

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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

Pahayagang palaban!!!

Overseas Filipino workers bear debts as crisis hits labor-importing economies



ECO COPS - Members of the Baguio's Finest join the Earth Day celebration April 22 patrolling the city central business district in their 100 percent carbon free emission bike./ By Bong Cayabyab

"From debt they can't part"

MAKATI CITY, Philippines—RAMONES Caytiles's stint in Taiwan is as short as the song-length of his namesake American punk rock band: two weeks.

But nearly six months now since he and 171 fellow workers got pink slips last year from their employer Hanston Display Corp., Caytiles feels life is as long as Don Maclean's American Pie song.

It was the nineteenth of November, Caytiles recalls, when their music—the crinkle of New Taiwan dollar—died.

When we arrived in Taiwan, we borrowed money to pay fees to a broker who paid for our travel, Caytiles said adding such was the standard process for workers trying their luck outside the Philippines.

He and five other OFWs sent back after LCD manufacturer Hanston downsized are now saddled with that debt

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Ang kawawang mangagawang pinoy hanggang kailan maghihirap!?

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Misery of Filipino labor

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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*Coun. Elaine Sembrano-saludo ako sayo!!!
PNP-CD Franco-Hoy Gising!!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA

Lawaker Decries Bias In Favor Of Foreigners

Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said the case of Daniel Smith reveals an inherent bias in favor of foreigners in the country's justice system

"It's really sad-dening to see that Filipinos, who have been victims of discrimination overseas, are even placed at a disadvantage against foreigners in their own country," he said.

"More disheartening is the fact that

Nicole saw hope, a better future, in America despite her unfortunate experience. It may very well be an indictment of what we have become as a nation," the opposition senator said.

"It is a symptom of the state of helplessness that has developed because of decades of misgovernance. Most of our people have, through no fault of their own, lost faith in this country," Escudero said.

He also noted

that Smith did not even "waste a day" in slipping out of the country after being acquitted or rape by the Court of Appeals.

"While he is out of sight, Smith will never be out of our minds. He will always remind us of the folly of our dependency on the United States," he said.

Escudero reiterated his support for the abrogation of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Teachers say Asia grappling to balance migration, crisis-hit labor market

PASIG CITY, Philippines—PRO-FESSORS studying labor migration in Asia said countries in the region will scuttle to protect their economies but avoid edging out foreign workers as a global financial collapse seeps into real sectors.

One of them is Dr. Yap Mui Teng of the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy under the National University of Singapore.

Dr. Teng says that while Southeast Asia's financial hub will experience a "sharp economic downturn that is the most severe in the country's history," it will still need foreign workers in Singapore.

As countries across the world grapple with the catatonic effects of a global financial crisis, nation-states witness the decapitation of their respective labor markets.

Dr. Teng says it is unavoidable that companies cut costs and fire foreign workers first and nationals last: Singapore companies forecast a minus five percent gross domestic product growth rate for this year.

What's currently happening in Singapore, says Dr. Teng, is that more foreign workers are complaining of unclaimed salaries, being subjected to "no work, no pay" situations. He

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Mayor approves subdivision monitoring ordinance

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. last week signed into law city council Ordinance No. 19 series of 2009 known as "The Subdivision and Development Monitoring Ordinance" which provides the guidelines in monitoring subdivisions and other real estate development projects in the city.

Authored by Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr., the measure also provided specific penalties for violations that will be committed by developers and proponents of

all subdivisions, constructions and real estate development intended for sale or for commercial purposes that require the issuance of Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance (PALC), Development Permit and/or Final Approval of Subdivision.

Cosalan said the guidelines are needed "to ensure strict compliance to existing laws including the city zoning ordinance and other applicable local resolutions and ordinances."

The measure mandates the creation of a monitoring team to be headed by the

city planning and development office and the city council committee on urban planning, lands and housing as chair and co-chair respectively with the following offices as members: city engineer's office, city buildings and architecture office, city administrator's office, city assessor's office, city treasurer's office and a representative from the private sector.

The monitoring team will conduct periodic inspection of all subdivisions to which the city issued the requirements, will receive

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Gov't economist says Middle East guide to crisis' impact on OFWs

PASIG CITY, Philippines—AS the plane nosed down to its landing in Dubai, economist Josef Yap sensed a portent of things to come for Filipino workers in the Middle East and the labor export industry.

"These are the scenes of the Asian financial crisis of 1997," Yap recalled saying to himself and to three other

Southeast Asian economists during that visit in the financial capital of the United Arab Emirates.

He said his colleagues agreed especially after seeing and walking inside high-end shopping malls and knowing the price tags of a day's stay in Dubai's luxury hotels.

Yap, president of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS),

said in a forum on Asian labor migration by the Scalabrini Migration Center early this year he wondered how cash-strapped Westerners can afford staying in these places during these trying times.

Those sights of the region's economic progress can lead to an economic crisis that is "waiting to happen" in the Gulf region, Yap added during the forum on labor migration

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0.7-million Pinoys in US belong to housing rescue plan tier

QUEZON CITY, Philippines—MORE than 0.7 million Filipinos belong to the tier that the United States government plans to rescue from a housing crisis, recent US census data bare.

The 2007 American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau cited that 45.6 percent of an estimated 1.7 million Philippine-born US residents cite 30 percent or more of their monthly income goes to cost of ownership of a house, or mortgage.

The US Census Bureau said the ACS provides the latest detailed look at the nation's rapidly changing and diverse population with the release of new population profiles by race, Hispanic origin, ancestry and age. These profiles were produced using the 2000 decennial census. The Census Bureau said it uses the term foreign-born to refer to anyone who is not a US citizen at birth.

"This includes naturalized US citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees), and persons illegally present in the US," the Census Bureau said.

It added however that questions "about legal (migrant) status of respondents in any of its survey and census programs" are not asked.

"We expect that unauthorized migrants were included among

people who indicated that the United States was their usual place of residence on the survey date."

For Philippine-born US residents, the median selected monthly owner costs with a mortgage was pegged at \$2,344. This is higher by nearly a thousand to the median \$1,464 for the estimated total 301 million people in the US.

The median selected monthly owner costs without a mortgage for Philippine-born US residents included in the ACS was also higher at \$475 from the US-wide median of \$407.

The ACS report cited the Philippines community as the third-highest number of foreign-born living in the US in 2007.

Of the total estimated 38.1 million foreign-born living in the US, 11.7 million are from Mexico while 1.9 million from China. India-born people living in the US is the fourth largest at 1.5 million.

Based on the ACS, some 405,017 Philippines-born residents of the US own their own houses, of the total

587,052 housing units recorded for this population segment.

In his speech February at Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona, President Barack Obama announced a Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan that aims to require participating lenders to reduce mortgage payments "to no more than 31 percent of a borrower's income."

"This will enable as many as three to four million homeowners to modify the terms of their mortgages to avoid foreclosure," President Obama said (see http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-the-mortgage-crisis/).

While the ACS didn't reveal if Filipinos shelling out more than 30 percent of their income to mortgage are facing foreclosure, its data reveal nearly three-quarters of a million of Filipinos are paying above their earning.

Still, anecdotal data of Filipinos smack in the center of the housing crisis

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Mayor says irisan dumpsite activity in order

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. Thursday maintained that the activities the city is undertaking at the Irisan dumpsite are all in order and are not violating any law.

In his Ugnayan ng Panlungsod press briefing last Thursday, the mayor upheld that the dumping of residual wastes at the trash site is part of the rehabilitation project to

complete the closure and development of the area and not just a thoughtless move to reopen the dumpsite in the absence of a facility after the cessation of the hauling operation at Capas, Tarlac early this month.

The mayor's statement was in reaction to the move of Irisan and Asin barangay residents to petition the court to stop the city from dumping the wastes at the facility. The

residents sought the issuance of a temporary restraining order to stop the city from further dumping and when this was denied by the court, are now seeking the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction.

The mayor assured that the city has been exercising caution in dealing with the trash to safeguard the health and lives of the residents in

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Job well done by the HPG-COR

Upon orders from P/SR. Supt. Romeo Cachola Ver a team led by P/Supt. Roland P. Aloo was dispatched to conduct intensified Anti-Carnapping, Anti-hijacking and Anti-highway robbery operations along the thoroughfare of Baguio City and La Trinidad Benguet. On or about 4:30 pm of April 9, 2009 the team spotted a motor vehicle Mitsubishi Pajero bearing plate number RJP 111 which was

parked and obstructing the road along the Rotonda of Baguio General Hospital, Baguio City, driven by Samuel A Fernandez of JD 202 Bayabas Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet yet.

The team approached the driver in a courteous manner and introduced themselves as members of the Highway

Patrol Group Cordillera and requested the OR/CR of the said MV for verification and at the same time conducted physical inspection. At this juncture the team noticed that the model does not match with the body of the motor vehicle, wherein the certificate of regis-

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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.

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Embedding Perversion

"The nail that sticks out gets hammered," says the old Pilipino proverb. And so it came to pass that thieves now try to pound whistleblower Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada flat.

Ex-environment Secretary Mike Defensor is a 24-hour-seven-day Malacanang vassal. He tried, but failed, to get Lozada to skip Senate hearings on the ZTE broadband scam. That \$132 million, project bloated into a \$329 million fraud, after the President teed off with ZTE officials.

Cost overruns (bukols) padded the cost, Lozada told Senate probers. The First Gentleman and allies, like ex-elections commissioner Benjamin Abalos, warned Lozada to scam.

"Shanghaied" by government agents, Lozada has, since then been fired and harassed. Now, he's sued by Defensor, who earlier slobbered on TV: he bled for Lozada's welfare. La Salle

EDITORIAL

Arroyo regime figures lobbed the kitchen sink at Lozada: from dishonesty, theft and, if Defensor is right, perjury. He got a Manila judge to reverse earlier dismissal of the same perjury charges. The judge ordered Lozada's arrest.

"Face the music" chortled Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. "This arrest order is a brazen abuse of power by this administration", countered, the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines.

"Lozada's fault was he had "courage to tell people the truth about state sponsored corrupt practices," AMRSP said. "We deplore use of courts and law enforcement agencies in continuing harassment." The arrest warns other potential whistleblowers "shut up or else."

Of course, it's a threat. But who does the threatening? "The voice is that of Jacob," the blind Isaac said. "But the hands are those of Esau." The track record can be instructive.

Acsa Ramirez warned the Land Bank Binangonan branch about "suspicious payments" :over the 4 million peso threshold. There was also a dubious P26 billion transaction. NBI agents shoved her instead into a police lineup "for money laundering" as photo op for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The President never apologized.

The Supreme Court thrashed Commission on Elections for paying P1.3-billion, for 1,991 flawed computers. Mega-Pacific Consortiu, an 11-day-old firm, never paid back a centavo, as ordered by the Court. Instead, it sued computer expert Augusto Lagman for libel.

Udong Mahusay worked in the First Gentleman's office. He recanted all allegations on big scale corruption. "There were summary execution threats," notes the study by Dr Gabriella Quimson on Philippine whistleblowers. "To save his life and family" his retraction stated he was "just being vindictive".

Double-Agent Mary "Rose Bud" Ong linked Senator Panfilo Lacson to the Hong Kong drug triads". Narcotics Command chief Reynaldo Acop dabbled in to illegal drugs. PNP generals dipped into jueteng, money laundering and wiretapping, etc.

Bodyguards have been withdrawn from the jobless Rose Bud. Her live-in partner John Campos was shot in the back. She is "totally isolated" notes the same Quimson study.

Public Estates Authority's Sulpicio Tagud denounced "unsanctioned P600-million price escalations" for the "President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard". Ms Arroyo offered this as "gift to the people".

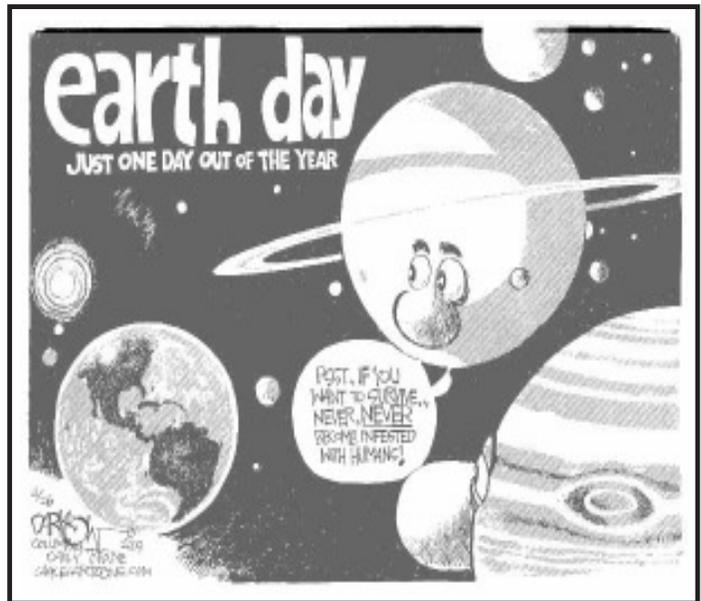
Tagud received death threats. Philippine Anti-Graft Commission concluded that prima facie evidence for corruption existed" But nobody has been jailed.

Yet, the good that denouncers do is patent.

Banker Clarissa Ocampo, for example, candidly testified that President Joseph Estrada signed as the notorious "Jose Velarde." Emma Lim told the Erap impeachment that jueteng kickbacks were shunted to "Jingle Bells". Antonio Calipjo Go documented flawed

Brothers gave Lozada and family refuge from such "friends".

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DIRETSAHAN

Coun. Elaine Sembrano-saludo ako sayo!!!

PNP-CD Franco-Hoy Gising!!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Ipinagdiwang ang selebrasyon ng Earth Day noong Abril 22 na nagpaalala rin na hindi dapat ipagwalang bahala ang tuwirang pang-aabuso sa ating kalikasan. Marami sa mga dumalo ay umuwi na basang basa sa ulan at namumula ang mukha sa pagkabilad sa araw, ibig sabihin, "Abnoy" ang klima o panahon natin dahil sa climate change, at katulad sa pulitika, nagiging abnoy din ang pamamalakad sa gobyerno dahil sa mga abnoy na politikong kumakapit sa istayl ng sinumang administrasyon na nakaupo sa trono.

Gaya nga ng sabi ni erap na "weder weder lang iyan", siguro naman ay nararapat lamang na gud weder ang ipagkaloob ng mga nakaupo sa atin at hindi bad weder, oki lang ang climate change, basta't nakakabuti, ika nga, "we deserve a good and better political climate change"!

oOo

Iginiit ni DILG tsip Ronaldo Puno na walang ransom sa paglaya ng binihag na si Notter! Ayon sa kanya, nakatakas daw si Notter mula sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf dahil sa kalituhan ng huli ng magkaroon ng opensiba ang military. Ang hirap paniwalaan ang kuwentong ito mga suki dahil ayon mismo kay Notter ay hindi niya alam kung paano siya nakalaya.

Sa ngayon, me naglalabasang balita na nasa ibang grupo ang natitirang bihag na si "Vagni" habang puspusan naman ang pag-atake ng militar at pulisya sa mga bandido. Paano kung sa isinasagawang opensiba ng military ay nag"Vanish" si Vagni, ano naman kaya ang lalabas na kuwento? Abangan nalang natin ang susunod ... na mangyayari at mga ... kuwentong barbero!

oOo

Ipinasa naman sa NBI ang imbestigasyon sa nangyaring pagkabaril ni Ginang Trinidad Etong, asawa ng popular na brodkaster/journalist na si Ted Failon. Ano kaya ang masasabi dito ni DOJ big boss Raul Gonzales? Ander kasi ng kanyang departamento ang NBI at harinawa na hindi sya makialam dito. kelangan kasi dito ang "Speedy Investigation" at hindi "Speedy Gonzales"

Samantala naisumite na ni Ted Failon at mga kasamahang akusado ang kanilang mga counter affidavit sa piskalya hinggil sa kasong "Obstruction of Justice" na ipinila ng pulisya sa kanila , at habang dinidinig ang kasong ito at ang kaugnay na imbestigasyon sa pagkamatay ni misis Etong, ay sinuspinde naman ang mga pulis na inakusahang nagmalabis sa kanilang tungkulin, pero marami ang hindi nakuntento, na ayon ay dapat daw na maparusahan at maalís na sa serbisyo ang mga pulis na sapilitang nang-aresto umano sa mga kaanak at

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Misery of Filipino labor

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



This week we will commemorate May 1st or international Labor Day.

The celebration of May 1st as international Labor Day has a militant history. It started as an agitation in the 19th century to reduce a working day from 16 to 8 hours a day beginning 1 May 1889. To demonstrate resolve, labor held a rally on 1 May 1889 in Chicago Hay Market Square lasting for several days. This eventually led to attacks on labor on May 4. To perpetuate both the struggle for an 8-hour working day and the resolve of workers, international labor issued a call to commemorate 1 May as international Labor Day.

What is the situation of our Filipino workers today? Government data says that the daily cost of living is P894. Yet, the minimum wage is only P382 in the National Capital Region, indicating that the minimum wage is only 42.7 percent of the living wage. Militant labor has long demanded the Arroyo government to legislate a P125 across-the-board wage hike. Since President Arroyo's assumption to power, government has only granted a total of P62 wage increase plus increases in cost-of-living-allowances (COLA), including the P15 and P5 increase last 14 June 2008. The wage increases government granted do not basically affect the difference between the minimum wage and the cost of living of P512.

Philippine unemployment deteriorated from 9.58 percent in 1996-2000 to 11.4 percent in 2001-2005. Worst, the current global crisis is expected to worsen the unemployment rate. After redefining "unemployment" starting April 2005 to exclude own-account, domestic household, and unpaid family workers, the Arroyo government was able to "reduce" unemployment by 1.8 million. The current unemployment figure of 2.9 million was computed using the new definition. Underemployment, on the other hand, is at 6.6 million. An outsourced labor supplying industry has been moderating the impact of the failure of our economy to produce employment. Latest available data indicate that the industry account for 2.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2005 and employ around 163,000 workers, 70 percent of which in call centers.

Those that fail to find employment locally, seek employment abroad. Documented overseas Filipino labor has reached 8.7 million: 5 million of which are contract workers while 3.7 million are immigrants. Their remittances have been helping keeping the country afloat at \$17 billion or around 10% of our gross national product. There is likelihood, however, that the remittances have been at great social costs and psychological costs to families and children left behind by our overseas workers.

Job security has been bad. Contractualization rather than giving permanent or regular employment to labor is now the trend. According to Ecumenical Institute for Labor and Research (EILER), 7 out of 10 firms in the country practice contractualization. According to EILER, some of the those practicing contractualization are the biggest companies: Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's San Miguel Corporation (SMC) conglomerate (1,100 regulars out of its 26,000 total workforce); Henry Sy's SM Shoemart (1,300 regulars out of 20,000); and Manny Pangilinan's Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (4,100 out of 10,000). EILER also notes that there are laws that constrain or prohibit the formation and actions of workers' organizations. According to EILER, foremost of which are those that allow "qualified" contractualization like Articles 106-109 of the Labor Code, the Herrera Law and the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) D.O. 18-02; mandatory 30-day notice in the filing of strikes; the Marcos-era strike provision that allows ingress and egress of company goods and scabs; and the indiscriminate issuance of Assumption of Jurisdiction (AJ) orders by the DOLE even in non-strategic or non-vital industries.

It is unfortunate that this May 1st, life for Philippine labor continues to be miserable. However, as in the historic reduction of the workers' working day from 16 to 8 hours, Philippine labor would eventually overcome their miserable life.

(The author maintains a website at www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren and can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, Facebook, and 0927-536-8431)

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BATAS Party List asks for prayers!

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



BATAS ASKS FOR PRAYERS FROM ALL WHO BELIEVE IN GOD: I am asking all Filipinos who believe that we should do something to bring back our people to the genuine fear and love of God, through a consistent reading of the Bible and using the Word as a basis for our daily lives, to pray for the BATAS Party List.

BATAS (or the Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtayod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan, the party list I founded and which participated in the May 2007 elections) will still have to hurdle the disqualification ruling that the Commission on Elections issued against it, on the ground that it is a front for a religious organization.

BATAS has already filed a motion for reconsideration of that disqualification order by the poll body, saying that it has already removed its first nominee who is the second-in-command of a religious organization.

Chairman Jose Melo of the Comelec is saying that that disqualification order has to be resolved first, if the BATAS Party List is to be allowed to take the two seats that the Supreme Court allocated to it in the decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

At this point, the only thing that can sway things in favor of BATAS, as it were, would be sincere and earnest prayers to God, the Lord Almighty, that He would show His glory in this case to enable BATAS to fulfill its declared advocacy, and so I am enjoining everyone to pray for the party.

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TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO BE SPIRITUAL BY READING THE BIBLE AND THE OTHER HOLY BOOKS: What is BATAS' declared advocacy? The enactment of the "Education Code of 2009" which will include, as its principal highlight, the teaching of spirituality to all kinder, preparatory, elementary, high school and college students, through a constant reading of the Bible among Christians, of the Koran among Muslims, and of the books of faith of other religions.

The objective is to make our people, whatever their religions or spiritual leanings maybe, more God-centered, obeying His commands, laws and decrees in whatever we think, say and do.

BATAS is of the belief that the Philippines and all of us Filipinos are greatly suffering and experiencing hardships, difficulties and failures in everything we do, because we have not been following God's commands, laws and decrees, believing purely in ourselves.

Many of us are now of the belief that God will forgive and continue to love us, even if we continue to wallow in sin, and ignore Him. This is certainly fallacious and dangerous, as we are now witnessing, for we are all bearing the brunt of our hard-headedness on matters of faith.

The only remedy that can save our country and our people from the impending destruction that God promised to rain down on us if we persist in having a faith that is skin-deep, or is a mere lip-service, a faith that is not manifested by what we think, say and do, is to go back to Him.

BATAS believes that the only way to go back to God, and therefore stop all our sufferings as a people, is to know His commands and decrees by reading the Bible consistently, and then using His Word as the basis of our thoughts, words and action.

That is what BATAS wants to do, and do earnestly while there is time, while total destruction is not yet upon us.

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**OTHER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF BATAS: Of
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Mayor says irisan**..... from page 3**

the area.

The mayor said the residual wastes are indeed being used to fill up recessed or open spaces in the dumpsite with the construction of the perimeter fence around the area.

"I think leaving the piles of garbage uncollected poses more danger to our city," the mayor said.

The mayor also lauded the city council for approving a string of measures for the waste management program of the city during their sessions held from April 20-21 in Clark, Pampanga.

The measures are:

*To urge the City Environment Management Office to continuously collect the wastes as long as these are segregated;

*To authorize the CEMO to hire emergency workers to do the segregation;

*Support the immediate approval of the agreement between the city and the Department of Agriculture to bring the city's biodegradable wastes at the Baguio Dairy Farm for a P300 per ton tipping fee. The body also authorized the city mayor to enter into the agreement and to pay the necessary fees subject to availability of funds;

*For the city to send a representative to negotiate with San Fernando City for the hauling of a limited amount of wastes in its facility;

*For the CEMO to identify areas where small-scale composting can be done in coordination with the barangays;

*To request the mayor to prioritize the rehabilitation and operationalization of the common materials recovery facilities in Irisan;

*To urge the concerned department particularly the Bid and Awards Committee to fast-track the bidding for the construction of the MRFs and for the purchase of composting machines;

*To urge barangays to organize into cooperatives for the waste livelihood project;

*Urging the General Services Office to consider the direct acquisition of necessary equipment for the solid waste management program from the DOST;

*For the CEMO to assist the barangay clusters in identifying the sites for MRFs;

*For barangays without cooperatives, the barangay officials are urged to undertake the waste management program; and

*To allocate funds for giving rewards to barangays that comply with segregation policy and those that implement composting. The body also adopted the composting practice of punong barangay Fred Fangonon as one of the alternatives in managing biodegradable wastes./Aileen P. Refuerzo

Job well done**..... from page 3**

tration indicated the model is 1990 which supposedly should be 1998 model as indicated in the reading plate attached on the body near its engine.

The driver of the said MV was invited at HPG COR office for further investigation and referred to the investigation section. During the course of investigation conducted by P03 Julius Comahling, investigator-on-case revealed that, allegedly the said motor vehicle was originally registered in LTO Roxas, Isabela and subsequently the registration was transferred to LTO Tarlac and the plate number RIP 111 is a personalized one issued by the LTO Tarlac which has no authority to issue such plate.

On April 13, 2009, the motor vehicle was subjected for macro-etching exam at the Regional Crime Laboratory and the result is that the engine and chassis numbers were not tampered. Likewise, on the same day, the investigator on case made a letter for verification addressed to the LTO Roxas to confirm or deny whether or not the said motor vehicle has a record at their office.

On April 20, 2009, the HPG -COR office received the results of the verification from LTO Roxas which stated the following (among others) that, as per records of their office, the file number of the said Pajero 0232-0000009279 was officially issued to a Honda motorcycle by their office, registered under the name of Joretina Razon of Victoria Tarlac and that their office has no records regarding the Mitsubishi Pajero. Hence, the registration and the documents of the said MV is spurious and therefore considered that its registration is null and void.

On April 20, 2009, the owner by deed of sale Mr. Fernandez was informed of the findings and directed to surrender the Motor Vehicle for further investigation. Upon arrival, the investigator issued to him a Temporary Impounding Receipt (TIR) and a Technical Inspection Inventory Report (TIIR), as a result the HPG-COR is preparing the appropriate case to be filed in court against the possessor, registered owner and the LTO Tarlac personnel involved in its registration.

Once again what we see here is a case of our very able and alert ANCAR Team -B headed by P/Supt. Aloo together with his men who are all under the leadership and guidance of the HPG-COR headed by Sr./Supt Romeo Cahola Ver. Realistically speaking, if not for the alertness, attention to details and detailed research and verification by the HPG-COR this case of an alleged carnapping incident and related criminal offense(s) could have gone on unabated. /Odell P. Aquino with reports from Orwen Trazo, staff of The Junction Newspaper.

Diretsahan.....**..... from page 4**

kasambahay ng mga Failon. Ano kaya ang masasabi dito ng pamunuan ng PNP? Pwes, mas maganda sigurong hintayin nalang ang resulta sa imbestigasyon ng Commission on Human Rights at ang NAPOLCOM, mahirap na kasing magbigay tayo ngayon ng opinyon at baka matulad tayo kay Ted!!!

oOo

Mabilis pa sa alas-kuwatro ang pag-alis ni Daniel Smith sa Pinas matapos syang i-absuwelto ng korte apela hinggil sa kasong rape,... baka natatakot sya na siya naman ang mareyp ng mga nangagalaiteng mga kabaro at kababayan ni Nicole...

Dapat sa Subic muna sya dumiretso at maghapi-hapi dahil sa kanyang pagka-absuwelto. Sigurado ko marami na naman ang susunod na "Nicole"! he! He! Takot na siguro sya ano?

oOo

Nakakaalarma na ang sunod sunod na insidenteng patayan dito sa Baguio. Ang nakakatakot, tama ng bala sa baril at Granada ang gumulantang na balita kaya marami na naman ang nababahala lalo na ang ating madlang pipol na ang hangad ay maging mapayapa at tahimik ang lungsod.

Marahil ay isa itong hamon kay BCPO tsip Superintendent Wilfredo Franco, na dapat nilang paigtingin ang kanilang "Police Visibility" at operation kapkap lalo na sa dis-oras ng gabi at ipagbawal din nya sa kanyang mga tauhan ang matulog habang naka-duty lalo na sa madaling araw para madali lang silang makaresponde sa anumang kaguluhan, at syempre pa, para maiwasan ang antok, bawal uminom ng alak o beer, kape o sopdrink na lang puwede! Ano sey mo hepe?!!

oOo

Nagkaroon ng market summit sa Convention Center noong Abril 25 at ginanap ito mula alas otso ng umaga hanggang alas singko ng hapon. Dinaluhan ito ng iba't ibang sektor na gusto lang magmalasakit sa palengke ng Baguio. Inorganisa ito ni konsehala Elaine Sembrano, Committee Chair Person ng Market and Trade sa Council para malaman lahat ang problema sa palengke at kung paano ito mapaunlad at maging maayos. Malaking bagay ito para sa mga taga-palengke at sa mga namamalengke.

Sana ay magtuloy tuloy ito at hindi ningas kugon o pampapogi points lang at hindi maparis sa anti-gambling summit "kuno" noon na hanggang doon lang pero wala naman yatang nangyari! At may tiwala ako kay konsehala Sembrado na hindi nya ito gagayahin diba apo konsehala? Teka, ano na pala ang nangyari sa summit ng waste disposal? Baka naman hindi summit kundi nasabit?

Eniwey, saludo ako kay counselor Elaine Sembrano sa pagkakaroon ng market summit na ito at kung ipagpapatuloy nya at maging matagumpay ito, baka pati paa ko sasaludo sa kanya, period!

Gov't economist.....**..... from page 2**

statistics.

An International Labor Organization estimate supports Yap's view.

According to its *2009 Global Employment Trends Report*, the ILO estimates the Middle East's gross domestic product growth rate will go down to 5.1 percent this year from an estimated six percent GDP growth last year.

The report also estimates the Middle East, composed of 16 countries, posted the second highest unemployment rate among the world's regions with 9.4 percent last year.

Yap opines that not even the region's petro-dollars can avert a looming economic crisis in the Middle East, especially with world oil prices reversing its last year's upward jolt.

In a statement last February, the International Monetary Fund said the Gulf Cooperation Council nations and oil exporting countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) region will post growth at 3.6 percent this year, down from 5.6 percent in the previous year.

"For the oil exporters, the decline in oil prices and Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production cuts are projected to reduce oil export receipts by almost 50 percent in 2009. This implies a loss of government revenue to the tune of US\$300 billion compared to 2008," the statement quoted director Masood Ahmed as saying.

MENAP oil-exporters include Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

These numbers spell bad news to an estimated two million Filipinos working in the Middle East and their families relying on their monthly cash remittance.

Hold up

RECENT data, however, from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippines's central bank, gives a pound of hope that the Middle East countries are still holding up against the weight of a global financial collapse that forced advanced economies to declare recession in their respective economies.

Cumulative remittance last year from OFWs in 16 Middle East countries posted a 15.2-percent growth to US\$2.5 billion, or \$3.3-billion higher than the previous year's remittance of \$1.4 billion.

Land-based Filipino workers there sent \$2.4 billion from January to December, according to the BSP data, while sea-based workers sent home nearly \$20 million in the same period last year.

Remittances from the UAE, specifically, also posted a double-digit growth rate to \$621 million or \$91-million more than what was recorded Filipinos sent back to the Philippines in 2007.

Only Qatar and Kuwait posted declines in remittances -Kuwait-based workers sent home 25-percent less to \$125 million while Qatar-based workers sent 7.5-percent less than the \$133 million in 2007.

Government estimates there are 139,803 Filipino workers in Kuwait while 195,558 are in Qatar.

Remittance rates posted declines in six of 11 months last year, the biggest recorded in April (-23 percent) when world oil prices spiked nearly \$100 a barrel. Dubai crude, for one, hit \$95.08 in April 2, 2008 (see <http://www.petrone.com/pops/pricewatch.asp?cat=Crude&yir=2008>)

The second-lowest month-on-month drop was recorded in October at nearly 18 percent, when world oil prices began tapering down up to \$56.42.

Notably, the February 2009 cumulative year-on-year remittance level of 2.5 percent was the lowest in six years since 2003. The second-lowest was in February 2004, when the level was at 5.6 percent.

This means that while remittances from an estimated eight million Filipinos in 190 countries was bigger at \$2.6 billion in February this year, it was just an inch above the \$2.2 billion posted in the same month last year.

Of the eight countries that the BSP cited in its statement as major sources of remittances for the first two months of the year, two are in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Last year, full-year remittances from Saudi Arabia posted a growth rate of 21.5 percent to nearly \$1.4 billion, the largest among the 16 countries.

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. was quoted in the statement as saying remittances "have been holding up as deployment of overseas Filipino workers has risen during the first two months of the year while the increase in the number of reported layoffs has slowed down."

Mixed, up

SOME industry players offer mixed views on the impact of an impending slowdown in Middle East economies to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the region.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) reported that some 1,376,823 land- and sea-based overseas workers were deployed in 2008, but no figures per region of destination are available.

Last year, however, the country deployed lesser numbers of new-hire overseas workers to the Middle East with 203,572 (lower by 4.9 percent to the 214,360 deployed new hires in 2006), according to POEA data.

On a per-country basis, comparing 2006 and 2007 figures of deployed new hires, deployment grew in Middle East destination countries such as Saudi Arabia (by 6,892 new hires), the United Arab Emirates (5,395 new hires), and Qatar (1,742 new hires).

Meanwhile, new-hire deployment dropped in Kuwait by 12,192 workers.

Still, recruiters look at the Middle East labor market as rosy for Filipino workers.

Health workers remain needed in Saudi Arabia, said president Victor Fernandez of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI), even as he thinks construction projects in the Middle East "may be delayed".

"The supply of construction workers to the Middle East can be a problem during these times," Fernandez said during the

same forum where Yap spoke.

For his part, former overseas worker Loreto Soriano, president of LBS e-Recruitment Solutions, still believed in the market potentials of the Middle East. The region "needed thousands of construction workers," says Soriano, citing data from the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters where he is president.

Soriano points out there is a need for increased deployment of workers in Libya "due to its growing economy," again based on his group's data.

But while most of the 5,036 displaced overseas Filipino workers (as of January) come mostly from Taiwan's electronics sector, 298 OFWs from the UAE got displaced.

As of January 28 also, the departure of some 85 UAE-bound workers who are scheduled to begin their work in the country's services and electronics sectors "has been put on hold," POEA's running data on the global economic crisis show.

Taiwan and the UAE are the top two sources of displaced OFWs in recent months, based on government data.

The ILO projects that if the unemployment rates in the developed economies and in the European Union rise because of the global crisis, the Middle East's unemployment rate may reach 11 percent—affecting eight million workers (including foreigners)./

OFW Journalism Consortium/ by **JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO** and **ISAGANIDE LAPAZ**

Editorial**..... from page 4**

textbooks. This compelled the Education Department to take corrective measures.

"In this country, those who horsewhip money changers out of the temple often end up excoriated," Sun Star editorially noted. "The ultimate perversion is to beatify the crooks and crucify the whistleblowers".

The absence of a legal framework makes the personal cost of whistle blowing very high. Dr Romulo Miral wrote in an Asian Institute of Management study. "It can sometimes be a matter of life and death." The 50 AIM survey respondents agreed that whistleblowers are in "short supply."

There's no shortage of ideas on how to craft safeguards for whistleblowers. The glitch is those who can adopt reforms are often the very people who need denouncing. A culture of impunity buttresses their inaction. Thieves are not ostracized in this country. Their cash, in fact, buys them first places at table.

The Arroyo administration did not invent the system that "beatifies the crooks and crucifies the whistleblowers". But it's massive corruption has embedded this perverted system in depths the Marcos kleptocracy never plumbed.

"Every failure to recover proceeds of corruption feeds its growth," warned, 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Durham, South Africa. "Governments must create an environment that encourages, instead of penalizes, citizens who denounce venality."

The crackdown on Lozada shows that the Durham statement falls on deaf ears here. Jerusalem also stoned it's prophets./J.L.Mercado

Overseas Filipino....

.... from page 1

from Taiwan-based lending agencies eCash and Paylite Financing.

Caytiles said they were focused on working and earning they didn't think the Kaohsiung, Taiwan LCD manufacturer would get hit by the economic catatonia seeping from the United States.

And if it did, he said they didn't expect the time between working in Taiwan and getting laid-off would be that fast.

"You left the country riddled with debt, and then you came back home still saddled with debt—causing an even bigger problem," said Caytiles, a single parent (his wife left him and his daughter some years ago).

Caytiles's fate marks the lives of millions of OFWs in labor-importing countries whose real sectors are getting hit by the collapse of the global financial system that began in the US housing sector.

So says economists like former budget secretary Benjamin Diokno.

Diokno has become a prophet of doom since the start of the year, noting that May would be the month countries in Asia like the Philippines would feel the impact of the financial crisis that has coursed through the so-called "transmission channels."

One of these channels, credit lines, has plugged lending to the electronics export industry, a flagship for most Asian economies like the Philippines.

Grim reaper

IN HIS presentation to journalists last March, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI) president Ernesto B. Santiago presented a grim outlook on worldwide industrial production as traditional lending windows shutter.

Santiago ticked off global companies announcing they were affected by the downturn in consumer electronics downturn: Sony (to shed 8,000 jobs); Philips (6,000); NEC (20,000); Panasonic (15,000); Pioneer (10,000); IBM (2,800); TDK (8,000); Nokia (2,500); Motorola (13,000); Sprint Nextel (8,000); and AT&T (12,000).

Closer to home, the closure of Intel Corp.'s Cavite manufacturing by May would see thousands of Filipinos losing a steady source of income.

"Countries that are heavily dependent on electronics have been the worst affected (notably the NIEs, Philippines, and Malaysia, but also China), followed by commodity exporters (notably Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, PNG and Vietnam), exporters of capital equipment (all NIEs) and the garment manufacturers," a recent World Bank report said.

"There will be higher unemployment abroad and here at home," Diokno said, "and this means less jobs, less jobs, and less jobs."

Caytiles said he was imagining kicking himself in the back while listening to Diokno.

"I think before workers should go overseas, they should know the situation that is happening—or if their employer is still

steady," Caytiles's colleague Elwood Yambao said.

The father of two based in Olongapo City, which hosted an American air base a century ago, said that knowledge he could've gotten by reading newspapers.

But the overseas labor market is tough enough, and when potential OFWs like Yambao do access news sources, it's for securing work.

That is still in their minds right now, according to Yambao, because they are hounded by their lenders of their debts amounting to between P60,000 (US\$1,250) and P80,000 (\$1,667) each.

He said they filed a case against their agency to at least get back the placement fees they paid for work contracts in Taiwan.

Under Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) regulations, OFWs who did not finish their contracts can file for some claims to their recruitment agencies. Manila-based recruitment agency Grand Placement and General Services Corp. brokered Yambao and his five co-workers for the Taiwan jobs.

We haven't paid yet the Taiwanese lender since we're still jobless, Yambao said in a short message via mobile phone.

In the meantime, Yambao said they feel immobile.

We went to Manila to check out that recruiter claiming he's not requiring payment of placement fees, he added.

Other than that, he said they're staying put in their respective homes in the provinces.

Caytiles, for one, has gone back to his farm in Sibalom, Antique, southern Philippines.

Slo-mo

IF The Ramones band was known for its blitzkrieg hit songs, Caytiles notes government support to displaced OFWs like him is like a slow-motion dance.

Deputy administrator Hans Leo Cacdac of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said Caytiles's and Yambao's cases require having these "heard through conciliation proceedings" so that some placement fees can be recovered.

Another government employee said displaced workers like Caytiles and Yambao can apply for public training grants on entrepreneurship and livelihood loans for small businesses.

It is a package totaling 60,000 pesos (\$1,250 at US\$1=P48), explains Teresita Manzala of the DOLE's National Reintegration Center for OFWs.

"We need to repay our debt quickly," Yambao said adding that meeting the documentary requirements of OWWA only "means additional expenses for us."

The labor department's Bureau of Local Employment said it is trying to find companies that may have vacancies in the domestic market.

Government's Technical Educa-

tion and Skills Development Authority, on the other hand, said it will train displaced local and overseas workers on identified lines of businesses, as well as retraining workers on certain skills.

The labor department's online job search websites, meanwhile, reports 753,719 overseas job orders needing to be filled while local job openings run to 46,300 as of end-January this year.

Looking at the end-October 2008 data of the quarterly Labor Force Survey, the Philippines generated some 861,000 local jobs last year; the government deployed 1,376,823 newly-hired and re-hired overseas workers in 2008.

Amid the global economic crisis, the Philippines had a record-low 6.8 percent unemployment rate in 2008, as well as a record-high 34.533 million employed Filipino workers that same year

Since 2005, the government's statisticians included overseas Filipino workers as among the "employed" in the Philippine labor force as mandated by the International Labor Organization. But since that time, the number of local jobs generated cannot outpace annually-rising overseas employment numbers (see Table 1).

In a presentation to business journalists last March, Labor Undersecretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz said of the total 6,406 displaced workers as of March 12, 2009, 4,197 reported Taiwan as host country while 1,357 came from the United Arab Emirates.

However, reports of local workers retrenched daily have gone down by 40 from 437 during the first week of March to only 397 as of March 16, 2009.

From October last year to March 16, 2009, Baldoz said a total of 109,529 workers were affected by the global economic crunch. Nearly 11 percent of this number or 11,574 workers were permanently displaced (10.6%) while 38,806 reported to be temporarily laid-off (35.4%). A greater number or 59,149 were reported to be in flexible work arrangements.

The World Bank paints grim pictures in its latest update on the effects of the global slowdown.

"As unemployment in the region and around the world begins to climb, migrant workers, wherever they are, are likely to be among the first to lose their jobs," the report titled *Battling the forces of global recession* said.

"This will mean lower remittance flows to the poorest countries in the region and, if the migrants return home, a worsening unemployment in those countries as well as further downward pressure on real wages, especially in the informal sector that would directly affect the poor," added the report, released early April.

Cont. on page 9

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF
La Trinidad, Benguet

OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDERACT 3155, AS AMENDED
X-----X
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S PUBLIC AUCTION SALE,

SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE PESOS AND 82/100 (P7,193,925.82), Philippine Currency, excluding penalties, liquidated damages, interest, attorney's fee, Sheriff's fee and other expenses relative to the foreclosure and sale, the undersigned sheriff or its duly authorized Deputy will SELL at public auction on May 5, 2009 At 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the main entrance of the Benguet Provincial Capitol building, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder, for CASH, and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all its existing improvements Thereon, to wit;
TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-

48819
Registry of Deeds, Province of Benguet
"A parcel of land (Lot A-2-B-2-A-2-B-1-B, Psd-131110-006009 being a portion of lot A-2-B-2-A-2-B-1, Psd 131110-005403 is situated at Barangay Betag, Municipality of La Trinidad, Prov. of Benguet, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the SE, along line 1-2 by Lot A-2-B-2-A-2-B-1-1, of subd. Plan; on the SW, along line 2-3 by Lot A-2-B-2-A-2-B-2, Psd 131110-005403; on the NW)" along line 3-4 by Existing Road 6.00 m. wide; on the NE., along line 4-1 by Baguio-Bontoc National Road 20.00 m. wide. xxx containing an area of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN (337) SQUARE METERS, more or less."
This notice of sale will be published at the JUNCTION, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the City

of Baguio and in the province of Benguet and suburbs, once a week for three (3) consecutive Sundays, the first publication to take place at least twenty (20) days before the date of auction sale. Likewise three (3) copies of the same will be posted in the Barangay Hall of Betag, municipal bulletin board and public Market. All in the municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet and also at the Benguet Provincial capitol building, La Trinidad Benguet, where the auction sale shall take place.
All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.
Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the Title of the subject property of any encumbrance/s thereon, if there be any.

La Trinidad, Benguet Province, Philippines, this 8th day of April 2009.

FOR THE CLECK OF COURT VI AND EX-OFFICIO PROVINCIAL SHERIFF OF BENGUET

By: EDUARDO C. CATANES Sheriff IV TIN 129-981-886

Dates of publication April 11, 18 and 25, 2009

Copy furnished

- Mr. Dennis L Sy, residing at No. 50 Bonifacio Street Baguio City;
- Spouses Gregorio T. Abalos, Jr. and Delia Lalwet-Abalos and Cesar T. Abalos, ID-39, Betag, La Trinidad, Benguet;
- File

DENNIS L. SY, Mortgagee,

- versus -

CESAR T. ABALOS and SPOUSES GREGORIO T. ABALOS JR, and DELIA LALWET-ABALOS, Mortgagors,

CASE No. 09-ExF-1344 for:

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 59 BAGUIO CITY (ADDITIONAL FAMILY COURT OF BAGUIO CITY)

ZOE KEITH MAGNO, SPS VINCENT S CARINO SPL PROC. CASE NO. 325-A & YOLANDA R. CARINO, Petitioners,
- versus -
THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF

LAOAG, ILOCOS NORTE, Respondent x-----x

ORDER

The petitioners-spouses Vincent S Carino and Yolanda R, Carino filed verified amended petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing the minor Zoe Keith Magno be freed from al legal

obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her natural mother Irene Keithruth Magno and that she be declared for all legal intents and purposes, the child of the petitioners.
Finding the amended petition to be sufficient in fog and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court Branch 59, Baguio City on August 26, 2009 at 10.30 o'clock in the

morning at which place, date and time. The petitioners shall prove their case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be, why the petition should not be granted.
Let a copy of this order be published at the expense of the petitioners in The Junction Newspaper a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and in Benguet Province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks
The petitioners are directed to make an appointment with the Court Social

Worker for the purpose of conducting the required case study on the minor Zoe Keith Magno. The Court Social Worker is required to submit to the court the case study not late August 24, 2009.

SO ORDERED

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 13th day of April, 2009 at Baguio City Philippines.

By: (SGD) ILUMINADA P. CABATO JUDGE April 25 & May 2 - 9, 2009

Overseas Filipino....

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OFW Journalism Consortium/ by JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO and ISAGANI DE LA PAZ
Table 1: Local jobs generated and overseas workers deployed

Year	Domestic employment data (all in 000) Based on end-October figures of the Labor Force Survey				Overseas employment data (in 000)			
	Difference between local jobs generated and deployed overseas workers per year							
	Employment generated (employed in given minus employed in previous year)		Unemployment Deployed overseas workers (in 000)		Underemployment Rate inc/dec (%)		Local jobs	
Rate	Employed (in 000)	Rate	Unemployed (in 000)	Rate	Underemployed (in 000)			
2005	32,876	92.6	2,620	7.4	6,970			
21.2	—	981	—	—	—			
2006	33,185	92.7	2,621	7.3	6,761	0.753 million		
2007	33,671	93.7	2,248	7.4	6,104	1,077		14.16
					0.641 million			
2008	861,000		34,533	93.2	2,525	6.8		6,028
			1,376	27.76		0.515 million		17.5

Data sources: Labor Force Surveys (2005 to 2008, all October) and deployment data from the POEA

Mayor approves

..... from page 2

and act on complaints of violations, recommend to the city council and the city mayor the imposition of fines and penalties and will recommend to the city council legislative measures for effective monitoring of development activities of the real estate developers and contractors.

The measure also sets penalties for failure to secure the needed requirements. For the simple subdivisions, fines ranging from P500 to P3,500 were set while for complex subdivisions, the penalties range from P1,500 to P5,000.

The following acts will be the grounds in the imposition of fines:

*failure without just cause to secure, before any development activity, any of the clearances, permits or approval that are required by law or regulation from the city council or the city mayor;

*failure to comply with any or all of the conditions set forth in the clearances and permits;

*failure to complete development or non-provision of the required facilities, non-compliance with the approved development plan or altering plans without the approval of the city council;

*misrepresentation of facts and circumstance relative to the project at the time of application or monitoring; and

*failure to comply or obey orders issued by the city council or the city mayor after monitoring the existence of any violation.

The following will be the procedures:

*Upon receipt of a complaint of information of violation, the monitoring team shall immediately notify the violator and inspection shall be conducted;

*If there is any violation found, the fines and penalties for the first offense will be immediately applied;

*A 90-day period shall be given to the developer/owner/contractor to comply with the all the requirements or cause the needed mitigating measures. The fines and penalties for the second offense shall then be applied for any non-compliance;

*A 60-day complying period shall be set prior to the application of the fines and penalties for the third offense;

*Failure of any developer or owner to secure the necessary permits and clearance or to institute mitigating measures within 30 days after the third offense shall constitute just cause for the cancellation of the locational clearance, development permit and business permit and a recommendation for the revocation of the License to Sell and Certificate of Registration will be made to the Housing Land Use Regulatory Board;

*Violators may seek reconsideration of extension only on instances where the period of implementing mitigating measures is justifiably not enough provided any request for extension shall be exceed 90 days./Felicidad Aquino/PIO intern

Teachers say asia....

..... from page 2

adds there are some instances of repatriation if manpower agencies cannot place these foreign workers.

Dr. Teng affirmed forecasts of analysts that an expected 50,000 foreign workers will lose their jobs this year, especially those in the manufacturing and construction sectors.

An estimated 143,000 highly-skilled foreign workers in Singapore hold employment passes. In addition, an estimated 757,000 semi-skilled foreign workers hold work permits. The latter category include domestic workers.

A recent World Bank report on its outlook for East Asia and the Pacific region affirms Dr. Teng's views.

"As unemployment in the region and around the world begins to climb, migrant workers, wherever they are, are likely to be among the first to lose their jobs," the report titled "Batting the forces of global recession" said.

Report writer Ivailo Izvorski added this "will mean lower remittance flows to the poorest countries in the region and, if the migrants return home, a worsening unemployment in those countries as well as further downward pressure on real wages, especially in the informal sector that would directly affect the poor."

Malaysia

NEAR Singapore is Malaysia, which Dr. Vijayamukari Kanapathy says is also feeling the pinch.

Dr. Kanapathy said migrant workers will be among the 400,000 workers that her country's employers federations forecast to be laid off this year.

The situation is especially glaring for Malaysia's manufacturing sector, whose biggest market is recession-hit United States.

The policy responses of Malaysia's government for migrant workers is that they will be terminated first, that there's freeze hiring of migrant workers, and that the deportation of undocumented migrants will be fast-tracked, Kanapathy said.

A bright spot, Kanapathy adds, is that the crisis may possibly see the government regularizing some of the undocumented workers in Malaysia's informal sector.

But Malaysia is "extremely cautious," she says, in dealing with migrant workers as it has a "soft policy" to encourage these foreign workers to leave Malaysia.

And since migrant workers hold an annual work permit, "it is easy for Malaysian employers to retrench them," Kanapathy said.

As of September 2008, Kanapathy says Malaysia has retrenched an estimated 5,5867 migrant workers—majority of whom were in the manufacturing sector. She said she didn't have the data on which country these workers came from.

Thailand

ANOTHER country is politically-rocked Thailand, which is both a sending and a receiving country of migrants and refugees.

Dr. Supang Chantavanich of the Asian Research Center on Migration based in Chulalongkorn University said she expects an increased hiring of construction workers and

domestic workers amid the crisis.

It is only these two sectors' migrant workers who will not be affected by the crisis "due to increasing needs for them," she added.

Chantavanich said Thailand currently has 76,206 foreign construction workers and 53,933 foreign domestic workers.

It is likely possible, however, that the Thai government will not extend the work permits of some 200,000 documented migrant workers come the year 2010, and that Thai nationals will be hired first.

If foreign workers wish to extend their work permits, "they have to apply through Thai line government agencies," she added.

Korea

THE global economic crisis, for economist Park Young Bum of Hansung University, has further "polarized" the Korean labor market as some 6,707 foreign workers have been retrenched as of December 2008.

These retrenchments are due to the bankruptcy and shutting down of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Korea, Park said.

The Korean government has suspended the issuance of work visas (called the E-9 visa) to foreign workers until the year 2010, with the Korean government having an annual quota of 72,000 issuances of these work visas until February this year.

But don't expect an increase of the E-9 visa quota for the country soon, said Park, due to the "shrinking labor market".

Korea's government will also try to subsidize small and medium enterprises who will replace foreign workers with Korean workers, to the tune of 1.2 million won per newly-hired local worker.

Since November 2008, Korea has also sent back home some 8,000 undocumented migrant workers. Again, no breakdowns by nationality were given.

As of October last year, the estimated undocumented migrant workers in Korea numbered to 219,596, down from 224,965 in January 2008.

Yet Park thinks that the country will likely depend on unskilled foreign labor as a massive repatriation of foreign workers "is not possible".

Familiar

THESE situations affecting foreign workers in East and Southeast Asia are familiar territory for these countries, especially so that the region had experienced the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Thus, Scalabrini Migration Center director Dr. Maruja Asis thinks that repatriation, more border controls, punitive penalties for undocumented migrant workers, and no new or higher levels of employment in host countries will be the same scenes this year as in 1997.

For countries like the Philippines that send out labor to overseas markets, expect increasing documented and undocumented overseas migration, rising numbers of returning migrant workers, and the increasing role of remittances this year as in 1997, Asis said.

Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Korea are among the target destination countries for Filipino migrant workers.

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Teachers say asia....

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Figures of deployed migrant workers in 2007 from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) show that the four countries received 76,565 new-hired and re-hired Filipino workers.

As of January, 74 OFWs who worked in Korea's electronics sector have been re-trenched. There are no reported displaced OFWs from Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia thus far.

In her paper titled "The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Employment," Labor Undersecretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz said a total 6,406 workers were displaced as of March 12, 2009. Some 4,197 came from Taiwan while 1,357 were at the United Arab Emirates.

The 74 Korea-based OFWs are part of the 5,036 displaced OFWs reported by the POEA, said POEA director Liberty Casco during a multi-sector workshop on the global financial crisis that the Department of Labor and Employment convened last January 30.

De La Salle University professor and migration expert Stella Go told participants to a workshop organized by the Scalabrini Migration Center and the International Labor Organization that despite the crisis, international labor migration "hasn't adversely affected" the Philippines, owing to increasing deployment to old and new labor markets, and because of rising remittances.

What worries Go, however, is that the crisis might increase the risks facing OFWs who work in "vulnerable occupations" such as domestic help and construction.

"They might be exposed to wage cuts and less-ideal work conditions," she added. / *OFW Journalism Consortium/* by **JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO** and **ISAGANI DELAPAZ**

0.7 Million pinoy....

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in the US have been reported by news agencies.

On the other hand, many Filipinos were recorded by ACS (53.5 percent or 925,412,544) to have been spending less than 30 percent of their income for cost of owning a house in the past 12 months.

ACS data cited that the median household income in the 12 months up to January this year of Philippine-born US residents at \$78,050, higher than the US-wide \$50,740 household income.

ACS data reveals there are 587,052 households for these residents, with 81.2 percent categorized as family households. The owner-occupied housing units are higher at 69 percent than renter-occupied units for a total 587,052 occupied housing units.

The family median income was listed as \$83,254, again higher than the \$61,173 median family income of a total 75.12 million families in the US.

The per capita income of Philippine-born individuals was estimated at \$34,167 each two years ago.

Things are different now as the crisis that started in the sub-prime mortgage market has

eroded the US financial base.

The World Bank has described this crisis as "the epicenter of the financial turbulence in the US."

There is "now widespread recognition that unless the decline in housing prices and the accompanying quality of credit are arrested, nonperforming loans in US banks could rise to levels last seen during the banking crisis in Sweden in 1991 (13 percent of assets) or Japan during the 1990s (35 percent of assets), with much larger fiscal deficits and government borrowing than anticipated at present."

The WB said the American federal program that "will share with lenders the cost of modifying mortgages for people facing hardship (either delinquent at their payments or at risk of falling behind schedule) by reducing the mortgage payment (to 38 percent of the borrower's income or less) and cut the annual interest rate to as low as 2 percent."

The US is now implementing a \$275-billion rescue package for the housing sector.

Of the total, \$75 billion is provided under the TARP and the rest represents new funds, the World Bank report released April said.

Still, the bank said these "efforts come against a grim background."

"US housing prices have fallen 27 percent from their peak in July 2006, reducing home values and housing wealth by about \$3.5 trillion." / *OFW Journalism Consortium/* by **ISAGANI DELAPAZ**

Guidelines....

execute the plan. from page 12

"The former Diplomat Hotel... is a very valuable piece of property as it is an imposing heritage in the city with a beautiful picturesque building constructed in the early years of the creation of Baguio City in 1915-1916 by the Dominican Missionaries for spiritual and education enlightenment," the aldermen noted.

"The said property has passed through several parties since the 1970's like the Diplomat Hotel owners, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Ministry of Human Settlements and the Presidential Management Staff."

"In 2004, the city of Baguio through Resolution No. 303 series of 2002 initiated by Weygan acquired it" from the national government./Kimberly Camino

Lawmakers to Comelec....

..... from page 12

tional basis for proclaiming the new partylist representatives are clear and unequivocal.

"There is no need for an omnibus law to allow the increase in the number of seats at the House beyond 250. The Constitution is clear on this: the number of seats shall be 250 unless otherwise provided by law," he said.

"The Supreme Court ruling declares that acts of Congress creating legislative districts in effect increases the number of seats in the House of Representatives. Proclamation delayed is democracy denied," he added.

Earlier, Speaker Prospero Nograles

said he would ask the House's legal department to study the ruling after stating that the decision would put the House membership over 250 which he said would violate the Constitution.

On Wednesday, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile formally informed Escudero that he is withdrawing authority of Senate Bill 3123 or "An Act Increasing the Number of Membership in the House of Representatives" citing the Supreme Court ruling.

A similar bill had earlier been filed at the Lower House by Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. and has passed the committee level./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Batas.....

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course, there are other things that BATAS would like to do, once it is allowed, by the grace of God, to take its two seats.

The second priority is the giving of free college education to all, regardless of age and economic station, and even if the student is not intelligent, or is merely an average learner.

The objective here is to allow every Filipino to complete his college education, so that he will have something to use in making his life a little better.

Then, BATAS will also seek the amendment of the senior citizens' law, so that an additional 12 percent discount, on top of the 20 percent now being enjoyed by senior citizens, will be given to the elderly.

We wish to do this in view of the imposition of a 12 percent Value Added Tax on any sales transaction, which effectively reduced the 20 percent senior citizens' discount to only eight percent.

Then, we will scrap the Salary Standardization Law insofar as it is putting a ceiling on the salary ranges that can be given to government employees. We want to allow gifted and academically-prepared employees to be able to negotiate for better wages and benefits.

Of course, there are more, but we will discuss them next time, God willing.

-ooo-

REMINDERS: Please watch Atty. Batas Mauricio give free legal advice at the Internet, through "YouTube", "metacafe" and "iGoogle", and listen to his radio programs: **DZRB RADYO NG BAYAN 738 khz.** in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, at 5:30 in the morning (simulcast worldwide at www.pbs.gov.ph); **DZRM RADYO MAGASIN, 1278 Khz.** also in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, 6:45 in the morning (also simulcast worldwide at www.pbs.gov.ph); **DYKA 801 khz.** in San Jose, Antique (simulcast over www.kinaray-a.com), Mondays to Fridays, at 10 in the morning; and **DYMS Aksiyon Radyo** in Catbalogan City, Samar (simulcast at www.samarnews.com), Mondays to Fridays, at 11 in the morning.

Guidelines on restoration, use of diplomat hotel pushed

BAGUIO CITY-Councilor Galo Weygan and Perlita Chan Rondez proposed guidelines for the "historical conservation, reuse and/or restoration of the former Diplomat Hotel at the top of Dominican Hill barangay here.

In a proposed resolution, the aldermen said that the guidelines are geared towards the development of the site as "an adventure, eco-tourism, cultural, heritage and pilgrimage destination."

As proposed, the Heritage Hill including its building will be re-

stored, rehabilitated and reused as "historical monument or heritage to be preserved for all ages and shall be used as a cultural, historical and pilgrimage area while the forested environs will be used as adventure and eco-tourism destination."

They also proposed the creation of a Heritage Task Force or council to oversee the further development and reuse of the place.

The aldermen noted that the plan for the area's development was made first by the city building and architecture office in 2005 with an estimated cost of

P18,142,500.

The Department of Engineering and Architecture of the University of the Cordilleras also made a study recommending the following:

*The City Council must formulate an ordinance for the historical conservation, restoration and re-use of the remaining cultural Heritage;

*Creation of Conservation Council or group a team that will be tasked to take care our historical heritage;

*To have proper technical guidelines for the implementation of the historical conservation and re-use;

*Conservation, restoration, and or re-use must be performed by qualified people who will

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TIN CAN MAN - Photo journalist Angel Villalarvalo proudly shows off his hat partly made out of used beer aluminum can in support of the call for awareness to save Planet Earth./ By Bong Cayabyab

Lawmaker To Comelec: Don't Dance Cha-Cha With House

Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday scored the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for playing into the hands of Cha-cha proponents by delaying the proclamation of the new partylist representatives as ordered by the Supreme Court.

"The cha-cha proponents could take this opening to railroad their long-planned agenda to extend their stay in power," Escudero said. "The COMELEC decision to delay the proclamation raises questions

about its motives."

He pointed out that some of the new representatives are members of partylist groups which are opposed to changing the constitution before the 2010 elections

Escudero had earlier hailed the SC decision in BANAT vs. Comelec saying that it virtually killed the plot by administration allies to change the constitution through a constitutional assembly since it would increase the number of votes required to pass the pro-

posals.

A day after saying the poll body would abide by the Supreme Court's ruling, COMELEC Chairman Jose Melo said his colleagues would first have to meet with the High Court's technical working group before

acting on the tribunal's decision.

The Supreme Court unanimously rejected the old formula of computing partylist representation in the House which was two percent of the highest

votes cast for a partylist group.

The new formula as penned by the tribunal is 20 percent of the total number of legislative districts which under the present com-

position of the House should be 55 seats.

Escudero, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revisions of Codes and Law, said the legal and constitu-

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