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We Forum

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE A VISION

VOL. 23 ❖ NO. 52

APRIL 17-23, 2000

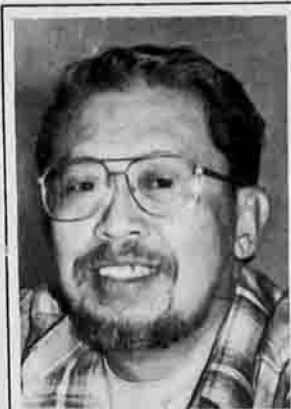
P5 IN METRO MANILA

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM HERO

WE FORUM publisher-editor Jose G. Burgos Jr. has been named one of the "50 World Press Freedom Heroes" for the past half century by the prestigious International Press Institute (IPI).

Burgos will receive his award on May 3 during the closing ceremonies of the IPI World Congress in Boston, USA.

The Filipino journalist was recognized by a jury of the IPI executive board for his role in the restoration of democracy in the Philippines during the martial regime of Ferdinand Marcos.



BURGOS JR.

Forty-nine other journalists from various countries, including five martyrs of press freedom, will share the World Hero Award with Burgos who pioneered in the saga of "mosquito" press by publishing the *We Forum* and *Ang Pahayagang Malaya*. The *We Forum* was shut down by the military in 1982, arrested Burgos, his columnists and staff and were put under house

arrest. Despite this, Burgos continued his crusade for press freedom by publishing *Malaya* which eventually became the leading daily newspaper during the EDSA revolution in 1985.

The IPI is an association of editors and publishers in 108 countries.

It was founded 50 years ago and will celebrate its golden anniversary this year, with the awarding of Burgos and his colleagues as the culminating activity.

The selection of "50 World Press Freedom Heroes" from the past 50 years is aimed to celebrate the awardees' courage and dedication to the principles of freedom of opinion and expression.

THIRD FORCE?

THE POLITICAL HIATUS OCCURRED UNEXPECTEDLY EVEN BEFORE: PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA HAD COMPLETED TWO YEARS IN OFFICE AS RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SECTORS TOOK STANDS FOR OR AGAINST THE BELEAGUERED CHIEF OF STATE AND HIS MALACAÑAN APOLOGISTS FLAGGED IN DEFENDING HIM. • An editorial report by ERIC S. GIRON

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BURNAY: Pots and jars made of clay are mass-produced in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and sold to tourists and local stores for landscaping. The "burnay", however, have a better use in storing the famous Ilocano "basi" and bagoong.

More than just casinos

PAGCOR helps build classrooms for our youth.



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 make bigger room for education.

In the last six years, nearly 3,500 classrooms have been built from income remitted to the President's Social Fund, providing learning facilities to thousands of Filipino school children, whose lives are among the millions that PAGCOR has touched. Because, in more ways than one, PAGCOR matters. And PAGCOR cares.



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding through Responsible Gaming

BATTLE LINES DRAWN AGAINST PRESIDENT

by ERIC S. GIRON

THE political hiatus occurred unexpectedly even before President Joseph Estrada had completed two years in office as religious, political and social sectors took stands for or against the beleaguered chief of state and his Malacañan apologists flagged in defending him.

What began as sporadic and corruption in the protest marches at Mendiola, in front of government buildings, at the Quezon City Rotonda and down the metropolitan streets have amalgamated into a concerted effort of transport drivers and operators, labor, the silent protest movement with the slanted exclamation point versus The Establishment.

The Catholic hierarchy has entered the fray by throwing its support behind President Estrada but nuns, priests and lay leaders have taken the opposition side. El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde reputed to have two million followers has been adopted by President Estrada as his spiritual adviser.

The charismatic group head rallied citizens to a prayer assembly for the President April 8, invoking them to light candles "so that those out to sow terror in the country by destabilizing the government will be enlightened."

THIRD FORCE

Three presidential aspirants who failed to make it banded themselves into a Third Way alliance. They are supporting the silent protest movement whose organizers they claim they do not know. Sen. Raul Roco sponsoring the *Aksyon Demokratiko* forged the political partnership with former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña's *Promdi* and Renato de Villa's *Reporma*.

The alliance is throwing its support behind the alternative group with no identified strong leaders promoting as symbol a slanted exclamation point. It joined the three-day noise barrage starting 6 p.m. Friday (April 7) in protest to "cronyism

and corruption" in the Estrada government.

As in the past, the Third Way plans to field its own Senate slate and a platform of government in the 2001 election. Six prospective senatorial candidates named were Renato de Villa, Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, Oscar Orbos, Mayor Edward Hagedorn (Puerto Prinsesa), Paul Dominguez and Irene (Inday) Santiago, Roco's former running mate.

ALCUAZ SEDITIOUS?

Malacañan promptly disowned any connection with sedition charge filed against Jose Luis (Linggoy) Alcuaz who has openly promoted the silent protest movement and was the first to display the symbol of a slanted exclamation point against a black background.

Presidential spokesman Jerry Barican said he agreed with political adviser Angelito Banayo that Alcuaz's charges are protected by the Bill of Rights.

Barican defended Alcuaz's right in a democratic society to say foolish things that are not necessarily seditious. As long as he does not commit slander or libel nor incite to rebellion, Banayo said he would rather have Alcuaz let off steam and ignore him.

ESTRADA WON'T QUIT

President Estrada described Alcuaz as "somewhat unbalanced." He rejected Lakas Party noises to resign sounded first by Sen. Teofisto Guingona and seconded by titular party head Fidel Ramos to heed public protests.

"They can throw all the



PRES. ESTRADA: Won't quit.

stones at me but I won't quit," Estrada declared. "I have a sworn duty to serve our people and not just the elitist." He told Ramos to be a "silent worker" like former President Corazon Aquino — which was tantamount to telling him to shut up.

Sen. Miriam D. Santiago, with Sen. Francisco Tatad, have come to President Estrada's defense. Santiago squelched any Ramos scheme to again seek the presidency in case Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is catapulted by circumstances to the top post by calls for Estrada to resign which would make her unqualified for the 2004 presidential race.

Guingona's demand on his lonesome that Estrada resign was repudiated by his own party-mates, Sens. Juan Flavier, Robert Barbers and Loren Legarda. Sen. Renato Cayetano advised that they speak with one voice.

Ramos has lost the moral ground to demand that Estrada resign after taking

advantage of his presidency to junket over the world at state expense while his administration was steeped in multimillion-peso scandals. Ramos left the Estrada government a bankrupt treasury.

A more sober Lakas spokesman, Hernando Perez, pointed out public disenchantment at the "perception of corruption, cronyism and incompetence in the government" and not a sinister anti-administration plot to oust Estrada. He dismissed as "pure paranoia" speculations that Vice President Arroyo as Lakas executive committee is behind the move to have the President resign.

For the past two weeks, Gloria has been visiting Israel and China, and is winding up a United States tour. She has not answered Malacañan's dare to choose whether she will continue as social welfare secretary in the Estrada Cabinet or accept her party-mates' offer to head a Lakas "shadow Cabinet." After a Lakas meeting, Rep. Sergio Apostol as assistant

minority leader, gave her the option to decide.

Gloria's continued presence in the Estrada Cabinet became an issue when the President's approval rating zoomed down to minus six percent. Executive Sec. Ronaldo Zamora points out the incompatibility of Gloria holding a Cabinet position in the Estrada government while she does not deny she is seeking the presidency in 2004.

Is she a Lakas Party standard bearer or an Estrada subordinate? Is she the Vice President or a Cabinet member? Or as a columnist described her: "namamangka sa dalawang ilog" or in a more vulgar manner, "doble cara"?

This is not one case where Gloria remains indecisive as she takes advantage of the social welfare secretary's resources to travel the country and campaign for the presidency. If she wants to be President she must show some *delicadeza* by cutting clean from the Estrada government.

GUNFIRE CAUSES MINDANAO ISLAND-WIDE POWER OUTAGE

A total power blackout carpeted the entire second largest Mindanao island after gunfire was reported to have hit a main power line causing other lines in Lanao del Norte to trip which snarled traffic and disrupted business from 3:10 in the afternoon.

A power barge was able to restart electricity and restore 90 percent power by 6:30 o'clock in the evening. All major cities were expected to have 100 percent on-line power restored later in the evening.

The outage occurred as fierce fighting was reported between government troops and rebels affiliated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Forces and the smaller Abu Sayyaf rebels in at least three Lanao del Norte towns Monday.

The Agus-Abaga transmis-

sion line was reported by National Power Corporation officials to have "suffered insular damage due to gunfire." The power technicians worked overtime to restore electricity as tension was reported to have gripped the blacked-out areas.

Government troops were reported to have overrun some MILF camps while others were ringed with soldiers and armaments which caused the rebels to sound off new threats of all-out war.

While the military reported having overrun rebel Camp Bijal, an MILF leader claimed the soldiers had taken "only a small portion of the camp's defense perimeter."

MILF military affairs vice chairman Mohammad Al Haj Murad, interviewed from his Camp Abubakar base in Maguindanao, noted the government troops must have been beefed up since the other week. Similar other troop deployments were reported in the Davao Oriental MILF camp. Moro fighters were alerted for impending attacks.

If the government continues its operations against the secessionist MILF group, Murad said the Moro rebels may withdraw from peace negotiations and engage in an all-out war.

The fighting between Moro rebels with government troops remains unabated in the Lanao del Norte towns of Munai, Kauswagan and Baloi. The rebels had briefly held the Kauswagan town council hall until the army dislodged them.

"If we are pushed against the wall, we may back out from talks," said Murad. "It's useless talking to insincere people in the Philippine government." Murad said the MILF had officially informed the government panel of its concern over the military buildup. He said such buildup and deployment won't help the peace process.

Murad said it was obvious the government all-out war in Mindanao will "continue until they crush us totally."

Leaders of the rebel and
(Next page, please)

government panels were scheduled to meet at Pryce Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City if the situation normalized. In Lanao, the situation was reported "very tense" as skirmishes were intermittent. Rebels were on red alert in Camps Abubakar, Omar in Datu Piang-Talayan-Sharif Aguak-Datu Sinsuat complex in Maguindanao and Usman in Carmen, North Cotabato.

REBELS, VIGILANTES TO KILL HOSTAGES?

The Abu Sayyaf rebels insisting that film star Robin Padilla lead the negotiations for the release of 31 hostage pupils and teachers out of an original batch of 53 held at their Camp Abubakar in Mount Punoh Mahajid, Sumisip, Basilan, are promoting the actor's popularity.

The Abu Sayyaf set a two-day deadline for Robin to be in Basilan to negotiate or else male captives will be beheaded including Claretian Fr. Roel Gallardo. The rebels want Robin as negotiator because they want him to make a movie of the Abu Sayyaf exploits. Padilla was converted to Islam when he was in Bilibid Prison serving sentence for illegal possession of firearm.

Armed Forces spokesman Col. Rafael Romero called the beheading threat a bluff, saying it was too despicable to be true. But spokesman Abu Asmad Salayudi of the Abu Sayyaf invited the media to their Camp Abubakar to witness the beheading of the male hostages if their demands are not met.

The rebels want as negotiators, Robin Padilla, members of the Ulama Council and the Vatican or Church within



GUINGONA: Sound and fury.

72 hours. Originally, Basilan Vice Gov. Abdulaziz Balamo led the crisis management committee in the resolution of the hostage problem.

But while the Abu Sayyaf still holds in custody 31 hostages, vigilante Abdul Mijal's group is holding captive nine members of Chief Janjalani's immediate family at Tong Sengal, Sumisip. Mijal issued

a counter threat that if the hostages were not freed within a 15-day period from April 1 to 6 a.m. April 15, Janjalani's nine remaining relatives will be executed by firing squad.

After Mijal freed Janjalani's wife Sherma and daughter Kazan, Church leaders and civilian negotiators chided the Abu Sayyaf chief for not freeing 15 hostages as he had promised.

HOSTAGES REDUCED

Teachers Leticia Calo and Maybelyn Apolinario of Islamiya Elementary School in barangay Caluay, Zamboanga City were able to escape from their four armed captors during a clash at Tong Sengal, Sumisip.

The rebels freed 18 more hostages -- ten pupils and eight teachers of Tumahugong Elementary School in Sumisip, reducing the captives to 33.

The vigilantes in turn released Janjalani's wife Sherma and daughter Kazan and the rebels responded by freeing

two children. Vonadolf Donaire Sijalbo, 12, was asked to choose whom he wanted freed with him. He chose eight-year-old Juliet Tonghay because she was always crying.

But he said he pitied the 19 pupils, 11 teachers and Fr. Roel Gallardo who remained in rebel custody at Camp Abubakar. Fr. Gallardo was locked in a separate cottage and was allowed to sun himself for one hour every morning. The young Sijalbo appealed to President Joseph Estrada to exhaust all means to rescue the priest and to protect the *masa* (people).

Sijalbo said the Abu Sayyaf wanted to know if Estrada is for the poor (*Erap para sa mahirap*), why does he not help the hostages? If those held are foreigners, he readily extends help.

RESCUE NIXED

Mijal threatened to launch his own rescue operation for the remaining 31 hostages with the Abu Sayyaf. However, Basilan Vice Gov. Balamo, who is negotiating with both groups, said an attack at rebel Camp Abubakar would create more problems.

National security adviser Alexander Aguirre blamed the hostage crisis on a personal quarrel between Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and the Abu Sayyaf. The Abu Sayyaf wants to put up an Islamic state in Western Mindanao just as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front envisions such as autonomous state in General Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf is more fundamental in wanting to convert the Christians to Islam, Aguirre pointed out. He said the hostage-taking is part of the Abu Sayyaf propaganda to gain prominence.

Spokesman Salayudi said the Abu Sayyaf was disgusted with the manner the crisis committee of Balamo is not complying with its earlier demands for 200 sacks of rice, canned sardines and medicine. The Abu Sayyaf deadline for its demands was set to expire at 6 a.m. April 13, two days before the vigilante ultimatum for the release of the 31 hostages.

Aguirre gave a free hand to the crisis committee in facilitating the release of the hostages. Fr. Nestor Banga represents the Vatican. Ulama council members are Ustadz Abdullah Hamja, Ustadz Said Palahim, Ustadz Haer Muctar and Hammer Jamini from Basilan and Hadji Miraji Juani from the Office of Muslim Affairs.

The Zamboanga City ulama trio, who were still undecided on joining the negotiation were Ustadz Wakil Tanjilil, Jamal Monie and Jakaria Omar.

Padilla was designated "mediator." Ustadz Hussein Manatad, father-in-law of Abu Sayyaf leader Janjalani is the

"coordinator."

Balamo appealed to the Abu Sayyaf not to harm the hostages, who are innocent civilians.

TASK FORCE PULLED OUT AS NONCOMS KILL 6 MEN

The Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command deployed Task Force Seagull in Oriental Mindoro to combat growing insurgency in the area but the detachment was withdrawn after two drunken sergeants left a gory scene of six men they had executed in a Victoria billiard hall by putting bullets into their heads.

Sergeants Marcial Ambulo and Jovy Rubio barged into the billiard hall and ordered five men to lie face down on the floor. The men were shot in the head, including former councilman Honorio Mentrillo. Mentrillo's wife and nephew and a billiard parlor employee were wounded by the bullets.

A neighbor who heard the shots went to the billiard hall to investigate. The soldiers shot him dead too. What caused the orgy of killing? Was it because they held a grudge against the people as reported or was it the result of having drunk too much? Or did they have the latent urge to kill? The Armed Forces is jinxed with criminally-minded misfits.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines deplores and condemns this heinous crime," AFP Chief Angelo Reyes declared. "This is the worst that any member of the AFP can do, which is to inflict harm on innocent civilians."

Sergeant Rubio was placed under military custody with civilian informer Jaime Gilboy who was also arrested. Sergeant Ambulo escaped from camp Tuesday. General Reyes denied reports that Ambulo was deliberately set free by his superiors. He said there was an obvious lapse of security.

In fact shoot-to-kill order was issued for Ambulo. His superior, Lt. Col. Romeo Gapuz, and a certain Major Estrada, are facing administrative cases for infidelity in the custody of a suspect felon.

It was ironic that soldiers dispatched to Mindoro to preserve the peace against the insurgents instead caused trouble by killing the townspeople who were not armed.

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Rodolfo Valencia welcomed the withdrawal of the army task force, saying it was a temporary setback to the government confidence-building campaign.

President Estrada gave a 72-hour ultimatum to Ambulo to turn himself in or face the consequence. He visited the bodies of the murdered men lying in state at the funeral parlor and extended his condolences personally to the families and kin of the slain men.

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

PAG-IBIG FUND/HOME DEV'T MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,

- versus -

ELENA M. LANIC, ETC.,

Mortgagor

C-1177

X -----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage under Act
3135, as Amended

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by PAG-IBIG FUND/HOME DEV'T MUTUAL FUND, mortgagee, with principal office and postal address at Suite 204, 2nd Floor, Diplomat Condominium, cor. Russel Street, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City against ELENA M. LANIC married to ANDRES B. LANIC, mortgagor/s with residence and postal address at Blk. 17, Lot 18, Shelterville I Subd., Phase 2, Bo. Bagumbong, Caloocan City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of June 24, 1999 amount to THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 56/100 (P330,282.56), Philippine Currency, including/excluding interest, penalties, attorney's fees, plus sheriff's fees and all other necessary expenses of foreclosure and sale, the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of Caloocan City thru the undersigned Sheriff hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on May 22, 2000 at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) or soon thereafter in front of the main entrance of Caloocan City Hall Annex, Aurelio Bldg., 9th Ave., cor. Rizal Avenue Ext., Grace Park, Caloocan City, she or her duly authorized Sheriff will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency, the real estate property/ies together with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 298632

A parcel of land (Lot 18, Blk. 17 of the subdivision plan Psd-04-003738, being a portion of lot 577, Tala Estate, LRC Rec. No. 6563), situated in the Barrio of Bagumbong, Caloocan City, Metro Manila. Bounded on the SE, along line 1-2 by lot 17, on the SW, along line 2-3 by lot 16 both of Blk. 17, on the NW, along line 3-4 by Road lot 18, and on the NE, along line 4-1 by lot 20, Blk. 17, all of the subdivision plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" containing an area of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property/ies and encumbrances thereon, if any there be

Caloocan City, Metro Manila, _____

PAZ G. PALANCA
Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) ERLITO DS. BACHO
Sheriff in-charge

Copy furnished ALL PARTIES CONCERNED

NOTE: SUPREME COURT RES. EN BANC A.M. NO. 99-10-05-0 DATED DEC. 14, 1998. In case of failure of two bidders to appear on the scheduled date of sale, the same is reset to the next date indicated hereunder. Re-scheduled date of Sale: June 13, 2000 same time and place

WE FORUM
April 17, 24 & May 1, 2000

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION MALABON, METRO MANILA BRANCH 169

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF MINOR
CEASAR IAN TIZON

SP. PROC. NO. 569-MN

PERFECTO ARCALES, JR.
AND MARIA VICTORIA T
ARCALES

Petitioner

X -----X

ORDER

Before this Court is a verified petition for adoption filed by spouses Perfecto Arcales, Jr. and Maria Victoria T. Arcales, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered allowing the adoption of the minor CEASAR IAN TIZON

It is alleged that petitioners are husband and wife and residents of No. 19-B Leono St., Tanong, Malabon, Metro-Manila; that they are respected and responsible members of their community, are in full possession of their civil rights; have substantial income and properties which are sufficient for their support and of the minor they are proposing to adopt, are physically and mentally fit, have no criminal or derogatory record, and have all the qualifications provided by law to become adopting parents, that having only one child Ivan Lorenzo Arcales, they sincerely wish to adopt as their child CEASAR IAN TIZON, a boy four (4) months old, born on October 14, 1999 to spouses Danilo Tizon and Liwanag Chico Tizon, who have executed their joint affidavit of consent to this proposed adoption, that the minor has been living with the petitioners since birth; that the minor proposed to be adopted has no property of his own; that this adoption is being sought by the petitioners not only because of their love for the child but also because of their belief that it will be for the best interest of said minor; and that the petitioners and the minor's biological parents are all aware of the legal effects of adoptions if it is finally approved by the Court

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on May 2, 2000 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court sitting at Justice Hall, Malabon, Metro-Manila. Notice is hereby given that anyone who has objection to the petition should file his opposition thereto, with a statement of the grounds therefor, on or before the date of hearing.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality of Malabon, Metro-Manila to which the same shall have been duly raffled pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is hereby ordered to conduct a case study of the parties in this proposed adoption and to submit its report and recommendation on the petition one (1) week before the date of hearing.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General with a copy of the Order as well as the petition and its annexes.

SO ORDERED

Malabon, Metro-Manila; March 14, 2000

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL D. LAUREA
Judge

WE FORUM
April 10, 17 & 24, 2000

UST HIGH SCHOOL MILLENNIUM BOOK

NOURISHING NATURE & MANKIND

by EVELYN REYES LAURITO

"If today is a typical day on planet Earth, we will lose 116 square miles of rainforest, or about an acre a second. We will lose another 72 square miles to encroaching deserts, as a result of human mismanagement and overpopulation. We will lose 40 to 100 species, and no one knows whether the number is 40 or 100. Today the human population will increase by 250,000. And today we will add 2,700 tons of chlorofluorocarbons to the atmosphere and 15 million tons of carbon. Tonight the Earth will be a little hotter, its waters more acidic, and the fabric of life more threadbare."

DAVID ORR

"What is Education for?" (1991)

THE single most important issue that emerged in the latter part of the 20th Century is the environment. Far from being an issue of concern to nature lovers, the environment affects everyone who hopes to breath clean air, drink safe water, eat healthy food and live a longer life.

Many of what the environment has become were man's own doing, as he embarked on a quest to satisfy his desire for a better quality of life. The upper half of the 20th Century saw man develop technologies that not only depleted our natural resources but also introduced substances that have affected human health and the ecosystems integrity.

At the dawn of the 21st Century, we have come to realize that these environmental issues threaten not only our very own existence but that of the planet as well. It has become not just a problem of individuals or countries but has escalated into a global concern. The challenge, therefore, is how individuals and governments around the world can unite and find adequate solutions that will ensure a better quality of life for all in the Third Millennium.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Climate Change

Climate Change has been called the most significant environmental issue the world has ever faced. Projections show that a continued warm-

ing of the earth's temperature could trigger a wide range of changes in our climate -- changes that can have serious consequences for our environment and our health.

In 1995, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), composed of 2500 scientists from around the world, forecast that global temperatures could rise another 1.0 to 3.5 degrees Celsius by the year 2100 and that ocean levels will rise by 15 to 95 centimeters. This would be the fastest rate of warming in the past 10,000 years. The scientists predict that the rising temperature will cause more weather extremes. Some of the world's worst storms, droughts, heat waves, win-

ter blizzards, El Niño and La Niña incidences occurred in the latter part of the '90s. The popular phrase "global warming," has been replaced by "climate change," encompassing the many consequences of having the global thermometer rise several degrees.

Climate change can also affect human health through increases in heat stress mortality, tropical vector-borne diseases, urban air pollution problems, and cold-related illnesses.

The culprits are the so-called greenhouse gases (CHG), which are mainly attributed to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion to produce energy for industry and motor vehicles.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

EVELYN REYES LAURITO (class 1971) is associate professor and chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department of UST, where she finished her BS Chemical Engineering degree.

Laurito's special fields of interest, apart from chemical engineering, also include environmental science and engineering and computer simulation. She has trained in Tokyo, Japan on substances that deplete the ozone layer. She has undertaken researches on solid waste management and routing, pollution prevention and environmental education.

Married to another Thomasian, Alberto Laurito (dean of the UST Faculty of Engineering), Reyes Laurito is completing her PhD on environmental science at the University of the Philippines.



ENDANGERED: Philippine eagle.

The highest amounts of CO₂ emissions come from industrialized countries like the United States, which produce about 20% of the world's GHG. In 1994, the total CO₂ emissions in the US were at 1,465 metric tons (*International Energy Outlook, 1998*). A GHG inventory done in the Philippines showed 38.6 metric tons CO₂ emissions in 1990 (PEQR Report) that is only about 3% of the US emissions or 0.67% of the world's emissions.

The global challenge is how each country can come out with energy innovations that will decrease dependence on fossil fuels, increase the use of renewable energy, and produce energy-efficient equipment and innovative products.

Ozone Depletion

The ozone layer in the stratosphere is valuable in filtering harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun, which has been known to cause skin cancer to humans and genetic damages to some marine

species.

In 1974, two chemists realized that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), highly stable gases used in refrigeration, air conditioning, cleaning and aerosol cans, slowly rose into the atmosphere and released chlorine that destroyed the ozone molecules. In 1985, scientists discovered an ozone hole over Antarctica. This prompted countries to gather in Montreal to draft a protocol that will phase out substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The Montreal Protocol has often been cited as a model of international cooperation since it was able to accomplish a CFC phaseout through effective policy making and constructive cooperation among all nations of the world.

The Philippines signed the Montreal Protocol in 1988, thus committing itself to the phase-out of the ozone depleting substances (ODS) by the year 2010 through institutional, regulatory, incentives/disincentives, information and investment/technical assistance strategies.

The global challenge is to produce alternative chemicals that have zero ozone depleting potentials. Likewise there is also the challenge on what to do with the millions of CFCs still stored or in service in our old air conditioners and refrigerators. Destructive technologies have been proposed to keep them from entering our ozone layer.

Meanwhile, there are still

large numbers of CFC molecules present in the stratosphere and it may take the middle of the 21st Century before the ozone layer would have fully recovered.

Toxic Chemicals

Among the world's most toxic chemicals are trace metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). These substances accumulate through the food chain and become highly toxic to human life. Many are classified as carcinogens (cancer causing) and teratogens (causing birth defects).

Some of the most harmful trace metals are mercury, lead, arsenic, and chromium which are generally by-products of chemical process industries. POPs are groups of chemicals such as pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans. Many of these chemicals have been banned in industrialized countries but have found their way into the oceans or buried underground. An estimated 100,000 tons of toxic and hazardous wastes wait in rusting drums in developing countries because they are expensive to destroy.

With the promulgation in the Philippines of RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990), the government intends to protect public health and the environment from unreasonable risks posed by chemicals either imported or

(Next page, please)



POPULATION: Too many people.

manufactured in the Philippines.

The Philippine challenge is how government can successfully implement the provisions of RA 6969 and at the same time encourage industries to minimize the use and production of toxic and hazardous substances through pollution prevention programs. The government must also initiate the establishment of treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities that will handle the hundreds of thousands of toxic substances accumulating inside storage drums all over the country.

Air Pollution

Air pollution may be the world's deadliest environmental problem, contributing to acute respiratory infections that kill 4.3 million young children each year. Emissions from industries and motor vehicles contain substances such as CO, NOx, SOx, total suspended particulates (TSP), oxidants and lead that affect human health and the environment. Leaded gasoline, still used in many developing countries, causes lead poisoning, which impairs the development of children's nervous systems and intelligence. NOx and SOx are the precursors of acid rain that has affected our marine and terrestrial ecosystems, corroded materials and damaged many of the world's historical structures. The oxidants and TSP have caused photochemical smog over major cities that have reduced visibility and led to very high incidences of respiratory diseases.

Air quality in Metro Manila show signs of deterioration caused by the increase in car ownership, which has led to chronic traffic congestion, increasing fuel consumption, and rising amounts of exhausted pollutants. The pollution problem is exacerbated by a number of factors including the fact that diesel engines (buses, jeepneys), which release greater

amounts of pollutants, are used in large numbers, the fact that the motor vehicle inspection system is inadequate, and that leaded gasoline is still widely used. Total suspended particulate levels monitored from 1990-1995 show that almost all recorded levels are above the set standard of 90 micrograms per normal cubic meter (mg/NCM). Stationary sources such as electric power generating plants, paper, food and glass manufacturing are the primary sources of SOx.

The passage of RA 8749 otherwise known as the "Clean Air Act of 1999" early last year was hailed by many environmentalists as a "landmark act" making our country the first country in the world to ban incinerators. The new law requires oil companies to limit the sulfur content of diesel fuel used by vehicles and factories while obliging industries to minimize air pollution and install anti-pollution devices. Under the law, diesel-fueled vehicles, including buses and jeepneys, will have to undergo rigid emission tests. The law also provides that leaded gasoline be phased out by next year and unleaded gasoline's aromatic content be lessened from 50 percent to 35 percent and benzene from 5 percent to 2 percent by the year 2003.

The Philippine challenge is to be able to adhere strictly to and implement the provisions of the "Clean Air Act".

Biodiversity Loss

The word "biodiversity" is a contraction of biological diversity. Peter H. Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and one of the world's most respected botanists, defines biodiversity in the following way: "At the simplest level, biodiversity is the sum total of all the plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms in the world, or in a particular area; all of their individual variation; and all of the interactions

between them. It is the set of living organisms that make up the fabric of the planet Earth and allow it to function as it does" (Lewis, 1997).

The number of described species globally is about 1.4 million; but the total is estimated at between 2 and 60 million. However, it is not the wonder over this range of life that has made biodiversity such a crucial issue. Instead, it is the destruction of tropical rainforests, coral reefs, and many other ecosystems that threatens to eliminate countless species before people even discover them. It has taken 3.5 billion years for this biodiversity to evolve and we are rapidly destroying it. Whereas the natural rate of extinction is estimated at about one species per year, the present rate is estimated at 10,000 times that -- about one per hour -- and almost all of these losses are caused by human activities. We probably will have lost one million species by the end of the century, and several more million will be lost in the first few decades of the next century. Unlike other major environmental problems, such as the depletion of the ozone layer, the loss of biodiversity won't heal over decades or centuries. The evolution of new species will take millions of years.

There are many reasons to save biodiversity. In many cases, high levels of species diversity may help ecosystems be more resilient to pollution and other forms of degradation. Biodiversity also provides an invaluable reservoir of genetic traits, natural chemicals, and biological processes of use to science, agriculture and medicine.

The Philippines is consistently in the top 10 Asian countries with the highest numbers of species for selected organisms. It has also one of the highest numbers of endemic species of plants and animals, many of which are endangered. The main causes of loss of biodiversity are habitat alteration resulting from logging and the conversion of forests into agricultural, aquaculture and urban areas, induced forest fires, overexploitation of resources for commercial and subsistence use, climatic change and deposition of acid rain.

In 1992, RA 7586 or the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act" was passed in order to protect and maintain whatever remains of our country's

biodiversity. The challenge is on how to conserve ecosystems that support important groups of plants and animals through better knowledge and management systems and how to bridge the gap in knowledge between the extent of our biological resources and the public's utter disregard for overexploitation.

Water Pollution and Scarcity

Water covers 71 percent of the surface of the earth and, for hundreds of years, people have dumped waste into it. It is easy to be so thoughtless, because water dilutes the waste, and moving water carries it out of sight. However water pollution is now a global problem, at its most acute in developing countries.

A clean supply of water is a vital resource, but unfortunately this is becoming increasingly difficult to find. Pollution from non-point sources such as agriculture, landfill sites and urban storm water can run off into waterways and contaminate drinking water. Likewise common in many developing countries are untreated sewage dumped directly into rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Industries often discharge toxic wastes into rivers and oceans, which become incorporated into the food chains.

In the Philippines, water supply shortage is a common occurrence; an indication of the threats facing the country's freshwater resources. Meantime the quality of most of our rivers and streams has been deteriorating at a considerable rate. More than 50% of some 75 rivers surveyed nationwide were identified to be polluted with 12% identified as biologically dead (PEQR, 1995).

Human settlements, industry and agriculture have considerably polluted both inland and coastal waters. Domestic sewage still contributes approximately 52% of the pollution load while industry contributes the remaining 48%. To remediate this looming crisis, government passed the "Water Crisis Act" and held a Water Summit in 1994. Likewise the River Rehabilitation Project was created in order to improve the quality of the rivers in the Metro Manila area.

The challenge is for the government to install a sewage treatment plant that can handle the growing volume of domestic wastewater discharged into our rivers.

Industry must eliminate end-of-pipe technologies and resort to strategies that would minimize wastewater production. The public, too, has a big role in protecting the water environment. They can do this by acting responsibly, and not allowing polluting liquids such as oil or litter to enter watercourses. Oil -- which is a major cause of pollution incidents -- should be segregated or taken to recycling centers and litter should be taken home or placed in a litterbin.

Solid Waste Disposal and Management

Solid wastes maybe classified as municipal solid waste (MSW), industrial sludge and biomedical wastes. MSW -- more commonly known as trash or garbage -- consists of everyday items such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, paint, and batteries. Industrial sludge is the by-product of industrial wastewater treatment plants and may consist of toxic chemicals. Biomedical wastes come from hospitals and consist of pathological wastes, sharps, body fluids, pharmaceuticals and other contaminated solids.

Indiscriminate dumping of refuse frequently results in blocking of open drains and natural water courses resulting in local or widespread flooding. Pools form in blocked-up drains, becoming putrid and natural water courses resulting in local or widespread flooding. Pools form in blocked-up drains,

becoming putrid and foul smelling due to anaerobic decomposition of refuse. In some areas the pools become breeding places for mosquitoes that may cause the spread of diseases.

An integrated solid waste management system involves proper solid waste segregation, collection, transport and disposal.

In the Philippines, solid waste segregation is encouraged in the homes through color-coding of the "nabubulok" (biodegradable wastes) into green bags and "di-nabubulok" (non-biodegradable) into black bags.

Solid waste disposal remains as a major problem due to lack of landfill sites. In Metro Manila, the only operating sanitary landfill is the San Mateo Landfill. Unfortunately, its residents are strongly advocating the closure of the site because they fear that contamination of their groundwater and nearby Marikina River might endanger their health.

The challenge in solid waste disposal and management is on how to change behavioral patterns of the public to encourage them to minimize solid waste generation, by segregating and recycling their wastes. Another challenge is how to dispose solid wastes considering the ban on the use of incinerators as provided by the "Clean Air Act". Since many cities are afraid to establish landfill sites in their locality, technology should come out with more effective and safe sanitary landfill designs.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



POLLUTION: Price of progress.

Police brutality pattern

A DISTURBING pattern of police brutality and mind-conditioning to make the rubout of criminal suspects acceptable was seen by Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo in the police shooting of Luis Asistio III, maverick son of Caloocan City Rep. Luis (Baby) Asistio in a drug buy-bust operation.

The incident occurred at 12:30 a.m. last week along Quitang Alley in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan where Asistio handed over a plastic bag of 206.15 grams of shabu (metamphetamine hydrochloride) to an undercover police agent posing as a buyer. After the P3,000 payment was handed over, Asistio recognized the buyer as Chief Inspector Rodel Sermonia. He pulled out his .45-caliber pistol from his waist.

A scuffle ensued in which Sermonia shot Asistio on the left side of his breast. However, Rep. Asistio said his son was shot in the back by Sermonia who had an axe to grind against the congressman because he believe he instigated his transfer as chief of the Caloocan mayor's squad to Bulacan. Rep. Asistio said he was readying charges against the arresting team.

The prosecutor alleged that although Asistio was wounded, he managed to fire back as he retreated toward his apartment. He was treated at the MCU Hospital while Ortega was taken to the Chinese General Hospital.

Asistio was on probation after being convicted of illegal possession of drugs on Sept. 25, 1997. Police described him as a notorious drug pusher who has three pending cases of illegal possession of firearm and violation of the anti-drug abuse law (Republic Act 6425).

The justice department prosecutor filed charges of drug trafficking, illegal possession of firearm and direct assault against Asistio and two alleged lookouts, Ricardo Garcia and Ronel Rivera.

The shabu and .45 pistol seized from Asistio are being tested at the Crime Office. Asistio will be subjected to a paraffin test in connection with his firing of his gun.

Caloocan Police Chief Samuel Pagbilao Jr. said the Northern Police District is investigating if the operation of Chief Inspector Rex de la Rosa was legitimate. Senior Police 4 Antonio Peñaranda wanted to know if Asistio engaged the policemen or the raiders fired indiscriminately.

Congressman Asistio said there was no shootout because his son would not dare fight 30 policeman. He asked if this was a reprise of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng massacre by policemen in a dark Quezon City area involving Police Director Francisco Zubia, the officer who ordered the buy-bust operation in Caloocan.

More and more policemen are now committing crimes which they should prevent. What is worse is that their superiors are enmeshed in the crimes. There is an obvious breakdown in police discipline. But who will wield the iron fist to straighten them out and devote their efforts instead to enforcing the law, not violating it?

MANILA'S FINEST KILLERS



BIR's sadism

CONGRATS, Joe! You deserve the IPI award.

For the first time since I began paying taxes to our graft-ridden, profligate government, I had to engage the services of an accountant to accomplish the ever-revised BIR Form No. 1701 last year. In case you don't know, BIR means *Bigay Ikaw Regalo* -- oops, I mean Bureau of Internal Revenue; and Form No. 1701 is the Annual Income Tax Return (ITR) form for the self-employed and the professionals.

Before 1999, said BIR form was already hard to accomplish, but I managed to do it nevertheless. No longer since last year. I (and others like me) must have become too stupid to understand the form, or the BIR geniuses have deliberately made it more difficult such that many taxpayers will commit errors and -- presto! -- the BIR will have every reason to pounce on the m.

Considering BIR's record and reputation, I submit it's the second.

Instead of simplifying things for taxpayers (especially the small taxpayers who religiously pay their dues to the government even if they don't receive ample basic services in return, not the ti-Tan-ic taxpayers who cheat with impunity, thanks to the crooks in the bureau), the BIR punishes them with forms that read like hieroglyphs which even the most-advanced computers at the Pentagon will find extremely difficult to decipher.

If what the BIR is doing isn't sadism, I confess I don't know what is.

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

"Erap to Binay: Stop car ban" (*Inquirer*, April 6).

Long overdue, but thanks just the same. As you know, our good friend, MMDA Chairman Jejomar Binay, had inflicted upon us in Metro Manila, before April 5, 2000, his bright idea of "odd-even" scheme on Saturdays on top of the probably unconstitutional "color-coding" restriction. For his failure to ease traffic flow in the metropolis, Jojo has even wanted to implement his "carless day" idea and to phase out "old cars" (although he hasn't defined "old car" as distinguished from "new car").

What Metro Manila needs is not the phase-out of so-called "old cars" but that of the likes of the MMDA bright boys.

Speaking of traffic, the suggestion to construction additional bridges over the Pasig River -- bridges that will utilize not-so-busy streets as alternate routes -- is, I think, a truly bright idea.

An idea which, incidentally, doesn't come from the MMDA bright boys.

We Forum



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SAVING PRESIDENT ESTRADA

by BILL HUANG

WITH all that seems to be going on in and around Malacañang Palace, one can be forgiven for wondering whether things are unraveling around the Palace's main tenant again.

After all, there was the President's live tirade against outgoing Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman Perfecto Yasay on a local public discussion show last week, followed by reports about the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency uncovering some plot to assassinate him, and then a story about his Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas III telling members of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) that "he is our President whether we like it or not."

Then there are the continuing reports of how the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf are threatening to keep the proverbial pot boiling in Mindanao, plus, naturally, the continuing BW Resources price-manipulation and insider-trading scandal, now joined by the continuing Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) fund-diversion investigation at the Senate.

If you toss in a scheduled transport strike on Thursday morning, and now, a so-called "silent majority" campaign against cronyism, corruption, and nepotism, you might ask, as we're sure others are asking, what exactly has the Palace's crisis management committee been up to?

You might recall the Palace's crisis management committee, formed about six months ago, in the wake of a similar wash of *causes celebre*, from the then-ongoing Concord campaign that refused to die, the *menage a quatre* of himself, Macau gambling lord Stanley Ho, former presidential adviser on mass housing Sel Yulo, and former Housing and Urban Development Coordi-

nating Council chairperson Karina David, to his discredited "hot cars for the Cabinet" campaign, the sham attempt to investigate big-time smugglers, all the way down to the alleged diversion of smuggled sardines, *et cetera and nauseum*.

Those names and events are just about history now, which may be why the Palace's crisis management committee thought the coast might have been clear a couple of weeks ago. After all, the pardon of convicted priest-killer Norberto Manero Jr. came and went, and the Fort Magsaysay land deal in Nueva Ecija hadn't, and hasn't, blown up in anyone's face yet.

But then Mindanao did come to a boil, the oil companies raised the price of gasoline again, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) watchdogs resigned *en masse* over what they saw as a cover-up in the making, with the new PSE board looking like they wanted nothing more than business as usual. The SEC came that close to suspending stock trading for a day, and the PSE stock index hit new lows. The foreign investors that were just starting to come back to Asian stock markets were leaving the PSE again.

In the meantime, Sister Christine Tan's accusations of PCSO fund diversions away from regular PCSO beneficiaries to First Family pet projects would make the front pages, prompting a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee investigation into the matter, and now-ouster Presidential chief of staff Aprodicio Laquian had the temerity, and the bad form, to tell the nation that the emperor, his boss, had no clothes.

Add to all that a bunch of coup rumors, and the re-emerging of a spate of declining net approval ratings in a new cycle of public opinion polls, and it's beginning to look a lot like yesterday once more.

As if things couldn't get any worse, last week the President himself went ballistic on national TV, sounding not so much like a President, but rather a defender of his friend Dante Tan, ready to slug it out with Perfecto Yasay.

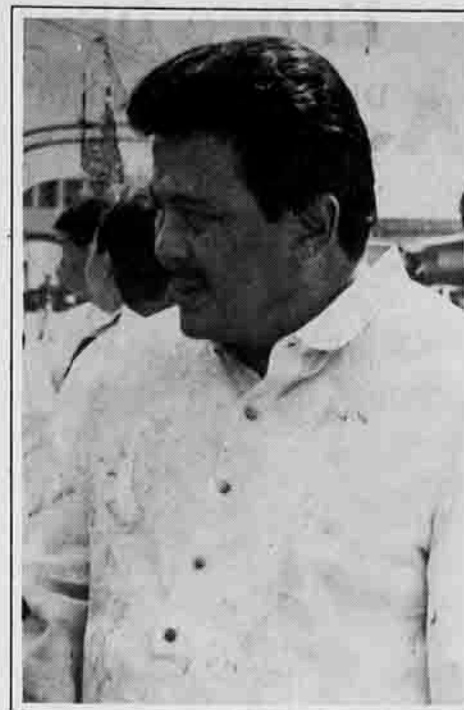
The President called Yasay a liar, charged that he had tried to solicit P1 million from Dante Tan, and warned him that he might get struck by lightning if he continued to lie. It was, by all accounts, a riveting spectacle, listening to the voice of the President haranguing the SEC chairman. So riveting that no one dared get a word in edgewise.

So riveting that no one could remember to ask the President whether he had asked Dante Tan to disregard his previous advice, given as the SEC investigation was just starting, which was to "face the music."

So riveting that the next day, when a Palace official was asked to comment on whether the President's action was, in fact, presidential, he could only say he couldn't comment on whether or not it was presidential, but he thought it was vintage Estrada.

The way we see it, vintage Estrada seems to consist of how the President seems to take just about everything personally, and how he seems to think the nation will hold his loyalty to his friends, political patrons, and relatives in higher regard over whatever crisis of confidence that same loyalty may cause the nation.

His performance last week was riveting, all right, like a car in flames is riveting. You want to rush in to help, but the car is burning and could even explode. But all this time, whether you stay where you are, rush in to help, or drive past it, you just can't take your eyes off it. The only problem with that analogy is that in the case of



PRES. ERAP

this particular car wreck, we happen to be in the car along with him.

And we are drawn back to DTI Secretary Roxas' words before the MAP members. "He is our President whether we like it or not...his success is our success and his failure is our failure." The trouble is, we've been saying that all along, and it doesn't seem as if it's gotten us anywhere thus far.

We now think it's the President's turn to take those words to heart, but with a slight twist — we are his country whether he likes it or not, our success is his success and our failure is his failure.

His ability or inability to comprehend that nuance may make all the difference in saving President Estrada. (Pan-Philippine News & Information Network, Inc.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 18 TAGAYTAY CITY

Land Reg. Case No. TG-908

LRA Record No. N-72003

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region IV, DENR, L & S Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, P.T.A. Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman; the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City; Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Trece Martires City; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Silang, Cavite; Lydia Salazar, #37 J.P. Rizal St., Silang, Cavite; Babylyn Toledo, #1 Yakal St., Brgy. San Miguel, Silang, Cavite AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by SPS EUFROCINA B. REYES & MARCIAL REYES, # 20 Kiamzon St., Silang 4118, Cavite thru Alejandro and Anarna Law Offices, #11 Madlansacay St., Pob. Silang 4118 Cavite, by Atty. Irineo A. Anarna praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described lands:

1. A parcel of land (Lot 14264, Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre as shown on plan, Ap-04-013202, L.R.C. Record No.), situated in the Barangay of Tubuan, Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite. Bounded on the NW. & NE. along lines 1-2-3 by Road, on the SE, along line 3-4 by Lot 14320, on the SW, along line 4-1 by Lot 4522, both of Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S 32 deg 39'W, 963.08 m. from BLM No. 1, Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre.

thence N. 43 deg 40'E, 23.89 m. to point 2,
thence S 46 deg 35'E, 33.81 m. to point 3,
thence S 39 deg 24'W, 30.63 m. to point 4,
thence N 36 deg 06'W, 36.67 m. to the point of beginning,
containing an area of NINE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT (948) SQUARE METERS.

All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings grid, date prepared, Nov. 10, 1999 and was approved on Nov. 17, 1999.

2. A parcel of land (Lot 14265, Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre as shown on plan, Ap-04-013202, L.R.C. Record No.), situated in the Barangay of Tubuan, Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite. Bounded on the SE, along line 1-2 by Road, on the SE, along line 2-3 by Lot 4522, Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre, on the NW. & W, along lines 3-4-5 by National Highway, on the N, along line 5-1 by Road. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S 32 deg 52'W, 943.98 m. from BLM No. 1, Cad-452-D, Silang Cadastre.

thence S 43 deg 21'W, 19.35 m. to point 2,
thence S 89 deg 11'W, 35.37 m. to point 3,
thence N 35 deg 24'E, 3.06 m. to point 4,
thence N 2 deg 02'W, 9.59 m. to point 5,
thence N 86 deg 58'E, 47.29 m. to point of beginning,

containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY (520) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings grid, date prepared, Nov. 10, 1999 and was approved on Nov. 17, 1999.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Branch 18, RTC, Tagaytay City, Philippines on the 25th day of May, 2000 at 8:30 A.M., then and there to present such claims as you may have to said lands or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claims and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the lands will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the HON. ALFONSO S. GARCIA, Judge of said Court, the 19th day of January, 2000.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 15th day of February, 2000.

A T T E S T

A True Copy
(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CARAIG
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

WE FORUM

ALFREDO R. ENRIQUEZ
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By
(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

April 17, 2000

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that A. Soriano (San Miguel) Corporation Stock Certificate Nos. 0114692 with 12 shares, 0136059 with 11 shares, 0149972 with 13 shares, 0162845 with 11 shares, 0284211 with 54 shares, 0310580 with 41 shares and 0336594 with 68 shares in the name of Pedro L. Felipe were reported lost. If one year from 1st date of publication, no adverse claim is presented to the company, said stock certificates will be considered null and void and new certificates will be issued in lieu thereof.

WE FORUM
April 3, 10 & 17, 2000

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VIRGILIO G. DEL MUNDO who died in Manila on January 29, 1999 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 457, Page No. 92, Book No. II, Series of 2000 of Notary Public Abrosio B. de Luna of Quezon City.

WE FORUM
April 3, 10 & 17, 2000

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO F. VILLANUEVA, SR. who died on April 15, 1974 in Sampaloc, Manila has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs in a document entitled "Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate of Antonio F. Villanueva, Sr." under Doc. No. 481; Page No. 97; Book No. 31 Series of 1999 of Notary Public Crisante J. Del Mundo of Quezon City.

WE FORUM
April 3, 10 & 17, 2000

HOPE, FEAR IN HOUSING SECTOR

by ELOY CALIMQSO

NO DOUBT the country's housing sector has received a much-needed shot in the arm under the Estrada administration.

The housing sector has started to emerge from the ruins after it was severely crippled by the debilitating nationwide financial crisis that began in July 1997. Huge resources have been funneled into the sector after President Estrada identified it as one of his administration's centerpiece programs, along with the much ballyhooed food-security program.

Like the administration's programs to boost food production, many economists also agreed on the need to give priority to the housing sector. With its multiplier effect, the housing sector could pump-prime the laggard economy, while at the same time provide shelter for millions of squatter families in many urban centers. A. estimated 3.6 million Filipino families need homes.

Initially, the Estrada administration identified the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Po-

lice as the priority beneficiaries of its socialized housing program. The President vowed to provide the country's soldiers and policemen decent homes before his terms ends in 2004.

Specifically, its target beneficiaries are the estimated 110,000 soldiers and policemen who either live in squatter colonies in Metro Manila or merely rent houses. This is doable, if the administration has the will to do it.

For one, believe it or not, it has a lot of funds for the task. The Estrada administration has embarked on an aggressive borrowings spree from local and foreign sources, to fill the funding gap and reduce widespread homelessness. It has tapped both official development assistance as well as private lending institutions to finance its various programs, especially socialized housing.

In its first two years alone, the administration has set aside some P21 billion in counterpart funds for its housing programs. And the fund is only the government's counterpart. Housing and

Urban Development Council co-chair Leonora de Jesus also disclosed last week that government has so far raised and made available through different financing schemes some P61.5 billion to developers and end-users.

On top of these is the P4 billion bond sale scheduled next week of the Home Development Mutual Fund, otherwise known as the Pag-IBIG Fund. The bond's successful sale is expected to facilitate the release of some P7 billion to P8 billion worth of housing loans presently pending with the Fund.

These are all huge sums.

The previous administration also made a similar attempt to provide mass housing, but it failed, utterly. Then-Speaker Jose de Venecia, who was already eyeing the presidency at that time, had strongly batted for the enactment of the National Shelter Act, which was aimed at obliterating the huge housing backlog.

The law allowed the Ramos administration to channel sizable chunks of its resources to the housing sector. The resources were sourced mainly from the Social Security System (SSS), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Pag-IBIG Fund and other government financial institutions (GFIs).

It was during the Ramos administration that government investments in the sector ballooned, triggering a boom in the real estate business. But it was also during the previous administration that a substantial share of the estimated unpaid P43 billion in housing loans was made.

the National Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Network (NARRDN).

Being an MS, Bacor does not only share his knowledge and expertise with his co-farmers in their barangay, but also with other coconut farmers in various parts of the country.

He may not have garnered honors with his military years, but his new profession and having been given the title 'MS' challenges him with new frontiers of becoming a model farmer among the many unsung heroes of the field.

Recently, Bacor did his responsibilities as an MS. He shared his experiences in farming among many farmers from various parts of the country who attended the National



HOUSING CRISIS: Money is not a problem.

The program proved to be a shotgun approach. The priority target — the poor who badly needed the housing subsidy — barely benefited from the program. Worse, it provided an opportunity for fly-by-night developers to take advantage of the government's generosity.

Now, the government is saddled with some 25,000 low-cost housing units in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, which remain unoccupied to this day. And the GFIs, which foot the bill for the ambitious program, were left holding the bag. They could hardly collect from those who received the loans, many of whom were found to be fictitious. The government has no choice but to absorb these unpaid debts since it provided guarantees for them.

It is this scenario that the

present administration is trying to avoid by developing programs that are beneficiary-specific, such as the case of the socialized housing program for soldiers and policemen.

But what about the rest of the estimated 1.5 million housing units the administration reportedly wants to build over the next five years?

In less than two years in office, the Estrada administration has surpassed the record of the previous administration in terms of funding commitment to the housing sector.

We do not want to sound paranoid, but at the rate in which multibillion-peso anomalies are being uncovered involving presidential friends and relatives, many have become skeptical about the chances of success of the administration's ambitious housing program, and are fearful about the

magnitude of corruption it could generate.

One ominous sign has cropped up very recently. Remember the presidential brother-in-law who was lobbying for the 99 hectares of prime land worth P28 billion in Las Piñas?

Billions of pesos being poured into the housing sector can also be irresistible magnets for developers and other people who have the knack for making a fast buck. And there is another possibility. These resources for the housing sector might simply end up as largesse that are used for political patronage.

If this happens, expect to hear a lot more from whistleblowers and lawmakers conducting congressional probes in the days ahead. (PAN-Philippines News & Information Network, Inc.)

A FARMER'S STORY . . .

(From page 12)

control insect pests, he sprays a mixture of hot pepper or labuyo and detergent powder. He also plants Marigold or 'Taheto' (*Tagetes* sp.) in between rows of vegetables as insect repellants. To control corn borers, he applies *Trichogramma evanescence*.

Bacor even conducted research on coconut planting method. He observed that by removing the husk and shell of coconut planting materials results to fruit bearing in three years.

Livestock and poultry raising were also integrated in his farming system. Bacor said that farmers in his barangay raise carabao, cattle, sheep, goat, hogs, chicken and fighting cocks for extra income. He also practices animal dispersal. He gives hogs to his neighbors for them to raise on a 50:50 profit sharing agreement.

These indigenous and introduced technologies are now being practiced by farmers in his barangay, Bacor claimed. Whatever practice they discover and experience that can contribute to increasing the productivity of their farms, the farmers share it to their fellow farmers.

HONORS AND NEW FRONTIERS FOR THE UNSUNG HERO

In recognition for his efforts in helping his fellow farmers in their barangay, PCA has bestowed Bacor the 1998 Outstanding Coconut Farmer Award. Moreover, he was chosen as one of the Magsasaka-Siyentista of the Farmer-Scientist Bureau (FSB) program being implemented by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCARRD) in cooperation with the 14 Regional R&D Consortia.

The program, more popularly called Magsasaka-Siyentista (MS), was formulated by PCARRD to give expression to a shift in the development paradigm towards a farmer-centered model of participatory development in agriculture and natural resources management. It hinges on the need to directly involve farmers in research and technology development by enlisting their knowledge and experiences in partnership with scientists and other experts of

Convention of FSB held in PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna.

In this event, he challenged his co-farmers to be disciplined, loyal to the country and sincere to their responsibilities. To him, being a farmer is a great responsibility. He believed that a farmer does not only work to feed his family and the millions of Filipinos, but also, at times other country's people in cases farm products are exported. Likewise, Bacor encouraged every farmer to be responsive and attentive to calls for active partnerships among government institutions in the implementation of programs and projects in the countryside. He even advocated that farmers should attend training and seminars to learn more knowledge and

even impart bits of information to fellow farmers.

"Being part of the FSB program has given me a distinct advantage," said Bacor. Although he has been recognized as an accomplished model farmer, he still claims to be fearful of not living up to the ideals of being a farmer-scientist. He playfully said that he maybe called 'sayangist' instead of 'scientist' because as he attends gatherings and share his expertise, the weeds in his farm grow bigger. Seriously, he claimed that it's a good thing that people gained new knowledge as someone shares his story. He hoped that by sharing his experience he had inspired and touched the lives of people in the convention.

Indeed, this story might be about the same crops that every farmer plant. However, the experience and how one has made the soil productive toward a bountiful harvest can inspire anyone's heart that wishes to join the force of the unsung heroes of the field — of becoming a farmer or even anyone whose on the crossroads of deciding what to do with life.

There's always hope to count on. It is just a matter of decision and putting that the decision into action and practice, and make the best of it. Just like what Bacor did. He left the military career, joined the ranks of the tillers of the land, and became a model of his new profession. (S&T Media Service)

UPROAR OVER PATENTED SEEDS

by GINA MISSION

RENATO Quilla, a farmer from Calinan, Davao City, felt so relieved when he heard of Monsanto Corporation's announcement in October last year that it would not commercialize or continue developing its "Terminator" farming technology. Finally, he thought, he could go to sleep without worrying that he'd wake up the next day having to consider becoming a pirate of his own crops.

But Quilla's relief was short-lived. In what anti-biotechnology activists and concerned Filipino groups consider a deception, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Delta & Pine Land (D&PL), the world's largest cotton seed company (owned by Monsanto), jointly acquired two new patents on the controversial farming technology on Nov. 2, 1999, one month after Monsanto had promised not to commercialize Terminator seeds.

Terminator technology, or the genetic engineering of plants that renders their seeds sterile, was first heard of in 1998. The technology prevents farmers like Quilla from saving seeds from their harvest to be used for the next cropping period. The patent would prevent "unauthorized seed saving" by farmers. Critics call the seeds produced through this technology as "suicide seeds" because they can be used for only one planting season. After that, farmers have to buy new seeds from authorized growers for the next season.

Understandably, the new technology has triggered an uproar in the farming sector. Since time immemorial, farmers throughout the world have been saving seeds from their latest harvest for the next crop season. Even with the development of new varieties in recent decades, farmers buy seeds of high-yielding varieties only once and then save seeds from their crops for the next season. That way, they don't have to buy new seeds come replanting time.

With the Terminator technology, however, farmers would be forced to buy seeds every season, since the seeds from their previous harvest won't grow. Its developers claim that the technology will "encourage investments in plant breeding" and "serve as a boon to food production" because seed compa-

nies will have an incentive to invest in crops that "have long been ignored by the commercial industry."

DEATH OF A FARMING TRADITION

That's hog wash, its critics say. The technology, they say, will terminate the 12,000-year-old tradition of farmers to save and breed their own plant varieties. It will also create a new era of "bioserfdom" by rendering farmers totally dependent on corporate-grown seeds, which they have to buy every planting season.

The Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), an international civil society organization based in Canada, says the Terminator technology is universally considered the most morally offensive application of agricultural biotechnology because it will affect more than 1.4 billion people who depend on farm-saved seeds.

Obviously because of the undesirable consequences, even the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the world's largest international agricultural research network that includes the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, has banned the technology from its crop-breeding program.

Quilla's stand is simple and forthright: "Why should anybody control what I do with my harvest? It's mine. I didn't steal it from any company."

According to a RAFI report, the new patents on terminator technology were issued barely a month after Monsanto announced, in October 1999, that it would not market the Terminator technology.

RAFI learned of these patents only this March. The new patents, which were assigned US Patent Nos. 5,925,808 and 5,977,441, according to RAFI, share the same titles, inventors and



FILIPINO FARMERS: Case of the 'suicide seeds'.

abstracts as the earlier patent (US Patent No. 5,723,765). In addition, they also describe "innovations" and demonstrate for USDA scientists how to continue refining the technology and advancing the research.

MANIPULATING INFORMATION

Reacting to the RAFI disclosure, Emmanuel Yap, executive director of Masipag, says: "This just shows the real interests at play in genetic engineering, how these companies are just managing information to get what they really want." Masipag is a Laguna-based partnership of farmers and scientists who develop their own seed varieties for non-profit distribution to rural farmers.

Also in a critical vein, Neth Daño, executive director of the Manila-based Southeast Asian Regional Institute for Community Education (Searice), says, "This technology goes far beyond intellectual property. A patent expires after 20 years, but if Terminator seeds are commercialized it will give a handful of multinational Gene Giants a monopoly with no expiration date. This technology aims to eliminate the right of farmers to save seeds and do local plant breeding, and it will destroy the concept of national seed sovereignty."

Under a provision in the Philippine patent law that Monsanto invokes, it would

be illegal for farmers to save or re-use patented seeds. Monsanto, which is already in the Philippines, requires that its customers sign a licensing agreement strictly prohibiting farmers from saving the company's patented, transgenic (meaning, genetically engineered) seed.

The RAFI report says the patent has a broad coverage, applying not just to rice or corn but to plants and seeds of all species, including both transgenic and conventionally bred seeds.

Groups opposed to the technology have expressed concern about the inevitability of the technology being distributed globally, under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) agreement on Trade-Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The TRIPS agreement requires its ratification this year by the legislature of WTO member countries like the Philippines, after which they must enact legislation on intellectual property rights to plant varieties.

Once ratified, the TRIPS agreement will allow transnational corporations and scientists to obtain exclusive legal rights even over seeds that local farmers are currently using, without any recognition of the latter's rights. If this happens, Daño warns, the Terminator technology will not only prevent Filipino farmers from saving seeds from their own harvests, but will also make them "pirates" in their own

farms.

After Monsanto made a public commitment not to commercialize Terminator seeds in October 1999, a move followed by AstraZeneca, a US-based agrochemical company which had developed a similar technology, some governments and civil society organizations were lulled into believing that suicide seeds — seeds good for only one cropping — were "history" and that the crisis had passed.

"We thought we were winning," Yap recalls.

Indeed, Monsanto's decision to back away from Terminator technology was considered a feat for groups like Masipag, RAFI and Searice, which had raised howls of protest. "It's not every day that a major multinational enterprise caves in to public opposition and 'rejects' a new technology," Yap says.

In a communique, RAFI had described Monsanto's decision as a smart move. "Over the past year, Monsanto, the world's most visible and notorious corporate crusader for genetically engineered seeds, has been battered and bruised by the anti-biotech backlash. Pulling the plug on Terminator was a desperate attempt by Monsanto to distance itself from what is universally considered the most morally offensive application of biotechnology (so far) on plants that are engineered to produce sterile seeds."

But the jubilation, like Quilla's feeling of relief, was short-lived.

NEW CAUSE FOR CONCERN

A March 24, RAFI report says what really happened was that since the October 1999 announcement, Monsanto and AstraZeneca had each merged with other companies. Since only the old Monsanto and AstraZeneca made public commitments to stop commercializing or developing the Terminator technology, the new companies were not bound by those pledges.

On Dec. 2, 1999, AstraZeneca and Novartis announced they would merge their agrochemical and seed divisions to create the world's biggest agribusiness corporation to be named "Syngenta."

For its part, Monsanto, on Dec. 19, 1999, announced

it would merge with drug industry giant Pharmacia & Upjohn to create a new company, named Pharmacia, with combined annual sales of \$17 billion. The merged company would spin off its agricultural chemical and besieged biotech business, which would keep the name Monsanto and would have headquarters in St. Louis (USA). The agricultural biotech business will be at least 80 percent owned by the parent corporation, Pharmacia.

The terminator technology has not really been terminated. The RAFI report quoted Harry Collins, vice president of D&PL, as saying in January: "We've continued right on with work on the Technology Protection System [Terminator]. We never really slowed down. We're on target, moving ahead to commercialize it. We never really backed off."

The RAFI report says D&PL is "moving aggressively to commercialize Terminator. And despite massive protests, the US Department of Agriculture supports and defends its anti-farmer patent and research on suicide seeds."

It asserts that corporate commitments to disavow Terminator are "virtually meaningless in light of the pace of corporate takeovers (and mergers)."

Last year, RAFI recalls, AstraZeneca conducted field trials on the technology in the UK. "We feel duped and betrayed," says Gary Goldberg, CEO of the American Corn Growers Association, in a statement. "We demand to know why the USDA continues to invest taxpayer dollars in anti-farmer research that, if commercialized, will hold farmers hostage to giant agribusiness corporations."

Yap is not too surprised. "We were really cynical about Monsanto's earlier statement," he says. "You have to understand the real politics of biotechnology. It is just a vehicle for more profit for the companies involved in the business."

He adds that the RAFI report underscores the real motives of Monsanto's October announcement. That is why, he says, "we have to continue to be vigilant about what they are doing, and to really analyze the motives behind their every move." (Pan-Philippine News & Information Network, Inc.)

ONE-STOP HEALTH INFO WEBSITE

by ALFRED A. ARAYA, JR.

WHETHER you're a doctor who wishes to know more about the latest tuberculosis and malaria treatments in the Philippines, or a researcher with questions about the local health situation, there's good news, courtesy of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). The search for information has just been made easier.

No longer will health professionals and researchers have to pore over dusty stacks of digests, studies and statistics. Even ordinary people with questions on certain health conditions can ask a doctor or a specialist through this site. They can continue to avail themselves of a wide array of comprehensive databases, journals, directories, health advisories, just about anything to do with health, but all they need now is a personal computer and a mouse.

Via the Internet, they can log on to <http://www.e-Health.net.ph> and get all the information they want to know about health in the Philippines.

ONE-STOP HEALTH INFORMATION SITE

The e-Health project, also known as the Electronic Health Information Village, is a one-stop information community for researchers seeking general and specialized health information with

links to local and international sources.

The project was initiated and developed by the PCHRD of the Department of Science and Technology (PCHRD-DOST). The PCHRD is responsible for coordinating and monitoring health research activities and health development in the country.

PCHRD came up with the idea of gathering all sorts of locally available health information and publishing them on the Internet. It also encourages institutions or groups to develop their capability to "organize their own information resources in digital format" and publish them on the e-Health website.

A BOOST TO HEALTH RESEARCH

Web publishing was employed to tap the potential of cyberspace to advance health research. PCHRD found it a convenient way of publishing a compilation of articles and documents gathered from health and academic institutions.

In turn, people can get the right information on health. The e-Health sites include information on health policies and statistics, data on Philippine hospitals and health centers, improvements in science and technology and health care products available in the market.

PCHRD discussed the role

of web publishing in promoting Philippine health research in its recent 18th anniversary celebration at the EDSA Shanri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Delia Torrijos, a consultant from UNESCO and one of the speakers in the discussion, said that web publishing should inspire researchers, doctors and medical practitioners to document their work and publish their results.

DEARTH OF SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Despite all the potential and promise inherent in this landmark project, it is not without its problems. Torrijos lamented the relatively very small number of articles — only 169 — in about a hundred years of tuberculosis (TB) treatment in the country. "This means that the good works done by so many brilliant and dedicated people have never really been put on paper," she said.

She described the present situation as "sad." Because there is no incentive or funding for research, the policy environment does not encourage health professionals to write and publish their work, she explained.

Dr. Charles Yu, vice president for research services at De La Salle University in Cavite and leader of TB Project, said it still was a problem getting the authors to contribute their journals to the site.

"PCHRD actually begged universities and institutions to come up with research studies. And we are even having difficulty in getting articles," he said.

Supporting Torrijos, Yu said improving the incentive system could improve the working environment and entice people to stay in research work. "It doesn't [even] have to be money, but perhaps something in the form of recognition."

Torrijos suggested that PCHRD could begin "this transition" by putting up a facility where doctors and researchers can come and have their articles and journals printed, and put in electronic form.

'WHICH ONES ARE GARBAGE?'

But with lots of information in the web, is there any way by which these journals and documents could be validated? "Which ones are garbage?" a member of the audience asked.

Merlita Opena, chief of the Research Information Communication and Utilization Division of PCHRD, said they have groups composed of specialists that can look at information from "an expert's perspective."

On the other hand, Torrijos said, peer review is very important so that "we only get to see valuable and validated information."

QUALITY INFO FILTERS

Yu said "quality filters" should be used. "We should not just put the information all together. We should tell people what is good and what is not so good."

Yu and the other speakers had mentioned that each article that they get is given

a rating from A to C, with A being the highest.

The articles are labeled to inform the researcher that a particular article is "good or not so good." But a "not so good" rating does not necessarily mean an article is "garbage," Yu said.

He disclosed that articles in the 1930s and '40s would surely be given a C rating, saying, "at that time, the level of research was not as progressive as now." But Yu added, "Each of those articles may have played a major role as a stepping stone to greater research."

In the case of the TB Project, therefore, it would be incorrect not to include the articles in their 100-year review of TB treatment in the country, regardless of how studies and articles of several decades past might be rated now.

A member of the audience cautioned that putting labels or rating might discourage some people from contributing their work.

Dr. Alfredo T. Ramirez,

chancellor of the University of the Philippines-Manila, said it is then a challenge to doctors and scientists to have the responsibility to produce high-quality work.

WHAT ARTICLES TO PUBLISH

Unfortunately, research endeavors are hampered by a lack of funding. "Research is one of the first areas that are sacrificed during financial crises — when it should not be the case," Yu said.

Because of this, researchers, chose to join the private sector than do research in the academe, Yu said. This may be one reason for the low turnout of articles in the website.

A common sentiment noted was that adequate funding should first be allotted for research so that contributors can make use of the full potential of web publishing technology. This should give more valuable health information to those who need it most. (Pan-Philippine News and Information Network, Inc.)

SEARCH . . . (From page 12)

that the girl was Masanao's daughter was 99.99999998544 percent.

Because of the father's denial, poor self-esteem becomes a problem among many Japanese-Filipino children, who have the fight against the stigma of being illegitimate children of Japayukis (Filipino women entertainers in Japan).

Their situation puts a lot of pressure on the children, not only because they look different from the "typical Filipino" or the "typical Japanese," but also because their playmates expect them to be financially secure.

"Tinatanong sila, anak ka ng Hapon, bakit wala kayong

pera (The playmates ask, your father is a Japanese, why aren't you rich?)" says Arellano, a social worker at Dawn. Many Filipino children, she says, think that, "pag foreigner ang tatay mo, maalwan ang family mo (When your father is a foreigner, your life must be comfortable)."

Little do their playmates know that Filipino-Japanese children are on a never-ending search for a father that they can call their own. Even mothers who have succeeded in securing an agreement with their Japanese partners have to start all over again when the latter goes into hiding again, Arellano says. "It's a cycle." (PAN-Phil.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES OFFICE OF THE NOTARY PUBLIC MAKATI CITY

SPOUSES MANUEL AND ROWENA
GRACE CARANDANG,

Mortgagees,

- versus -

LUZVIMINDA P. VASQUEZ and
TERESITA PEREZ

Mortgagors

x-----x

EXTRAJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT NO. 3135, AS AMENDED

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SALE

Pursuant to the terms of the Real Estate Mortgage dated 31 May 1999 executed by LUZVIMINDA P. VASQUEZ and TERESITA PEREZ, mortgagors in favor of SPOUSES MANUEL and ROWENA GRACE CARANDANG, mortgagees, to satisfy their mortgage indebtedness in the principal amount of PESOS: SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND (P700,000.00) Philippine Currency, as of 14 February 2000, excluding interest, penalty, attorney's fees, expenses of foreclosure sale and other charges, the undersigned Notary Public for Makati City hereby gives notice to all parties concerned and to the public in general that on 26 April 2000 at 9:30 in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance lobby of the City Hall of Makati City, he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, in Philippine Currency, the property covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 216008 issued by the Registry of Deeds of Makati City, more particularly described as follows:

TCT NO. 216008

A PARCEL OF LAND (lot 1-B of the subd plan (LRC) Psd-346877, approved as non-subd project being a portion of lot 1, blk 61, Psd-32458, LRC Rec. No. 3712) situated in the Bo. of Guadalupe, Mun. of Makati, Prov. of Rizal (now Metro Manila) is, of Luzon. Bounded on the N. pts 5 to 1 by lot 1-C (encroachment) and pts. 1 to 2 by lot 1-A, both of the subd plan, on the E. pts 2 to 3 by St. lot 2, Psd- 32458 (Calle NTRA SRA de Guadalupe) on the SE., pts. 3 to 4 by lot 2a on the W., pts. 4 to 5 by lot 3, both of blk. 61 Psd 32458. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being S. 74 deg. 01'E., 1556, 14m. from BLL#2, Makati, Rizal, thence N. 87 deg. 22'E., 16.07m. to pt. 2, thence S. 5 deg. 23'E., 8.55m. to pt. 3, thence S 84 deg. 35., 18.00m. to pt. 4, thence N.O. deg. 18 x x x 9.43 m. to pt. 5, thence N. 87 deg. 10'E., 1.01 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT (158) SQ M. more or less. x x x

Pursuant to law, copies of this Notice shall be posted for not less than twenty (20) days in at least three (3) public places and shall be published once a week for at three (3) consecutive weeks in a new paper of general circulation before the date of the foreclosure sale.

Done at Makati City, 4 April 2000.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RODERICK R. SORIANO
Notary Public

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SEARCH FOR A FATHER

by LYRA P. VILLAFANA

MISTY is the central character in an upcoming play that will be brought to Japan within the year. She is a bar girl who gets pregnant by a Japanese customer, later abandoned by the man, and is now back in the land of the rising sun, this time with her daughter, to look for him who is supposed to complete their family picture.

For the performers of *Teatro Akebono* (Daybreak Theater), however, the play may as well be the stories of their lives.

Teatro Akebono is the theater program of the Development Action for Women Network (Dawn), a non-government organization that helps migrant women and their children to find the foreigner fathers who have abandoned them and get these fathers to recognize and support them.

The group was formed in 1997, after the dawn formed a partnership with the Philippine Educational Theatre Association (Peta) to conduct workshops that would help boost the sagging self-confidence of the organization's Japanese-Filipino clients.

By casting both mothers and children in theater productions, the Dawn accomplishes two things for them: one, it helps bring about

emotional healing; two, it gives them the opportunity to get to Japan to look for the Japanese fathers of the children.

"It's an advocacy tool for migrant issues," explains Marbelyn Alar, research, education and advocacy associate of Dawn. "It also has therapeutic effects," she adds, because the theater program allows Japanese-Filipino children or "Japinos" to mingle with each other and, in the process, realize that they are not alone in their struggle to find their Japanese fathers and seek their recognition and support.

Mary Ann, for example, has two daughters by Igura, a Japanese national with whom she had a relationship while she was working as an entertainer in Japan. She was pregnant with their second child when Igura left her, never responding to her efforts to get in touch with him.

Batis says nearly half of the fathers of Japanese-Filipino children come from the Kanto region that includes Tokyo, Saitama and Chiba, an area with a high concentration of entertainment joints.

Yet, it's still very difficult to find the fathers because the women themselves know very little about them.

They may know the region where they come from, but they don't have the exact address. In cases like this, Dawn taps its network to be able to at least locate and look into the latest family register of the Japanese father.

This was what Luz Alfaro and daughter Miyuki did when they joined Teatro Akebono's tour late last year. Miyuki was barely two years old when her father, Kihara, abandoned her and her mother in 1989. When they joined Teatro Akebono tour, Dawn's networks in Japan could not find him so they looked at the latest family register of Kihara. The document revealed that Kihara had died in Japan three years after he deserted Luz and their daughter.

THE PROBLEM OF SELF-ESTEEM

The men's refusal to recognize their children is another hindrance to getting support for the children.

Zerna Pingol met Masanao Gunji at the Plus One Karaoke Bar in Fukushima-ken and had a child by him. She was able to prove her daughter Mazanaa's parentage only after a DNA test showed that the probability

(Page 11, please)



BRITISH VIP: President Joseph "Erap" Ejercito Estrada receives Sir David Wright, chief executive of the British Trade International and his delegation, who called on him at Malacañang's Rizal Room. Also in photo are Finance Secretary Jose Pardo (partly hidden) and Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora (extreme right). (Malacañang photo)

A FARMER'S STORY

by JENNY JARA

A FARMER has his own tale and unique experience even if every farmer plants the same crops in the same piece of land. It is a story that he would gladly share to anyone who has ears and interest to listen. Once a farmer begins planting a new round of crops he never stops tending his plants until they are ready for harvest. Almost the holds true when a farmer finds time to divulge his experiences, the story of his life.

A TALE OF HIS OWN, A PATH OF HIS CHOICE

One example among many farmers in the country is Eduardo G. Bacor. His experience may be one of a kind.

For 18 years, Bacor has fastidiously served the Philippine military. Those years had fulfilled his childhood ambition of becoming a military soldier. He also became a member of the Reform the Arm Forces Movement (RAM). In the late 1980s during the Aquino administration, with the ideals of reforms and as a true-blooded RAM member, he joined in the failed coup d'etat staged by the Movement.

His love for life and fate brought him to Bacolod, where he felt safe as he waited for military unrest to settle down. It was a decision he made simply to elude arrest. Afterwards, he decided to go back home. Home to him is the Manila de Bugabos, Butuan in the Caraga Region. This time he had a new ambition — to become a farmer. He put

down his arms and combat uniform and joined the unsung heroes of the fields. Thus, Bacor decided to leave the military service, found and started a new profession and became what he is today.

CHALLENGES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Farming became his new profession, which has been a new challenge to Bacor. After 18 years of service as a soldier, he joined the ranks of farmers, those who get up before the sun rises and only leave their turf when the sun starts to set. It was a turf where he no longer need arms to protect himself from disturbing elements, and where he set aside his fears of being arrested.

Bacor had done well in his 18 years of military career. As he assumed his new profession, he promised himself to do better. He envisioned himself of becoming a farmer that can make the land productive and flourish with a bountiful harvest.

Bacor was determined to make the coconut land of his parents productive to support his family since he is out of the military service. There was no more monthly salary to expect to keep up with the living expenses. Bacor has to work in their coconut plantation for a living.

In 1995, a new challenge came to him as the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) initiated the formation of the Small Coconut Farmer's Organization (SCFO). Bacor became the president of SCFO in their barangay. It was through this new challenge that he was

convinced that there is not enough. He realized that hard work and patience coupled with the right farming system and technologies would guarantee food on the table, money in the pockets, and savings in the bank.

LEADING THE PACK THROUGH RESEARCH AND TRIALS

As leader of the organization, Bacor has tried a lot of farming systems and technologies that he can share with his fellow farmers to gain more profit from the land they till. He applied integrated farming practices in coconut with a mixture of introduced and indigenous technologies, which he found effective toward earning more from his labor.

His practice includes application of organic fertilizers at the base of trees. Bacor also claimed that he applies recommended inorganic fertilizer being given for free by PCA. To improve aeration of the soil, he constantly cultivates it, thus contributing to increase in yield. He also adopted the pruning and deleafing of coconut leaves for better sunlight penetration for intercropping.

Bacor grows bananas, lanzones and rambutan as intercropping to the coconuts. He is fond of growing Rambutan as a reminder of his RAM-days, he said. In open areas of the coconut plantation, he plants vegetables, corn and durian. He claimed that he practices organic farming. He uses animal manure, cut grasses and weeds as fertilizers. To

(Page 9, please)