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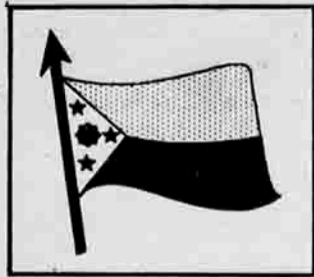


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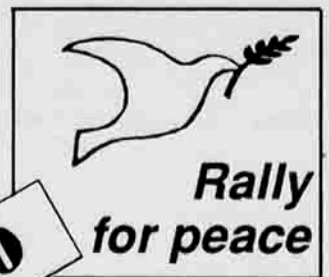
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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally
for peace

VOL. 16 * NO. 1

MAY 4-10, 1992

P3.00

IN METRO MANILA

THE PRESIDENCY

RP badly needs a miracle worker

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LUPA:
Binhing
katutubo
Pahina 5

Throwing
mad at
candidates
Page 16

The
manipulation
of truth
Page 16



LAST DITCH: President Aquino attends a rally for Lakas-NUCD bets at the Ninoy Aquino Freedom Park in Cabanatuan City. In photo (from left) are Press Secretary Horacio Paredes, Nueva Ecija Governor Narcio Nario, Kris Aquino, Local Governments Secretary Cesar Sarino and Boy Salvador, Lakas candidate for board member. (Malacañang Photo)

WANTED: Miracle worker for President

By ERIC S. GIRON

WHO WILL be the next President of the 64,267,553 Filipinos? The enormity of domestic and foreign debts, the deteriorated economy and abject poverty of 60 per cent of the population brought about by six years of mismanagement and neglect by the profligate Aquino administration and 20 years of rapacity by the Marcos regime, make the choice of the next President extremely crucial.

The succeeding head of state must have the capability, honesty, dedication and a bit of wizardry to succor the nation from its dire financial straits, soaring prices caused by inflation, 4.5 million jobless, laborers seeking fortunes abroad because of tight opportunities at home, women toiling as menials in Hong Kong and Singapore, prostituting themselves in Japan in order to survive, and risking being raped by employers in Kuwait and Iraq.

The new Chief Executive cannot be insensitive to public cries for lower electricity rates in the face of power outages, or reduced cost of gasoline and diesel fuel after Mideast crude prices have plunged to pre-Gulf War levels. He or she must be able to balance the national budget with the estimated income rather than run up another deficit.

The choice of a new President must not be dictated by the money and false promises of power-hungry politicians who have all sorts of solutions to problems from water and electric power crisis to crime, peace and order, poverty, unemployment, business, industry, agrarian reform, education and salaries.

The choice cannot be made by a pontificating Cardinal playing king-maker, the *ex cathedra* mandate of the bishop of a politics-prone denomination, nor a President hard-selling her surrogate who will continue her effete programs like the agrarian reform flop.

Only the people have the right to pick the leader whom they have to live with for the next six years because they deserve only those they elect.

"NOEL" PLAN

Before the question of who the next President will be can

be answered, will the synchronized national and local elections take place on May 11 as scheduled? Coup jitters intensified last week over a reported Oplan Noel (meaning "no election") as six AFP battalions were deployed in Metro Manila.

When President Aquino said "anybody but Danding (Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.) or Imelda R. Marcos for President," did she mean she will take steps to prevent the entry of either one into Malacañang? The National Democratic Front (Visayas) attributed the coup rumors to the Aquino administration "to make a scapegoat of the revolutionary armed forces and the rightist military rebels."

The NDF said should Fidel V. Ramos be on the losing end, he and "other militarists" will mount a coup so that the winners will be "US imperialism and its local puppets." An oppositionist charged that Ramos had sent Mrs. Aquino a memorandum to declare a state of emergency on the basis of two New People's Army successful military operations.

After consistently topping presidential popularity surveys, Miriam Defensor Santiago presumes if she loses "it would mean that I was cheated" and threatens civil disobedience.

So much importance is given the election that military and police forces are placed at the Commission on Elections' beck and call to quell any disorder which may break out. The Comelec is enforcing a guntoting ban on unauthorized persons. The Napocor is under stress to ensure no power cut on election day May 11 and during the counting, tallying and turning in of the ballots to the Comelec. May 12 has been declared a public holiday.

The Comelec belittles coup rumors as AFP Chief Lisandro Abadia assures neither the NPA or military rebels have the capability to mount a coup. But if political violence persists in Samar, Leyte, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, the Comelec may postpone elections there until after July 30. Nueva Ecija was removed from this list of trouble spots but Kalinga-Apayao, Masbate and Mindoro are eyed as new trouble areas. The 23 existing private armies out of an original 143 are maintained by warlords of Maguindanao.

PERSONALITIES

"Mitra a trapo, Ramos an extension of Cory, Danding a Marcos crony, Laurel a one-man demolition crew, Salonga too old, Erap a movie actor (now a vice presidential candidate), Imelda a lonely widow, and Miriam a non-stop talking machine" was how columnist Nestor Mata encapsulated the public conception of the presidential candidates.

Filipino voters are personality-oriented rather than issue-oriented, say the so-called "political scientists." The Social Weather Station survey of 1,200 respondents shows television-screen personality Tito Sotto, vice mayor of Quezon City, leading the senatorial pack. Actor Ramon Revilla, who glorifies Cavite's *tulisanes* and notorious gangsters in gory films, is listed fourth.

Reelectionists occupy the rest of the 24 slots except eight. Rep. Nikki Coseteng is in 26th place, Rep. Raul Roco is No. 32, but where is Rep. Lorna Verano Yap? Jose ("Agila") Concepcion Jr. is below the Magic 24.

Erstwhile matinee idol Joseph (Erap) Estrada is a poll



64-M PINOYS: Who'll lead them?

box-office hit. He is followed by Marcelo B. Fernan, then the other vice-presidential aspirants (not in order) Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Emilio (Lito) Osmeña, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and his cousin Vicente Magsaysay.

With seven candidates competing for President, a small margin of 26% comprised by the ignorant, apathetic, alienated and suspicious electors can spell victory or defeat.

Miriam Santiago (People's Reform Party) was a tiny fraction over 18 points ahead of Ramos in the SWS survey, rising by three points from her No. 2 slot last February. But it is the men with political machines—Ramon Mitra Jr. (*Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino*), Danding Cojuangco Jr. (Nationalist People's Coalition) and Fidel V. Ramos (*Lakas ng EDSA*-National Union of Social Democrats)—who are regarded as front-runners.

Miriam's thrust is against graft and corruption. She favors continued relations with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and the activation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Miriam is a smart lawyer but economy is not her forte. She holds captive the 18-24 years age bracket and college crowd which paradoxically gravitate toward the

oldest candidate, Salonga, 72, because of his nationalism and other virtues.

Mitra claimed in a TV ad he used to go to bed hungry as an orphan boy at the farm. Laurel assailed his claim, charging Mitra owns 12 large ranches sequestered from Danding Cojuangco. He labels the duff "ka-rancho." Mitra plays to the gallery in promising one million jobs a year. Miriam says 1.2 million jobs a year will require P148 billion.

For all his bluster and claim of winning all political contests he entered, Salvador Laurel (Nacionalista Party) backed out from the 1981 presidential poll called by Marcos. He gave up running for President in the Feb. 7, 1986 snap poll and hitched on as running mate of presidential bet Cory Aquino.

President Aquino named Laurel prime minister of the *Batasang Pambansa* which she abolished. Having lost the prime ministership, Laurel sulked all through the Aquino administration. He quit as foreign affairs secretary and boycotted Cabinet sessions at Malacañang. He sniped at Mrs. Aquino just as he is now attacking the other presidential candidates. His accomplishment as vice president? Nothing.

MARCOS HOLDOVERS

This is a queer election in which three major figures in

the detested Marcos regime are seeking the presidency. Imelda Marcos' candidacy is a farce in the face of voluminous civil and criminal suits filed against her with the Sandiganbayan. Her multimillion-dollar jewelry collection, art trove, real estate and houses in the US and the Philippines are part of her unexplained wealth.

Danding disclaims he was a Marcos crony. But he fled with Marcos and family on the same plane to Honolulu and exiled himself for four years in Los Angeles. A man with a clear conscience does not run away but faces the music.

Danding was jubilant over Erap Estrada's giving up his presidential bid and allying his *Partido Masang Pilipino* with Danding's NPC. Sen. John Osmeña relinquished the No. 2 slot to accommodate Estrada and is now seeking Senate reelection. Bishop Erano Manalo pledged 1.4 million *Iglesia ni Cristo* votes to the Cojuangco-Estrada ticket.

But Danding received a double whammy. Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez came to Manila from Washington and filed a suit against Cojuangco for malversation of the coconut levy funds. To counter the INC pledge, Jaime Cardinal Sin's pastoral letter blasted the "plunderers and oppressors" of the Marcos regime which

(Next page, please)

alluded to Danding, Imelda Marcos, and Ramos.

Sin's admonition that Catholics must vote for "the same principles" excluded Protestant candidates Ramos and Jovito R. Salonga.

Sin's follow-up homily with an eight-point guideline for voters virtually told Ramos to quit seeking the presidency and endorsed the "healing presidency" promised by Mitra without naming names.

Danding's steady ascent from the bottom of the pile in the July 1991 SWS survey to fifth place in February below Mitra, then shooting to third place in the latest survey past Mitra has given Mrs. Aquino a scare. The Danding-Erap team still attracts large crowds in coconut-growing areas of Luzon with their showbiz entertainers and basketball stars. But Sin's indictment has surely eroded some votes that would have gone to Danding.

Fidel Ramos' catchline "people empowerment" recalls People Power at EDSA in 1986 in which Ramos' role is suspect. Philippine Constabulary Chief Ramos was Marcos' martial-law enforcer.

Ramos ordered the takeover of all media facilities and the assault on the *Iglesia ni Cristo* palace in which some

members died, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile revealed. Marcos named Ramos acting AFP chief of staff but still consulted Gen. Fabian Ver who was on terminal leave prior to his retirement at the end of February 1986.

Disgusted, Ramos accepted Defense Minister Enrile's invitation to join him in a mutiny against Marcos at Camp Aguinaldo on Saturday afternoon (Feb. 22, 1986). Does that make Ramos a hero of EDSA as he claims?

Ramos' failure to explain his mysterious trip to Zurich in the midst of the campaign caused his popularity to drop. But Mama Cory's big bucks pulled him up from his bootstraps. She also defended her candidate from Sin's blast from the pulpit. With such candidates, the election boils down to what Broadway star Lea Salonga calls "choosing the best from the worst."

SAVING GRACE

The tandem of Sens. Jovito Salonga and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. remains the only shining ray of hope in the bleak horizon. Their misfortune is being honest and fair in these days of crooks and scalawags, of not having billions of pesos to splurge on the voters. But cause-oriented groups, non-



AQUINO, RAMOS: Will their successor be any better?

government organizations and college students with their "piso, piso lang" collections are propping up their meager finances.

The highly-principled Salonga has a brilliant scholastic record. After topping the bar examination, he went to Yale University and was conferred the title of "Doctor of Jurisprudence" as one of the top five per cent of his class.

At the bombing of the Liberal Party candidates at Plaza Miranda in 1971, Salonga absorbed grenade shrapnel in his body, lost the sight of one eye and the hearing of one ear. But he never lost his equanimity and unerring judgement.

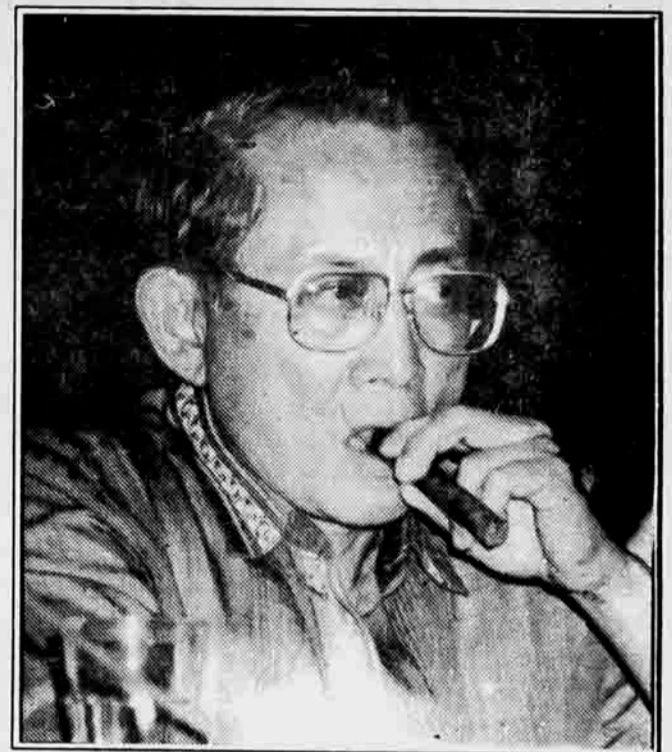
During martial law, when those who were not cronies of Marcos were quaking in their boots at the thought of opposing the dictator, Salonga openly denounced martial rule in Rotary sessions and other public fora. When his life was endangered, he sought sanctuary in the United States. From there he sent his proxy vote for the ousting of US bases from the Philippines and recognition of the Communist Party to the Convenors who met on Dec. 26, 1984.

Corazon Aquino also signed that covenant. But when she became President, she reneged on her vow and became

the most avid crusader for US bases retention. True to his pledge, Salonga steered his LP and other senators in rejecting the lopsided US treaty extending American stay for another decade, although he knew he would incur the ire of the Americans, the base workers and their supporters. His side won but he was deposed as Senate president by Mrs. Aquino's minions.

Nene Pimentel consistently fought abuses of the Marcos dictatorship. He was jailed at Camp Crame in 1973 for opposing the Marcos Constitution, again at Bicutan in 1978 for leading a protest march against the *Batasan* election, then in Cebu, but was overwhelmingly voted mayor of Cagayan de Oro in 1981. He was removed from his post in 1982 and placed under house arrest for rebellion in 1983. Voted assemblyman of the *Batasan* in 1984, the Marcos regime yanked him out of the post, but the Supreme Court reinstated him.

Under the Aquino rule, Pimentel sued for peace with Moro National Liberation front leader Nur Misuari and got renegade Lt. Col. Alexander Noble to give up his revolt in Mindanao without a shot fired. When Mindanao was hit by power crisis, Pimentel on his own rushed there and asked private firms to lend their generators to boost the electric



power.

The Liberal Party-*Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan* or *Koalisyon Pambansa* has been depleted by defections. Four senators bolted the LP, leaving only Sens. Wigberto Tañada and Victor Ziga with Salonga. The alliance of Pimentel's *PDP-Laban* with the LP had been opposed by Juanito N. Ferrer, the party president who, Pimentel said, was enticed by Ramos with P500,000 to P5 million to join the *Lakas-NUCD* with 25 others.

The breakup ironically occurred as Salonga-Pimentel won by a landslide over their rivals in a mock election held by Senate employees at the senate session hall April 21. Senator Tañada topped the senatorial race. Sens. John Osmeña, Heherson Alvarez and Mamintal Tamano were junked.

While Ramos and Danding regale the audience with stagemore entertainment, Laurel attacks his opponents, and Imelda and Miriam make promises, Salonga and Pimentel talk about issues to the electorate even under a hot sun and they listen. Salonga intends to concentrate on confidence-building dialogues with leaders of contending political parties and holding a peace council of all insurgent forces within his first 100 days in office if elected.

He calls for genuine agrarian reform and a gigantic infrastructure program utilizing private resources under the build-operate-transfer law. Salonga and Pimentel suggest repudiating payment of fraudulent loans, placing a ceiling on debt

payments and seeking reduction of foreign debt as the US condoned half of the island's debt. The Senate under Salonga passed the bill on a debt cap and moratorium on debt servicing which President Aquino vetoed.

Salonga and Pimentel meet the requisites that a President must be intellectually honest, emotionally mature and spiritually enlightened, who valiantly and openly defended the rule of law and opposed the previous dictatorship and institutions created by that regime including martial law, is free from indictments of graft and dishonest gain in either public or private enterprise, and has the capability proven in his personal and public career to respond to pressing national needs set by Cardinal Sin himself.

Those seeking genuine reform and relief from the chaotic Aquino administration can entrust the nation's stewardship to the worth Salonga and Pimentel. But even if Miriam Santiago consistently tops the poll surveys, commentators say it will be a toss-up between Mitra, Cojuangco and Ramos. Salonga, Laurel and Mrs. Marcos are written off as "marginal candidates."

Columnists write that none of the presidential bets are spending big money this late. Are voters that mercenary so that they no longer consider a candidate's merits but only his lucre?

Salonga and Pimentel may hurdle the insurmountable problems or not. But they have the resolve and their hearts are in the right place. Too bad the chips are stacked against them.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY

RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF
MINOR MARY JANE OSEA GUITTO,

SP. PROC. NO. Q-92-11936

SPS. GABRIEL G. GUITTU AND
REMY B. ALUPAY,

Petitioners.

ORDER

This is a verified petition filed by Sps. Gabriel G. Guittu and Remy B. Alupay, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor Mary Jane Osea Guitto be declared their child by adoption.

WHEREFORE, let this case be set for hearing on May 27, 1992 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning. Notice is hereby given that anyone who has objection thereto should file his/her opposition on or before the scheduled hearing.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Further, let this Order and the Petition with its annexes be served the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The latter is hereby ordered to conduct a case study on the petitioners and the adoptee and to submit the same on or before the scheduled hearing. The duly authorized representatives of the said offices are hereby ordered to be present at the date and time stated above.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, 28 April 1992.

(Sgd.) JOSE M. AGUILA
Judge

WE FORUM
May 4, 11 & 18, 1992

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that DODGE GALANT with Motor No. 2B-50154; Serial/Chassis No. A112A-346; 1974 model owned by AGUSTIN ORROS was lost.

WE FORUM
April 27, May 4 & 11, 1992

An Exposé on PAGCOR

How It Was Then.

How It Is Now.

Monthly Income

Before the February revolution, the average monthly income was ₱29 million. The highest monthly income declared was ₱ 55 million.

Under the new PAGCOR, the average monthly income went up to ₱169 million in 1987, ₱212.5 million in 1988, ₱290 million in 1989, ₱341 million in 1990, and ₱428 million for 1991.

Remittance to Government

In ten years, from 1976 to June 1986, the total remittance of the old PAGCOR to the government was ₱2.1 billion.

In only five and a half years of operation, from July 1986 to December 31, 1991, the new PAGCOR has already remitted a total of ₱12.9 billion to the government.

Tax Privileges

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from all kinds of taxes, except the 5% franchise tax.

Since March 1987, all the tax exemption privileges have been withdrawn. Now PAGCOR is paying the 5% franchise tax, corporate income tax, customs duties for imported equipment and employees' withholding taxes.

Number of Casinos

There were 10 casinos then.

Today there are only 8 casinos in operation.

Audit Procedure

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from audit.

Today, all PAGCOR transactions are dutifully recorded, accounted for and audited by the Commission on Audit.

Secrecy vs. Transparency

PAGCOR operations then were veiled in secrecy.

Today PAGCOR operations are carried out on an open-book policy in keeping with the President's directive of transparency in the government. Pursuant to this PAGCOR publishes its financial statement quarterly, perhaps the only casino operator in the world who does so.

The difference in the way the casinos are run today has led to a sizable increase in PAGCOR's income, out of which approximately 75% goes to the government through remittances to the National Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Social Fund of the President, Cities hosting the casinos and the Philippine Sports Commission. Nothing is left with PAGCOR except what it needs for operations. With the substantial amount it remits to the government, PAGCOR has become the third biggest revenue-generating arm of the government. PAGCOR today is considerably different from what it was in the past.



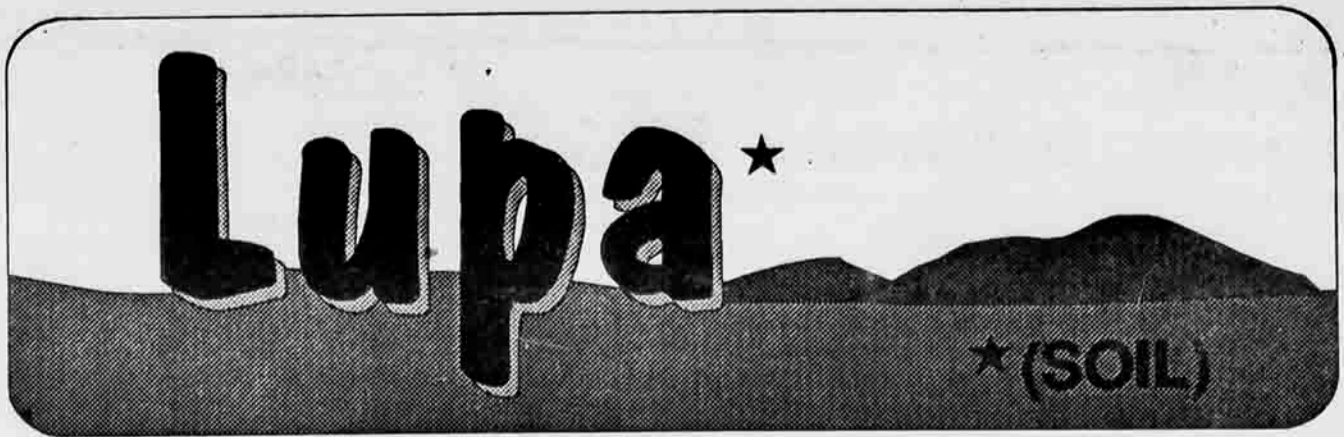
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

PAGCOR House • 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA

Para Sa Libreng Kopya

Kung gusto ninyong makatanggap ng regular na kopya, mangyari po lamang na ipadala ang inyong pangalan, address at uri ng hanapbuhay o propesyon sa: Circulation Department, Lupa Newsletter, No. 92 Road 1, Project 6, Quezon City.



TOMO 1 ☆ BLG.4

☆ ABRIL 1992

Editorial

Pag-okupa ng mga nakatiwangwang na lupain

Lupang nakatiwangwang ay hindi kayamanan kung walang nagtatanim at di pinapakinabangan.

UNTI-UNTING sumisibol ngayon ang isang uri ng pagpapatupad ng repormang agraryo sa ilang panig ng Pilipinas.

Ito'y tinatawag na "land occupation" (land occ) na kung saan ay sinasakop ng ilang magsasaka at ang kanilang pamilya ang isang lupang bakante o mga sakahan na hindi inaayos at tinatamnan.

Bagaman ang paraan ay tuwirang nalilihis sa batas ng pamahalaan, sinasabi rin na ito'y makatarungan sa panig ng mga nagugutom na mga magsasaka.

Ang "land occupation" ay di katakata kung ibabase natin ito sa kasalukuyang situwasyon ng repormang agraryo at sa tumitinding paghihirap ng mga maralitang taga-bukid.

Inamin ng Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) noong nakaraang linggo na hindi nila nakamit ang target ng CARP itong nakaraang apat na taon o

mula 1987 hanggang 1991.

"Umabot lamang ng isang milyong ektaryang lupang sakahan o 74% ng target na 1.36 milyong ektarya mula Hulyo 1987 hanggang Disyembre 1991," ayon sa pinakahuling ulat ng DAR.

Sa ilalim ng CARP (na isinagawang batas noong 1987 nang pinirmahan ni Pangulong Aquino ang Proclamation 131), 10.3 milyong ektarya ang nakatandang ipamamahagi sa loob ng 10 taon. Ang mga ito'y lupang publiko na walang nagmamay-ari (6.5 milyong ektarya) na dapat ipamamahagi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at lupang pribado at ng resettlement areas na ipamamahagi naman ng DAR (3.8 milyong ektarya).

Hindi rin natamo ng DENR ang kanilang target dahil umabot lamang sa 542,117 ektarya ng mga lupang publiko ang naipamigay sa ilalim ng free patent at 416,238 ektarya lamang ng "integrated social forestry areas" ang naipamigay sa pamamagitan ng "certificate of stewardship contract."

Sa kabuuan, 67% ng target ng DENR at DAR ang hindi nakamit.

Sa harap ng mabagal na implementasyon ng CARP

at ng kagipitan sa kabuhayan, napipilitan ngayon ang ilang grupo ng mga magsasaka na gumawa ng hakbang na "land occupation" sa lalawigan ng Negros, Bukidnon, Cavite at Nueva Ecija.

Hindi natin masisisi ang mga magsasaka, ayon sa Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) na naglathala ng isang pahayag tungko sa "land occ" (Farm News & Views, November-December 1991).

Sinabi ng PPI:

"In truth, land occupation can be considered as a desperate band-aid replacement for the failed agrarian reform program. Poverty is an irresistible force that will blow up on our faces if we do not address it properly."

Sa ngayon, wala pang ganap na talakayan tungkol sa kontrobersiya ng "land occupation." Ngunit sa mga nakakaalam at nakakaunawa sa kalagayan ng mga magsasaka na kasangkot sa kaso, humihingi sila ng isang malaya at makatarungang palitangkuro ng lahat ng panig — gobyerno, magsasaka at may-ari ng mga lupa na inukupahan — upang malutas ng mapayapa ang lumalalang suliraning ito.

BINHING KATUTUBO

1 Katangian at pangangailangan ng mga makabagong binhi

ANG MGA makabagong binhi (hybrids) ay bunga ng pagpapalahi ng magkakaibang uri ng palay na may iba't ibang katangian. Karaniwan, ang mga ito ay mabababa, matipuno ang mga katawan, makitid at luntian ang mga dahong turo, malalakas sumuwi, maagang anihin, mataas ang ani, may panlaban sa mga peste at sakit lalo na kung bagong labas na sertipikadong binhi. Pagkatapos ng ika-apat o ika-limang taniman, ang pangkabuuang kahusayan nito ay lumilipasa.

Ang ganitong katangian ng makabagong binhi ay tuwirang may kaugnayan sa pangangailangan ng mataas na puhunan.

Ang mga palay na mabababa ay karaniwang maagang anihin (paaga). Sinadya ang pagiging paaga ng mga makabagong binhi upang mahikayat ang mga magbubukid na magtanim ng

dalawa o tatlong ulit sa loob ng isang taon. Dahil maikli lamang ang panahon ng pagpapalago (vegetative period) walang sapat na panahon ang palay na makasipsip ng sustansya o likas na pagkain sa lupa. Kaya kailangan ang madaling mapagkukunan ng pagkain upang masustentuhan ang mabilis na paglago. At ang mga kemikal na pataba



ang mabilis na nagkakaloob nito. Ang mga likas na pataba (organic fertilizer) na nagmumula sa nabubulok na bagay (gaya ng dayami) ay hindi nababagay sa mga binhing paaga. May kabagalan ang proseso ng pagbubulok sa lupa. Lalo na kung mabilisan ang paghahanda

ng bukid.

Ang mga palay na makitid at luntian ang mga dahon ay masiba (matakaw) sa pataba lalo na sa pagkaing Nitroheno.

Ang mga palay na matipuno ang katawan at magaling sumuwi ay matakaw din sa Nitroheno.

Maraming pakakinikung maraming suwi. Kung hindi daragdagan ng kemikal na pataba, marami sa mga suwi ay mababaog (walang uhay o kakaunti ang butil sa uhay) o bubunga ng maliit na uhay at hihina ang ani.

Ang mga binhi na mabilis lumago dahil sa kemikal na pataba (urea, ammosul) ay mababa ang resistensiya sa tagtuyot. Kailangan ang malimit, maayos, at maalagang pagpapatubig.

Ang mga palay na may malalambot na puno at dahon ay mahina ang panlaban sa mga peste at sakit sa palayan. Kaya kinakailangan ang mga pestisidyo, mga nakalalasang gamot, at pambomba.

Ang mga binhi na mading malaos (hindi

matatag) ay hindi produktibo sa kalaunan. Kailangan ng magsasaka na bumili at magpalit ng bagong sertipikadong binhi (Certified Seeds) sa tuwin. Naging karanasan na ng marami na ang binhing laos ay hindi makapagbibigay ng mataas na ani kahit na dagdagan pa ang patabang ginagamit. Lumalaon, humihina rin ang tibay ng palay. Lumalabas ang mga maseselang sakit na mangangailangan ng ibayong mababagsik at mas mahal na lasong pangugpo.

Pangangailangan sa pestisidyo. Ang paggamit ng pestisidyo o pamatay kulisap ay kakambal na ng paggamit ng makabagong binhi. Ngunit ano nga ba ang idinudulot nito sa halal (Sundan sa pahina 2)

BINHING KATUTUBO . . . (Mula pahina 1)

man at sa lupa?

Kung malimit ang pagbobomba, dumarami ang lahing matitibay na peste. Hindi lahat ng peste ay napapatay ng pestisidyo. Ang mga natitira ay may pagkakataong magpalahi at makalikha ng mga anak na lalong matibay at may resistensiya sa mga gamot kaysa mga magulang.

Mapapansin na mas dumami ang uri ng insekto at damo sa mga taniman kung ihahambing natin noong hindi pa tayogumagamit ng mga pestisidyo.

Kaalinsabay nito, dumarami rin ang uri ng mga pestisidyo sa pamilihan na pumapatay sa iilang uri ng peste. Ang mga bagong labas na mga gamot ay matataas ang halaga dahil

sinasabing mababagsik ang mga ito.

Gayundin naman, bunga ng kakulangan sa pagpapaliwanag ng wasto at epektibong paggamit ng pestisidyo, madalas na naaak-saya lamang ito. Hindi napapakinabangan at nakakapinsala pa.

Walang sapat na pagpapaliwanag sa mga magsasaka. Halimbawa: kung nararapat ba silang magbobomba pa; kung kailan ang pinaka-epektibong pagbobomba; at ano ang pinakamahusay na timpla ng gamot ayon sa dami at uri ng mga kalabang peste.

Malimit na pagtatanim at ang kimikal na pataba. Ito ay mga katangian ng makabagong teknolohiya na kaaya-aya sa mga magsas-

akang naghahangad ng malaking kita. Sa pamamagitan ng irigasyon, patubig, naisakatuparan ang pagtatanim ng palay ng hitsa sa isang beses bawat taon.

Kung susuriin, ang madalas na pagtatanim ay nanganangailangan ng mabilisang paghahanda sa lupa. Kailangang gumamit ng traktor. At kailangan din sunugin ang dayami.

Ang mabilisang paghahanda sa pagtatanim ay hindi nagbibigay ng puwang na mabulok ang mga natitirang damo at dayami. Ito ang nagiging sanhi ng tinatawag na "hilaw" na lupa. Kaya ang mga murang pananim ay maagang naninilaw dahil walang nakuhang nitrohen sa mga "hilaw" na lupa. Ito ang nag-uudyok

sa magsasaka na maagang magsabog ng urea o ammosul upang malunasan ang pansamantalang paninilaw.

Ang pansamantalang paninilaw ay makapagpapahina sa mga binhing pagaga. Ang mga binhing pahuli ay hindi gaanong apektado. Maaari pang makatulong sa pag-antala ng labis na paglago ng mga ito.

Sa kalakarang ito, halos walang pahinga ang lupa at lalong mabilis ang panghina nito. Mahalagang malaman na ang paglalagay ng kemikal na pataba ay nakapagpapalago ng halaman ngunit hindi pinaunlad o pinatataba ang lupa. Dahil ang ibinibigay na sustansya nito ay iilan lamang (tulad ng Nitrohen mula sa Ammosul, Nitrohen mula sa Phosphorous sa amomphos, at Nitrohen, Phos-

phorous, at Potassium mula sa kompletong abono na 12-24-12 o 14-14-14). Samantalang 13 sustansya naman ang kinukuha ng halamang palay mula sa lupa.

Ang pagkawala ng ibang mga sustansya ang dahilan sa pagkasira sa balanse ng sustansya sa lupa. Matagal makabawi ang nanghinang lupa. Sa kalaunan, malaki ang mawawala at magagastos sa muling pagbibigay-buya (rejuvenation) sa mga ganitong uri ng lupa.

Saganitong kalalagayan ng mga makabagong binhi, ang isang mahirap na magsasaka ay nangangailangan ng malaking puhunan upang gamitin sa:

- Pataba;
- Mga gamit na pang-sugpo sa sakit, peste at damo;
- Bombang patubig;

- Binhi;
- Upa sa traktor;
- Pambili ng gasolina o krudo;
- Gastos sa paghahanda ng lupa/pagtatanim;
- Pagpapagamot o pagpapa-ospital kung sakaling magkasakit ang magsasaka o sinuman sa kanyang pamilya dahil sa labis na paggamit o maling paggamit ng mga lasong gamot/pestisidyo.

Sa kabuuan, tila sinadya ang paglikha ng mga makabagong HYV para sa Agri-business at hindi sa Agrikultura. Maliwanag na ang nakikinabang lang ay ang mga may puhunan at hindi ang karaniwang mahihirap na magbubukid na nagtatanim at nagpapakain ng bayan.

2 Mga dahilan sa patuloy na pagtangkilik ng mga magsasaka sa HYV

MADALANG ANG mapagpipiliang binhi. Sa maraming palayan, mga binhing HYV na lamang ang halos nakatanim. Karaniwang dalawa hanggang apat lamang ito at madalas na magkaka-uri pa. Kung

Pangangailangan ng puhunan. Kung ang isang magbubukid ay mahirap at ututang sa Land Bank (LB) ng puhunan, mapipilitan muna siyang magpasiguro ng kanyang palay sa Phil. Crop Insurance Co. (PCIC). Kung hindi HYV o mga binhing sertipikado ng Philippine Seed Board ang itatanim, hindi makapagpasiguro, at hindi makakautang sa LB. Wala siyang magagawa kundi sundin ang patakaran: magtanim ng HYV, para makakuha ng kredit. Kung hindi makakautang sa LB, napipilitang lumapit ang mga magsasaka samga usurero, mamimili ng palay o tindahan ng mga produktong pambukid.

Ang HYV ay mataas ang ani. (Maaaring mali ang pag-aakala!) Sinadya sa paglikha ng HYV na isa o dalawa sa magulang nito ay mataas umani.

Kung may sapat na puhunan ang magbubukid, maaaring masustentuhan ang mga pangangailangan ng HYV upang matamo ang mataas na ani. Kung walang pantulong, ang ani ng HYV ay karaniwan lang at maaari pang madaig ng ibang binhing katutubo. Kaya ang HYV (High Yielding Variety) ay lalong angkop na tawaging HRV (High Response Variety). Kung walang ayuda, walang ibubuga.

Marami na ang nakara-

may ibang mahuhusay na binhing katutubo sa lugar, maaaring itanim lang ito sa isang maliit na bahagi ng bukid upang may tikiman, halimbawa ng malagkit, o bigas na masarap o mabango (special o fancy rice).

nas nito, lalo na sa mga lupang pinanghina o nasalanta ng matagal na paggamit ng mga patabang kemikal. Kahit na doblehin pa ang dami ng pataba mahina parin ang inaani. Kung mataas man ang ani ng HYV, mataas din ba ang kita ng mga nagtatanim nito? Kung kita ang pag-uusapan, dapat isaalang-alang ang neto o linis na kita at hindi ang kabuuang halaga ng pinagbilhan. Dahil malaking bahagi nito'y nauuwil lamang sa puhunan.

Sa kabilang dako, kung malaki ang puhunan at nasalanta ang tanim, malaking lugi para sa magbubukid. Lalo itong mapapabaon sa utang. Kung wa-

lang matira sa kanila pagkatapos magsulit ng palay sa mga pinagkakautangang usurero, ang kaawaawang magsasaka ay nagiging magsasako na lang.

Epektibong paggamit ng pataba at iba't ibang anyo ng promosyon sa radyo, TV, komiks, pulong-pulong, diyaryo, bilbords at iba pa.

Malaki ang kinikita ng mga dayuhang kompanya na gumagawa at namamahagi ng mga kagamitan sa pagsasaka (pataba, gamot, makinarya, gasolina/krudo, pambomba, atbp.) kaya't naglalaan talaga sila ng malaking halaga upang masiguro ang patuloy na paggamit nito ng mga magsasaka. May mga kampanya rin na nagpoposturang isang anyo ng paglilingkod (service) sa ngalan ng "pamamahaging teknolohiya." Anu't anoman, maaaring may naitutulong nga. Datapwa't nangingibabaw pa rin ang tunay na layunin - magkamal ng tubo. Hana-pbuhay ito.

Nangilunsad ang tinatawag na Green Revolution, itinatag ang mga Samahang Nayon (SN). Ginawang isang patakaran sa pangungutang sa mga bangko (Rural Banks at Land Bank) ang pagsapi muna ng mga magsasaka sa SN. Hindi makakautang ang hindi kasapi.

Madaling nahikayat (ka-



hit man sapilitan) ang maraming magsasaka lalo na't magaganda ang mga kasaliw na kanta at jingles. Madali silang nasilo ng bitag. Bigla ang pagdami ng mga naniwala sa mga pangpamamaraan na may mapuhunang gamit sa pagsasaka. Dumagsa rin ang gamit ng pataba at pestisidyo.

Hindi lahat ng sistema ng pamamahayag ay matapat o malinis. Karaniwan nang may halo itong pandaraya (technical dishonesty). Pinalalamutian ng masasarap na salita at paliwanag ang mga inilalakong produkto o serbisyo sa layuning maikubli ang mga kahinaan o kasamaan nito o ang tunay na layunin. Katulad ng isang patibong, inihahayag sa isang awiting pangmasa na "ang pataba lastas ay salamangka, pilit na lumilikha ng baluktot na pagnananasa."

Marami ring insentibo ang ipinagkakaloob sa mga

magsasaka upang maakit magtanim ng HYV. Ilan dito ay Kredit, Crop Insurance at ang pinakahuli, ang Rice Production Enhancement Program (RPEP).

Hinikayat sa RPEP ang mga magsasaka na bumili ng pataba sa istilong "buy-one-take-one". Ito ay pangakit na mahirap tanggihan ng mga magbubukid. Sapagkat ito'y isang programang subsidyo o balik-gastos ng pamahalaan, nakatitiyak na hindi bibitiw ang mga magsasaka sa patuloy na paggamit ng HYV at patabang kimikal. Nilalalayon ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng RPEP na makapag-ani ang bansa ng sapat na palay upang masustentuhan ang dumaraming populasyon at maiwasan o mabawasan ang pag-aangkat ng bigas mula ibang bansa.

Lumalabas na ang enhancement (pagpaparami) program of enchantment

(Sundan sa pahina 3)



Mga hakbang sa pagkuha ng lupang ipasusuri

ANG LUPA ay nagtataglay ng mga elementong nagsisilbing pagkain ng halaman. Subali't ang mga ito ay di sapat upang masustenanhan ang mga halaman at magpa-ani ng malaki sa lahat ng panahon. Dahil dito kailangan nating lagyan ng abono ang bukirin upang maging maganda at malusog ang mga halaman.

Anong uri ng pataba at gaano kadami ang dapat ilagay? Upang matamo ang kasagutan dito, nararapat lamang na ipasuri kaagad ang inyong lupa sa Kawanihan sa Pangangalaga ng Lupa at Tubig (BSWM) o sa alinmang sangay na laboratoryo nitong upang umanikayo ng masagana.

Mga Hakbang Sa Pagkuha ng Lupang Ipasusuri:

1. Ihanda ang mga sumusunod: timba, pala, itak, supot na plastik o damit.
2. Paghati-hatiin ang lawak ng inyong bukirin ayon sa lugar na iba-iba ang:
 - a. kulay ng lupa (maitim o mapula)
 - b. kapinuhan o kagaspangan ng lupa (gaya ng mabuhangin, malagkit (clayey) o tumana)
 - c. uri ng datihang mga pananim.
 - d. daming inilagay na abono o dumi ng hayop nang nakaraang panahon at
 - e. bilis ng pagkaag-

nas ng lupa dahil sa ulan at hangin. Bawa't pitak o hati na parepareho ang panamin, uri ng lupa at kaanyuhan (topography) ng lugar na may limang (5) ektarya ang laki ay mangangailangan ng isang kilong pinagsama-samang muwestra ng lupa (composite soil sample).

Kumuha ng muwestra pagkatapos mag-ani o kaya'y bago mag-abono. Huwag kukuha ng muwestra ng lupa sa mismong lugar na nilalagyan ng abono o kaya'y sa mga di tinatamang lugar, tulad ng mga tudling na pinabayaan na. Hindi rin dapat kumuha ng muwestra sa palikong hilera ng taniman o doon sa malapit sa mga punong kahoy.

3. Sa pamamagitan ng pala, humukaysa lupa nang pahugis "V" na ang lalim ay humigit-kumulang sa labinlimang (15) sentimetro. Mula sa makinis na bahagi ng muwestra na may dalawang (2) sentimetro ang kapal at limang

(5) sentimetro ang lapad. Ilagay ang kimpal na lupa sa timba. Isama sa timba ang mga muwestra. Pagkatapos mapagsamasama sa timba ang mga kimpal na lupa, durugin ang mga ito at haluing mabuti.

Gawing muli ito sa sampung iba't-ibang lugar ng taniman.

4. Patuyuin ang kinuhang lupa sa lilim sa pamamagitan ng paglalahad pagkakatat nito sa lumang diyaryo banig. Iwasang magkahalo-halo ang mga muwestra at tiyaking walang mapapasamang dumi lalong-lalo ng upos ng sigarilyo.
5. Kapag tuyo na ang lupa, ikalat ito sa lumang diyaryo at hatiin sa apat na bahagi. Itapon ang magkasangang bahagi (bahagi 1 at 3) at iwanan ang dalawang bahagi (bahagi 2 at 4). Tingnan ang nasa larawan. Ulitin ito ng apat na



PAGSUSURI NG LUPA: Kailangan ng magsasaka.

beses hanggang umabot ng isang kilo.

Ilagay ang lupa sa supot (isang kilo bawat supot).

Ang isang (1) kilong pinatuyong lupa ay katumbas ng tatlong (3) "standard size" na lata ng gatas kondensada.

6. Lagyan ng pangalan o tanda ang mga supot at dalhin ang mga ito sa pinakamalapit na laboratoryo ng lupa sa inyong lugar upang malaman ang taglay nitong mga elemento (N-P-K, pH at lime requirement).

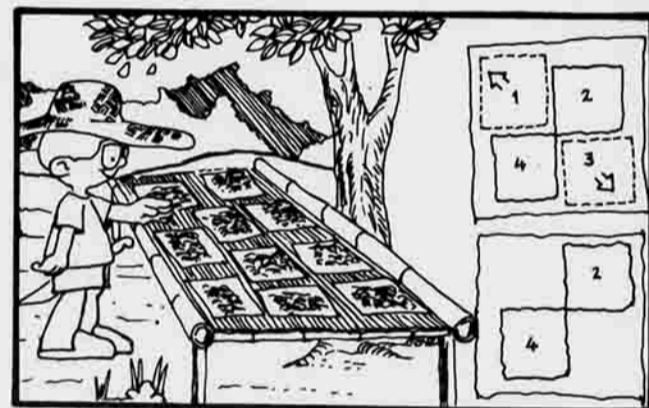
Sulatan ang BS Form No. 9 - 10 (revised) at ibigay sa technician sa pinakamalapit na Regional Soil Laboratory o DA Regional Office.

Halaga ng Pagsusuri ng Lupa:
Sa bawat muwestra ng

lupa (soil sample), tatlung limang piso (P35.00) ang dapat ibayad kung ang kabuuang laki ng lupang pinagkunan ay mahigit sa limang (5) ektarya.

Para sa karagdagang datos na may kinalaman sa pagpapasuri ng lupa, sumangguni sa tekniko sa lupa sa inyong bayan; o kaya'y sa Bureau of Soils

and Water Management (BSWM), SOILSEARCH Center, Elliptical Road Corner Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, o kaya'y sa alinmang laboratoryo sa lupa sa iba't-ibang rehiyon. (Development Communication Division, SOILSEARCH Center, Diliman, Q.C.)



Mga dahilan . . . (Mula pahina 2)

(pang-akit) program. Hindi ipinaliliwanag ng programa kung gaano ang halagang ginugul ng pamahalaan (o ng tagasuporta nito) upang matamo ang layuning nabanggit. Ang pag-aangkat ng pataba, pestisidyo, palay at makinarya ay malaking kabawasan sa reserbang dolyar ng bansa.

Hindi nakalantad ang estratehiya ng IRRI at mga tagasuporta nito.

Masagana sa likas na yaman ang ating bansa. Lalo na sa mga katutubong binhing palay. Tinatayang higit na 3,000 ang ating binhi. Bago ilunsad ang Green Revolution, humigit kumulang sa 100 iba't ibang uri ng binhi ang nakatanim sa

buong kapuluan. Maraming mapagpipilian.

Nangitatag ang International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) sa Los Banos, Laguna, nilikom ang mga binhing ito at inilagak sa isang imbakan (Seedbank o Gene Bank). Ginawa ito di-umano upang gamitin sa pagpapalahi (breeding) ng makabagong binhi (modern rice o HYV). Ilan lamang ang tuluyang nagamit.

Nang ilunsad ang ilang naunang HYV sa ilalim ng programang Masagana 99, unti-unting nawala sa kabukiran ang maraming sinaunang binhi. Kung kaya't ang pag-imbak ng mga sinaunang binhi sa Genebank at ang pagkalipol sa tani-

man ay tinaguriang *Gene Robbery* o pagnanakaw sa mga likas na binhi. Ito rin ang taguri kung watawat mapagpipilian ang mga nagtatanim maliban sa iilang HYV.

Bukod dito, ang mga ginawa at ikinalat na HYV ay may mga katangiang magkakatulad o magkakauri (*Genetic Uniformity*). Madaling alagaan ang mga ito dahil halos magkaka pareho ang kanilang pangangailangan (matakaw sa patabang kemikal, pestisidyo para sa insekto, sakit o damo, patubig, atbp.) Dahil magkakauri (o may *genetic uniformity* wika nga), ang mga HYV ay madaling malipol ng peste o salot at maaaring lahat ay samasamang mapipinsala. Wala

sa kanila ang may likas na tibay o depensa. Anupa't makisig ang tindig sa panimula. Sa kalaunan, naglalaho rin ang katangiang ito.

Ito rin ang tinatawag na *Genetic Erosion* o ang pagkakaagnas o pagkakawala ng likas na tibay kahusayan ng binhi.

Sa estratehiya ng binhi, maliwanag na ang HYV ay ginagamit na paraan para matiyak ang patuloy na pag-sandal ng mga maralitang magsasaka sa mga pangangailangan sa pagtatanim nito (pestisidyo, abono, pataba, atbp.). Ang mga gamit na ito ay di kontrolado ng mga magsasaka. Ito ay nasa kamay ng mga dayuhang namumuhunan na patuloy na sumasakal sa mga mag-

sasaka.

Sinasabing ang HYV ay binhing mapuhunan at binhi ng pagkaalipin ng mga magbubukid. Ngayon, para kanino ang GR, RPEP, PCIC at Masagana 99? Mga insentibo para sa maypuhunan. Sa Masagana 99 ay 99 ang suliraning nagpapahirap sa magsasaka. At kaya lang hindi 100 ay dahil nakikita pa natin silang humihinga at manakana'y napipilitang sumama sa mga rally demonstrasyon o iba pang uri ng pagpoprotesta.

Alternatibong estratehiya. Kung iba't ibang uri ng binhi ang itatanim ng magsasaka sa kanyang bukid, maraming katangian ang kanyang inilulunsad. Ano mang kapinsalaan ang

darating (salot o masamang panahon), mayroong matitira o maaaning palay na papakinabangan. Ito ang tinatawag na *genetic diversity*, ang yamang minana natin sa ating mga ninuno na dapat ay sama-sama nating mahalina, paunlarin at pagyamanin para sa mga susunod na salinlahi. Ang mga sinaunang binhi o binhing tradisyunal (TRV) ay nagtataglay ng genetic diversity. Dapat gamitin at paunlarin. Ang mga makabagong binhi (HYV o HRV) ay may genetic uniformity. Daan ng patuloy na pagkaalipin. (MASIPAG—Mga Magsasaka at Siyentipiko Para sa Ikauunlad ng Agham Pang-agrikultura)

Gatas kalabaw

Materyales:

- 1 litro gatas ng kalabaw (1 malaking bote ng Pepsi)
- 3 tasang asukal

Paraan ng Paggawa:

1. Palaman sa Tinapay
Pakuluan sa bukas na kaserola o kawale hanggang lumapot na parang kondensada ang gatas at asukal.

2. Pastilyas de leche
Kung nais, patuyuin pa hanggang mawala ang tubig at maging malambot na lamang.

Ilatag nang pantay sa malapad na sangkalan at hiwa-hiwain sa laking nais.

3. Kesong Puti
1. Initin ang gatas sa init na 40 °C. Kung walang termometer, malalaman na ganito na ang init kung ilulubog nang kaunti ang likod ng kamay sa ibabaw ng gatas. Kung matatagalan ang init nang ilang minuto, ayos na nga ang init nito.

2. Alisin ang lutuan sa kalan at lagyan ng 20 cc katas ng abomasum (crude rennet extract) at isang (1) kutsarang suka. Ito ay nagagawa sa pagbababad ng kapirasong abomasum (1 sa 4 na sikmura ng baka na makukuha sa matadero) sa mainit na tubig.

Sa loob ng kalahating oras, ang gatas ay



maglalatak at mamumuo. Hiwahiwin ito nang maliliit na kuadrado parang mais.

3. Ilagay sa lutuan at initin nang mga 30 minuto hanggang sa matunaw ang mga ito. Haluin nang marahan.

Lagyan ng isang kutsarang asin, halu-ling mabuti.

4. Palamigin. Iwan sa lalagyan nang mga limang minuto at alisan ng sobrang tubig.

5. Lagyan ng isang kutsaritang sodium citrate (nabibili sa botika) upang mapatagal ito na hindi nasisira.

6. Pagkahalo, ilagay ito sa mga supot na plastik. Maaaring tumagal ito nang isang linggo. (Tekno-Tulong)

Pananakot sa bata

ISANG UMAGA habang ako ay nagwawalis sa harapan ng aming bahay ay bigla akong nagulantang sa pahiyaw na iyak ng isang batang lalaki na aming kapitbahay. Ang dahilan ay pinagtaguan siya ng isang nakakatandang babae na nagaalaga sa kanya. Nahalata ko na ang babae ay nilalaro ang bata—pinapaniwala niya ang musmos (wala pa sigurong edad na apat na taon) na siya'y umalis na.

Nang hindi tumigil ang pag-iiyak ng bata, ang babae'y nagpakita at humalakhak at sabay na nagsabi "o akala mo umalis na ako, ano?"

Unti-unting tumigil ang iyak ng bata na para bang takot na takot maiwanan ngunit ang babae ay hindi man lamang gumawa ng ano mang habbang upang karinyuhin ang bata. Bagkus, pinabayaang niya ang bata at parang walang ano mang nangyari, ibinaling ang kanyang atensiyon sa mga taong naglalakad sa daan.

Hindi lang ito ang unang pagkakataon na napuna ko ang ganitong "pakikipaglaro" ng babae sa bata. Sa katunayan ang ganitong pagtrato ay madalas mangyari at ang mga ibang matatandang kamaganakan niya ay sumasali rin sa pananakot sa bata.

Ilaw ng Tahanan



ni EDITA TRONQUED BURGOS

Matatapos lamang ang kasayahan ng mga matatanda kapag lumalakas na ang iyak ng bata at pinatatahan nila sa pagsabi na ang kunwaring pagaalis ay isang "biro" lamang.

Ang pakikipagugnayan sa isang musmos sa ganitong klaseng biro ay pangkaraniwan sa ating mga pamilya.

Malimit natin naobserbahan kung paano tinatakot ang mga inosenteng bata ng mga matatanda sa mga katagang "iwanan na kita" o "babay, aalis na ako" ngunit wala naman talagang intensiyon na lumisan ang matanda.

Sa ganang akin ito'y isang masaklap at malupit na pakikitungo sa isang bata na walang malay kung ano ang kahulugan ng ganitong biro. Sa isang bata ano man ang pagtatangkang siya'y iwanan ay isang katotohanan sa isip at damdamin niya. Ang pangangailangan ng bawat matatanda sa isa't isa ay isang normal na emosyon. Ano

pa kaya sa isang musmos?

Sa isang bata, ang kasiguruhan ng isang tagapagalaga ay pertinente sa kanyang paglaki. Hindi maaaring pabayaang at lalong hindi dapat bigyan ng pangamba o takutin dahil lalaki siyang hindi matatag sa kanyang sarili at hindi siya makabubuo ng pundasyon na base sa pagmamahal.

Lahat ng bata ay isinilang upang mapangalagaan. Hindi katulad ng ibang hayop na may instinto at kakayahang lumapit sa inahin upang sumuso o kaya'y maghanap sa sarili ng pagkain. Ang sanggol ay kailangan pang kargahin upang pasusuhin at kung pababayaan siya ay mamamatay.

Sana'y dapat maunawaan ito ng mga matatanda at iwasan ang ano mang okasyon na nagpapabaya sila sa kanilang tungkulin bilang tunay na tagapagalaga ng mga kabataan.

MGA SANGKAP:

- 5 kilong kamias
- 1 tasang toyo
- 3 kilong asukal
- 2 kutsarang apog

MGA KAGAMITAN:

- palanggana
- plastic bag
- tasang sukatan
- kutsarang sukatan

- toothpick o tinidor
- plastic sealer
- solar dryer

(National Training and Demonstration Center for Fruits and Vegetable Based Products, Don Severino Agricultural College, Indang, Cavite)

Kamias prunes

<p>1</p> <p>Pumili ng katamtamang laki ng kamias.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Hugasang mabuti. Alisan ng tampok ang magkabilang dulo, Tusuk-tusukin ng tinidor o toothpick.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Timbangin. Ibadad ng magdamag sa apog. 1 kutsarang apog sa 1 isang galong tubig.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Hugasang mabuti at pasu-mandaling ihulog sa kumukulong tubig.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lagyan ng asukal. 1 (isang kilong asukal) 2 (kilog kamias).</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Lutuin. Ilagay ang iba pang sangkap, katulad ng asin at toyo.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Pakuluan ng 30 minuto.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Patiktikin.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Palamigin. Ibilad sa solar dryer ng 16-24 oras.</p>

<p>10</p> <p>Ilagay sa plastic bag. (60 grams)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Isara sa pamamagitan ng plastic sealer.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lagyan ng label at iimbak sa tamang imbakan. (room temperature)</p>
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Opinyon ng magsasaka

Ang katotohanan sa bukid ay nakalaan sa mga naglilingang ng sariling kakayahan.

ANG balak ko ay gawin ang kolum na ito bilang serye ng patuloy at organisadong salaysay sa agrikultura sa pangkalahatan, at pagsasaka sa uring Pilipino, sa partikular, ngunit sa papaanuman, ilang pasulpot-sulpot na kaisipan ang patuloy na sumisingit sa sandaling sisimulan ko ang mga gawain sa bukid. Ang pakikibagay sa biglaang pagbabago ng istilo ng pamumuhay ay isang nakabibiglang karanasan na gumagawa sa isipan na isang tunay na sisidlan ng mga ideya at mga larawan na maya't-maya'y sumasambulat na baha ng mga pananalita.

Bukod dito, parang may kakulangan sa mga materyales na aking maasahan na, ayon sa pamantayan ng peryodismo, ay mahigpit na kinakailangan ng isang manunulat upang alalayan ang kanyang paghahayag.

Nararamdaman ko na kailangan kong lumuhis sa pag-uulat sa paraan ng isang peryodista (na nangangahulugan ng pagbubunyag ng katotohanan sinuman ang masasaktan) at alisin ang aking hilig sa pagsagot sa mga tanging personal na katanungan tungkol sa aking pagiging "prim- itibo."

Ang peryodismo ay ipinapalagay na isang makatotohanang paglalahad ng mga pangyayari at mga tao, hindi kailanman isang palagay ukol sa kung ano ang nadarama ng isa, gaano man ang

pangangailangan na gamutin nang lantaran ang masakit na damdaming ito - kung paanong ang mahapding sugat ay nangangailangan ng hangin upang maghilom at maging bahagi muli ng kabu- uan. Ngunit dahil sa ang bahaging ito ay malinaw na tinatakan na "kolum," nasa akin ang pribilehi- yo at kalayaan upang galugarin ang lalim ng damdamin ng tao hangga't ibinubunyag ko ang mga ito bilang gayon.

Magmimistula akong impertinente sa gitna ng maraming krisis na kinakaharap ng ating bansa ngayon. Ang tanging depensa ko bilang peryodista ay: ang suliranin ng bansa ay pinag- usapan at patuloy na pinag-uusapan ng mas maru- nonong na mga pantas sa loob at labas ng mesitang pambalitaan. Ang totoo ay alam na nating lahat ang mga suliranin ng ito. Panahon na upang tayo ay kumilos nang nararapat para sa mga ito. Tama na ang ngawa. Umpisahan na ang gawa. Kaya't ako ay nasa kabukiran, nagtatanim upang may makain.

Ako ay nakikitungo sa mga katotohanan sa mahigit na 30 taon ng trabaho sa peryodiko. Ma- rahil ay panahon na upang tipunin ang aking mga sentimiento upang iparating ang isang punto. Tawagin na itong lisensiya sa peryodismo o ka- layaan sa pagpapahayag ngunit gusto kong paala- lahanan ang aking mga mambabasa na wala na akong pakialam sa reaksyon ng publiko hangga't ang aking isinulat ay ang tunay kong nadara- ma, base sa sarili kong karanasan at pakikisala- muha sa mga kapitbahay kong magsasaka.

Nais ko ring tiyakin sa aking mga mambabasa

na bagama't may sagrado akong karapatan upang ihayag ang tunay kong damdamin o opinyon, sila man ay may katulad na karapatan na huwag basahin ang aking kolum o kontrahin ang aking mga ideya - o panatilihin ang kanilang kapaya- paan sa pamamagitan ng pagkikibit balik at pagturing sa akin bilang baliw.

Sa bukid, walang tinatawag na opinyong pub- liko. Ang nakapangyayari ay ang pansariling opinyon na walang palamuti na karaniwang naroo- ron kung higit pa sa dalawang matatalinong tao ay nagkakanig gaya ng kinakalawang na kade- nang bakal at nagsisikap na magsagawa ng bu- nonong pangkaisipan sa mga walang kakwenta- kwentang bagay gaya ng pulitika.

Ang opinyong publiko ay humihikayat sa iba upang maging mga ungas. Siyempre, iyong mga humuhugis ng opinyong publiko ay mga ungas din. Sa katunayan, mas malala pa nga sila - alam nating mga ungas sila ngunit sinisikap nilang itago ito sa pamamagitan ng kanilang karunun- gan o kung ano pa man na mapagkakamalang ganito. Ano pa ang sasama sa isang ungas kundi ang ipokrito?

Sa kalaunan, ang opinyong publiko ay sumisilo sa mapaniwalain at sa inosente sa isang patibong ng mabahong salitaan upang gawin silang tapun- an ng sisi sa sandaling ang opinyong nasa angkot ay gumanti ng sampal sa mukha ng mga tagagawa at tagapangalagat ng mga opinyon.

MULA SA BUKID



ni JOSE G. BURGOS, JR

Salitang 'kuwan'

Ang paghukunwari ay nahahalata sa tinatagong kataga at iba pang salita.

HINDI ko alam kung may ka- tumbas ang salitang "ku- wan" sa ibang lengguwahe pero ang katagang ito'y bukung bibig ng sinumang Pilipino ma- bata o ma-matanda; babae man o lalaki.

Ang "kuwan" ay sariling Pilipino at ito'y maraming kahulugan. Ang salita ay buntis at mayaman sa iba't-ibang interpretasyon at maaaring magamit ito sa sari-saring sitwasyon.

Sa mga malisyoso, ang "kuwan" ay ginagamit kung kabastusan ang pinag-u- usapan. Maaaring ang kahulugan nito'y tung- kol sa pribadong ari ng isang tao, babae o lalaki, o kahit na bakla.

"Nakita ko ang kuwan niya," ay uso kung nag-uusap ang inosenteng bata. Kung ang matatanda naman ang nag-uusap at ayaw mapahiya sa isa't isa dahil akala nito'y kabastusan ang pagbanggit ng isang bagay na mason naman ang lahat na ni- likha ng Diyos, ang pampalit ay "kuwan".

Sa kabilang dako naman, ang "kuwan" ay ginagamit kung hindi maalaala ang isang bagay, isang lugar o isang pangalan ng nagsasalita, "Kilala mo ba si...kuwan?" "Pakiabot nga ang...kuwan." "Sa...kuwan kami nagkita."

Short-cut, sa madaling sabi, ang pag- gamit ng salitang "kuwan." At ito'y katum- bas ng isang karakter ng mga Pinoy na madaling makalimot o ayaw magbanggit o mamulat sa katotohanan. May isang tawag pa rin dito: Ang pagkukunwari.

Kaiba naman ang katayuan sa bukid. Dito, deretsahan ang pananalita. Ang "ku- wan" ay bihirang gamitin dahil ang lahat ng bagay may kaugnayan sa pagsasaka ay may kanya-kanyang kawangis. Walang iti- natago, walang pagbabalatkayo.

Naalaala ko tuloy ang dalawang bata - isa, anak ng magsasaka, ang ikalawa nama'y taga-lungsod na nagbabakasyon sa bukid-na nadinig kong nag-uusap habang minamasdan ang inahing baboy na nakakulong.

Sabi ng batang taga-bukid: "Namamaga na ang puki. Siguro inhit na. Kailangang mabulog na."

Napahiyang sumagot ang pangalawang bata na bisita: "Ang bastos mo naman."

Namangha ang unang bata at nagsabi: "Bakit, kabastusan ba ang mag- salita ng katotohanan?"

Katulad ng batang taga-siyudad, marami sa atin ang namulat sa artipisyal at napaglalang na kapaligiran at dahil na rin dito, kumakapa tayo sa kadiliman ng pag-iisip.

(Sundan sa pahina 7)

Integridad ng magsasaka

Ang pagsupil ng makamundong nasa ay pangkaraniwan sa mga magsasaka na may integridad sa pakikibaka.

Ang karaniwang magsasaka ay mas gugus- tuhin pang kimkimin ang kanyang opinyon sa kanyang sarili upang masiguro na mapapanatili niya ang kanyang kalayaan at kasarinlan. Ginagawa niya ang kanyang gawain tangi lamang sa kanyang instincto (instinct) at karanasan, na tinutulungan ng pamamaraan, kundi man kapritso, ng kalikasan. Ang ganitong pag- tangkilik sa nakasanayang gawi na karaniwan sa mga magsasaka ay resulta marahil ng ma- habang pagpapabaya na mahigpit na ipinataw ng pamahalaan upang gawing mas mahirap ang mahirap at mas mayaman ang mayaman.

Kaya't bilang patakaran, ang magsasaka ay gumagawa sa ganang kanyang sarili, may pamahalaan man o wala. Dahil sa sanay na siya sa bukid, ginagawa niya ang kanyang pang- araw-araw na rutina, kung kaya't napapatibay ang kanyang kasarinlan, manapa'y hindi nai- impluwensiyahan ng panlabas at gawang-taong mga puwersa, kabilang ang opinyong publiko. At dahil sa naniniwala siya na ang bawat tao ay kakaiba sa iba, walang sinumang tao ang

dapat sumagabal sa pagpapabuti sa sarili ng ibang tao dahil ang ganito ay magiging kaba- wasan sa personalidad at potensyal ng isang nilalang.

Sa magsasaka, tanging ang Diyos ang may karapatan na impluwensiyahan ang at mamag- itan sa kapalaran ng tao. At ginagawa Niya ito nang tahimik at epektibo, sa pamamagitan ng batas ng kalikasan na kanyang ginagamit upang pamahalaan ang kanyang makalupang mga alagad. Di gaya ng mga taga-ukit ng opinyong publiko at ng malabis na pinapurihang mga tagapagligtas ng kaluluwa na nag-angkin ng isang pamamaraan na sumisira at nagliligaw sa pansariling kalayaan, na gumagawa sa mga tao na alipin ng panlahatang histeria at organ- isadong kalituhan.

Ang sinuman na malalim ang pagkakaugat sa lupa at na itinuturing ang pagsasaka bilang pambuong panahong hanapbuhay ay nakakas- umpung na ang gawain ay sapat na kasiya-siya anupa't nailalayo siya sa mga okasyon na maaar- ing makasira sa kanyang balanseng kamalay- an (sense of proportion) at pagkatao. Kaunti lamang ang kanyang pagkakataon upang maimpluwensiyahan ng iba na nagpapalala sa mga kahinaan ng tao gaya ng inggit at kasaki- man sa kayamanan, katanyagan o kapangyar- ihan. Sa karaniwang magsasaka, sapat na ang

sapat. Sapat na pagkain, sapat na salapi upang mapag-aral ang kanyang mga anak (maski na hanggang ika-anim na baytong lamang), sapat na salapi upang makabili ng sigarilyo at alak sa oras ng pamamahinga pagkatapos ng mahirap na gawain sa bukid, at marahil sapat para sa abono at pamatay- peste sa pagsapit ng pana- hon ng pagtatanim. Wala nang lalabis pa rito. Walang gaanong kaalwanaan para sa kanyang sarili at para sa kanyang pamilya. Sapat na na may kubong matutulugan, tubig na mainom at isang kapisasong lupa na sasakahin (huwag nang pansinin kung ang lupa ay pag-aari ng iba).

Sa maikli, hindi siya naghahanap ng labis. At ang mga tao na hindi naghahangad ng labis o walang nag-aapoy na ambisyon upang man- guna o umalinsabay sa iba ay mga tapat na tao. Walang alinlangan na pinatutunayan niya ang kawikaan na iminungkahi ng mga matatanda na hindi siya mahirap na salat sa ari-arian kundi siya na naghahangad ng marami.

Ang magsasaka ay hindi nandaraya bagama't madalas siyang nadadaya at napag- sasamantalahan kung papaanong ang kani- lang mga ninuno ay nadaya at napagsamanta- lahan ng kanilang mga among kolonyal. Ngunit gaya ng kanyang hayop na pangkarga, ang kalabaw, masikap niyang ginagawa ang kan- yang gawain, nagbibigay ng pagkain para sa iyo at sa akin nang walang isa mang daing.

Mayroon din siya sa kanyang pag-aari ng isa pang mahalagang bagay na wala sa karami- han kundi man sa lahat ng mga tao na nad- adaig ng kanilang sariling ambisyon: ang kati- wasayan ng pag-iisip. Ang kapanatagan ng kaluluwa. Ang pagsupil ng emosyon. Ang pag- dadalisay ng di-inaasahan at mapapait na mga nasa.

Sapagkat nakaatag sa kanyang balikat ang bawat aspekto ng gawain sa bukid (hindi niya kinakailangang iasa sa iba ang kanyang gawain), napapanatili ng magsasaka ang kan- yang integridad. Kung siya ay mabigo, wala siyang sisisihin kundi ang sarili niya. Kung siya ay magtagumpay, mabuti para sa iyo sapagkat hindi ka maruutom.



Ang "Lupa" ay lumalabas minsan isang buwan at inilalathala bilang serbisyo publiko para sa mga magsasaka at mga institusyon na may kaugnayan sa agrikultura. Walang bayad ang bawat kopya.

JOSE G. BURGOS, Jr.
Publisher-Editor

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Sustainable Agriculture-2

Pesticide residues in food

By FELIX ZAMORA, JR., PAJ

DESPITE THE on-and-off attempts of our government's agricultural instrumentalities and some research institutions to promote integrated pest management that include the use of beneficial parasites and predators, highly toxic chemical pesticides indiscriminately recommended to and used by gullible farmers bent on making profits continue to be the preferred crop protection measure, passing on toxic and carcinogenic residues on nutritionally deficient food crops to innocent consumers.

Pests pose serious problems to many major food crops causing annual yield losses estimated at 30 to 60 percent. Consequently, farmers depend heavily on chemical pesticides for crop protection, the increased usage of which has caused considerable concern about their ill effects on health and the quality of agricultural products at the expense of consumers, the natural environment and the well-being of the future generation.

Chemical pesticides are formulated to remain on a crop after application to provide protection against pests. However, the greater concern is focused on the level of residues that remain in and on the foods that are sold and consumed.

It is only in recent times that governments require that prior to the introduction of pesticides into their markets, agrochemical manufacturers must first determine the expected nature, levels and toxicological significance of the associated residues. Government instrumentalities and international organizations use such background information to establish the legal limits for pesticide residues in foods and the minimum periods to be observed between spraying and harvesting.

The legal limit referred to as "minimum residue level" (MRL) or tolerance, is defined as the maximum residue concentration resulting from the use of a pesticide, taking into account the minimum quantities required to achieve adequate pest control while allowing the least amount of residue practical and acceptable from a health standpoint without risks of long term toxic or carcinogenic effects.

This acceptable residue level of each specific pesticide formulation is based on an estimate of the level of residue intake below which the risk would be too small to be of concern. The level known as "acceptable daily intake" (ADI) is defined as the amount of

pesticide residue that may be consumed daily by an individual during his active lifetime with reasonable certainty that on the basis of all known facts, no relative harm will result.

ADI levels are established after extensive tests and assessments are undertaken for possible carcinogenic (oncogenic), mutagenic and teratogenic potentials on laboratory animals. The intake level when given daily over the lifespan of laboratory animals without causing any toxic toxicologically significant effects is determined and the ADI is derived after applying conservative safety factors. The residue appraisals are rarely based on short-term or acute toxic hazards but rather on the possible long-term effects resulting from ingestion of very small amounts over a lifetime.

While pesticides are not immediately debilitating or lethal, most chemicals used for pest control are not only toxic to intended target organisms but also to non-target species such as parasites and predators that are beneficial to crops. Tests on laboratory animals have shown that some compounds may cause birth defects in children born to directly exposed adults or cause other chronic effects such as enzyme disorders, deterioration of blood cells or cancer.

The Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization (FAO-WHO) Codex Alimentarius Commission sets the international standards of MRLs and ADIs for agricultural crops intended for the international trade. The standards are adopted by many governments to ensure that safe levels of pesticide residues in food are not violated.

In general, higher pesticide residues are more prevalent in horticultural crops such as fruits and vegetables which are more heavily treated than rice and other food crops. This was found to be especially true of food crops for domestic consumption where no monitor-

ing is done due to lack of expertise and sophisticated equipment to conduct residue analysis. Moreover, quantitative data documenting the magnitude of the problem are lacking.

The "Handbook on the Use of Pesticides in the Asia-Pacific Region," (Asian Development Bank, Manila, November 1987) reveals the following facts about pesticide related problems in the Philippines.

Significant environmental, health and safety concerns

Hazards to Users: Concern over safety of users; poisoning cases are monitored, but no statistical analysis is done; occupational health programs instituted.

Residues on Food: Expressed concern but minimal work done; exporters have expressed concern.

Effects on Soil, Water and Non-target Organisms: Expressed concern but uncoordinated monitoring.

Pest Resistance: Isolated cases reported.

Other Hazards: Disposal of toxic wastes from pesticide plants. Adulteration of products inducing toxicity to users.

Suggested Mitigation Measures:

1. Develop/implement coordinated residue monitoring.
2. Provide regulatory agency with required laboratory facilities for residue monitoring.
3. Development/implement statistical monitoring of poisoning.
4. Strictly enforce (regulations on) farm use of pesticides.

The Handbook also include the following extracts from the Country Profile on the Philippines:

Pest Management Practices

Vegetables. Use of insecticide on vegetables is estimated at 20% of the total Philippine usage. Because vegetables are prone to diseases, fungicides - particularly dithiocarbamates - are also used.



CHEMICALS: A second, hard look.

[Dithiocarbamates and Related Compounds. Zinc, manganese and iron salts of dithiocarbamates are used as agricultural fungicides. Thiram disulphides, formed by oxidation of dithiocarbamates, are used as fungicides and seed dressings against soil fungi. The group has low acute toxicity to humans and animals; however, their chronic effects (e.g. oncogenicity) must be taken into account. Examples of this group include ferbam (iron salt), maneb (manganese salt), and Zenib (zinc salt).]

Environmental Concerns. The increasing use of pesticides within the agricultural sector raises significant concerns, such as hazards to health and the natural environment; residues in food and the environment; and pest resistance.

Residues on Food and Export Crops. Market-based samples of vegetables are routinely analyzed for residues by the pesticide laboratories of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), particularly for organochlorines and organophosphates. Several other agencies monitor residues in lakes, rivers and other bodies of freshwater and exporters of agricultural products regularly analyze banana and tobacco shipments prior to export.

Consumer awareness of the potentially adverse effects of pesticide residues has increased and consumer groups now pressure the government

to strictly enforce pesticide-related legislation.

Enforcement Mechanism. Monitoring of pesticide residue is conducted by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) in collaboration with the BPI. Market-basket and field samples in areas of high pesticide use are analyzed and results are assessed by the FPA. Corresponding regulatory policies are initiated to minimize residue problems.

Lack of Interagency Cooperation. Numerous agencies are involved in pesticide residue monitoring, either directly or indirectly: the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), the BPI, the FPA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). However, there is no coordinating body to collate research findings or to formulate regulatory policies.

While there are "expressed concerns" on pesticide residues that may be in or on the food that a housewife or househelp may buy from the supermarket, grocery, public or private market, which one among the "numerous agencies" or the government is designated by law to ensure that the large volume of fruits and vegetables that pass through trade channels everyday, meet MRL and ADI levels?

In the ADB Handbook, not even the Bureau of Food and Drugs or the Department of Health is listed among the

agencies that need to be involved in pesticide residue monitoring and implementing appropriate control measures. Furthermore, the "suggested mitigation measures" makes it manifest that the country lacks the equipment and the agency required to ensure consumer food safety.

One lady doctor who makes it a point to do her own week-end marketing for her family's fresh food supplies from a public market patronized for its wide selection of vegetables and fruits from various parts of the country, was observed to particularly pick vegetables with signs of insect infestation like holes on leaves while other vendors offer perfect ones that she rejects outright.

When asked why, the doctor's simple explanation was that the vegetables may have been harvested from insect-infested crops but that they were probably free from toxic pesticide residues even while she is also aware that they may be deficient in some nutrient contents which she could make up with other supplemental foods for well-balanced diets.

The point should now be obviously clear that when one raises fruits and vegetables using organic, biological and non-toxic methods, the elements of food safety and full nutritional values would be there to be had and enjoyed.

6 major RP farm crops suffer setbacks

SIX MAJOR crops being grown by the country suffered production setbacks while five others posted modest gains last year, according to the agriculture department.

But the declines did not prevent the crops subsector from increasing its output to 64.4 million metric tons (mt) to improve on its 1990 harvest of 61.4 million mt by 4.84 per cent, the department points out.

It reports that the entire agricultural sector of the national economy (crops, livestock poultry and fishery) came up with a 69.2 million mt production, 4.65 per cent better than the year ago's 66.1 million mt.

Gross value of the sector's production showed a real growth rate of 1.25 per cent (constant 1985 prices) or 11.84 per cent if computed at current (1991) prices, according to the department. In peso terms such percentages respectively read into P204 billion and P305.5 billion.

Among the subsectors, poultry led with a real growth of 3.45 per cent; fishery, 2.41 per cent; livestock, 1.26 per cent, and crops, 0.71 per cent.

The marginal growth posted by the crops subsector is explained by the department as due to production shortfalls suffered by the six major crops it lists as:

Mango, a drop of 10.57 per cent or from 337,600 mt to 301,900 mt; fibers, to 55,100 mt from 58,400 mt (5.65 per cent); coconut, down by 4.39 per cent, from 11.9 million mt to 11.4 million mt; corn, 4.65 million mt which was off 4.10 per cent from the previous 4.85 million mt; pineapple, down to 1.11 million mt from 1.15 million mt (3.35 per cent); and coffee, from 134,100 mt down to 133,400 mt (0.52 per cent).

Most impressive gain at 17.79 per cent was posted by sugarcane production with an output of 21.9 mil-

lion mt which wiped out a 12.8 per cent shortfall suffered in 1990 when its harvest dropped to 18.6 million mt compared to the 21.4 million mt of 1989.

Gainers among the other major crops are singled out by the department as abaca with a 5.71 per cent growth to 85,100 mt; tobacco, 4.28 per cent to 85,200 mt; palay or unhusked rice, 3.76 per cent to 9.6 million mt; and banana, 1.29 per cent to 2.9 million mt.

The nation's 1991 rice production failed to fulfill an early prediction of the department that harvest would be a record 10 million mt.

Eruption of Mount Pinatubo on June 14 last year was what prevented the expected bumper rice crop. Located in Zambales province of Central Luzon, the volcanic eruption prevented the region from producing its usual 1.5 million mt harvest of the cereal.

The department further reports that production of 12 other secondary crops also had a minimal 0.52 per cent growth since only two others managed increases in output with cabbage posting the more significant 10.98 per cent growth.

Ten crops came up with deficits and they were led by garlic, a whopping 35.20 per cent or from 17,900 mt to 11,600 mt; peanut, 9.77 per cent to 31,400 mt; eggplant, 8.25 per cent to 103,400 mt; mungo, 5.99 per cent to 25,100 mt; "calamansi," 4.44 per cent to 47,400 mt; tomato, 3.37 per cent to 177,900 mt; rubber, 2.54 per cent to 180,700 mt; cassava, 2.07 per cent to 1.8 million mt; onion, 1.30 per cent to 60,700 mt; and "camote" (sweet potato), 0.99 per cent to 662,300 mt. Other crops not listed grew by 1.55 per cent,

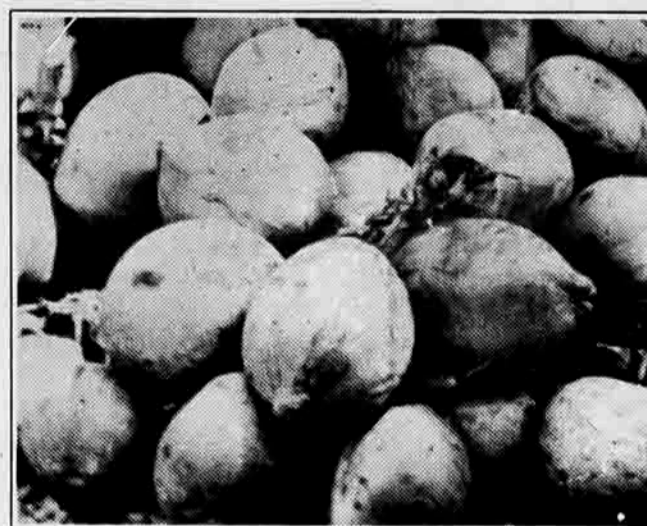
the department adds.

Turning to output of the poultry subsector, the department reports a production of 818,500 mt which represented a 3.39 per cent uptrend over the 791,700 mt of 1990. The growth is due mainly to the 10.82 per cent rise in duck egg production; 3.68 per cent in chicken eggs; 3.10 per cent in chickens, and 2.79 per cent in ducks.

Fishery posted a 2.31 per cent rise in catch. Commercial fishing upped its haul by 3.57 per cent over the

year ago while aquaculture came up with 3.01 per cent and municipal fisheries only 1.11 per cent, department figures show.

Continued ailing of the livestock subsector is shown by the thin 1.17 per cent growth it managed which is owed to the 5.29 per cent increase in the goat herd and 2.50 per cent rise in number of hogs. Carabao suffered a production decline of 4.98 per cent; cattle also down by 4.08 per cent, and ditto for dairy products, 1.56 per cent. (DEPTH-news)



BAGGAK ITI AGSAPA
DWSI 1251 kHz
Santiago, Isabela

BUKEL-SIRIB TI AMIANAN
DZSO 720 kHz
San Fernando, La Union

PUNLAAN SA HIMPAPAWID
DWBR 531 kHz
Batangas City, Batangas
DZLB 1116 kHz
Los Banos, Laguna

PAMANGGAS SA KAHANGINAN
DYRI 1107 kHz
La Paz, Iloilo City

PUGASAN SA KAHANGINAN
DYHP 612 kHz
DYRF 1215 kHz
Cebu City

BUDYONG SA KABANIKANHAN
DXCP 585 kHz
Gen. Santos City

PUNLAAN SA HIMPAPAWID
DWGW 684 kHz
Legaspi City, Albay

HUNGOS SA KAHANGINAN
DXBC 593 kHz
Butuan City
Agusan Del Norte

MAAYONG BUNTAG MAG-UUMA
DXMB 648 kHz
Malaybalay, Bukidnon

BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN
DXND
Kidapawan, North Cotabato

DUGOKAN SA NASUD
DXRA 783 kHz
Davao City

KISAW SA KABANIKANHAN
DXRA 783 kHz
Davao City

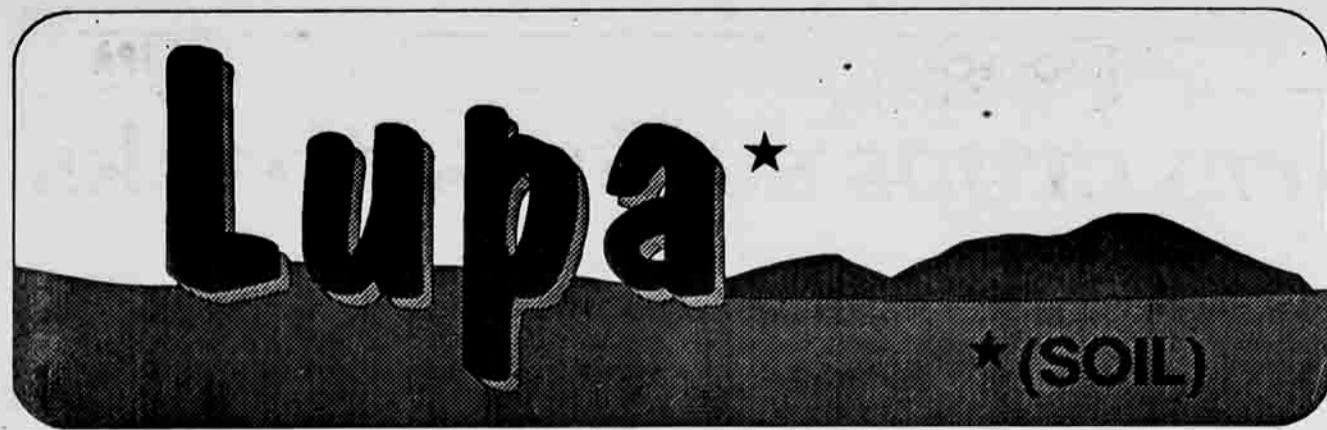
PUNLAAN SA HIMPAPAWID
DWAN 1206 kHz
SABADO 7-8 N.G.
PHILIPPINE PEASANT INSTITUTE

Mula sa Bukid (Mula pahina 5)

Sa kabukiran, natural lamang na malaman ang tunay na kalagayan ng bawat nilalang ng Diyos at ang pagkukunwari ay wala sa bokabularyo ng mga tagarito. Ang mga ipokrito ay walang lugar sa bukid. At ahil dito, maayos ang daloy

ng pag-iisip at pananalita. Nagkakainfindihan.

Ang hindi pagkakasundo ay sanhi ng malisya at ang kaayusan ay makamtan lamang kung ilalantad natin - at hindi binalutan ng kahiyaan—ang pagsambit ng katotohanan.



Middlemen behind soaring farm produce prices—DA

By ROBERT L. DOMOQUEN

THE JAWBONE routine is being used by the agriculture department in a fresh bid to compel lower retail prices of farm produce in the nation's cities and other urban centers.

It reports that a single product is sometimes handled by as many as eight different middlemen, such a process causing its farm-gate price to multiply five times or more.

Studies conducted by the department showed that effecting tie-ups between the farmers and retailers of the produce will effectively lower prices.

However, the farmers must first organize themselves before such a link with the retailers—supermarkets in the cities and associations of retailers in the public markets—can become reality.

Interviews conducted by the department with non-middlemen bulk buyers of farm produce resulted in the latter agreeing to purchase direct from the farmers provided the latter are organized or have a marketing arm which can assure steady and quality supply.

Results of the studies brought forth a department

order for its fieldmen throughout the nation to persuade the farmers to form themselves into associations which can deal effectively with supermarkets operators and vendors groups in the public markets.

Selling point of the fieldmen is that a direct link-up with the bulk buyers means increased income for the farmers and lower prices for the consumers.

Another benefit being cited by those doing the jawboning is that lower prices will encourage higher demand which in turn will spur the farm sector to greater production.

Local officials are also being urged by the department to join in the jawboning. They are reminded that higher income for farmers in their respective provinces or regions translate into solid economic progress.

The studies found that the middlemen continue as permanent fixtures of the

Current produce prices are deplored by the department as unreasonably high. It blames the middlemen as among leading factors behind the anomaly.

farm marketing system in the country. They have maneuvered themselves into a position where they have much say in price trends in the retail markets.

Some middlemen operate truck fleets which corner the delivery of produce from the farms to the markets. Others run strategically placed storehouses and also provide no-fuss production loans to the small farmers who are then obliged to sell their produce to the lenders.

Conducted by the department's Marketing and Technical Assistance Division, the studies further cite clout of the middlemen as in some cases is due to being members of the economic and political elite in their respective localities. This explains why efforts to dislodge them from the marketing system often fail.

The department further reports that the studies determined willingness of

Metro Manila-based supermarket operators and public market vendors associations to go over heads of the middlemen if direct buying from the farmers groups is possible.

Metro Manila with its 8 million population remains the top market of all farm produce in the country, the department reminds indicating that if the envisioned tie-up between farmers and direct retailers succeed, it will be easy to replicate the arrangement in the other urban centers of the nation.

The Metro Manila supermarket operators listed three conditions for them to purchase direct from the farmers and the department lists them as:

—Farmers should provide vegetable and fruits produce at cheaper prices than the middlemen.

—The produce should be of good quality.

—Supply should be continuous or steady even during the off-season of a particular produce.

The first two conditions will not be difficult for organized farmers to comply with since their handling and transport costs will be lower if they are undertaking such tasks, according to the department.

As for the third condition, the department describes it as a challenge for the development of technologies that will make possible year-round production of fruits and vegetables which enjoy high market demand. (DEPTHnews)

Gov't's environmental policies and their effects on agriculture (CONCLUSION)

By JOSEPHINE BALATAD

COMPARATIVELY DATA by PIDS reveal that it is the big landholders who own large tracts of forest lands and who rake in profits from logging activities. Upland farmers, on the other hand, own a mere 19 percent of forest lands and make do with subsistence level earnings from their forest-based activities (like fuelwood gathering). Since the big landowners comprise less than 5 percent of the country's population, and since their logging activities are the major cause of environmental destruction, then the government's premise for environmental plans does not hold water.

Siltation and pollution are also blamed to an undisciplined and ignorant populace who indiscriminately dump their wastes and garbage onto rivers and vacant lots. Reports say that 70 percent of waste products are generated by households and 30 percent by industrial plants. At the same time, studies reveal that industrial wastes, including chemical inputs, are mostly toxic and untreated and there-

reflect hidden costs of extraction like its harmful effects on ecology. The same goes with pollution control where stiffer penalties for violators must be exacted.

A decisive shift to more ecologically viable farming systems must be made in the medium term. This entails the immediate halt of chemical use in farming. Government's institutional and fiscal support in promoting and developing organic farming and alternative pest management while ensuring just returns for the farmers must top the government's agenda for development.

The formulation of a comprehensive land use policy that will guide land conversion and land classification activities is also a must. This will complement a development strategy toward a sustainable strategy for development.



fore more harmful to the environment.

Rather than marginalize the people's participation in environmental planning and implementation, won't the government do well by using their productive capacity in pursuing a proper framework for genuine environmental agenda? And rather than use the people as scapegoats for environmental destruction, can't the government come up and seriously implement policies that will address the economic and political inequities in the Philippine society, these being the major factors in the great plunder of our environment?

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

As we urge the government to come up with sound policies on environmental concerns, a number of policy recommendations, all addressing the problems raised above, is in order:

In the immediate, a total log ban must be enforced. This will give our forests the much-needed respite and rebirth they badly needed. Forestry charges must be adjusted to

But to be effective, an honest effort to arrest environmental degradation in this country needs to be wholistic and participative in approach. It should be made part of a broader effort to correct the existing flaws in the country's economic and political structures which put the greatest pressure on the environment. The export-oriented and debt-dependent economy of the Philippines, the rationale behind intensive resource extraction activities, must be done away with in favor of a more environment-friendly set-up. Therefore, increased productivity and industrialization must be pursued without compromising resource conservation.

These efforts must be anchored on an accurate appraisal of the people's will and must be implemented using their formidable strength. Future policy makers and planners are then challenged to pursue environmental protection with unrelenting determination and unconditional nationalism. (Farm News & Views, Philippine Peasant Institute)



Nearing the homestretch

IN THE next few days, the nation will go to the polls to elect a new set of officials, from the president down to the least town councilor, who will govern this country of 64 million for the next six years. Ordinarily, in these last few days remaining, the electorate would have a good idea of who is expected to come out the winner in the presidential derby, but this year seems to be proving the exception. The political situation remains as volatile as on the day it started and the wise money is hedging on its bets, expecting to see a more reliable consensus in the last two minutes.

Actually, the muddle is beginning to clear up, although the betting is not as active as in past contests. After Jaime Cardinal Sin's Pastoral Letter and Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez's filing of charges for alleged misappropriation of almost a billion pesos in coconut levy funds, most observers are now conceding that Eduardo Cojuangco has been stopped dead in his tracks. The timing of the case may be highly suspicious, but it generated a lot of unsavory talks and speculations that could only result in revealing the candidate in his worst lights. The Palace boys are reportedly exulting; their strategy has worked as per expectations and the target is hurting, with slim chances of recovery at this late stage of the campaign.

This should make the President a very happy woman. With Imelda out of the picture (everyone deems her a nuisance), her worst fears are over. She could live with any of the remaining candidates, including Ramon Mitra.

The latter's chances are dwindling rapidly, however. The last Social Weather Station survey places him a far fourth from third-placer Cojuangco, with the formidable Miriam Santiago and Fidel Ramos in the lead. Jovito Salonga betters Salvador Laurel who is at the tail-end of the survey.

Considering the vagaries of policies, however, the strange and often unexpected sometimes happen. This perception maybe behind the reason why the veteran observers are agreed that Laurel could be the dark horse in this presidential election, who could conceivably stage a stunning upset over Santiago and Ramos. He's not a bad choice, actually, despite an image of negativism that has hounded him all these years being vice-president. His record on many aspects of what the public man should be is on a par with Salonga, whose campaign may have bogged down for funding lack and the age issue. Politically, Laurel is not way beyond his prime and logistics has not posed such a big problem as to be insuperable. Don't count him out, as the street-wise admonishes.

As for the good Cardinal's homily, many agree that he has over-stepped his bounds. He should have stopped when the stopping was good and the Pastoral was a good cut-off point. He could have rested after that and gaze contentedly and benignly over the pockmarked political landscape, knowing that he has done his duty to the flock. His homily became an over-reaching strategy that only serve to detract from the Pastoral's efficacy. If he thought he could elevate Mitra to the presidency with that, the counting will show that he is sadly mistaken.

The fight for the plum will be between Santiago and Ramos, with Laurel's shadow looming large over the battlefield, waiting for the opportune time as the two main combatants pummel themselves and commit the lethal mistakes that could create a breach. The defections into the Ramos camp is a good gauge of how the political wind is blowing. Attacks on his role during martial law of the hated dictatorship are now concerted and even now he is being blamed for the closure of the media during those years. More of the same are expected to surface in the coming days as May 11 draws nearer; more 'secrets' will be unraveled attesting to his unfitness for the office he pursues. The hatchet job is on him and if they could bury that thing on his back, well and good.

Up to this point, Miriam is doing extremely well. The Brenda issue does not seem to have damaged her — or her brain. She is still very fast on the draw and she comes out number one in mock elections and surveys everywhere, which may one day inspire her to say that the bulk of the electorate is just as sane as she is, unlike her detractors. Many of those working in her camp are spending their own money and a bigger number of people are actually contributing to her campaign funds, a phenomenon matched only by the Malacañang incumbent when she ran and soundly thrashed the greediest who ever lived. Until people power at EDSA intervened, people were saying that "Cory won the election, but lost in the counting." This is the nightmare that haunts Miriam and her fighting group. Right or wrong, they are now convinced that she has the election sewed up in her pocket. It is most interesting to speculate what would happen to her — and perhaps this country, too — if Miriam is cheated out of her rightful victory.



MANILA STANDARD, April 30, 1992

Miriam will likely make it

YOU MAY not want another woman President, you may not like her sharp tongue, and you may believe all the things said against her. In short, you may not like her at all. But one thing you'll agree on is that she may (will?) be the next President.

The surveys, of course, say so, but they're not my gauge. It's the children. I have yet to hear one against Miriam; even my six-year-old boy is for her.

I do remember that during our elementary years, whoever topped the straw votes in school also won in the real polls. Magsaysay was an example. In our Grade IV class, Quirino received only (if memory serves) three or four votes while RM got all the rest.

There's something in innocent children — call it a hunch or whatever — which makes them predict with accuracy.

I've the sneaky fear, however, that the election results will be extrapolated to favor the military's candidate. A retired colonel just laughed over the phone when I told him that his candidate won't ever concede even if he loses by a landslide.

Speaking of extrapolation, the Comelec should answer Imeldific's documented charge that the country's voters lists have been padded by some six million. This is a very serious charge which Comelec Chairman Monsod of the then pro-Aquino Namfrel should answer squarely. (As this is written, the Comelec hasn't reacted yet officially to Imeldific's allegation.)

Silence on the Comelec's part can only be construed to mean that Ma'am is telling the truth.

She should know. She's been in politics even before she met the greatest election cheat of all time.

Oh, what politics can do!

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

Can you imagine human-rights lawyer and one-time *We Forum* columnist Ric Valmonte running under Marcos's martial-law implementor Fidel V. Ramos?

Well, Ric is — for congressman of the lone district of Valenzuela, Metro Manila.

To Ric I suggest that he engage the services of his friend Tony Antonio, president of the disension-wracked National Press Club, as campaign manager.

Is that really you, Ric?

Discerning voters of Mandaluyong should be turned off, as they should have been, by incumbent Mayor Abalos's posters showing him on the cover of an Asian magazine which is known only for one thing: its superficiality. If I were His Honor, I'd be ashamed of myself for having been featured in the same publication which sang hosannas to the deposed dictator.

Who do you think caused those recent coup jitters?

It could have come from only one source, the one which stands to reap the benefits of another coup try: Malacañang.

Had it happened, the Palace will have all the

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We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

The last political words

THE MAY 11, 1992 national elections will determine whether democracy in our country will be strengthened or wither on the vine.

Prof. Randy David who is to us a sage of U.P. Diliman, put it precisely and carefully in his straightforward fashion as he closed the Comelec and U.P. sponsored last debate and statement of positions by the presidential candidates last week.

The well managed debate of which Randy David was the moderator put the fate of our democratic presidential system of government into the hands of the people - both the candidates and voters.

An experienced moderator of several notable television programs for the last many years, Randy David avoided putting the responsibility of the

fate of democratic institutions on the candidates alone, but also on all who will be participating in the coming election - candidates and voters alike.

It was quite surprising to me that most of my fellow viewers of that final debate, made their comments generally on the successful way the "last political will and testaments" were presented by the presidential candidates to the nation's TV audience, but not on the way the debate was handled by the moderator.

In that hot summer afternoon of the great debate, the highly charged TV station room could be the venue or locale where tempers could flare up, and fists could fly freely in all directions.

But the viewers were more glued in their special interest to the moderator who made a very

graphic presentation of the debate. Randy David made the candidates toe the line, as it were, according to the format of the very important affair.

Quiet and serene as the presidential bets were in their seats, so were the issues, differences, similarities of views presented to them and the voters graphically, in sharp, clear focus. The candidates and the voters alike could not escape the eye of the camera of the moderator and the sponsors, who were the U.P. and the Comelec, the cameras which were either land based or high up tugging on some satellites near another galaxy.

Thrown into sharpest focus were issues and questions about widespread poverty, the basic needs of man for food, clothing and shelter; free,

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

universal public school education on primary and high school levels, and graft and corruption in the government.

The moderator put the issues and questions down squarely to the people: Our Philippine democracy will revitalize and grow or it will weaken and collapse, depending on how we will vote in the May 11, 1992 polls. In other words: must we grow up or blow up?

KILAT SIN NATAIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

NAKATUTUWA ANG ipinakita ng mga "presidentiables" noong nakaraang linggo (4/26/92) sa kanilang huling pagtatalakayan. Maganda rin ang disenyo ng Channel 5 na katutubong "backdrop" sa loob ng istudyo. At kapuri-puri ang madamdaming pag-awit ng makabayang awiting "Aling pag-ibig pa" ni Andres Bonifacio habang lumalagda sa sinumpaang nilang pananalig sa kapayapaan ng halalan. Nagkamayan ang ilan sa mga "presidentiables." Hindi ko nakita kung ginawa ito ng lahat. Si Mrs. Miriam Santiago ay nakipagkamay sa mga taga-COMELEC samantalang si Cojuangco ay waring nagmamadaling umalis habang naglapitan ang mga photographers at cameraman upang kumunang anim na dumalo. Hindi dumalosi Gng. Imelda Marcos. Kung may paliwanag man ay hindi ko na inabutan at ang malinaw ay wala siya sa pinakahuling talakayan.

Sa pakiramdam ko'y mga "sport" naman ang anim na kandidato sa pagka-presidente. Lahat ng kanilang paliwanag hinggil sa tanong na paano nila dadalhin ang pagkatalo kung sila'y matatalo ay maayos naman nilang nasagot. May punto pa ngang makadarama ka ng pagkalungkot sa mga wari'y tapat nilang paliwanag tulad ng sinabi ni Santiago na kung matalo'y dapat imbitahan ng

mananalo ang mga kasama niya sa harapang 'yon at pupunta sila sa Luneta at sasamahan siyang manumpa. Gano'n din naman aniya kung mananalo siya, imbitahan niya silang lahat at pupunta sila sa Luneta. Ibig sabihin'y manalo o matalo, maaayos ang pagharap sa pangyayaring ito. Sinabi naman ni Mitra na matagal nang siya at ang mga kasama niyang lumagda sa isang peace pact na kung manalo o matalo ay susupportahan niya ang mananalo at kung matalo ay hihimukin niyang tumulong ang mga nakaribal niya sa pagbubuo ng watak-watak na bansa. Realidad ang kay Cojuangco nang sabihin niyang nang pumasok siya sa labang 'yon ay alam niyang isa lang ang mananalo kaya't handa ang kanyang sarili sa ganitong pangyayari. Madali 'ika niyang mahilom ang sugat na malilikha sa bawat isa sa kanila ngunit ang mahalaga'y ang paggamot sa sugat na matagal bago maghilom. Sinabi naman ni Ramos na pagkatapos nilang mag-file ng candidacy sa pagka-presidente ay nagtungo ang Lakas-NUCD sa Manila Cathedral at sumumpang susundin nila ang magiging pasiya ng bayan at ng COMELEC.

Sa lahat ng mga kandidato, malinaw ang paggalang nila sa COMELEC. Sa harapang 'yon ay naroon din ang lahat ng komisyoner ng COMELEC. May isa ngang kaibigang nagbiro na sana'y may "blood compact" na gawin ang mga kandidato para higit na ipakitang tapat sila sa mga sinabi nilang walang magsisimula ng gulo kung sino man ang matatalo. Naibiro ko namang para hindi maging madugo ang eleksyon makakabuting huwag nang gawin ang gano'ng klase ng seremonya.

Sa pagtitimbang sa nangyaring huling

Manalo o matalo

pagtatalakayan, maaaring sabihin wala tayong karapatang magduda sa kanilang mga salita sa mga oras na 'yon. Iba nga lamang ang realidad ng pagtanggap ng pagkatalo sa pagsapit ng Mayo 11. Iba ang oras ng aktwal na pagbibilang ng boto. Tensyon ang mamamayani at umaapaw ang emosyon sa araw mismo ng botohan.

Ngunit lahat din ng mga kandidato ay malinaw na nagsabing igagalang lamang nila ang isang eleksiyong hindi kasasangkutan ng pandaraya at karahasan. Ang bagay na ito'y hindi lamang sila ang tumatanaw kundi maging tayong may malasakit sa kaayusan ng ating bayan.

Ang isa pang mahalagang makita at gawan ng panawagan ng COMELEC ay ang mga taong nasa likod ng mga kandidatong tumatakbo sa pagka-presidente. Kadalasang ang mga "amuyong" ang malakas gumatong sa mainit ng siga. Dito masusubok ang kakayahan sa pamumunong bawat isa sa mga kandidato na kontrolin ang kanilang mga tagasunod. Kung maaayos na ngang tunanggap ng natalong kandidato at hindi naman susunod ang kanilang mga tagasunod maaari rin itong pagsimulan ng gulo. Dapat itong bigyang pansin ng COMELEC.

Sa mananalo, mabuhay ka! Sa mga matatalo, marami kayong magagawang tulong sa bansa sa maraming paraan.

Sa mananalong presidente, napakalaking gawain ang naghihintay sa kanya. Nariyan ang kabuuang problema ng kahirapan sa buong bansa. Nariyan ang problema ng rebelyon sa kaliwa't kanang pampulitikang timbangan ng pwersa. Nariyan ang nararapat na pagharap sa naghihirap nating Inang Kalikasan. Waldas ang ating

kapaligiran. Winaldas-nilapastangan ng mga taong sarili lamang ang pinagmamalaskitan. Hindi biro ang problemang ito. At isa pang malaking problema ay ang pagkakaroon ng tunay na repormang pansakahan. Malaking bahagi ng ating kababayan, 70 porsyento, ay mga magsasaka. Walang maasahang pagsulong sa kabuhasan kung hindi matutugunan ang kabuhasan ng mga magsasaka, manggagawang pambukid, at maliit na mangingisda. Hindi lamang lupa ang dapat na ibigay sa kanila. Kung walang tulong na puhunang salapi para sa pagkakaroon ng marangal na pamumuhay, kakayahang pag-aralin, buhayin ang mga anak, damitan at ipagamot sa mga oras ng pagkakasakit, ang lupa ay muling babalik sa mga may-ari ng lupa. Isasanla o ibebentang muli. Magpapaikot-ikot na lamang ang pagharap sa problemang kasintagal na ng kasaysayan ng ating bansa.

Ilan lamang ito sa mga haharapang gawain ng susunod na uupo sa Malakanyang. Marami pang malalaking problema ang kanyang kakaharapin. Subalit ang mga binanggit ko'y ilan sa dapat bigyan ng kagayat na katugunan. Sapagkat kung tatalikuran ng manunungkulang presidente ang ilang dekada nang mga problemang nagdudumilat sa ating harapan, kailanman ay walang patutunguhan ang bagong pamunuan ng ito. Panibago at higit na malakas na rebelyon sa lahat ng panig ang tiyak na kakaharapin ng susunod na pamahalaan kung ito'y magbibingi-bingihan-magbubulag-bulagan sa matagal ng karangian ng ating sambayanang Pilipino.

Sapagkat matagal nang naghihirap ang mga Pilipino, hindi na nila kaya pang maghirap ng anim na taon.

The manipulation . . . (From page 16)

shall set you free." Attempts to manipulate the truth go on, with unlimited budgets for propaganda and advertising, packaging evil to make it attractive so that men will sell their very souls to get a piece of it. Propaganda means exhorting media to present the NPA as human rights violators and suppress evidence of the AFP doing it with impunity. Advertising means projecting the churches as working for the salvation of souls by piling up bank accounts and collecting real estate.

Still, the cross stands on Calvary, and the one suspended there once cried out: "Woe to you... whited sepulchers... beautiful on the outside but full of corruption inside..." Too early to make a judgment, Ms. Sicam? Don't pull my legs again or I'll succumb to the temptation of pulling yours in return. With my sense of humor in place, that shows I'm nearly back to normal. But I'm not forgetting our publisher-editor's injunction of long ago: "Rage, rage, continue to rage, against the blackouts and brown-outs, etc."

I'm sorry, Paulynn, but your letter came just at the time I was ready to explode, what with the Westinghouse scam, the teachers' hunger strike - part 2, and the Supreme Court - the res ipsa loquiturs - handing back to Benedicto (*sadyang pinagpala, ano?*) the communications empire he embargoed during Martial Law. Have no pretensions at prophecy, but so many eventualities I warned about have already come to pass that I am now thinking twice before making any prediction. However, if I'm writing now with so much passion, it's not only due to the season, but because I can sense the distinct possibility that our constitutional freedoms will again be suppressed after next month's elections. If that happens, you at the CHR will have to take the brunt of the blame. Because you prostituted your job by becoming the handmade of the military.

The military is now divided behind Ramos, Miriam, and Cojuangco. Of the three, Danding is the most dangerous. Once in office, I don't be-

lieve it will be only the PCGG that he will abolish. Well, if the plurality of my countrymen want it that way, so be it. Let Danding succeed where Limahong failed. At least, let it be made clear that if the Filipino people are slaves, it is of their own choosing. The fault is not in the stars, but in their own handwriting. They will not have sold their rights in exchange for a mess of *lugao*; they permitted themselves to be bought with their own money. What a stupid people! More dumb than the carabao - the national beast of burden!

Is there a choice? Is there an alternative? There always is, if one cares enough to look for it. It is not simply between being cooked with one own's coconut oil or fried in Westinghouse's nuclear meltdown. There's simply the application of a tourniquet to stop the hemorrhage of the nation's resources and the brain-drain. I - for one - am ready to bid my country goodbye, because I have done my best for it, but have found out that Ninoy was wrong: the Pinoy is not worth dying for, because he is ready to kill his fellow Pinoy to free the kidnapped American executive Barnes.

Yes, there is a choice, for better or for worse.

The Filipino can continue to vote for the manipulators of truth in order to disguise their being the direct cause of his misery, or vote to set himself free and become the master of his own fate and destiny. The truth remains: there are no tyrants where there are no slaves; no corruption where there are no corruptors; *walang mandaraya pa, walang nagpapadaya*. Our teachers on hunger strike is an accurate gauge of our mettle. If they cannot even get the support of their fellow teachers in their fight for justice, what does my own hunger strike in sympathy for them matter? Truth is still nailed to the cross, and only a handful will make their stand beneath it. *We Forum* will always be there, I hope.

Max NOBLE (From page 13)

reasons in the world to suspend the May 11 polls indefinitely. And, of course...

Will there be no end to politics? Haven't we had enough of it?

Why I am not running-11 (A consumer education series)

MANY HAVE asked me to give my personal views on this coming election and why I did not run for an elective post? First, I must clarify that the Kilusan ng mga Mamimili ng Pilipinas, Ink. or KMPI as an associate member of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) cannot engage in any political activity. Therefore, it cannot endorse any candidate for that matter, in much the same way that I cannot engage in business because I will then have a vested interest which I have to protect and which in turn will affect my credibility as a militant advocate of consumer protection and welfare. In itself, it is a discipline which I have learned to live with all these many years of activism work.

As a militant activist and a thorough researcher, I do not believe any election survey at this point. It is still too early to correctly assess the situation. There may even be no election or a postponement of the election because of lack of thorough preparedness on the matter and if brownouts continue to hound us, postponement maybe inevitable as in the case of the filing of our income tax returns. The situation as I see it is getting tense - there have been reported killings of leaders on both sides, violence and kidnappings and the situation in itself if not abated may precipitate a state of emergency so who knows exactly at this point what will happen next. Situations can also be created to justify such an eventuality and it has been seen in the declaration of Martial Law in 1972. That is why we must pray

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

always for the devil is working day and night.

Election surveys are not reliable because it is a marketing technique meant to sell a candidate and the people in charge are being paid to do the job. When surveys are made on products, the situation is different. There are reliable figures on sales, pricing, sizes, quantities, quality, etc. and each business is in possession of their own figures which is a good starting point and there are many reliable sources from which to gather the data of the other competitors. Not so in election survey. It is also very different from the primaries being conducted in the United States.

Although the voting figure is estimated at more than 30 million, how do we know that the figure is correct? There has been no audit of that figure and I do believe that many have been disenfranchised because of failure to register again. Joker Arroyo is very correct in that respect but sad to say, his appeal fell on deaf ears.

Granting that the more than 30 million voters is correct, how many people are being asked in the surveys and are they truly representative of the trend?

An election survey is a useless expense which is usually borne by contributors who will naturally expect concessions in return. In fact, this kind of survey is not helping the voters any. The country is going through a lot of expenses which in the long run will be borne by us the consumers and there is no guarantee that it will be a foolproof clean election. **The computer "Mafias" at this point may even be laughing at us and enjoying the show since the computers played a big role in the 1986 elections so what can prevent them from staging a repeat performance?**

Politics in this country has become big business and in almost six years of frequent elections, referendum, etc. political contributions have to a great extent increased prices and rates which we the consumers are continuously burdened with. From Hongkong, it is so easy for politicians who receive excess political contributions to deposit these excess and get it through to other places. The scenario has not changed as exposed before by Hongkong journalists and refinements have been introduced in the system because no modern day "Mafia" has been punished - so the show goes on and the Philippine consumer is being bled to death? Did not I warn you before as early as 1985 about the Powerful "Mafias"?

(To be continued)

GISING!



ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Dehadista

SA SABONG at sa karera, yaong manok o kabayo kung saan marami ang nakapusta ay tinatawag na liyamado. Ang kokonti lang ang nakataya sa kanya ay dehado. Ako'y dehadista dahil dehado ngayon ang kandidato ko sa eleksiyon. Subalit mula't sapul, dehadista talaga ako, dahil bibihira kung sumunod sa uso o sa hugos ng karamihan na mga walang prinsipyo at walang paninindigan sa buhay at ang kanilang patakaran ay ang buy ang sell kaya wala nang mahalaga sa kanila kundi ang pera.

Sa Diyos ako naglilingkod at ang Diyos ay hindi nagpapasahod ng pera. Ang Diyos ay kakampi ng mga kawawa at api - mga dehado sa lipunan dahil salat sa pera. Ang siste lang ay na ang karamihan sa mga pinapanigan ko bilang alagad ng Diyos ay boboto rin sa mga mayayamang nagpahirap at magpapahirap sa kanila. Kung nagpapatuloy ako sa pagiging dehadista, may tatlong dahilan: una, ang Kuya Hesus ko ay naging dehado at dehadista rin at Siya lamang ang aking sinusunod. Pangalawa, sa buhay na walang hanggan nakataya ang buhay ko at doon ay wala nang halaga ang pera.

Ang pangatlong dahilan ay wala akong magagawa kung sadyang sa daigdig na ito lalo narito sa bayan ko ay bumabaha ang mga tanga at madalang pa sa mga patak ng ulan sa Abril ang mga matatalino at gumagamit ng kanilang mga isip sa pagpili, paghusga, at pagpasya. Karamihan sa mga Pinoy, ang tingin sa pulitika ay jueteng kung saan kung alin lang ang kursunada'y bobotohin. Subalit hindi pa ito sigurado. Maaari pang mabago ang ihip ng hangin. Maaari pang mangyari na ang mga pangahas na mga manghuhula ng Social Weather Station ay silang mapapatunayang mga pang-ahas.

Ako'y dehadista subalit hindi masokista. Mahilig ako sa masa subalit hindi gaano sa masahista. Ang mga masokista ay yaong mga boboto pa rin sa mga sadista. (Ang mga sadista naman ay siyempre yaong lumilikha ng sad-saklap o lungkot sa buhay ng iba sa paghangad o paghahabol ng pansariling ligaya o ginhawa.) Depende sa masahista ang kinagigiliwan ko. Kung sa kanyang mga pagpasil at paghilot ay luluwag ang mga baradong ugat upang dumaloy nang maayos sa dugo upang magbigay ginhawa at sigla sa buong katawan, aba'y siyempre oks na oks, di ba? Subalit kung kagaya ni Estanislao na sinasakal na tayo at pinipiga upang mailabas lahat ang ating dugo at ang powder and oil service ay sa IMF-WB at nitong huli sa Westinghouse napunta, haran na, barang pa, di ba? O, kayo, dehadista rin? Sige na. Jackpot tayo sa LP-PDP.

Make

We Forum

a habit

NOBELA

Mga binhi ng banyaga

IKA-30 NA LABAS

Ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

TAKIPSILIM. LUMUKSO ang puso at nagbara sa lalamunan ng mangangalakad ng damit nang bigla siyang hinarang at pinaligiran ng limang maliliit subalit matipunong kalalakihan.

"Huwag kang matakot, kaibigang Celso. Magtatanong lang sana ako kung saan ko matagpuan si Crispin, kasi iba na ang may hawak ng puwesto niya sa palengke."

"Ikaw pala, Bundol. Akala ko, holdaper kayo. Si Ka Crispin ba ang hinahanap n'yo? Naku, mula nang matanggap ang pabuya sa mga Kano, inilikas ang buong pamilya at hindi ko alam kung saan sila lumipat."

"Ganu'n ba? Hihingi sana ako ng tulong sa kanya. Ngunit gayong wala siya, baka sa iyo ay maaari na rin. Wala na akong alam na malalapitan at mapagkatiwalaan."

"Bakit, anong tulong ang kailangan mo?"
"Gusto kong makabili ng mga baril at mga bala."

"Ano? Kung kailan pang tapos na ang giyera... ah, alam ko na. Naku, Bundol, nakikiramay ako sa inyo roon sa masaker na naganap sa inyong

Nuong panahon ng Hapon lang siya nakaranas na kabahan nang gayun. Wala siyang makitang ibang tao sa daan Nagsisisi siya kung bakit pumayag siyang makipag-inuman kaya ginabi sa pag-uwi.

kampo. Mga halang-ang kaluluwa talaga ng mga gumawa niyon. Buti't hindi kayo nasama sa mga napaslang. Alam ba ninyo kung sino ang may kagagawan?"

"Hindi pa sa ngayon. Ngunit dapat handa na kami kung sakali."

"Kung gayon, si Kapitan Sanchez ang puntahan n'yo. Malapit lang sa amin ang bahay niya. Tena, samahan ko na kayo sa kanya."

"Wala sanang ibang makaka-alam sa paglapit naming ito sa iyo."

"Maaasahan mmo, Bundol. Gerilyero rin yata itong kausap mo."

"Ikinalulungkot kong hindi ko kayo maaaring tulungan. Hindi ako gunrunner. At hindi ko ibinebenta ang mga baril na hawak namin, at baka kakailanganin din namin." Nag-uusap sina Bundol at Kapitan Sanchez sa kasukalan sa ibaba ng

cles which are eye-openers and most are clearly libelous and unsubstantiated.

It is open season in the private lives of the candidates and only very few can escape with clean slates.

Political circles are also apprehensive that this homestretch fury among the candidates may lead to more killings and violence and many civic leaders have asked that the candidates be asked to sign covenants for peaceful and violence-free elections. (ANFI)

bahay ng huli.

"Sana unawain naman ninyo ang kalagayan namin," pilit ni Bundol. "Habang hawak naman ang perang kaloob ng mga banyaga, hindi kami tatantanan ng mga walanghiyang pumatay sa aming kasamahan. Hindi po pala ninyo alam na hindi lahat ay natangay nila nuong salakayin nila ang aming kampo. Wala naman kaming masamang binabalak. Nais lang naming maipagtanggol ang aming sarili."

"Kung ibigay na lang kaya ninyo sa kawanggawa..." mungkahi ng Kapitan.

"Ano po iyong kawanggawa?"

"Ay, sori, wala pala iyan sa bokabularyo n'yo."

"Ano pong bokabularyo?"

Napangiti nang mapait ang Kapitan. Napaka-inosente nitong kaharap niya sa mga mahahalaga at makabuluhang bagay datapuwat naririto ngayong naghahangad magkaroon ng nakakapinsalang mga sandata. Mapanganib kapag natuto na ang mga katutubong itong huwamak at gumamit ng baril.

"Ang kailangan n'yo ay edukasyon, hindi baril."

"Ano pong edukasyon?"

"Ang pag-aaral upang magkaroon ng magandang kinabukasan."

"A, maging maganda ang aming bukas. Di bale nang hindi maganda, may bukas lang na buhay pa kami, ayos na. Kaya nga naghahanap ako ng mga baril, e."

(May karugtong)

Mudslinging . . .

(From page 16)

her local sources were constantly watched.

The dirty tricks departments of the different camps are also expected to work overtime digging up for skeletons in closets and hurling muck and mud in every direction.

Poison pen sheets and dossiers have been circulating in political, business and media cir-

Mudslinging in poll campaign

IT'S FULL steam ahead and damn the torpedos after the current Holy Week vacation as the political campaigns reach the homestretch for the May 11 elections.

The mudslinging and dirty tricks are expected to become

Political observers say that the intense political skirmishes in the homestretch expected after Easter would see the original field of eight presidential candidates narrow down to only three namely Ramon Mitra, Fidel Ramos and Eduardo Cojuangco with Miriam Defensor Santiago described as a "wild card" who could still make it to the last yards before the finish line if she can parley her popularity into actual votes cast and counted through an effective nation-wide political machinery.

Some commentators say in the end it could be a down-the-wire fight between Eddie Ramos, backed by the powerful resources of the government personally directed by President Aquino, and Danding Cojuangco with his vast personal resources,

the boost given by movie actor Joseph Estrada (who would pull in the *masa* vote) and the solid support of the disciplined Iglesia ni Kristo vote estimated at no less than 3 million.

Mitra still has the most-organized and largest political network in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) but it is said his strength is slowly but surely being eroded by the determined behind-the-scenes manipulation by President Aquino of political forces, especially from the rural areas, identified with the LDP before whom are dangled all forms of incentives including outright monetary grants from government funds.

LDP President Neptali Gonzales had successfully asked the Supreme Court to stop Malacañang from doling out gov-

ernment funds to favor candidate Ramos such as those for rebel returnees, aid for local governments and infrastructure outlays but what the LDP leaders probably do not know is that there are still many sources of secret funding in the executive department with which President Aquino can wheel and deal to boost the candidacy of her "anointed" one, Eddie Ramos.

One of the laments of the Mitra camp, although they don't openly discuss it, is that Malacañang has already talked to contributors to the LDP especially businessmen who have to play ball with the Palace or face sanctions which could prejudice their businesses.

Mitra knew he would have to face formidable odds when he lost the fight for Corazon Aquino's endorsement to

Ramos. His weapon to combat Mrs. Aquino's support for Ramos was the support of presidential brother Rep. Jose Cojuangco who had remained as LDP secretary-general and had not endorsed Ramos but constant pressure from his sister forced him to adopt a hands-off policy in the presidential fight and begged off saying he would concentrate on his fight for reelection in Tarlac.

Rep. Cojuangco was also reported as dismayed that even though he supported Mitra, he could not stomach the vicious attacks against his sister in Malacañang from LDP leaders.

Mitra hopes to stay afloat with the support of the Aquino side of the presidential family and this could keep alive his hopes for final victory if Rep. Tessie Aquino, Senator Butz Aquino, Rep. Hermie Aquino and Lupita Aquino Kashiwaha use their influence to boost Mitra even against the Cojuangcos, Sumulong and Tanjuatcos pulling for Ramos.

The question of logistics will also become a major factor in the homestretch of the campaign. Ramos, Danding Cojuangco and Mitra are said to be the best-funded.

Ramos is said the most adequate because of Mrs. Aquino's support and openly-talked about financial help from the United States, Taipei and Brunei.

Mrs. Imelda Marcos was earlier reported as ready to throw away hundreds of millions when she first decided to run and this drew multitudes to her campaign. But her money never materialized and her campaign has fizzled. Malacañang had seen to it that her money from abroad remained blocked and

The manipulation of truth

By PLACIDO P. DIAZ

SINCE THE typewriter I'm using is a manual portable I bought in 1965 for a hundred and sixty pesos and I'm working with my back to the window through which the light of the morning sun makes me impervious to the diabolical campaign of the National Power Corporation and Meralco to push through the Westinghouse deal (since seven o'clock up to eleven, electricity has already been cut off and restored four times) I thought the day would pass without my losing my equanimity.

But upon reading Paulynn Paredes Sicam's letter (PDI, April 10, 1992, p.5) which begins: "In the interest of truth, I would like to clarify an item on the Surigao del Sur ambush that has been reported and commented on media for the past two weeks," and ends: "All I ask is that media give the truth a chance to emerge before it jumps to conclusions," I really lost my cool. So, I'm down to my shorts now (I'm in my private room) and banging away at my antique typewriter, although I'm taking care not to damage it again after spending two days last week repairing it.

I don't want to bash a lady so I'm imagining I'm locking horns with Horacio Paredes instead. After all, Ms. Sicam's piece has all the earmarks of a Malacañang press release rather than a human rights commissioner's viewpoint. They are related anyway: the offices, I mean, not the persons. Although Horacio and Paulynn are both appointees of the Borloly Queen, she whose sword is still scandalously and unabashedly unsheathed - the principal cause of our grief.

Press secretary and commissioner Paredes Sicam again: "What is unfortunate about the media reports is that they were premature and incomplete. Premature because they were based on incomplete findings, and incomplete because they did not report all of the findings of CHR-XI, such as the observation that some soldiers were probably abused and executed by the NPA as they lay dying... There are more reasons to mourn the media reporting on the CHR-XI report. We may or may not find evidence of mutilation. We may or may not be able to fully substantiate claims of abuses and executions, or of the allegation that the rebels used children as combatants in this incident. **BUT AT THIS POINT, IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.**" (italics, ours)

Facts of the case: First, it was Gen. Abadia himself, AFP Chief of Staff, who issued the press release detailing the atrocities committed by the "young NPA recruits" in the Marihatag incident, subsequently denied by another press release from the CHR-XI. Now, here we have Ms. Sicam exhorting us to "give truth a chance to emerge before jumping to conclusions" and instructing us that "at this point, it is too early to make a judgment."

I am not a public servant like Abadia and Sicam, who are being paid with the people's money, but I do have a commitment to "seek the truth and share a vision," and I am prepared to defend to the death freedom of the press and the right of the people to be informed on all matters pertaining to their welfare. So, I resent and condemn Commissioner Sicam's suggestions and plea for suspending judgment. I am now jumping to the conclusion that Gen. Abadia is a liar and Ms. Sicam a whitewasher. I can understand that the general is only playing psy-war propaganda tactics, but for a human rights commissioner to cover up for him is to prove traitor to her oath of office.

On the other hand, now that I have regained a small measure of composure, and am no longer seeing red but "de colores," there seems to be method in the lady's madness. For isn't she in effect branding Abadia for the dissimulator that he is by saying: "We may or may not find evidence of mutilation, we may or may not be able to fully substantiate claims of abuses and executions...?" It's really difficult to think straight in these trying times, to find the needle of truth in the haystack of propaganda, but that's precisely where the thrill in this game for intellectual giants lie. This is a far more exciting exercise than just solving crossword puzzles.

So, may I just remind *We Forum* readers that truth, as far as we can grasp it in this earthly temporary journey, is relative, not absolute. And it is no longer just like a coin with only two sides. Remember the story of the blind men and the elephant? There was only one man who claimed he was the Truth, and He was condemned to death. Who did Him in? Politicians, office-holders, the civil and church dignitaries, the authorities, the businessmen - in short, the wealthy and powerful of His time. The point is: He - the Truth - refused to be manipulated, and therefore was nailed to the cross.

There the cross stands, on top of smoky mountain. We really have to sift and claw our way through garbage in order to rest under its shadow, but I have made it the principal objective of my life because He who hangs there suspended has stated: "Only the truth



PNPA RITES: President Aquino receives a Police Cadet statuette from Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) chief superintendent Benjamin Valenton. The President was the guest of honor during the PNPA's 13th Commencement Exercises at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna last week. (Malacañang Photo)

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