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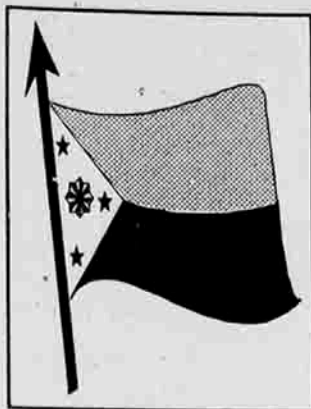


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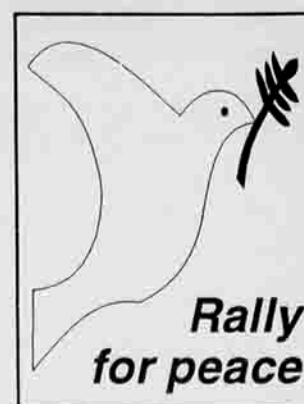
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WE Forum

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE A VISION



VOL. 23 ♦ NO. 3

MAY 10-16, 1999

P5 IN METRO MANILA

COPS' FEUD



LASTIMOSO

LACSON

PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA CHIDED SEN. RAUL ROCO FOR SUGGESTING THAT HE FIRE BOTH PROTAGONISTS IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE -- DIRECTOR GENERAL ROBERTO LASTIMOSO AND TASK FORCE CHIEF PANFILO LACSON -- WHICH HE TOOK AS AN AFFRONT. BUT IT COULD HAVE AFFORDED HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSTILL DISCIPLINE IN THE POLICE CHAIN OF COMMAND THAT WAS IN TATTERS. • *An editorial report*

by Eric S. GIRON

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**Metro Manila:
One of world's
20 most polluted
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**WORSENING
SITUATION
OF RP'S
URBAN POOR**

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WORKERS' MANIFESTO: President Estrada receives the Workers' Manifesto from Ramon Jabar, president of the Federation of Free Workers, during a breakfast meeting with the labor sector held at Malacañang's Hall last May 1, Labor Day. Also in photo are (from left) Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma and Roberto Oca, Jr., president of the Pambansang Diwa ng Manggagawang Pilipino. (Malacañang Photo)

INVESTMENTS IN ELECTRONICS ARE LIKELY TO GROW

INVESTMENTS in electronics and components are likely to grow 33 percent to \$800 million this year despite the financial turmoil hitting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

This assessment was made in the initial issue of the *Philippine Electronics Digest*, an industry publication, based on National Statistics Office data.

By the year 2000, the report said, the industry's exports will grow to \$23 billion on total investments of more than \$1 billion.

Last year, it was noted, most electronics products led all commodities in export earnings with 66.7 percent of aggregate sales for the Philippines last year.

In February this year, electronics and components were still the country's the top dollar-earner, comprising 53.3 percent of the aggregate value of exports.

Actual receipts amounted to \$1.369 billion, representing a 22.7 percent increase from \$1.16 billion in 1998.

With this development, the two-month export revenues from merchandise exports remained on the upswing as the two-month dollar inflow grew by 18.6 percent to \$5.148 billion from \$4.342 billion in 1998.

Last February, total receipts amounted to \$2.567 billion, which was 15.2 percent higher than \$2.227 billion a year ago.

Other items such as input-output-peripheral units ranked second with receipts amounting to \$181.31 million, which

increased by 28.1 percent from \$141.56 million last year.

On the other hand, articles of apparel and clothing accessories was number three with receipts amounting to \$163.12 million, declining by 12.6 percent from \$186.64 million last year.

Ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets used in

vehicles, aircrafts and ships with exports value at \$36.52 million posted a 5.5 percent decline from \$38.65 million last year.

Exports of woodcraft and furniture, valued at \$31.64 million, was 12.5 percent lower than \$36.14 million a year ago and comprised the fifth biggest group.

Meanwhile, metal components, the sixth top export for the month, earned \$25.76 million increasing by 1.2 percent from \$25.47 million last year.

Other top exports for February were other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis, \$22.89 million; cath-

odes and sections of cathodes of refined copper, \$17.89 million; gold, \$17.16 million; and bananas (fresh), \$17.01 million.

Payments for the top 10 exports for the month amounted to \$1.882 billion, which was 73.3 percent of the total.

Last year, the electronics

industry posted about \$10.6 billion worth of exports with consigned electronic exports getting the bulk of receipts worth \$6.3 billion.

It was followed by electrical machinery with \$2.8 billion and telecommunications and sound recording with \$1 billion. (Manila Newsfeatures and Commentaries)

NO EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES ARE UP AGAINST MALAYSIAN PIG VIRUS - DOH

"NO extraordinary measures" will be taken against the possible entry of the Hendra-like virus to the country, according to Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez.

In a media briefing, he said the virus, initially thought to affect only pigs, has been reported in mid-April to be present in dogs. "We are verifying the report with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Malaysian health authorities," he said.

The implications are serious, Romualdez said, because "more people handle dogs than pigs."

"We are on the alert for the entry of pork products which is not much from Malaysia and Singapore," he said. "It is also mandatory to report symptoms similar to Japanese encephalitis and encephalitis-like diseases."

According to the Department of Agriculture, the Philippines does not import pork from Malaysia and Singapore (another country

which has reported the disease). But agriculture officials acknowledge the possibility that pork is smuggled from Malaysia especially into the southern provinces.

As for Filipino overseas contract workers returning from Malaysia, Romualdez said there is "no known incidence of person-to-person transmission" of the virus, adding that no Filipino contract workers in Malaysia have so far been affected with the disease.

Still, the Department of Health has put on alert the National Quarantine Office, the Bureau of Animal Industry and other agencies against the possibility of the virus entering the country.

By mid-April, more than 80 persons have died in Malaysia from the Hendra-like virus now being designated as the Nipah virus. Both Japanese encephalitis virus and the Hendra-like virus infections have been reported, according to WHO.

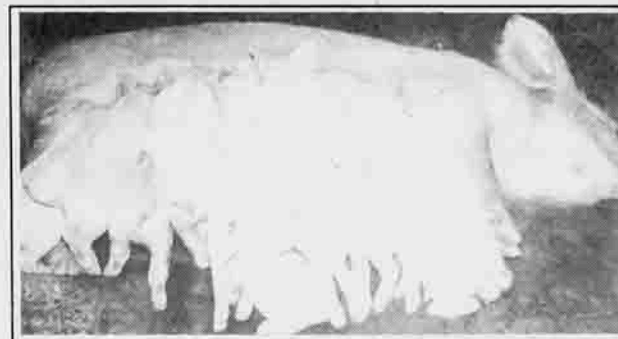
There have been 11 confirmed cases in Singapore, including one death due to the

new virus. All were abattoir workers who had contacts with pigs imported from Malaysia. Since then, Singapore has stopped all imports of pigs and no further cases have been reported.

Cases have almost exclusively occurred in persons in close contact with pigs, especially those working in areas where there is disease in pigs. Pig culling in affected areas is ongoing in Malaysia.

The Hendra-like virus was isolated from the cerebrospinal fluid of five out of 30 Malaysian patients. The virus is a member of the Paramyxovirus family. It is closely related to the Hendra virus which was first isolated in Hendra, a suburb of Brisbane, Australia. In a 1994 outbreak, race horses and three Australians involved in close contact with the horses were taken ill. Three of the patients subsequently died.

Transmission of the virus, according to the WHO, appears to take place from pigs and to humans through direct contact with the body fluids of pigs. Based on human cases



currently under treatment, the incubation period ranges from four to 18 days.

The first symptoms involve severe headache. Severe cases result in coma and death. Those most at risk include workers in piggeries and abattoirs. There is so far no evidence that transmission takes place from person to person or from eating cooked pork, according to the WHO.

There are many questions still to be answered about the outbreak. But the link between pigs and man has been established.

In order to prevent the disease from spreading to other pig farming areas

within Malaysia and neighboring countries, the movement of all pigs in Malaysia is being strictly controlled or totally halted.

Farmers are being advised to report all unusual deaths among pigs. Since detergents destroy the virus, farmers and those handling pigs are being advised to wash up regularly and maintain sanitary conditions when working with pigs.

The WHO has asked countries in the region to conduct surveillance of piggeries and import centers for unusual deaths among pigs. (Manila Newsfeatures and Commentaries)

COUNTRIES ABANDON PROTECTIONIST POLICIES

THE rules of the game in price stability are changing as countries abandon trade restrictions and protectionist policies.

Governments of almost every country worldwide have traditionally intervened in the market pricing of foodgrains to promote price stability.

But in the wake of the Uruguay Round agreement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), things have changed.

The most commonly used stabilization scheme in developing countries is a buffer stock (held by the government) or a combination of buffer stock and trade policies. To know when to release stocks, a public agency sets a trigger price.

When the price reaches the trigger, stocks are released to fill the demand so that prices will not rise higher. When prices are set within a band, the floor price (which protects farmers) is the price below which grain will not be sold.

The ceiling price is the price above which prices will not be permitted to rise, which protects consumers.

To be viable, the margin between the buying and selling prices must cover the direct costs of stabilization, a study made by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

IFPRI has looked into the experiences of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand to moderate cereal price fluctuations.

"In all five countries the cereal sector played a major role in the production structure and as a source of rural income... (and) accounted for the largest share in the consumption basket of the poor," it concludes.

The experiences of the five countries emphasize that for a price stabilization program combining buffer stocks with trade policy to be effective and successful, a few essential conditions have to be met:

The buffer stock agency must have an assured, flexible access to adequate financial resources since its requirements cannot be predicted. The buffer stock agency must be in control of the timing of its purchases and sales. Inappropriate timing would detract from its ability to influence market prices.

Public stocks must be expertly managed. Cost-effective purchases and sales must be made and stocks must be rolled over frequently to avoid spoilage in storage.

Timely and efficient management is also essential to avoid counterspeculation, wherein traders, lacking confidence in the public agency, refrain from buying in times of surplus and buy rather than sell in times of shortage.

If publicly held stocks reduce or substitute for private

storage, the success of the public effort is compromised. Policies should encourage private trade; otherwise the costs of public stock will be higher.

In meeting these criteria, in general, Indonesia was relatively more successful than the other countries. In several countries, price variability during the 1980s as a whole was lower than during the 1970s.

In general, all five countries wanted to ensure a floor or incentive price to producers and a ceiling price to consumers in order to protect the consumers, especially urban dwellers, from high or sudden rises in food prices.

The importing countries -- Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Philippines -- were pushing for increased self-sufficiency in rice or wheat (whichever was their main food staple). Their governments distributed food at subsidized prices to designated consumers with varying degrees of effectiveness and coverage.

Although Thailand's objective was to ensure low, stable food prices for civil servants and urban laborers, its highest priority was to maximize foreign exchange earnings from rice exports by maintaining high, stable export prices. Pakistan's rice price objectives were similar to Thailand's in that rice was an export crop and not the principal cereal for food consumption (which was wheat). (MNC Agri News Service)

ANARCHY IN THE POLICE

By ERIC S. GIRON

PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada chided Sen. Raul Roco for suggesting that he fire both protagonists in the Philippine National Police -- Director General Roberto Lastimoso and task force Chief Panfilo Lacson -- which he took as an affront. But it could have afforded him the opportunity to instill discipline in the police chain of command that was in tatters.

But when Lacson threatened to resign if Lastimoso is cleared of charges linking him to drug lords and said he would take it as a loss of the President's confidence in him, Estrada called his bluff. No one is indispensable, Estrada declared.

Estrada had been associated with Lacson from the time he was vice president and chaired the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission headed by Lacson. Estrada defended Lacson when he was accused as the principal suspect in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre. The case was dropped when the witnesses withdrew.

He also defended the disbursement of the biggest intelligence fund ever of P500 million endowed Lacson's task force which Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo charged was being used to sow dissension in the PNP to carry out somebody's agenda. Arroyo said the fund was not in the budget passed by Congress but was a last-minute insertion in the 1999 general appropriations act by the Senate panel with the bicameral conference committee.

The Senate justified the insertion by pointing out it would be used in the anti-drug campaign. However, Arroyo said drug lords are not being rounded up but only the police generals are being charged. Already, P50 million of the P500 million fund had been disbursed. Arroyo demanded an audit of the fund and to detail how it was being spent.

At first the President declared he was neutral on the feud which was tantamount to abdicating his prerogative to resolve the conflict. Then he ordered Lastimoso and Lacson to shut up while the Ombudsman adjudicated the charges or ranking police officers linking Lastimoso to drug lords.

"Only Lacson and his lieutenants could stage such a dirty trick as linking the highest PNP official in the land to a drug ring," Surigao del

Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay charged. Lacson dared Pichay to prove his charge. Pichay said Interior Sec. Ricardo Puno had cleared the drug-bust operation.

But what is the veracity of the charge by Narcotics Senior Supt. Reynor Gonzales, Supts. Francisco Villaroman and Rolando Afionuevo that Lastimoso had offered them P10 million to release drug dealer suspect Rafael Madrazo who was arrested with two kilos of banned shabu?

At a Senate hearing, Lastimoso denied he interceded in behalf of his "friend" ophthalmologist Billy Jaca who was seeking Madrazo's release. He said he was not sure if Lacson was behind the "demolition job" against him.

What is called a demolition job against Lastimoso is aimed to prevent the extension of his tenure as PNP chief when his retirement is due in January. Congressmen Arroyo, Agapito Aquino and Ernesto Herrera blamed Lastimoso's accusers of breaking the chain of command and showing disrespect to the President in bypassing proper channels by implicating the PNP chief to associating with drug lords.

OPLAN DONALD DUCK

Lastimoso said he had no knowledge of a "Donald Duck" Scheme to install Jewel Canson, deputy for operations, who is due to retire next year, as the next PNP chief. Afterwards, Canson is expected to relinquish the post to Lacson whose retirement is not due until 2004.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. did not rule out politics in the tiff because Lacson is in line as successor to Lastimoso. "There is really an attempt to pin the blame on Lastimoso based on the series of statements given to the Senate committee but the premises have to be verified."

He cited that one possible improvement that could come



TOP COPS' FEUD: Lacson (left) and Lastimoso (right) during a Senate hearing. Man in middle is Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno. (Today)

out of the hearing is a redefinition of the law that allows bail for drug traffickers in certain instances like "just a little change in the weight of seized illegal drugs makes it a bailable offense." He said this could be done with the collusion of arresting officers.

Lacson suggested that Lastimoso take a leave of absence while his case is under investigation by the Ombudsman. Secretary Puno said he will not suspend Lastimoso who said that since the President is not suspending him either, he won't take leave.

Metro Manila PNP Director Reynaldo Wycoco advised his five district directors to ignore the ongoing dissensions. But it is a fallacy for the police rank and file to pretend nothing is going on when it is already split up into two camps favoring either Lastimoso or Lacson.

President Estrada aborted a plan to form another committee to investigate the PNP chief and decided the Ombudsman should handle it instead.

Rep. Sergio Apostol said he would file a resolution urging the House appropri-

tions committee to investigate how the P500 million task force fund was being spent.

President Estrada defended Lacson on the fund use, saying the bulk of the intelligence fund was used by the task force, part of it by the PNP, the National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies. He said the accounting of funds will take time. He asked that Lacson be given sufficient time to account for it.

On his threat to resign, Lacson said he was taken out of context. He said he made the offer in response to a question on whether he sought to expose Lastimoso's alleged illegal activities because he was after the top PNP post. He said it was not because he was confident Lastimoso was involved but because there was insinuations he was behind the demolition job.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon noted a hint of arrogance in Lacson's threat to quit, saying "it is regrettable if some personalities are projected as larger than the PNP itself."

POLEMICS ON VFA

The pro and anti American issue was supposed to have been resolved with the evacuation of the American

bases in the Philippines and the ship-out of United States military personnel. But the Senate opened Visiting Forces Agreement debates Monday even as the Supreme Court failed to act on a petition filed by three senators to stop the deliberations on the controversial agreement.

The VFA tends to give the Americans a foothold in the Philippines anew where it could base its troops in case of operations in this part of the world. American presence in the Philippines has long been renounced and it used to be the favorite whipping boy of activities.

Prior to the discussions, demonstrators let loose four puppies in front of the Senate whom they labelled President Joseph Estrada, Sens. Blas Ople, Rodolfo Biazon and Juan Ponce Enrile. At the height of activism in the 1950s onwards, the word "tuta" which is Tagalog for puppy, acquired a stronger connotation when applied to those subservient to American dictate.

Kilusan para sa Pamahansang Demokrasya Chairman Sonia Soto called the President and the three senators "traitors" for rati-

fying the VFA. She accused the Estrada administration of dangling political favors, juicy endorsements and other rewards in order to get the required majority in Senate votes for the VFA.

Soto singled out Ople in particular in campaigning for VFA approval in league with Secretaries Domingo Sison and Orlando Mercado and President Estrada "regardless of its non-treaty status for the US government since Ople is to become heir-apparent to the Senate presidency even before Sen. Marcelo Fernan steps down."

Ople, Biazon and Francisco Tatad made the VFA sponsorship speeches on the Senate floor Monday. Anti-VFA Sens. Raul Roco, Sergio Osmeña and Teofisto Guingona Jr. filed a 40-page petition with the Supreme Court Friday to declare null and void the VFA "execution and ratification" between the Philippines and the United States, three days before the Senate was to open debate on the accord. It was seen as a futile attempt to forestall VFA approval after 16 senators endorsed the committee reports.

(Next page, please)

US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard to Manila assured Sen. Miriam D. Santiago that Washington under international legal terms considers the VFA a treaty. But as a matter of US domestic law, an agreement like the VFA is an executive agreement, because it does not require the advice and consent of the US Senate under Article 2, Section 2 by the US Constitution.

Ople said with the Mutual Defense Treaty and the VFA, the Philippines will have on its side the US "superior and firepower" to cope with aggression for at least the next 15 years when the Philippines expects to accomplish Armed

Forces modernization with a P350 billion budget.

BISHOPS' VFA STAND

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines reiterated opposition to the Visiting Forces Agreement and noted Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani did not advise El Shaddai Bro. Mike Velarde on the Catholic Church stand against the VFA.

A series of television spiels have Velarde endorsing the VFA with President Estrada and actor-sportsman Richard Gomez. The Church hierarchy said Bacani knows the Church opposition to the VFA and

wanted to know why the bishop as adviser to Velarde who counts with one million following did not advise the El Shaddai leader.

Bacani said he was called up by CBCP resident, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, but was not reprimanded or invited to explain why he took no action on advising the charismatic leader.

CBCP spokesman Monsignor Pedro Quitorio said Bacani can still advise Velarde without compelling him to his followers to abide by the Church stand. But he can only advise, not coerce people on what to do.

Bacani said Velarde was

aware of the Church stand on the VFA issue and there was no need to advise him after he has made his own opinion.

Archbishop Cruz said while the CBCP respects Velarde's opinion, his pro-VFA message could create the impression that the Church has no official stand on the matter. And this was the reason why Bacani was asked why he did not advise Velarde.

ENRILE CAR FOUND

The stolen red Pajero of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was finally located cannibalized at a garments factory in Caniogan, Pasig after it was sold. The car's engine and seats had been removed, accessories were missing, the chassis had been tampered and the body color was about to be changed.

The vehicle was positively identified by a representative of the senator by its seat cover, sticker markings, and a calendar given by Richard Gordon of Subic to the senator.

The car used by the senator's chief of staff Gigi Reyes and her husband on Sunday (April 18) in going to Christ the King Church at Green Meadows, Pasig, was parked that evening in front of the Church.

It was stolen by a car theft syndicate led by National Bureau of Investigation special agent John Herra who escorted the Pajero car driven by special agent Martin Soriano to the NBI headquarters on Taft Avenue. Enrile said the car stayed at the NBI compound from 10:30 p.m. April 18 to 2:30 p.m. April 21. A police informant tipped off the Western Police hunting for the car that it had been moved to the vast compound of Alvino Tan, owner of a fabrics firm at Glorietta Street, Raymundo Avenue at Barangay Caniogan, Pasig City.

The car was allegedly sold to alleged fence Tan whose wife Pacita identified the seller as Paul Aquino, who had brought the vehicle for repairs and repainting. Paul Aquino was believed to be an alias of a henchman of Soriano by Supt. Romulo Sales.

Soriano who entered the NBI in 1996 as an informant was assigned to the Batangas NBI office. He played a central role in the Alfredo Tiongco tieup with Sen. Vicente Sotto. He was the one who abducted Tiongco's lawyer, Nicolas Ruiz, in San Juan two years ago.

NBI Director Santiago Toledo had fired Soriano whether or not he was linked to the theft of Enrile's car "because every time cases like this happen, his name always comes out." Toledo also formed a four-man probe team to look into Herra's background and links to criminal syndicates.

Herra is restricted to NBI headquarters on Enrile's charge that he stole the Pajero. Toledo said an NBI insider was responsible for reporting that Enrile's car had been taken by Herra to

the NBI compound on April 18, apparently to show the NBI was aware of it.

TOLEDO TERM EXTENDED

Toledo, who was due to retire May 1 at the age of 65, was given two months extension of his term by President Estrada to attend to unfinished business. This includes the P400-million textbook scam involving an Estrada cousin who has fled back to Daly City in the US and the Bunny scam being investigated by the NBI for the Senate.

Estrada squelched speculations that former mayor Alfredo Lim would be appointed NBI chief, a position he once held.

Sen. Enrile had assailed the NBI for coddling criminals after he was told NBI men had stolen his Pajero.

REQUIEM FOR TOLEDO

Director Santiago got a premium when his tenure of office was extended two months after he attained the retirement age of 65 on May 1. But he was not granted a reprieve on life when at 11 a.m. that day, he was rushed to the Veterans Memorial Hospital near his house at Road 13, Pagasa, Quezon City because of pains in his chest. At 11 a.m. he was dead.

Pale and frail, Toledo had come out from surgery months ago and was never the same again. Pulmonary edema gave him an enlarged heart that led to cardiac arrest.

In spite of his illness, Toledo was attending to the case of Enrile's stolen car while parked in front of Christ the King Church at Green Meadows, Pasig. He even terminated special agent Martin Soriano on Thursday after he drove the Pajero to the NBI compound on Taft Avenue, escorted by special Agent John Herra.

Toledo dismissed Soriano for irregular activities and living a fast life on a P200 a day salary. Herra, on the other hand, who was under investigation for the theft of Enrile's car, was reported one of seven agents whose promotion was under study by top bureau officials. Herra who was identified earlier as protector of a bigtime car theft ring, with Soriano, had yet to be investigated on the Pajero theft by an NBI panel.

Meantime, Toledo was wearing two jackets and asked for an extra blanket at 5 a.m. Friday, his youngest son Antonio disclosed. Toledo had the air conditioner turned off and the family helped him sit up. He was very weak.

Toledo showed no sign of pain the past few days. He joked that he may have eaten something spoiled at the Manila Hotel Friday where he watched the Gridiron Night show of the National Press Club.

Toledo threw an advanced birthday party Friday for NBI employees and celebrated the two-month extension of his term as director. He was planning a month's visit to the United

States upon retiring. He was prospecting on settling at his 17-hectare mango plantation in Mangatarem, Pangasinan where the family spent vacations.

Toledo was married to a lawyer, Patria de Leon, 62. His four sons by her are Dr. Santiago Jr., 40, in the US; Manuel, 39, also a physician; Livirgo (Doy), 38, a businessman; and Antonio, 37, also a businessman.

Toledo's remains lay in state at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. Toledo's youngest son Antonio looked up to his father as an idol. He served the NBI for 37 years from a line agent in the Interpol (International Police). He became a unit chief in 1992. He was deputy director at the time of directors Mariano Mison and Epimaco Velasco.

Toledo was named NBI director in 1996 after Raul Aragon who was then the chief died also of heart failure.

Toledo played a major role in busting the Big Four syndicate that was into extortion, kidnapping for ransom and luxury cars smuggling. Toledo was born in Negros Occidental and raised in San Clemente, Tarlac. He graduated from the Manuel L. Quezon University Law School in 1958. His eldest son, once worked on his staff.

RAINS EARLY IN 1999

The presence of tropical depression Diding east of the Philippines was one factor that signalled the early onset of the rainy season in April one or two weeks earlier than the traditional occurrence on the second week of May.

The Pagasa forecasts a continued cold episode with moderate La Niña conditions through the central and eastern equatorial Pacific that has significantly influenced the Philippine climate since last year.

The rainy season normally associated with the southwest monsoon over the western part of Luzon including Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Western Visayas occurs in the second half of May.

The *amihan* or northeast monsoon season from October 1998 to March 1999 has brought about normal rainfall in many parts of the country, particularly, in Mindanao, eastern Visayas and the Bicol region. The low-lying areas were flooded.

What causes such conditions? These rain-producing weather systems are the northeasterlies, the inter-tropical convergence zone (particularly over Mindanao), tail ends of cold fronts and other local conditions that are convective weather systems.

The four tropical cyclones that have occurred since January within the Philippine area of responsibility doubles the average for the January to April period. Even after the northeast monsoon terminated in March, wetter than normal conditions prevailed over most of the archipelago.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION PASIG CITY OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX OFFICIO SHERIFF

File No. 3752

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK,
Mortgagee,

- versus -
SPOUSES DELIA & ARTURO ALIT,
ET., AL.,

Mortgagors.

xx - - - - - xx

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT
3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon verified petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK, with principal place of business at UCPB Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City, against the mortgagors SPS. DELIA AND ARTURO ALIT, with residence and postal address at Block 145, Lot 1, Central Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila, and as attorney-in-fact of SPS. REYNALDO & VIRGINIA BALAGOT with given address at Block 145, Lot 2, Central Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila, and SPS. PEDRO & EMILIA ALIT with given address at Block 145, Lot 2, Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila, and for the satisfaction of the mortgage debt which as of this date amounts to P3,497,912.51 Pesos, plus interest, penalty and other charges, attorney's fees and all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale -- the Clerk of Court & Ex-Oficio Sheriff of Pasig City or her duly authorized sheriff -- will sell at public auction on June 3, 1999 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Main Entrance of the Municipal Building of Taguig, Metro-Manila, to the highest bidder and for CASH, in Phil. Currency, the following described real properties, together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 16353

-----"A parcel of land (Lot 4 of the subd. plan Psd-13-002680, Blk. 145, Sheet 14, being a portion of Lot 2, SWO-13-000258, LRC Record No. ___), situated in the Barrio of Upper Bicutan, Mun. of Taguig, Metro-Manila. Bounded on the NE along lines 1-2 by Lot 2; on the SE along lines 2-3 by Road Lot 69; on the SW along lines 3-4 by Lot 6; on the NW along lines 4-1 by Lot 3, all of the subd. plan, Psd-13-002680, Block 145, Sheet 14 x x x containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE (159) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 23910

-----"A parcel of land (Lot 1, Block 145 as shown on the subd. plan Psd-13-002680, being a portion of Lot 10203, MCadm-590-D, Case 17, Taguig Cadastral Mapping (Lot 2, SWO-13-000258, LRC Record No. ___), situated in Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila. Bounded on the SW along line 1-2 by Lot 3, Block 145; on the NW & NE along lines 2-3-4 by Road Lot 32; on the NE along line 4-5 by Road Lot 73; and on the SE along line 5-1 by Lot 2, Block 145 all of the subd. plan x x x containing an area of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO (162) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 15818

-----"A parcel of land (Lot 2 of the subd. plan Psd-13-002680, Block 145, Sheet 14, being a portion of Lot 2, SWO-13-000258, LRC Record No. ___), situated in the Barrio of Upper Bicutan, Mun. of Taguig, Metro-Manila. Bounded on the NW along line 1-2 by Lot 1; on the NE along lines 2-3 and 3-4 by Road Lot 73 and Road Lot 69; on the SE along line 4-5 by Road Lot 69; on the SW along line 5-1 by Lot 4, all of the subd. plan, Psd-13-002680, Block 145, Sheet 14 x x x containing an area of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO (182) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the titles of the said real properties and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be. Pasig City, April 26, 1999.

MANUEL N. ARELLANO
Sheriff IV

GRACE S. BELVIS
Clerk of Court & Ex-Oficio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

Sps. Delia & Arturo Alit, Blk. 145, Lot 1, Central Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila
Sps. Reynaldo & Virginia Balagot, Blk. 145, Lot 1, Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila
Sps. Pedro and Emilia Alit, Blk. 145, Lot 2, Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila
Atty. Rufo B. Baculi, Jr., 9th Floor, UCPB Bldg., Makati Ave., City of Makati (for the mortgagee UCPB)

WE FORUM
May 10, 17 & 24, 1999

WHO, UNEP IDENTIFY METRO MANILA AS ONE OF WORLD'S 20 MOST POLLUTED MEGACITIES

By ERNESTO C. GENEROSO

HOUSE Bill 129, or the proposed Clean Air Act, came in the nick of time.

Genalyn Lumbao-Villaseñor, legislative staff officer of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office, made this observation in a paper titled *A Breath of Fresh Air*, which was published by the Center of Research and Communication.

HB 129 is now in third reading, and there are no signs that it will be rejected by Malacañang.

Lumbao-Villaseñor noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) and that the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have identified Metro Manila as one of the world's 20 most megacities that lie under heavy clouds and industrial and vehicular pollution.

She explained that the right to breath is perhaps the most frequently violated of inalienable rights in urban areas, citing that in Metro Manila, the air quality has gone from bad to worse -- although it is not so bad as oxygen bars have begun to proliferate.

Lumbao-Villaseñor said the annual average of total suspended particulates (TSP) in the metropolis is estimated at 250 micrograms per cubic meter, three times the normal standard. The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has attributed the high TSP level in Metro Manila partly due to the growing number of diesel-fueled vehicles and industries.

"Some 60 percent of air pollution come from motor vehicles or mobile sources, and the rest from industrial operations or stationary sources," she said.

The EMB's 1990 Emissions Inventory indicate that, of the total airborne sulfur oxides from all sources, industrial operations produce that biggest amount at 88 percent, mostly coming from electric generating plants, which use fuel oil with high sulfur content.

Lumbao-Villaseñor pointed out that air pollution takes a heavy toll on people's health and property.

A study made by Prof. H.A. Francisco of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños attempts to price air pollution damage in Metro Manila.

"Taking into account medical expenses and the number of workdays lost, including days of restricted activity, the cost of air pollution-related illnesses was estimated at P310.94 million," the study said.

The study also mentioned that defensive expenditures or spendings prevent occurrence of air pollution-associated sicknesses was placed at P750.94 million. Air pollution's damage to housing units depending on location, that is from less polluted to severely polluted cities, ranged from P3,200 to P5,500 in 1993 prices.

Another study by the Asian Development Bank in 1992 showed that motor vehicles remain the dominant source of air pollution in Metro Manila.

"Due to increasing vehicle population, pollutive types of fuels and pollutive types of vehicles, the number of vehicles in Metro Manila almost doubled from the early 1980s to 1990, and swelled by almost 25 percent from 1990 to 1995," the study said.

As of 1997, almost half of the one million vehicles plying the roads of the National



METRO MANILA: Getting worse.

Capital Region were smoke belchers. An emissions inventory taken by the EMB in 1990 showed that by fuel type, gasoline-fed vehicles were the major source of total organic gases at 87 percent and carbon monoxide at 92 percent.

She said the passage of HB 129 will introduce significant changes in the way government wants to manage air quality and offers innovative programs to achieve it. The bill makes meeting ambient air quality more flexible to the private sector via market-based instruments (MBIs).

Lumbao-Villaseñor explained that MBIs are designed to encourage companies to take the necessary steps to drastically cut their pollution load by simply putting a price on their environmentally harmful actions.

"They make polluters financially liable for the damage that they cause the environment, whether land, air or water. Hence, the companies are given a financial stake in keeping the environment clean," she said.

The bill also aims to expand the power of local government units to formulate and implement local air quality standards, more stringent than those of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. One of the major features of the bill is that it designates and manages non-attainment areas and air quality control zones.

The bill also provides private citizens with enforcement powers via a citizen suits provision and other civil actions. It also aims to set up sustainable financing for the clean-up and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems as brought about by violations of this act. (Manila Newsfeatures and Commentaries)



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There is more to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation than just casinos, than just affording gaming and leisure activities. Among the many roles it plays and the many tasks it performs, PAGCOR helps bring out the best among our athletes and turn them into international champions.

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding through Responsible Gaming

A cry for Malaysian freedom

MALAYSIA's Azizah Ismail breezed into Manila which provided her a forum to voice the sentiment of her reformist husband Anwar Ibrahim who was sacked by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad last September as his deputy and finance minister and was sentenced to a six-year jail term for corruption by the court.

The soft-spoken Azizah, 46, has been depicted in international publications as a conservative Muslim woman out to unseat her husband's former boss Mahathir whom she called "a once-respected prime minister who has lost all sense of perspective, all sense of right and wrong and all sense of reality."

Malaysia's foreign minister in Hanoi asked Manila not to interfere in Malaysian affairs by giving a warm welcome to Azizah the wife of ousted Anwar. Mahathir was quick to register displeasure by calling Azizah a puppet of foreign leaders like President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada had once met Azizah in a five-star hotel in Kuala Lumpur last November where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit. In spite of his foreign secretary's concern that a meeting with Azizah could lead to a rupture of Philippines-Malaysia relations, the President and the First Lady Loi held a highly secretive meeting at Malacañan at 11 p.m. which was described as "very cordial."

Azizah handed Estrada a letter from Anwar and he in turn gave her a letter for her husband. He said Anwar's letter to him was personal but he did not mind if Azizah showed his letter to the press. The President confided he intended to tell Azizah to tell Anwar to remain courageous. He had criticized the Malaysian court ruling sentencing Anwar to a six-year jail term on four counts of corruption.

Azizah said the Philippines has shown a dictator can be overthrown by people power that toppled Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. "It must be legal," she qualified. "We must not talk about violent means. We would rather do it through elections."

Asked whether she would contest the parliament seat of her husband's former mentor and now his scourge, Azizah said people had approached her as the only one who can combat him. "This political thing is a social responsibility," Azizah asserts. "I feel that an injustice has been done and something must be done to correct that."

Azizah recently founded a National Justice Party (Keadilan) which she chairs. With the goodwill and mileage she currently enjoys, she has become the target of senior politicians' machinations. She admitted she is politically naive. "But this is also my strength," she said. "And I do have my own mind."

Azizah cited cronyism, nepotism and corruption as the trio of evils that beset Mahathir's government and are the target of her Keadilan party. Keadilan welcomes globalization in contrast to Mahathir's protectionist economic policies. Azizah plumped for the continuation of the campaign to eradicate poverty. Keadilan supports the *bumiputra* or "man of the soil" policy even if it is closely associated with the Mahathir government.



Violence

AFTER the assassination of John F. Kennedy, one shocked American gave his fellow citizens of the "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave" this piece of advice: "We should all go home again."

In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado massacre of 12 high school students and one instructor by two of the former's school-mates, who thereafter blasted themselves too, Americans should be given the same said piece of advice.

Gone are the traditional homes of Americans, where children were taught, among other things, to fear God and respect life. (In our country, the traditional home is also going away fast, going as we have been going the westernized way.) Over CNN, four experts were agreed that the home, along with the family, is the basic building block of society. Destroy the home and you destroy society.

The way I see it, the home in America, as in the rest of First World, is just a house -- a house whose daily staple is violence. Violence on TV, violence between spouses, violence among children.

For all our technological backwardness, ours is still a safer place to live in than US of A.

Incredibly, however, many of us dream,

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOB

and continue to dream, of emigrating there. Go, see again those snaking queues in front of the US Embassy along Roxas Boulevard.

A televangelist has asked if the Kosovo Crisis is the beginning of the prophesied Great Tribulation, that is, the war the likes of which mankind has never witnessed and will never witness again.

We don't know, for sure, but it's possible, considering history. On June 28, 1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand (not our Marcos) and his wife Sophie of the Austro-Hungarian throne were assassinated on the streets of Sarajevo by a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip. The fatal shots triggered World War I.

One crazy fellow like Princip then, now Milosevic, is enough to engulf the planet in the flames of war.

But know what? Princip is a national hero in Yugoslavia!

We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
Publisher-Editor

EDITA T. BURGOS
President-General Manager

ARLENE B. BURGOS
Editor

Nothing works any more

NOTHING works any more.

Start with the telephone. Not long ago, a person could dial a busy number and promptly get a busy signal. Today you dial the first two numbers and a polite voice breaks in to reconfirm that all lines are indeed busy now.

You wonder how a number you have not even finished dialing should give you a busy signal, but that's the way the new system works. There is no chance to slip in your doubts. The message is repeated or the line goes dead. Either you hang up or stay on till the electronic cows come home.

Nothing works any more, and in those rare instances when you wait for a specific means to produce a specific result, you quickly discover that cause and effect can toss expectations in a different direction. Your whole being yearns for reassurance, but instead you get aggravation. You rearrange your commuting schedule to avoid odd-even restrictions, but when you finally hit the high road you discover that you left your bank passbook and cellulose (sic!) phone at home.

Once upon a time, ordinary electric light

bulbs could last as long as a year before they conked out on you. Today they need replacement as often as your Balikbayan visitor changes his socks.

Other days, you come home in darkness, and you wonder why, because all the neighbors' houses are brightly lit. Is someone playing a joke on you? The answer comes swiftly: if someone was joking, the joke was on you, not on Meralco. You thought they were joking. But the notice advising disconnection if you didn't pay in two days was not.

When times were younger, and political truth-telling was still a virtue, soaps and toothpaste lasted longer than they do today. Both were once minor items of household expense. Not any more. Today the bath soaps and detergents we use dissolve faster than lotto tickets after the draw. And when we flatten out the toothpaste tube to extract its last residue, we splash it not on our toothbrushes but right smack on our respective kissers. You'll get the same feeling as the flattened toothpaste tube after Congress enacts the new tax bills pending before it.

Indeed, some things not only don't work any more, but they have even disappeared. Let's take the case of sidewalks.

Sidewalks from the beginning were intended to provide pedestrians space to move around so they didn't have to walk on roads and get run over by motor vehicles. Sidewalk vendors took over the sidewalks and people began walking back on the streets. As traffic and populations exploded, things got so confused even policemen forgot who really owned sidewalks.

Clearly, our bearish attitude toward sidewalks can't be tolerated much longer. Just because they don't work any more should not mean we must treat them like partyless politicians. We should call them by another name, and keep in practice by building sidewalks even where they are not needed. How else would the world know we are civilized?

The global and the national inventories of things that don't work any more grows by leaps and bounds every day. Savage consumer advertising is creating vast new pockets of national poverty, so the Games and Amusement Board is studying a private proposal to hold seven to ten new lotto draws every day. The thinking is sound: if you can't enrich the masses, make do with the smaller classes.

We also have economic prophets admiring our leaders' talent of looking out into celestial infinity like astronauts gazing down on the planet earth from a space station. This knack allows them to peep at our problems in sharper perspective, thereby enabling them

EARTHMAN



by MARIO P. CHANCO

to fuss over situations not yet encountered, let alone anticipated.

Nothing wrong with that. If our leaders truly have the gift of prophecy, imagine how blessed we might all be if they came down to earth and confronted our crises at ground level. We might yet understand that if nothing seems to work any more, keeping our noses on solid terra firma might.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CORAZON RIVERA CUI who died on February 1, 1998 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as shown in the document entitled Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of Corazon Rivera Cui they executed on April 22, 1999 and registered in the notarial book of Atty. Lope M. Velasco as Doc. No. 126; Page No. 27; Book No. XXXVII, Series of 1999.

WE FORUM

May 3, 10 & 17, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GLORIA RIVERA RECATO who died at The Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila on October 16, 1998 without any will, have been extrajudicially settled among her heirs in a document entitled "Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of the Deceased, Gloria Rivera Recato" bearing Doc. No. 349, Page No. 23, Book No. VII, Series of 1999 executed before Notary Public Atty. Erwin C. Macalino of Quezon City.

WE FORUM

April 26, May 3 & 10, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICITAS D. YANES who died intestate and without a will on June 5, 1994 at the United Doctors Medical Center, Manila, have been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate bearing Doc. No. 160, Page No. 33, Book No. 622, Series of 1999 dated April 16, 1999 executed before Notary Public Jose S. Padolina of Quezon City.

WE FORUM

April 26, May 3 & 10, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CIRIACA FERRER-GAA, consisting of residential lot with three (3) houses erected therein, covered by TCT No. RT-10833 (61169) of the Register of Deeds of Quezon City and declared for taxation purposes under Tax Dec. Nos. D-00-00672, D-007-01842, D-007-01843 & D-007-01844, located at No. 174 Road 1, Pag-asa, Quezon City, are the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of Ciriaca Ferrer-Gaa, among the legal heirs, Ernesto M. Gaa, Josefina G. Vda. de Dionisio, Eriberto F. Gaa, Ernesto F. Gaa, Jr., Emelito F. Gaa, before Notary Public Carlito V. Sembrano of Quezon City, as Doc. No. 183; Page No. 60; Book No. IX; Series of 1999, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of Rule 74 of the Revised Rules of Court.

WE FORUM

May 10, 17 & 24, 1999

SLOWDOWN IN FISH SUPPLIES TO CONTINUE

By ARMAND MAGUILAS

THE slowdown in the growth of fish supplies that started in 1997-1998 is likely to continue for a few more years.

The main reasons for this are the stable or decreased landings from marine capture fisheries and a slower rate of growth in aquaculture production than that recorded for the early 1990s, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The negative impact of El Niño on capture fish production was already evident in 1997. In 1998, landings are likely to have declined even further, and production is expected to take some time to recover.

"Supplies -- particularly those from aquaculture -- will be affected by a drop in demand over the next two to four years, particularly in Japan and in other Asian countries," FAO says. "The production of high-value aquaculture products will stagnate,

as will international trade in those products."

The State of World Fisheries and Agriculture 1996 predicted increasing real prices for fish over the next 15 years. This projection was based on exploratory calculations of supply and demand for fish in the year 2010, using data from 1992.

A review of these projections in 1998, according to FAO, shows that the pressure for increased real prices for fish in the coming decade is decreasing.

"It seems clear that demand will not grow as rapidly as foreseen in mid-1995, while supply has been increasing more rapidly than expected and, after a few years of relative stagnation, may resume growth in the early years of 2000-2010," says the United Nations agency.

The slowdown in demand is due to a slower population growth rate than that predicted, projections of slower economic growth and, possibly, the increased competitiveness of poultry and pork.

Supply projections for fish have improved mainly on the strength of the continued and rapid expansion of aquaculture production but also because improved capture fisheries production.

FAO says the future demand for fish will basically be determined by the number of consumers and their eating habits and disposable income as well as by prices of fish.

"The economic and financial crisis that has engulfed Asia and is also being felt in other parts of the world has led to a downward revision of economic growth projections for most Asian countries as well as for a

growing number of countries elsewhere," it says. "In fact, some of the larger Asian economies are expected to contract over the next two to three years."

An unavoidable consequence in the immediate future will be a reduction in the demand for fish in Japan and in emerging Asian economies, and fish exports to the latter will most probably decrease in volume.

At the same time, the fisheries sectors of developed Asian economies will face increasingly stiff competition from developing economies whose currencies have undergone devaluations.

In Africa and Latin America, too, consumers will experience stagnation and, in some cases, a decline in their disposable income. This will reduce demand for fish and fishery products. However, the decline will be small in absolute terms, as consumption is relatively modest at present.

Consumption in North America is sensitive to economic growth and, even with a degree of growth in disposable income, there may be room for some expansion in the immediate future -- at least in quantity terms. European demand will not change much under the predicted slow economic growth scenario. (MNC Agri News Service)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CONRADO MENDEZ who died on February 24, 1998 in Quezon City was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as shown in the Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate they executed on April 22, 1999 and registered in the notarial book of Elizabeth A. Andres as Doc. No. 266; Page No. 54; Book No. II, Series of 1999.

WE FORUM

May 3, 10 & 17, 1999



LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR MULTINATIONALS PULLOUT

By JOSIE SIMBAJON-DEL ROSARIO

THE lack of infrastructure support is one of the primary reasons for the pullout of several multinational corporations (MNCs) from the country.

This assessment was made in a paper distributed during the Washington Sycip Policy Forum at the Asian Institute of Management recently, saying this is particularly true in the case of MNCs like Novartis and Vall Melle.

The other MNCs that left the country were Abbot Laboratories, Philips and Johnson & Johnson.

The paper cited that the high costs of production related to the transport of goods, power, access to telecommunications systems, and adequate water supply are direct manifestations of the lack of a well-developed nationwide infrastructure system.

Besides costs directly re-

lated to production, the largely undeveloped infrastructure system also incurs losses that cannot be quantified in monetary terms.

"Even within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region alone, the Philippines is lagging far behind its neighbors in terms of infrastructure development," the paper said.

The continued government inertia in expanding the infrastructure network is affecting not only foreign investments, but more important, it is compromising the competitiveness of the local industries that have the potential of contributing significantly to the sustainable economic growth of the country.

According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook, the Philippines ranks 46th nation in terms of its ability to attract foreign investments and retain the presence of local firms.

The Philippines also ranks



TRANSPORT SYSTEM: Very poor.

34th least competitive. Indonesia, 41st; Thailand, 38th; Korea, 37th; Malaysia, 23rd; China, 22nd; Taiwan, 19th and

Hong Kong, 4th.

The yearbook noted that the Philippines ranks poorly in infrastructure compared to

the stronger emerging investment destinations like Thailand, Malaysia and China. As competition shifts from the local to the global scene, it said, it is imperative that the Philippines strengthens its industries to face new competitors worldwide.

The local executives and entrepreneurs have long been crying out for reforms, realizing that the country's lack of adequate infrastructure is an obstacle debilitating its capacity to compete.

World Bank statistics show that from 1995 to 2004, the Philippines must invest at least \$48 billion in infrastructure to be able to attain a 6.5 percent gross domestic product. It is entirely possible that since the onset of the crisis, this amount has since doubled.

Peter Wallace, president of The Economic Intelligence Unite, told the forum noted that the third major concern for operating managers is the inflexibility of labor policies

in the country.

"The tendency for multinational companies is to transfer their operations to other countries," he said "adding that most of the multinational companies are restructuring their operations to adapt to the increasing global competition."

To overcome the financial gap, past and present government administrations are turning to the private sector for help. In fact, the privatization of infrastructure is a phenomenon that has swept not only through the Philippines and other developing countries but developed ones as well.

Wallace pointed out that privatization has become the most popular solution to financial and technical challenges in infrastructure provisioning. This is probably because it offers the possibility of creating a win-win situation out of a problematic circumstance. (Manila News-features and Commentaries)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION OFFICE OF THE EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE
ASSURANCE CORPORATION,

FILE NO. FRE NO. 2927

Mortgagee/s,

-versus-

SPS. RUFINO 7 MILAGROS REGALA
Mortgagor/s.

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135
AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

x x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, filed by United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp., Mortgagee/s, against Sps. Rufino & Milagros Regala - Lot 28, Block 6, Kamagong St., Northview II, Quezon City, Mortgagor/s, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of March 27, 1999 amounts to THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY NINE (P3,502,229.82) PESOS & 82/100 excluding penalties, charges, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized deputy will sell at public auction on June 2, 1999 at 10:00 o'clock or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice Bldg., beside Quezon City Hall, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, to the highest bidder, for cash, and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. N-176302
Registry of Deeds-Quezon City

A parcel of land (Lot 28, Blk. 16, of the cons. subd. plan Pcs-13-001542, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 5-F, 5-G, 6-F, 6-G, 6-H, 6-I, 6-J, LRC Psd-45206, LRC Rec. No. 1037), situated in the Capitol Dist., Q. City, M. Mla. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 27, on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 30, Blk. 16, Rd. Lot 13, & on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 26, Blk. 16, all of the cons. subd. plan. x x x x containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) SQ. METERS.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real estate property/ies and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be. Quezon City, Metro Manila, April 23, 1999.

MERCEDES S. GATMAYTAN
Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy Furnished:

1. Gregorio S. Diño - 9/F Cocolife Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City
2. Sps. Rufino & Milagros Regala - Lot 28, Block 6, Kamagong St., Northview II, Quezon City

NOTE: PUBLISHERS ARE STRICTLY ENJOINED TO OBSERVE THE PROVISIONS OF PD. 1079 PARTICULARLY SEC. 3 & 4.

WE FORUM
May 3, 10 & 17, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION PASIG CITY OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX OFFICIO SHERIFF

MANILA CREDIT CORPORATION,
Mortgagee,

File No. 3733

-versus-

SPS. RUBEN A. DENIEGA AND
NARCISA A. DENIEGA,
Mortgagors,

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT
3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

xx xx

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon verified petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee MANILA CREDIT CORPORATION with office address at 2nd Floor, Trans-Phil House, 1177 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City, against the mortgagors SPS. RUBEN A. DENIEGA and NARCISA A. DENIEGA of Block 72, Lot 59 A. Bonifacio St., Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila, and for the satisfaction of the mortgage debt which as of January 31, 1999 amounts to P1,683,314.81 Pesos, plus penalty charges, attys. fees and all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale authorized sheriff -- the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of Pasig City or her duly authorized sheriff -- will sell at public auction on MAY 25, 1999 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Main Entrance of the Municipal Building of Taguig, Metro-Manila, to the highest bidder and for CASH, in Phil. Currency the following described real property, together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 24493

-----A parcel of land (Lot 59, Block 72 as shown on the subd. plan (psd-13-002680), being a portion of Lot 1023, MCadm-590-D, Case 17, Taguig Cadastral Mapping (Lot 2-SWO-13-000258, LRC Rec. No.) situated in Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro-Manila. Bounded on the NW along line 1-2 by Lot 58, Block 72; on the NE along 2-3 by Road Lot 59; on the SE along lines 3-4-5 by Road Lot 8; and on the SW along 5-1 by Lot 57, Block 72, all of the subd. plan x x x x x containing an area of TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN (216) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be. Pasig City, April 12, 1999.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO C. DE CASTRO
Sheriff IV

GRACE S. BELVIS
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished: all concerned.....

WE FORUM
April 26, May 3, 10, 1999

HIGH VALUE CROPS FOR UPLAND FARMS

By PAUL ICAMINA

KIANGAN, Ifugao -- High value crops that require less water to grow is being promoted in Ifugao to ensure income for farmers the whole year round.

These crops may be an attractive alternative to terraces farmers who no longer find rice an attractive crop. Many of them have already shifted to vegetables, abandon farming, look for better income elsewhere, or send their children to school hoping for their non-farm employment.

The high value crops will be grown on the footslopes of mountain farms without prejudice to the water needs of rice terraces upslope.

Kiangan, 30 minutes away from the capital town of Lagawe, has the largest area of terraced lands that can be devoted to high value highland vegetables and outflows.

"These terrace farms as well as local labor are idle for four to six months because only one rice crop is planted," says Juan Dait who heads the Ifugao Terraces Commission (ITC), also called the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force. "The introduction of year-round cash crops will make them more productive and raise local incomes."

Dait adds: "Farmers should earn income and not just from tourism's token photo sessions with tourists and souvenirs." Surprisingly, the ITC estimates that only about 2 percent of local revenues come from tourism.

Making farms lucrative require adequate irrigation water to support two crops (excess rainfall is currently enough to support rice farming). The crops planted must be acceptable to farmers. And they must have adequate local and international markets.

Which is why Dait has welcomed the reopening a few months ago of the Bagabag airport, about an hour south from Lagawe in the Nueva Vizcaya plains. This, he says, brings Ifugao farm products faster to

Manila and beyond.

The ITC is also preparing a feasibility study to rehabilitate an abandoned airport in Banawe, an airstrip in Hungduan, and to use the airstrip in Tinoc servicing the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

They are all part of an extensive farm-to-market (and tourism-to-terraces) transportation system that is being developed. This includes roads, about 40 kilometers of footbridges at a cost of P1.25 million, mountain trails, and the use of horses instead of human porters for hauling surplus agricultural products (it increases loads per trip by as much as 30 kilos).

Analysis of land suitability made by the ITC shows that about 21 percent of 10 towns with terraced farms (only Lamut and Alfonso Lista have none) can be devoted to crop production.

In general, Ifugao terraces are found in rugged terrain with very steep slopes. Only about 21 percent have slopes lower than 18 percent. Most (79 percent) have rolling to very steep slopes and about half have slopes exceeding 50 percent (137,958 hectares).

About 9 percent -- or 4,116 hectares -- of terraced lands are suitable for high-yielding rice varieties as well as high value farm products. In areas outside of terraces areas, about 9,228 hectares more can be devoted for tea and coffee and fruit trees, bringing the potential area to 12,986 hectares.

Ifugao province (population: 150,000) is composed of 251,778 hectares of tropical highlands. Only 10 percent, mostly outside terrace areas, are alienable and disposable. More than half are degraded grasslands, a third are forested. Only a tenth of the province is farmed.

Most farmlands (94 per-



NEEM AS NATURAL PESTICIDES FOR APHIDS IN PEPPER

FROM COGON, A FARM

By KATHLEEN T. DANCEL

IMAGINE a flat and sloping 21-hectare farm of cogon 10 years ago. Now, the piece of land in Brgy. Mabini, Gamu, Isabela is a view to behold and to be envious of.

Lying in the middle of a wide rice area, the farm can easily catch attention because it is the only area planted to other crops aside from rice, in both sloping and flat portions. Having found no use for the sloping areas, nearby farmers often leave these areas fallow and cultivate only the flat terrain.

The farm is managed by Dr. Romeo Raros, a senior research fellow of PhilRice, using the concept of 'regenerative' agriculture. According to Dr. Raros, regeneration goes beyond sustainability because farming is viewed as a way of life and not just food pro-

duction, thus, it also requires a set of 'pastoral' or agrarian values. His efforts toward minimizing production input are manifested in many ways. The application of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides is significantly reduced. Dr. Raros has also found ways to maximize the use of rice straw, which is often burned by farmers. He uses the rice straw as organic fertilizer, bed for mushroom culture, and mulch for other crops. As mulch for upland rice, squash, bitter melon (ampalaya), banana, tomato, cowpea and eggplant, rice straw retains soil moisture, and reduces weed growth and soil erosion. It also increases biodiversity of soil organisms.

Aside from crop cultivation, Dr. Raros also raises

pigs, fowls and carabaos. Areas for raising these animals are strategically located near the crops that need most the animal manure. In addition, a man-made pond is being developed for growing tilapia.

According to Dr. Raros, farms in the nearby areas are cultivated only for rice. "With rice alone, farmers here cannot sustain their needs," he says. At present, Dr. Raros continues to test other adaptable varieties, and experiment on the best cropping patterns after rice, which, he hopes, would help farmers in the neighboring areas. "This farm demonstrates that other crops aside from rice can be planted," he added.

Different varieties of banana are grown without fertilizer, in less than one hect-

are, the ITC has noted a "state of degradation, increasing abandonment of farms and conversion to settlements. In-migration is likely to increase."

In multiple use zones, terraces are increasingly planted to non-traditional, high-yield rice varieties, vegetables and high-value crops. Here in Kiangan, for example, except for the terraces in Nagacadan and Pindongan, the rest are in multiple use zones where high value crops are getting popular. (MNC Agri News Service)

Pilot testing will initially involve 280 hectares. The high value crops will be planted in so-called Multiple Use Terrace Zones. In these ar-

BOTANICAL pesticides offer a more sustainable and environment-friendly approach to control aphids in pepper.

Aphids are tiny insects that can do significant damage to a number of vegetables, particularly pepper, by sucking the plant's sap. Aside from causing heavy yield losses, these insects serve as vectors of viral diseases.

Over the years, the regular use of chemical pesticides enabled aphid populations to become insecticide-resistant. Use of new formulations only compounded the problem.

M.V. Seredica of the Central Philippines University in Jaro, Iloilo, evaluated the efficacy of neem oil, a botanical pesticide, in the control of green aphids (*Aphis gossypii*).

The research study was coordinated by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), a sectoral council of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Results indicated that aphid population was reduced in pepper treated with neem oil at 1,500 parts per million.

Neem (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss) is a tree species whose leaves and seeds are known to have anti-feedant, repellent, and insecticidal properties. The repellent property of neem is attributed to its active principal, azadirachtin, which exhibits a systemic mode of action against aphids. (J.L. Acedera, S&T Media Services)

are of the upland area. In the terraced area, about one-fourth hectare is planted to a native variety of ampalaya. The cropping pattern for the upland area allows for one cropping of rice using UPL Ri7. After rice, intercropping of corn and beans follows. Corn is expected to be harvested earlier, and this will be followed by squash.

When the squash starts to crawl, the beans will be ready for harvest. Squash, among other crops, can better protect the soil from too much exposure and evaporation of moisture because of its broad leaves. In a small area, *madere de cacao*, a leguminous tree, is also grown as fuel wood, fencing material, and as shade for the black pepper.

Six hectares are planted to rice in the lowland area. Another crop planted in one-half hectare is eggplant, both round and long varieties. The cropping pattern allows for a two-month fallow period, after rice. However, it may be planted to a green manure crop such as string beans.

Continuous experiments and trials are still being made to come up with the best management practices. Not yet fully developed but that, the farm has already a lot to teach farmers, farmer-entrepreneurs, and researchers. With the strong support of PhilRice, this integrated farm may go a long way in helping demonstrate to farmers how they can increase income and advance research on rice-based farming systems.

STATISTICS OF HUNGER FOR CHILDREN

By ARMAND MAGUILAS

THE statistics on hunger and malnutrition are discouraging, especially for children.

Some 800 million of the world's people -- 200 million of them children -- suffer from chronic undernutrition.

About one third of the children in developing countries are malnourished, according to the World Health Organization. Malnutrition is also linked with over half the deaths among children in developing countries under the age of five.

Malnutrition in children is generally determined by weight -- the percentage of children under age five who weigh considerably less than the general population. Low-birth-weight babies are children who are born weighing less than 2,500 grams.

Their low weight is generally attributed to maternal malnutrition. When children begin life with a low-weight deficit, they are often prone to a shortened lifetime full of troubles, including retarded development and susceptibility to disease [9].

The fact is, despite gains in agriculture, millions go hungry in developing countries. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the chronically undernourished portion of the world's population is expected to decrease over the next decade or so by more than 10 percent from current levels.

Yet that will still leave some 680 million people with insufficient food in 2010. Sub-Saharan Africa will be particularly hard-hit, with more than 260 million people -- about one third of the population -- lacking adequate food.

"The most widely recognized cause of malnutrition is poverty -- the lack of money to buy food or the means, land, resources, and knowledge needed to grow it," says the World Resources Institute (WRI). "Yet, there are other facts at work as well, both environmental and social."

A shortage of potable water or water for agriculture -- a shortage felt by more than one quarter of the world's people -- is likely to be reflected in poor child and adult health. Local water scarcity can be more devastating than food shortages because it is more difficult and expensive to trade water among regions than it is to trade agricultural products.

Famines caused by conti-

nent-wide droughts were once considered inevitable occurrences in Earth's cycle of calamities. Dry spells continue, but their effects have been reduced in recent years through good planning and early-warning systems.

Yet famine's destructiveness has not been eliminated, the WRI observes in an analysis of food insecurity and the trend towards hunger. "The 'natural' famines of the past have been replaced with famines created as a result of localized wars and the consequent displacement of civilians. Often those who foment these wars use starvation intentionally as a weapon," it says.

"The prognosis for ending world hunger is not encouraging," the analysis continues. "There is little prospect for stopping the kinds of wars and local upheavals that often cause starvation and malnutrition. Just as troubling, nations in the developed world show less and less interest in sending aid of any sort (other than military) to the less developed world."

Figures from the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development document a continuing decline in public aid from well-off nations to developing countries, with a 4 percent drop in aid from 1995 to 1996.



HUNGER, MALNUTRITION: Discouraging records for children.

Though the United Nations adopted a covenant as far back as 1966 declaring a universal "fight to adequate food," this proclamation "has a somewhat hollow ring as the world approaches the end of the century with hunger still much in evidence," WRI says.

When the global numbers are added up, nutrition seems to be improving. Life expect-

ancy is growing worldwide, and better nutrition is one of the key factors behind this rise. On the surface at least, there is plenty of food.

Global supplies of food are in relatively good shape, with surpluses in many areas of the world. One researcher has calculated that if the global food supply were converted

to calories and divided by the world's population, there would be enough food for roughly 12 percent more than the actual population.

Tailed on a global basis, total food production and per capita production have both risen significantly from 1960 to 1995, but a regional breakdown shows a more complex

picture. In Asia and Latin America, both total and per capita production have risen markedly. Meanwhile, in Africa, food needs rose faster than total production increases, so per capita food production has drifted downward. (MNC Environment, Science and Technology News Service)

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 80, Morong, Rizal

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION
OF ENTRY IN THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE
OF JOSEPHINE A. BELLIN,

SP. PROC. NO. 261-M

MARISSA A. BELLIN,
Petitioner.

x-----x

ORDER

This is a petition for correction of entry in the Birth Certificate of JOSEPHINE A. BELLIN in the Local Civil Registry of Jalajala, Rizal, praying for a judgment to be rendered ordering respondent Local Civil Registrar of Jalajala, Rizal to correct her surname by cancelling the surname Belleza and to enter the surname Bellin.

Notice is hereby given that this petition shall be heard by this Court on June 2, 1999 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning sitting at New Justice Hall, Morong, Rizal, at which date and time the Petitioner shall formally submit her evidences.

Petitioner shall publish this Order for Three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition furnishing a copy to the petitioner and to appear at the scheduled hearing set herein.

SO ORDERED.

Morong, Rizal, April 14, 1999.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO G. ROS
Judge

WE FORUM
April 26, May 3 & 10, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Parañaque City
Branch 257

PETITION FOR CORRECTION
OF ENTRIES IN THE RECORDS
OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY OF
PARAÑAQUE CITY

HERMOGENES P. BUAN,
Petitioner.

X-----X

ORDER

This refers to a verified petition filed by petitioner, Hermogenes P. Buan, thru counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered directing the Local Civil Registrar of Parañaque City and the National Census and Statistics Office to effect the correction of his name from GENER to HERMOGENES and his wife's age, from 21 years old to 19 years old in their marriage contract.

Petitioner alleges that he is married to Rosemarie C. Ahumada on February 3, 1987 at the Philippine Christian Catholic Church, Inc., Parañaque City; that he used the name "Gener" instead of his correct name "Hermogenes" which is the name recorded in his Certificate of Live Birth; that his wife who was born on February 7, 1967 was 19 years old, not 21 years old at the time of their marriage on February 3, 1987. Hence, petitioner prays that said errors in the marriage contract be corrected.

The petition is set for hearing on May 10, 1999 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning. Any interested person may file a written opposition to the petition with this Court, stating the ground thereof on or before the aforesaid date and time.

Let copy of this Order together with a copy of the petition be served personally to the Local Civil Registrar of Parañaque City and to the National Census and Statistics Office, Parañaque City, Metro Manila and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Further, let copy of this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila at the expense of the petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

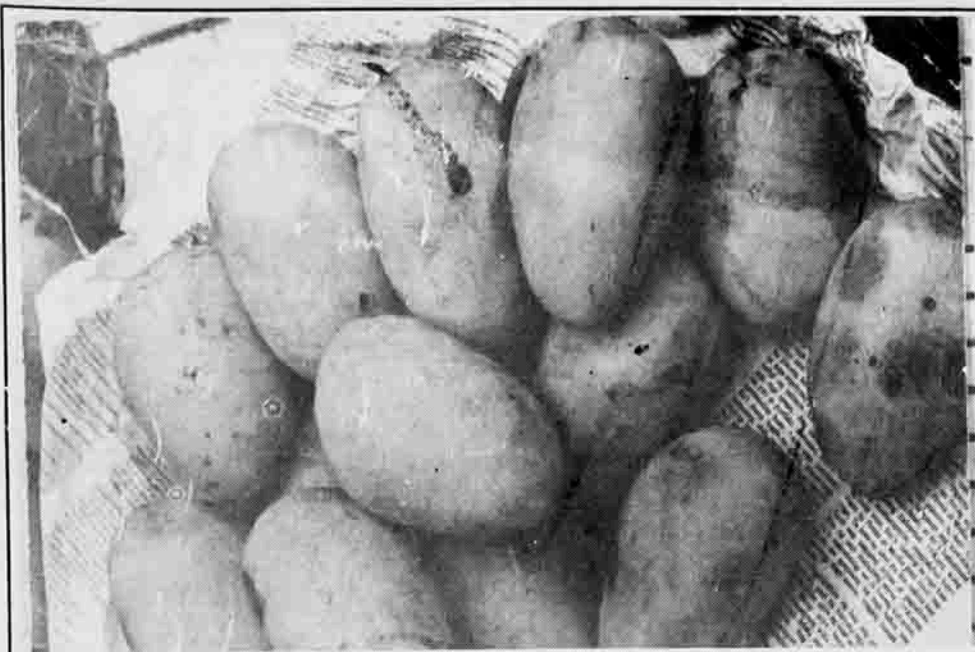
Parañaque City, Metro Manila, March 10, 1999.

(Sgd.) ROLANDO G. HOW
Judge

WE FORUM
April 26, May 3 & 10, 1999

NUCLEAR RESEARCH RIDS MANGOES OF FLY PESTS

By PAUL ICAMINA



MANGO PESTS: A boost from nuclear science.

SCIENTISTS at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute in Quezon City are in mango farming.

And in Guimaras Island, thanks to their work, males of the Oriental fruit fly are being sexually annihilated, all for the greater good of the mango fruit.

The Oriental fruit fly is the major pest of local mangos which have limited the export of the valuable commodity.

Today, the main technology used against the pest is the sterile insect technique which includes the mass production of the Oriental fruit fly and then sterilizing the pupae by nuclear irradiation. This is called the sterile insect technique (SIT).

The fruit flies are then

transported to Guimaras, the island province in Western Visayas, and then released either from light aircraft or on the ground. When the sterile fruit flies mate with female flies, no offspring's result.

Another method of protecting mangoes is attracting male fruit flies to a poison. Large number of the male fruit flies are drawn to methyl eugenol. When mixed with an insecticide, it can substantially reduce the male population of these mango pests. This is called the male annihilation technique (MAT).

The poison is applied on particle boards processed at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute and the Forest Products Research and Development Institute -- both agencies of the Department of Science and Technology.

The boards are then shipped to Guimaras where they were sprayed with methyl eugenol and the insecticide malathion.

The mango is the third most important commercial fruit in the Philippines. The bulk of production comes from backyard growers with an average of two to five trees.

But while the fruit can now be produced throughout the year, availability remains seasonal because of high transport cost, poor roads, and inaccessibility of growing areas. Still, the area planted to mango of all varieties expanded from 56,908 hectares in 1991 to 68,060 has. in 1995. Production of all varieties increased by 9 percent annually during the same

period.

The top mango-producing regions are Central Luzon (125,768 metric tons), Western Visayas (93,902 mt), Ilocos (73,307 mt), and Central Visayas (34,964 mt). The average local consumption is 5.67 kilograms. Only 10 percent of mango production is exported.

The Philippines is the ninth leading mango producer in the world, accounting for 2 percent of the estimated 17.7 million metric tons of world production. The mango exports go mostly to Hongkong, Singapore, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Studies show that the use of MAT and SIT require a capital investment of P7 million in the first year and another P2.211 million after five years.

The study then analyzed the economic viability for both the SIT-suppression scheme which reduced fruit fly population at a certain level and the SIT-eradication project which totally eliminated fruit flies. The study said both techniques "proved to be viable."

Discounted at 15 percent opportunity cost of capital, MAT would generate a net present value worth P2.98 million, or a benefit-cost ratio of 1.11. The internal rate of return is 24.22 percent after 10 years of implementation, according to the study.

The SIT scheme would have a net present value equal to P13 million and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.29. The internal rate of return is 35.8 percent after 10 years. (MNC)

WE Forum

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URBAN POOR SITUATION UNDER ERAP ADMINISTRATION

By ERNESTO GENEROSO

THE situation of Manila's urban poor has worsened under the Estrada administration.

This observation was made by Prof. Rolando Simbulan of the Manila Studies Program at the University of the Philippines-Manila in a research study titled *The Urban Poor in Metro Manila*.

Simbulan noted that President Joseph Estrada has been preoccupied with the demolition and relocation of squatters instead of providing them with job opportunities, adequate health care, and other basic services.

"Job insecurity has always affected even the provision of low-cost housing for the urban poor. Any housing and urban poor program should be approached in a comprehensive way," he said.

Simbulan said the Estrada's pro-poor programs

should be geared towards the reality that an estimated 15 million Filipinos nationwide are now classified as urban poor, of which at least four

Simbulan pointed out that there are now 387 urban poor communities in the whole of Metro Manila the government has tagged as slum and

still insists in the protection of private lot owners," he said.

He also said that 80 percent of the urban poor in Metro Manila are former peasants who have been forced out of rural land through land conversions and high land rents, expensive farm inputs and usury.

These peasants are suffering from injustices despite the Estrada administration's supposed thrust towards agriculture and the improvement of life in the countryside.

Based on statistics gathered from the Philippine Commission on Urban Poor, the National Capital Region (NCR) still topped the list among all the regions in this country in terms of the population of the urban poor and the number of squatters.

The urban poor population of the NCR now stands at 3,487,909 with 1,987,066

UP PROFESSOR HITS WORSENING CONDITIONS IN SLUM COLONIES

million are residents of Metro Manila. This is roughly 40 percent of Metro Manila's total population.

He cited that the bulk of Metro Manila's urban poor consists of factory workers, the unemployed and underemployed with no regular job status and who form part of the underground economy, and the lowly rank and file employees of the government and the private sector.

blighted squatter communities. These urban poor communities reside in 1,417 depressed areas that have been tagged as the haven for notorious criminals.

"Nothing has changed in the government's thrust towards the urban poor in the sense that it still focuses on the demolition and relocation of squatters to give way for its infrastructure projects. Moreover, the government

squatters.

By way of comparison, the nationwide urban poor population stands at 7,944,147, with 2,897,702 squatters spread all over the country. Of the 27.5 million members of the labor force, 3.6 million are now unemployed and eight million do not have permanent jobs.

The 15.9 million who do have jobs are not earning enough to make ends meet.

Simbulan said the large announcements made by the Estrada administration towards uplifting the lives of the poor have remained promises due to the lack of basic services that should be provided by the national government.

These services, just like in the past administration, have been limited to health and education.

There is still a lack of classrooms and textbooks needed for proper education. Health centers do exist, but without physicians and the

necessary medical facilities," he said.

Simbulan suggested that the pro-poor projects of the Estrada administration should focus on long-term impacts on the as fortunate, not objects of government propaganda that look only good in paper.

He cited as an example the Tondo Foreshore and the Dagat-Dagatan Project established in the late 1970s, which was made possible by a \$32-million grant from the World Bank.

This project, unlike other government projects that suffered from decay because of the lack of monitoring, had principles and objectives that focused on its long-term benefits to its recipients.

It initially focused on the retention of all infrastructures through proper maintenance and on the maximum participation of the urban poor concerned in the program planning and implementation. (Manila Newsfeatures and Commentaries)