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# CLSU students develop ICT app vs. climate

SCIENCE CITY OF MUNOZ, Nueva Ecija -Farming now goes high tech!

Information Technology (IT) students of the Central Luzon State University has developed an ICT-based application that can analyze crop needs, from planting to post-harvest, while mitigating the effects of climate change.

Called Crop++, the application can monitor the current temperature and humidity of a farm area through a temperature sensor.

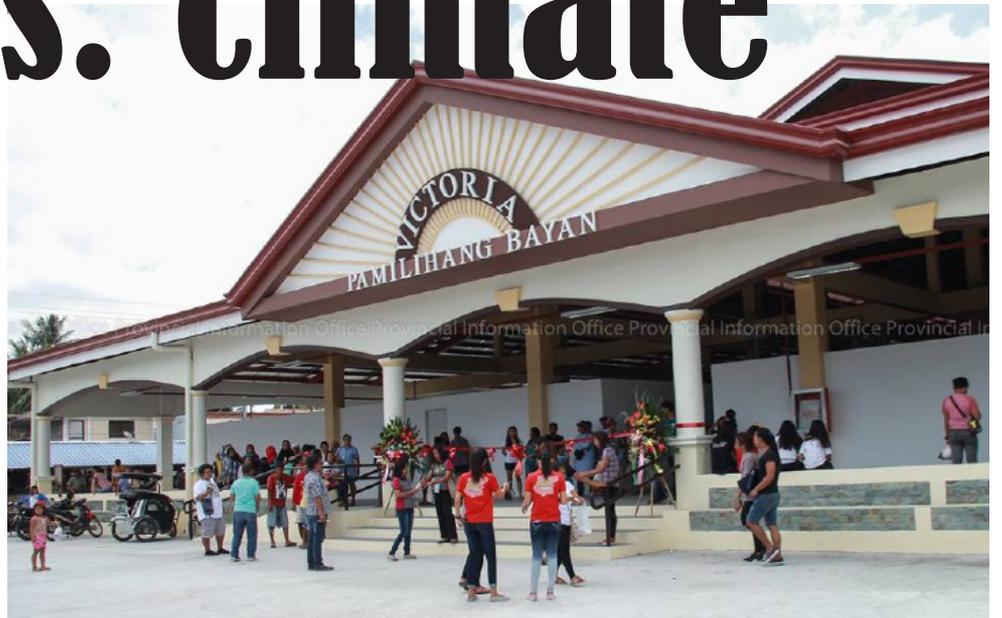
It can also detect movements within the area and capture photos to identify the presence of pests. Its soil moisture sensor is used for water sufficiency for better resource management.

The collected information are then analyzed and interpreted by a web-based information system and monitored through a computer.

The developers, namely Jerome Rivera, Angeliko Sevilla, Aliyah Ventanilla with their coach, Mike Christian Gragasin, have expressed hope that this technology will help farmers become efficient in their farm management, crop production, and eventually, increase their yield.

With this innovative application, the developers won a five-month internship program worth PHP225,000, PHP30,000 worth of supplies to improve and expand their prototype, and a cash prize worth PHP10,000 in the recent

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**VICTORIA'S NEW PUBLIC MARKET** - At last, Victoria now has a clean and ample public market what was recently inaugurated by Gov. Susan Yap-Sulit. It's now up to the marketgoers, market management, and market vendors to keep it as clean and neat as it is now.

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## Architecture student tops PIA ASEAN On-the-Spot Poster Making contest at Tarlac State University

TARLAC CITY - Architecture student Christian Aaron Bondoc placed first in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) On-the-Spot Poster Making contest of Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Region 3 at Tarlac State University (TSU).

He received a Certificate of Appreciation and Php5,000.

In an interview, 23-year-old Bondoc said he came to the contest unprepared, and even without the proper art materials.

"I wasn't really prepared. I just saw my mates in the venue [of the contest] preparing, so I asked if I could still join. When I found out that I still could, I thought to myself, 'I'll take this opportunity now, so I can compete for the last time before I graduate,' then I quickly ran to buy some of the basic materials in poster-making," he shared.

Titled "ASEAN Torch: Lighting the World", his

winning piece features a torch with people from the ASEAN member states atop, symbolizing the diversity in culture while attaining unity, peace and progress in the economy.

Interestingly, the champion has been a veteran in the field of arts as he has been a finalist in several national tilts, such as Petron National Painting Competition, National Irrigation Administration Contest, and Dong-A National Doodle Competition.

Landing second place was 18-year old Fine Arts student Noel Peter Seña.

He shared that he immediately wanted to join the contest upon seeing the flyers posted by their University's Student Development Office.

"I joined the contest because I want to become active in art competitions, so as to improve my skills in the arts," he said.

His artwork, titled "United", stresses on how the ASEAN brings out the joy

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**Tama si Alvarez, sino ba walang GF!?!?**



BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

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**What Graduation Means to Me**



BY: CLYDE B. SACPA

## PIA Region 3 to hold first ASEAN Campus Forum in Tarlac State U

TARLAC CITY - Tarlac State University shall play host on Thursday, March 30, to the first ASEAN Campus Forum of Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Region 3.

"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.

Each forum shall feature discussions from Department of Foreign Affairs on Political-Security Community Pillar, Department of Trade and Industry on Economic Community Pillar, and

Department of Social Welfare and Development on Socio-Cultural Community Pillar.

"An On-the-Spot Poster Making contest will be held for students of the Host University or College as an ancillary activity. The entries shall be exhibited and winners announced during the Campus Forum proper," Beltran added.

Other educational institutions PIA will visit this year include Central Luzon State University, Aurora State College of Technology, Bataan Peninsula State University, and Ramon Magsaysay Technological University.

Also, Tarlac Agricultural University, Pampanga State Agricultural University, and Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University. (CLJD-PIA 3)



TARLAC CITY (CIO)- Ang huling araw ng Buwan ng Kababaihan ay ipinagdiwang sa pamamagitan ng mga sari-saring aktibidad ngayong araw, Marso 31, 2017, sa bulwagan ng City Hall.

Inalay ni Mayor Cristy Angeles para sa mga kababihang kawani ang araw na ito. Maging ang mga kababaihang opisyal ng mga barangay ay nakilahok sa mga aktibidad na inorganisa ni Bb. Emmy Lou Sicangco, tagapamuno ng City Human Resource Management Office.

Isang symposium para sa ligtas na pagbubuntis at pagiging ina ang ginanap mula 9:00 ng umaga

ang kanyang mga tauhan upang magbigay ng libreng bakuna laban sa pneumonia sa mga kababihan na dumalo.

Ganap na 11:00 ng umaga naman nang magbigay ng kaalaman sina Atty. Melvin John Cuison at Atty. Erwin Manguera ng Public Attorney's Office Tarlac tungkol sa mga batas laban sa karahasan sa mga kababaihan at kabataan.

Sa hapon ay nagkaroon ng pagsasanay na pinangunahan ng City Cooperative and Enterprise Office (CCEDO) para sa mga maaaring maging hanapbuhay o pagkakakitaan ng mga kababaihan. Matapos ang mga makabuluhang gawaing ito, tumungo naman sa Tarlac City Plazuela ang mga sumali sa Zumba kasama ang expert dito na si Bb. Lita Maniebog.

Buong araw namang nakaantabay ang mga kawani ng OFW Resource Center and Legal Assistance Office at mga booth ng CCEDO na nagtinda ng mga woven water lily products, mga halaman at iba pang produkto.

Ang programang ito ng pamunuan ni Mayor Cristy Angeles ay nagpapatunay lamang na ang Ina ng Lungsod ay tunay na may kamlayan sa pangangailangan ng mga kababaihan at ng kanyang nasasakupan

### Architecture Student...

of unity in the community through partnership, as portrayed by the two hands shaking.

What's inspiring is Seña intends to use his Php3,000 cash prize as a means to pay for his tuition.

"I plan to use it to pay for my remaining balance, so as to lessen my parents' financial burden," he shared.

Meanwhile, third year Communication student Maria Adelaida Calayag ended third.

"Honestly, I felt scared when I saw that the contest was dominated by males, and especially males from College

from page 1 of Architecture and Fine Arts," she said.

In spite of the pressure, she chose not to focus on the competition but on the experience she can get from the latter.

"I decided not to think of whether I will win or lose [in the competition]. If I let this [contest] pass, I'd probably end up regretting it for months," she said.

Rising above male dominance, her piece, although without a title, smoothly

resembled how the ASEAN member-states embraced camaraderie through cultural diversity, which got her the cash prize worth Php2,000.

The contest served as an ancillary activity of PIA Region 3's ASEAN Campus Forum at TSU.

PIA Region 3 will hold similar events this year in Central Luzon State University, Aurora State College of Technology, Bataan Peninsula State University, and Ramon Magsaysay Technological University. (CLJD/JRAA-PIA 3)

na tumagal na higit-kumulang dalawang oras. Umanib ang City Health Office sa nasabing forum. Ginayak ni Dr. Ma. Carmela Go

## OTOP Next Generation sessions open in Central Luzon

Some 63 local Micro Small and Medium Enterprises in the region were part of the pilot run of the One Town One Product Next Generation (OTOP Next Gen) project of the Department of Trade and Industry. The sessions included product cliniquing, packaging and labeling advice, and product evaluation. The pilot session was held at the DTI Regional Office III Conference Room from March 22 to 23, 2017.

Experts from the Design Center of the Philippines facilitated the product development and evaluation of the potential OTOP products. Upon evaluation, products that pass quality criteria will be endorsed by DTI for display and selling in major malls and supermarkets as part of its Go Lokal program. Under this program, the agency made arrangements with major malls to accommodate the display of locally made products, to expose them in big traffic stores and improve their marketability.

Among the 63 participant MSMEs, 42 are on food products while 21 are producing non-food products. Products from Aurora include banana chips and buko pie while Bulacan products which were evaluated

include turmeric tea, longganisa and shrimp paste. Bataan MSMEs which participated in the sessions entered their cashew product, cookies and bottled sardines in the sessions while Nueva Ecija participants showed their dairy, mushroom and calamansi based products for cliniquing. Muscovado sugar, tinapa and taba ng talangka were some of the products brought by Pampanga MSMEs in the sessions while Tarlac MSMEs entered their Potato Wine and Cakes for further enhancement. The unique serpentine product of Zambales and its dried fruits were also included in the product development sessions under the OTOP Next Gen pilot run.

The OTOP Next Gen program aims to LEVEL UP local products and services. Building from the gains of the initial OTOP program of the DTI, and with local MSMEs with viable products, this project aims to offer a package of public-private assistance to have significant improvement and innovation in the areas of quality, product development, design, standards compliance, marketability, production capability, brand development, among others.

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# Chinese firm to start ship-to-ship operations in Subic Bay in April

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT - China's leading clean energy service provider JOVO Group Company Ltd. Guangdong will start its ship-to-ship (STS) operations in Subic Bay for liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Lawyer Wilma Eisma, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator, said the SBMA Board of Directors has approved the STS operations of JOVO in Subic Bay and preparations for the maiden voyage tentatively scheduled on the third week of April is in the progress.

"We are expecting more STS operators to use Subic Bay as their hub. Because it is more cost-effective due to its strategic location," Eisma said.

The STS transfer operations involve

mother vessels loaded with LNG which were transferred to vessels before shipping to ports of China.

SBMA Seaport General Manager Jerome Martinez said JOVO will bring LNG to the Philippines from Australia and Indonesia using a 94,000-ton mother vessel.

While anchored, it will be transferred to smaller 47,000-tonnage feeder vessels and bring them to China.

With this development, it is expected that the Port of Subic will earn USD500,000 revenue from services, including tug boat services, port services and anchorage, chandlers, bunkering and food supplies.

Aside from JOVO, Martinez said that three more ship-to-ship service providers have expressed keen interest to operate in Subic Bay.

# Surge of Chinese tourists seen as SEAIR mounts Clark flights

CLARK, Pampanga - An influx of Chinese tourists is expected in June

"There are actually four proponents of ship-to-ship operations that submitted letters of intent to operate here in Subic Bay," Martinez said.

"They already presented their proposals to a committee, headed by SBMA director Cecille Bitare, which evaluates STS proposals prior to approval of the board," he added. (PNA) RAV

this year as South East Asian International (SEAIR) will mount 12 international and domestic flights from mainland China to and from the Clark International Airport (CRK), a top official of Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) said. The SEAIR flights using two aircraft which interchange nightly will include the daily CRK-Beijing and CRK-Koror routes with guided tours to choice destinations in the Metro Clark Area and nearby cities.

Koror is the most prominent among many islands comprising the main commercial center of the Republic of Palau.

"This is a huge development for Clark airport as SEAIR's passengers are mainly Chinese businessmen and their families who wish to visit the country," CIAC president and CEO Alexander Cauquiran said.

Cauquiran said the airport's management team and SEAIR International executives, led by the airline's chief executive officer Benjamin Solis and its director for operations Ernesto Pabalan, will also conduct a dialogue with tourism stakeholders in Angeles City and nearby cities in Pampanga to align with the airline's operational plans which include guided tours in its flight schedules.

The twice-a-week scheduled flights to

and from Clark include Kunming (Yunnan province), Nanning (Guangxi region) and Changsha (Hunan province), three routes which will also fly directly to Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

The other twice-a-week flights are Clark to Ningbo and Wenzhou (Zhejiang province), Wuhan (Hubei province), and Hefei (Anhui province), routes that are expected to double the number of Chinese tourist arrivals in the country.

"Opportunities abound with the influx of Chinese tourists (who are) expected to visit in the coming months. This will definitely boost Clark airport operations and will hugely benefit the local hotel industry and the business communities in Central Luzon, especially in Pampanga and Zambales," Cauquiran said.

The entry of SEAIR International at Clark airport comes in the heels of the airline's partnership with China International Travel Services, the biggest government-owned tour services operator in China.

The preferred destinations of Chinese tourists are the beaches and diving locations, family recreation spots, souvenir shops, restaurants, other tourist sites, and first-class hotels especially

inside the Clark

**Cont. on page 6**

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## CLSU Students...

from page 1

3rd AgriHackathon, an application development competition held at Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here.

The winning applications from the first two Agrihackathon events have been turned into projects, which are being used in PhilRice's researches.

"This initiative aims to ensure that ideas from the academe are not only kept as research papers in schools but are also applied in the real world for the future of our country's agriculture sector,"

# Journalism in Rodrigo Duterte's Philippines

Rappler's editor-at-large Marites Vitug discusses the current state of the news media in the country.

President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug policy offers opportunities for frontline journalism on human suffering, but it is a difficult story to interpret because it features a population that seems to be living in fear.

According to opinion polls, most Filipinos, in theory, support Duterte's initiative, but they oppose the extrajudicial killings.

As for the president, he has called out his own police force for corruption, but is himself facing serious allegations of wrongdoing.

One of the leading news outlets framing the narrative, Rappler, is an online platform that also advocates for journalism as a potential source of the solution to the country's social problems.

Marites Vitug, Rappler's award-winning investigative journalist and editor-at-large, spoke to Al Jazeera about the challenges of reporting the anti-drug move under the president whose contempt for the media resonates elsewhere in the world where the populist right grows.

## Editorial

Commenting on surveys showing public support for Duterte's drug policy, Vitug points out that Filipinos "want the drug suspects taken alive, and number two, majority of the respondents fear they may be the next victims of the war on drugs. So, there's a dissonance in the surveys".

An informal economy of death is worth looking into when covering this story, according to Vitug: "I believe that this economic angle that the police are getting paid for kills is the oil that greases this killing machine ... but the challenge really for the media is to look for new ways of presenting this same story."

For instance, Duterte has criticised the police for being corrupt, so: "What is their state now? Are they demoralised, do they still want to pursue the war on drugs? What real reforms are taking place?"

Duterte's overall strategy in dealing with the media is similar to Trump and other "alt-right" movements sweeping across the globe.

"Because many in the mainstream media tend to be critical of his war on drugs, and not just that, his other statements and, and policies - he tries to discredit us, and to make us less legitimate in the eyes of the public," said Vitug.

"Reporters are having difficulty actually, in conducting real press conference with our president. A real conversation. Because his press conferences tend to be monologues. He doesn't want to be interrupted. He hardly completes a thought. So, the reporters are scared or intimidated to ask follow-up questions. So, our stories are not complete."

Is the Philippine media partially to blame for bringing Duterte to power?

"Looking back, I think [the] fault of the Philippine media was that we did not take Duterte seriously. We only took him seriously maybe in the last month or the last two weeks of the campaign. So, that was our fault," said Vitug.

"We did not do enough research on him. We did not dig deep enough. We wrote about the killings in the war, but not thoroughly."/Al Jazeera



## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Fast food, nakamamatay!



BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people..." (Ephesians 6:18, the Holy Bible).

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**THANKING ROTARY GOV. ERNEST, PDG KAREN, DISTRICT 3810:** I am publicly thanking Governor Ernest Yuyek and Past District Governor Karen Tamayo of Rotary International District 3810 for choosing me to co-host, yet once again, the Opening Plenary Session of the District's District Conference (Discon) for 2017, which is to run from March 31, 2017 to April 01, 2017 at the Sofitel Hotel in Pasay City.

I became a Discon co-host, for the very first time, during the incumbency of Governor Tranquil Salvador III, during Rotary Year 2010-2011. Governor Karen was then the overall Discon coordinator in 2011, and, out of the blue, she chose me to co-host the Opening Plenary session then. She was the one who chose me again for the same job, six years later, in 2017, since she again coordinated Discon 2017.

I find this humbling and elating at the same time. The fact is that, in my life as a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Intramuros Manila since 2004, I have tried limiting my role to the duties given to me by my own Club. Yet, Governor Ernest chose me to become District 3810's peace and conflict prevention and resolution chairman under his term, while Governor Karen chose me to be a Discon co-host once more. Thank God in the Name of Jesus for this vote of confidence!

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**PARENTS MUST PRAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN NIGHTLY:** Montero Learning Center in Taguig City is a private Church school affiliated with the Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK, or Children of God Blood Kin of the Christ) Church, and this is perhaps the reason why its administrator, Mrs. Carlina Montero, chose me to become its "commencement exercises" speaker last March 29, 2017.

After all, God has chosen me to be the incumbent Leader Disciple of the AND KNK, and Mrs. Montero knew fully well that I would be talking about matters of faith and spirituality whenever I am invited as a speaker, focusing on God's love, guidance, and protection to those who truly accepted and believed in Him.

Consequently, in my speech before the graduates of the Learning Center, I urged the parents of the pupils who were "moving up" to higher levels to pray with their spouses and their children nightly, in a manner that each and everyone of them would be able to hear what each one of them would be praying for.

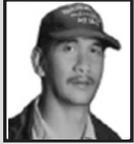
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**PRAYER IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST EVIL:** Prayer, after all, is a most powerful weapon, especially in this world of ours which is in the strong grip of evil spirits and evil persons, men and women alike. Children are often victimized, molested, raped, and even killed, mostly in a helpless and brutal fashion, by clearly mentally-deranged aggressors.

Once children get out of their homes, for whatever reason, there is nothing much their parents or guardians can do to protect them against evil lurking almost everywhere, unless they are prayed over, not

Cont. on page 5

**Tama si Alvarez, sino ba walang GF!?!?**



BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

Ano ba namang drama itong nagaganap sa pagitan ng mga liderato sa tongreso este kongreso na sina Speaker of the House Pantalon este Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez at si Congressman Floirendo na parehong kakampi ng Pangulong Digong?

Ang nakakatawa nito ay ang nagpalala ng gulo na ito, bagama't ispekulasyon lamang, ay ang awayan ng kanilang mga kerida o mistresses. Hay, yay, yay mga ibang kerida nga daig pa ang orig sa pagka taray. Kung tutuo man ito ay isang tunay na katawa-tawang sitwasyon ito na dapat ay huwag payagan ng mga matsong kongresista este kongresista.

Eto ngayon, ang mas nakakatawa na magiging ugat ng malaking pagkasira ni Speaker Pantalon ay ang kanyang pag-kokomentaryo na sino ba sa kanilang mga politiko ang walang girlfriend; at kasama na rin nito ay ang kanyang pag-amin na marami siyang mga anak sa labas. Base sa aking nakikita ay dapat na ma-disbar itong si Speaker Pantalon dala ng kanyang pag-amin na mayroon siyang kerida at mga anak sa labas sapagkat ito ay malinaw na bawal sa Lawyer's Code of Ethics at mahigpit na tinututulan ng ipokritong Korte Suprema kung saan ay marami ng mga abogago este abogado ang na-disbar dala ng sinasabing offense on moral turpitude. Ang depinisyon ng moral turpitude ay - Moral Turpitude. A phrase used in Criminal Law to describe conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty, or good morals. Crimes involving moral turpitude have an inherent quality of baseness, vileness, or depravity with respect to a person's duty to another or to society in general.

Hinggil naman sa komento ni Speaker Pantalon na sino ba ang walang girlfriend, sigurado ako na maraming mga polpolitiko ang aalma hinggil dito at walang aamin ika nga. Patay sila sa kanilang mga misis kung sila ay aamin. Ngayon patay ka Speaker sa Gabriela kung saan ang dating ng iyong komento ay masyado mong ginagawang parang material na bagay ang mga kababaihan, wala daw respect for women's rights ang iyong komento at sexist comment daw coming from the 4th most powerful person in the land. At saka mayroon pa na isang kongresista na sigurado ko na hindi aamin na mayroon siyang girlfriend at siguradong magagalit sa iyong komento na "sino ba walang girlfriend" sapagkat ang kongresista na ito at certified na walang girlfriend at ito ay walang iba kung hindi si Party List Congressman Harry Roque sapagkat siya ay isang certified labaksky kaya wala siyang girlfriend at ang meron siya marahil ay boyfriend. Hi! Hi! Hi!

Kaya ikaw Speaker Pantalon, alalay ka sa iyong mga binibitawan na salita. Palibhasa ginagaya mo ang amo mong si Pangulong Digong na kahit ano pa ang sabihin ay tinatanggap naming at Bow ng Bow at Amen lang kaming mga Dutertards. Hi! Hi! Hi! Hanggang sa susunod kong kolum, Mabuhay Po Tayong Mga Dutertards!!!

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**What Graduation Means to Me**



BY: CLYDE B. SACPA

March, a month of marching. Marching for the graduation. This will be the time when we here clichés such as, graduation is not the end, it is the beginning; Graduation signifies your start in your journey to the real life; and Welcome to the real world.

I am not going to add more clichés for graduation in fact I am going to break some of it today. If you are a young graduate and you will hear words like, welcome to the "real" world, you might want to question the speaker and ask is the life of a student not real enough? Is it a wonderful life? Well, you know young graduate that it is as real as it is to the one it is being compared and the experience you had is pretty much organic and useful.

To these people who say this clichés they think that the young graduates never felt real pain, real sadness, real failure, and or real achievement, and of course some people say this clichés because they did not prepare any speech for graduation. For those who say this platitudes because they believe it this is for you.

Life of a student is as real as the life you're living in. Students must work to please a teacher so strict it shakes their knees when they in here presence. Same as you who must work overtime to please an insatiable boss. A student cries for a very low grade they receive despite of giving everything they have. You also cry for a low compensation you receive for the maximum effort you gave. Students must work with different personalities when having a group project. You have to work with different people who have different personalities and must ignore their idiosyncrasies to finish a goal.

I can go more but these are enough to illustrate that the life of the students are not so different with yours. They are trained. They are not going to the "real" world, they are just transferring to another school. The Universal school where there is no age limit, grade are not written in a card and there is no grade level. So instead of giving advice just say Welcome classmates, I know you'll enjoy learning in this new school.#

### Kakampi Mo Ang Batas ...from page 4

just before they go to school, but more on a nightly basis. Prayer compels the Holy Spirit of God to descend on everyone involved in the prayer, most especially the defenseless children.

I told the parents of the students that, by God's grace and permission, my wife and I have had the good fortune of engaging in nightly prayers with our only child, our daughter Maria Luisa, ever since she was just two years old. These nightly prayers continued through the years, until now that she is already 28 years old and has become a lawyer, and I can say God's blessings, guidance, and protection have been with us unfailingly. Thank God in the Name of Jesus.

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**Thank you, Manang Letty, and goodbye**

BY: ATTY. RENE SAGUISAG  
[WWW.MANILATIMES.NET](http://WWW.MANILATIMES.NET)

LETICIA Ramos-Shahani I had not known from Eve. Then, I learned in late December 1985, that while in the diplomatic service of the powerful Marcos administration, she was endorsing underdog candidate Cory Aquino, almost two months before brother FVR was to see the light.

I was to learn more of her later.

Manang attended UP, Wellesley and Columbia.

So far, she is the only Pinoy I heard say "august," accent on the second syllable, when not used as the month. This "august" chamber is often misspoken here.

In 1985-86, it was my pleasant task as Cory spokesperson to announce that Manang, then with the administration, was joining us. She defected on December 28, 1985, when our chances looked dim. How gutsy and principled of her.

It was only a few days later, after a rousing Manila Hotel speech by Cory, that I personally got convinced that our seemingly mad adventure had a fighting chance. Yes, there was the risk of winning! Doy Laurel had sacrificed and slid down to Veep and Cory-Doy sold like hotcakes. People Power with Divine Intervention was on.

When I, a naive tyro, once walked out of the Senate, very early on, and went home, she was among those who took the trouble to come to console me, along with Uncle Jovy Salonga and Manong Bert Romulo. Senator Raul Manglapus called. A fine bunch, urging me in effect to say no to snake eyes, but to cool it and take it easy, and live and learn, even if my integrity were questioned. My opinions, anyone could question and ridicule, but not my integrity. But, ang mapikon, talo, they told Balat-Sibuyas Me.

In our back row then, to my left was Manong Bert, of Universidad Central de Madrid. Across the aisle was Manang Letty, of Wellesley and the Sorbonne, and farther to the right, next to her was Harvard Man Bobby Tanada. All hardworking.

Manang voted a critical "Yes" in 1991 on the bases, differing with us, the so-called Magnificent 12 who thought the time had come to end our status as America's Last Plantation (some insist today we were the Malevolent or Maleficent 12 but we remain convinced we voted on the right side of history). When EDCA was enacted bypassing the Senate, with the poignancy of a recantation, Manang joined us in various fora, in protest.

The Pearl of the Orient Seas has just lost another gem or jewel.

Thank you, Manang, and good-bye.

**DSWD Sec. Taguiwalo urges women to stand up for their rights beyond being wives, mothers**

QUEZON CITY - "What we need to emphasize and make the greatest number of Filipino women realize is that women have the right to enjoy human rights as full human rights. We should not allow our rights to be reduced to the rights of wives and mothers, as these are actually quite limited and **Cont. on page 7**

## PHL plans to rename Benham Rise

**M**ANILA - The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Office of the Executive Secretary are now working hand-in-hand to explore a new name for Benham Rise.

The DFA confirmed that they were instructed by President Rodrigo Duterte to suggest in renaming Benham Rise on Saturday.

The DFA initially said that the first suggestion was to rename it to "Philippine Rise," saying that it will strengthen the country's rights over the

resource-rich undersea plateau.

This after Chinese survey ships sailed in the Benham Rise area, putting a spotlight on President Duterte's dealings with Beijing. "A motion has been made subject to the conduct of the requisite legal and logistical study to effect the change," Executive Secretary Ernesto Abella was quoted as saying..

The U.N. ruled in 2012 that Benham Rise, off the Philippines' Pacific coast, was within the country's extended continental

shelf.

Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino, renamed the South China Sea to West Philippine Sea to assert Manila's claim to resource-rich islands, reefs and outcrops that are also claimed by China.

Unlike in the South China Sea, Beijing has not contested Manila's claim to Benham Rise.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo, in a separate interview, said China has pending requests to survey Benham Rise. (PNA)

## Terrorists develop laptop bombs capable of bypassing airport security screening

**W**ASHINGTON-US intelligence and law enforcement agencies claim that laptop bombs developed by the Islamic State (banned in Russia) and other terror groups may be able to evade airport security screening, media reported.

Earlier on Friday, CNN reported the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) determined after a series of tests that laptop bombs would be

very difficult to detect with screening machines widely used in the United States and other countries.

On March 20, the US government announced electronic devices larger than a cellphone would be banned in commercial aircraft cabins due to security threats on direct flights from ten airports in Middle Eastern and North African countries, including in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

The United Kingdom has introduced a similar restriction on flights from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Turkey. The prohibited devices may only be carried in checked luggage.

In the last several months, US intelligence gathered information suggesting that terrorists

## Affidavits of 4 CHR... from page 8

too was the July 4, 2009 affidavit of Evangelista, who said his role in the DDS was that of an informant of a barangay-based DDS cell.

Nevertheless, Evangelista gave an interesting description of the set-up in the barangay level, which he said could be found "all over Davao": "Ang bawat cell ay kinabibilangan ng mula apat hanggang anim na miyembro. Sa isang buwan, ang bawat cell ay may nakalaan na target o mga taong papaslangin. May mga kilala ako na ilang miyembro ng ibang cell sa pangalan o sa mukha at alam ko kung sino sa kanila ay ang driver sa mga operasyon at sino ang mga hitman (Each cell has four to six members. Every month, each cell has a set target or people to kill. I know some members of other cells by name or by face

and I know who among them is the driver in the operation and who the hitmen are)."

He said most of the targets were "snatcher, durugista (addicts), at magnanakaw (thieves). According to Evangelista, he would pass on information on his cell's targets via a Nokia 3310 cell phone, for which he would usually receive usually P500 each time. There was at least one operation that netted him P1,000, but he described the event as "malungkot (sad)" because the target was one of his friends, Marlon, who happened to be a notorious thief.

Evangelista, who was 25 years old at the time he executed his affidavit, recalled: "Matapos kong tukuyin kung asan siya, kami ay pumasok sa bahay niya. Mula sa hagdan nakita ko na hinabol

nila si Marlon. Tumakbo si Marlon papunta sa bintana upang tumalon ngunit may nag-aabang sa kanya doon na isa naming kasamahan at binaril siya (After I determined where he was, we entered his home. From the stairs I saw them running after Marlon. He ran toward the window, intending to jump out, but one of our colleagues was waiting for him there and shot him)."

Poignant as it sounds, that recollection has weak shock factor compared with stories narrated by the likes of Lascañas and Salazar, who said that they not only witnessed killings but also did several themselves. Salazar, who referred to "clearance" from Buenaventura before every hit as well, even estimated that by the time he quit the group in 1998, he had killed about 40 people.

-to be continued-

# SC junks disbarment raps vs Ombudsman Morales

**M**ANILA - The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the disbarment case against Ombudsman Conchita Carpio - Morales filed by former Manila City Councilor and defeated senatorial candidate May 2016 elections Greco Belgica.

SC spokesman Theodore Te announced the directive was issued following Tuesday's regular en banc session of the magistrates.

Te said the Court unanimously dismissed Belgica's complaint for lack of merit.

Belgica alleged that the Ombudsman violated the Lawyer's Oath, Rule 6.01, Canon 7, and Rule 7.03 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, when she approved a Resolution in OMB-C-C15-0386, OMB-C-A-15-0359, OMB-C-C-0283, OMB-C-A-16-0245 dated March

had developed a way to smuggle bombs on electronic devices, the report stated. (PNA/Sputnik)

3, 2017 which, among others, dismissed the criminal and administrative charges arising from the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) against former President Benigno S. Aquino III without giving the reason therefor.

He claimed that the Ombudsman lacked integrity and was biased when she dismissed the complaint against Aquino. He also claimed that he was not seeking to disbar or suspend the Ombudsman during her incumbency nor to disqualify her from her office during her term; he prayed that, in the event the complaint is resolved before her term ends on July 26, 2018, that the imposition of any penalty of disbarment be deferred until after the expiration of her term but that if the complaint is resolved after her term expires that she be disbarred.

The high court noted that in the cases of Lecaroz v. Sandiganbayan (G.R. No. 56384 March 22,

1984), Cuenco v. Fernan (A.M. No. 3135 Feb. 17, 1988), Re: Raul M. Gonzales (A.M. No. 88-4 5433, April 15, 1988), Jarque v. Desierto (A.C. No. 4509, Dec. 5, 1995), and Lastimosa-Dalawampu v. Deputy Ombudsman Mojica et al. (A.C. No. 4683, Aug. 6, 1997), they repeatedly stated that a member of the Bar who holds office that may only be removed by impeachment cannot be charged with disbarment during his or her incumbency.

"The Ombudsman is part of the short list of public officers who may be removed only by impeachment," the high court said.

Noting Belgica's manifestation that he was aware of these cases but that he was not seeking the Ombudsman's disbarment during her term, the Court said that his complaint seeks to charge the Ombudsman with violations of the Code of Professional Responsibility

**Cont. on page 7**

## Surge of Chinese... from page 3

Freeport Zone, Cauiguiran said.

"Our Chinese guests' keen interest in visiting choice destinations in the Philippines is a reassurance of our two countries' long time friendship, as consistently

being fostered by President Rodrigo Duterte," Cauiguiran said.

The CIAC chief likewise assured foreign and local tourists flying via Clark airport of CRK's reliable security, services, and facilities.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) counts

China as the third largest market of Philippine tourism.

Some 630,000 Chinese tourists visited the Philippines from January to November 2016 but with warmer ties with Beijing, the DOT expects this number of arrivals to double by the end of 2017. (PNA) MDDR

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# Alejano files supplemental impeachment rap vs Pres. Duterte

MANILA - Magdalo Partylist Rep. Gary Alejano on Thursday filed a supplemental impeachment complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte regarding his foreign policy over disputed territories with China including Benham Rise, Panatag Shoal and the rest of the West Philippine Sea.

Alejano filed the 13-page supplementary complaint before the Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

In a press conference, Alejano said Duterte failed to assert the country's sovereign and maritime rights over the disputed islands, accusing the latter of betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution, and other high crimes.

"Respondent Rodrigo Roa Duterte betrayed the public trust reposed upon him, culpably violated the Constitution and committed the high crime of dereliction of his sworn duty as President when he utterly failed and/or refused to assert the country's exclusive sovereign rights

## SC Junks...

from page 6

and ultimately seeks her disbarment.

The Court noted that Belgica's logic — that the Ombudsman may be charged with disbarment during her incumbency but the penalty may only be imposed after her term ends — is faulty and clearly contravenes the established principle that the Ombudsman, who may be removed from office only by impeachment, cannot be charged with disbarment during her incumbency.

In a 12-page complaint, Belgica asked the SC to disbar Morales for violation of the Lawyer's Oath and the Canon of Professional Responsibility after she dismissed the graft and

and maritime rights and territorial claims over Benham Rise and Panatag Shoal and the rest of the West Philippine Sea," Alejano said.

Alejano argued that Duterte took a "defeatist" stance with China as the Asian superpower has been actively building military outposts on disputed islands in the South China Sea.

"While no one is expecting Duterte to declare war with China over these territorial disputes, as President and Commander-In-Chief and Chief Diplomat of the country, he should condemn China's aggressive actions and expansionism, and insist it to respect the exclusive sovereign rights, and maritime and territorial claims of the country through diplomatic and peaceful means," Alejano said.

On March 16, Alejano filed the first impeachment complaint against the President on the grounds of culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, betrayal of public trust, graft and corruption, and

technical malversation case against former President Benigno Aquino III in connection with the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP).

"By absolving the former president of criminal liability by omitting his name in the discussion relative to the finding of probable cause against former (Budget) Secretary Florencio Abad, the Filipino people was deprived of their right to procedural due process," read the complaint.

"Hence, the Ombudsman violated her lawyer's oath when she deprived them of their right to procedural due process, a right enshrined in our Constitution and mandated by law," it added.

## DSWD Sec Taguiwalo...

from page 5

subordinate to the dominant structure of families, which remain largely feudal and patriarchal."

This was the message of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo to the participants of the Compassionate and Harmonized Actions and Networks for Gender Equality (CHANGE) Women's Summit held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City yesterday. It was delivered by DSWD Undersecretary for Operations and Promotive Programs Malou Turalde-Jarabe.

To further promote the rights of women, Sec. Taguiwalo reaffirmed DSWD's commitment to support women by strictly enforcing Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), a law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women through the recognition, protection, other high crimes.

Alejano sought the ouster of Duterte for his state policy on drugs which resulted in a spate of summary executions and extrajudicial killings; his alleged links in the vigilante killings by the Davao Death Squad; and his alleged PHP2.2 billion hidden wealth. (PNA)

Morales cleared Aquino and former Budget undersecretary Mario Relampagos of technical malversation, usurpation of legislative powers and graft charges for the alleged illegal implementation of PHP72 billion DAP in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Only Abad was found liable for usurpation of legislative powers. But other charges against Abad were dismissed.

Belgica said Aquino should also be made liable for the circular because a provision there states that it bore the approval of the president.

"She failed to perform her primary duty as a lawyer engaged in the public prosecution because she did not see to it that justice is done to the detriment of the Filipino people," Belgica said in his complaint.

Aquino appointed Morales

## National News

April 2-8, 2017  
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fulfilment and promotion of their rights.

"In support of the MCW, the DSWD continues to monitor an alarming number of cases of abuse and exploitation of women. The Department also implements two types of women's welfare programs, including community-based and center-based programs and services, to assist those who have been abused," Sec. Taguiwalo said.

The community-based programs and services of the DSWD are preventive, rehabilitative, and developmental programs and initiatives that mobilize both the family and the community in responding to issues of women who are in need or at risk. Center-

based programs and services, on the other hand, refer to those that give alternative forms of family care by providing 24-hour residential care facilities on a temporary basis for women whose needs cannot be met by their families or relatives for a specified period.

Sec. Taguiwalo also shared some of the DSWD's new initiatives and programs for poor Filipinos, including women in difficult situations. These include the Department's support to the amendment of RA 8972 or the Solo Parents Welfare

as Ombudsman when she retired as Supreme Court associate justice in 2011. Morales is set to retire on July 25, 2018. (PNA)

Act; the Libreng Gamot Para sa Masa Program funded by the Office of the President; and the Bangon Project, a nutrition and hunger mitigation project in ARMM.

Organized by the Philippine Commission on Women in collaboration with the Office of the President, the CHANGE Women's Summit gathered key stakeholders on the implementation of the Magna Carta of Women and related Gender and Development (GAD) mandates.

The summit, which runs until today, primarily aims to assess how far the Philippines has gone in the implementation of the MCW and to solicit and strengthen commitments of agencies, local executives, non-government organizations, and the private sector to implement policies and programs relative to the law and other GAD mandates. It includes the sharing of good practices and the discussion of gaps and challenges in the implementation of the law.

Moreover, the two-day summit features relevant plenary discussions and parallel sessions that discuss the strengthened implementation of the MCW. It will culminate today with a commitment setting.

## Women's rights are human rights

In her message, Sec. Taguiwalo also stressed the importance of the recognition of women's rights as equivalent to human rights.

"I want to affirm and reiterate the fact that women's rights are human rights. We need to remember this because often, even in the highest and sharpest discourses on human rights, there is a tendency to forget that half of humanity is female. And even in this age of supposed enlightenment on human rights, the conceptualization of human rights when unchecked are often based on male experiences. This should not be accepted as sufficient to cover all human rights," she said.

The welfare chief also noted that the deliberate neglect of government of women's rights constitutes a human rights violation. As such, she said it must not allow gender-specific violations experienced by women to continue.

In closing, the welfare chief said, "Women's day should be everyday. Women's rights and issues should be supported by all Filipinos—men and women alike. Abuse against women are not acceptable and never will be. Neglect for the welfare of women should not be tolerated either. There is no excuse for abusing and exploiting women so we must all work together to promote women's rights and help each other understand their importance. When we protect and defend women's rights, we nurture a culture and a way of living that is kinder, more humane, and more compassionate."

The CHANGE Women's Summit culminated the celebration of the National Women's Month in March. (DSWD)

## tarlacweekender

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## First part

Eight years before retired SPO3 Arturo Lascañas admitted to participating in killings done by the Davao Death Squad (DDS), supposedly on the orders of then Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte, four other individuals had given sworn statements on the DDS and those who they said were behind it.

Three gave their sworn affidavits on separate dates in early 2009 to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR); CHR lawyer Jacqueline Ann C. de Guia, the current spokesperson of the agency, took their statements. The fourth gave a sworn deposition on July 10, 2009 before Judge William Simon Peralta of the Manila Regional Trial Court for a case filed by the Philippine National Police (PNP), which was then seeking entry to a suspected burial site of DDS victims.

Although they were made separately, the statements of all five, including Lascañas, have interlocking details such as the general composition of DDS and the involvement of the police. The affidavits submitted to the CHR and that of Lascañas, along with his second testimony at the Senate, have even more details in common as well as complementary with one another, including the hierarchy within the DDS, the manner in which the killings were carried out, and the amounts given to a team per hit, which usually ranged between P13,000 and P15,000.

Two of the affidavits with CHR even named Lascañas as among the policemen involved in DDS. Lascañas, though, had denied there was a DDS when he first testified at the Senate in October last year.

But then four months later, he appeared with lawyers in a surprise press conference, where he said the exact opposite and even recounted specific murders in which he said he took part. He would also execute an affidavit containing even more details about the DDS — details that he would repeat and elaborate on some more at another Senate hearing, as well as in an interview with PCIJ



## Of truth, conscience

Among other things, Lascañas has attributed his change of heart to “spiritual enlightenment” and attacks of conscience.

The other four individuals who issued sworn statements on the DDS were less dramatic in explaining why they decided to speak up about the group, saying only that they wanted to tell the truth, with three of them adding that they had been bothered by their conscience.

The DDS is believed by many, including local and international rights groups, to be behind the deaths of petty criminals, drug pushers, and addicts (among them minors) in Davao City when Duterte was mayor there. Between 1988 and 2016, Duterte had seven full terms as mayor of Davao City, and one term each as congressman and the city’s vice mayor.

Duterte, now President, has repeatedly denied having anything to do with the killings. There have been times, however, that he has declared that there is nothing wrong with bad elements of society ending up dead.

# Affidavits of 4 CHR witnesses affirm Lascañas details on DDS

by The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism ([www.pcij.org](http://www.pcij.org))

## How DU30 figures

Only two of the self-confessed assassins, however, linked Duterte by name with their bloody occupation in their respective affidavits: Lascañas and someone who went by the alias ‘Crispin Salazar.’

Lascañas in his affidavit dated Feb. 19, 2017, said in part, “I was present when then MAYOR RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE of Davao City ordered the killing of numerous men and women, and gave us reward money after we executed them. I was responsible for the killing of many men and women, and at least one child, upon the instructions of MAYOR DUTERTE.” (Capitalization in original)

Salazar, a rebel returnee and who was 46 years old at the time of his June 24, 2009 affidavit, for his part said that he had met Duterte in 1992 through a longtime acquaintance, a certain Councilor Ibuyan. He said Ibuyan had brought him to Duterte’s house in the city’s Matina District for possible employment.

Said Salazar in his affidavit: “Ipinakilala ako ni Councilor Ibuyan kay Mayor Duterte. Tinanong ako ni Mayor ‘kaya mo ba ang ganitong trabaho? Ang patayin ang salot sa lipunan tulad ng mga drug addict, pusher, at magnanakaw?’ Sabi ko, papatulan ko. Sinabi niya na babayaran niya ako ng P15,000 at pinabalik niya ako ng Lunes at binigay niya personal sa akin ang isang baril. Isa yon na .357. (Councilor Ibuyan introduced me to Mayor Duterte. Mayor asked me, ‘can you handle this kind of work? To kill the dregs of society like drug addicts, pushers, and thieves?’ I said, ‘call.’ He said he would pay me P15,000 and told me to return Monday, during which he personally gave me a gun. That was a .357.)”

He began working that same day, Salazar said. He also recounted, “Makalipas ang isang linggo, binigyan na ako ng listahan ng mga wanted na tao na aking papatayin. Nakalagay doon ang pangalan at tirahan ng mga taong papatayin ko. Iniaabot at dini-distribute ang listahan sa akin at maging sa aking mga kasamahan ng aming pinaka-pinuno sa samahan. Minsan ay mismo si Mayor Duterte ang pumupunta sa safehouse at nag-aabot ng listahan matapos sambitin, ‘O, ito ang mga listahan ng mga tarantado. (After a week, I was given a list of ‘wanted’ people who I was going to kill. The list had the names and addresses of my targets. My colleagues and I would be given lists by our group’s leader. Sometimes it was Mayor Duterte himself who would go to the safehouse and hand out lists, saying, ‘Here, these are the lists of imbeciles.’)”

## Not real names

CHR’s de Guia said that Salazar and the two other self-confessed DDS members were allowed to have pseudonyms for security reasons. Instead of their signatures, their affidavits have their right thumbmarks. De Guia confirmed with PCIJ that the signatures that appear on the documents are hers and that it was she who conducted the interviews with Salazar, as well as with the two other men who took on the names ‘Jose Basilio’ and ‘Ramon Evangelista.’

“They were straightforward and had the demeanor of someone telling the truth,” de Guia told PCIJ when asked if she believed the three’s statements at the time.

But she begged off giving more details about the men because, she said, she needed to get additional details about the progress of the case and the whereabouts of the three.

CHR had embarked on an investigation on the DDS in 2009, when it was still headed by Leila de Lima. But the human-rights body would not get to finish its report on the DDS until 2012 under its then head Loretta Ann

Rosales; it has since not done much on the matter.

## Different roles

For sure, despite their having points of convergence, the affidavits submitted to the CHR, the court deposition, and Lascañas’s sworn statement vary in length and richness in detail. In large part, that may be because the five men played different roles within DDS, as indicated in the incidents they narrated in their respective sworn statements.

Lascañas, who among other things said that he “was responsible for the killing of many men and women, and at least one child,” was the lone police officer among the five. His affidavit is rivaled in detail, however, by that of Salazar, who was also a hitman, as well as that of Basilio, who described himself in his affidavit as an employee of the “Heinous Crimes Office,” an “extension office of the Investigation Division at Camp Leonor.” Basilio also said that he was part of the “civilian component” of that office.

Basilio mentioned Lascañas in his May 30, 2009 affidavit, along with other policemen whose names would appear as well in Lascañas’s 2017 affidavit: SPO4 Fulgencio ‘Boy’ Pavo, SPO1 Jim Tan, SPO2 Jun Naresma, and SPO4 Sanson ‘Sonny’ Buenaventura, then Duterte’s trusted driver and bodyguard.

## Orders to kill, bury

In his affidavit, Basilio said that one of the foremost objectives of the Heinous Crimes Office (HCO) was to “carry out the ‘orders’ coming from Sonny Buenaventura.”

He added, “Nagmumula sa kanya ang ‘clearance’ para isagawa ang isang operasyon. Ang ‘order’ na ito ay ang pagpatay sa mga tao na sa kanilang tingin o pagsusuri ay may atraso sa lipunan o sa kanila (The ‘clearance’ to do an operation would come from him. This ‘order’ would be to kill people who in their view had done them or society wrong).”

Almost a decade later, Lascañas would recall in his own affidavit that Buenaventura had approached him to assassinate radio broadcaster Jun Pala, an avowed critic of Duterte.

“SONNY BUENAVENTURA told me that Mayor Duterte asked him (Sonny) to look for a hitman for a hit job against JUN PALA,” Lascañas said in his February 2017 affidavit. Sonny suggested my person to Mayor Duterte to do the hit job against JUN PALA. According to SONNY BUENAVENTURA, Mayor Duterte agreed and offered Three Million Pesos (PhP3,000,000) as pot money (reward).” (Capitalization in original)

Both Lascañas and Basilio also brought up retired SPO4 Bienvenido ‘Ben’/Tatay’ Laud’s name in their respective affidavits, as did Ernesto Avasola, who used his real name in his July 10, 2009 deposition before then Manila RTC Judge Peralta. In fact, it was Avasola’s testimony that prompted Peralta to issue a search warrant on Laud’s property in Barangay Ma-a in Davao City. In his deposition, Avasola had said he was an “asset” of Laud and had witnessed at Laud’s compound the execution of six men by six members of the Anti-Crime Unit of the Davao City Police Office in December 2005. Avasola also said that he was among those made to bury the remains of the victims within the Laud property.

## Village informant

Avasola’s deposition, however, was rather short compared to that of Basilio, Lascañas, and Salazar. So **Cont. on page 6**