

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MAHUAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palabanan!!!

In shortage Of Maritime Officers, Industry Turns To Image Building



MANILA (*OFW Journalism Consortium*)—GIVEN the shortage of maritime officers for international vessels, the manning industry is turning to re-package what its players say is a “wimpy” image of the Filipino seafaring career.

Hence, manning agency executives like Edgardo U. Manese are reaching out to the Philippine media so that, he says, the latter can help “cleanse” the image of Filipino seafarers.

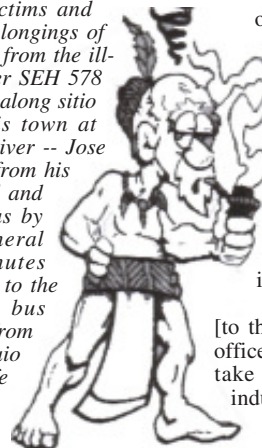
Manese, Magsaysay Maritime Corp. chairman, said the move to tap media was borne out of the agreements during the Philippine Manning Convention in Manila in November.

We admitted we couldn't solve the shortage of officers

Happy New Year!!!

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Tuba, Benguet - Rescuers rescue victims and retrieve bodies as well as shattered belongings of Bicol University students and teachers from the ill-fated bicol Univ. bus with plate number SEH 578 who lost its brakes along a tricky bend along sitio Bontiwey, Badiwan barangay in this town at around 8:40 AM Sunday. “The bus driver -- Jose Manuel Rojas -- who was thrown out from his seat through the shattered windshield and found below the front tires of the bus by rescuers expired at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center minutes after. “At least 21 more were brought to the hospital for their injuries. “The bus contained 46 Forestry students of B.U from a three-day educational tour from Baguio and Benguet including the driver, his wife and toddler-son and were homeward bound for Christmas when the mishap happened. --str/Artemio A. Dumlaog“



on our own, Manese said. Manese, who is also president of Philippine-Japan Manning Consultative Council Inc., added “recent facts have been unearthed,” supporting that conclusion.

One of these facts is incongruity in data.

“How can we respond [to the shortage of maritime officers] if we could not even take stock of the seafaring industry,” he said.

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DIRETSAHAN

Mga wish ko ngayong Pasko at Bagong Taon

BY RUDY “BANTAY SIYASAT” GARCIA



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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Saber rattling will only pull us away from a peaceful new year

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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Cooperative whips OFW families in savings line

LOS BANOS, LAGUNA (OFW Journalism Consortium)—A TWO-STORY town hall here is a reminder that political will, when wielded, gets results.

For instance, whenever fish traders like Clarita Quisel walk by the hall, she automatically reaches for her pocket to rub coins and bills.

Under a low-savings rate regime, the town hall's savings and loan association is effective in "forcing" families of overseas Filipino workers, like Quisel's, to save.

The local government's Kawayanan Bayanihan Multi-purpose Cooperative has uncanny methods for doing so.

One is delivering to the member a letter reminding the weekly deposit of P20 (nearly half a dollar) was not made the past Sunday. The letter also asks the member to pay a P30 penalty.

If the member misses another deposit, a promissory

note is sent with the message: "If you fail to deposit, the local police will give you a subpoena."

Such method, while too direct for some, marks the Kawayanan Cooperative's success.

As of this writing, Kawayanan has total resources worth P3.42 million, with some P3.4 million loaned to members. Existing deposits of the cooperative amounted to P2.6 million (US\$63,179).

But more than deposits, loan repayment has always been Kawayanan's frequent challenge, according to the group.

Yet since only families from Malinta village are the only eligible members, issues surrounding non-paying members "are easily addressed," the group's report said.

Kawayanan's the most successful Bayanihan Savings Replication Project, said Darrell Dizon of the Department of Interior and Local Government, referring to his agency's former

project that formed the Kawayanan.

Aside from families like Quisel's, Kawayanans members are fishers, fish vendors, flower growers, laundrywomen, domestic workers for families in other villages, employees of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, sari-sari store owners, and former OFWs.

Some 80 to 90 percent of members are women, said Kawayanan president Ricardo Bagnes, himself a former Saudi Arabia-based accountant during the 1980s.

Sunday

EVERY Sunday, Quisel joins a line snaking from the Kawayanan office inside the town hall.

The room was crowded with farmers and fisherfolks, all clutching yellow passbooks with enclosed bills and coins. There were two collectors getting each depositor's cash and passbooks.

After five minutes of waiting for her turn, Quisel extends a P20 bill to the collector, a woman behind a desk.

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P400,000 in prizes at stake for early taxpayers

Real property and business owners paying their 2008 taxes early and in full will get the chance of winning prizes which, for many, are worth far more than what they will pay.

City treasurer Thelma Manaois said the city has launched anew its "Negosyo Handog ng Tax Ko" raffle that offers prizes totaling P400,000 in cash and in kind as an incentive to early birds.

The first prize winner gets a check for P100,000 that he or she may use to start up a business. The second will receive P75,000, the third will have P50,000 and the fourth will be given P25,000.

Three fifth-prize winners will have e-loads worth P5,000 each while

the first 1,000 taxpayers will each have either a T-shirt or an umbrella.

Marietta Catriz, local treasury operations officer IV whose office handles the social marketing program, said business taxpayers have until March 20 to pay and qualify for the draw. Realty taxpayers have until March 31.

Raffle tickets will be issued as soon as full payment is made. Those who have settled their 2008 taxes fully even before this year-end before the issuance of the tickets may later obtain these from local treasurer operations officer IV Rose de Vera, Catriz advised.

The annual raffle draw, now on its fifth year, is part of the city's campaign to intensify tax collection, encourage early tax payment, develop tax consciousness and

reduce delinquencies, Manaois said.

As of December, 2006, the city has 12,636 registered businesses and 95,874 taxable real property units, according to records of the city treasury.

Manaois has alerted her staff to its "one-stop shop" system to facilitate the payment and issuance of tax receipts with the expected influx of taxpayers starting Jan. 2, the start of the working year.

The revenue payment shop is at the right end of the second floor of the city hall

As in last year, there will be free coffee at the processing lounge, said local treasury operations officer II Glorai Taqued./ Ramon Dacawi.

SEE NO JUETENG, HEAR NO JUETENG, SPEAK NO JUETENG



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OFWs needle profits for village squeezing noodles from squash

STO. DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR (OFW Journalism Consortium)—SQUASH, for some Europeans, refers to the sport. For farmers here, it's the raw material gestating a business partnership with overseas Filipino workers.

As the year ends, this town may squeeze profits from selling a novel product from that raw material: canton-style noodles from squash—the vegetable, not the sport.

Ernesto Tadeja, chief of the joined villages of Sto.

Tomas and Nambaran in the town of Sto. Domingo, said OFWs have been seeking their barangay for balikbayan boxes of the noodles.

The new orders are swelling his heart.

"This means not only an additional income to our cooperative but a bit by bit expansion of the business. Who would not want to sell abroad?" said Tajeda, president of the Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC).

He said OFWs bringing the squash

canton abroad may mean more referrals and customers asking about their product.

Tajeda is also banking on the OFWs to place on the tourism string their town, just an hour-drive from Vigan.

Who knows? Maybe more OFWs who would one day take a vacation in Ilocos Sur would look for our town to get bulk orders, Tajeda said.

Sto. Tomas and Nambaran are two of the smallest villages in the town of Sto. Domingo in Ilocos Sur.

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DESECRATION OF OUR NATIONAL HERO'S MONUMENT - A bronze marker of our National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, was found out stolen during a clean-up and beautification drive at the Rizal Monument to the dismay of City Administrator Peter Fianza, Secretary to the Mayor Ronald Perez, Jr. and Baguio Centennial Commissioner and former Councilor Nars Padilla who were preparing for the 111th Rizal's Day Celebration.— By Bong Cayabyab

DILG urges local execs to mount public drive vs 'boga'

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is calling on local chief executives nationwide to help raise public awareness over the dangers of using polyvinyl chloride pipe, locally known as "boga," in the ongoing holiday festivities, as several cases of injuries have been attributed to the use of this device in last year's revelry.

DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero said that in December 2006, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported 30 cases of injured persons, most of them children, as a result of lighting the

"boga" in celebrating the New Year.

The "boga" is a popular bazooka-looking device that uses denatured alcohol to produce a booming sound.

"To address the potential incidence of injuries through the use of 'boga' this holiday season, all provincial governors, mayors, and punong barangays are encouraged to take the lead in the conduct of information campaigns on the danger that it may cause to the user or to the others," Panadero said.

Panadero, by authority of DILG Secretary Ronaldo

Puno, issued a memorandum on this issue addressed to local chief executives and DILG regional directors in response to the request for support by the Department of Health (DOH) in discouraging the public from lighting "boga" pipes.

The DOH had reported that from December 21 last year to January 1, 2007, more than 600 people were injured by firecrackers while 24 others were hit by stray bullets. Many of the victims were children, whose fingers were either maimed or amputated.

He also urged governors and mayors to enact

ordinances banning the manufacture, sale and distribution, and use of the "boga" in their respective localities, if they still have not undertaken this course of action to help keep the public safe during the holiday celebrations.

Panadero also encouraged local officials to promote alternative forms of revelry to help ensure zero casualties this coming New Year.

PNP chief Director General Avelino Razon Jr. earlier ordered police officials to confiscate prohibited firecrackers and illegally manufactured pyrotechnic devices

to help attain its zero-casualty target for the holiday season.

The PNP chief also tasked his regional commanders to lead

the campaign against loose firearms and the illegal or indiscriminate firing of guns during the New Year's Eve revelry/PIA CAR.

PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!!

We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

www.linisgobyerno.org

Sunday Bric-bracs

("Brevity is the soul of wit," Hamlet groused on the rampart of his dank, damp castle. See if the fairy tale and ghost story below are the briefest ever, as the friends who emailed them over claim. Other items are about: pragmatism, Zen and British news clips...Enjoy-Juan L. Mercado)

"The World's Shortest Fairy Tale:" Once upon a time, a guy asked a girl: "Will you marry me?" The girl replied: "No." And the guy lived happily ever after - traveled, played golf, short craps, drank beer and farted whenever he wanted. The End.

"The World's Shortest Ghost Story:" it was the first evening after nuclear war devastated the world. There was only one survivor. And he sat in the in the only room left of the only house remaining amidst the radioactive desert. Suddenly, there

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was a knock on the door. The End.
Thailand's
Princess Maha

Chakri Sinindhorn, however, prefers this yam that happened, so she says, in a Bangkok hospital.

A doctor and a lady stand in a descending elevator. The doors of the lift open. A woman, waiting outside, steps forward - when the doctor suddenly hits the "close" button to slam the doors shut before the woman could enter.

"Why did you do that," asked the lady as the agitated physician as the lift bracelet on the woman's right wrist," he replied. "That's strapped only on dead people in our morgue here."

Lifting up her right arm, the lady languidly asked: "Oh? You mean like this?"

Spooky stories reflect values, like the "spirit of pragmatism," writes former UN economist Conrado Sanchez who proceeds to spin this tale:

A very rich husband and wife are having dinner at a fine restaurant when this stunning young woman comes over to their table. Without ado, she proceeds to hug the husband, kiss him, and says: "See you later." She walks away without even greeting the wife.

"Who the hell was that," the furious wife demands of the husband. "Oh," nonchalantly replies the husband: "she's my mistress." The wife snaps back: "Is that so? Well, that's the last straw. I want a divorce."

"I can understand that," replies her husband, "But remember: if we get a divorce it will mean no more shopping trips to Hong Kong or Singapore. No Caribbean or Alaskan cruises. Forget summers in Tuscany. And no more Lexus or Mercedes Benz in the garage, let alone drivers and maids. But the decision is yours."

In the midst of this exchange, a mutual friend enters the restaurant with a gorgeous lady clinging on to his arm. "Who's that woman with Tony," asks the wife. "That's his mistress," says her husband. "Ours is prettier," she replies.

That is what happens when values are warped demonstrated by these rewrites of axioms from Zen - Mahayana Buddhism which stresses meditation and experiential wisdom:

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me the hell alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt.
3. It's always darkest just before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
6. Never test the depth of the water - with both feet.
7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.
8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you

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DIRETSAHAN

Mga wish ko ngayong Pasko at Bagong Taon

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Dahil pasko at bagong taon na mga suki kaya't pansamantala munang mamahinga ang inyong lingkod sa pagbanat at pagbatikos, bagkus ay aking ipapamahagi sa inyo kung ano ano ang mga wish ko ngayong kapaskuhan at bagong taon 2008!

...sana ay tuloy tuloy ang ikot ng ating mundo, at huwag itong tumigil sa ere, katulad ng nangyaring insidente sa Enchanted Kingdom ... di bale sana kung ang maiwan sa ere ay ang mga "BUWAYA" at "BUWITRE" sa gobyerno!

ooOoo

...Na sana'y laging nasa mabuting kalagayan, kalusugan at maging mahaba pa ang itatagal dito sa mundo itong inyong abang lingkod para patuloy kayong ipagtanggol at paglingkuran... Wish ko lang kay Lord na bigyan na ako ng mabuting "KABIYAK" para mayroon naman ako ng kayakap sa malamig na simoy ng gabi at wish ko rin na hindi kasamang ibigay ni Lord ang "TERROR" na biyenang! He! he! ... At wish ko rin na sana'y matanggap ng aking mga anak ang ibibigay ni Lord na aking "BETTER HALF!"

ooOoo

...At sana ay humaba pa ang "PIS" at hindi "PIKUNIN" ang mga taong nasasagasaan ng aking kolum... "BATO BATO SA LANGIT MATAMAAN MAN ANG SINUMAN, HUWAG SANANG MAGALIT"... TRABAHOLAMANGPO, WALAPONG PERSONALAN!

ooOoo

...Na sana ay bumalik na sa dating kagandahan, kaayusan at katahimikan dito sa ating pinakamamahal na lungsod ng Baguio... Maayos na pamamalakad ng lokal na pamahalaan, serioso at istriktong pagpapatupad ng ating batas, paigtingin ang kampanya sa pis en order, turismo, pangangalakal at ekonomiya atbp...

ooOoo

...Na sana ay makonsensya at magsibitui na sa kanilang puwesto ang mga INUTIL, KORAP, at mga ABUSADONG opisyal sa ating gobyerno na nagiging dahilan kaya't lalong naghihirap ang madlang pinoy!... katulad ng ibang opisyal sa CITY HALL, PULIS, AT BARANGAY na patuloy na NAGBUBULAG BULAGAN at NAGBIBINGI BINGIHAN sa lantarang paglaganap ng ILEGAL NA JUETENG! Ganundin sa ibang opisyal ng DOTC-LTFRB, LTO DENR

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Saber rattling will only
pull us away from a
peaceful new year*

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



In the 15-21 December 2007 issue of **The Weekend Junction**, I have argued in **The Peace Combatant** that reviving the anti-subversion law will worsen, not stifle, insurgency. I am extremely happy that the Office of the President of the Philippines is now behaving consistent with the views I expressed on the matter.

Earlier, the Philippine press reported that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had sought the revival of the anti-subversion law to strengthen the government's fight versus insurgency. I argued in the issue of **The Weekend Junction** mentioned that the number of insurgents will only increase the more intolerant government becomes on their existence.

I am glad that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed quite recently that there is not need for reviving the anti-subversion law because "government can still address the insurgency campaigns waged by communists." Unfortunately, however, there is saber rattling from the military sector. Saber rattling figuratively means clanging military swords to signal a threat, readiness for, or commencement of military combat.

In order words, saber rattling refers to a signal for war instead of expressing a desire for agreement, truce, and peace. Foolishly, the military claims that it can eliminate insurgency in just a few months. That is impossible.

Even Marcos with its battle hungry military failed to stop the growth of armed insurgency. Worst, armed insurgency multiplied by so many times under Marcos. Steady President Eddie Ramos had done better through a combination of peace initiatives and psychological operations (which incidentally is Ramos' specialty). Although Ramos did not solve insurgency, his biggest accomplishment is that he did not make it very big. In contrast, insurgency continue to grow under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Government and it seems that its growth will accelerate especially if her administration will be unable to make her government appear legitimate given reports of corruption and charges of cheating.

Military men must accept the fact that they are not the solution to insurgency. In fact, they can be the best recruiters of insurgents, together with the Macapagal-Arroyo government, if they do not do their jobs correctly. Insurgency can only be solved when poverty is addressed and the resumption of the peace talks can provide a space for that address without or with less bloodshed.

We must remember our history (hopefully I also remember the figures right): the New People's Army started from a ragtag guerilla of only 35 war combatants and a few rifles. They have grown to several thousands today precisely because there is a social basis for them to exist.

May I therefore recommend how insurgency can be addressed: instead of saber rattling, keep insurgency small by resuming the peace talks and focusing on reforms that address poverty. The peace talks can be resumed by removing the terrorist tags on insurgents and by restoring confidence-building measures rescinded due to pressures from hawks and militarists in the military and civilian components of the Arroyo government (and also due to United States pressure and/or advise that the Arroyo government foolishly accommodated to strengthen the fight against the Abu Sayyaf).

Military men can contribute to peace by consistently and sincerely adopting a peace posture. Through the peace talks and address of poverty, insurgents will decrease or will even cease to exist (they will assume an unarmed role in society) when they are no longer relevant. The rest of the citizens can continue to peace by doing what they do everyday: solve poverty in their homes and contribute to the building of the nation. On the other hand, however, human rights violations, cheating in the elections, and poverty provide reasons, bases, and relevance for insurgency to exist. Thus, this coming new year, let us rattle the peace bells rather than the saber. Further, let us address poverty so that peace will be sustainable.

PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Jok Time Muna,
Happy New Year !!!*

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



Pinoy Hell

A Pinoy dies and goes to hell. There he finds that there is a different hell for each country. He goes first to the German hell and asks, "What do they do here?"

He is told, "First they put you in an electric chair for an hour. Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the German devil comes in and whips you for the rest of the day." The man does not like the sound of that at all, so he moves on.

He checks out the USA hell as well as the Russian hell and many more. He discovers that they are all more or less the same as the German hell. Then he comes to the Filipino hell and finds that there is a very long line of people waiting to get in. Amazed he asks, "What do they do here?"

He is told "First they put you in an electric chair for an hour. Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the Filipino devil comes in and whips you for the rest of the day."

"But that is exactly the same as all the other hells- why are there so many people waiting to get in?"

"Because there is always a brownout, so the electric chair does not work. Somebody stole all the nails to sell it "por kilo". And the devil used to be a public official, so he comes in, punches his time-card, shakes hands with all the people waiting there and then goes back home..."

oOo

THE FILIPINO DRIVER GREETING:

When greeting a Filipino driver, slowly lower your window and be prepared to greet the driver with, "Tang namo, bobo." However, if you have been already addressed by a fellow driver, reply with a joyful, "Tang namo rin, gago."

ON TURN SIGNALS:

If a driver in another lane turns on the turn signal, do not let him go into your lane. In fact, press the accelerator and start driving right next to him/her. The fellow driver will probably greet you and you already know what to do.

ON TRAFFIC LIGHTS:

These amusing artifacts hang from intersections for no apparent reason.

Sometimes you will see drivers stop to see the colors change on these lights (a fascinating experience). Government officials (specifically police) believe that each color stands for an instruction for drivers to follow. From pure observation I have determined the following instructions for each color:

Red light - this light gives permission to the next five to six cars to go through.

Yellow light - accelerate your car as much as possible.

Green light - reduce speed and wait for the five to six cars passing through their respective red lights.

Little-known-fact: Time to start honking your horn, as soon as the light turns green = 1.5 seconds.

ON CHANGING LANES:

Changing lanes has been elevated to an art form in the Philippines. First of all, no matter what you do, never ever turn on your turn signal, otherwise you'll stimulate the reaction described above.

Second, swerve your car uncontrollably to the lane you want to change, preferably if you end up within inches of a car in that lane. At this point a greeting from the other driver may be in order. To perfect your change of lanes, reduce the speed of your car

Cont. on page 6

TELL IT AS IT IS

Happy New Year!!

BY JENNY OCAMPO-ANDRES



To our Dear Readers,

With just a few days before we come to the end of 2007 ..and embrace the year 2008 ..I still don't know what particular thing to write here (hahaha)..A lot of thoughts are in my mind which I'd love to share with you but for now I would like to share with you this beautiful saying I came across and it says:

"LIFE IS MEANINGLESS IF NOT COMMITTED TO A WORTHY and GODLY GOAL, IT IS LIKE A PEBBLE THROWN IN THE MEADOWS and NOT USED IN THE BUILDING OF AN EDIFICE"

A BLESSED AND HOPE-FILLED NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

HAPPY 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO MY PARENTS.
MR. PABLO & MRS. PRECY OCAMPO...

dearest papa and mama..

thank you so much for the love you gave, sacrifices you've made and good examples that you have shown especially in relationship, marriage and taking care of a family. Indeed your anniversary is something to celebrate and be proud of..we love you! from your children and grandchildren.

For your comments and suggestions, and problems that need advice or tips, email me @ jennyjlaw@yahoo.com

Pinupuna at Pinapansin.. from page 5

dramatically in a matter of seconds and you will see an action-packed reaction from the car behind you.

ON TRAFFIC JAMS:

Traffic Jams are teeming with fun filled activities such as:

1. Honking your horn rhythmically.
2. Putting on make-up (usually female drivers only).
3. Nose-pickers sightseeing (not to be confused with people who scratch their brains through their noses).
4. Reducing speed to watch whatever is causing the traffic jam. Add excitement by trying to see if you know the parties involved. (Note: Every Filipino driver is obliged to do this.)
5. Losing weight by sweating like a pig as a result of a lack of air-conditioning.
6. Greeting other drivers.
7. Practicing lane changing.
8. Playing the game: Let's see how close I can get to you before rear-ending you.

ON PEDESTRIANS:

These individuals are an annoyance to the Filipino driver. If you see pedestrians in your way, accelerate your car to let them know who's the boss. If you are at an intersection, let the pedestrians know you want to proceed by accelerating your car and honking at the last possible moment.

ON SOCIAL SITUATIONS:

Bumping into a friend while driving (not to be taken literally) is a joyful

occasion. Drivers should reduce speed and stop their cars in the middle of the street and chit chat. What about other drivers? Well, they can wait.

ON HIGHWAY DRIVING:

Bottleneck Formation - To accomplish this type of driving, cars must block 11 lanes by driving at the same speed and side by side (to keep other cars from passing). It is

Diretsahan.. from page 4

at ang local na KONSEHO sa mala-INUTIL nilang katayuan sa pagsugpo dito sa mga behikulong nagbubuga ng maruruming usok!
ooOoo

... Na huwag naman sanang "NINGAS KUGON" lang ang ating PUBLIC ORDER and SAFETY DIVISION o POSD at wala rin sanang "PALAKASAN" sa kanilang pag-iimplimenta ng ating mga lokal na batas.... Ano na ang nangyari sa kampanya nila hinggil dito sa illegal vendors?

.... At huwag din sanang tutulog-tulog sa pansitan ang permit and licensing office...marami po ang nakakalusot sa kanilang opisina...GUMISING NAMAN KAYO!

ooOoo

...at sana ay magkakasundo na ang lahat ng mga pinoy, makakaliwa man o makakanan o pareho sa kaliwa't kanan...ang importante, PILIPINO PARIN TAYONG LAHAT tapusin na ang terorismo,.. ORA MISMO!

ooOoo

...At sana rin ay magkaroon naman ng konsensiya ang mga "BUWITRENG" negosyante na walang nasa isipan kundi kumita... Aba eh! Bumili ako sa groserya ng umaga, pagbalik ko ng hapon, nagtaas na kaagad ng presyo? BUWISHEET NA INTSEEK Naku 2008 na mga bosing diyari sa DTI huwag ninyong sabihin na wala kayong alam dito... kung wala, aba, wish ko na HOY GISING!

ooOoo

...Wish ko rin na sana ay magising na sa katotohanan ang lahat ng ating opisyal, politiko at mga "UNGAS" na BOCAPS, na hindi permanente ang posisyon at kapangyarihan! Mawawala rin lahat iyan, ika nga! WEDER WEDER LANG! alalahanin,... BILOG ANG MUNDO, PERO HINDI ANG ULO KO!

ooOoo

...Na sana ay bawas bawasan naman ng ating mga kosehales ang kanilang mga paglalakbay sa mga ibang lugar, marami pa pong dapat asikasuhin dito sa ating lugar...at pag-isipan ding mabuti ng ating mayor at ang kanyang mga kosehales kung ano ang mga prayoridad, mga dapat na ibenta at bibilhin! (huwag bumili ng mga mamahaling sasakyan at huwag ding ibenta ang mga pasilidad na makakabuti at magagamit pa natin tulad ng Asin Hydro, ESEEP! ESEEP!)

ooOoo

...at sana ay umunlad na ang lubog na lubog ng buhay ng mga pinoy, at makatikim naman ng kahit konting hamon at keso sa pagsalubong ng bagong taon...

MANIGONG BAGONG TAON AT MASAGANANG TUA TAWSAN EYT!! 2008!!

important to drive at a speed at least 20 mph below the speed limit.

The Three-Lane-Change - This movement requires a lot of precision and creativity. It should be done around the highest number of cars possible and in a matter of seconds to create what others may refer to as widespread panic.

HERE'S ANOTHER RULE FOR DRIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

When the lanes going in your direction are jammed with cars, try using the lanes from the oncoming traffic. They are probably not occupied anyway because the oncoming cars are stuck as well. How many of the other direction's lanes should you occupy? As long as there are lanes from the other direction to occupy, go ahead and take more lanes. This move is sure to elicit previously mentioned greetings from drivers of the oncoming cars and some have been known to get down from their cars to personally deliver the greeting to the out of lane driver). 9 out of 10 times it's sure to make the traffic worse but then, hey, there's that 1 in 10 chance that you might actually get through sooner than all those law-abiding losers.

Filipino drivers think that 1 in 10 chance is reason enough to risk their life and limb and being profusely greeted (besides, you can always turn up the windows and pretend that you don't hear the greeting from the other drivers).

Source: www.jeepneygan.com

Leaders exhort true meaning of Christmas

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - "Christmas is the gift of life when Jesus was born to save mankind from sin... too often we forget that it is a blessing to give - because we have what others don't have..."

This was the message of Kalinga Governor Floydela Diasen during the recent Inter-agency Christmas celebration, reminding government employees once

again of the true meaning of Christmas which is sharing, stressing that "when one is eager to share then it is when one realize the true meaning of 'it is better to give than to receive...'"

"A spring of water continually gives while a pool of water continually receives - that is why the spring is always fresh and clean while the pool becomes stagnant and filled with effuse, garbage, dirt," she said, "so

that if we know the spirit of giving then there will be no people begging in the streets," she expressed.

Christmas she said is also a time to assess what one achieved throughout the year as the New Year brings new hope to each and everyone.

Meanwhile, Engr. Pedro Pisono who represented Congressman Manuel Agyao, emphasized the right mind-set which

one could employ throughout the year.

"Meet hatred with hatred and you degrade yourself. Meet hatred with love and you elevate not only yourself but also the one who bares you hatred," he said.

"We should remember that our life is not only for us to live but also for others to share. We should enrich and open our life so others can draw from it as such," he concludes. */ggd/PIA Kalinga*

Kalinga prepares for Ullalim Festivals

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - Geared to promote the culture, local cuisine, tourism and agriculture of Kalinga, provincial planners of the 2008 Ullalim Festival are now setting the stage for another three day celebration of the province's most prestigious annual festivals.

During the initial meeting, the planners presented the proposed highlights of activities which include cultural shows and tourism programs, agro-industrial trade fair, street dancing to be participated by the various local government units, schools, people's organization and non-government organization, Float Parade by the LGUs and business sectors and Laga Fashion Show which will showcase the Kalinga inspired designs.

The festivals will start on February 13 with the Trade and Culture Day featuring the Grand Parade, opening of the Trade Fair, Indigenous Cook fest and the Laga Fashion Show.

The second day which coincides with the Valentine Day Celebration will be the Anniversary Day showcasing the Float Parade, Cultural Parade and Cultural presentations, Indigenous Games and Musical Play.

The celebration on the 15th will feature the cultural presentation of the various schools in the province which includes a Street Dancing and Variety Shows.

According to Geronimo Donaal, this event provides an opportunity for the Kalingsas to come together and renew their kinship ties and better understand their identity as a people and "since this is in time with the celebration of Valentine's Day, the event he said should have a Valentine spirit - love, peace and unity."

The event he informed would also "provide the opportunity for the entrepreneurs in the province to sell and promote their products."

"We are banking on full participation and support of the public, LGUs, schools, the business sector, private institutions, POs, NGO, and other ethnic groups in the province for the success of our celebration," he expressed. */ggd/PIA Kalinga*

Returning doctors.. from page 9

taxes donors of these medical equipment, Montero said.

Worse, he says, district hospitals receiving these donations "see their budgets deducted to represent donees' taxes for the donations received".

Dr. Esperanza Lahoy is more concerned with post-operative care.

Lahoy, who is the PCS's program on Surgery for the Underserved Regions for Education (Sure), says no one is monitoring the progress of a beneficiary's intake of medicines.

Likewise, she's also worried about beneficiaries taking medicines as prescribed by doctors during the health mission.

Pennsylvania, United States-based Alvear says these are things that dampen interests of doctors doing more health missions to the country.

Cure

MEDICAL volunteer groups in the US have become weary of confronting these issues surrounding health missions to the Philippines.

One of these groups, the Daly City,

California-headquartered Community Care Missions, took matters unto their hands and adopted the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City in 2004.

The agreement cites the CMC would provide equipment as well as training hospital specialists while Rizal Medical would accommodate health missions from various groups.

CMC's initiative was based on a 2002 study by doctors at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine on the conduct of health missions by local and foreign groups.

The study noted that some doctors, like those from the National Institute of Health, rated the conduct of these "temporary health care services" as highly effective.

However, they didn't cite how effective these services are on the villages where the missions were held.

"This may be due to the missions' inability to address the full spectrum of health care, or the total needs of their clients," wrote the study team led by Dr. Juan Pablo Nanagas.

Data from the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LinKaPil) program of the state-run Commission on Filipinos Overseas showed that some P1.43 billion worth of cash and in-kind donations received from donors abroad went to health services.

LinKaPil also facilitates the conduct annually of some 40 to 50 health missions such as cataract extractions and cleft lip operations.

The missions were in Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, the National Capital Region, Bicol, and in Western, Central and Eastern Visayas. These are areas perceived by mission organizers to be "safe" and "attractive" for its members.

As for other areas of rural Philippines, their near-absence from being served by these missions is "lopsided," says new PCS president Armand Crisostomo.

Crisostomo said PCS will convene a working group to operationalize recommendations put forward by participants of the recent surgical mission summit, held December 5.

"We must begin to craft an understanding to upgrade health services delivery in the Philippines," said Dr. Jose Yamamoto, another surgeon who heads the Gawad Kalusugan Foundation Inc.

Ofelicia Maristela, a pediatrician who's also with CCM, said while it is "painful" to introduce reforms in health missions by Filipinos abroad, doing so could be a cure.

"But we need to go beyond one-shot deals," she says. / **JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO**

Editorial.. from page 4

- criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
 9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
 10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he'll sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
 11. If you lend someone P200 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
 12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
 13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.
 14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
 15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
 16. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
 18. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
 19. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
 20. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
 21. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it. And
 22. Never, never, never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
- And finally, here are UK newspaper clips. They explain why we like the Brits:
- "The Daily Telegraph." Police were handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. "It's a Special Branch vehicle. And they don't want the public to know what it looks like."

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF SHARE

That an Extra Judicial Settlement Of Estate With Waiver Of Share was entered into by Claudio R. Miranda, Vonzcar V. Miranda, Vonalpha V. Miranda and Vonreza V. Miranda all of legal ages, Filipinos and Heirs of Azucena V. Miranda (deceased). Entered into the Notarial Registry of Atty. Jenny B. Salming this 26th day of November 2007 at Baguio City Philippines, with Doc. No. 14, Page No. 3, Book No. V, Series of 2007

December 15, 22 and 29, 2007.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
First Judicial Region
Branch 60
Baguio City

IN MATTER OF THE PETITION OF HOIK CHUNG, also known as PAUL CHUNG, to be admitted as Citizen of the Philippines.

NAT. CASE NO. 20-R

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner Hoi IK Chung, through counsel filed a verified petition for Naturalization, praying to be admitted as citizen of the Republic of the Philippines.

In support of his petition, he alleged among others that;

His full name is HOI IK CHUNG. Some of my official documents refer to me as PAUL CHUNG. His present place of

residence is at Woodsville, Camp 7, Baguio City, Philippines and also have residence at Brgy. Pugaro, B a l u n g a o , Pangasinan. He was born on the 14th day of July 1960 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. I am present a citizen of Korea under whose laws Filipinos may become naturalized citizen thereof. He is married to LEE, EUB HWA at Korea. Out of our marriage, they have two children, namely: JI SAN CHUNG, who was born on September 2, 1992 in Korea, and JI SONG CHUNG, who was born on April 25, 1995 in Korea, both of whom are currently residing with me and my wife at Woodsville, Camp 7, Baguio City, Philippines. Their children are presently enrolled at R E M I N A N T INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL in Baguio City, where Philippine History, Government , and Civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school curriculum. He is presently engaged as Administrator of R e m n a n t International School of Baguio City.

Since his stay in the Philippines, he has been accustomed to Filipino traits, manners and conduct, and has gotten along well with many Filipinos in this country. He has resided continuously in the Philippines for a period of eleven (11) years, having first entered into this country on August 1, 1996. He believes in the principles underlying the P h i l i p p i n e s Constitution. He has conducted himself in proper and i r r e p r o a c h a b l e manner during the entire period of his residence in the Philippines in his relations with

c o n s t i t u t e d Government as well as with the community in which he is living. He has mingled socially with Filipinos, and has learned and embraced the customs, traditions and ideals and ideas of the Filipinos. He has all; the qualifications required under Section 2, and none of the disqualifications under Section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 73. He is a person of good character.

He is not opposed to o r g a n i z e d government, nor is he affiliated with any association or group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines apposing all organized governments. He is not defending or teaching the necessity or propriety of violence, personal assault, or assassination on for the success and predominance of men's ideals. He has not been convicted of any crime. He is not suffering from any incurable contagious disease. The nation of which he is a citizen or subject is not at war with the Philippines.

It is his intention in good faith to become a citizen of the Philippines and to renounce absolutely and over all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to the Republic Korea, of which at this time, he is a citizen or subject. He will reside continuously in the Philippines from the date of the filling of his petition up to the time of his admission to the P h i l i p p i n e Citizenship.

He has not heretofore made any petition for citizenship before any court, tribunal or administrative body.

A N D R E A CAYANOS ALALAG, of a legal age, Filipino with residence at Baguio City, and MARIA LIZA SIERRA-JUNG, also of a legal age, Filipino with residence at Baguio City, are both Filipinos citizens who will appear and testify as witnesses during the hearing of this petition.

He has filed his declaration of Intension to become a Filipino citizen before the Solicitor General on July 27, 2006.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Baguio City on July 10, 2008, at 8:30 in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioner shall prove its case . Any person may appear AND show cause, if any there be why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes; be furnished the respondent, Local Civil Registrar of the City of Baguio, who is hereby enjoined to file its comments and/or opposition, should there be any. Furnish a copy of the Order and Notice of the Hearing with a copy of the petition to the Office of the Solicitor General

The branch sheriff is hereby directed to post copies of Order and Notice of Hearing in public and conspicuous places at the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Regional Trial Court of Baguio City, the City Hall, the City Market, and the Post Office, all of Baguio City. Let this Order and Notice of Hearing together with the

petition be published in a local newspaper covering the residence of the petitioner and of general circulation, and in the Official gazette for (3) consecutive weeks at the expense of the petitioner.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 13th day of December, 2007 at Baguio City Philippines.

EDILBERTO T. CLARAVAL
Presiding Judge

December 22, 29 and January 5, 2007

SO ORDERED.

Ofw's families.. from page 10

urgent expenses at home.

But Quisel goes back at the Kawayanan's weekly Sunday queue once again to make another deposit.

"Somehow, I have learned the habit of saving," she says, "and I have learned to set aside some amounts from the daily expenses for my next deposit."

She also learned one new thing with Kawayanan: "If you want to save, you have to work harder."

Boom

DATA from property brokers like CB Richard Ellis emphasize the notion that unlike the pre-Asia financial crisis levels, OFWs are pushing market demand.

In their presentation during the Asian International Real Estate Expo and Conference in December, CBRE said that foreign investors and local and foreign end-users like OFWs and overseas Filipinos are the drivers of the current property boom experienced by the country.

Notably, as the percentage of OFW families that save reached at least 17 percent of the surveyed households, only 5.9 percent of these use their incomes for investment.

The figure was 5.2 percent for OFW families in Metro Manila, and 6.6 percent for provincial-based counterparts.

If matched with the BSP survey, these OFWs may be part of the high- and middle- income groups polled.

But they are the minority in the survey.

Majority of the respondents (59 percent) of the consumer survey were in the "low-income group," or those families who earn less than P10,000 monthly.

Nearly 36 percent of the total 4,952 respondent households were in the middle-income group (P10,000 to P29,999 monthly) while five percent or 254 households belonged to the high-income group (over-P30,000 monthly).

It is only this latter household group who showed optimism that will run up to the next 12 months.

The results from the consumer survey for OFW households contrast what previous studies from Economics students of the University of the Philippines point to: the conclusion is that OFW families have a hard time saving.

A study by Ramon Jose Idang and Cheddie Yap, titled "Determinants of the Saving Behavior of Filipino Households," finds that as more Filipino families increase the number of members going abroad and their remittances, "the need for relatives back home to increase their savings lessens".

"As the number of overseas Filipino workers increases, income tends to decline," the authors contend in their 2002 study that looked at data from the Family Income and Expenditures Survey/**JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO**,www.ofwjournalism.net

Ofw's need... from page 3

Of the 94 households, Tajeda claims there are about 20 OFW households composed of either migrants or OFWs.

This is where they started channeling their promotion of squash canton outside the country, he said.

"We wish to expand. We would want to get the support of OFWs so that if ever they go back here, they could purchase our product, bring it to Manila, then abroad."

Tajeda said Filipinos returning here would usually buy a box containing 98 packs of the 250-gram noodles.

They sell a 250-gram pack for P25 (more than half a dollar) when bought in their locality but charge P30 per pack if the product is sold in Manila.

Tajeda said they are selling each pack higher to OFWs.

He didn't say how much the Filipinos are selling each pack abroad or if they're selling them at all.

Wok hard

WITH the increased order from OFWs for squash canton noodles, the community of agrarian reform beneficiaries in this village has been heating up things.

Steam swirls above three large woks lined in an open area, manned by farmers of the Metro Nambaran Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

A woman farmer lifts a ladle, cooking oil dripping from noodles.

She and the other farmers were

frying the last few batches of the noodles.

Tajeda said that although there already is the sayote canton, their novel canton is the very first variety of canton made of squash in the country.

"Other canton noodles sold in public markets are just made of flour and food coloring. It lacks the nutrients ours have, like beta-carotene or Vitamin A," Tajeda claims.

Squash canton is made from a mixture of egg, squash, and salt.

A farmer places the fried noodles on wax paper, allowing these to dry.

Others are wrapping in plastic the dried and crunchy noodles, formed into a square, and placing them inside *balikbayan* boxes.

Tajeda said the squash canton noodles have already started to gain ground in Filipino communities in Hawaii and in the state of California, both in the USA, and in Canada.

He claims there was a time that municipal Mayor Floro Tadena brought migrants from Hawaii to buy squash canton from them.

Benito Austria Jr. of the agrarian reform department said since most of these migrants are Ilocanos, they became very supportive of the product from their hometown.

These are the *sacadas* (farm workers) or sugarcane planters who were recruited

by Hawaiian sugar planters during the first wave of migration in the early 1900s, Austria, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-Ilocos Sur's information officer, added.

Hard work

G E M M A Tablada, development facilitator of the cooperative, said the move to produce noodles from squash came after a surplus in producing a hybrid variety of the vegetable.

The community began growing squash from an Asian Development Bank-funded project in 2002.

With supply overshooting demand, squash began rotting.

"This forced us to find ways to salvage the surplus, to put to good use the leftover squash," Tablada explained.

After training on cooking noodles in 2003, a group of farmers began successfully mixing squash with the other ingredients for making noodles.

Every month, cooperative members harvest at least ten tons of squash from the two-hectare land they are cultivating for squash growing.

With access to government funds, the cooperative was able to build a warehouse worth P422,000 (US\$10,293 at US\$1=P41).

The group was also able to tap P100,000 from the DAR for production capital.

The government's One Town-One Product program also released P200,000, enabling the cooperative to buy a mixer and a

kneading machine and a noodle-fry housing equipment.

Every week, the 114-member cooperative produces 50 kilos of squash noodles.

Using roughly the P722,000 in financial inputs, this meant the cooperative was spending roughly P278 every week for production of the squash canton noodles.

Tajeda said that presently, 11 members of the cooperative cook noodles twice a week.

In a few years time, they dream of needing more cooks to work eight hours a day. The same people would also be packing the noodles for delivery. Each pack serves five.

Though still slow in progress, Tajeda said the cooperative has received requests for supply of their product to local restaurants in nearby towns and a catering business in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, aside from OFWs.

He added they are building a trade center downtown where they would soon sell the noodles.

While their participation in trade fairs in Metro Manila has slowly helped them penetrate local consumption in the country, Tajeda said they first focused on pitching marketing to Filipinos abroad to further expand foothold overseas.

At the moment, they consider the squash canton noodles as a squashing -er, smashing success./
CANDICE Y. CERESO

Returning doctors injecting fresh take on annual RP health missions

MANDALUYONG CITY (OFW Journalism Consortium)—FOR over 20 years, surgeon Domingo Alvear eludes the chilly American winter and warms up in motherland Philippines by joining other doctors for weeks-long medical missions.

This is the season—December to February—for these mostly US-originated medical, surgical, or dental missions to the Philippines.

But Alvear's experience with annual health missions in poor communities here is chilling his desires for improved health service delivery.

Since they're one-shot services, these missions can only do so much, says Alvear, founding president of the World Surgical Foundation Inc.

A recent surgical missions summit-of-sorts among these doctors may change all these.

The doctors, most of who, Alvear said, are at the tail-end of their medical careers, agreed to transform their usual health missions into sustained community health interventions.

Here's what they want: less politics during missions, less stringent regulations governing medical practice and the entry of equipment, and more involvement from Philippine partners.

Alvear says this wish-list is urgent also because "age is getting to me" and other "veterans" in these health missions.

"Take advantage of us when we are still healthy. If not, it's over," he told participants of an impromptu summit held at the sidelines of an annual convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons.

Ills

SOME politicians like San Isidro, Nueva Ecija mayor Sonia Lorenzo acknowledges the concerns raised by Alvear's group. While not pointing out her administration, Lorenzo admits some of these health missions have been "politically exploited".

Even former Southern Leyte governor Rosette Lerias cited that some medical mission doctors were forced "to keep their medicines in a hotel because they simply mistrust local politicians".

Lerias didn't say if that occurred during her time as governor.

Other doctors complained of red tape in processing the entry of medical equipment they're bringing in. Still others say the same is experienced when processing their licenses for mission doctors to practice their professions during these visits.

Dr. Juan Montero, a 2003 awardee of the American College of Surgeons for volunteering, complained about taxing the recipient of donations.

Taxing recipients of donations is a burden since the US government already

Cont. on page 7

OFW families saving; junk cars, new homes

LOS BANOS, LAGUNA (*OFW Journalism Consortium*)—RECENT central bank data doesn't bode too well for those selling cars and houses to families of overseas Filipino workers. Majority of OFW families are either deep in debt to lenders for the overseas stint or they prefer to save money.

Whatever's in between the latter two major spending, as cited in the recent consumer expectations survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, are spent on food and education.

Just ask 44-year-old Clarita Quisel, a housewife and fish vendor here. Her husband, who's now in Qatar, had just finished repaying some P65,000 in debt prior to his overseas trip last year.

Despite that, she says it's still an uphill climb to save P20 a week or nearly a dollar within 14 days.

"We're still hard up," Quisel told the *OFW Journalism Consortium* and sweeps her hand to their one-bedroom house on a 70-square meter lot.

With the strengthening of the peso against the American greenback, Quisel says she augments the P9,000 (US\$219.50 at \$1=P41) monthly remittance her husband sends every month.

Much of that takes care of our daily needs as well as for the children's schooling, she explains. All three of

their six children are in school.

Scratch out Quisel among either the 1.4 percent of OFW households who said they would buy a car or the 1.1 percent who said buying a house is a spending priority.

These figures represent a poll of 2,526 Filipino households in Metro Manila and 2,561 outside of NCR polled by the BSP for the fourth-quarter consumer expectations survey.

The survey got responses from 2,445 households in Metro Manila and 2,524 from the provinces, out of the targeted 5,087 respondents.

With a 96.8-percent (2,445 households) and 98.5-percent (2,524 households) questionnaire retrieval rate from the NCR and the provinces, respectively, the survey methodologically represents all Filipino households.

Some 469 of the total number of respondents to this first nationwide consumer survey are OFW households, says Winecito Tan of the BSP's Department of Economic Statistics.

And most of these households are saving than spending.

Indebted

MAJORITY of the total 469 households, according to the survey, are still focused on repaying debts they incurred prior to working abroad.

Only 17.5 percent of the total that have dependents working abroad allot remittances for saving while paying loans.

The numbers also point that most OFW households who save money are outside the NCR.

The development surrounding the number of OFW families who save is while these households allocate remittances for daily sustenance in the household, for schooling, medical expenses, and repaying debts incurred prior to migration such as placement fees, membership payments, among others.

The year-end consumer survey figures for OFW households show that almost all OFW households (97.3 percent) use remittances for food and other household needs. While some 61.2 percent of these same households use remittances for education, 29.3 percent of OFW families use the monies for medical expenses.

Repaying debts incurred to facilitate the overseas migration of the household member is what some 34.0 percent of OFW households do.

"Good thing we have written off that debt," Quiles said. "That (repayment) affected our family's spending."

"What I have is some P3,000 in Kawayanan (referring to the Kawayanan Bayanihan Multipurpose Cooperative in Malinta village here)," she said adding that that comes from her own savings selling fish from Laguna Lake.

There are some "lapses" to the weekly habit, she admits, especially when there are

Cont. on page 8

Cooperative.. from page 3

Before the collector could say anything, Quisel says: "P20 for this week. That okay with you?"

That's the minimum weekly deposit of the cooperative, explains Bagnes, understanding that most of the fishing village's 5,000 residents belong to the middle- and low-income groups.

The collector nods, takes Quisel's bill, and gives her a receipt as proof of deposit. She writes the deposited amount in a yellow passbook bearing Quisel's name and places it inside a wicker canister.

The minimum amount to save weekly makes the habit "manageable" to do, say former domestic workers Arsenia and Perlita Bacorro.

Still, a member must appear before the collector just to say s/he can't put some savings for

Arsenia said the member then promises the collector she'll increase her deposit the following week.

These are also recorded in the passbook.

Hence, the subpoena is issued only after giving the member a lead time of about three weeks.

Bagnes, also Malinta's newly-elected village chair, told the *OFW Journalism Consortium* that only five percent of its 670 members receive a subpoena.

"Nobody has been jailed for non-repayment," Bagnes said.

Now, Kawayanan

members race to reach a P5,000 plateau that will enable them to loan double that amount.

The loan bears a 2-percent interest rate and must be paid every month.

Quisel, the Bacorros, and OFW wife Yolanda Gayaban browse their passbooks and compare the amounts they've saved.

With four kids in tow, Arsenia Bacorro has some P4,200 saved, while those of distant cousin Perlita, still single, was higher: P7,931.

Gayaban admits losing profit from her house-to-house tocino (sweetened pork) retail business, but saving some from the remittances of her signboard painter-husband in Saudi Arabia, as well as from her own, led her to build up some P11,000 in the cooperative.

"You have three kids and P11,000 saved. I have six kids and some P3,000," Quisel tells Gayaban.

"At least, I saved something," she tells herself.

Solidarity

ASIDE from the cash loan, members of Kawayanan also could borrow rice every week and meat every two weeks, or for emergency hospitalization.

They could also buy produce at the cooperative's mini-grocery at a discount as well as a chance to win groceries in weekly raffles after the weekly meeting.

During a meeting December 10, a religious leader stood up, opened a Bible, and read lines about saving money.

The wicker canister was already three-fourths full of passbooks.

Gayaban thinks Bagnes's leadership is instrumental in the success of their group.

Bagnes, however, demurred, saying bayanihan, not transparency, is the secret to the cooperative's growth.

It is, he claims, a trait since the Kawayanan was still an unregistered self-help group called the Kawayanan Bayanihan Savings Center.

Then under the BSRP of DILG, the center held lectures on saving.

When the deposits grew to P500,000 by May 2005, Kawayanan registered with the Cooperative Development Authority on June 1 that same year.

After getting some training from CDA, Kawayanan started to issue passbooks to record members' savings and repaid loans.

The flexibility of the cooperative's rules, he added, has also helped members especially since they spend for daily needs.

"While we have increased patience for them," Bagnes adds, "members follow our rules".

This village-wide empathy helped Quisel and her fellow members who have dependents working abroad.

"Saving has become habitual for me, and Kawayanan continues to grow as a result of each Cont. on page 12

In Shortage.. from page 1

In short, there is no single database that would allow private and public sectors to have the same actual number of officers and ratings that are both on-board ships and those waiting to be hired.

He said data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration cannot confirm the validity of the actual number of available seafarers and those who are on board.

The POEA is the government agency in charge of regulation of all the overseas Filipino workers.

Menese cited that data from the Professional Regulations Commission also hasn't been helpful in such task.

He explained the group found out that the POEA only sources its data from the manning firms themselves, many of which are not complying to the disclosure rule that the agency only implemented earlier this year.

A report by manning firms presented during the November convention said six factors hobble the industry's ability "to reasonably make a more detailed, and accurate estimate of numbers of our actual supply situation."

The factors include "extreme large volume of data, the use of many different titles and ranks for different positions, the numerous vessel types, the unknown license requirements for special vessels, time constraints, and ...non-compliance with POEA's advisory by some companies."

Missing

IT was also during the convention that manning agencies discovered a huge disparity in figures.

Comparing the number of those with PRC license versus the number of officers on-board and those on vacation, some 43,462 crew members couldn't be accounted for.

The figure is already close to the more than 48,000 officers reported on board several vessels.

Taking stock of the actual supply of Filipino seafarers on-board and how many more are in the maritime schools were the initial steps in determining if the country can respond to the global shortage of officers.

According to the ISL Bremen for World fleet and the Clarkson Research Studies for Shipbuilding, there will be 7,360 new vessels up for delivery between now and 2012.

With each vessel containing up to 23 crew members, the total demand will be 147,160 crews until 2012 and there will be more by 2015.

The worldwide supply of seafarers in 2005 is estimated to be 466,000 officers and 721,000 ratings, according to the estimates by the Warwick Institute for Employment and Research.

There is a shortage of about 10,000 officers, or two percent of the workforce as of 2005.

The shortage is expected to increase to 27,000 by 2015, or about six percent, according to the study commissioned by the International Shipping Federation

and BIMCO, the world's biggest private shipping organization.

Ratings, on the other hand, have an oversupply of about 20 percent, or between 135,000 to 167,000.

International Maritime Employers Committee president Ian Sherwood believes that the demand for officers were higher than what the study had indicated as a result of the faster delivery of the new and much larger vessels.

It takes around a year to construct a new vessel, but it would take four to eight years to produce a competent seafarer, he said.

This means, the industry has to work harder to respond to the needs.

Trainee officers and engineers need three to five years to qualify for the junior ranks and up to eight years to reach a senior level.

Supply

THE Philippines supplies about 28 percent of the world's fleet, currently the largest by nationality with about 250,000, for both ratings and officers combined.

Far second are crew from the Indian sub-continent, with just over 100,000.

India, however, has started marketing its seafarers to international shipping firms.

According to the presentation of Rajaish Bajpae, president and managing director of Eurasia Group, during the Second Lloyds Ship Manager (LSM) Manning and Training in India Conference last March, most of the shipping firms are

relying on India as a favored source of its current and future seafarer demand.

"India has the means to satisfy the numbers shortage and the Indian academic system provides the strongest foundation for building high standards of skills, initiatives, professionalism and leadership required of the modern seafarers," he said.

But since the Philippines has the lead in the number of crews on board, and a promising future for those still in schools, international shipping firms are

egging their local units or affiliates to effect significant shifts on how the country and the government do its measures on producing a competent crew, in a short span of time.

IMEC has proposed a program to speed up the process of a cadet to become an officer, without sacrificing competency level, by advanced training in school and on-board a vessel.

The number crunching of the domestic manning firms –despite the disparity of the available data– showed that the industry can only produce a total of 28,905 officers ranging from captain to chief engineer from chief mate to first

engineer to officer-in-charge positions.

While international shipping firms' efforts have yet to bear fruit, affiliates are already moving, to the point that manning and other shipping firms are reaching out to the public.

For instance, last November, InterManager, an international association of various ship management firms, called on a press conference to go side by side with the group's meeting in Manila.

Image

INTERNATIONAL Shipmanagers' Association (InterManager) president Ole B. Stene said they want to promote the image of the seafaring profession in the entire Philippines.

Stene, who is also managing director of Aboitiz-Jepsen Bulk Transport Inc., said the seafaring profession is viewed as only for the weak, or poorly-performing students.

Parents tend to discourage their children to take the profession, he added.

Stene said the move to refurbish the image of the profession is aimed at recruiting the brightest from the pool of students to become seafarers.

InterManager, however, still doesn't have any specific

idea on how to carry out such task.

Stene said they plan to promote the profession to graduating high school students starting next year.

The group has joined forces with local group Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment (Fame) to carry out the plan.

Fame, however, wanted to bring their message of sanitizing the image of the seafarers using the mainstream media.

With no idea of how to carry out the task, Fame president Samuel Lim called for a meeting with reporters and editors covering the shipping and manning industry.

That meeting has been regularly held since November and Lim is banking on this to develop some mechanism for implementation of the media blitz sometime next year.

This move may mean a resurgence in news coverage of the industry or advertising by companies involved.

While that may spell good news for media agencies in the short term, there hasn't been a study on its benefit for the seafarers or their profession in the long run.

Then again, image, for some, is everything. by **WILLIAM ALZONA.**

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ANOTHER PASAWAY- City Administrator Peter Fianza orders jeepney dispatchers to dismantle their makeshift waiting shed near Rizal Monument. By Bong Cayabyab

NBI Ordered to Swiftly Solve Lintuan and Rafael Murder

Task Force 211 has instructed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Regional Directors and the City Prosecutors in Davao and Baguio Cities to immediately, swiftly, and thoroughly investigate and give special attention to the murders of Davao radio broadcaster Fernando Lintuan and Paracelis Mayor Cesar Rafael on December 24 and 25 2007.

DxGO Anchorman Fernando "Batman" Lintuan was driving in Davao City together with colleagues Lucio Ceniza and Edgar Banzon on Monday morning when he was shot by a tandem riding assassin. The shooter, 5'7" to 5'8" in height, was wearing a metallic helmet.

In Mt. Province, the following day, Paracelis Town Mayor Cesar Rafael

was coming from his pastureland in Barangay Palitud when five unidentified gunmen open fired at his vehicle in an uninhabited road in barangay Butigue, Paracelis killing him.

Task Force 211 Chairman Atty. Ricardo Blancaflor said that the Task Force will ensure that all concerned agencies of the government are mobilized for the just and speedy resolution of these cases.

The NBI is sending a team of agents to Davao City to coordinate with and strengthen the efforts of the Philippine National Police and NBI regional offices. Continuous monitoring of these cases will help guarantee that justice is done swiftly and that the perpetrators and the masterminds of these murders are dealt with the full force of the law./PIACAR

Cooperative.. from page 10

other's trust," Quisel said. Individually, former illegal recruitment victim Perlita Bacorro has been challenged while selling kerosene daily: "You have

to work hard just to place a deposit in Kawayanan."

Still, there were new members during the meeting, as pointed out by Quisel.

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