



Mabuhay!!

God Bless America!!

Hafa Adai!!

Budget 2016: Salary hike for solons, layoffs for gov't workers

The Fiscal 2016 budget took effect October 1st with two seemingly inconsistencies in fiscal restraint—lawmakers giving themselves a salary raise by 40 percent, and possible layoffs, including some positions, which Gov. Eddie Calvo stressed, were key positions, like the already filled up 19 vacancies at the Department of Corrections.

Already, the Legislature has come under fire from private groups like the Guamanians for Fair Government, saying the law that granted the salary increases was enacted in a “shady manner.”

“We’re moving towards 2016,” Andri Baynum, chair of the group, said. This “is when the people are going to be able to decide if they want to have these types of leaders continue to stay in office and undermine a democracy and undermine the importance of public hearings and the importance of people getting involved.”

The Governor’s Office had maintained that the budget passed by the Legislature on Aug. 24, by a 13-1 vote, didn’t provide enough funds for the government’s various agencies.

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These two damaged bridges down south have been like this for years, yes YEARS. This is unsafe for motorists who are not familiar with the area. Do our highly paid elected officials ever go down south? People in the south are also paying taxes, don't they?

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Bataan Association of Guam: A Showcase of Filipino Resiliency

What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety?

Readers of the then Marianas Variety (Guam) are still at a quandary as to why their favorite daily paper was purchased by a business group that has no media industry background.

Marianas Variety Guam Edition (now the Guam Daily Post) that traced its roots from Saipan has been among the local favorites with the lively yellow sunrise in the masthead. Somehow, readers say, the sunrise gives them a ray of hope for the day.

Then they were surprised when one day, the yellow sunrise was replaced by a black and red paper, a complete turnaround, they say.

And while the staff of MV Guam are still the ones churning out the now Guam Daily Post, there was a big change on the background. The owner(s).

The Guam Daily Post is

now owned by Guam LLC, which is owned by Ho S. Eun of Core Tech International Corp, one of the construction firms in the island that has quite a number of contracts with GovGuam.

Insiders say that the then MV Guam was not really earning. So in part, they say that with Core Tech in the picture, it gave them a sense of stability.

But chritical readers are still wondering, why acquire a paper that is not really earning, and still retain the people running it? The critic's comments stemmed from their observations that when a business that is not doing so good is taken over by another group, there usually is a revamp and new guys are put in to make improvements.

So now they ask, what's behind the purchase? Does it have something to do with the upcoming election fever? Is it just meant to

silence and neutralize the press? Does the administration has something to do with acquisition?

Will all the questions, this paper attempted to get the side of the Guam Daily Post, by writing Mr. Ho S. Eun (letter on the right). Unfortunately, Mr. Eun chose to ignore the letter.

To date, Core Tech's website shows four current school construction projects.

The administration recently purchased the Tiyan High School property from Guam Facilities Foundation, Inc. that "bought" the rights to the Tiyan property from Core Tech through series transactions. It is notable though that like Guam LLC that bought MV Guam, the officers of Guam Facilities Foundation, Inc. are also affiliated with Core Tech. Same dog with a different collar.

The Tiyan property pur-



Backed by 18 years of newspapering experience.

September 21, 2015

MR. HO S. EUN
or the Concerned Officer In Charge
CORE TECH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
300 South Marine Corps Drive, Suite 400
Tamuning, GU 96913

Handwritten: 9/21/2015
473-8000

Subject: Guam LLC acquisition of Marianas Variety now Daily Post

Dear Mr. Eun:

With all due respect, the Junction Guam weekly will soon be coming out with its maiden issue. In view of this, we would like to be clarified on your company's acquisition of the former Marianas Variety. The information you provide to us will be used on our forthcoming feature. We would appreciate getting your reply not later than September 25, 2015. You can e-mail your reply to the following email addresses: ed_gu@junctionnews.com or junctionguam@yahoo.com.

1. What made you interested in acquiring the Marianas Variety?
2. It appears that your acquisition and entry in the business of media newspaper information dissemination is not part of your core business and/or related business(es) of yours which is construction and development. Why the interest to venture into media?
3. We have unconfirmed information that Marianas Variety was not exactly a profitable entity. If this is true, why did you still acquire it?
4. For how much did you acquire Marianas Variety, and how much capital infusion have you pumped in, and how much more do you intend to infuse?
5. Can you provide us with some information on the financial side of the Marianas Variety, now the Daily Post more so on the ROI and ROR, etc?
6. There is a speculation among some members of the business community that you had acquired the Marianas Variety in order to serve your business interests in relation to your numerous contracts with the government of Guam. What can you say to this?
7. Can you provide us with a brief background on start of Core Tech International Corporation to include the current number of contracts/developments/acquisitions it has dealt with in the government of Guam to date? Kindly include also the value of the projects.
8. Any other information you may want to provide to us, please feel free to do so.

Should we need to make any other further clarification, kindly inform us as to who we can get in touch with.

Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature: Berlyna Dawang-Farres
Berlyna Dawang-Farres
Publisher

chase is being questioned by the Public Auditor as the administration changed the 2013 purchase agreement without her knowledge,

and just learned about it after the deal was signed last year. The original agreement was to purchase the property using tax credits,

but now GovGuam will pay \$10 million (cash) a year over 25 years./Junction Guam News Team



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Andersen AFB Implements 'Trusted Traveler' Program



On October 1, Andersen Air Force Base started implementing a revised base access procedures for visitors.

The revised procedure, referred to by the Department of Defense as "Trusted Traveler," "authorizes registered vehicle drivers/operators who present a valid DOD ID card to vouch for all occupants of their vehicle when entering the base."

In its news release contained in its website, it says that Trusted Travelers will not be permitted to vouch for visitors in another vehicle, nor will Trusted Traveler apply to personnel entering the base by means other than a vehicle.

The trusted travelers will no longer be required to proceed to the Visitor Control Center and obtain visitor passes for guest visits of 48 hours or less. However, the Trusted Travelers will be held responsible for the actions and conduct of their guests.

The following ID cardholders are authorized to be Trusted Travelers: uniformed service member or federal government employee with a valid common access card; military retiree with a valid DOD ID card; and dependent older than 16 years old with a valid DOD ID card.

Trusted Traveler will only be authorized from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, according to the news release. "All visitors are reminded to have a valid photo ID with them at all

Who shot Piolo? Suspect maintains innocence

The case of slain Police Officer Elbert Piolo, 38, is almost three-months old, but mystery continues to shroud the July 13 incident.

Suspected gunman Mark Anthony B. Torre, 30, has been under house arrest. The victim's

relatives have appealed for justice for Piolo and want to "know the truth" that fateful morning on what prompted Torre, the victim's fellow officer at Guam Police Department, to allegedly shoot him dead.

The motive for the killing has not been established.

"All we want is the truth," Edison, 36, only brother of the victim, intoned during a recent hearing, attended by both Torre's and Piolo's families.

"He's a good guy, one hell of a good guy," Edison said. Published reports quoted Edison as saying that he and his brother were "very close." He said they always had each other's back.

times since 100 percent ID checks may be conducted at any time in accordance with random anti-terrorism and force protection measures."

Contractors and vendors may not act as Trusted Travelers, according to the announcement. Those who have questions in relation to this policy are requested to call Andersen AFB Public Affairs Office at 366-2228./The Junction News Team

Torre, the son of a high-

ranking GPD official and his namesake, is facing first-degree murder charges for the killing of Piolo.

The older Torre was said to have been asked for help by the dying victim and this was heard through a 911 call made by Piolo, himself. The recorded telephone call was presented by the prosecution in court.

"Lieutenant, help me. I'm dying. I'm dying. He shot me, he shot me," the recording from 911 said.

Edison said he and Elbert are look-alike. "He (Elbert) was just smaller with lots of tattoos." Describing Elbert as an approachable guy, "who had many friends," the victim, Edison recalled, "lends a hand even if he doesn't know you."

"He touched so many people in their hearts. He's a physical angel walking around," Edison was quoted as saying by local papers.

Edison said he and his brother shared the same love for music. Elbert was a member of the band Soul Vibes. "He loved music and he loved to dance."

The younger brother further recalled that Elbert would remain "calm" even when others are not. Edison said he could not believe the his brother would meet a gruesome death. "If you're mad at him, he's calm. He doesn't hold a grudge. He's all chill."

Edison said his brother brought happiness to everybody "when he's around."

What really happened that fateful morning of July 13, may be unearthed as Torre Sr. is expected to talk during the trial. The court has forbidden contact between him and his son.

Torre was indicted by a Superior Court of Guam grand jury on July 24.

Based on court records obtained by this paper, besides the murder charge, Torre is also facing charges of manslaughter and two counts of aggravated assault.

The incident occurred at Torre's residence at 140-Chalan Tomas, Andal, Yigo. Piolo died more than an hour after he was rushed to Guam Memorial Hospital by responding medics.

Piolo, of Dededo, spent more than 15 years in the police service.

On the other hand, Torre resigned as GPD member on Aug. 10. Prior to his resignation, he was on a 20-day administrative leave.

Court records state that Torre was "extremely intoxicated" when the incident happened. He was quoted by the responding officers as telling them that "I never pointed it at him," in an apparent reference

WE NEED YOUR OPINION

The management of the Guam Blind Masseurs needs your feedback for an honest to goodness therapeutic massage service (commercial and home service - no hanky panky) which happens to be widely available throughout Asian countries like the Philippines, China, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, and other countries.

Those who have been to the Philippines, would have seen this service commonly offered at the various malls at reasonable rates normally priced at around P300 or (\$6.50) for an hour's massage, or less for half an hour. Their services are also widely available on a home service basis with rates just the same or slightly higher than the rates in the malls. Most of the blind masseurs in the Philippines have undergone the usual six (6) months or more formal training as provided for by the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippines Department of Health (DOH), or the Philippines Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Did you know that in Guam there is no regulatory body that certifies the current crop of masseurs which happen to be sighted as there are no blind masseurs in the island? So basically anyone can claim to be a masseur/masseuse and choose to offer their supposed skills and if accepted by the employer then that's it.

In South Korea for example, therapeutic massage is regulated and it is only the blind masseurs that are licensed by the government to be masseurs. The principal reason for this is to help provide employment to the differently abled. Do not get us wrong, we are not even remotely suggesting that only the disabled should be licensed as we believe in equal employment opportunities. There is no need to make a comparison as to who can provide a better massage service whether it is the differently abled or the sighted person, as that would be like compar-

ing apples to oranges.

However, the point is when you are part of the disabled community and being a masseur seems to be your only option for a livelihood, you somehow will tend to make the best of your craft/skill and give your best, unlike the sighted and/or abled person who obviously would have more employment opportunities.

Surprisingly, we do not have this service in Guam that is widely popular in the rest of Asia, and in fact even in some parts of Europe and the mainland USA.

It is because of this that we would want to hear from you and get your opinion.

There are plans to offer this service in the island on site, on call, and home service at a rate of around \$30/per hour or \$55 for a 2-hour therapeutic massage. It will just be an honest to goodness massage to take away your aches and pains. Grandma or grandpa may need it, Mom and Dad after a hard day's work, the common man or hardworking woman may need it every now and then. A therapeutic massage from trained professionals at a rate that can hardly be considered personal extravagance.

Now the bonus is this, the members of the disabled local community will eventually be trained by the Filipino blind masseurs and will eventually offer the service in the island aside from the numerous Asian tourists who flock to the island whom we are sure will appreciate the service who happen to have this service in their home country.

Should you be in favor of this service, please send us an email at guamblind@yahoo.com or mail to PO BOX 12906, Tamuning 96913 and let us know your thoughts. All those who send us an email will be sent a 10% discount card for use once the service is available in the island.

Hafa Adai and Mabuhay!

Guam Blind Masseurs
www.guamblind.com

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Tax Cheats and Tax Fraud Shrinks

Recently in the news were several cases of tax fraud, one involving a woman who claimed fraudulent tax refunds in amounts below \$30K over a span of 3 years, another involves a man who likewise claimed fraudulent tax refunds in amounts below \$20K over a span of 4 years, and the most sensational one is about an alleged respected, even well-liked government consultant who was alleged to have defrauded the government by not paying proper taxes for around 13 years. This amounts to tax fraud of close to \$500K.

Of these 3 cases, there was not a single voice who lent their support and requested the Honorable Court for leniency on the first two minor cases involving frauds in the amounts of below \$30K.

However, that is not the case for the tax fraud case involving the amount of \$500K. This case had drawn quite a support. Around 58 letters of support from public officials and airport contractors, tenants, and supervisors, who vouched for the offender's character and remorse for his crime (who will soon be facing sentencing on October 8th). Add to that the at least two senators throwing their wholehearted and all-out support for the offender.

It must be noted that all three cases mentioned could have prison sentences of up to three years, despite the huge discrepancies in the amounts involved.

While we respect the rights of every citizen under the First Amendment, we take it that the two Senators, Senator James Espaldon and Senator Tina Muna Barnes, had both lent their all-out support. (Thank God, only two did.) One even used her official letterhead went as far as to suggest to the court that it should instead consider some sort of fine and community service, while the other senator had shown his other talent in the field of psychiatry.

Some other supporters had also shown their skills in psychology and religious piety.

The issue here is not about the offender's character nor is it about his alleged exemplary service or show of remorse. It is about tax fraud, albeit certainly, the Honorable Court would take cognizance of such as mitigating circumstances that would have certainly been pointed out by the offender's counsel.

Did these officials not consider that their show of support (in writing at that) might be interpreted by others as a form of influence peddling and an interference into an independent branch of government? We always ascribe to humanitarian considerations where it is called for. However, the seeming selective show of humanitarian consideration for a particular case. In the other cases there was no show of support for those that may have committed lesser serious tax fraud offenses.

requested the Honorable Court for leniency on the first two minor cases involving frauds in the amounts of below \$30K.

Editorial

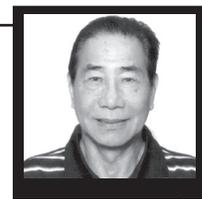
Our lawmakers and other government officials should have been more circumspect. They should not, even for a second, forget that they as public servants, serve under the pleasure of the Guamanians. No more no less. It is their sworn duty to uphold the law (as harsh as the law may seem to be at times), and protect the good interest of the majority of the Guamanians. After all, we all know the good ol' saying that goes - two things we can't get away with, taxes and death!



The Truth Matters

- >Retroactive Wage Increases
- >Delicadeza is dead

By: Rolando Zabala



W__ , is this retroactive wage increases we had seen and been pulled off right under our noses?!

For those (I would imagine just a few Guamanians are not aware of this) who have no idea on what I am talking about, where have you guys been? I have been very vocal in numerous social media on my objection to that selective retroactive wage increases that principally benefited the Governor, Lt. Governor, Senators, members of the governors cabinet and other some selected few. Sure, they are citing certain studies and justification on the why's it has to be retroactive.

My dear readers, do not get me wrong, I am not against wage increases per se. I have been a public servant for the most part of my life and I would certainly welcome wage increases, but this wage increases need to go through a transparent process. What is then the essential and basic process for a retroactive wage increase? To my simple mind it is the exhaustive public consultation and public hearings coupled with the legality of the retroactive increase itself, which apparently there was no such public consultation/hearing. In fact even the attorney general is not in favor of this for certain positions in her particular office. Sure the legislature approved it, sure it appears that it may have the covering of a legal mantle, but assuming it is legal, the question now is, is it proper, is it moral, is it ethical? Does the word delicadeza no longer have any relevance or meaning in this day and age?

By the way what is delicadeza? If you're a Filipino holding a position of trust, power or responsibility, you should already know the answer. But otherwise, let me remind my fellow Guamanians in political power - the term delicadeza is one of those Spanish loan words that has entered the Filipino vocabulary with a very specialized sense of meaning. In its original Spanish definition, it literally means gentleness, softness, delicacy (as in being delicate, not exotic food), and tactfulness. But in the Filipino culture, the term delicadeza means something else very specific and has no direct English translation; the closest would probably be "sense of propriety". Essentially, it is the virtue of knowing and acting on what is proper when you are in a position of authority and trust, such as in public service.

There are two general situations where delicadeza is often invoked. The first situation is having the grace to give up one's position of authority when becoming involved in a matter of impropriety. This is often phrased as "resigning out of delicadeza." (An example is Nixon's resignation in the wake of the Watergate scandal.) The second situation is inhibiting oneself from positions, roles, or situations involving conflict of interest.

As I said, just to make myself clear, I am not against a wage increase, but RETROACTIVE - MY ASS!!!

In fairness, let me acknowledge the Honorable Senators who objected to this retroactive BS, they are the following: Nerissa Underwood, BJ Cruz, Mike San Nicolas, Tom Ada, Frank Aguon, as we say in Pilipino- MABUHAY KAYO!!!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

For issues, concerns of social relevance and of public interest that you may wish to be published or exposed, send us an e-mail at junctionguam@yahoo.com and/or ed_gu@junctionnews.com, providing us with as much information as you can. We entertain information, leads, tips from anonymous sources. Publication is subject to editorial discretion.

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Fighting for a Cause & More

"Sabotage" Law

By: Pat Duque



Note: Lifted from the author's book "Fighting for a Cause ...and More"

Six hundred dollars (\$600) round-trip airfare from Guam to the U.S. Wow! Yes, most of us will go. I foresee everyone in Guam rejoicing.

This could have been real if not for an unwelcome culprit—Mr. Cabotage Law. It's a "sabotage" law that works against the welfare and interest of the people of Guam. It contributes to the high cost of living and has adverse ripple effects on the island's economy.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) has returned to Guam this year. Presently, it offers an average \$800 round-trip from the Philippines to US mainland via Honolulu. If Guam has airline competition, PAL could pass by, pick-up passengers on Guam, and proceed to the West coast. Pro-rating, passengers from Guam would then cost around \$600. Continental Micronesia and Northwest, which are virtually merged, charge an average of \$1,400 per passengers. As shown above, this could be reduced by \$800. With around 200 passengers flying daily to the US on Continental and Northwest aircraft, there are around 73,000 passengers going annually to the US. Guam passengers perhaps, are over-paying a whopping \$59 million (73,000 x \$800) per year to these two airline companies.

Now, PAL, to stay competitive, offers \$305 round-trip to Manila. Later, Continental counters with \$295. As it is, Continental plans to "put down" its lone competitor so that once again it becomes a monopoly. Continental and Northwest have already the undue advantage, courtesy of the Cabotage Law, Guam's population of 150,000 is only 0.05% of the 288 million US population that they both service. The people of Guam is just a drop in their buckets.

These two airlines claim that the low volume of passengers from Guam drives up the price. Yes, indeed, because with their exorbitant price of \$1,400 many could hardly afford it. Our Asian neighbors are luckier because their airlines charge them \$750 to \$800 only.

It is paradoxical that our own fellow American businessmen in the airline companies offer us travel to our nation at a higher price despite the fact that Guam is nearer to the US than other Asian countries.

If cost is at "globalized" pricing and with competition from other airlines, travelers' volume will surely increase. The return flights of PAL will bring in more US mainlanders and Canadians to Guam because fare will be very much cheaper.

Then Guam Visitors Bureau could target our 288 million fellow Americans and 30 million Canadians as tourism markets. It will be a win-win situation for the airline industry, the people of Guam, and fellow Americans in the mainland. The problematic tourism equation for Guam will change for the best.

It is surprising that other insular areas such as the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas are exempted from this law, but Guam and Puerto Rico are not. What did our political leaders do all these decades? Didn't they fight hard enough for Guam or did they succumb to strong and generous lobbies of the airlines (including shipping companies that lobby for the Jones Act)?

But will it be too much for American airlines to share their social and moral responsibilities to their fellow Americans on Guam? Thanks for employing some of our local people here but we deserve our fair airfare in this part of the world where globalization, fair competition, and free enterprises must prevail. Guam does not need to beg for increased federal money. We just ask simply: Free us from federal restrictions that limit our economic growth!

This has been going on for a long time. Must we allow it to continue any longer?

In conclusion, I suggest that the Guam Legislature does the following:

*Create a local agency that will study and control unfair pricing not only airline companies but also of shipping lines (a victim of Jones Act), cables, telephones, power, petroleum prices, etc.

*Prohibit government officials to get involved directly and indirectly with businesses that could be in conflict with the people's interest.

*Further, the people of the Pacific should all push for and

Punto de Vista

>Undeliverable Address

>Governor snubs Junction's request

By: Leo Macaraeg



What really is the thing with this undeliverable mail addresses in the island? I come from a third world country like the Philippines, but one thing you can be sure of is that this "undeliverable mail addresses" is practically unheard of. You can bet your last dollar that the mail person will sooner or later get your letter to your far flung address.

But where are these undeliverable addresses I am talking about? I recently recalled this ridiculous situation when this fella who had a set appointment with me had to profusely apologize for being 30 minutes late as according to him, he got stuck at the Tamuning post office since his address happens to be among those condos that are "undeliverables." So I asked him how he gets his mail if his address is undeliverable. According to him, he has to drop by his PO Box which he pays for and he actually has to sneak out of his office to drop by the post office and spend more time if he happens to have any registered mail or package.

Why so is the situation in the island like this? I am just dying of envy when I saw the situation of some relatives at the East Coast wherein the mail man practically does everything for them, from point of pick up (residence) to delivery of mail and parcels back to their residence. They seldom have to drop by the post office. Now that is what I call no nonsense honest to goodness postal service!

The question is, why can't we have that in the island? Why all these undeliverable addresses that at times even causes a bottle neck of cars and clients at the post office, when at times a lot of the Guamanians collectively troop to the post office?

I do understand that the postal operations is a federal affair, but then again, if our legislators and the political leadership would really want to provide to us the postal service we deserve, certainly they can think of an innovative or creative way to solve the problem.

I certainly, have mucho-mucho fate in the abilities of our legislators and the current political leadership. We have seen how creative they have been in their retroactive (selective) self-serving wage increases. They certainly are a bunch of able and capable leaders, just how fortunate can we get!!!

####

I noticed that this paper's maiden issue did not have the usual message/greetings from the Governor's and Lt. Governor's office. I did see the greetings/message from the office of our beloved Philippine Consul General De Borja. I was a bit alarmed as these messages are your usual run of the mill courtesies sought by the requesting party(s) on their countless events and they are indeed liberally extended to by the concerned officials.

What initially, came to mind was, could our publisher not even have the better sense to request for such a message from the two highest political leaders in the island?! It turns out that she had indeed sent formal written requests and duly received by the concerned offices. Likewise, she had also sent follow-up emails, but unfortunately as it appears, this paper's requests were apparently ignored (or snubbed would be a more appropriate term) the request.

At any rate, I do understand that the concerned officials are under no obligation to provide a message. It's just that I very often see the messages and/or joint message of these two top officials in numerous souvenir programs, etc, and to think that requests of this sort are certainly handled by one of among the numerous capable and able staff members of these officials.

Well anyway, that's life in Guam under the Calvo—Ternorio leadership. As they sometimes say, the air is different when you're up-up there!

support airline competition in our region.

It is high time that our people, led by our political and business leaders, ask exemption from these oppressive and overstaying twin towers—Mr. Cabotage Law and his brother, Mr. Jones Act.

If we will not fight now for our rights, who else will?

Since year 2002 when this article was written, nothing has changed much except Northwest is now merged with Delta, Continental is merged with United. The airfare is still pretty much the same; and ouch, Pat's suggestions for the Guam Legislature is, to this date, still a suggestion.-Ed

Red Eye

Reminder notice exposes the Real

Property Tax Division

By: Ronnie R. Redila



Here comes The Weekly Junction - it's fearless, free, balanced and fair.

The message is direct and clear.

Walang kinikilingan! Walang kinatatakutan!

The cost for a curbside trash collection of one 96-gallon cart is \$30 per month. Collection is done weekly and some customers could hardly fill their carts up on collection days. Their carts are nearly empty.

The Guam Solid Waste Authority should offer choices to single family homes that pay \$30 a month for small amount of trash. A curbside trash customer should be given the option to have his trash collected every other week or to get a smaller cart for a minimal fee of \$15 a month. How helpful it would be for a family to save \$15 a month.

\$15 could buy a case of chicken leg quarters or a 12-pack of domestic beer.

I recently got a notice from the Real Property Tax Division saying that "our records indicate that you owe real property taxes to the Government of Guam x x x."

I know I owe nothing but I also know that the government has the power to expropriate or take possession of a real property for unpaid taxes. I then decided to take a day-off to visit the RPTD office.

There were many people when I got to the office. I would like to think that they, too, received similar notice from RPTD.

One kababayan was extremely upset. While showing receipts to the people in line, he said "they told me I owe taxes ten years ago but it's a good thing I did keep all my receipts. I wanna slap these on their faces."

I was finally called after waiting for almost two hours. I handed the notice over to the employee who was assisting me. He keyed in several numbers in his computer and in just a few seconds, he told me "you don't owe any real property tax. Then he wrote "all clear" on the notice.

A waste of time? Not at all.

I have discovered one truth: RPTD's records are unreliable.

News headline: Patient loses leg due to 'wrong' doc's advice.

At the same hospital, my friend was told to have a heart problem when he was admitted. With the prodding of his wife, he went to Manila to get a second opinion.

In Manila, the doctors found nothing wrong with his heart. He had acute kidney failure!

FOR SALE OR JOINT VENTURE DEVELOPMENT

Commercial property located at the central business district Barangay Roxas at San Carlos Pangasinan, Philippines

Planned for development as a memorial park. Lot area is Ten Thousand Two Hundred Square Meters (10,200 sq.m) at P4,000/ per square meter or open to joint venture development.

For full details please call Mr. Leo Macaraeg, 483-5585 or email at macaraeg_leo8@yahoo.com

Guam Records Drop in Same-Sex Union

There is a steady decline in the number of applicants for same-sex marriage in the last four months, following a US District Court's ruling allowing a gay and lesbian's legal union with their respective partners.

Guam was the first US territory to recognize same-sex marriage after US District Court Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood struck down in June 2015 the prohibition on the same-sex marriage.

Carolyn Garrido, the Territorial Registrar of the Office of Vital Statistics, provided Junction Newspaper with data showing that for the last four months, the agency recorded a drop in applications for marriage license by same-sex couples.

Figures showed that there were 14 applicants in June; 13 in July; five in August; and four in September.

A total of 31 marriage certificates were issued out of 36 applicants for marriage license or certificates since June, according to Garrido. "I don't know what happened to the five others (applicants)," she added.

Meanwhile, records also revealed that couples both belonging to "traditional" and

gay couples between the age of 21 to 30 years, accounted for 20 applicants, followed by couples under the 30-39 year-old bracket with 13; 40-49 with 12; 50-59 with 12 and those 60 and above with 5 applicants.

As to ethnic race, Chamorros top the list with 35, followed by "White" with 8 applicants; Filipinos and African American, both with 4; Palauans, 2; Chamorro/American/ Irish, Filipino-American; Filipino-Chamorro, German/Chamorro, Hispanic, Pohnpeian, Puerto Rican and White/Chamorro - all with one applicant.

Garrido declined comment whether the applicants were "straight," gays or lesbians.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson in April instructed officials of the Office of Vital Statistics to process same-sex marriage applications. Territorial officials with Gov. Eddie Calvo behind them however, refused to heed the directive.

Guam law defines marriage "as between two people of the opposite sex."

Loretta Pangelinan and Kathleen Aguero filed a lawsuit in April after the couple were denied a marriage license. They cited a decision last year by

the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals decision in favor of same-sex marriage.

Nikki Dismuke and Deasia Johnson became the first same-sex couple to wed in Guam, as they exchanged vows shortly after receiving their marriage license at the Department of Public Health and Social Services last June.

Public Health Director James Gillan officiated the wedding.

The US District Court of Guam falls under the jurisdiction of the 9th Circuit.

"To the proponents and opponents alike, I ask that we all come together despite our differences of opinion, united in our common love of Guam and of each other," Calvo said in a June news release, following the Gatewood decision.

Back then, the Guam attorney general appointed a different counsel to represent Calvo in the lawsuit appealing the court's directive because of the difference in their beliefs and opinions.

In the US mainland, gay couples can marry in 36 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. *The Junction News Team*

Rodriguez pushes just compensation for landowners

The Legislature has filed a bill that would allow landowners, whose properties were expropriated by the government for public use, to institute a claim for inverse condemnation or just compensation.

Under the proposed "Government Land Takings Compensation Act of 2015," any person whose land was expropriated by the government between Aug. 1, 1950 and July 1, 1994 and who has not been compensated by the government may carry out an action for inverse condemnation.

"The Legislature finds that the manner and method of taking land for public easement must be in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam and the laws of Guam," said Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, Jr., D-Dededo, main author of the proposed legislation.

Without the proper exercise of eminent domain or negotiated transfer, Rodriguez said, these encroachments have placed a heavy burden

on citizens seeking redress and "only those who can afford attorney's fees and professional surveying services have the capacity to confirm that these encroachments have violated the law."

Any expropriation undertaken after July 1, 1994 in which the government failed to follow the eminent domain provision of the Guam Code, the claimant has five years from the time of such taking to file inverse condemnation proceedings.

The Department of Land Management, the bill proposed, would be tasked to assist any agency requesting information in the investigation of a claim, or in the determination of whether or not any land in its possession has been properly acquired from the private landowner.

The landowner, the senator pointed out, would be notified in writing by the concerned agencies or departments of the right to file a case for inverse condemnation and just compensation by the government.

The Act also sought the

creation of a Land Division Court, with the Superior Court exercising jurisdiction, which would hear judicial review and determination of civil actions or matters pertaining, but not limited to, to land taking by inverse condemnation or eminent domain by the government, real property disputes, and land registration proceedings.

All decisions of the Land Division, Rodriguez added, shall be final unless, within 30 days of the rendering of decision, the claimant or government notifies the court of the intent to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court of Guam.

A Land Claims Compensation Fund would also be established, which would be utilized to pay settlement to landowners, whose properties were taken by the government for public purposes.

A sum of \$500,000 would be deposited in the Fund, which would be maintained by the Department of Administration. *The Junction News Team*

Aguon's Good News for Individuals with Disabilities

A senator is bringing a package of good news for persons with significant disabilities as America celebrates the 70th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

On Wednesday, October 7, Sen. Frank Blas Aguon, Jr. in partnership with iCAN Resources, a nonprofit organization federally contracted to provide food and custodial services on the island, will host a job fair for persons with disabilities.

The purpose "is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities," Aguon said in a statement.

The event will be held from 9am to 4pm at the Legislative Hearing Room in Hagatna.

NDEAM is an annual awareness campaign that takes place October each year. This year's theme is "My disability is one part of who I am."

The history of NDEAM traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week."

In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

iCAN Resources will be recruiting for 17 custodial positions for a new project that will begin in January 2016. It will conduct an on-the-spot interviews for individuals who meet the qualifications under the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities to tens of thousands of Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities. More than 600 participating, community-based nonprofit agencies from across the country train and employ these individuals with disabilities.

iCAN Resources as a non-profitable organization has the specific and primary purpose of establishing employment opportunities for individuals with severe disabilities on Guam.

Its office is located at 865- Marine Corp Drive, Suite B102 Orlean Pacific Plaza in Tamuning. *The Junction News Team*

Is children's 'homelessness' a problem forever?

With lawmakers and government officials passing the buck to each other regarding the problem on homelessness of children, it is unlikely that they can find solution soon.

The most active and vocal in airing his thoughts and beliefs on what should be done to some 531 homeless youths is Sen. Michael San Nicolas, D-Dededo, who suggested to build 200 homes worth \$25,000 each to accommodate Guam's homeless individuals.

Based on data from the 2014 US Housing and Urban Development, Guam's total homeless population was around 1,356.

There is only one shelter facility in the island that can accommodate a very limited number of "shelterees."

The Catholic Social Service in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (BOSSA/DPHSS) opened Guma San Jose or House of Saint Joseph in June 1990. This can only provide 15-22 beds for families and individuals "who are in need of emergency shelter due to unusual circumstances; live in inadequate or has no fixed, regular night-time residence; lives in a temporary, public or private place not designated for sleeping, or in places not fit for human habitation."

Junction News tried to reach Ms. Diana Calvo, the

executive director of the Catholic Social Services for the latest development in the "homelessness" problem, which according to San Nicolas, is now government-wide. It was however, an answering machine that took the call and asked the caller to leave a message.

Meanwhile, Guma San Jose's program manager, Terry Montera failed to answer our email regarding the same concern.

Still on the same US's report about Guam's problem on homelessness, data shows that there are those "chronically homeless individuals," totaling 67 who are unsheltered. Others become homeless because of chronic substance abuse and of the 15, only 6 are sheltered. Others include those "severely mentally ill with only one staying in the shelter while 12 remain unsheltered. Of the 36 veterans, only 6 were accommodated while 30 stay outside the shelter. As to victims of domestic violence, only 2 were taken in and 4 are unsheltered.

For a family or individual to be taken in as a shelteree, Guma San Jose requires that applicant "must fill out an intake application form." And if determined eligible, the applicant may be admitted to the shelter "if beds are available" and if there are none, the individual or family is placed on a wait-list and

assisted on a first-come, first-served basis. After 60 days, the shelteree has to exit "with no exception."

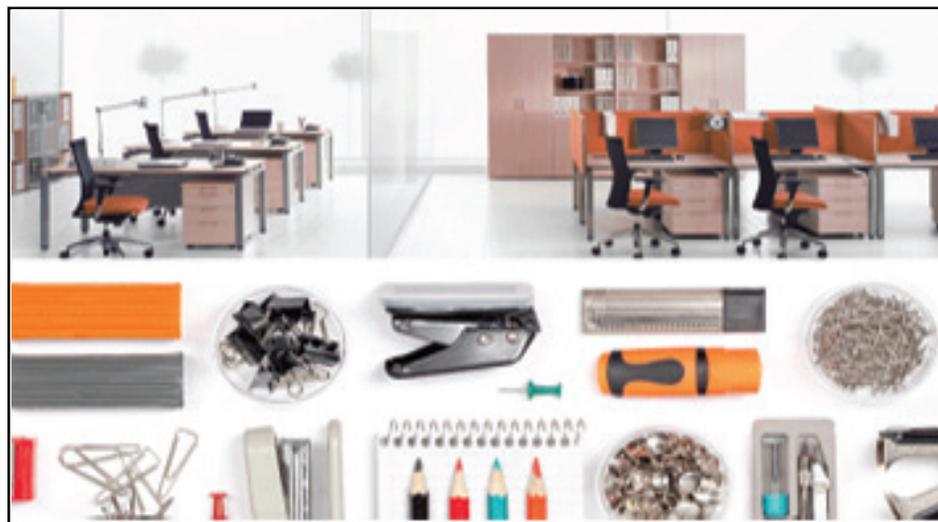
San Nicolas who chairs the legislative committee with oversight over Child Protective Services, said he is very much concerned about the homeless children "who should be concentrating in school, having fun with their friends and growing up to the best they can be."

"Children should not be worrying about having a roof over their heads, food for their empty stomach, or their safety as they try to sleep at night," the lawmaker lamented.

Earlier, the Department of Public Health and Social Services through its director James Gillan, strongly opposed a senator's proposal to draw 15 percent of money from Safe Streets Funds to construct a shelter and finding a site to build this.

The Safe Streets Funds is the government's account used to collect fines from individuals who violate some of Guam's driving laws. These should be deposited into a Homeless Assistance Fund beginning in fiscal 2017, according to Republican Sen. Brant McCreadie's Bill 175-33.

Gillan said his agency doesn't have the capacity to operate and manage the proposed homeless' shelter. *The Junction News Team*



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EPA reports 16 Guam Beaches Polluted

The results of 44 samples taken by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday, September 24, 2015, identified that the following recreational waters were polluted above the accepted bacteriological standards:

- TAMUNING: Gognga Beach, East Hagåtña Bay – Alupang Towers Beach
- ASAN: Adelup Point Beach (West), Asan Bay Beach
- PITI: Santos Memorial Park, Port Authority Beach
- AGAT: Togcha Beach – near Namo River, Togcha Beach – Agat Park Beach, Togcha Beach – near Southern Christian Academy, Bangi Beach, Nimitz Beach
- UMATAC: Umatac Bay,

Toguan Bay

- INARAJAN: Inarajan Bay
- TALOFOFO: Talofof Bay, First Beach

EPA warns that swimming, fishing or playing in unsafe waters may result in minor illnesses such as sore throats or diarrhea. It might also result in more serious illnesses such as meningitis, encephalitis, or severe gastroenteritis. Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of getting sick when they come in contact with contaminated water.

The Recreational Waters Pollution Report is compiled by Guam EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division. Since 1974,

Guam EPA has performed this community service weekly. The Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division takes water samples of 44 recreational beaches every Thursday and analyzes the samples for concentrations of the enterococcus bacteria indicator. Advisories are based on an instantaneous standard of not greater than 104 enterococci/100 ml and a geometric mean standard of not greater than 35 enterococci/100 ml. *Adjustments are made during official holidays.

Questions about the Recreational Waters Pollution Report should be directed to Monitoring Section at 671-300-4789 to 90.



Asians to become largest immigrant group in U.S. by 2055

MOSCOW - Asians will become the largest immigrant group in the United States, replacing Hispanics, in approximately 40 years, the Pew Research Center reported Monday.

"Asian immigrants are projected to make up a larger share of all immigrants. Becoming the largest immigrant group by 2055 and making up 38 percent of the foreign-born population by 2065,"

the survey said.

The percentage of the Hispanic immigrant population in the country is predicted to decline due to increasingly strict border control as well as demographic changes in neighboring Mexico as more young people are expected to remain in their homeland, the report said.

Currently, 47 percent of United States immigrants

are Hispanic and 26 percent are Asian, according to the research center.

The United States has the largest number of immigrants of any country, according to UN estimates.

According to the Pew research, the total U.S. population has grown over the past 50 years from 193 million people to 324 million. Immigrants make up about 72 million of the total, or 55 percent of the increase./ PNA/Sputnik

Who shot Piolo?

from page 3

to the pistol that was used to shoot the victim at the right side of his body below the armpit.

"He said that they (Piolo and unknown female) were not an item." According to the suspect, he tried to stop the argument but could not say whether it was over the phone or if the woman was present. "People are going to think I shot him (Piolo)."

No witnesses surfaced to shed light on the matter.

The firearm was recovered from the driver's dashboard of Piolo's Tacoma truck. Droplets of blood were also found even inside the residence of the suspect.

Superior Court Judge Michael Bordallo had denied the defense's request to allow the murder suspect to have contact with his father pending trial.

Torre's lawyer Jay Arriola, noted that Torre Sr. has cooperated with investigators from the very beginning by assisting the 911 operator the

night of the alleged shooting.

"There's no evidence of any type of collusion," Arriola maintained. Several of his motions, including the ban on the media, were also turned down by Bordallo.

Chief Prosecutor Phillip Tydingco said there's a persistent concern that the suspect and his father would

talk about the case "to help prepare a defense."

Torre is under house arrest after he posted a \$165,000 bail bond. Initially, the court set a \$500,000 bail for the suspect's temporary liberty.

If convicted, Torre is facing a life term for killing a fellow officer, who was posthumously promoted to the rank of a sergeant.

The next hearing is scheduled on January 28, 2016./The Junction News Team

Incentives sought for 'Certified' Public Health Officers

Environmental public health officers with one or more certifications in basic sciences should be provided with incentives, as proposed by Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, Jr.

Contained in Senate Bill 184-33, Rodriguez, D-Dededo, said that these workers under the Environmental Health division of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, should be given 15 percent of their base pay.

Rodriguez said the intent

of the proposed law is to establish "an incentive pay program to encourage the recruitment and retention of these personnel and to promote their continuing education by way of professional certification."

Under the current job specifications for the Environmental Public Health Officer (EPHO), one should have a Bachelor's degree and 30 semester credits of basic sciences. The solon explained that the standard established

by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) shall be followed on what particular college courses "qualify as a basic science."

Meanwhile, the basic sciences referred in Rodriguez's bill refers to "any of the courses in Biological Science, Natural Science, Physical Science and Health Science as established by NEHA or its successor."

Employees holding EPHO positions, who maintain

professional certifications such as the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), the registered sanitarian (RS) "or its equivalent issued by NEHA or its succeeding association," shall be provided with incentives.

At its discretion, however, the Department of Public Health and Social Sciences (DPHSS) may "include one or more other certifications, in addition to the REHS, RS, or its equivalent" for an EPHO to receive the incentive pay.

The employee also must possess a valid and current required certifications to receive the incentive pay, the solon stated in his bill. "... any lapse in time that the certification/s is not current or valid shall prohibit the employee from receiving the incentive pay for that period."

Upon re-obtaining however, of such requirement, the incentive pay shall be instituted again "for the employee but not for any period while the employee did not possess a valid and current certifications."

The incentive pay for EPHO within the Environmental Health division and the DPHSS shall be funded from the Environmental Health Fund and the DPHSS Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund, as proposed in the bill./The Junction News Team

Bataan Association of Guam: A Showcase of Filipino Resiliency

Mabuhay and Hafa Adai!

Bataan, province of the Philippines, has been always a home to many radiant-smiling Filipino faces. In spite of history's darkest times that once staged the final stand of American and Filipino soldiers together before they were overwhelmed by Japanese forces during the World War II.

Bataan fell to the ground and on its knees by which death came to many Filipino families and friends as being the casualties of war. The natives learned to be a foster

family to everybody and friends to everyone as they supported each other, side by side and as brothers in sisters.

Guam became a new home for many Filipinos after World War II, especially our countrymen who came from Bataan province. History is too painful to remember for some Filipinos who had left their homes; for some they just wanted to forget everything. But there are those who knew the importance of both history and pain and to them, it should not happen again.



Philippine Consul General Marciano R. de Borja (middle) and Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian (2nd from left) together with Senator Jim Espaldon of the 33rd Guam Legislature (6th from left) joined the new set of officers and Board of Directors of the Bataan Association of Guam for 2015-2016, led by its new President, Ms. Leng Cruz (7th from left). (Photo credit: Allan Tangayan)

Bataan Association of Guam

The Birth of Bataan Association of Guam marks the same as to what happened on the 9th of April 1942. The people who founded the organization are the remnants of our

Kabayan Pinoy

Mar, Grace, Rody, Jejomar???

Daang matuwid - KALOKOHAN !!!

By: Ben Tufo E-mail: bentofu_guam@yahoo.com



Magandang araw mga kabayan, mula ngayon, ang inyong lingkod ay inyong maaasahan na magbigay ng kanyang opinyon sa larangan ng pol-politiko at mga bagay-bagay na may saysay sa ating mahal na inang bayang Pilipinas.

Masuwerte tayo sa ating isla ng Guam at sa taong 2018 pa ang susunod na lokal na eleksyon, bagama't magkakaroon ng presidential elections sa mainland USA ay hindi naman tayo masyadong apektado o sa madali't salita ay wala tayong papel sa presidential elections kung hindi pumalampak at mangarap ng gising.

Kung tutuusin ay mas malaki pa ang papel natin sa darating na Philippine Presidential elections nitong Mayo a-kinse 2016.

Sa ngayon, ang mga komfirmadong tatakbo para pangulo ay sina Mar Roxas at si Cong. Leni Robredo ang kanyang inaasahang bibigay at kanyang matitod para sa kanyang running mate. Ang tambalang the senators Grace Poe para pangulo at ang matinding oportunistang si Chiz Escudero para bise president ni Grace Poe. Habang sinusulat ko ang kolum na ito ay nag-anunsyo na si senador Alan Peter Cayetano para bise president daw ni Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, kaya ating abangan kung sa wakas ay mag-dedeklara na rin itong si pakipot (kunwari) na kamay na bakal (daw) Rodrigo Du30. Aano ba naman kasi yan, nauna pa kunwari ang bise mag-deklara bago ang mastermind?. At siyempre, ang pinaka sikat sa negatibong pamamaraan at pananaw ng marami ay walang iba kung hindi si Binay, na hanggang sa ngayon ay wala pang bise president. Ngunit malakas ang ugong-ugong o chismis na si Bongbong Marcos daw ang kanyang magiging bise presidente.

Ang buhay nga naman ano, totoo talaga ang kasabihan sa politika na "there are no permanent friends or enemies, just permanent interests." Tignan niyo nga naman itong si Binay na isang matinding anti-Marcos noong araw ngunit ngayon na siyang naturangan na one of the most corrupt government officials ay mukhang matutuloy na ang tambalang Binay-Marcos. Kung sabagay, para sa akin ay isang winning combination yan, ikumpara niyo naman sa Mar-Leny na kombinasyon na parehas silang mahinhin at pa -demure effect ang kanilang mga personalidad, at ikumpara din natin sa tambalang Grace-Chiz na parehong mga batang matutulis (as in matulis at mapaglaro). Ngayon, ang kombinasyon na Du30 at Cayetano, aba, parehong anti-grafters kuno, how true,? Marahil pagdating kay DU30, subok na sa anti-graft ang mama na ito, ngunit si Cayetano sa alam natin ay marami rin silang sabit na mag-asawa sa Taguig (Mayor ng Taguig ang misis ni senador Cayetano).

Balikan natin ang una kong nabanggit kung saan tayong mga Pinoy ay may isang matinding responsibilidad na magbigay ng ating opinyon at adhikain sa ating mga mahal sa buhay at mga kamag-anak na boboto, at para na rin sa mga dual citizens na kababayan. Sana po ay ating siyasatin at pag-aralang mabuti ang mga kandidato na mayroong pinaka-malinis na track record, pinaka -maraming accomplishments, at saka natin i-indurso sa ating mga kababayan na sa Pinas. Sa tutuo lang, ang problema ko kay Mar ay hindi si Mar mismo kung hindi si Korina na kung maging first lady ang babaeng ito ay sa aking palagay ay magiging isa siyang Korinafic, parang isang Imeldific. Kapag si Grace Po naman ang nagwagi, aba, pwede rin at maaring gaganda at madagdagan ang aid na matatanggap ng Pinas mula sa US dala ng loyalty ni Grace Poe at ng kanyang pamilya ay na sa Amerika. Ngayon kung si Binay at Marcos ang magwagi, yan ang ewan ko lang kung ipagpapatuloy pa ni Binay ang kanyang mga naumpisahang diskita at baka kanya pa itong mas palawakin.

own history and the true colors of the Filipino. Strong, united, hospitable, simple, and free-spirited people--that is what they truly are.

Bataan Association of Guam is a non-profit, civic organization established to foster unity among Bataan people who have made Guam their home away from home. The group provides support and assistance to its members in times of their greatest needs through noble ways without asking anything in return.

Mr. Wilner A. Dizon (outgoing president of B.A.O.G.) together with the members have contributed countless effort to the betterment of the island of Guam by furthering advancements in education, healthcare, and in the development of infrastructure. They have donated time, effort, and money to civic endeavors, philanthropic organizations, and provides scholarships to students.

They continuously promote activities and events that facilitate the interaction of various ethnicities to foster understanding and camaraderie to everyone.

12 Years of Excellence and the Celebration of 73rd year of 'Araw ng Kagitingan'

The Philippine Consul General to Guam Marciano R. de Borja met with the members of Bataan Association of Guam last April 4, 2015 for the soft induction ceremony of its new set of officers and Board of Directors for the year 2015-2016 at the Sampaguaita Pavillion, Ypao Beach Park, Guam.

The ceremony is also a part of the celebration of the 73rd year anniversary of 'Araw ng Kagitingan' or Day of Valor memorial every 9th of April which is also the same day that Bataan fell on the hands of the Japanese conquerors in 1942.

Consul General de Borja expressed his warm congratulations to the new officers and thanked them for their support to the programs and projects of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam. He also encouraged the Bataan Association of Guam to continue its partnership with the Philippine Consulate General.

Presenting the New Set Of Officers And Board Of Directors

Officers: President: Angelina O. Cruz, Vice President: Rizany Cruz, Secretary: Loreto Dizon, Asst. Secretary: Leah Saldana, Treasurer: Carmencita Cortez, Asst. Treasurer: Dolor dela Cruz, Auditor: Leticia Cunanan, P.R.O.: Jay-R S. Dominguez, Peace Officers: Rey Malixi and Randy Santos

Board of Directors: Tessie Marcos, Jhun Lipar, Deliminado Cortez and Nolex Dising Advisers: Armando Rodriguez Manny Cunanan, Jay-R S. Dominguez, Arsenio Santiago and Wilner Dizon

The officers and board of directors had their induction on September 26 at the Chamorro Ballroom of the Pacific Start Hotel, with Hon. Aristotle J. Gaza (Board Member, First District of Bataan) as their Guest Speaker.

Parting Words: It is not Goodbye but More Hello to Bataan Association of Guam

Bataan has a special place in the Philippine and American history for they have stood and fought together. Filipinos through Bataan Association of Guam have proven their patriotism once more even if they are thousands of miles away from the historic province—far from home.

Bataan Association of Guam had cultivated an environment of warm Filipino hospitality and support by bringing the strand of their hometown to their new home on Guam. They swore to continue their mission by empowering their members to serve as an inspiration to others.

The Guam community is thankful for your endless efforts, love, and continuous support in the community building activities and may this attributes be pass on to the young and new generations to come.

Mabuhay po kayo Bataan Association of Guam and may GOD bless you all and your families.



Bataan Association of Guam officers and members welcoming Bataan Board Member at Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport, Sept. 26

continued on page 13

Fred Magdalera: Simple, silent, but deep

Almost everyday, we see people's achievements being trumpeted about, whether in the news or in social media. But even so, we learn of some whose works could easily surpass most, yet they chose to live quietly far from the limelight.

Wilfredo C. Magdalera is one of them. Though his name can be described as ordinary and may sound common to the ears of many, what this Man have had achieved so far is extra ordinary.-And he is 100% Pinoy!

Wilfredo or Fred is an auditor, accountant, journalist and an entrepreneur; and right now the current President/Chief Executive Officer of Western Pacific Insurance Sales and Marketing Group, Inc. here on Guam. Still very sharp at the age of 79, Fred is actively working and willing to go for another two or maybe ten (10) years if God permits before he retires.

The Secret of Being Ageless

Every man has their own secret of beauty regimen over the years. At almost 80 years, age can't be denied as wrinkles are evident on the face of any man. Fred is different, as he is defying the course of nature about growing old or old age. Want to know his secret?—It's Nita.

Behind Fred's success and young looks is his wife, Nita. Not only that she is also young looking like Fred, she is also witty and street smart that makes Fred fall in love with her everyday. They have 7 children, all of whom are professionals. Two of them are in the United States mainland, one in Australia, and four are back home in the Philippines. Fred and Nita now have 21 grandchildren during their happiest times as a couple.

Fred and his family have been to other states like California and Washington D.C. , but they chose to move to Guam mainly because of its proximity to the Philippines. "***It is just like home,***" the couple said, plus, his young-looking wife Nita prefers Guam over the US mainland where life is more laidback.

In the Line of Fire

While Fred was still working with the U.S. Navy Public Works Center, Subic Bay, Philippines, in 1986, he was borrowed by the City of Olongapo to head the Public Utilities Department (PUD). It took the Commander, Naval Forces Philippines to approve his leave of absence due to its unusual nature. Teddy Macapagal was the Mayor of Olongapo City that time that also gave him full authority to reform the department.

At that time, PUD owed the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) over 90 million pesos for cost of electricity and he had to institute several concrete and innovative measures in the areas of purchasing of equipment and supplies, repairing/constructing, more power transmitter, distribution stations, reallocating of power grids, stricter supervision of ratepayer's electrical meters, detailed/comprehensive, reviewing of meter reader's reports, billing, and collection reports.

When he took over, PUD was buying from and paying NAPOCOR monthly over 12 million kilowatt hours (kwh) but transmitting and distributing to consumers only nine million kwh, reading only about eight million kwh, billing only about seven million kwh, and collecting payments of only about six million kwh.

In less than three years of his stint, PUD began collecting over ten million kwh thereby reducing its debt to NAPOCOR to only less than 15 million pesos.

"A member of group who was affected by personnel reassignments and retrenchments, attempted to shoot me in my office" Fred said during our interview with him.

Fred had served the U.S. Government for 19 years as an Accountant at the Comptroller's Office of the US Navy Public Works Center at Subic Bay, Philippines, before it was closed down on 1992. He and his family were granted a special immigrant visa for his remarkable performance in the service that brought them to the US in 1994.

Because of his record of sustained performance, Fred was able to meet the "exceptional circumstances" criteria that qualified him a special immigrant visa. He was given a citation as a Special Service Award of January 15, 1988 which reads, "During examination of the Negotiated telephone Service and Interconnection Agreement of November 1962 between the US Government and the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company (PLDT), Mr. Magdalera gathered sufficient documentary evidence to assert that the DOD in the Philippines is exempt from paying taxes

valued at \$150,000.00 annually under the US-RP Military bases Agreement of 1947 consistent with international law. Mr. Magdalera's exemplary act and outstanding professional competence in dealing with the tax exemption issue and his specially exceptional efforts in bringing the tax question to its successful conclusion are beyond the call of duty." Fred recalls that it took him several years to complete the audit. His audit report stirred controversy and has Washington DC. As a result, the US government ceased to pay 10% communications tax to the Philippines until the bases' closure in 1992. Fred reiterated in his audit report that the US bases in the Philippines should have never paid for the communications tax as it is against the 1947 agreement, and as such the US government should be refunded (retroactive) of the taxes paid. He recalls that the US government did not pursue the tax refund, and just treated the several millions of dollars supposedly tax refund as a donation to the Philippine government.

So, what did he do when he and his family migrated to the US? Fred pursued what he loves doing. Selling insurance. Fred has been selling insurance even before he got employed at Subic Bay Naval Base. He has been a very successful insurance man working for topnotch insurance firms until he finally put up his own insurance sales company. Fred is so passionate

about the industry and really believes on its potentials that he wants his children to take over the business once he retires.

It might be a cliché to many, but honesty, integrity for being a "fighting maroon" or "iskolar ng bayan," it came out naturally for someone like Fred as he continues his journey on his remaining years towards his well-lived life and legacy.

Mabuhay ka Mang Fred! You have shown so much of everything with life's value.

Galing ng Pinoy!



Top photo shows Fred and Nita with their children, while lower photo shows them with their grandchildren, taken during the couple's 50th wedding anniversary.

Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK)

The Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK) of Guam is in the process of organizing. Those from the Cordillera Region (CAR) including Baguio City who wish to help out or join the group are encouraged to please send an email to bbibak_guam@yahoo.com with your contact details

WANTED IMMEDIATELY PERSONS WHO CAN DO PAPER DELIVERY ROUTES

Want to make a little gas money? If you happen to live in the area of Yigo, Ritidian, Agat, Sta. Rita, Merizo, Inarajan, Talofoto, Yona, we need you to drop off on a weekly basis The Junction Newspaper at designated outlets. We also need someone who can drop off at the central areas of Dededo, Harmon, Tamuning, Agana ang Mangilao. Call us at 858-5974 or 788-1373 and let's talk about it.

Legislator on disasters: Continuity plan for gov't agencies

A policy framework and an operational continuity plan—these are the two fundamental factors contained in a legislative measure that would ensure the health and safety of the community during disasters as well as the continuity of operations in government.

Sen. Michael San Nicolas, D-Dededo, has authored a bill (Senate Bill 172-33) called 'Responsible Operational Continuity Plans Act,' requiring government agencies to establish and maintain an up-to-date operational continuity plan, which would come handy during events which would disrupt the ability of the agency to operate, including emergencies resulting from a natural or other disasters.

"Operational continuity is a basic function of any agency of the government," San Nicolas wrote. "Disasters occur, whether there are operational continuity in place or not. When a disaster occurs, a government which plans in advance is in a better position to respond than a govern-

ment which is not guided by an established plan."

Though the Office of Civil Defense is tasked to respond to emergencies, San Nicolas noted, some circumstances may adversely impact operational continuity for agencies which do not arise from emergency conditions, such as loss of personnel

by attrition, breakdown of equipment or the loss of records due a systems failure.

The Legislature cited two events—the systems failure in October 2013 at the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Office of Vital Statistics, which resulted in the loss of thousands of vital records. The other, the fire that broke out in the Cabras 3 and 4 power stations on Aug. 31, 2015, which posed significant challenges to Guam Power Authority.

While workers from the Authority and the Consolidated Commission on Utilities, the bill said, have done a commendable job in responding to the loss of Cabras 3 and 4, the establishment of operational continuity plans for the loss of generating capacity should ultimately translate to better preparation of personnel and capital equipment in such events.

Each such plan would be reviewed annually by the governing board on or before October 1 and provided to the Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense. *The Junction News Team*



SAN NICOLAS

Bordallo Seeks Increased SSS Benefits for GovGuam Workers

Guam's retired government employees would be living a more comfortable life if Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's bill on social security, finally becomes a law after it found its way last week to the US Congress.

Bordallo, who was accompanied by Sen. Michael San Nicolas, D-Dededo, said the measure aims to adopt the federal government's social security system.

The congresswoman said that the average \$40,000 saved in the account of GovGuam employees for retirement "won't be enough to support their basic needs come their retirement age." This is based on a 2011 report by the Office of Public Accountability (OPA).

Bordallo said she would work closely with her colleagues "to move this bill through the legislative process." She had earlier coordinated with the Social Security Administration.

Government employees are covered by GovGuam under the "defined benefit retirement plan" but they don't have options to pay into and receive benefits from Social Security, according to Bordallo.

Even employees covered by GovGuam's defunct "defined



BORDALLO

benefit plan" need to enroll when the government adopts the new Social Security system. The previous plan, however, was closed on Oct. 1, 1995 and covered only those government employees who enrolled before Sept. 31, 1995.

Under the old system, employees are ineligible for full social security as their annuity benefits do not allow them to fully benefit from social security.

This means that employees are "forced" to pay for the plan but they get no benefits upon retirement.

Bordallo noted that Guam and American Samoa are the only US territories that don't have social security for public sector employees. Bordallo said she hopes to get the nod of her

colleagues in Capitol Hill for the approval of the bill.

"Anytime you see certain benefits given to a couple of territories, it makes my job easier to fight for equal opportunities," Bordallo was quoted as saying in a published report. "So this is one good point as I have been going forward."

The bill is known as an "Increase flexibility in the extension of the social security program to Guam."

"The Social Security Amendments of 1960 provided the Government of Guam with the authority to enroll all of its employees in Social Security. However, the statute does not provide Guam with flexibility to determine a date at which new employees would be covered. As the statute currently reads, all employees, regardless of years of service or ability to make up enough quarters to qualify for Social Security benefits would have to be enrolled," Bordallo explained, in a statement.

San Nicolas described the congresswoman's legislation as "very intelligent solution" for making Social Security available to Guamanians without burdening the taxpayers. *The Junction News Team*

Bordallo: Agreement Reached to Avoid a Government Shutdown

With the passage of H.R. 719, FY 2016 Continuing Resolution, which maintains government funding at its current rate through December 11, 2015, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo on Sept 30th released the following statement.

"I am pleased that Congressional leaders reached an agreement to prevent a shutdown of the federal government, and provided a clean continuing resolution that does not hold the federal government hostage to political disagreements. While the agreement merely delays tackling these issues

until December, it does ensure that federal employees are able to report to work and that government operations remain open tomorrow.

"I am, however, disappointed that we continue to not address the broader budget challenges that face our nation. The continuing resolution does not give our agencies, both defense and non-defense, the direction that they need to plan for the long-term. Although the continuing resolution keeps our government open, it also defers bigger and tougher decisions for another political fight on the budget

in December. We need to make the difficult decisions that we were elected to make. We need to find a way to eliminate sequestration by making targeted cuts to certain programs while investing in others that build our economy, keep us safe, provide assistance to needy families and create jobs for the American people. I hope that Congressional leaders are able to work with President Obama on a long-term budget agreement that is agreeable to both Democrats and Republicans and will avoid political brinkmanship before the holidays."

San Nicolas Goes After Delinquent 'Off-Island' Taxpayers

Sen. Michael San Nicolas, D-Dededo, has filed a bill that would require contractors with over a million dollar projects to pay four percent of the amount as Business Privilege Tax (BPT) and plug any loopholes in the government's tax collection scheme.

San Nicolas, through his spokesman, John Paul Manuel, conceded that running after delinquent taxpayers, especially off-islanders, "is difficult." They are mostly not from the island but are licensed to do business in Guam," he said, in a recent telephone interview.

Under San Nicolas's proposal, Senate Bill 178-33, the BPT will be deposited into an escrow account, by a designated escrow agent.

Manuel cited several factors that have hindered the government's revenue collection program.

Despite the training of

some 30 revenue officers and collection agents under the federal government's Internal Revenue Service (IRS), some \$100-million are still due the government, according to Manuel.

"If someone moves out of the island, it's hard to track him/her down. Then, if someone, for example, dies, and the property taxes are unpaid, it's hard to go after the new owner," Manuel explained.

Initially, the Revenue and Taxation office estimated that about \$196 million remain "collectibles" for the government. "Then the collection agents, I believe, were able to collect one million dollar each," Manuel said.

With the ongoing construction of the military bases, the government had said that it hopes to collect from the approximately \$8-billion worth of contracts spread over in years.

Military contractors se-

lected by the Department of Defense are licensed to engage in business in Guam, "but it does not mean that they are paying taxes," San Nicolas said, in an earlier statement.

San Nicolas added that he wants to establish a system "similar to withholding for high contract amounts (that) will help improve the ease of BPT compliance for off-island military contractors who engage in large Guam-based projects."

The senator warned that "without a significant improvement of collection capabilities, given the historic levels of (tax) receivables, the full potential revenue of the military build-up may not be realized."

The bill is dubbed as the "Responsible Business Tax Escrow Act." *The Junction News Team*

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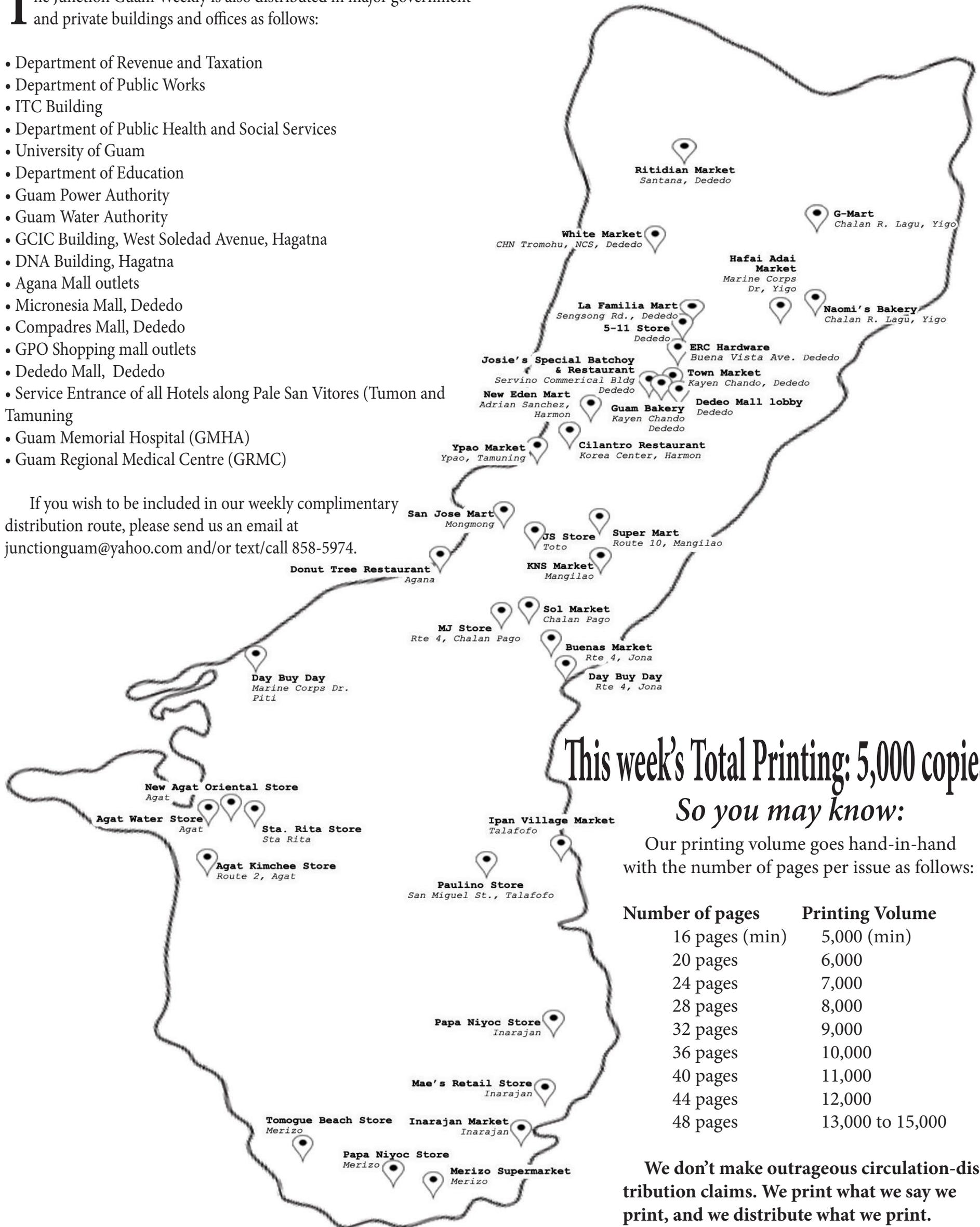
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Number of pages	Printing Volume
16 pages (min)	5,000 (min)
20 pages	6,000
24 pages	7,000
28 pages	8,000
32 pages	9,000
36 pages	10,000
40 pages	11,000
44 pages	12,000
48 pages	13,000 to 15,000

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Climate change-resilient rice for Visayas and Mindanao

MANILA- A study by PhilRice identified two climate change-resilient varieties suitable for irrigated lowlands in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Location-specific irrigated rice varieties resilient to climate change," a study by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), identified NSIC Rc308 (Tubigan 26) and NSIC Rc358 (Tubigan 30) as climate change-resilient

rice varieties with superior performance in irrigated lowland ecosystems.

Thelma Padolina, the lead researcher, said that varieties with superior location-specific performance and improved resistance to lodging and biotic stresses must be bred and recommended to help the farmers adapt to climate change.

"The two recommended

varieties have relatively high yield advantage over their check varieties. The NSIC Rc308 has a yield advantage of 5.5% in the Visayas and 4.0% in Mindanao in contrast with PSB Rc82. NSIC Rc358 outyielded PSB Rc18 by 12%," Padolina said.

NSIC Rc308 and the NSIC Rc358 are 2013 PhilRice-bred varieties. Under favorable irrigated lowland ecosystems, NSIC Rc308 has a maximum average yield of 10.9 t/ha and matures in 11 days if transplanted. When direct-seeded, it matures in 105 days and has a maximum yield of 8.0 t/ha. Under the same farming condition, NSIC Rc358 can also attain a maximum average yield of 5.4 t/ha to 9.1 t/ha if transplanted.

Both varieties are early-maturing, hence, they can escape stress conditions. NSIC Rc308 showed superior performance in Zamboanga del Sur, Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Eastern Samar, and Aklan. According to Padolina, the variety has an intermediate reaction to pests such as stemborer, brown planthopper, and bacterial leaf blight.

NSIC Rc358 is considered an all-season variety for Visayas, making it suitable for the transplanting culture in the provinces of Samar, Aklan, and Bohol.

According to Padolina, the development of location-specific, high-yielding, and climate change-resilient varieties are cost-effective strategies to increase rice yields./Department of Agriculture

Bongbong Denies Presidential Bid

Straight from the horse's mouth, Bongbong Marcos in his official statement denies rumors and speculations that he was announcing his candidacy last weekend at Pangasinan.

"I have been hearing so many dates of my supposed declaration of my plans for 2016. Unless you hear it directly from me, do not believe (sic). As I said before, I believe these false advisories being spread by an unscrupulous group are intentional and meant to put my name in a bad light," Bongbong said.

"This is similar to an earlier allegation that I would declare my candidacy at the Philippine Arena last September 20. What made matters worse is that I received reports that people were promised money for their attendance in the event.

"I had already issued an official statement to set the



MARCOS

record straight that such report is simply untrue and that I have nothing to do with it. Apparently, this is not enough to dissuade the dirty tricks directed against me."

Apparently irked, he added, "Let me reiterate: I have not authorized anyone to speak on my behalf regarding my plans for 2016. When I reach a decision on this matter, you will hear it not from anybody else but directly from me."/with reports from the Office of Sen. Bongbong Marcos

China's Island..

from page 14

been destroyed underwater by deep dredging," he says. But digging a deep harbor, he notes, destroys corals, seaweeds, and seagrasses. "No productive ecosystem can survive."

The dredging takes a toll on nearby ecosystems as well.

"Plumes of sediment that flow from the construction work will have an impact on whatever life relies on photosynthesis to survive," says Youna Lyons, a marine scientist and expert in marine law at the National University of Singapore. "If you don't have

sunlight, nothing can grow. This impacts all the bottom of the food chain, including coral and algae."

The island building was expected to be on the agenda last week when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Washington, D.C., given the U.S. government's concern about a military buildup in the SCS as well as its interest in ensuring freedom of navigation

through one of the world's busiest shipping channels. Yet convincing China to reverse course will not be simple. "The Nansha Islands have been China's territory since ancient times," Xi told The Wall Street Journal. "China's development and maintenance of facilities on some of our garrisoned islands and reefs in the Nansha Islands does

not impact on or target any other country."

Scientists have little hope that environmental concerns will make a difference. "China keeps saying it cares about the environment," Lyons notes, but it has not published an environmental impact assessment for any of its island building activities in the SCS.

In spite of Xi's reassurance,

other countries will feel the consequences. "For centuries, many of the countries surrounding the SCS have been dependent on fishery resources from these chains of reefs and islands," Gomez says. Now, he says, key reefs are "forever gone" beneath the landfill and concrete./Christina Larson

WE ARE IN NEED OF FIELD INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS
RE: To verify the alleged massage parlors as fronts to prostitution

There is no doubt that the political, civic, religious leaders and all concerned Guamanians are one in the promotion of Guam as a wholesome family oriented tourist destination. This is proven by the fact that the operation of a casino is not allowed in Guam despite the obvious revenue it may bring in to the coffers of Guam. Unfortunately, social ills are at times unavoidable in a growing-tourism oriented economy. However, as they say "we are a government of laws and not of men." Allegedly, some of the massage parlors in the island are fronts and/or double time as joints and avenues for prostitution (they say prostitution is the oldest profession even before the time of Christ). It would in fact be the height of hypocrisy if a Casino and/or similar forms of gambling are not allowed but prostitution would be tolerated.

In view of this, we are looking for stout hearted men of action and not just talk, those who are willing to walk their talk to do investigative work to prove or disprove that certain massage parlors are fronts for prostitution.

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Gov't will accept any help to trace Samal Island kidnappers -- Coloma

MANILA – Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Herminio B. Coloma Jr. said on Tuesday the government will accept help from any organization or individual who can trace the Samal Island kidnappers.

Coloma made the reaction to the reports that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has offered assistance to capture the kidnappers of three foreign nationals and a Filipino women in Samal Island, Davao del Norte.

"The government will accept the assistance from organizations or individuals to solve the crime," Coloma said in a text message to the Malacanang Press Corps.

The PCOO chief said it is important to trace the locations

of the Samal kidnappers as well as their victims.

A week ago, a group of armed men abducted Canadians John Ridsel and Robert Hall and resort operations manager Kjartan Sekkingstad from Norway as well as Hall's Filipino girlfriend identified as Tess in Samal Island.

According to news reports, the kidnappers initially took six people, but a Canadian identified as Steven and his Japanese wife, Kazuka, were able to escape by jumping from the kidnappers' boat.

President Benigno Aquino III has already assured that the government authorities will not stop from tracking down the kidnappers.

Over the weekend, Senator Vicente C. Sotto III challenged the Moro Islamic Liberation

Front (MILF) to show their control in Mindanao by helping the government find the kidnappers who were believed to have fled to the province of Sulu.

Two years ago, the MILF and the Philippine government forged two agreements – the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) that resulted to the drafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The BBL is now being tackled both in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Aquino administration is hoping for its passage before President Aquino steps down in June next year. /PNA (SCS/JFM)

32-208, also raised the salaries of the attorney general, governor, lieutenant governor and Cabinet appointees. The raises were pursuant to last year's government-wide income adjustment called the Competitive Wage Act of 2014.

The measure was passed without a public hearing, with the senators citing a Guam law that states public hearings can be waived in the event of danger to public health or safety, or if the bill is identical to a bill that already had



ONLI IN DA PILIPINS - A netizen uploaded this green pedicab made of local materials over the internet. This was spotted at Bataun, Bohol.

PHI Consul General Witnesses Donation by Filipino Ladies Association of Guam for Gawad Kalinga School in Tarlac

Philippine Consul General Marciano R. de Borja hosted the members of the

a public hearing. In this case, Public Law 32-208 is an amendment of Public Law 32-136.

The salary hike required an appropriation of \$8.4 million, an increase of about \$1 million compared to its budget in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

For comparisons, Speaker Judith Won Pat, prior to the November wage adjustments, was making nearly \$68,000 a year, while each of the remaining senators took home close to \$61,000 annually. Each member of the legislative body currently makes \$85,000, meaning the Legislature is paying about \$360,000 more in salary expenses. /The Junction News Team

Filipino Ladies Association of Guam (FLAG) at the Philippine Consulate General in Tamuning where they held a simple ceremony on September 24 for their donation to cover the cost of construction of a classroom for pre-school children at the Gawad Kalinga village in Victoria, Tarlac. FLAG president Ms. Lynda Tolan has joined by other officers and members of the oldest organization for Filipino women on Guam in the ceremonial hand over of the check donation. The donation was later deposited to the account of Gawad Kalinga.

Also present to witness the donation was Ms. Atilana Rambayon, a long-time resident of Guam who is an active supporter of Gawad Kalinga and has herself donated several hectares of land in Moncada, Tarlac, which has become the Gawad Kalinga McCool Village. FLAG also donated the funds to cover House #33 to complete that village.

Among the other FLAG members present were Chet Neri, Loisa Cabuhat, Annie Gozum Soto, Aida Miranda, Leony Ronquillo and Shirley Trinidad. /DFA

Kabayan Pinoy...

from page 8

useless piece of slogan na walang saysay at katuturan, at sa halip na mabawasan ang katiwalian sa gobyerno ay lalo pang tumindi. Kaya ang daang matuwid ay isa lamang slogan na pang-uuto at pampa-pogi sa mga dayuhang nagbulag-bulagan, ngunit ang katotohanan ay lalong tumindi ang katiwalian at korapsyon sa pamahalaang Pnoy Aquino!

Hanggang sa susunod kong kolum. Ito ang inyong lingkod na nagbabati sa inyo ng isang MABUHAY KABAYAN PINOY!!!

Budget 2016...

from page 1

Among the objections raised by the Governor over the budget bill, 37-33, were:

- The bill contains critical shortfalls in the areas of public safety and public health. DOC is already under federal scrutiny and there are vacancies the Executive Branch is working to fill because they are required to ensure efficient and safe operations.

- Over 100 additional

cuts in various GovGuam agencies, some of which have been filled.

- Funding for the Department of Public Works and related capital improvement projects is less than what is currently needed for DPW services and projects. DPW doesn't have enough personnel and may have to lay off people.

The pay-raise measure, enacted as Public Law

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 6pm-9pm Radio On Demand with DJ Cure
 9pm-12mn (M-Th) The Late Night Show with Raffy
 9pm-12mn (F) im radio with Johnny Z

Saturday:

8am-10am Damdaming Pinoy with Ate Sam, Ate Beth and Kuya Roy
 10am-2pm Saturdays with Rolly M.
 2pm-6pm Showtime Saturdays with Initial V

Sunday:

8am-10am Sunday Inspirations
 10am-2pm Dear Heart with Gloria Diaz
 5:30pm-7pm Kumusta, Kabayan with Mr. Z
 7pm-12mn Retro OPM



Philippine Consul General Marciano R. De Borja (seated middle) witnessed the donation made by the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam (FLAG) for the construction of a classroom for pre-school children at the Gawad Kalinga village in Victoria, Tarlac.

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China's Island Building is Destroying Coral Reefs

BEIJING - The geopolitical maneuvering in the South China Sea (SCS) is taking a heavy toll on the marine environment, scientists believe.

The Spratly, or Nansha, Islands, a cluster of coral reefs and atolls, has become the focus of a territorial dispute between China and its neighbors. To the dismay of other countries bordering the SCS—Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei—China claims most of the sea, and it is bolstering its claims with a massive land filling effort to transform some of the atolls into full-fledged islands. The scale and speed of the effort emerged earlier this month, when the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington,

D.C., released high-resolution satellite photos showing that over the past 2 to 3 years, China has created 13 square kilometers of island area—about a quarter the size of Manhattan.

That is not just a challenge to its neighbors, which also claim some parts of the sea. By piling sand, gravel, and dead coral onto reef flats to create new land and dredging shipping channels nearby, China has destroyed large areas of biodiverse reef that served as nurseries for fisheries throughout much of the SCS. "This is the most rapid permanent loss of coral reef in human history," says John McManus, a marine biologist at the University of Miami in Florida. "It's a terrible, terrible

thing to do this."

The waters around the Spratly archipelago are home to "some of the most beautiful and biodiverse coral in the world," McManus adds. Roughly equidistant between Vietnam and the Philippines, they are "like an oasis in the desert," says Ed Gomez, a marine biologist at the University of the Philippines, Manila.

The reefs are economically important, too, as McManus realized roughly 2 decades ago when he faced a puzzle. Overfishing had depleted fish stocks in the SCS; some fish species had apparently disappeared entirely from the coastal regions his team studied. Then, after several years, unexpectedly, the fish all reappeared. By analyzing ocean currents, McManus discovered that larvae from coral reefs in the Spratlys

and the nearby Scarborough reefs were likely replenishing the sea. The reefs "serve as nursing grounds for a lot of species," Gomez says. "They are important sources of larvae for of all kinds of marine life."

Now, China "has deployed one of the world's largest dredging fleets," says Andrew Erickson, an associate professor at the U.S. Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute in Newport, Rhode Island. The area of newly built land—where buildings, concrete plants, and three airstrips have been built or are under construction, according to CSIS—is more than 10 times the total area that other SCS nations cumulatively have built up, Erickson notes. "Whether in scale or sophistication, there are simply no grounds for comparison."

Perhaps the most extensive



ecological damage comes from dredging. In creating shipping lanes near the islands, the Chinese cut through reefs. As the lanes will most likely be dredged frequently to

remain navigable, "that's near permanent damage," McManus says. And at Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratlys, they've dug a huge harbor, Gomez says. "We don't know how much area has

continued on page 12



In Naga City, priests led by Archbishop Rolly Tirona pray over presidential hopeful Mar Roxas and Cong. Leni Robredo.

POEA starts nationwide online processing of OEC, Oct. 1

ILOILO CITY- The Balik Manggagawa (BM) Online Processing System will be fully implemented by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) nationwide, starting October 1.

BM online processing system is a web-based facility that enables returning or vacationing OFWs to apply online for Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) and have the approved OEC printed anywhere, anytime.

POEA Iloilo Officer-in-Charge Rhea Glynda Calantas said the online processing system will make OEC application for returning or vacationing OFWs more convenient.

"The system is part of the efforts of the agency to hasten the issuance of the OEC and eliminate the long lines that our returning or vacationing OFWs have to bear in the POEA offices and processing centers when they apply for their

OECs especially during the peak months," said Calantas.

She said instead waiting for the long queue, workers especially those who have limited stay in the country will have more time to be with their families or loved ones.

Those vacationing OFWs who will return to their same employer and jobsite, with employment visa/work permit, have a record in the POEA database, and previously issued OEC/E-receipt with the same employer may avail of the online processing system.

The system has also an appointment page, a built-in feature that caters to those who cannot proceed to the straight online processing of OEC for any of the following reasons: No POEA record/No record found/discrepancy in any record; Undocumented worker; change employer and/or jobsite; Worker or employer is under

watchlist; OFW is returning to restricted country; and OFW is a former sea-based worker.

Through the appointment system, applicants can avail of the appointment service for regular processing of their OECs on their preferred processing site and appointment date and time.

OEC or exit clearance is a travel document presented by OFWs at the airport and immigration counters. It also ensures that OFWs are properly documented and protected.

Calantas said OFWs can sign up for the BM online processing system at the POEA official webpage www.poea.gov.ph or to the direct link <http://bmonline.poea.gov.ph>. The opening page of the system contains an instructional video that will guide the returning OFW in using the facility./JCM/LAF/PIA6-Iloilo)

Cayetano to run for VP Announces in Davao amid rumors of Duterte-Cayetano tandem

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Unang una ang buong pusong pagpapasalamat sa DIYOS!

Maganda ang plano sa atin ng PANGINOON. Mayaman ang ating bansa, Magaling ang Pilipino, Kilala at tanyag sa buong mundo.

Ngunit kadalasan, ang kaganapan ng plano ng PANGINOON ay hindi nangyayari dahil tayo mismo, kulang ang pagkilos para mangyari ito.

May naaapi, hindi tayo nagsasalita. Ang nang-aapi, lalo na kapag malaking tao at makapangyarihan, hindi natin nilalabanan. Kapag tama naman at klarong tama, minsan ay hindi natin pinaglalaban.

kapag ipinaglalanang tama, ipinagbabawal ang korapsyon. Malinaw ang polisiya at nagpatupad ng disiplina.

Nagkaroon ako ng pagkakataong makausap nang personal ang ating Pangulo.

Naibahagi ko na kaisa niya ako laban sa korapsyon at mga reporma sa gobyerno. Naipapakita ko din na sa Senado, 90 percent (nobenta porsyento) ng kanyang programa ay nasuportahan at naipaglaban ko.

Natalakay din ang Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) at napaliwanag ko ang aking posisyon at prinsipyo ukol dito.

For the record, I will not sacrifice my principles for politics or for any position in government, nor did the President ask me to do so.

For the record, I believe that the whole Mindanao should get a BBL like law, not only the MILF.

That is why calls by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senator Koko Pimentel for Federalism are growing louder.

That is why calls for de-

congesting Metro Manila and decentralizing power are gaining grounds.

That is why I filed today the Mindanao Peace and Development Act of 2015.

That is why I challenge all those in government... Do it now.

Move the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to Clark in Pampanga, the Department of Tourism (DOT) to Cebu, and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to Davao.

Tunay na pagbabago, hindi panay pangako.

Pinagdasal ko at pinag-isipan.

Sa pag-ikot ko sa buong bansa para sa aking adbokasiyang PTK (Presyo, Trabaho, Kita), nakita ko ang kalbaryo ng mga magkasaka, vendors, tricycle, jeepney, at taxi drivers, na palagiang biktima ng 5/6 dahil sa kakulangan ng pantustos sa kanilang pangangailangan.

Ang hirap ng buhay pasahero. At ang hirap at kalungkutan ng OFWs. Mga kapwa natin Pilipino na humihingi lang naman ng kaunting pang-unawa at malasakit.

Malinaw ang mga problema, payagan po sana ninyo akong maging bahagi ng solusyon.

I am running for Vice President of The Republic of The Philippines. I am putting my faith in GOD and in our people.

And I am praying for a President who will make us all proud and bring true change to Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao./A.P.Cayetano release

SBA Guam...

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Program Coordinator
Fee: \$100 per person (Lunch on your own)

Location: UOG Guam SBDC Room #148 Leon Guerrero SBPA Building

To register log onto pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. To make payment online log onto your eCenter account and click PAY NOW. Cash, check (payable to University of Guam) & major credit cards (AMEX, Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, and JCB) are accepted.

SBDC also offer free of charge confidential, one-to-one, small business counseling. Just visit SBDC website and click "Request for Counseling" to start.

For more information, please www.pacificsbdc.com or call the Guam SBDC Office at 735-2590.

Filipino-American Children Meet Pope Francis



A group of Filipino children greeted Pope Francis during his visit to Washington, D.C. on September 24. The children were Beatrice Olivares, Zacharie AguilaFamoso, Angelo Magalong, Abram Elijah Moses Caasi, Joelle Marie T. Bustamante, LorenzAlacbay, Priscilla Saldana, Precious Phan, Maurine Ysabel Suarez, Anton Jordan, ChristianGio Catu, Danica Regalario, and Alyssa Laluces. The 13 children were selected out of 137 through a lottery system. The names were drawn by Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. The Embassy of the Philippines expressed its sincere gratitude to the Archdiocese of Washington for giving the children the opportunity to participate in this special event./DFA

Volkswagen reveals recall plan for 5M diesel vehicles

FRANKFURT - The German automaker Volkswagen on Tuesday announced that it would recall up to 5 million diesel vehicles that are involved in an emissions cheating scandal.

According to a statement issued by the company, customers of the affected vehicles will be informed in weeks and months and the emissions characteristics will be corrected.

The company said the technical solutions and measures would be presented to responsible authorities in October. A service procedure is required for some 5 million vehicles from the Volkswagen passenger cars

brand out of a total of 11 Group vehicles worldwide, said the statement.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier this month found the software on VW diesel cars showed false emission data.

The software installed by Volkswagen in its cars called "defeat device" can turn on full emission controls only when the car is undergoing emission tests so as to meet the legal emission standards. Under normal driving conditions, the cars with "defeat device" software can emit nitrogen oxides at up to 40 times the standard. / (PNA/Xinhua)

Fitch Ratings lifts PH outlook to Positive

Manila - Fitch Ratings improved its outlook on the Philippines' credit rating, which went from "stable" to "positive." The country's current rating of BBB-, which is the minimum investment grade, is very likely to be upgraded soon.

Fitch cited better governance under the Aquino administration that has led to the economy's improved competitiveness. According to the credit rating firm, the country's young population, with a median age of 23.5 years, boosts the economy's chances of supporting higher productivity in the coming years.

"Economic growth

continues to outperform 'BBB'-rated peers, and favorable demographics support the medium-term growth outlook," Fitch said in a report released Thursday.

The credit watchdog likewise pointed to the economy's solid fundamentals, which help cushion the impact of outside challenges, such as growth slowdown of China and market volatility arising from the impending normalization of U.S. policy rates. It cited the economy's declining debt burden and robust external position.

General government debt stands at 36.3 percent of gross domestic product, better than the median of 42.4 percent among economies with a

SBA Guam Announces Training-Workshops for October 2015

The Small Business Administration Guam in partnership with Guam Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will be conducting training-workshops for small business owners this October.

How to Start a Business

This workshop will help individuals learn everything they will need to get started, including an introduction to business plans and the importance of preparing one; exploring the legal forms of business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability partnership / company) and which one is right for your business needs; local or federal licensing requirements for the business. Participants will be able to obtain vital information and resources to start and own a

higher credit rating of BBB. The general government debt has fallen consistently from 44.3 percent in 2009.

The country has posted surpluses in its current account for the past 12 consecutive years, fueled by a steady stream of foreign exchange led by remittances and investments in the business process outsourcing industry.

Withstanding global economic turbulence

"Fitch expects the Philippines' strong external finances will provide resilience against potential shifts in global investor sentiment, for example following tightening of U.S. monetary policy," it said.

Meantime, BSP Governor

business. This training will take the mystery out of starting a business and help participants better evaluate their business idea!

Friday, October 2nd (8:30am - 11:00am) **Registration & payment deadline 9/30/15 at 12noon

Presented by Fred Granillo, Business Counselor/Training Program Coordinator
Fee: \$20 per person

How to Manage a Business

Managing other people effectively depends on managing yourself. Better business performance will therefore flow from improving your self-management skills. We have identified 8 different aspects of managing as business - managing yourself, your time, your employees, your customers, sales and networks, solving problems,

Amando Tetangco, Jr. reiterated views that the economy's strong fundamentals will help it withstand risks posed by the global economy.

"Sharp market volatility witnessed recently across the globe posed threats of spillover effects on the real sector of economies. What makes the Philippines an outperformer are its strong fundamentals, which entice short- and long-term capital once markets see through the temporary noise," Tetangco said.

"The positive outlook from Fitch signals the long overdue credit rating upgrade, which

managing risk, and managing your finances. This workshop identifies the issues you may face in each area, and provides you with practical recommendations for dealing with them. Included in the workshop are several evaluation tools that can be used to better manage your business.

Friday, October 9th (8:30am - 11:00am) **Registration & payment deadline 10/7/15 at 12noon

Presented by Fred Granillo, Business Counselor/Training Program Coordinator
Fee: \$20 per person

QuickBooks: All Day Boot Camp

In this seminar, we'll get you up to speed on QuickBooks' many features, tools, and menus; explore the easiest, most efficient ways to put QuickBooks to work for

appropriately reflects the economy's outperformance," the BSP governor added.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the revised credit outlook and the likely credit rating upgrade were a reflection of what financial markets say all along about the Philippines' creditworthiness.

"The Philippine economy continues to perform strongly despite turbulent headwinds, while financial markets continue to assess Philippine debt way better than what a BBB-rating reflects. We thank Fitch for coming out with a positive outlook. While we

you; and drill down into more advanced functions. You'll be surprised at how swiftly you'll gain the knowledge and confidence you need to take full advantage of this powerful program! Topics that will be covered: QuickBooks Basics to Get You Up and Running with Confidence; Your Chart of Accounts: Spend Time Setting it Up Now and You'll Save Time in the Future; QuickBooks Tracking - Built-in Features to Easily Run Highly Detailed Reports; Payables and Receivables - Keeping Track of Your Income and Expenditures; Save Time With QuickBooks' Many Customizable Report Options.

Friday, October 23rd (8:30am - 4:30pm) **Registration & payment deadline 10/21/15 at 12noon

Presented by Fred Granillo, Business Counselor/Training
continued on page 15

still think we are underrated (we continue to outperform our single-A rated neighbors in Southeast Asia), this is definitely a move in the right direction," he said.

Loans will be easier to apply for

Explaining what the credit rating action means to everyday Filipinos, Purisima said, "While a positive credit rating action seems abstract to most, its benefits are felt in the most concrete terms. Businesses are able to borrow more easily, and everyday Filipinos find better home and car loans, for example. Standing on ever firmer fiscal positions allows us to better withstand economic turbulence, an outcome not many of our neighbors can say they are enjoying at the moment. This is a layer of protection we've worked hard to maintain for our most vulnerable, as well as the middle class we want to keep growing."

Editha Martin, executive director of the Investor Relations Office, stressed the need to preserve beyond 2016 the gains in good governance to avoid a deterioration in the country's much improved creditworthiness.

"Over the past five years, governance standards in the Philippines have improved in a manner that the international community finds hard to ignore, leading to concrete benefits such as investment grade sovereign credit ratings,"
continued on page 15

Leddy steps down as Guam Chamber executive

HAGÁTÑA - David P. Leddy has resigned as President of the Guam Chamber of Commerce effective October 7, 2015.

Vice President & Chief Operations Officer, Catherine S. Castro has been named interim president effective immediately.

"Catherine has been with the Chamber for over 19 years in total and we are confident in her ability to oversee the daily operations of the organization during this transition," said Jeff Jones, Chamber board chairman and president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc.

Jones went on to say, "Although we are sad to see David leave us, we are pleased that we have some-

one of Catherine's caliber to take the reins of our organization."

Leddy was named the Chamber's president in 2009.

"There is still so much opportunity to serve our members and I have been honored and proud to play a role in that," Leddy wrote in his resignation letter. "I look forward to being a lifelong supporter of the Guam Chamber and to watching the continued success of the organization and our community."

The Guam Chamber of Commerce chairman and board of directors are responsible for the appointment of a new president and will take that matter up immediately.

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