

Priest, 2 Others Arrested for Shabu

By Nelson Bolos

Paniqui, Tarlac -- An addict priest? This came as a priest, along with 2 others, were arrested in a buy bust operation at Barangay Poblacion Norte.

In his report, PSupt Joel Mendoza identified those arrested as Randy Valdez, 35, of District 1, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, Mike Raven Quinto y Puyaoan, 20, of Barangay Poblacion Sur, and Camille Franilla, 23, of Barangay Poblacion Norte, here.

Valdez, who is a native of this town, is the destined priest of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), more commonly known as the Aglipayan

Church, in Cuyapo town.

"When we accosted Valdez along with the 2 other suspects, I thought he (Valdez) was joking, or either high on drugs, when he introduced himself as a priest. But it turned out to be true, he is a priest of the Aglipayan church," Mendoza said.

Mendoza also said, "the target of our entrapment were Camille (Franilla) and Quinto who are both on our Municipal Watchlist of Drug Personalities. It was Camille who received the P500 marked money from my policeman poseur buyer but it was this person (Valdez) who handed the 2 plastic sachets of shabu. That's why we arrested them."

The 20-year old Quinto, whose maternal name is Puyaoan his 3 kins of which are known to be actively involved in illegal drugs, yielded 5 plastic sachets of shabu.

While the 23-year old Camille disclosed that she already has 5 children and that it was her second time to be arrested for illegal drugs. Camille admitted that she is the common law wife of Jojo Salvador who was killed in a bungled police buy-bust 2 years ago.

Sought for comment, Valdez said, "Nagsimula akong gumamit (ng shabu) bago pa ako pumasok sa pagpapari. (Mula noon) hindi ko (na) mapigil ang sarili ko na gumamit (ng shabu)."

Valdez also disclosed that priesthood of the Aglipayan church takes 5 to 8 years studies depending on the course chosen.

He, however, refused to comment on how his "flock" of Aglipayan church

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THESE SANTA IGNACIA KIDS SHOULD BE EMULATED - Pupils of Santa Ignacia North Central Elementary School (SINCES) turned over one (1) wallet to Sta Ignacia Police station, found to be owned by Ms. Analyn D. Sagun, a resident of Brgy. Caduldulaoan, Santa Ignacia, Tarlac.

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 ipaabaot?

Mag text lang sa 09175061005 (Globe) or 0932-907-9810 (Sun), mag e-mail sa tarlacweekender@yahoo.com, o di kaya ay mag PM sa ating Facebook account na Tarlac Weekender!

Be forewarned of FAKE NEWS!

HUWAG KANG TANGA! GUMAMIT NG COMMON SENSE!

Sundan sa p. 6 ang Fake News of the Week

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BY: ROLDAN P. RAMOS

Farmers, sectoral groups join peace caravan, sign manifesto at Hacienda Luisita

TARLACCITY - Over 1,000 residents and farmers of Hacienda Luisita recently joined the peace caravan and signing of manifesto as a call for peace and unity.

Themed, "Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran, Pagkakaisa at Trabaho (Peace, Prosperity, Unity and Livelihood)," it was made to show unity and discourage any future violent protests from disrupting the area.

"Improved livelihood opportunities and prosperity can only happen when there

is peace and order within the community," Association of Barangay Captains President Edgar Sumat stated.

During the activity, multi-sectoral groups marched from Calumpang Intersection to Barangay Central covered court and forged a "Manifesto for Peace" to signify their commitment to achieve peace and harmony in the community.

"This seeks to deliver a clear message to everyone that the people in Hacienda Luisita just want to work towards progress, without any disruptions or commotions," Sumat added. (CLJD/TJBM-PIA 3)

160 employers, human resource officers attend 1st ECP Seminar in Tarlac

TARLAC CITY - More than 160 employers and human resource officers from various private and government sectors recently attended the first ever Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) Advocacy Seminar in the province.

The activity was organized by the Employees'

Compensation Commission (ECC) in coordination with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Tarlac in a bid to intensify awareness on the rights, benefits and privileges of employees.

"We are enjoining them to take this opportunity to be familiarized with the various program interventions that



AN ADDICT AND PUSHER PRIEST? PSupt Joel Mendoza (seated in police uniform), Paniqui, Tarlac, police chief, together with media man Nelson Bolos (with cap), interview suspected drug dealers Randy Valdez (third from left) Aglipayan church priest of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, Mike Raven Quinto and Camille Franilla, who were arrested in a police buy-bust operation.



PANIQUI'S MRF - Congressman Charlie Conjuanco and Paniqui Mayor Max Roxas visit the town's material recovery facility (MRF) located at what used to be a dumpsite. The MRF is now producing compost soil, an added income source for the municipality.

DTI opens 7th Negosyo Center in Tarlac

TARLACCITY - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) opened Thursday its 7th Negosyo Center in the province located in barangay San Miguel

we offer," ECC Deputy Executive Director Jonathan Villasoto said. Topics discussed include the three major components of the EC Program namely Prevention, Compensation, and Rehabilitation Services.

The activity likewise highlighted the recent program reforms of the ECC anchored on the "3Es" - Equalize, Enhance and Expand strategy in response to the challenges facing the EC Program.

In behalf of the ECP

in San Manuel town.

DTI Provincial Director Agnes Ramirez said this is the 43rd Negosyo Center in Central Luzon and 590th in the country.

beneficiaries, Junwil Carmelo shared his experience on how ECC helped him recover from his accident and thanked ECC for giving him free skills and prosthetic legs.

The ECP is one of the flagship programs of the ECC which aims to assist workers who suffer work-related sickness or injury resulting to disability or death.

ECC is an attached agency of DOLE that is mandated by law to provide meaningful and appropriate compensation

"The center will help the micro, small and medium enterprises regarding advisory, counseling, improving the labels of the products, business name registration and other assistance related to business industry," Ramirez said.

Meanwhile, San Manuel Vice Mayor Doña Crescencia Tesero said this project is the long-term avenue to generate more jobs and to provide extra income and opportunity for all San Manueleños.

"This is our long-time dream for the people of San Manuel and we are very grateful for this opportunity that's why we should support each and every one to be part of the success and economic growth of our town," Tesero disclosed.

Other Negosyo Centers are located in Tarlac City, Concepcion, Capas, Moncada, Gerona, and Victoria. (CLJD/CJVF-PIA 3)

Priest, 2 others... from page 1

members will react upon knowing that their priest is using illegal drugs.

"Talagang ang paggamit ng shabu ay nakakasira ng isip at pagkatao. Pati paniniwala sa Diyos mawawala", also said Mendoza.

"Being a priest, Valdez can fall under the category of "newly discovered High Value Target (HVT)", Mendoza added.

benefits and services to workers in the event of work-related contingencies. (CLJD/TJBM-PIA

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5 alleged Reds burn agri school warehouse in Nueva Ecija

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija - Five armed men who identified themselves as members of the New People's Army (NPA) set on fire a warehouse of an agriculture school in Barangay Cadaducan, Nampicuan, this province Sunday.

Senior Supt. Antonio Yarra, provincial police director, on Monday said that based on the report, the

men allegedly barged into the compound of Gallego Institute of Agriculture Industry at about 2 a.m. Sunday.

Reynaldo Lapurga, 56, warehouse caretaker, told police that the suspects stood in front of their staffhouse and introduced themselves as NPAs before firing into the air at least seven times using unspecified type of

Quickly, the men allegedly set on fire the motor glider, its spare parts, power generator equipment parts and a water pump until the fire gutted the warehouse, police said.

Yarra said follow up investigation is being conducted for possible identification of the suspects as well as their motives. (Marilyn Espiritu-Galang/PNA)

First ever Kiddie Career Center in Central Luzon launched



SAN JOSE CITY, Nueva Ecija - The first Sever Kiddie Career Center in Central Luzon was launched in this city where early grade learners in Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the region can look forward to a more enjoyable learning experience.

Located at the Library Hub of the Schools Division Office here, the Kiddie Career Center allows kindergarten and grade 1 pupils to imagine their future through fun and wholesome activities.

It has 13 career booths and other learning facilities where children can act out different characters and roles.

"This is an integral part of children's developmental learning process, it encourages them to dramatize roles of someone or something other than themselves," Dr. Teresa Mababa, schools division superintendent of San Jose City, said on Thursday.

The career booths include an agri farm, bakeshop, supermarket, police station, fire station, automotive repair shop, beauty salon, science laboratory, hospital, kiddie bank, music studio, and kiddie school.

Aside from the kiddie career center, the Library Hub encourages learners and teachers to create and innovate by providing free use of computer facilities, print and non-print collections, and physical space for developing learning and teaching resources.

It also delivers books door to door to public school libraries and learning resource centers to encourage the love and habit of reading.

Reading sessions and activities such as the Celebrity Reader Program and Malikhaing Pagbasa were started to be conducted in 13 consecutive Tuesdays for the first batch.

The first and only Kiddie Career Center in the region, this is aligned with the Creative Schools Framework of DepEd Region 3 in which the value of creativity is highlighted as a core attribute in molding the generation of "thinkers" and "tinkers" to be able to boost the achievement and success rates of the students. (Marilyn Espiritu-Galang/PNA)

1,000 Cops Tagged in Text Complaints (141 from Central Luzon)

The PNP Counter-Intelligence Task Force (CITF) is continuously validating reports of alleged involvement of 1,122 more PNP personnel in illegal activities.

A total of 41 PNP personnel and 15 civilians had been arrested, mostly for extortion, over the last six months since the activation of CITF in January 2017.

According to PSSupt Chuiquito Malayo, CITF Commander, the CITF has received 1,180 police-related concerns out of the 7,049 reports and complaints received thru its SMS reporting hotline 09986702286 and 09957958569.

These reports identified 1,122 police personnel (249 officers and 873 non-officers) allegedly involved in different forms of irregularities, Malayo said.

Malayo said 641 personnel

were identified in SMS reports as involved in the three most prevalent violations as protector of illegal activities, engaged in drug activities and extortion.

Subject to ongoing extensive and through validation are SMS reports that named 385 personnel from NCRPO, 147 from CALA-BARZON and 141 From Central Luzon, Malayo said.

The SMS reports received by CITF stemmed from alleged violations and complaints against PNP personnel as protector of illegal activities, drug use and trafficking, extortion, illegal gambling, "hulidap", physical injuries, illegal logging, unexplained wealth, kidnapping, smuggling, gunrunning and other analogous anomalies. (PNP-PIO)

Pampanga Capitol eyes adopting megalopolis plan

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Aug. 4 -- With the branding "Love Pampanga - Counter Magnet to Metro Manila", the provincial government is bent to adopt the Pampanga megalopolis plan prepared by international architect-urban planner Felino A. Palafox Jr.

The megalopolis plan, including the "Pampanga Golden Triangle" (City of San Fernando to Lubao, Angeles City to Clark Freeport and Porac to Subic Bay Freeport), is poised to make a super city for Pampanga. It is an initiative of former President and now Second District Congresswoman Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

With this, Governor Lilia G. Pineda thanked Arroyo as she enjoined all stakeholders to help for the development of the Pampanga.

"Let us help one another for the development of Pampanga," she said.

The governor vowed to promote Pampanga to the rest of the world in her remaining two years as a public official.

During the megalopolis' last draft presentation on Friday at Kingsborough International Convention, third district Board Member Rosve Henson said the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) is set to file a resolution adapting the Megalopolis plan, including the possibility to integrate all cities and municipalities to evolve into sustainable growth centers.

He said the SP welcomes the high development potentials of Pampanga through several infrastructure projects to reinforce its purpose as an urban growth center.

Palafox and its associates presented before Governor Pineda, Rep. Arroyo, provincial mayors and top businessmen the last draft of the plan that includes sectoral studies in circumferential roads, mass transit system, tourism, water supply, flooding and agri-industrial estate.

Palafox cited the 5 to 10-year timeline of developing bulk water supply systems in Porac, Arayat, Lubao and Candaba that can help reduce risk by not depending on ground water.

Establishment of new tourist attractions such as the Floridablanca Stargazing Park and Astroscience Center, Lubao-Guagua Art District and Pampanga Tourism Center was also raised in the presentation.

Meanwhile, Rep. Arroyo urged the mayors to double their efforts in finalizing their allocated projects in their specific locale to confirm the intended budget for the Megalopolis plan.

She also said that the local officials had already conducted a visioning workshop of their intended plans for their respective towns and cities considering the terrain, population and local produce and resources. (Joel Mapiles/PNA)

Tax 'reform' program burdens poor more than the rich—IBON

Research group IBON said that Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nation (SONA) statement that "we achieved the first step towards more equitable taxes" is incorrect because the poorest majority of Filipinos will be paying more taxes than the rich. The Department of Finance is covering this up, the group also said.

According to IBON executive director Sonny Africa, under the tax 'reform' package recently passed by the House of Representatives (HOR) and now with the Senate, the poorest 60% of Filipinos will pay more out of their already very low incomes than the highest income 40% of Filipinos.

"The poorest 60% will pay Php32.9 billion in additional taxes next year which is 1.6% of their combined family income of some Php2.0 trillion," he said. "The highest income 40% on the other hand will pay just Php14.7 billion which is only 0.4% of their total family income of some Php4.1 trillion."

Editorial

"In effect, the highest income 40% who have twice as much income as the poorest 60% of Filipinos will be paying less than half as much in additional taxes. Measured as a share of their total income, the poorest 60% will pay four times as much as the highest income 40% including the richest Filipinos," said Africa.

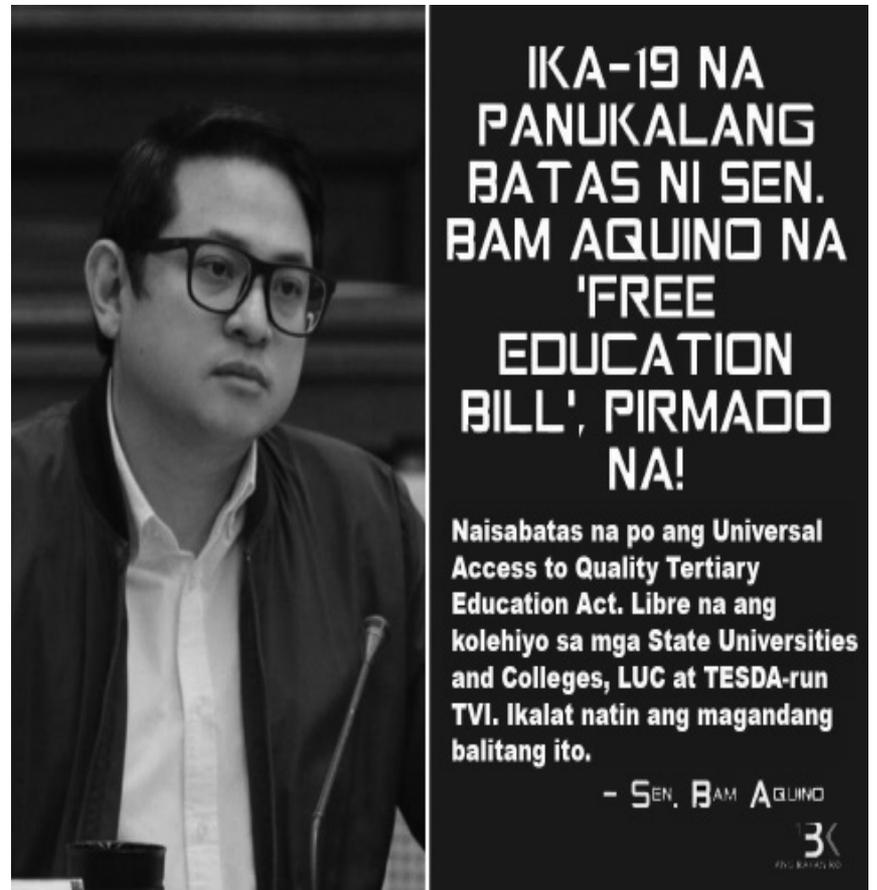
Taking all the components of the tax package into consideration, Africa said, the highest income 40% will gain Php140.1 billion from lower personal income, estate and donor taxes. He said that this off-sets much of the additional Php154.8 billion they will pay in additional VAT, petroleum and automobile taxes.

On the other hand, Africa said that the poorest 60% do not gain anything from lower personal income taxes – being exempted from paying this already. They will however pay an additional Php32.9 billion in additional VAT and petroleum taxes. This does not even include further inflationary effects and the impact of the onerous tax on sweetened beverages.

Africa added that these estimates exclude the Php2,400 cash transfer for the poorest half of families that the DOF is hyping. He said that the DOF is only using the cash transfer to cover up for the gross inequity of the tax reform package. "After 2018, the cash transfer will be discontinued but the tax burden on the poor will remain," he clarified. "The tax burden on the poor will become even worse as even higher petroleum excise taxes start to be applied," Africa warned.

The tax impact is estimated by IBON for 2018 from scant data available from the DOF. Family income estimates are from the government's latest Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) from 2015.

During the SONA, Pres. Duterte was also quoted saying "The poor and vulnerable are at the heart of my tax reform." Africa commented: "The president was correct but for the wrong reasons — they are at the 'heart' because they are paying more taxes than the rich."/www.ibon.org



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Child kidnapping in RP is real; gov't helpless



BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... `But the children rebelled against me: They did not follow my decrees, they were not careful to keep my laws, of which I said, `The person who obeys them will live by them;` and they desecrated my Sabbaths. So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness'..." (Ezekiel 20:21, the Holy Bible).

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CHILD KIDNAPPING IN RP IS REAL: Parents, guardians, and any other person whose job or concern is to take care and assure the safety of children and other minors, this column today is not meant to scare or frighten you, but on Wednesday, August 02, 2017, the truth and reality of syndicates snatching, kidnapping, and taking away kids for a host of reasons jolted me like I was hit with several bolts of lightning.

One of the lady preachers of the Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK or the Children of God Blood Kin of the Christ) Church told me and the other preachers and deacons of the AND KNK who were gathered for their regular Wednesday Bible immersion and administrative deliberations while she was profusely crying, that one of her grandsons had become the latest victim of kidnapping.

The lady preacher said the incident happened at Payatas, Quezon City, a squatter colony near the La Mesa Dam complex, just this week, as her grandson walked home from school at about 1 p.m. The mother of the grandson, one of the preacher's daughters, was with the child and two other kids of hers who were also going home when, literally, at the batting of her eyelashes, the grandson was gone.

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CHILD KIDNAPPED IN PAYATAS, QC: Frantically, the mother of the child who vanished from her sight tried to look around her, searching for the child, her eldest. But he was nowhere in sight---as if he vanished into thin air. As panic began to engulf her, the mother literally dragged her two other very young children with her as she went hither and thither, and even in circles, searching for him.

When the missing child could not be located even after almost an hour of searching, the mother rushed to the nearest police station and reported the apparent kidnapping of her son. Policemen then were dispatched to join the search. Unfortunately, as the afternoon descended into dusk, their efforts yielded no sign of the child.

As daylight started to give way to the enveloping darkness of the night, the mother found herself retracing her steps back to the school of her missing son. She dreaded going home to their shanty, where the wake

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Pilipinas, pinaka-mayaman sa mundo

BY: NELSON BOLOS



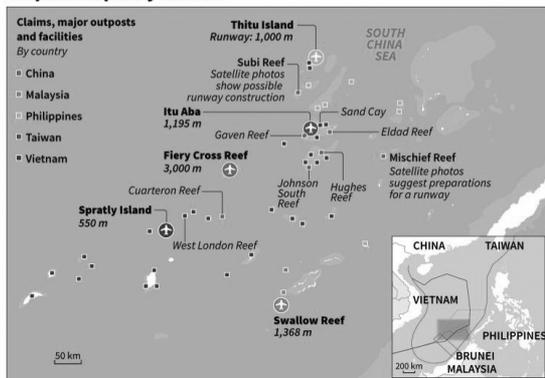
Tayong mga Pilipino ay matagal ng naghihirap. Daan-daang taon na tayong inalipin at pinahirapan ng mga dayuhang mananakop. At hanggang ngayon, milyong-milyon sa atin ang patuloy na nagpapa-alipin sa ibang bansa para lamang makapagpadala sa mga pamilyang naghihikahos.

Ngunit ito, nawa, ay hindi na magtatagal dahil ang Pilipinas pala ang pinakamayamang bansa sa buong mundo.

Bakit?

Una, nasa Pilipinas ang pinakamalaking oil reserve sa mundo at ito ay matatagpuan sa ilalim ng Spratly group of islands na nasa South China na tinatawag ngayong West Philippine Sea.

Disputed Spratly Islands



Pangalawa, at dahil din sa pagkakaroon ng Pilipinas ng Benham Rise o ang isang **Cont. on page 6**

HATAW NA KAIBIGAN

Local business/investors should not be given a hard time!!!

BY: ROLDAN P. RAMOS



I was discussing with one of our esteemed colleagues in media and he was relating to me the seemingly sad experience his friend was starting to experience in one of the local government offices in one of the municipalities in the province.

For now, I will not yet name names, after all, negotiations are still ongoing and there is still a good chance that our friend may still be able to set up the business he intends to set up in one of the municipalities. So for now, allow me to first write in generalities and skip mentioning any names (for now).

As a backgrounder, our friend, intends to engage in agribusiness. What particular type of agribusiness - let's keep it a secret for now. It so happens that land classification can be made a big issue or big deal and can also be a costly, tedious and annoying process for our businessman friend. In other words, the fate of the business he intends to put up could be in the hands of the local government gods (whoever they are, your guess is as good as mine). At any rate, this columnist and publisher of this paper can only hope that everything turns out well for our businessman friend, as I can personally guarantee the integrity of this fellow.

Finally, there is this thought and idea that I would first want to leave with those who have the habit or penchant of engaging in minor or petty or not so minor albeit irritating and annoying panginigil o pangongotong from legitimate businessmen. The saying goes this way "people who live in glass houses should not throw stones." Ang **Cont. on page 6**

**And Now the End is Near?
For whom?**

BY: CLYDE B. SACPA



This week is will be registered as one that has the shocking event in the history of our country. Recently, there was an arrest on a very influential family on the south that leads to the killing of some of the members of the family. There was a lot of speculations on the legality of the operations and media and CHR (Commission On Human Rights) are like flies feasting on the dead bodies trying to do their "job" and or trying to further the agenda they have.

While this family denies their connection to the drug business. The smoke their fire had created is too thick to be ignored. It had shown what every Juan in the country has already knew; that power corrupts the mind of the people who have it. According to my research, this the head of this political family, their grandfather, was the chosen leader of Kuratong Baleleng, an Anti-communist group in the '80s. Amazed with the power given to him, he had used the group to conduct illegal business to gain more money for his pocket.

How they got into politics is a no brainer because we knew in democracy popularity is always the main cause of winning. As they stayed in power they found out that they can siphon money using their position thus it lead them to what happened to them today. Because of what we have seen, one can't help but ask, if this kind of government or system of government is really helping our country or is it destroying and corrupting the people it uses to stand? Or is this kind of government prone to corrupt people taking in charge? Who must be blamed for such thing? Answering these questions can branch out to a lot of arguments so I chose to leave it at that and let you ponder on your own point of view.

The killing and arrest of this family won't solve the country. It's a Band-Aid to a gaping wound to say the least but in an optimistic point of view it is an effort to curb criminality. Let's just hope in pray that whatever hidden agenda was injected to this that it won't trample down the real goal it aims.

Kakampi mo ang Batas ...from page 4

of her husband who died last year was held, without their child.

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GOV'T INCAPABLE OF STOPPING CHILD KIDNAPPING: But as she sat on the side of the road, she caught sight of her son, stripped of his school uniform---polo and shorts---and was only in his underwear, looking dazed, and gravely afraid. She rushed to the son and tried to hug him. At first, the son coiled away from her, perhaps unable to recognize her with his troubled mind.

But as recognition came back to the child he embraced his mother in a tight grip, crying. The mother tried to talk to him, asking him questions, but the boy kept quiet all the time. Even today, the lady preacher said the kidnapped boy doesn't want to talk at all. He has refused going out, even to go to his school, indicating that he is still suffering from deep psychological turmoil, which may take a long time to heal.

Indeed, this experience of the grandson of the lady preacher confirmed, beyond reasonable doubt, that there are people out there, whether organized or not, who are engaged in snatching away or kidnapping

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

P100K reward para sa pagdakip sa pumaslang sa MD ng Tarlac, bakit?!

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Sino ba kasi yung nagsabi nung "those who have less in life should have more in law," ano ba talaga ang ibig sabihin nito? Ayon kay Dr. Internet, ang kasabihan na ito ay nagmula kay dating pangulong Ramon Magsaysay na lumalabas na madalas i-misquote sapagkat ang sinabi pala ni RMagsaysay ay "those who have less in life should have more law" o ang ibig niyang sabihin ay mahirap ka na nga kaya pag-aralan mong maigi ang batas nang hindi ka maapi. Ngayon ano ang kinalaman nitong kasabihan na ito sa isang reward na ibinibigay ng siyudad ng Tarlac bilang pabuya o reward sa kung sinuman makakapagbigay ng impormasyon sa agarang pagkahuli ng mga pumaslang sa isang prominenteng Doktor na si Dr. Romeo Subiate nitong nakaraang July 28. Nais ko lang linawin na hindi po ako tutol sa mga ganitong hakbangin na ang layunin ay to encourage the citizenry as a form of reward na magbigay ng impormasyon para makatulong sa agarang solusyon ng isang karumal-dumal na krimen. Ang hindi ko lang maunawaan ay kung bakit selective ang ganitong uri ng pagbibigay ng reward at para bagang mali ata ang siste, bakit ka ninyo?

Una sa lahat ay lahat ba ng napapaslang ay nagbibigay ng P100K pabuya or reward ang siyudad para sa impormasyon tungkol sa salarin? Hindi ba at pare-pareho lang dapat ang halaga at importansya ng isang buhay, maging isang doktor o isang basurero ang napaslang? Hindi ba at kung tutuusin ay kung sino pa ang taong mahirap ay siya pa nga ang dapat nating mas tulungan? Siguro sa aking palagay (hindi ko personal na kilala si Doc Subiate at wala rin akong alam sa kanyang background) bagama't sa aking palagay ay mas nakakaangat ang estado ni Dr. Subiate kompara sa maraming ibang mga pamilya na sila rin ay biktima ng krimen.

Ang tanong ko ngayon ay ano kaya ang magiging pakiramdam ng ibang mga pamilya na naging biktima ng mga karumaldumal na krimen ngunti hindi nag-alok ng pabuya/reward ang siyudad at hindi rin nagsagawa ng City Council Resolution for such a reward? Ano sa palagay ninyo ang magiging pakiramdam nila???

Kaya kayo jan sa MAYOR'S OFFICE AT KAYONG MGA TONGSEHAL ESTE KONSEHAL, KUNG MINSAN AY GAMIT-GAMITIN RIN NINYO ANG INYONG SENTIDO KOMON HA ano nga ba sa ingles yung sentido komon? Hindi ba at Common Sense na kung saan madalas sabihin nila ay ang common sense is not common. Ano ba kayo mga HONORABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, hanggang sa pagbibigay ng pabuya ay palakasan pa rin ba ang paiiralin? O baka sadyang mali si Ramon Magsaysay at ang kanyang ibig sabihin ay those who have less in life should also have less in law. Hi! Hi! Hi!

of children, mostly to take their internal organs so they could be sold to rich patrons. Since no one in government appears capable of stopping this, parents and elders can only rely on God to take care of their children.

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WATCH "ANG TANGING DAAN" AT FACEBOOK: "Ang Tanging Daan" is a Bible exposition and prayer session for everyone, in English and Filipino, 24/7, worldwide, that can be viewed at www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan. Reactions: 0917 984 24 68, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

Spin UP

...from page 5

“underwater platue” na matatagpuan naman sa Pacific Ocean na nasa “harapan” ng mga probinsiya ng Aurora at Isabela.

Ang Benham Rise na may lawak na 13 Milyon hektarya ay pinagka-loob ng United Nation Commission on the Limit Continental Shelves (UNCLOS) noon lamang 2012. At dahil ito ay karagdagang “lupain” ng bansa, ang Pilipinas ngayon ay may lawak ng 43 Milyong hektarya sa dating 30 Million hectares.

Sa Benham Rise matatagpuan ang pinakamalaking reserba ng “liquid methane”, isang uri ng makabagong energy source (na maaring ipalit sa crude oil bilang “hydrocarbon based” fuel). Sa ngayon sa Pilipinas lamang matatagpuan ang commercial reserve ng liquid methane.

Ayon sa mga pag-aaral, ang ilang isla ng Spratlys na sina-ilalim sa geological survey ay tinatayang may oil reserve na 17 Billion barrels na nagkakahalaga ng \$26.3 Trillion.

(Mas mayaman tayo sa langis kesa sa Brunei at ibang bansa sa Middle East)

Mas Malaki ang oil reserve na ito kesa sa langis ng Kuwait na 13 Billion barrels lamang. At hindi pa kasama ang ibang isla ng Spratlys at ang mga isla ng Scarborough Shoals (mga isla sa taas ng Spratlys na halos “tapat” ng Zambales).

Ang halagang \$26.3 Trillion ay P1,315 Trillion na katumbas ng mahigit 438 years na annual national budget ng bansa. (Nasa P3 Trillion lamang ang annual budget ng Pilipinas.)

Ang ibig sabihin nito ang halaga ng oil reserve sa ilang isla pa lamang ng Spratly ay maari ng tustusan ang lahat ng panganga-ilangan ng gobyerno na walang pinapataw na buwis o pag-utang sa ibang bansa sa loob ng mahigit 430 years.

Habang ang kayamanan naman sa ilalim ng Benham Rise, liban sa liquid methane, ay, ‘di umano, maari nitong suplayan ng fuel ang buong mundo kung mauubos man ang lahat ng langis sa planeta.

Napakasarap isipin na ganito kayaman ang Pilipinas. Ngunit alam natin na ang mga namumuno sa bansa ang nagiging dahilan ng paghihirap nating mga Pilipino.

Nasa kasaysayan natin na ilang ulit na “itinapon” ng mga namumuno ang oportunidad na umunlad ang bansa.

Naririyang ang pag-surrender ng Sabah bilang teritoryo ng Pilipinas noong panahon ni Marcos. (Ang Sabah ay malaking lupain sa Malaysia na kinikilala hanggang ngayon na pag-aari ng Sultan ng Sulu. Katabi nito ng Brunei ngunit ito ay napakalaki ng lawak kung ikukumpara sa Brunei. Mayroon din itong oil reserve.)

Ang walang pakundangan pagsira sa ating “forest cover” dala ng walang humpay na pag-export ng mga kakayuhan ng bansa noong dekada 60s hanggang 80s (panahon din ni Marcos) ang lubos na sumira sa ating likas na yaman.

(Ang kabundukan noon ng Pilipinas ay pinakamayaman sa hard wood, ngunit ngayon tayo na ang umaangkat ng mga kahoy sa ibang bansa na pampagawa ng ating mga bahay at ibang panganga-ilangan.)

Liban pa dito, naririyang din ang halos isang siglong pakikipagsabwatan ng mga nakaraang nanunungkulan sa Amerika na nagdulot ng “socio-economic enslavement” ng sambayang Pilipino.

Ang ating pag-unlad ay patuloy na pinigilan ng mga polisiyang idinikta ng mga ibang bansa na sinangayunan ng ating mga pamunuan dahil sa kanilang korapsyon.

Ngayon sa gitna ng pangangamkam ng China sa Spratly at Scarborough, ang nakataya sa mga kamay

ng kasalukuyang administrasyon ay ang likas na kayamanan ng bansa na nararapat na matamasa ng bawat Pilipino.

Malamang, kung hindi tayo makiki-alam, ang ating kayamanan ay pakikinabangan lamang ng mga ibang bansa at iilang mga alipores nila.

Bagamat nasa atin ang kayamanan, kailangan pa rin nating bantayan ang mga nanunungkulan sa maari nilang gawing pakikipag-sabwatan sa China.

Panahon na upang tayo ay guminhawa.

Hataw na Kaibigan ...from page 5

ibig ko pong sabihin ay, OK lang na magparamdam at magpahaging ng konting for the boys and girls, bagamat kapag sumobra ang pahirap sa isang negosyante, pakatatandaan na lahat tayo ay may hangganan. Kaya siguraduhin lang ninyo na walang maibubutas sa inyo sapagkat, kung magka minsan ay mayroon ding hangganan ang mga negosyante na ito at kung buweltahan kayo at butasan din kayo at sampahan at gastusan kayo ng masampahan kayo ng reklamo sa opisina ng Ombudsman o sa Civil Service Commission (CSC) etcetera, eh di ano kayo ngayon? Hindi kaya at kulang na kulang pa ang nais ninyo sanang kotongin para ayusin ang inyong magiging asunto (sapagkat posible na magka-pikunan kung magulo at malabo ang usapan)? Katulad ng sinabi ko, posibleng mapikon ang isang businessman investor at lumipat na lang ng lugar at hindi na mag-invest sa inyong lugar.

That is why, my friendly advice is, try to be rational and reasonable. Try to think long term if you can as this other saying has personally worked well for me as it is often said that “hindi lang naman iisa ang araw” as “gratitude has the highest command.” Alam naman natin ang ugaling Pilipino na karamihan sa atin ay kapag nagka-utang-na-loob tayo dahil sa nakatulong sa atin dala ng hindi tayo pinahirapan ay siguradong magkakautang na loob tayo at makakaganti rin tayo ng kabutihan abtp, sa ibang araw.

Huwag lang maging gahaman o ganid at pahihirapan natin ng sobra ang mga negosyante. Just remember that what goes around comes around. What I mean is do not abuse your government position and authority for your personal gain while making it appear that you are acting to protect the interest of the community. As I always say “AGA-AMO TAYON!”

On the P6.4-billion worth of shabu smuggled from China

BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

The ongoing investigation on the large-scale smuggling of methamphetamine (shabu) from China betrays a glaring inadequacy of the anti-illegal drug program of the government. While our law enforcers focus their attention on going after street peddlers and drug addicts, less efforts have been placed on other, perhaps more important, aspects of the War on Drugs: supply and demand reduction.

The obscene amount of shabu confiscated during a raid in Valenzuela was only identified after being informed by customs officials in China. Without such piece of intelligence, the contraband could have been distributed all over our country by now. This can only lead to two conclusions: first, that China is not doing enough to prevent the exportation of shabu from their country; and second, our Bureau of Customs is almost utterly incapable of preventing the entry of illegal drugs.

During his testimony before the Blue Ribbon Committee, BOC Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon admitted that they do not have the capacity to screen all incoming shipments. That while the rest of the world has the capability of x-raying 100% of all incoming commodities, we can only process 16%. That is a massive hole that exposes our local police enforcers to a steady supply of imported drugs well beyond their capability to detect.

We already know that China is the biggest source of imported illegal drugs. If China is indeed sincere in their offer to assist us in our war on drugs, they should step up their efforts to stop the outflow of illegal drugs from their country. At this point, who knows how much more drugs came through the same channel with the drugs that were confiscated during the raid?

If this administration is to succeed in the War on Drugs, it has to stop the wide-scale smuggling. Angry words and bullets are not enough. There has to be a policy that combats illegal drugs on all fronts and vigilance to properly implement them. All players must be well equipped to perform their **Cont. on page 7**

FAKE NEWS! OF THE WEEK

FAKE NEWS - BE FORWARDED

‘WAG KANG TANGA! GAMITIN ANG COMMON SENSE!



Alvarez Wants Sogo Hotel Franchise Revoked after Expired Card Denied - Pinoy Observer

Several days after Bureau of Customs (BOC) Chief of Staff Atty. Mandy Anderson called Speaker Pantaleon “Panty” Alvarez “imbecile”, the controversial speaker...

PINOYOBSERVER.COM

poor benefits the most” and “the tax system will be fairer and more equitable” – The truth: the tax reform will make the rich richer.

The net impact of the change in income taxes, expansion of VAT coverage, new oil excise taxes, and inflationary effect is that the highest-earning 40% of Filipino households, or 9.1 million households with some 40 million Filipinos, will have more money in their pockets after the tax reform. This includes among the richest households in the country.

The 2.3 million families with an average monthly household income of Php24,355 (seventh income decile) will gain an additional Php4,187 annually, the next 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php32,295 (eighth income decile) will gain an additional Php8,012, the next 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php47,131 (ninth income decile) will gain an additional Php16,954, and the richest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php111,380 (tenth and highest income decile) will gain an additional Php43,540. They have net gains because their increased take home pay from lower personal income taxes more than offsets losses from additional VAT, oil taxes, and inflation. The net gains also remain even if higher taxes on automobiles and especially on high-end luxury cars, which is sensible, are factored in.

Middle class households in the seventh to ninth income deciles certainly deserve relief from changing decades-old tax brackets. These include Filipino families whose only moderate incomes are doubly-eroded by inflation and by excessively high taxes. It can even be argued that the minimum figure for tax exemptions can be raised to those earning up to around Php33,000 monthly.

However it does not make sense for supposed tax reforms to give a corporate executive already earning Php280,309 monthly (or Php3.4 million yearly) an additional Php91,027 or a company's chief executive officer already earning Php598,132 monthly (or Php7.2 million yearly) an additional Php130,267. Yet the DOF's TRAIN does just that while, to recall, taking hundreds of pesos away from the poorest Filipinos who already have so little as it is. The poorest are made to pay more out of much smaller incomes to begin with and this is not by any reasonable interpretation a “fairer and more equitable” tax system.

The DOF cites the supposedly higher income tax rate of 35% applied to the highest income bracket, compared to the current 32%, as proof of the progressivity of their proposals. This is a half-truth though because using the complete formula which includes a minimum lump sum and applying the tax rate only on the excess of income over Php5 million means that many of the country's rich will actually end up paying less than under the current tax system.

The DOF also gives the example of the country's top two income taxpayers whose take home pay falls in 2018 upon the tax reform to reinforce the impression that the new tax system is progressive. This is however an exaggeration and is oblivious to how the country's super-rich use various legal and illegal strategies to avoid paying taxes including tax havens, off-shore accounts, shell companies and trust funds, smuggling and others.

The tax reform program really does nothing to address, and actually worsens, the continuing accumulation of massive wealth in the hands of a few. The country's richest for instance also gain additional benefit from the lowering of estate and donor's taxes to a flat rate of 6%, with the DOF estimating that they will pay at least Php3.1 billion less per year starting 2018.

3) “We are committed to uplift the poor and the vulnerable through a progressive social protection using targeted cash transfers and public transport

subsidies” – The truth: TRAIN's taxes are permanent but its social protection is only temporary

and, worse, still just an undefined afterthought.

The only reason the DOF can argue that the poor benefit is because TRAIN supposedly has a social protection component. Early proposals included a targeted cash transfer of Php300 per month to the poorest 50% or some 10 million households in the country to mitigate rising prices and a Pantawid Pasada scheme of cash cards for public utility vehicles to offset the impact of the increase in oil excise taxes especially on diesel.

The TRAIN bill passed by the HOR however remains extremely vague on these supposed social protection measures. Out of the 59-page bill, there is only a third (1/3) of a page on them with just cursory mention of a “social benefits program” and “granting fuel vouchers to qualified transport franchise holders”.

The only clarity given is that the measures will last for just three years. This means that even assuming that they are implemented, the measures are only temporary and the majority poor of the country will be struggling with the onerous tax burden of TRAIN long after the social protection measures have ended. This gives credence to the notion that they are only being implemented to divert from the gross regressiveness of the new tax package. Such a smokescreen also comes at a price and the administrative cost of the scheme will run into at least hundreds of millions of pesos and perhaps even into the billions.

4) “If no or diluted tax reform, the outcome will be poverty, malnutrition and traffic” and “the poor will likely remain poor” – The truth: the DOF is blackmailing the poor because it is afraid to tax the rich.

The threat of poverty, malnutrition and indeed the traffic oddly mentioned in the same breath is directed at the country's poor farmers, workers, informal sector, low-paid employees and others who already suffer these the worst. It is certainly true that the government needs resources for the many different things needed to ensure social and economic development for the majority. Schools, hospitals and homes have to be built, roads, bridges, water systems and power plants have to be constructed, factories and farms have to be developed, and the economy has to be strengthened.

The DOF is however disingenuous in putting the burden of providing these resources on the majority of Filipinos who have such low incomes and barely any assets to begin with, rather than on the few elite families and corporations who not only have such high incomes but have also amassed huge wealth from the economy over decades. Poorer families earning just a few thousand pesos a month with barely any savings and scant assets cannot be treated the same way as the richest families earning hundreds of thousands (or even millions) of pesos a month with hundreds of millions (or even billions) in savings and assets.

The extreme concentration of wealth in a few in the country is an opportunity for real tax reforms that do not just raise revenues for development but also reduce inequality. Today, some 16 million Filipino families (70% of all families) earn at most around Php21,600 a month; the poorest half (50%) try to live off less than Php15,200 a month and the poorest fifth (20%) on an average of less than around Php9,500 a month. These poor and low income families should be taxed as

**On the 6.4-Billion worth...
from page 6**

functions. If we provide our police force with guns and bullets, we should provide our customs officials with proper equipment as well.

To borrow words from Macbeth, our war on drugs, as it is, is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing except dead bodies.

lightly as possible while being given as much publicly-provided social and economic services as they need.

On the other hand, the richest 156,000 or 0.7% of families had a cumulative income of Php356.9 billion in 2012 with an average annual income of Php2.3 million – taxing just an additional 20% of this income can raise Php71 billion. The next richest 170,000 or 0.8% of families had a cumulative income of Php198.4 billion with an average annual income of Php1.3 million – taxing just an additional 10% of this income can raise Php20 billion. So raising income taxes on just the richest 1.5% of Filipino families can already raise some Php91 billion.

While the DOF often mentions “shared responsibility,” its tax reforms are conspicuously silent on taxing the super-rich's massive wealth. For instance, there are reportedly at least 690 “ultra high net worth” Filipinos with at least Php1.4 billion in assets each. This includes the country's 50 richest oligarchs who have a combined net worth of US\$79.5 billion or Php3.8 trillion at current exchange rates and 14 of whom recently landed on Forbes' World Billionaires list.

The DOF is correct in pointing out “dire consequences [on] the lives of the poor and vulnerable” from “[losing] classrooms, teachers, rural health units, barangay health stations, provincial hospitals, paved roads, bridges and irrigated land”. For the sake of argument it can also be granted that greater infrastructure spending will increase economic activity and output at least in the short-term. It should however not look to the poor for the resources to finance these but to the rich, especially the super-rich, who have already benefited so much from the economy, from its infrastructure, and indeed from the labors of the poor themselves.

5) “Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion” – The truth: TRAIN deforms the tax system to become even more anti-poor and pro-rich.

To “reform” is to make something better but, for all the reasons mentioned above, the DOF is not reforming the tax system. The tax proposals are even exclusionary in disproportionately burdening the poor while relieving the rich. To call the proposals “Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion” is then the biggest lie of them all.

The Duterte administration's tax reform program starkly reflects the country's class divide and is neoliberalism in full play. The upper classes and foreign capital are clamoring to pay lower taxes and to have their infrastructure and other services paid for by the poor. The government is unfortunately complicit and doing all it can to deliver these benefits for a wealthy minority at the expense of the poor majority.

Ruling elites should however be worried. The resulting further build-up of wealth in the hands of a few from reducing the incomes of the many will only increase social conflict and tensions, intensify class contradictions, and create the conditions for a great upheaval. The real reforms will come after this.

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Church assures no cover-up of priest in trafficking case

MANILA— Church authorities assured there would be no cover-up in the case of a priest arrested and detained for allegedly trafficking a 13 year old girl.

Aside from the police investigation, the Catholic Diocese of Antipolo said it's taking all necessary actions provided in canon law in respect to Msgr. Arnel Lagarejos' case.

"The diocese makes it clear that it will not in any way condone or abet the trafficking or persons, nor protect the offenders from prosecution, and subsequent trial and punishment when the evidence so warrants," it said.

Local Church officials said they are fully cooperating with civil authorities and will not condone and protect abusive clerics.

Even if Lagarejos' guilt remains to be proven, they said that the diocese has taken necessary steps to hold him answerable for the charges brought against him.

The priest is also barred from having contact with all except for his lawyer, his brother-priests, and church authorities.

"The conclusions of the processes of the Church are independent of whatever conclusions may be

Buwis(et)! DOF's Top 5 Tax Reform Lies

By Sonny Africa (www.ibon.org)

The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act (TRAIN), the first part of the Duterte administration's Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), has hurdled the House of Representatives (HOR) and is up for deliberations

reached by the authorities of the State," it stressed.

Immediately after the priest's arrest, Bishop Francis de Leon relieved him of his duties as parish priest of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Taytay, Rizal and as president of Cainta Catholic College.

The 55-year-old monsignor was caught in an entrapment operation conducted to apprehend minors involved in prostitution.

The priest was nabbed last Friday evening when he arrived at the Blue Wave Mall in Marikina City.

The priest is now detained at the Marikina City jail and facing charges for violation of the Anti-Child Abuse Law and Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act.

The diocese, on the other hand, said it is also prepared to offer spiritual and psychological assistance to the alleged victim.

"Whatever counseling and psychological services may be available in the diocese, we offer in sincere love, affection and compassion to the child, who, it is our understanding, has been in the keeping of traffickers in the past," it said. / *CBCPNews*

at the Senate. The Department of Finance (DOF) targets approval of TRAIN, or House Bill No. 5636, soon after sessions resume in late July.

The DOF's tax reform proposals include: higher consumption taxes from removing VAT exemptions (though retaining those for senior citizens and persons with disabilities) and new excise taxes on petroleum products, sugar-sweetened beverages, and automobiles; and lower income and wealth taxes from reduced personal income tax rates (PIT, indexed to inflation) and a lower flat 6% rate for estate and donor's taxes.

Pres. Rodrigo Duterte certified TRAIN as urgent and his main economic managers – the finance, budget and economic planning secretaries – have been aggressively pushing it since last year. The bill is also supported by a wide range of other high-income earners spanning the 246 HOR lawmakers voting in favour of it, former finance secretaries and heads of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), economists, business tycoons, big business groups, foreign chambers of commerce in the country, financial institutions like Deutsche Bank and Nomura, and others.

The government and the wealthy private sector constantly invoke national development and the welfare of the poor to justify their position. Yet the conspicuous lack of similar clamor on the part of the country's poor majority is not surprising – the DOF's TRAIN is grossly anti-poor, brazenly pro-rich, and should be derailed.

These are the DOF's five (5) biggest tax reform lies:

1) "We will lessen the overall tax burden of the poor" and "increase the take-home pay of most individuals thereby putting more money in people's pockets" where "99% of taxpayers will pay less taxes" – The truth: the tax reform will make the poor poorer.

The net impact of the change in income taxes, expansion of VAT coverage, new oil excise taxes, and inflationary effect is that the poorest 60% of Filipino households, or 13.7 million households with some 60 million Filipinos, will have less money in their pockets after the tax reform.

The government will in effect take away Php737 annually from the pockets of the poorest 2.3 million families with an average monthly household income of just Php5,214 in 2018 (first and lowest income decile), Php980 from the next poorest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php8,315 (second income decile), Php1,163 from the next poorest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php10,691 (third income decile), Php1,374 from the next poorest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php13,015 (fourth income decile), Php1,687 from the next poorest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php15,746 (fifth income decile), and Php2,088 from the next poorest 2.3 million families with monthly income of Php19,269 (sixth income decile).

The poorest 60 million Filipinos will pay more taxes under the proposed tax package with higher prices on food, drinks, LPG, transport fares, electricity, housing and other basic goods and services they consume. It will in effect take away Php737 from every rice farmer, Php980 from every farm worker, Php1,163 from every construction worker, Php1,374 from every private school teacher, Php1,687 from every bookkeeper, and Php2,088 from every machine tool operator. The figures from a DOF table supposedly computing the change in annual take-home pay in 2018 are however likely even underestimated. For instance, the DOF has also estimated that the oil excise tax alone will increase a fisherman's fuel expenses by Php1,089 and of a farmer's by Php1,210 with the VAT and inflationary impact even coming on top of these.

The income tax exemption for minimum wage earners, personal and additional exemptions, and health insurance premium payments are also proposed to be lifted. While minimum wage earners will still not pay taxes for now – because income tax starts to be paid upon reaching an annual income of Php250,000 a year – it is possible that they will be subject to income taxes in the future if the minimum wage reaches the first taxable income tax bracket.

2) "After the tax-transfer reform, the Cont. on page 7

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