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Jose Burgos, Jr.

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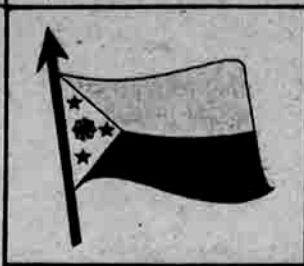
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# We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally  
for peace

VOL. 14 • NO. 51

APRIL 19-25, 1991

IN METRO MANILA

P3.00

## BASES' RENTAL:

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# AFP conflict over seniority, politics



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projects for  
N. Vizcaya  
earthquake  
victims, a  
failure?

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Mga bilyon  
ni Marcos,  
wala nang  
pag-asa

Pahina 13

WITH MANGYANS: President Aquino greets the Mangyan leaders during an interaction with them at the Mamburao Capitol lobby. The President visited San Jose and Mamburao in Occidental Mindoro to underscore the government's commitment to improve the lives of the cultural communities. Also in photo is Occidental Mindoro Governor Pedro Medalla. (Malacanang photo)

# Philvets hospital staff wants share of bases rental

By VIC BARRANCO

THE PHILIPPINE Veterans Memorial Hospital staff launched a move during the weekend to get a yearly share of from \$80 to \$100 million of the annual rental of about \$1.200 billion to be paid by the American government beginning 1992 for the Philippine bases at Clark and Subic Olongapo where the US military facilities have been established.

The PVMH movement was sparked spontaneously by the announcement of President Aquino and Foreign Affairs Secretary Manglapus that the US government will start payment in 1992, presidential election year.

The use of the Philippine bases for US military facilities, as negotiated by the Philippine and American panels will be for 10 years under this new pact but either side will have the option for renegotiation for another treaty, with another time frame depending on new military conditions obtaining in the Far East and Southwest Pacific regions in the future and on another political leadership in the Philippines and in Washington, D.C. which will develop.

A hard core body composed of Philippine Veterans

Memorial Hospital Filipino medical officers, medical department heads and civilian management committee, was reported organized during the weekend to reel off the movement for the estimated yearly amount of \$80 to \$100 million. This will be in addition to what the PVMH has been receiving so far from the US government for its maintenance.

The new cash share is proposed for the improvement of hospital facilities, and miscellaneous expenses, mainly for the enlarging of personnel.

Support of this movement was registered instantaneously in Luzon and Western Visayas by WW II veterans organizations, it was learned this week. Col. Santos F. Agbayani, head of the organization for payment of benefits and other claims adjustments for veterans, their widows and minors who are direct beneficiaries. "Our farflung and well controlled and supervised organization, supports wholeheartedly the medical officers and management staff of the PVMH,"

said Agbayani. Col. Agbayani, of the Alejo Santos and Pedro Viudez guerrillas in WW II in Bulacan also advocated the abolition of the useless Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) on Arroceros St., Manila, as a useless agency dealing with misfits, inefficiency and do-nothing political hacks.

Col. Agbayani also lambasted Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia for charging the Filipino Veterans Bank with \$31 million.

"Jose Cuisia does not seem to know that the Central Bank's \$31 million is the American government's replacement of the \$31 million misspent by Marcos and his cronies in the Philippine Veterans Bank," Col. Agbayani said. "Now, where has Cuisia kept that nearly \$31 million American replenishment earmarked exclusively for the Filipino veterans who have not yet received a centavo for their underground services, for their wounds and sacrifices in 1941-1945?"

And what is President Aquino doing for the Filipino WW II veterans?

# Resentment against church venture into politics

THERE is a smoldering resentment among legislators against a campaign in religious circles to make a political issue of the Protestant faith of the two presidential hopefuls, Senate President Jovito Salonga and Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, according to informed congressional sources.

It is said that senators and congressmen, who are incensed at the emergence of religious bigotry in national politics, are discreetly avoiding a confrontation with Church authorities due to the admittedly formidable influence of religious groups in the country, especially in the countryside.

Some legislators think, however, that a showdown between religious groups involved in politics and political parties is inevitable. As these groups press their campaign against Salonga and Ramos, supporters of the two leaders would be increasingly called upon to "take on" such groups.

It is predicted in Senate and House quarters that the first political skirmish would be between such entities as the bishops' conference and back-

ers of Salonga and Ramos in the Liberal Party and the *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino*, respectively.

A senator, known to be a stickler for democratic practices, says that to hold against Salonga and Ramos that they are Protestants is to seek to supplant free suffrage with religious bigotry and intolerance. Nothing, he argues, can be more harmful to the philosophy and practice of popular sovereignty than the impairing of the right to free choice.

Another senator, who enjoys a lofty reputation as a champion of constitutional processes, assails what he calls an "insidious conspiracy to deal a death blow to the principle of separation of church and state, which is one of the bulwarks of our constitutional system."

Senators and congressmen of different political affiliations are united in condemning the venture of the Church hierarchy into partisan politics. This phenomenon, they contend, is inimical to democracy and freedom, and should be deplored and resisted by "all Filipinos who value their

democratic heritage and remember the incalculable harm done over a long period of years to Filipino traditions and aspirations."

The same legislators challenge religious groups to "shed their disguises and fight in the open the better to enable the people to exercise their collective judgment."

Political observers outside Congress claim that religious groups and affiliated "cause-oriented" elements are laying the groundwork for a nationwide drive to rally the people's support to a presidential candidate acceptable to the Church. It is said that "talent scouts" of the Church are toying with the idea of backing a young political leader from the Visayas. Speculation is rife in political and religious circles that the heads-on favorite is Governor Lito Osmena of Cebu. A source close to Cardinal Sin claims that Oscar Orbos, executive secretary, is the prelate's candidate for president.

It will be interesting to see how adept Church groups are at the game of partisan politics. (Asian News & Features)



SALONGA, RAMOS: Political issue in religious circles.



# Gearing for more jobs

WITH AN average of 850,000 Filipinos joining the labor force every year, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) gears for more job opportunities by generating local employment, seeking new labor markets abroad and at the same time maintaining the existing job contracts in labor-importing countries, particularly in the Middle East.

While the current economic growth performance of the country stands at an average of 3.46 percent (based on figures registered during the first three quarters of 1990), the national economy has to work double time and grow consistently by 8 to 10 percent starting this year until 1995 if we are to effectively absorb the annual influx of new jobseekers.

In a recent address delivered before a Rotaract Club gathering in Dau, Angeles City which included students, businessmen

and civic leaders, Labor Secretary Ruben Torres cited the need to "accelerate" the overseas employment program which has been a major factor in containing unemployment in the country since it was first adopted as a policy in the 1960s.

Sec. Torres disclosed that an average of 300,000 workers have found jobs abroad, representing close to 60 percent of annual entrants to the labor force. Official remittances averaged about \$685.3 million annually, with a peak level of \$973 million in 1989. As he mentioned this, the labor chief stressed the need to maintain a record with employment in other countries since they are vital in easing up the pressure for jobs and foreign exchange.

The DOLE added, however, that though overseas employment remains a big employer of Filipinos, government maintains priority the wel-

fare of overseas contract workers (OCWs). "Even as we assume the obligation to seek for more employment opportunities abroad, like our critics, we are fully aware of the imperative to protect the welfare of our overseas workers," Sec. Torres said.

Government, meanwhile, is looking for new labor markets abroad. The opening of labor markets in Eastern Europe, the integration of the European Economic Community, and the rise of newly-industrialized economies in Southeast Asia have given rise to opportunities for the deployment of OCWs in countries aside from the Middle East.

"These new international developments and the labor conditions among these regions offer the possibility for increased demand for higher skills. Moreover, conditions are such that labor protectionist barriers will contain (Page 5, please)

# Which should rule AFP: Seniority or politics?

By ERIC S. GIRON

**A**S SUDDEN as Major Gen. Alexander Aguirre's outburst against the presidential appointment of a new Armed Forces chief of staff took the newspapers by storm, the din suddenly subsided this week. But the protests and disenchantment over the system by which the Commander-in-Chief selects the man at the helm will not just go away.

Much ado has been raised over the Constitution's Section 16, Article VII, which vests in the President the power to nominate and appoint "officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain" with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

To put appointments and promotions in order, a law must establish specific guidelines and procedures, adhering to seniority, which will make the presidential appointment merely ministerial. The aim is to obviate presidential favoritism and political influence in promotions.

Afterlieutenant colonel, the officers have to lobby in Congress for their promotions. And here's where politics comes in. From private to lieutenant colonel, military tradition observes seniority in promotion. Some officers aspiring for colonel prematurely retire or quit in disgust over the political patronage in promotions.

General Aguirre had a point in assailing President Corason Aquino's choice of Major Gen. Lisandro Abadia as AFP chief of staff which ignored seniority. Seniority to a military man is inviolable because he can be promoted in file for meritorious service or demoted for infractions or misdemeanor. This presumes that a military man who does not come up to par should be separated from the service. But as long as he executes his duties efficiently and has no violations, he is entitled to promotion depending on seniority.

Defense Sec. Fidel Ramos said Aguirre's continuous tirades tended to "incite vio-

lence, or worse, rebellion in the military." But Aguirre never threatened President Aquino. In fact he recognized the presidential prerogative in naming the AFP chief although he challenged her judgment as "unfair and unjust." He does not seek Abadia's ouster. He disclaims any link with rightist rebels out to destabilize the administration with bombings.

However, Aguirre's public airing of his grievances in the face of a fractious military is interpreted by some as insubordination and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. This can be mitigated perhaps by the injustice of his exclusion from four promotions in favor of his junior officers. But he did announce his resignation as AFP deputy chief and taking a 500-day leave, hoping perhaps that under a new administration he will get a better break.

## SENIORITY IGNORED

But the Aquino promotions disregard seniority in favor of favoritism. She promoted her aide-de-camp to colonel even if he had to jump over the heads of senior officers in the lineal roster.

Having caused furor then, Mrs. Aquino again chose to ignore seniority when she announced Abadia's appointment on April 6 to replace Gen. Rodolfo Biazon as AFP chief of staff. The AFP change of command would take place on April 12, two days before Biazon's retirement on his 56th birthday April 14.

Mrs. Aquino said her choice was made on the "recommendation, advice, and suggestions



**TURNOVER:** President Aquino is saluted by the outgoing Chief of Staff Gen. Rodolfo Biazon (left) and Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, incoming AFP Chief of Staff during the turnover ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo. (Malacanang photo)

that she received from various sectors within and outside the AFP." Air Force Chief Major Gen. Gerardo Protacio was out of the race because he was retiring. On the basis of seniority, Major Gen. Guillermo Flores, AFP vice chief of staff (PMA Class '59), who is two years senior to Abadia, was the logical successor to Biazon.

In fact when Gen. Renato de Villa retired last Jan. 22, Flores was being groomed as the next AFP chief. However, Biazon was appointed because of his gallant stand against renegade soldiers, among them his own Marines, at Camp Aguinaldo in December 1989. Biazon's 81-day stint as chief of staff is the shortest in the AFP's 94-year history. But he committed himself commendably by rounding up top-ranking rebel officers and leftists.

President Aquino did not take into account the seniority of Flores who is followed in the lineal roster by Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas (PMA Class '60), Major Gen. Gumersindo Yap of the Southern Command (Class '60), Deputy Chief Aguirre (Class '61) and Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Philippine Military Academy superintendent.

Aguirre charged that President Aquino's choice of Abadia bypassed 42 commanders senior to him. Discontent was encouraged against the late President Ferdinand Marcos because of his discrimination in the sensitive issue of promotions. Marcos' appointment of Lt. Col. Irwin Ver bypassed senior commanders and caused disaffection in the ranks. Aguirre said

this led to Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan's establishment of the Reform the AFP Movement (RAM) which led the 1986 and other coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino.

When Gen. Romeo Espino retired, Marcos named Gen. Fabian Ver the AFP chief of staff, bypassing PC Chief Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos. Ramos joined Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Honasan in the bloodless EDSA revolt of 1986.

When Marcos was exercising his presidential prerogative in appointing commanders, it was denounced as wrong. But when Mrs. Aquino disregards seniority, why is her act being justified?

How can Mrs. Aquino say with authority that Abadia is the best officer for the job when she has not spent time to

familiarize herself with Generals Flores, Yap, Aguirre and Enrile or Rear Admiral Dumancas and the rest of the generals? If any of these senior officers is given the AFP chief's job, can she say with certainty that he cannot perform better than Abadia?

Without a competent yardstick, the President should have been guided by seniority although she could have been advised otherwise. The bypassed senior officers have outstanding records and more field command experience than Abadia or Enrile, who was named Philippine Army chief in lieu of Abadia.

The traditional basis for promotion in the officers' corp is the "point system" in which an officer earns a number of points for every command he (Next page, please)

is assigned to. In the case of Abadia, this point system was apparently overlooked or disregarded.

Abadia was brigade commander for only three months in 1988. He has not commanded a division nor an area. A wag was quoted as saying Abadia was a product of another point system: "President Aquino pointed her finger at him and he became AFP chief of staff."

Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile, who was named Philippine Army chief to succeed Abadia, once headed a Mindanao task force. But he was the conciliating officer between the rebel soldiers holed up in Makati highrise edifices during the 1989 coup attempt. He was successful in bringing them back to nearby Fort Bonifacio.

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During the AFP change of command at Camp Aguinaldo on April 12, President Aquino accused General Aguirre of "insubordination and selfishness" for lambasting her appointment of General Abadia as the AFP chief.

Aguirre could have been insubordinate in publicly airing his complaint. As for "selfishness," Aguirre is a hurt man, having been slighted by President Aquino four times in promotions which he takes as a slap on the face. He said the President's bypassing him had the "legal and factual effect of demoting me relative to my former juniors. Demotion under the law is an administrative penalty. In bypassing me, Your Excellency, you have effectively imposed, albeit unwittingly, a punishment on your General without a valid cause."

He cited the four instances he was bypassed in promotion:

1) He was first bypassed in promotion to colonel by an officer one year and six months his junior in 1986. Aguirre was then aligned with People Power as operations chief under PC Chief Fidel Ramos at Camp Crame in February 1986. He helped thwart the "God Save the Queen" coup plot.

2) As Capcom (Capital Command) chief in 1987 up to March 1990, Aguirre received the Presidential Unit Citation Badge and Distinguished Service Star. But his deputy, who

was 27 files below him in the linear roster, bypassed him.

3) Despite his command's capture of top terrorists and major crime suspects, President Aquino in 1988 bypassed him in promoting the Western District superintendent (Alfredo Lim) who was under Aguirre's command to major general. Thus a subordinate officer outranked his own commanding officer.

4) During the December 1989 coup, Aguirre was the only general shot in the leg by rebel troops in the battle at

limits leave to 60 days. More than the limit has to be decided by President Aquino, Biazon said.

If Aguirre persists in his 500-day leave, he could be violating one of the Articles of War, said Rear Admiral Proceso Fernandez, the new AFP deputy chief. Aguirre said he was willing to take the consequences. If Aguirre takes French leave for 500 days, he can be considered AWOL (absent without official leave).

Rear Admiral Fernandez is trying to conciliate Abadia and

and eventually, for the top AFP chief's post? Is General Abadia, the President's choice, without ambition?

She made a vague statement that the Armed Forces had firmly rejected "a vain attempt to embarrass this occasion" (the AFP change of command) by "the insubordination that stained its record in the past." Did she take a poll to find out who of the AFP officers and men rejected Aguirre's views and those who supported them? Or is she speaking merely of her in-cl-

"insubordinate act," it was pointed out. Neither did Mrs. Aquino discipline her former chief of staff, Gen. Renato de Villa, and PC Chief Ramon Montano who threatened that if the investigation of the Magallanes military-police shootout was not to the satisfaction of the military, the soldiers would be restive. Again Mrs. Aquino backed off from the issue.

Mrs. Aquino was made to appear full of bluster but no bite in giving in to her generals.

ensure honest, free and orderly elections."

Political speculators who insist that Corazon Aquino will seek another term in 1992 as indicated by her grassroots campaign in the provinces and her promotion of *Kabisig* cooperatives and funding them with CARP funds say she is paving the ground to ensure her votes.

One indicator they point to is her appointment of AFP Chief Abadia, who is reported close to her brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr. Peping Cojuangco said his sister's seeking another term in 1992 should not be discounted. Cojuangco was the moving spirit in the organization of the majority *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino* to support his sister Cory although she rejected the offer that she head the party.

Another indicator is her appointment of Christian Monsod as chairman of the Commission on Appointments despite the fact that a UP study cites irregularities in the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) which Monsod headed in the handling of the 1987 senatorial election.

Why does Mrs. Aquino have to name Monsod to the Comelec when acting Chairman Haydee Yorac has been doing a commendable job and has received the confidence vote of the other commissioners? The Commission on Appointments did not act on Monsod's nomination and the President has to re-submit it for a second deliberation.

The suspicions that either Abadia or Monsod will allow themselves to be parties to political manipulations could be nothing more than groundless speculations. The greatest factor still are the voters. But it is in the counting and tallying of the ballots where the results can be tampered with.

All these suspicions will become moot if President Aquino adheres to her emphatic denial that she is seeking the presidency in 1992.



CORY'S MILITARY: Steady does it.

Makati Commercial Center. This time Mrs. Aquino has promoted an officer junior to Aguirre and previously under his direct staff supervision (Abadia).

So Aguirre resigned from his position of deputy chief of staff and announced he would take a leave of 500 days. If Aguirre wanted to prosecute his case effectively, he should have resigned from the AFP, not merely his post as deputy chief. That way he can plead his case with politicians in the Commission on Appointments. As a member of the AFP still, he is subject to disciplinary action. His leave has to be approved by the AFP chief.

Before Biazon retired on April 14, he authorized a 30-day leave for Aguirre. The AFP

Aguirre, who has expressed willingness to cooperate with the new AFP chief. Abadia's vacated PA command has been filled in by Enrile while Enrile's PMA post is now occupied by Commodore Virgilio Marcelo.

#### CORY LASHES OUT

When President Aquino accused Aguirre of being "driven by ambition," she made it appear that officers should be bereft of ambition. Without ambition, what will drive the military officers to strive for field commands to pave the way for their ascension to the top echelon? Or how can they be inspired to aspire for leadership of the major commands (army, navy, air force), the area commands,

and officers?

She again made a threat to "weed out those elements who continue to regard the AFP as merely the lever of their ambition instead of the single greatest opportunity to serve their country."

A columnist belittled Mrs. Aquino's ultimatums which she does not carry out at all. A case cited was the Malacanan call of Major Gen. Cesar Nazareno of the Philippine National Police and 20 PNP generals who urged their commander-in-chief to relieve NBI Director Alfredo Lim in connection with a shootout over drugs in which two constabulary officers and an agent were killed.

Nazareno has not been dismissed nor sanctioned for his

Among the President's criteria in selecting the AFP chief of staff, two stood out: 1) He must be a unifying factor for the officer corps and the enlisted ranks, the regular and reserve officers, the PMAers and non-PMAers, and various other AFP segments; and 2) he must be non-partisan and in the 1992 election must "perform with absolute neutrality and lead the AFP in helping

#### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BAYANI P. BAUTISTA consisting of real property situated in no. 47 Maalalahanin, Teacher's Village, Quezon City, covered by TCT No. 60516 issued by Register of Deed was extrajudicially settled among his heirs by means of public document executed on February 4, 1991 and acknowledged before Notary Public Jeremmy Z. Parulan of Makati, Metro Manila as per Doc. No. 531; Page No. 7; Book No. 11; Series of 1990.

WE FORUM  
April 19, 26 & May 3, 1991

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and eventually, for the top AFP chief's post? Is General Abadia, the President's choice, without ambition?

She made a vague statement that the Armed Forces had firmly rejected "a vain attempt to embarrass this occasion" (the AFP change of command) by "the insubordination that stained its record in the past." Did she take a poll to find out who of the AFP officers and men rejected Aguirre's views and those who supported them? Or is she speaking merely of her in-cir-

"insubordinate act," it was pointed out. Neither did Mrs. Aquino discipline her former chief of staff, Gen. Renato de Villa, and PC Chief Ramon Montano who threatened that if the investigation of the Magallanes military-police shootout was not to the satisfaction of the military, the soldiers would be restive. Again Mrs. Aquino backed off from the issue.

Mrs. Aquino was made to appear full of bluster but no bite in giving in to her generals.

ensure honest, free and orderly elections."

Political speculators who insist that Corazon Aquino will seek another term in 1992 as indicated by her grassroots campaign in the provinces and her promotion of *Kabisig* cooperatives and funding them with CARP funds say she is paving the ground to ensure her votes.

One indicator they point to is her appointment of AFP Chief Abadia, who is reported close to her brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr. Peping Cojuangco said his sister's seeking another term in 1992 should not be discounted. Cojuangco was the moving spirit in the organization of the majority *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino* to support his sister Cory although she rejected the offer that she head the party.

Another indicator is her appointment of Christian Monsod as chairman of the Commission on Appointments despite the fact that a UP study cites irregularities in the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) which Monsod headed in the handling of the 1987 senatorial election.

Why does Mrs. Aquino have to name Monsod to the Comelec when acting Chairman Haydee Yorac has been doing a commendable job and has received the confidence vote of the other commissioners? The Commission on Appointments did not act on Monsod's nomination and the President has to re-submit it for a second deliberation.

The suspicions that either Abadia or Monsod will allow themselves to be parties to political manipulations could be nothing more than groundless speculations. The greatest factor still are the voters. But it is in the counting and tallying of the ballots where the results can be tampered with.

All these suspicions will become moot if President Aquino adheres to her emphatic denial that she is seeking the presidency in 1992.



CORY'S MILITARY: Steady does it.

Makati Commercial Center. This time Mrs. Aquino has promoted an officer junior to Aguirre and previously under his direct staff supervision (Abadia).

So Aguirre resigned from his position of deputy chief of staff and announced he would take a leave of 500 days. If Aguirre wanted to prosecute his case effectively, he should have resigned from the AFP, not merely his post as deputy chief. That way he can plead his case with politicians in the Commission on Appointments. As a member of the AFP still, he is subject to disciplinary action. His leave has to be approved by the AFP chief.

Before Biazon retired on April 14, he authorized a 30-day leave for Aguirre. The AFP

Aguirre, who has expressed willingness to cooperate with the new AFP chief. Abadia's vacated PA command has been filled in by Enrile while Enrile's PMA post is now occupied by Commodore Virgilio Marcelo.

#### CORY LASHES OUT

When President Aquino accused Aguirre of being "driven by ambition," she made it appear that officers should be bereft of ambition. Without ambition, what will drive the military officers to strive for field commands to pave the way for their ascension to the top echelon? Or how can they be inspired to aspire for leadership of the major commands (army, navy, air force), the area commands,

and eventually, for the top AFP chief's post?

She again made a threat to "weed out those elements who continue to regard the AFP as merely the lever of their ambition instead of the single greatest opportunity to serve their country."

A columnist belittled Mrs. Aquino's ultimatums which she does not carry out at all. A case cited was the Malacanan call of Major Gen. Cesar Nazareno of the Philippine National Police and 20 PNP generals who urged their commander-in-chief to relieve NBI Director Alfredo Lim in connection with a shootout over drugs in which two constabulary officers and an agent were killed.

Nazareno has not been dismissed nor sanctioned for his

Among the President's criteria in selecting the AFP chief of staff, two stood out: 1) He must be a unifying factor for the officer corps and the enlisted ranks, the regular and reserve officers, the PMAers and non-PMAers, and various other AFP segments; and 2) he must be non-partisan and in the 1992 election must "perform with absolute neutrality and lead the AFP in helping

#### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BAYANI P. BAUTISTA consisting of real property situated in no. 47 Maalalahanin, Teacher's Village, Quezon City, covered by TCT No. 60516 issued by Register of Deed was extrajudicially settled among his heirs by means of public document executed on February 4, 1991 and acknowledged before Notary Public Jeremy Z. Parulan of Makati, Metro Manila as per Doc. No. 531; Page No. 7; Book No. 11; Series of 1990.

WE FORUM  
April 19, 26 & May 3, 1991

# Berlin tourism fair showcases RP's development

BERLIN -- "If 1990 was a trying year for Philippine tourism due to the earthquake and typhoon that devastated major tourism installations coupled with the fuel crisis, 1991 promises to be just the reverse," stated Ms. Marina Villanueva, Director of Philippine Department of Tourism, Frankfurt, while giving an assessment of her country's prospects for tourism in the immediate future against the background of the mammoth International Tourism Exchange (ITB) 1991 held in Berlin. The ITB is an annual event of the world tourism industry that draws the highest concentration of travel trade professionals and policymakers in an exercise calculated to enhance the images of tourist destinations, take note of the competition and reinforce existing advantages. The event was taking place for the first time in the unified city of Berlin in a united Germany.

The colourful and eye-catching pavilion of the Philippines was well situated in the specially erected ASEAN Village at the ITB and was a composite presentation by some twenty five firms of hoteliers, tour operators, travel agents, beach resorts and the national airline, further supplemented by the Department of Tourism. The participants reflected a buoyant outlook while conceding the cumulative im-

act of domestic problems and the Gulf war on tourist arrivals in the Philippines in the year gone by.

Taking an overall look, however, Philippine tourism did not fare badly. Ranking third among the country's top foreign exchange earners, the tourism industry saw an estimated 1.1 million arrivals in 1990 and earnings of US\$828 million during January-July alone.

"There is no doubt that Philippine tourism has resumed its upward thrust again after the vicissitudes of last year," stated Ms. Mina Gabor, Undersecretary in the Philippine Department of Tourism, Manila, who led a strong delegation of the industry at the ITB. Pointing out that there were new special interest tours now such as photo safari, bird watching and farm tours, Ms. Gabor said that new historical and cultural tours had also been added. The Ancestral Houses Tour, Taal Tour and Volcano Trek, and the Arts and Crafts Module were some such instances.

"Our tourism development plans are also environment-friendly," asserted Ms. Villanueva, who added that the German market was going to receive a particular thrust in terms of marketing in keeping with the high profile and qualitative seekers of touristic de-

lights that the country was known for. The German tourists also spent more than the national average of 9.97 days, it was disclosed. Over 30,000 German visitors touched down on Philippine soil last year and Germany was now being regarded as the primary market in Europe, Ms. Villanueva stated.

A united Germany was also expected, sooner or later, to generate more tourists than was the case hitherto. The changed scenario in Eastern Europe also added a new dimension to the tourism market. Hundreds of citizens from these countries were seen at the ITB seeking detailed information on holiday destinations, the Philippines included, and to many tourist-hungry economies, the new faces of these societies held out fresh hopes of earning foreign exchange even if it were to take a while longer for them to enter the mainstream of the global monetary system.

World tourism continued to go merrily onwards last year, however. The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) in Madrid has estimated that 1990 saw a new record in worldwide travel in 415 million tourist arrivals, showing a 2.4 percent rise over that of the previous year. International tourism earnings also shot up to US\$ 230 billion, reflecting an increase of 10 per-



The Philippines took a prominent part at the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) 1991 held in Berlin. The ITB is an annual event of the world tourism industry that draws the highest concentration of travel and tourism professionals as well as policy-makers from all over the world. Some 25 firms comprising hoteliers, tour operators and the country's Department of Tourism made a major promotional thrust, targeting Germany as the primary market in Europe. Seen here is a view of the Philippine pavilion. (INP/Leib)

cent over 1989.

The ITB too set up its own record this year, drawing some 3800 exhibitors from 156 countries in a fantastic projection of

the variety of holiday destinations around the world that the intrepid traveller of today could avail of. Tourism was indeed the most powerful factor for inter-

national solidarity and peace in the strife-torn world of today, the ITB seemed to say. (Emenech/IN-Press)

## The women in nation-building Act

DESPITE THE constitutional provision ensuring the fundamental equality between men and women, the present laws preserve the inequality between



ROCO: For women's rights.

men and women, Rep. Raul Roco has said.

Roco, (LDP, Camarines Sur) said present laws regard married women as incompetent or dependent even if they have their own profession and independent source of income.

Thus, married women cannot enter into contracts by themselves, secure credit and enter into security arrangements and join social and recreational clubs without the consent of their spouses.

"This is grossly unfair, if not altogether violative of the women's rights," Roco said.

Roco has filed House Bill No. 22466, seeking to strengthen the women's role in nation-build-

ing by giving them equal rights and opportunity in practically all areas of economic life.

The bill, also known as "The Women in Nation-building Act," seeks to provide women, regardless of civil status, the capacity to enter into contracts, equal to the men's.

It provides women the capacity to borrow, obtain loans, execute security and credit arrangements without the need to secure the consent of their spouses.

It gives women the equal access to all government and private sector programs, granting agricultural credit, loans and non-material resources, and the equal treatment in agrarian reform and land resettlement pro-

grams.

It allows women to act as incorporators, enter into insurance contracts, apply for passports, secure visas and other travel documents without securing the consent of their spouses.

The proposed measure outlaws social and recreational clubs that cater solely to men by opening their memberships to all persons, regardless of sex.

### Gearing for (From page 3)

ceivably lowered, cross-migration of workers will be encouraged, and technology transfer will be facilitated," Torres said.

The labor chief also revealed that for local employment, the main concern of government is

Hence, even in instances when one spouse is already a regular member, the other spouse shall have the right to apply in his or her personal capacity as a member with equal rights and privileges in these clubs.

The bill allows married women, who devote full time to managing the household and family affairs, to apply for voluntary membership in either the

Government Service Insurance System or Social Security System to the extent of one-half of the salary and compensation of the working spouse.

"With the enactment of this bill, we hope to correct whatever injustice we have done to our women," said Roco, who is also the House of Representatives Assistant Majority Floorleader. (ANFI)

tryside development and agrarian reform.

"DOLE is upscaling its livelihood, entrepreneurship and self-employment programs to raise family incomes in the rural sector and among the urban poor," Sec. Torres concluded. (Asian News & Features)



# PAGCOR: The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation What it is all about.

## **An Economic Ally**

As an official casino management arm directly under the Office of the President, PAGCOR commits itself to being a dependable economic ally by supporting our government's national economic recovery program. The government's share from casino earnings are then utilized as a major source of funds envisioned to finance the government's priority projects and programs.

PAGCOR continues to demonstrate its reliability as a major source of income for the Philippine government by allocating 5% of its monthly income to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as Franchise Tax and 47.5% of its gross monthly revenues to our National Treasury.

## **A Socio-Civic Partner**

PAGCOR aims to help fight and fund the war declared by President Corazon C. Aquino against poverty, malnutrition and other social deprivation.

A series of social consciousness projects and assistance programs have been launched in an effort to share 27.5% of its monthly income with the sick, malnourished and indigent sector of Philippine society.

Along the lines of its declared corporate objectives to uplift, upgrade and alleviate the plight of the less fortunate Filipinos, PAGCOR commits itself as a socio-civic partner by being the government agency responsible for bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

## **A Tourist Attraction**

PAGCOR provides that revenues generated by casino operations would create recreation and integrated facilities which would expand and further improve the country's existing tourist attractions by establishing alternative venues for gaming amusement and entertainment.

With its revitalized and goal-oriented marketing efforts, PAGCOR envisions the influx of more foreign tourist arrivals into the country as well as the increase of much-needed foreign currency into our monetary system.

Joining hands with the tourism sector, PAGCOR commits itself to being a major tourist attraction by maintaining world-class gaming outlets in several key cities nationwide. Both the domestic and international travelling markets are ultimately enticed to visit the country's various exotic provinces as major areas of destination especially within the Asean region.



**Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation**  
PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA

## Lim does a job

**L**AST WEEKEND's haul by the National Bureau of Investigation of underworld characters may have notched the biggest so far in the agency's crime-fighting campaign. In a raid on illegal gambling dens in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga and Laguna, NBI agents arrested top gambling lords, confiscated P6 million in cash, gambling paraphernalia and books of accounts. Before NBI Director Alfredo Lim made his move, nobody ever thought that the suspects could be arrested, what with the protection being extended by military and police officers.

A Laguna town mayor eluded the dragnet, but with this new resolve shown by the agency, the day may not be far off when other vice lords in the country, and not only in Luzon, would fall in the hands of Lim's enforcers. Included in this select group are three operators in Pasay City who are reportedly being protected by a top city official, and four others based in Tondo, Pandacan, Sta. Cruz and Binondo. When they are all in the net, *jueteng*, *sakla* and *monte* may cease to be the extremely lucrative "businesses" that they are today for the smart boys, with daily takes in the millions. In an Angeles City, Pampanga raid, NBI agents confiscated P2.3 million, in Novaliches, Quezon City P1.6 million, while the other six yielded an average of P.5 million each. One can only imagine the kind of money these racketeers make from the gullible public.

The other side of the coin is, of course, an excellent subject for psycho analysis. If anything, the proliferation of illicit gambling points to trait ingrained in the average Filipino psyche. But why is he like this? Why would he sacrifice a kilo of rice by buying only a half kilo so that he could bet a peso or two on the numbers game called *jueteng* where his chances of making a hit may be calculated in a few thousands against one? Why should he lessen his viand for lunch or supper so that he can patronize a *sakla* or *monte* joint? Perhaps more than any other race, the Filipino proves the adage that hope springs eternal in the human breast.

Whatever, Lim deserves the people's commendation and support for his efforts in trying to eradicate the pernicious evil of gambling that mostly preys on the poor. Since his take-over of the NBI, Lim has shown a dedication to the job as to even make him controversial at times as in the Magallanes drug-buy shoot-out. But this should not deter him from doing his duty, which he has pursued so far with boldness, integrity and imagination.

## Mrs. Aquino at it again

**M**RS. CORAZON Aquino is the kind of woman who never says die. With barely 13 months left of her administration, she has now launched an anti-graft campaign called Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) which aims to enlist citizen participation in the fight against the twin evils of graft and corruption in the government service. A workshop has been organized supposedly to direct the overall efforts of citizens' groups, non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

The public is being entertained again by this latest brainstorm of Mrs. Aquino's bum advisers. Who will believe government sincerity along these lines when it cannot even fire Ernesto Aboitiz? If raising power rates to keep National Power Corporation officials in their luxurious lifestyles is not a form of graft and corruption, what is? Who will believe her if she cannot or will not stop the rotten congressmen who are plundering the forests of Palawan province worth P25 billion, the woodlands of Samar, Aurora and Cagayan? Who will believe her when all she does is protect her chosen people when apprised of their wrongdoing? After five years in office, is anyone prepared to believe her now when she makes pronouncements on the government's campaign against corruption? What a laugh.

In fact, the workshop's theme -- An Alert Community is an Effective Deterrent to Graft and Corruption -- is a laugh. Look at what the people did at the US Navy communication station in Capas, Tarlac, which was turned over to the Philippine government. More than 1,500 vicinity residents "stormed the site with picks, shovels and chain saws, looting everything from manhole covers to underground cables." They stripped the place clean, "there is nothing left to steal anymore," says the security chief. So what "alert community" are the organizers talking about?

But there is wild justice here, perhaps borne of a perception of what the government people and politicians are doing. The people know that corruption has been going on the largest scale among the elite calling themselves public servants; they must have their share of the largesse, too. If they can earn a few hundred pesos from copper wires and manhole covers, they could buy more kilos of rice and perhaps a bit of pork, while the crooks in congress and government buy Mercedes Benzes and imported goods. Who will blame the people if they can steal the entire Camp John Hay?



MANILA TIMES, April 18, 1991

## Ang dayaan sa eleksiyon

**NATURAL LAMANG** na magalit ang mga pulitiko sa mga propesor ng UP na nagbulgar ng mga pandaraya na naganap sa nakaraang eleksiyon. Hindi natural kundi isang kababalaghan, isang kadakilaan at kabayanihan ang ginawa ni Acting Comelec Chairperson Haydee Yorac sa kanyang pag-amin na tutuo ngang may mga pandarayang nangyari. Ang hindi talagang natural ay ang pagkibit-balikat lamang nating mga mamamayan, tanda ng pagsang-ayon na sadyang ganyan ang pulitika: kung sino ang kandidatong pinakamagaling mandaya ang siyang panalo.

Aminado na ba tayong mga Pinoy na ang tanging paraan upang tayo'y umasenso sa buhay ay kung sasali tayo sa pandaraya? Na hindi tayo maaaring mabuhay nang "marangal" dito sa ating bayan kung hindi tayo manlamang at manggulang ng kapwa? Wala na ba tayong magawa kundi tanggapin ang mapait na katotohanang ang ating mga pinuno ay nakaluklok sa kanilang puwesto dahil sila'y pinakamahusay manloko sa atin? Ito ba ang tinatawag na demokrasya? Kung gayon, nararapat pa ba nating patuloy na tangkilikin?

Talaga bang wala nang lunas ang anomalyang ito? Puwes, wala na tayong pagasa. Nakatakda na tayong bumaon sa kumunoy. Subalit ito'y dapat lamang mangyari sa isang bansang hindi kumikilala sa Diyos. Sa Diyos na Tagapagligtas. Hindi ba't isang bansang Kristiyano ang Pilipinas? Hindi ba't otsenta porsiyento ng mamamayan nito ay mga Katoliko? Bakit hindi maaaring lutasin ang problema sa pandaraya? Lalo na sa eleksiyon? Isa lamang ang kasagutan, dahil pati mga Kristiyano, pati mga Katoliko, ay mga mandaraya rin.

Ito ang masaklap na katotohanang lumalabas sa kaso ni Christian Monsod at ng NAMFREL.

### Gising!



PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Hindi ko sinasabi na si Christian Monsod at ang NAMFREL ay mandaraya. Subalit ang paniniwala ko at ng marami ay na nagamit ang NAMFREL ng ilang mga malalakas sa gobyerno sa ilalim ng pamamahala ni Presidentita Cory upang maisagawa ang kanilang pandaraya. Kaya nawalan ng kredibilidad itong grupo na itinatag sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng ilang mga lider ng Simbahang Katoliko upang linisin ang halalan. Wala akong kadudaduda na gagamitin ang NAMFREL sa darating na eleksiyon upang ang mga kandidato ng Kardinal Sin ang silang mananalo. Hindi man ito matawag na pandaraya, maliwanag itong panlalalang at panggulung.

Sumapit tayo sa ganitong kalagayan dahil mahal na natin ang pera nang higit sa Diyos at ayaw nating mahal in ang ating kapwa gaya ng ating mga sarili. Madali't-sabi, hindi tayo tunay na mga Kristiyano. Mga Kristiyano lamang sa pangalan subalit mga Parisco sa gawa at sa katotohanan. Dahil sa ating edukasyon, ang mahalaga na rin ay pera. Kapag pera ang pag-uusapan, wala na tayong katapatan. Nabibili ang matataas na grade sa NCEE at sa mga board exam. Binebenta na ang ating kalayaan sa usapin tungkol sa pagpapanatili ng US bases. Nabebenta na ang ating kinabukasan. Pati ba naman kaluluwa natin, ay nabenta na rin?

### We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.  
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

## Aquino afraid to take Diaz challenge

AMBASSADOR RAMON Diaz is the man President Corazon C. Aquino dreads to investigate. There are complaints against Diaz by Cory Aquino's known political, financial, industrial allies and cronies since Diaz's days as PCGG chairman, but Aquino has dropped any plan to probe Diaz like a hot potato.

It is because Diaz is a good man, is an honest public servant, with a record of government service as clean as a hound's tooth. He has many things to expose in this administration.

In September 1988, or thereabouts, Mon Diaz resigned irrevocably as chairman of the PCGG. That startled most everyone in the government service, except Aquino and a few in the highest echelon of her administration who remained with mouth sheet like clam attacked by tetanus.

Getting the lowdown on the trouble between Aquino and Diaz, the staff of *Newline*, an influential weekly magazine published by Rodolfo K. Nazareno, and Business Relations International, an economic group headed by *Bulletin* columnist Bernie P. Ronquillo and Emcy Tinsay, organized a breakfast conference for Ramon Diaz at the *Newline's* editorial

offices in Boston Bank building on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

Also in this exclusive press conference were Aberlardo P. Mojica, *Newline* editor; Leo P. Gonzaga (Gaspar Baltazar), Dick Idefonso, Adrian E. Cristobal, Jocelyn Aure, Rebecca C. Patrimonio, and myself, also with *We Forum* weekly.

Why did Ramon Diaz, PCGG chairman quit Aquino's administration in a huff? His resignation, coming without any press speculations to soften its impact on the readers or radio listeners, fell like a thunderbolt from the blue.

In sum, Ramon Diaz could not swallow what Aquino's government was doing to the country.

Diaz figuratively open his heart to his interviewers that morning. Nazareno wrote in *Newline* after the wholesome breakfast: "Strangely, the worst enemy of the PCGG (a bone of contention in the Diaz case) is no less than the government's No. 1 lawyer, the Solicitor General who should be the government's own counsel."

Diaz did not question the integrity of the first PCGG chairman who was Jovito Salonga, law-

yer and Senate president. Diaz himself who took over Salonga's place when he ran for Senate, is a lawyer and former president of *Insular Life*. Up to that time the five members of the Commission did not even have a secretary. President Aquino seemed to have considered this important agency of the government half heartedly. The PCGG was sequestering firms and had to assign management of them on volunteer system, with the tolerance of the leadership. A serious flaw was created in the system, due to the over confidence and impatience of Aquino to collect the reported \$800 million that Marcos had reportedly stashed away in just one bank in Switzerland.

Because of the eager-beaver "patriotic" volunteer workers that Aquino stuffed into the PCGG which a burgeoning number of sequestered firms, the Commission became hard to control, and Diaz was trying desperately to manage the run-away machine that was wiggling out of hand. He was reporting this to Aquino and her advisers. They simply turned deaf ears to him.

A move was started in the Senate for the immediate abolition of the PCGG, which Diaz

### TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

favoured; but he was against the plan of turning the functions of the Commission to the Department of Justice, because the department was already saddled with much work.

Diaz was for another agency to be created by Congress. "Diaz knew exactly what he had to do," wrote Nazareno, *Newline* publisher. "He had set the stage for the trial of former President Marcos on criminal charges for the recovery of his deposits in Swiss banks." And also, as far as is known in the French banks.

Diaz became a frustrated official. Aquino did not act on his recommendations. The tragedy of being good. When he turned to President Aquino for support, he never got it.

Diaz is well aware of the impediments to

(Page 11, please)

## Positive thinking

AS AN activist for more than 30 years, I have learned that positive thinking is an asset, a Grace of God which is acquired through patience and perseverance and a great deal of prayers and devotions. Since my dream of being a nun did not find fulfilment, nevertheless, positive thinking told me that an activist's life, though dangerous, is the role that God wants me to play in this world. In fact, Christ Himself, was the number one activist. So, I have to be a daily communicant and I have to pray not less than nine rosaries a day and plenty of other prayers and devotions. In a world where greed reigns and mass poverty is prevalent, necessarily, some people must play this role, though a hard one.

So, for those who are playing an activist role, please don't give up. And as a contribution to the administration's drive for positive thinking, allow me to offer some suggestions which by experience through the years, I have found very useful and enduring, and above all, it instills discipline in one's life.

1. Take Out The Self-Interest - Do your work with the thought that you are actually offering it to the Lord and that the Lord is watching you all the time. Therefore, your work must be for the good of others and you are just an instrument of the Lord. To guide me, my number one rosary is an appeal for help: "Lord, grant that whatever I do today will be for Thy Greater Glory." With this thought, my day has a good start.

2. Think of the poor who need help and must be liberated from their misery and poverty. The Lord said, "If you do it to the least of my brethren, you have done it for me." So, my second rosary is towards this end with a prayer: "Lord, grant that as a people, we may have a change of life so that we can truly help the poor in our midst." And so, I am bent on correcting the structural imbalance which is actually the root cause of all our economic problems. And here, I must expose the Powerful "Mafias" whose greed and monopolistic control have impoverished majority of our people. I remember how Jesus fed five thousand people with

only five loaves of bread and two fishes and still many crumbs were left.

3. Pray for the laborers of the world, especially in the Third World and the Fourth World. So, my third rosary is: "Lord, I pray especially for the laborers of the world, especially in the Third and Fourth World that they may have the basics in life - food, clothing, shelter, medicine and education and that they may be able to worship God in a clean and safe environment." For with today's poverty and the inability of government to deliver the basic services on time, the laborers are actually living on a hand to mouth existence. It is good that PAGCOR has been supporting varied livelihood projects.

4. Pray for people in authority that they may be serious in their jobs for God and country. This is my fourth rosary, an appeal especially to people in government to be darned serious in serving the people since the taxes being collected from us must be given back in better and improved services.

5. I pray for the youth of the land - the rich that

### TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

they may be able to help the poor - the poor that they may not waver in their faith and that all may be able to do their job for God and country. I also pray for the poor souls in purgatory so that they may eventually go to heaven and for those who have gone before us, may they rest in peace and to keep us safe wherever we are that we may be able to fulfill our duties here on earth till the end of our days. This 5th rosary enables me to remember the thought that someday soon, we will not be here anymore for as an elderly, my life may be cut short for it is only a borrowed life. As one grows older (I will be 65 on June 19th), the closeness to the Lord enables me to talk to Him everyday as if He is just in front of me. (To be continued)

### TINIG NG BUKID



by MAX. E. SOLIVEN

MARAMI AKONG natanggap na sulat ng mga mambabasa ng Agribusiness sa *We Forum* na nagtatanong kung bakit wala na ang aking kolumna.

Kaya nawala o humintong nagsulat ang inyong kasambukid dahil nagpaopera sa pantog at prostrate. Ngunit, ngayon magaling na tayo at muling sisigla ang ating pitak sa *We Forum!*

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon tayo'y magluluwas ng mais sa ibang bansa! Dumami ang ani ng mais at may kalabisan sa kailangan ng mga mag-aalaga ng hayop! Kaya mag-export tayo! Yan ang bunga ng mga bagong

teknolohiya ng pagtatanim ng mais. Sana'y tuloy-tuloy na ang ganitong katayuan ng ating magsasakang magtatanim ng mais!

Kung napaangat ang produksyon ng mais, ang palay kaya? Ayon sa nakalap naming ulat mula sa Rehiyon 3, na sumasakop ng lalawigan ng Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac at Pampanga, ang ani ng mga magsasakang gumamit ng makabagong paraan ng Biozome na teknolohiya at umangat uli mula sa 20-100 porsiyento. Ang mga magsasakang gumamit ng organikong pataba na may kahalang Biozome sa BusPan Irrigators Asosasyon sa Bustos at Pandi, Bulacan ay nag-ulat na mayroon umani ng higit sa 200 kaban sa isang ektarya! Sa Pampanga, iniulat na umangat ng 35 porsiyento ang ani ni Provincial Agricultural Officer Benjamin Dixon sa paggamit niya ng Biozome. Sa Tarlac, ang mga magsasaka na gumamit ng organikong pataba na Farmers Product at Biozome ay umani ng karagdagang 35-50 porsiyento bawat ektarya.

At marami pang ibang ulat mula sa Laguna. Ang katutuhanan, iniulat ni Dr. Leoncio Rebong, PAO ng Laguna na tagumpay ang paggamit ng mga magsasaka ng organikong pataba at Biozome, soil conditioner.

Kung lahat na magsasaka ay gumamit ng Biozome sa kanilang palayan, maisan at prutasan, tiyak na aani ang mga magtatanim ng masagana!

Ang nakakalungkot na balita'y aangat na naman ang Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka sa pamamagitan ng National Food Authority ng bigas sa ibang bansa! Samantala nariyan ang mga ani ng mga magsasaka sa Cagayan Valley, Gitnang Luzon at Mindanao na binibili ng mga traders ng mura ang kanilang palay dahil hindi naman binibili ng NFA! Bakit walang perang pambili ng palay ng magsasakang Pilipino ngunit may perang pambili ng bigas sa ibang bansa?

Ang tingin namin ay malaking kapalpakan hanggang ngayon ang pamamahala ng

Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka lalo na sa produksiyon ng palay! Bakit di alamin kina PAO Lucrecia Ilaga ng Tarlac at PAO Dr. Leoncio Rebong ng Laguna kung paano alla naparami ang ani ng palay sa kanilang lalawigan? Kami po'y nagmumungkahi lamang!

Noong ako'y nasa ospital, marami din dumating na sulat na humihingi ng payo tungkol sa wastong pagtatanim ng gulay sa likod bakuran. Nais nilang matuto ng pagtatanim ng dahong gulay tulad ng petsay, mustasa, letsugas, repolyo at nagbubungang gulay: tulad ng ampalaya, patola, upo, talong, kamatis, sili at okra. Mayroon din nais magtanim ng labanos at luya.

Mayroon nalathala sa ating pitak noong nakaraan bago ako nagbakasyon tungkol sa pagtatanim ng ganitong gulay. Ganoon pa man, ating sisikapin ilathala uli para sa kapakanan ng ating mga mambabasa.

(Page 9, please)

## Aangkat na naman tayo ng bigas?

## Did Salonga plagiarize Gen. MacArthur?

IT LOOKS like General Alex Aguirre is in retreat after his loud outbursts against the choice of General Abadia as Chief of Staff. Well, a good general should know how to make a tactical withdrawal when the situation gets rough and Aguirre's position became very rough when Malacanang missiles were all fired at him for his outbursts. Of course not every retreat means defeat, much less surrender. The recent statements attributed to Aguirre, in fact indicates a still firm position against the Abadia promotion. The fact of the matter is that Aguirre's stand has been widely acclaimed among military circles except that, those in the active service would, naturally prefer to just remain silent for fear of losing their jobs or being assigned to "graveyard shifts".

I congratulate Vice President Doy Laurel for his successful visit to Japan last week. All reports from Tokyo indicate that Doy was very well received by official Tokyo up to no less than Prime Minister Kaifu with whom Doy had a long and fruitful conversation on bilateral issues.

By the way I had lunch with former Zambales governor Vic Magsaysay last April 12 in Castillejos. Vic just returned from a quick sortie to the United States. He did not say it so much but I gather that he had a long conversation with former First Lady Imelda who, again told him she is not intending to run for president but will support an opposition standard bearer. According to Vic his reading is that Imelda's support, at least as of now is for Doy Laurel.

Did Senate President Jovy Salonga plagiarize General Douglas MacArthur when he talked with newsmen about his age and why he feels young enough to run for the Presidency? When Salonga was asked about his age as a drawback in his presidential bid,

he answered: "But if you insist that this (presidency) must be given to the youth, I say that age is not a matter of years". Then he added: "You are as young as your hopes, as old as your fears, as young as your competence, as old as your despair, as young as your faith and as old as your doubts and by that standards, I am the youngest of them all."

I am afraid that this statement was nothing more than a quotation from the late 5-star general of the army Douglas MacArthur and the full text of the general's quotation is as follows:

"People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle your skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. YOU ARE AS YOUNG AS YOUR FAITH, AS OLD AS YOUR DOUBT, AS YOUNG AS YOUR SELF CONFIDENCE, AS OLD AS YOUR FEARS; AS YOUNG AS YOUR HOPES, AS OLD AS YOUR DESPAIR. In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer and courage, so long are you young. When your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then and only then are you grown old - and then, indeed as the ballad says, you just fade away."

Obviously, Senate President Jovy lifted MacArthur's words, almost verbatim and if he did not make an allusion to the general, in my book that is plagiarism. That is very bad for a presidential candidate.

Is it true that President Cory's relatives and close associates are the direct beneficiaries of the P795 million CARP funds diversion? *Kung totoo, hindi ba alam ni Cory ito?* If she knows, is this not graft at her very doorsteps? This may be one of the ill effects of Cory's "no reelection" announcement, all members of the Kamaganak,

Inc., may already be engaged in wholesale looting of the nation in preparation that in a year's time they will be out of power and will no longer have the same opportunities to hit jackpots as they now do.

Despite all kinds of military deployment in Mindanao to stop the rampant kidnappings there another Maguindanao businessman was kidnapped. In other words the deployment of those battalions of marines and those orders of President Aquino to go hammers and tongs against the kidnappers did not produce any good results. Even retired General Biazon's picture posing with the troops in the fields in Mindanao proved worthless, *walang may nahuhuli sa kidnappers. Totohanan ba 'yong operations na 'yon?*

The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in Zambales may really be imminent as of this writing and could already blow up by the time this gets to print. I, of course hope to God no eruption will come but if eruption cannot be prevented, I also hope it will just happen already. *Kasi* the situation of the evacuees could soon deteriorate beyond help. True the government and other civic organizations may be able to feed these more than 5,000 evacuees but I am afraid epidemic could break out because of sanitation problems. In a small barangay like Poonbato, almost every space, including the barangay stage is occupied by evacuees, even the inside of the Catholic chapel and the barangay hall. And there are no toilets for these 5,000 evacuees so you can imagine the seriousness of sanitation problems.

It is true that the situation is deteriorating. I was in the foothills of Pinatubo - at Bgy. Belbel all afternoon until evening last Saturday, April 13 and I could feel the movement of the ground. I also saw the plight of about 80 Aetas fleeing their homes in Belbel with their meager belong-

### IN MY CORNER...



By RAUL M. GONZALEZ

ings and with nothing to eat. I left them some money for food for the night and hired a weapons carrier to take them to Poonbato the next morning. The next day, the Bgy. Captain of Burgos came to my house in Iba to report that even as far as Burgos - the next barangay before Poonbato, the earth shook the whole night and until Sunday morning which caused panic among the people. It is a sad spectacle, indeed. Actually Bgy. Belbel is almost totally covered with ashes as of Saturday, April 13, and Maraunot river completely bereft of marine life.

I have just wired the US Subic command for more relief assistance after I got four truckloads of food and other items which were all distributed in the eastern settlements up to Barrio Barretto. Unknown to the relief agencies, many Aetas did not go to the evacuation centers in Poonbato, they went further up the surrounding mountains and many of them could starve unless given food.

Bad news for Amoritis. The Ombudsman has already given due course to the COA audit report and he, together with the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Auditor, Billy Aceron and the Provincial Engineer have been ordered to file counter-affidavits in 10 days time. The criminal case is docketed as OMB-O-91-0403 and is assigned to Graft Investigation Officer Ma. Teresa C. Jimenez. Graft, after graft, after graft. . .

### ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

MUCH MORE than the abstract notions of seniority, tradition and the like, power and perks - especially perks - are why promotions in the military establishment are coveted.

How many AFP officers, active and retired, reside in mansions in luxurious subdivisions, own fleets of cars, and have fabulous bank accounts, despite their relatively meager salaries and/or pensions?

And how many of them can afford to enter the costly world of politics?

Most of them have staggering assets, and can run for congressman, governor, senator and, yes, president.

I know a recently retired general who has let it be known he'll run against the reelectionist governor of our province, a politician who spent some P100 million in 1986. Now don't say that our general will fight the incumbent governor without the corresponding logistics.

Question: Where do our officers and gentlemen get all their wealth? From heaven?

The few soldiers who live up to their oath

end up like you and me, just walking. Right, General, Secretary and future (?) President Ramos?

The military, someone said, is a gold mine if you only know how and have the right connections to the powers that be, including gambling lords.

We can only hope it's not true, can't we?

That "overzealous ombudsman at DPWH" mentioned by *Globe* columnist Alvin Capino (April 8) is the same "special investigator" we described two years ago in our editorial report on the anti-graft office. Looking and smelling every inch a movie actor - in attire, in mannerisms, in perfume, in looks - this guy must really be that "special" to the venerable Ombudsman he is hardly touched despite all the complaints against him.

So is that investigator whose morality is highly questionable, the one another columnist has denounced.

What makes these investigators "special"? They're supposed to be like Caesar's wife, aren't they?

And what makes certain government officials like this diminutive metropolitan mayor and that arrogant Central Luzon governor also "special" such that anti-graft charges against them are dismissed almost as fast as

## Why AFP promotions are coveted

they were filed?

A recent news item about the country's graftbuster clearing our mayor once again only made me laugh.

If this is the way it goes, all these so-called anti-graft agencies ought to be abolished soonest.

Every time I pass by the National Press Club, I can't help ask myself: When will the four-storey medical clinic building ever be finished? Supposedly donated by Don Emilio Yap of the Marcos-owned (?) *Bulletin*, the building has been under construction for more than a year already.

At this writing, not a single construction worker is on the site.

With the next NPC elections just around the

### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RICARDO C. SALCEDO of Quezon City who died intestate on August 23, 1986, consisting of a lot covered by TCT No. 25244 of the Reg. of Deeds of Quezon City with Tax Dec. No. C-080-09295 and a house under Tax Dec. No. C-080-16109; both located in Quezon City, have been extra-judicially settled by his surviving spouse and five children, entered as Doc. No. 132; Page No. 82; Book No. II; Series of 1991, executed before Carlito V. Sembrano, Notary Public for Quezon City on April 17, 1991.

WE FORUM  
April 19, 26 & May 3, 1991

corner, don't you think it's high time its incumbent officers did something to keep the construction work going again?

Except for a few, the lowly media workers can ill afford to pay hospital bills if they get sick. The NPC clinic will surely be of great help.

### Max SOLIVEN (From page 8)

Nakatakda rin akong magtalakay ng ganitong paksa sa Agri-Kapihan sa Manila Seedling Bank. Abangan na lamang ang aming anunsyo sa takdang araw ng Sabado.

Ang nakapagtataka at nagpapalagay ng kakulangan ng wastong kaalaman at tiyakan pamamahala sa bigas ng NFA ay umaabot sa kaalaman ng Pangulong Corason C. Aquino noon nag-ulat ang mga Non-government organizations (NGOs) sa kabisig, kamakailan. Humiling ng South Cotabato kabisig na huwag na magpadala ng NFA rice dahil sobra-sobra ang bigas sa kanilang probinsiya.

Sa Bukidnon, iniulat din na hindi bumibili ang NFA ng palay at mais na ani ng mga magsasaka. Ang halaga ng palay ay P1.80-P2 ang isang kilo!! Nasaan ang "support price" ng gobyerno?

Saan ang hustipikasyon ng pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas sa NFA upang may pambili ng palay ng mga magsasaka o tataas din ang halaga ng kanilang ipagbibiling palay?

Sa mga taga NFA, maawa naman kayo sa mahihirap at huwag ninyong lukobin ang mga magsasaka!!

# Panibagong armas, nakapaglalaway

**NAGLALAWAY NGAYON** sa mga makabagong sandata ang mga bansa sa Ikatlong Daigdig matapos nilang makita kung paano puksain ng mga puwersang militar ng kanluran ang sandatahang lakas ni Presidente Saddam Hussein na ginastusan ng Iraq nang \$50 bilyon para maipundar.

Ito ang pagtaya ng mga manunuring pangmilitar ayon sa isang ulat ni Michael Wines na nalathala sa *New York Times*.

Ngayon pa lamang ay nakikita nang binibilisan ng mga bansang nagpoprodyus ng langis ang pagpapalawak sa kanilang mga programang pangmilitar. Ipinagtataka naman ng mga diplomatic ob-

server ng kanluran kung paano maipapaliwanag ng Indonesia at Malaysia ang pagpapalakas ng kanilang mga puwersang nabal at panghimpapawid gayong lagi nilang sinasabing ang kanilang mga bansa ay isang "sona ng kapayapaan, kalayaan at walang pinapanigan" sa lugar ng ASEAN.

Sinasabi ng mga tagapagmasid na para sa kanilang mga pangangailangang pantanggulan, ang Singapore at Brunei ay may sapat nang armas. Ang Thailand, na mayroon nang mga makabagong sandata, ay iniulat na "nagpapalakas pa ng kanilang kakayahang pangmilitar." Sa mga bansang ASEAN, na kinabibilangan ng Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia,

Pilipinas, Singapore at Thailand, ang ating bansa lamang ang "natiwan" sa kahandaang pangmilitar.

Paulit-ulit nang hinihiling nina Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos at National Security Adviser Rafael Iletto na isang malaking bahagi ng "compensation package" para sa patuloy na pananatili ng mga baseng militar ng US ang dapat iukol sa pagbili ng mga military hardware, kagamitan at materyal para sa sandatahang lakas ng Pilipinas. Inamin nina Ramos at Iletto, na kapwa mga propesyunal na sundalo, na kung sa sarili lamang ng Pilipinas ay hindi ito makukumpleto ang mga armas at kagamitan ng Philippine

army, navy at air force.

Nakasaad pa sa *New York Times* na "Bagamat sinasabi ng administrasyong Bush na tutol ito sa paramihan ng mga armas at nakikipag-ugnayan na ito sa Pransya at iba pang kanluraning puwersa na bawasan ang pagbebentang mga armas, lumitaw sa nakaraang digmaan na ang Estados Unidos pa rin ang pinakamalaking tagapagbenta ng armas sa Gulf region.

Ayon sa mga tagahimaton, ang iba pang pangunahing puwersang nakatakdang magbenta ng high-tech arms sa mga bansa ng Ikatlong Daigdig ay ang Soviet Union, China, France at Germany. (*Asian News & Features*)

# Masa

Katotohanan o Katarungan o Kalayaan

10

APRIL 19-25, 1991



SADDAM: \$50 bilyon para sa armas.

## ALANGANING KATAYUAN

# Mgasenador kontra sa Base

**ANG MATATAG** na paninindigan ni Presidente Aquino na alamin ang damdamin ng mamamayan hinggil sa isyu ng mga base ang maaaring maglagay sa mga kontra sa base sa Senado sa alanganing katayuang pampolitika.

Ayaw ng mga kontra-baseng aspirante sa panguluhan sa Senado, na pinamumunuan ni Senate President Jovito Salonga, na makitang ieendorso ng sambayanan ang patuloy na pananatili ng mga base bago ratipikahin ang bagong kasunduan sa base.

Ayon sa mga resulta ng pambansang sarbey, halos nakatitayak ang pagpapatibay ng mamamayan sa pananatili ng mga base o ekstensiyon dahil lahat ng mga sarbey ay nagpapakitang "oo" ang sagot ng mga tao.

Palibhasa'y batid nila na ang naturang endorsement ay magkakaroon ng malaking epekto sa kanilang aspirasyong pampanguluhan, ang mga sen-

ador, kabilang na si Senate Majority leader Juan Ponce Enrile, at si Aquilino Pimentel, ay walang magawa kundi usisain ang konstitusyonalidad ng iminungkahing konsultasyon.

Halatang-halata silang umiwas sa pag-atake sa mga ideyang nagpapahintulot sa mamamayang magsagawa ng kanilang karapatan na maihayag ang kanilang damdamin sa isyu sa isang reperendum na hindi sapilitang dapat sundin ang resulta. Alam nila na ang pag-atake sa ganitong pundamental na karapatan ng mamamayan ay nangangahulugan ng pagbagsak nila sa pulitika.

Paulit-ulit na idiniin ni Pangulong Aquino ang kahalagahan ng konsultasyon sa mamamayan hinggil sa hinarap ng Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base at iba pang instalasyong pang militar ng Amerika.

Ang konsultasyong pi-

naninindihan ng Pangulo ay pinalakas ng isang resolusyon ng Mababang Kapulungan na humihiling ng konsultasyon sa pamamagitan ng mga asembliyong pambarangay. Ang naturang House Resolution blg. 1536 ay isinampa ni Kint. Pacita R. Gonzales ng pangalawang distrito ng Zambales.



ENRILE, PIMENTEL: Malaking epekto.

Sinabi ni Gonzales na ang konsultasyon sa mga barangay "ay ang pinakamalawak na uri ng demokrasyang may partisipasyon," lalo na, paliwanag

niya, na sa mga asembliyong pambarangay ay kuwalipikadong lumahok kahit na ang mga 15 taong gulang.

Ang mambabatas ng Zambales ay hindi sumang-ayon sa pananaw ni Salonga na ang iminungkahing konsultasyon ay labag sa konstitusyon. Hinalimbawa niya ang desisyon



ng Korte Suprema noong 1975 na walang mali kung konsultahin ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas ang mga mamamayan. (*ANFT*)

## From verdant (From page 14)

kilometers west of the poblacion (town proper). Bagabag, meanwhile, leads to the world famous Banaue rice terraces via the towns of Lamut and Lagawe in Ifugao province.

Nueva Vizcaya's highways are also strewn, not with palay as in Nueva Ecija, but with yellow corn for sun-drying. But Vizcaya farmers are more assertive in protecting their produce from motorists who sometimes dare plow their vehicles over the kernels. They place sharply pointed farm implements at both ends of their drying areas.

The capital town of Bayombong whose St. Mary's College and Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology are among the best in the region has several tourist come-ons. Currently most popular is Villamar Resort which is attracting people from all walks of life. Another is Bangan Hill with its bird's eye view of the town and nearby Solano.

### ISABELA'S ENCHANTING VALLEY

After another mountain climb, this time along the 35-kilometer Bagabag-Diadi-Cordon road, one finally goes

downslope to Isabela and its wealthy valley. Cordon, Isabela's southernmost town, is where one can take a road to Quirino province and the towns of Saguday, Diffun, Aglipay, Cabarroguis and Maddela.

Isabela is a picture of growth. Gradually challenging Nueva Ecija as the country's rice gra-

nary after the completion of the Magat irrigation project a decade ago. Isabela likewise boasts of its peanuts and native tobacco.

But Isabela will be another story, together with notes of a similar trip further northward to Aparri in Cagayan. (*Philippine News and Features*)

### EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAFAEL LOPEZ and NATIVIDAD D. LOPEZ has been the subject of extrajudicial partition/settlement by their heirs as per Notarial Register of Atty. AURORA B. SALVA-BAUTISTA whose commission expires on December 31, 1991.

WE FORUM  
April 12, 19 & 26, 1991

# Mga aral sa bilangguan

ni HERBERT VEGO

SA LOOB ng dalawang araw noong nakaraang linggo, nakulong ang dalawang miyembro ng lokal na pahayagan sa piitang pamprobinsiya, sa Iloilo Rehabilitation Center, dahil sa libelo. Sila ay sina Teddy S. Sumaray, pangulo ng Iloilo Press and Radio Club; at ang manunulat na ito bilang editor ng *Visayan Tribune*, dahil sa paglalabas ng istoryang nagsasabing ang isang manananggol ay "fly-by-night- newspaper publisher."

Nang damputin kami ng dalawang kaibigang pulis ay hindi kami nanlabar kahit alam naming wala kaming kasalanan. Sa loob-loob namin mag-isip nang positibo. Hindi lahat ng mamamahayag ay nakukulong; pagkakataon na ito. Alam namin na may mga aral na matutuhan doon.

Unang aral: Magastos ang paglabas sa piitan, kahit na sinasabi ng batas na ang suspek ay ipinalalagay na inosente hanggang hindi napapatunayang nagkasala. Maiwasan naman namin ang makulong pero hindi kami ganoong kayaman upang mabayaran ang inirekumendang piyansa na P6,000 bawat isa.

Pangalawang aral: Ang naantalang hustisya ay hustisyang ipinagkakait. Sinabi sa amin ng mabait na warden ng rehabilitation center na si Col. Romeo Fernandez, na ang pinakahuling taong gusto niyang makita ay ang isa pang darating na detinido. Ang dahilan, 452 tao na ang nagsisiksikan sa kulungang itinayo para sa 250 tao. Sa mga ito, 391 ang nasa paglilitis, naghihintay sa araw na ang huwes ay magdedeklara ng sentensiya o na sila ay "walang sala." Ang ilan sa kanila, sabi ni Fernandez, ay walong taon na sa loob.

Ikatlong aral: Karamihan sa mga nakakulong ay mga pinakadukha sa mga mahihirap. Sa oras ng aming pahinga, ininterbyu namin nang walang pagpili ang aming mga kasamahan sa loob. Karamihan sa kanila ay nagtititil sa kakaunting rasyong pagkain - na kadalasan ay kanin at sabaw na may isda at gulay. Mga isang dosena lang sa mga nasa loob ang masuwerte na nagkakaroon ng mga bisita na nagsisipagdala ng pagkain at inumin. Salamat sa Diyos, kami ni Mr. Sumaray ay nakakapagpamigay pa ng sobrang tinapay at pansit. Nabatid ko na isang malaking kaligayahan na para sa kanila na makatanggap ng gayong "profit sharing". Kahit paano ay pansamantalang nabuhay ang kanilang gumuguhong nang pag-asa.

Ikaapat na aral: Ang pagkakakulong ay nagbubunsod na

(Sundan sa pahina 11)

## Ang wika ni Erap

HINDI ITO pangangampanya kay Sen. Joseph 'Erap' Estrada. Sangayon ako sa paninindigan niya laban sa mga base militar ng Kano ngunit hindi ko pa matanggap na papayagan siya ng Imperyalistang Kano na magwagi bilang Pangulo ng Pilipinas. Itanong natin sa mga Iraqui at Iranian na namamatay sa gutom at lamig ngayon dahil sa panghihimasok ng Kano sa digmaan sa Gulpo. Itanong natin sa mga bata't matanda na wala nang mailuha at bahaw na ang tinig sa pagsigaw laban sa nagaganap sa kanila.

Hindi ko matatawaran ang tapang ni Erap sa pagnanais niya na pasukin ang tradisyunal na pulitika. Baril, goons, at salapi ang pangunahing sandata sa labanang ito.

Ngunit pansinin naman natin ang magandang katangian ni Erap lalo na hinggil sa ating wikang pambansa. Kapansin-pansin na ginagawang "laruan" si Erap pagdating sa pagsasalita ng wikang Ingles. Agad namang mapapansin na hindi sanay sa pagsasalita si Erap ng wikang "banyagang" ito. Ngunit hindi naman matatawaran ang talino niya kahit wika natin ang ginagamit niya. Nandoon pa rin ang talas ng kanyang isip at "sentido kumon" na wala sa iba na kung minsan ay nagpipilit maging kumplikado makapagyabang lamang. Ano bang dapat ikahiya ni Erap kung Pilipino ang gagamitin niyang salita? Hindi ba dapat lalong pag-alabin ni Erap ang damdaming makabayan ng mga Pilipino at ang paggalang nila sa kanilang sarili sa pagtataguyod sa wikang Pilipino? Maraming "makabayan" na hindi man lamang marunong makipagtalastasan sa Pilipino kahit na nakikisalamuha sila sa "masa". Ito ang isang malaking "lamang" ni Erap sa ilang kandidato. Walumpit limang porsyento ng mamamayang Pilipino ang nagsasalita sa wikang Pilipino o nakaiintindi ng wikang Pilipino. Ito'y tutoo maging sa Kabisayaan at Mindanao. Patunay nito ang tagumpay sa takilya ng mga pelikula nina FPJ, Dolphy, Sharon Cuneta, Rudy Fernandez, atbp.

Kaya kung gagamitin lamang ni Erap ng tama ang wikang Pilipino para makita ng mga

### KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

Pilipino ang kanilang kakanyahan (identity), maaari akong pumayag na mananalo siya. Hindi ba't biniro siya ni Maceda sa isang "comedy talk show" na nahuli si Erap sa hapunan ng mga "presidentiables" dahil matagal siyang nakipagkwentuhan sa mga "tsimay ng bahay ng nag-imbiba."

Tutoo! Ang maghahalal kay Erap ay ang nasa pangkat mahihirap ng lipunang Pilipino. Ang mga Pilipinong ito ay sa Pilipino nagiisip at nagsasalita. Makikita nila ang sarili nila kay Erap. Hindi elitista. Parehosila ng "tabas ng dila". Masa rin si Erap.

Kawawa ang mga pulitikong ginagamit lamang na pasakalye ang wikang Pilipino at pagkatapos ay mayabang sa pagtatalumpati sa wikang banyaga. Ni hindi ako nakakita sa kanila ng pagsusumikap na paunlarin at palaganapin ang wikang Pilipino lalo pa't nasa puwesto sila. Pakunwari lamang ang paggamit nila sa wika.

Wala pa 'kong nakitang mga miyembro ng Gabinete, Senado at Kongreso na nagsalita ng tuloy-tuloy sa wika natin. Ito ang malinaw na patunay na hindi sila nagsumikap na maging bihasa sila sa paggamit ng wika natin. Kung sabagay, malinaw na ang mga taong ito ay aral sa mga dayuhang paaralan o mga paaralang ang mga guro ay para na ring dayuhan kung mag-isip.

Pinagtatawaran ngayon si Erap dahil sa kanyang "English Carabao". Ngunit darating marahil ang panahon na si Erap ang tafawa sa mga "Pilipinong" hindi na maiintindihan ng mga kapwa niya Pilipino. Kahabag-habag sila. Ngunit huwag silang kaawaan.



REPORMANG PANSAKAHAN: Kabalik at ang magbubukid.

## Magsasaka, dapat tumulong sa repormang pansakahan

LEGASPI CITY — Upang lubos na magtagumpay ang programa ng repormang pansakahan, hindi lamang ang gobyerno ang dapat na kumilos kundi maging ang mga karapat-dapat makinabang na mga magsasaka, na dapat magpakitang mula na sila sa kanilang mga karapatan at mga responsibilidad.

Ito ang binigyang diin ni Commissioner Josefina Garcia Se, pinuno ng Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, sa mga nagsipagtapos na estudyante ng Kolehiyo ng Agrikultura ng Unibersidad ng Bicol sa Guinobatan, Albay noong isang linggo.

Naging panauhing tagapag-

salita rin si Se sa pagtatapos sa Flores Institute sa Pioduran, Albay at nagtungo siya sa Bicol upang ipaalam sa tao ang ginagawa ng komisyon para sa mga magsasaka na nawalan ng mga lupa dahil sa mga pekeng titulo at iba pang mga serbisyo, at para na rin malaman kung ano ang kanyang magagawa rito.

Pinakiusapan ni Se ang pamahalaan, sa kanyang talumpati ukol sa Panlipunang Katarungan at Edukasyong Pansakahan para sa Lubusang Pagpapaunlad ng mga Lalawigan, na maging matapat sa pagpapatupad ng repormang pansakahan.

Inilarawan ni Se, na dating hukom ng Korte ng Ugnayang Pang agraryo bago nahirang sa kanyang kasalukuyang puwesto, ang Agricultural Tenancy Law (RA 1191) bilang pinakamapangahas na halimbawa ng mga pagsisikap ng pamahalaan na maipatupad ang mga hangarin ng katarungang panlipunan.

Sa ilalim ng Agricultural Tenancy Law, ang paghahati ng ani ay binago mula sa 50-50 tungo sa 70-30 na pumapabor sa mga kasama bilang gantimpala sa kanilang ginawa.

Sa Land Reform Code naman, ang pinakapangunahing layunin ay ang pamamahagi ng mga lupain ng gobyerno at ng malalaking lupa ng mga pribadong indibidwal.

"Pangarap ng pamahalaang Aquino na makita ang bawat Pilipinong magsasaka na mabuhay nang maayos, kundi man sa kaginhawahan," aniya. Sinabi pa ng babaeng pinuno na tumutulong ang komisyon sa mga umookupa ng mga publikong lupain at sa mga mahihirap na pamilyang pinaalis sa kani-kanilang mga minanang lupa upang makakuha ng hustisya.

"Tinatupad namin ang pangarap ni Pangulong Magsaysay na mabigyan ng katarungan ang mga taong salat sa buhay," ayon kay Se. (ANFI)

## Mga aral

(Mula sa pahina 10)

maging malikhain. Nakita namin mismo ang mga yaring produktong kawayan — gaya ng mga dekorasyong pandinding, kuwadro ng litrato at mga bulaklak — mga yari sa kamay ng mga tagaloob, na ni hindi nag-akalang magkakaroon sila ng ganoong kakayahan bago sila nakulong. Magsusulat na sana kami ng mga lathalain nang malaman namin na pinabibigyan kami ng warden ng mesang masusulatan. Naalala ko tuloy si Jose Rizal na nakasulat ng isang obra maestra, ang *La Ultimo Adios*, habang

nakakulong.

Ngunit nang hihilingin ko na lamang ang aking portable typewriter, ay ibinalita naman ng isang bantay na ibinaba ni Judge Quirico Defensor ang aking piyansa mula sa P6,000 ay naging P3,000 at binayaran ito ng aking amo, na si Jose U. Santos.

Ngayon, ako at si Mr. Sumaray ay nakalalaya sa bisa ng piyansa. May posibilidad pa rin na mabalik kami sa kulungan dahil sa isa pang kasong libelo. Pero, pagkatapos ng mga pinagdaanan namin, ano pa ang dapat ikatakot? (ANFI)

## Vic BARRANCO

(From page 8)

recovery of Marcos ill-gotten wealth, and he has explained it well to President Aquino. Never was an answer given.

Abelardo P. Mojica, *Newsline* editor, pointed out that up to Sept., 1988, when the special breakfast press conference was arranged by the magazine, President Aquino had been in office 31 months, "but her administration lacks a sense of ultimate values and a feel for long-term direction."

Since the PCGG holds the key to the solution of many national problems, Aquino has invariably picked the wrong key, and as a result she has instead tightened the lock on these problems.

Editor "Mojica" Mojica, following critical line drawn by Diaz I (who had just resigned as PCGG chairman), cited Aquino's series of appointees to the important post of Commission chairman: Azcuna of

the Palace legal staff, was a former associate of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, following him was M.A.T. Caparas, counsel of a presidential kin."

After the Sumulong-Tanjuanco team's visit to "Apo" Marcos in exile in Makiki Heights, Honolulu, came a deluge of charges of incompetence, ineptitude, etc. against Diaz and the PCGG officialdom, coming from no less than Solicitor General Francisco I. Chavez. Former PCGG chairman Diaz peti-

tioned the Supreme Court "for Chavez's disbarment."

"And Diaz, whose conduct has been impeccable, is not one to be taken for granted," wrote Editor Mojica.

To appease Diaz, Aquino appointed him Ambassador to Canada.

Diaz is not appeased, and neither is he quieted in that post. He is ill at ease in his diplomatic seat in Ottawa halfway around the world, knowing that President Aquino and his advisers are tinkering with

the PCGG and doing other acts which are apparently adverse to common standards of public welfare, official integrity, justice, good government and democratic system.

Aquino recently was provoked by his advisers to put Diaz on the carpet for some unspecified charges.

Diaz answered back, in effect welcomed the Aquino plan, and figuratively said: Okay, President Aquino. When do I appear before the Blue Ribbon committee of Congress and get the hell out of it all, the

criminals among our officials in the high administration.

Will Aquino accept Diaz challenge? Aquino knows very well she cannot fight an honest man, a righteous man. Diaz has many presidential aspirants, many Aquino favorite senators, Cabinet members, many Aquino party cohorts that will be scandalized and toppled from their artificial political pedestals one such "Diaz Probe" is ordered by the President.

MAY ISANG KASO AKONG MATAGAL NANG  
SINUSUBAYBAYAN...

NGAYON, TUTUKLASIN  
KO KUNG BAKIT  
MASARAP KUMAIN  
ANG PAMILYANG  
VALENCIA.



# MGA ADVENTURES ni DETEKTIB TACTAC

KAYA 'DI MATAPOS-TAPOS SA  
PAGLULUTO ITONG SI MRS.



ANG TATAKAW  
TALAGA!



AT MUKHANG  
NAPAKASARAP  
NITONG  
NILULUTO NIYA!

NANG UMALIS SANDALI SI MRS.,  
DINAMPOT KO ANG  
TINATAK-TAK NIYA SA  
NILULUTO!



UHMMM!



AJI-NO-MOTO! MADE  
FROM SUGAR CANE!

SUGAR CANE



ITO PALA ANG  
NAGPAPASARAP SA  
LUTO NI MRS.



KLANG!

# Mga bilyon ni Marcos: Wala nang pag-asa?

KAHIT PAANO ay nakalulusot pa rin ang Presidential Commissioner on Good Government sa pagtatakip sa kabiguan nito na maituro-kung saan "itinago" ang mga sinasabing "mga bilyon ni Marcos". Sumasakay pa rin ang mapaniwalaing publiko sa mga istorya sa PCGG tungkol sa mga "kayamanan ni Marcos" na umano'y itinago sa Austria, Lichtenstein, at sa Caribbean.

Ang PCGG, na tumitiyak na si Marcos ay may depositong mahigit sa \$300 milyon sa mga bangkong Swiso, ay nagsisikap magpahiwatig na ang iba pa sa hinihinalang \$5 bilyong "ninakaw" ay natutulong sa mga bangko bukod sa mga nasa Switzerland.

Batid ng taong nakakaalam na ang mga salaysay ng PCGG ay hindi kinakagat ng mga diplomatikong Pilipino at mga konsuladong opisyal sa mga naturang lugar. Sa pag-uusap ng mga mamamayan ng Austria, Lichtenstein, at Caribbean, gaya ng sa Switzerland, Amerika at Hongkong, walang anumang report na nagpapatotoo sa mga sinasabi ng PCGG.

May mga pagkakataon na hinuhulaan ng PCGG na maaaring may iba pang deposito si Marcos sa Switzerland na hindi na natutuklasan. Nagpapahiwatig pa ang PCGG na ang mga Marcos ay maaaring may "numbered" accounts sa mga bangko ng Swiss. Ang mga de-numerong account ay hindi nagtataglay ng mga pangalan ng mga depositor. Gayunman, ang mga balita ay kumalat na, marahil ay mula sa mga mapagkakatiwalaan Pilipino, sa istorya ng *New York Times*. Ayon sa balita:

"Habang nalalapit nang matapos ang anim na taong panunungkulan ni Presidente Corazon C. Aquino sa susunod na taon, nalalantad ang pagkabigo nitong makita ang \$5 bilyon o higit pa na hinilalang kinurakot ni Ferdinand E. Marcos sa kanyang bansa, at ang kanyang gobyerno ay nagsimula nang makipag-usap sa balo ni Marcos na si Imelda."

"Sinasabi ng mga abogado at opisyal ng pamahalaan na kalahok sa paghahanap na, marahil ay hindi na malalaman kung magkano talaga ang ninakaw ni Marcos, na namatay sa Hawaii noong 1989, sa loob ng kanyang 20 taong pagkapangulo. "Kung magkano man iyon, anila, malinaw na maliit na bahagi lamang ang mababawi ng Pilipinas."



MARCOS: Nasaan ang kayamanan?

Batay sa mga pahayag ng PCGG, lalo na ng tagapangulo nitong si David Castro, ibibigay lamang ng Swiss banks ang sinasabing \$300 milyong deposito ng mga Marcos kung mahahatulan ng korte sa salang pangungurakot si Gng. Imelda Romualdez Marcos. May karapatan ang mga naturang bangko na magpasya kung ang desisyon ng korte ay alinsunod sa mga batas ng Swiss sa kaayusang publiko at sa Europa tungkol sa karapatang pantao. (*Asian News & Features*)

## ☆☆☆☆☆ Child labor, sinisikap mapigil

DAHIL SA ang suliranin sa child labor o pagpapatrabaho sa bata ay hindi mapigil ng pagbabatas, ang Pilipinas ay nakibilang sa mga bansa sa Asya at sa Brazil, Colombia, Hongkong at India sa pagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa mga menor de edad gayundin sa pagpapaliit ng bilang ng mga nagtatrabahong bata, ayon sa International Labour Office.

Ang mga pagsisikap ng pamahalaan ay tinutulungan ng non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at mga grupong pangkomunidad na nagpapasimuno sa mga proyekto na gaya ng pangangalaga sa kalusugan, pandagdag na pagkain, at mga paaralan sa mga tolda na malapit sa mga lugar na pinagtatrabahuhan ng mga bata.

Ngunit ang mga pagsisikap na ito ay maaaring mawalan ng saysay kung ang masalimuot na mga dahilan ng child labor ay hindi malulunasan. Pitong prioridad ang itinala ng International Labour Organization (ILO) na kinabibilangan ng pagbabawal sa child labor kung ito'y nasa mga kondisyong nagsasamantala at kung mapanganib ang mga patrabaho at industriya.

Idinagdag ng ILO na ang iba pang mga hakbang na dapat isagawa agad ay ang: pagbabawal sa pagpapatrabaho sa mga batang paslit kaalinsunod ng ILO Minimum Age Convention ng 1973, na nagtatakda na 12 taon ang pinakamababang gulang at magaan lamang ang trabaho; paghaharap ng pambansang sistema sa pagpapatupad; pagpapairal ng pormal at di-pormal na edukasyon, pangangalaga sa bata at pagtataguyod ng mga karapatang pambata; pagdadagdag ng empleo at suweldo sa mga katandaang manggagawa upang mabawasan ang pagdepende sa child labor; pagsasangkot sa mga organisasyon ng mga maypatrabaho at mga manggagawa sa kampanya laban sa child labor; at pagsasanib ng aksiyong pantulong ng pamahalaan at ng NGOs upang maprotektahan ang mga batang nagtatrabaho. (*Asian News & Features*)

## Pananatili ng Base, tiyak na?

ANG PATULOY na pananatiling base militar ng Estados Unidos sa Pilipinas ay nakasaad sa isang bagong Agreement on Defense Cooperation na binuo ng mga negosyador o kinatawan ng dalawang bansa sa maselang isyung pambase.

Ang isang kopya ng Kasunduan ay tinanggap ng *Asian News and Features* mula

sa Washington. Ang kasunduan ay lalagdaan ng mga nagsipag-usap mula sa dalawang bansa at pagkatapos ay ipapasa sa kanilang matataas na pinuno para sa pormal na pag-aaprubang pagpapatibay.

Hindi nakalagay sa Kasunduan kung gaano katagal ang panahon ng pagbubuwag ng mga base ng US bagamat

ipinalalagay dahil sa paggigiit ng US ay mananaig ang kagustuhan nitong pito hanggang 10 taon at ipagpaparaya na ang mungkahi ng Pilipinas na hindi iyon dapat lumagpas sa limang taon.

Iwinaksi ng Kasunduan ang lahat ng hinihingi ng mga grupong kontra-base sa Pilipinas, nangunguna na ang

Senado, para sa dagliang pag-aalis ng mga base sa Setyembre 16, 1991.

Ang patuloy na pananatili ng militar ng US ay nakasaad sa ilalim ng Artikulo X na nagsasabing ang dalawang bansa, pagkatapos ng panahon ng pagbubuwag ay maaaring lumagda sa isang kasunduan ukol sa magiging access o pahintulot na magamit ng mga puwersa ng US ang mga pasilidad pangmilitar sa Pilipinas.

Binigyang-diin sa Kasunduan ang kahalagahan ng pananatiling "flexible" o madaling pagbabaling ng gayong pahintulot sa panghinaharap na pananatili ng mga puwersa ng US sa Pilipinas.

Pinahihintulutan ng Kasunduan, sa Artikulo I, ang pananatili ng militar ng US sa panahon ng pagbubuwag at maging pagkatapos nito sa pamamagitan ng Access Arrangement o pagpapahintulot makagamit sa Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base at Wallace Air Station.

Ang kasunduan ay nagsaad ng anim na dahilan para

pahintulutan pa ang militar ng US sa bansa, kabilang na rito ang magkasanib na pagsasanay sa mga puwersa ng US at ng Pilipinas.

Ayon sa Artikulo X, sumasang-ayon ang US na lubusang umalissakanilang mga base pagkatapos ng panahon ng pagbubuwag, maliban kung ang kapwa bansa ay papayag sa access arrangements. Kung magkagayon, magsasagawa ng mga kaukulang pagbabago batay sa access arrangements.

Kung mapapagtibay ang Kasunduan, ito ay inaasahang magiging malaking isyu sa darating na halalang pampanguluhan sa Pilipinas, dahil ang pag-aalis ng mga base ay kabilang sa plataporma ng maraming kandidato.

Noong una, halos lahat ng kandidato ay tutol sa pananatili ng base pagkatapos ng Bases Treaty. Ngunit dahil sa maigting na pangungulit ng Washington at sa lumalakas na simpatiya ng publiko sa pananatili ng mga ito, marami na ang nagbago ng kanilang paninindigan, maliban na lamang kina Senador Jovito Salonga at Senador Juan Ponce Enrile.

Si Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, na isang graduate ng West Point, ang tanging kandidato na sumasang-ayon sa pananatili ng militar ng US habang gusto ng mga ito. Sinabi niya na iyon ay mainam para sa seguridad hindi lamang ng Pilipinas kundi ng buong rehiyong Asya-Pasipiko.

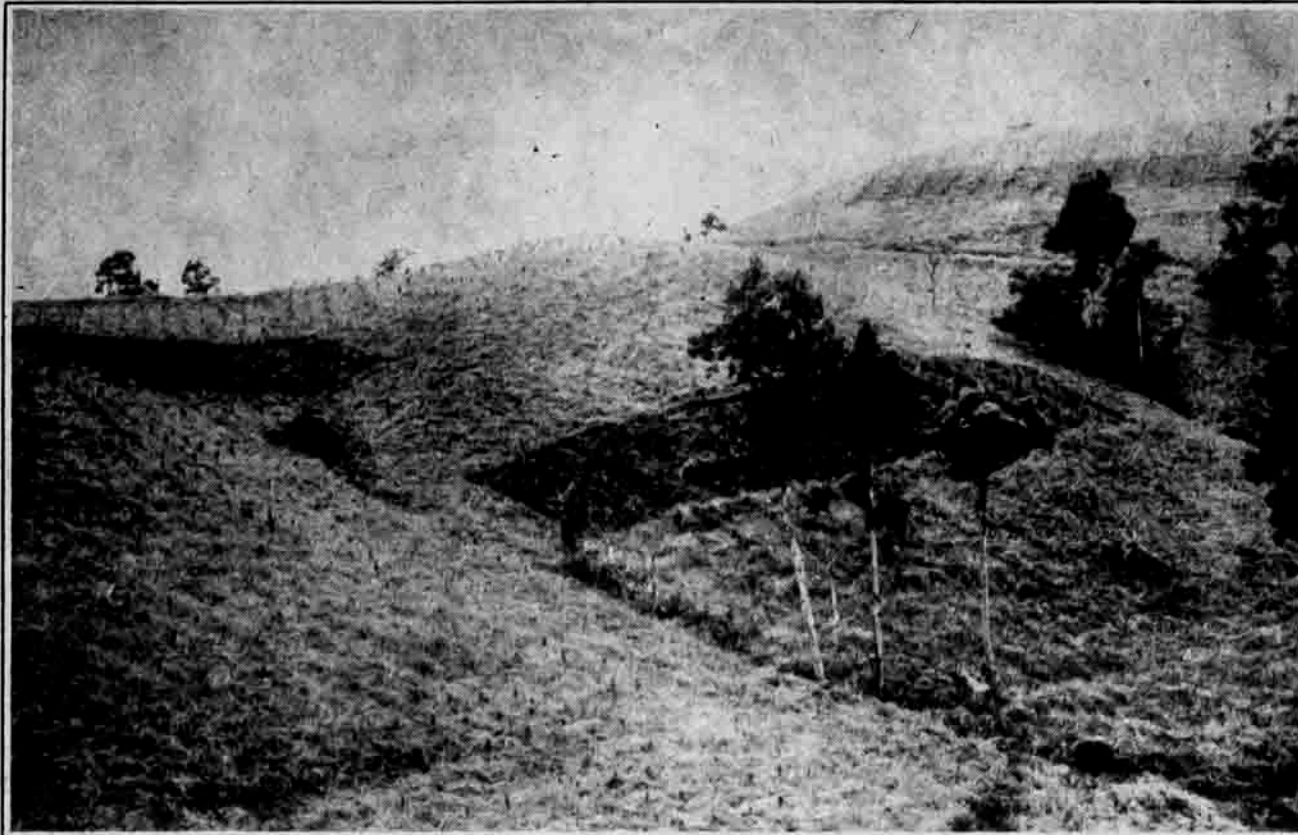
Ipinaaalala naman ng mga lider ng kontra-base kay Presidente Aquino at sa iba pang lider ng kanyang administrasyon ang nilagdaan nilang kasunduan sa Convenor Group noong nangangampanya pa lamang sila laban kay Marcos na kung sila ay mananalo, bubuwagin nila ang lahat ng mga base. Gayunman, marami na rin sa mga lider na ito ang nagbago ng paninindigan dahil umano sa lumalakas na pag-aprubang publiko sa pananatili ng mga base ng US ayon sa mga sarbey.

Samantala, sinasabing ang Kasunduan ay hindi na tatalakayin ng dalawang panel sa pagpupulong sa Maynila. Bagkus, magiging panseremonya na lamang ang sesyon ng paglalagay ng kanilang "initials" o lagda. (*Asian News & Features*)



BASE MILITAR: Ayos na ba?





BALDING MOUNTAIN: A grim scenario.

## TRAVEL NOTES

# From verdant farmlands to earthquake scars

By JUN G. DOMINGO

**SANTIAGO, ISABELA** — A pleasure trip aboard an air-conditioned bus from Manila to this bustling town in southern Isabela can provide enlightening insights in local ecology and geo-economics.

The 320-kilometer trip, costing between P120 and P140 depending on the bus line one takes, also affords keen observers with revealing information on regional culture and history. The eight-hour trip includes at least three stops for meals or snacks, and gas.

Bus companies servicing the route include Pantranco, Dalin Liner, Manny Trans, Inland Trailways, Nelbusco, Delta Liner and Baliwag Transit, the last two having opened their Cagayan Valley fleet only this year.

### BULACAN'S SWEETS AND POTHOLE

Along the north expressway from Manila, easily noticeable are smoke-emitting factories inching their way from the crowded metropolis to establish foothold in the still verdant farmlands of Bulacan.

After a 25-minute cruise,

one may exit either in Tabang, Sta. Rita or Pulilan — depending again on the bus taken and the road and traffic conditions in Plaridel town, Bulacan — to get to Maharlika highway (also known as Cagayan Valley road).

Passing through Baliwag, San Ildefonso and San Miguel towns, frequent commuters cannot miss the relatively improved condition of the roads. Until a year ago, San Miguel — 75 kilometers away from Manila — had been pejoratively known as "the town of sweets and potholes", the latter referring to its nerve-ending stretch of ill-maintained roads. Not anymore.

But the sweets are still there. More than a dozen stalls selling homemade food products from fruits, nuts and other natural extracts are enough reason for travelers to make San Miguel a must stopover for snacks and *pasalubong* (arrival gift).

The more popular gift items are *pastillas* flavored with milk (*de leche*), or yam (*de ube*), and mouth-watering fruits preserved as jam, jelly or dried candy. Also sought after are *kesong*

*puti* (native cheese), *turon de kasuy*, *yema* (milk candy), *ube* (yam candy), and *chicharon* (pork hide deep-fried for maximum crispness).

### NUEVA ECIJA'S ROLLING RICEFIELDS

Especially during summer, newcomers to Gapan, Jaen, San Leonardo and Sta. Rosa towns in Nueva Ecija are greeted not only by the rolling ricefields for which the province is known but also by golden *palay* (unhusked rice grains) spread over the highways for drying to the consternation of motorists in a hurry.

In Cabanatuan City, Isabela-bound buses — except for Baliwag Transit — do not enter the city proper, preferring to drop-off and pick-up passengers along the diversion road to avoid tangling with the city's ubiquitous and unruly tricycle drivers.

Once dubbed as the country's biggest little city, Cabanatuan is now unflatteringly known as "the city of undisciplined tricycles," no thanks to its more than 5,000 motorized pedicabs — of all kinds, age and make — ruling the city's narrow streets.

After Cabanatuan beckon the popular roadside gastronomic delights: *tuba* (fermented palm sap) in barangay San Miguel na Munti, Talavera; *singkamas* (turnips) and *nilangang mais* (boiled corn) in barangay Sicsican, also of Talavera; and *tupig* (roasted ground glutinous rice with grated coconut) in barangay Baloc, Sto. Domingo.

Then comes Munoz town with the newly-constructed multi-million peso PHILRICE complex (formerly Maligaya Rice Research and Training Center) and the once-proud Central Luzon State University, the country's largest agricultural school outside of UP Los Banos.

Some 160 kilometers from Manila is San Jose City, another must stopover for its onions and garlics. San Jose serves as gateway to the Caraballo mountains where whole villages were buried by landslides during the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake.

The quake's scars are still visible starting in barangay Manicla where a bridge collapsed, the road pavement warped and meter-wide fissures developed alongside the highway. Just before the Ecija-Vizcaya boundary in Dalton Pass

## BULACAN: On the go!

By CHRISTINA I. HERMOSO

**BULACAN** — For the last four years, remarkable improvements in the fields of agriculture and cooperative, education, public service, business and culture have been recorded in this province.

Bulacan continues to grow amidst the economic recession and double digit inflation in the country. "It simply shows the effectivity of the provincial government's Five Point Development Program," said Bulacan Governor Roberto M. Pagdanganan.

The Five Point Development Program was launched in 1986 purposely to make Bulacan the progressive province that it is today. It consists of the following programs: Economic Development, Peace and Order Development, the Efficient, Effective and Honest Government Administration, Youth and Cultural Development and Improved Delivery of Health and Social Services.

Based on Governor Pagdanganan's yearend 1990 report, marked improvements in the province of Bulacan are as follows:

- the P1.8 billion capital investments comprising 40 percent of the total capital investments in Region III.
  - the 56.5 percent increase in Bulacan's exports. From \$60.2 million in 1989 to \$94.2 million in 1990.
  - the 10 percent rise in the number of local entrepreneurs in the province. From 2,475 in 1989 to 2,727 in 1990.
  - the completion of the various projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) amounting to P292 million.
  - the 357 cooperatives in Bulacan now have properties and acquisitions amounting to P403 million.
  - the 27 percent increase, from P63.5 million in 1989 to P81 million in 1990, of the provincial government's net income.
  - Bulacan's PC/INP Command unit was recently awarded and recognized "Most Outstanding PC/INP Command in Region III."
  - the provincial government's Kaunlaran sa Pagkakaisa and Ang Tulong sa Tao programs and the Land Bank of the Philippines have released P88.5 million in loans to 143 cooperatives.
  - as recorded by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in 1988, 60 percent of the total number of Bulakenos are earning P3,350 or more monthly as compared to only 35 percent in 1985.
- The marked progress in Bulacan is a result of the concerted efforts of the provincial government and the Bulakenos following the launching and implementation of the Five Point Development Program. (ANFT)

are barangays Puncan, Digidig, Piut, Minuli, and Capintalan which bore the brunt of the quake's fury.

These communities are now beginning to stir into life again, although their tent houses have yet to be replaced with more permanent dwellings. The new roads, constructed several hundred feet above the destroyed ones, provide a vantage view of the extent of devastation.

### NUEVA ECIJA'S ANGRY RIVERS

A patch of reforested hills near Sta. Fe town brings a whiff of fresh air with its decade-young pine trees. Elsewhere,

however, are balding mountains many still black and smoldering due to recent fires which devoured whatever attempts at secondary forest growth.

The rivers winding through Aritao, Bambang, Bayombong, Solano and Bagabag towns is another testimony of how floods and erosion can bring havoc to farmlands and infrastructure. Eroded roads near Bato Ferry Bridge in barangay Sto. Domingo, Bayombong attest to how year after year the river eats up adjoining lands.

Bambang is noted for its salt springs (Salinas), some five

(Page 10, please)

# US solons blocking RP seaweeds exports

By EMMANUEL MONGAYA

CEBU CITY. -- A Philippine seaweed industry leader has scored an alliance between US carrageenan producers and American congressional leaders in blocking the entry of the Philippine Natural Grade (PNG) carrageenan into the US market.

Benzon Dakay, Seaweed Industry of the Philippines (SIAP) president, cited as proof an expose in the April 5 issue of *Washington Post* by Jack Anderson, photocopies of which were distributed to local reporters.

In his article "Constituent Service Tangled in Seaweed," Anderson reported that American legislators who have received campaign funds from US carrageenan producers are now asking the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reconsider its approval of the entry of the Philippine product to the US market.

US carrageenan producers, who opposed the entry of the Philippine product, had handed out \$358,840 in campaign contributions to congressional candidates last year, Anderson said.

Two American multina-

tional firms, the Hercules Inc. and FMC Corp., reportedly put up the money. The two firms had reportedly lobbied successfully in having a rider included in the US 1991 appropriations bill seeking an evaluation of the FDA decision.

"This is unfair competition," Dakay said adding that these moves by competitors and legislators in the United States has deprived the Philippines of a potential \$100 million to \$200 million in seaweed exports. PNG carrageenan exports to the US was around \$45 million in 1989.

Dakay added that even PNG carrageenan importers in Israel recently canceled a big order apparently because of the strong lobby in the United States.

Anderson named some of the US legislators as Senate Majority Floorleader George J. Mitchell (Democrat-Maine), Representative Thomas R. Carper (Democrat-Delaware), and Representative Howard C. Nielson (Republican-Utah).

The FDA had informed RP seaweed industry leaders last year that "PNG carrageenan

has met the agency's requirements and can be used in food in the States within the limit of regulation."

Carrageenan is used as thickener in several food products like ice cream and beer. Anderson said it is even an ingredient in a new low-fat hamburger that McDonald's will soon introduce.

However, the October 1990 issue of *Food Chemical News* reported that Nielson, along with 15 others, questioned FDA's approval.

"The lawmakers who questioned the FDA's approval of Philippine carrageenan say they have the health and safety of the consumers at heart. But the fact that they only got involved because constituents and campaign contributors asked them puts their motives in question," Anderson added.

As of now, four Philippine seaweed firms export PNG carrageenan to the US. Shemberg Marketing, which Dakay heads, has \$3 million share of the exports.

Dakay said he will raise this matter to the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department. (PNF)



SEAWEEDES EXPORT: Unfair competition in US?

## Anti-rat campaign in Western Visayas

By DIOSA LABISTE

ILOILO CITY -- It's summer, the farms are idle, the time when farmers undertake some community activities. The anti-rat campaign is on in Iloilo and other rat-infested parts of Western Visayas in central Philippines.

"The activity keeps the farmers busy now that their farms are idle," said Lope Doromal, officer of the Integrated Pest Management of the Department of Agriculture. "It helps foster the *bayanihan* (cooperative spirit) because rat campaigns are successful when launched on a community-wide basis."

Western Visayas farmers have every reason to mount intensive rat extermination campaigns.

Last year, pest management officials here said, rats ravaged the rice crops of 205 *barangays* (villages) in 52 towns in the provinces of Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Iloilo and the sub-province island of Guimaras.

The damage was at an alarming one percent: a colony of rats consumed one cavan of palay (unhusked rice) of every 100 cavans. (A cavan of palay which is a yield of a hectare of irrigated rice farm, costs P180 [\$6.40] Iloilo (a major rice bowl in the Visayas) alone has 265,305 hectares of riceland.

Rodents are of two kinds: the Norway rat (*Rattus*

*norvegicus*) and the Philippine ricefield rat (*Rattus mindanensis*). The Norway rat is previously a city rat but now found in rural areas and took to liking grains. It weighs 200-500 grams. The ricefield rat is 100-250 grams and is the most destructive among farm-pillaging rodents.

Rats multiply fast during the rainy season when rice crops bloom. The young mature in 45-70 days. A mating pair can reproduce as many as 1,270 offspring a year.

Rats, Doromal said, can be exterminated in many ways: drowning them by flooding their burrows, trapping or attacking them. Farmers can also use rodenticides or raticides which come as either acute poison (zinc phosphide) or chronic poison (anticoagulant).

Doromal, who has been with the DA's rat control program since 1957, said rat infestation in western Visayas is critical every 10 years. In the '50s rats did not pose any problem to farmers deterred as they were from attacking ricecrops by snakes, hawks, cats, dogs and other anti-rat predators.

"But snakes today have been eliminated by all sorts of farm chemicals and the hawks wiped out by hunters," Doromal said. "Cats and dogs, now domesticated, no longer like rats for

prey. Farmers though at times hunt rats for food."

The introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYV) of rice has also led to an increase in rat population. Doromal said rice-growing then was only once a year but with HYVs the rats are assured of food in irrigated lands all year round.

Farmers engaged in anti-rat campaigns are active in parts of Antique and Aklan. Other provinces have yet to organize their own rat hunters.

In Antique west of here each village is asked to collect 5,000 or more rattails as proof of their campaign's success. Those who meet the quota receive cash gifts.

In Aklan popularity contests such as Miss Superstar (rats) are common. A village lass could win by amassing the most number of rattails.

Anti-rat campaigns are not however the farmers' sole responsibility although they are most affected by these grain-eating pests. Republic Act 3942 mandates that Filipinos ages 16 to 60 years are obliged to kill rats for three days each year. Moreover Letter of Instruction 405 provides for the organization of Barangay Rat and Other Pests Patrols (BRAPPS) in every village led by the barangay captain (village chief).

That should make barangay folk busy this summer. (PNF)

## Quake victims (From page 16)

firewood gathering.

A day's work making charcoal along the banks of Sta. Fe rivers yields an average of one sack sold to wholesalers at P24 (US \$0.9) per. Firewood gatherers earn about as much a day. When the driftwood shall have been exhausted, they will be back to cutting down what remain of the tress along the reopened Dalton Pass, the gate-

way to Cagayan Valley which some engineers predict will get the way of Kennon Road after this rainy season.

The model relocation site at Tayabo exemplifies livelihood projects launched by government that failed. The Department of Trade and Industry trained several housewives in detergent soap making and left them P50,000 worth of raw

materials as a start-up capital.

In a week's time, the recipients finished their work. But they didn't know where and how to sell their stockpile of produce.

The Department of Agriculture distributed 21 goats also at the Tayabo relocation site occupied by 151 families -- leaving 130 families without a share. That started animosities; some of the goats were made *pulutan* (food served during drinking bouts). (PNF)

cil (RDCC) that the president declare the two provinces also under a state of calamity.

Meanwhile, with rains expected to come only in June, some Maguindanao farmers have asked the DA for livelihood projects so they can raise money for their children's education this coming school year. The projects they said could tide them over between the planting and harvest seasons that are expected to yield minimal crops because of the drought. (Philippine News and Features)

## No calamity (From page 16)

and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said. The Mindanao provinces of Zamboanga del Sur, Davao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato have been worst hit.

Sultan Kudarat (pop.: 354,707) and North Cotabato (pop.: 634,202) were however excluded from provinces in central Mindanao placed under a state of calamity by President Corazon Aquino recently.

Only Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao were included qualifying both provinces to calamity assistance.

DA-Region 12 records show however that more than 50 percent of the P292 million (US\$7.6 million) worth of damaged crops in central Mindanao were sustained by the two excluded provinces.

Local officials asked in a recent meeting of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Coun-

# OK of bills on tribal Filipinos' ancestral rights urged

By MAURICE B. MALANES

BANGUED, ABRA -- Indigenous cultural community leaders in the Cordillera of northern Philippines will lobby for the passage of two bills in Congress recognizing tribal Filipinos' right to their ancestral domain.

If passed, the Senate and House bills on ancestral domain will revolutionize the Regalian Doctrine and other western concepts of land ownership which, tribal elders say, made indigenous Filipinos "virtual squatters of their own land."

Under the Regalian Doctrine, all lands of conquest by the Spaniards in the 1600s belonged to the King of Spain. Under the same doctrine during the American colonial period (1898-1945), practically all indigenous cultural com-

munities were made public lands, military and civil reservations, forest zones and national parks.

"We have to watch that both bills don't get mangled," Zenaida Hamada-Pawid of the Baguio Peace Desk urged some 200 participants to a recent ancestral land congress here over the weekend.

The recent three-day land congress in this capital town of Abra 230 kms. north of Manila was the second of a series of tribal congresses aimed at gaining support and adding more substance to the two bills pending in both chambers of congress.

The land congress was sponsored by the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government and supported by non-government organizations

such as the Baguio Peace Desk, Kaisahan Foundation and the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA).

Pawid noted that both bills -- one filed by Sen. Joseph Estrada and another by Rep. William Claver (Kalinga-Apayao) -- go against the Regalian Doctrine so that the proposed laws are bound to generate strong debate and opposition in both houses of Congress.

Francisca Mac-liing of the

Ancestral Domain Research Network, a Baguio-based private research agency also says that Senate Bill 909 authored by Estrada is "very powerful and merits support" by indigenous cultural communities.

Mac-liing says Estrada's bill, among others, support indigenous cultural communities' domain over their ancestral land. If passed into law it will empower them to control, manage and utilize their natural resources for their develop-

ment.

Stronger and more detailed than Estrada's bill is House Bill 25913 authored by Representative Claver.

Estrada, through a spokesperson said "the life and future of tribal Filipinos" lies on the eventual recognition of indigenous cultural communities' right to their ancestral domain/land.

Former Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Florencio "Butch"

Abad who also spoke in the land congress predicted however that both bills will face rough sailing in Congress.

For one, he says, very few legislators understand and appreciate the historical roots of the ancestral land question.

Abad, Estrada and Claver, urged strong lobby by pressure groups concerned with indigenous Filipinos for the successful enactment of the proposed laws on ancestral domain. (PNF)

## We Forum

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IN METRO MANILA

IN NUEVA VIZCAYA

# Quake victims decry gov't rehab failure

By ABE P. BELENA

KAYAPA, NUEVA VIZCAYA -- Earthquake victims continue to live in sub-human conditions nine months after their homes were wrecked and their farmlands

And the P10 billion rehabilitation fund government has allotted to help them rebuild their lives has been of little help, either.

Kayapa, a town in western Nueva Vizcaya province some 250 kms. north of Manila is where over a hundred people were buried alive and more than a thousand families lost their homes. At the old evacuation center in village Ba-an, streamers announcing the names of government agencies and civic organizations that helped in relief operations have faded. And yet, 19 families including that of health worker Emily Ordonia still live there.

An old man weaves bamboo baskets and makes tiger brooms to keep his family from total starvation. Male members leave the place early morning to tend their swidden farms and what was left of their terraced gardens. Those who have nowhere else to earn a living, work as farm hands in harvesting rice, or as laborers

in the road project restoring the Vizcaya-Benguet access road.

Just across the hill, a private contractor rushes the completion of 200 relocation huts made of cogon and bamboo. The huts each costing P13,000 have no floors, no toilets, no kitchens and occupy only 120 square feet of earthen floor space.

The cogon roofings of the huts are so thin that sunlight filters through them. Their foundations are too weak that recently a whirlwind passing through the relocation site demolished several huts.

None of these huts however has been occupied because the Nueva Vizcaya governor refused to accept them until the contractor could prove that the huts followed housing standards.

None of the government-promised livelihood projects has bore fruit either. The National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC) held a series of seminars on different skills

wiped out by mountain-slides and rampaging floodwaters triggered by the July 16, 1990 intensity 7.7 earthquake.

including food preservation and carpentry. No tangible project has been implemented.

The seed capital to start peanut brittle and butter making was given in rotten peanut seeds bought from lowlands by those who implemented the project. The project never got off the ground.

Carpentry skills could not be used in furniture making because there are few pine trees left in the town. Indiscriminate logging, aside from the fact that Kayapa is located in a major faultline was blamed for the big landslides during the July 16 quake.

Kayapa evacuees admitted to PNF they were given vegetable seeds by the Department of Agriculture. But instead of planting vegetables they planted rice. Their reason: vegetables harvested during the rainy months cannot be sold as roads to the market shall have been blocked again by landslides.

**MALARIA OUTBREAK**  
One hundred fifty five fami-

lies earlier relocated to Amballo, Bagabag town fled their relocation sites after an outbreak of malaria and because of the absence of jobs in their new village. Some of them were back in their old villages -- albeit with neither land nor home.

Little known is the plight of 107 families in remote Ticleg village which was totally buried by a landslide. No government agency could reach the victims: the village was accessible by a five-hour hike.

Ticleg survivors have been adopted by the Social Action Center of the Bayombong archdiocese which is helping them build new houses. They survive by planting and eating *kamote* (sweet potatoes).

Hundreds of families in Digdig, Carranglan (epicenter of the July 16 earthquake), Villarosas, Sta. Fe along Dalton Pass and also along the faultline and Tayabo, San Jose City have gone into charcoal making and

(Page 15, please)



CRACKED EARTH: No relief in sight.

## No calamity aid for 2 provinces hit

By MERPU ROA

MARAWI CITY -- Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato are two provinces hardest hit by the current drought in central Mindanao but have been excluded from an emergency allocation for farmers.

"I have no idea why they were not included," Abusama Alid, Department of Agriculture-Region 12 assistant regional director said over the weekend.

Alid said agricultural officials have decided to hold the release of P8 million worth of farm inputs to displaced farmers in the region while awaiting advice on what to do with Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato.

The current drought which started last December has spread to 60 percent of the Philippine archipelago including four regions in Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical

(Page 15, please)