agencies, the bill prescribed a processing time no longer than 20 working days or "as determined by the government agency or instrumentality concerned, whichever is shorter."

Meanwhile, if the concerned national or local government agency

three police officers accused of killing their son namely; PO3 Arnel Oares, PO1 Jeremias Pereda and PO1 Jerwin Cruz.

The three cops refused to answer most of the senators' questions including "Who killed Kian Delos Santos?" and instead invoked their right against self incrimination.

Mr. and Mrs. Delos Santos, meanwhile, took the opportunity to speak to the policemen telling them how painful it was to lose their son who dreamt of becoming a cop like them. (PNA)

lapsed then the application "shall be deemed approved."

This provided that the application has lapsed "without informing the applicant of the error, omissions and/or additional documents required for submission," and that the applicant has complied with all required documents and fees.

The bill also requires national and local agencies to set up an electronic "Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS)" business permit and licensing system nationwide to make the application process for business permits and other documents faster and more convenient.

Through the BOSS, applicants could avail of online mechanisms for submission and processing of license, clearance and/or permit applications.

Finally, the bill also called for renaming the existing Competitiveness Bureau under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to be the new Business Anti-Red Tape and Competitiveness Bureau, to be headed by a bureau director. The new bureau would be tasked to complement the functions of the Civil Service Commission in implementing the act.

Aside from Expanded Anti-Red Tape Act, the Senate also passed on third and final reading several bills that would renew for another 25 years the franchises of eight radio and television broadcasting corporations.

The Senate passed House Bills No. 5064, 4636, 5063, 5177, 5212, 5175, 5176, and 5211, which would renew the franchises of Subic Broadcasting Corp., Iloilo Baptist Church, Inc., Pangasinan Gulf Waves Network, Corp., Infocom Communications Network, Filipinas Broadcasting Association, Inc., Beta Broadcasting System, Inc., Sarraga Integrated Management Corporation of the Philippines, and Gateway Television Broadcasting, Inc., respectively.

Under the new amendments, Poe said that the eight franchises are now required "to provide, free of charge, adequate public service time to enable the government to reach pertinent populations." (PNA)



CONFIRM 'KA PAENG'. Cause-oriented groups and farmers organizations on Friday (August 25, 2017) gathered in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform head office in Quezon City to show their support for the confirmation of Secretary Rafael Mariano. Since last week, the DAR Employees Association (DAREA) have been staging lunch break mass actions calling on the Commission on Appointments to confirm Mariano's appointment as DAR chief. (PNA photo by Jess M. Escaros Jr.)

Chinese flag mounted on sand cay near Kota Island: Alejano

MANILA -- A Chinese flag has been mounted on a sand cay located seven nautical miles off Kota Island in the West Philippines Sea, Magdalo Partylist Rep. Gary Alejano said on Tuesday.

In a press conference at the House of Representatives, Alejano alleged that the Chinese flag was discovered in the third week of July and was planted by a Chinese vessel on a sand cay near a Philippine-owned island.

"According to the information that I received, a Chinese flag mounted on a steel pipe was discovered planted on a sand cay located seven nautical miles northeast off Kota Island," Alejano said.

"It was discovered around the third week of

July 2017. A Chinese vessel allegedly erected the said three-meter high Chinese flag on a sand cay which is known to be within a Philippine-controlled area," he added.

Alejano expressed concern over the continuous activities of China in the disputed waters in the West Philippine Sea.

"These recently reported incidents only reveal that Chinese activities in the West Philippine Sea have not stopped amid warmer relations between the Philippines and China," Alejano said.

In a separate interview, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said that the department has taken all diplomatic actions necessary within

the conflict areas.

Cayetano also said the department will inform the public if the situation should be a cause for alarm.

"So let me assure you that despite the lack of details that we give you, we will tell you if there's an alarming situation, or if the public is in danger, or if we are going to take or step up certain actions that need the public's support or at the very least knowledge," Cayetano said.

The DFA chief reiterated the Duterte administration has been consistent with its efforts to uphold the country's territorial claims, as well as its claims for sovereignty and economic rights.

"We're not giving up a single inch of our territory," Cayetano said. /PNA

Hontiveros turns over Kian slay witnesses to Senate

MANILA -- Three witnesses to the murder of Kian Delos Santos, the 17-year-old student killed in the Caloocan City anti-drug operations last Aug. 16, are now under Senate custody, Senator Risa Hontiveros said Thursday.

Prior to the turn over to Senate custody, Hontiveros along with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) National Center for Legal Aid and Caloocan Bishop Ambo David took custody of the three witnesses -- 31-year-old and two minors aged 16 and 13 years old -- since Sunday (August 20).

"Chairman Lacson also extended the sanctuary of the Senate using his Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs," Hontiveros told reporters

in a press conference after the hearing into Kian's slay.

Hontiveros said that her office has "full coordination" with Lacson as well as Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III.

She said her request for an executive session to listen to the testimonies of the minor witnesses did not push through because Lacson's committee was waiting for an authorization letter from one of the witnesses' mother who works as an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Oman.

"Minabuti ni Chairman Lacson na bago sila idinig sa executive session ay makuha ang authorization in writing mula sa Nanay (ng isa sa mga testigo)," she said.

She added her office has also kept in touch with the

witnesses' parents via text message.

The senator said that the siblings of one of the witnesses have also requested to accompany their family member in the Senate.

During the hearing, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II insisted that the witnesses should be placed under the government's witness protection program (WPP) as they could easily be "brainwashed" under Hontiveros' custody.

Hontiveros, however, reiterated that it was up to the witnesses and their families to decide who to secure them.

Also during the hearing, Kian's parents, Saldy and Lorenzana Delos Santos, came face to face with the

tarlacweekender

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NOTE: Ang huling parte ng ating LG Komentaryo patungkol sa mga nangyayari sa Barangay Tibag (Tarlac City) ay ilalathala sa susunod na issue para magbigay espasyo sa paglathala ng kabuuang privilege speech ni Senator Ping Lacson tungkol sa korapsyon sa Bureau of Customs.

"Hell is empty, and all the devils are here." So said William Shakespeare many, many years ago. Little did he imagine at that time that more than 10,000 kilometers away and some 400 years later, he would be describing our present day Bureau of Customs. Thus, let me update Shakespeare by paraphrasing him – "Hell is empty and all the devils are at the Bureau of Customs."

And for the devils, the Bureau of Customs is heaven – a heaven that is a haven for crooks, criminals, malefactors, and faeldons...sorry, I meant felons.

Mr President, I stand on a question of personal and collective privilege on a matter that this representation has found repulsive and reprehensible since the start of my career as a public servant.

In my years of public service I have always taken the adage:

"In life there are 3C's: CHOICE, CHANCE, CHANGE. You must make the choice, to take the chance, if you want anything in life to change."

Alas, Mr President, while we see a ray of hope in many government offices, it is undeniable that, over the years, Customs seems to be the one office where darkness and evil always triumph.

A fact underscored by the oft-repeated tale about this lowly guy whose driving ambition was to find employment at the Bureau of Customs. Thanks to the intercession of his congressman, he was able to get a clerical job. After a month of working, he was surprised to find a pay envelope.

"Wow, may suweldo pa pala dito," he happily exclaimed.

Mr President, no matter how we pull in the reins, the Bureau of Customs fails big time in our government's fight against graft and corruption.

The facts are telling: As per the Social Weather Stations, the BOC had consistently topped their polls as the MOST CORRUPT government agency from 2005 to 2016.

Here's the problem – periodically, the headlines shout of yet another big tale of corruption at the Bureau of Customs. But the anger and indignation are not sustained.

The corruption mess is deliberately downplayed by the Customs cretins and consigned to the dustbin of journalism history, ably assisted by their cohorts of PR firms, always ready and able to summarily kill a story that puts the bureau in a bad light.

How many of you still remember the case six years ago of a Customs clerk named Paulino Elevado, who was discovered by accident, literally, to be the owner of a pricey Porsche Carrera sports car? Aside from his Porsche, this Elevado also owned a fleet of six other luxury cars, two houses in an upscale subdivision. His salary? P9,000 per month.

Clerk pa lang yan, hindi pa bossing.

It is time to bring the intensity of the war against drugs to the war against corruption.

Ramdam na ramdam ang war against drugs.

Araw araw, ang daming napapatay.

Pero, ang war against corruption, bakit wala na yata tayong naririnig na nakukulong?

I have always believed that in the fight against corruption, we should only have one single standard.

More importantly, we should not attempt to find who our allies, friends, or enemies are. Regardless of anything or anybody, corruption is evil. And there can be, there should be, no compromise with evil.

For over a decade, the Bureau of Customs failed to show improvement in fighting corruption.

The most recent scandal, however, closely impacts the administration's war on drugs – the very centerpiece of President Duterte's campaign promises. In fact, drugs and corruption are the two issues that President Duterte emphasizes in his public speeches and media interviews as tops in his list of priorities.

This makes the issue at hand more wanting and controversial than the same-old stories of Customs' improprieties.

Last Sunday, President Duterte has announced the

appointment of PDEA Director General Isidro Lapeña to replace Bureau of Customs Chief Nicanor Faeldon in the wake of the P6.05 billion shabu shipment from China.

Mr President, I pondered that delivering this privilege speech today might be likened to beating a dead horse. However, Mr President, I have come to realize that when it comes to national interest, you do not deal with just one horse. Instead, you decimate the entire stud.

Nearly 3 months ago, media headlined a story of the seizure by local authorities of 604 kilograms of methamphetamine hydrochloride in a brokerage warehouse in Valenzuela City. This latest drug haul is estimated to have a retail value of P6.05 billion.

Initial reports indicated that this successful apprehension of a big haul of illegal drugs was a product of intelligence sharing and cooperation against cross-border smuggling between China and the Philippines Customs authorities.

However, Mr President, you do not need a title nor a law degree to postulate that something was terribly wrong.

The story as it unfolds sounds more like the inspiration behind the hit movie title, KITA KITA.

First, KITANG KITA natin, because it was so obvious that the enormous shipment was successfully smuggled under the noses or through the indispensable participation of Customs officials.

Second, the huge amount involved showed the obvious – KITA ang KITA. We can see the peso signs in billions.

This exactly is what prompted the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee led by Senator Dick Gordon, in aid of legislation, to conduct an inquiry on what looked like the fast and furious smuggling of 604 kilos of shabu, contradicting the government's intensified war against drugs.

During 4 public hearings, we have uncovered the identities of key personalities and their modus operandi.

KITA ang KITA. We can easily see the incomes of several Customs officials. A self-confessed "player" a.k.a a fixer, Mark Taguba confessed about some payoffs. First, in an executive session, eventually in open public hearings. Yesterday, he presented few names of the Customs officers and bagmen whom he had transactions with. However, Taguba did not spill all the beans.

KITANG KITA natin. We discovered the labyrinth and lexicon of the criminal inside the Bureau of Customs: The consignee-for-hire; The selective lane mechanism; The payola system.

The partner-in-crime relationship between Chinese nationals and our corrupt government officials, complete with middlemen and bagmen.

It is a smuggling mafia out there, Mr President, a criminal state that has no fear of government nor the president.

Kawawa ang Republika ng Pilipinas.

Suffice to say, Mr President, that our quest to dig up how 604 kilos of shabu neatly hidden in 5 cylindrical roller printing machines from China managed to slip under the BOC officials' noses has opened up a whole cylinder of worms.

During the hearing of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Commissioner Faeldon admitted that he was aware of the so-called "Tara" system even before assuming office.

He said he tried. His excuse: He could not investigate the matter because he was helplessly alone in eradicating corruption in his domain.

To be more specific, Faeldon said "The appointment of the officers in charge in the probe was just December or January. So for the first 6 months, I was working alone."

Boo-Hoo! Tell that to the marines, Mr. Faeldon, but not to this institution.

Mr. President, records show that as early as July 1, 2016, he already hired the services of Gerardo O. Gambala, Milo D. Maestrecampo, Atty. Mandy Therese

M. Anderson and Henry Anthony M. Torres as technical assistants each receiving a monthly compensation of P40,000 to 50,000.

KITANG KITA, the lies.

Mr President, even granting Mr Faeldon's assertion that he was working alone, if he was the principled man that he said he is, he should have stood firm even if he was alone.

As head of the Bureau, with the backing of no less than the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Commissioner Faeldon should have started the cleansing in the Bureau by eliminating what has been corrupting the agency for so long, the "Tara" system.

Unfortunately, instead of going against the system, siya ang kinain ng sistema, thereby effectively tolerating and even promoting the impunity of corruption.

Loud whispers in the four corners of the Bureau of Customs compound tell of a P100-million "pasalubong" to the newly-installed Commissioner, a quarter of which, or P25 million was retained as finder's fee by his middleman named Joel Teves.

If in the AFP, under a previous administration, you end your stint with the infamous "Good bye, Pabaon." sa Bureau of Customs naman you start your stint with a "Welcome, Pasalubong."

Holy mackerel! Welcome pa lang, may kita na.

It is an outright cash incentive.

Accepting this pasalubong is a slippery slope.

As they say, "Corruption is like a ball of snow. Once it's set a rolling it must increase."

Once one accepts the pasalubong, then the ball of corruption starts to snowball.

At, pag nasarapan na, hahanap-hanapin pa ang dagdag-kita.

And just like taking illegal drugs, they find themselves addicted to bribes in exchange for favors. Tuloy ang ligaya ng mga corrupt. Indeed, loose morals will blur lines.

How can we stop the importation of illegal drugs at the Bureau of Customs if the graft activities of its officials and personnel and the corrupt system persist in the seaports and airports?

The issue at hand would have never happened if there was no collusion by someone with somebody from the inside, whether it is a middle-level official of the bureau or all the way up.

Kung walang kita, lahat makikita. Kung may kita – eh, wala talagang pagpupuslit na makikita.

Mr President, everybody knows, at the Bureau of Customs, it's "everybody happy." They have this so called "payday" Friday / TGIF / Friday-three o'clock-habit, or whatever day of the week and hour of the day they now choose to make themselves happy, and yes – filthy rich.

So many monikers have been coined for this joyous tradition at the BOC but all refer to a weekly assembly of several customs officials and selected employees, where multimillion peso bribes otherwise known as "Tara" are given and divided up.

Mr President, for the past few weeks, I have been expressing my disbelief with President Duterte's unusual calm and gentle reaction to the alleged involvement of his people in Customs to the massive volume of drugs that easily made its way to our controlled borders.

Nevertheless, after weeks of public outcry here, and everywhere for the removal of Faeldon, President Duterte has finally acted and replaced him as Customs chief. Even for an "honest man," sabi nga ho natin, it is better late than never.

Now, in case our distinguished colleagues are wondering how and from whom I got all these information, let me tell you as a background, Mr. President, with a little bit of exaggeration – si Nick Faeldon na lang yata ang hindi nakapag-ambag ng datos na ipapakita ko sa inyo sa mga susunod na sandali.

Indeed, when the so-called Customs payola or "Tara" hit the fan and made it to the headlines, information came pouring in.

Quite a number of top and middle-level Customs officials and employees, as well as brokers, even a civic-minded individual who has been gathering information on this matter for the longest time started contacting our office. At least two of those I mentioned directly came to us to provide their own versions of the "Tara" list.

From various sources inside and **Cont. on page 6**