

3 disco houses burn down at Discolandia

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

THREE DISCO houses in Laoag's red-light district burned down on the evening of April 12.

Based on the result of the initial investigation of the Laoag City Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), a certain Gloria Medina reported that a fire was in progress at Discolandia.

As a result, BFP officers responded immediately in fire truck numbers 5 and 6.

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LCGH UPGRADE ROW

# Court issues TRO vs LBP, LC on loan negotiation



By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ AND LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTERS

REGIONAL Trial Court Branch 16 Judge Conrado Ragucos handed down a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Laoag City government, effectively stopping current negotiations for a P350-million loan for the upgrade of the Laoag City General Hospital (LCGH).

In the three-page order, the court granted the Ilocos Norte provincial government's petition for a 20-day TRO, specifically restraining LBP and Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas from transacting a loan agreement for the LCGH upgrade.

The provincial government filed the petition on April 7 after it received reports that LBP has been considering the P350 million loan to the city government amidst the ongoing court case on

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POLICE Sen Lusad, officer-in-charge of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office hands over a token to Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon during his first command conference at Camp Valentin S. Juan, Laoag City.  
LANIE ADRIANO

## Construction of P183M Solsona-Apayao road set

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTER

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—The construction of a concrete road network connecting Ilocos Norte and Apayao is now set to start following the holding of a bidding for the P183 million project on April 15 in this city.

In an interview with Department of Public Works and Highways Assistant Regional Director for construction Daniel G. Domingo in San Fernando City

on April 15, he said the multi-million-peso project will open its first phase in Solsona, Ilocos Norte leading to Luna, Apayao.

Local residents in the two provinces will surely be benefited, Domingo said as the new road construction will open up new areas for agribusiness.

He added that the project would also boost the national government's 10-point agenda, which includes the creation of 6 to 10 million new jobs by 2010.

Domingo further stated that the new road network integrat-

ing the two provinces will undergo several phases of construction and is expected to be completed within 240 to 300 days.

At present, local entrepreneurs and residents of Ilocos Norte and Apayao have to pass through the Manila-North road via Cagayan for public and product transport which approximately takes about six hours of travel time.

With the new road system, Domingo said this will shorten travel time, making it more con-

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## New expressway to reduce travel time to La Union, Baguio

By CARLO P. CANARES  
CONTRIBUTOR

GOVERNMENT will soon build a new expressway that will cut down travel time in Northern Luzon.

In an interview with the local media in Pangasinan, Presidential Management Staff Chief Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the Php-11 million Tarlac-Pangasinan Expressway will provide fast and convenient manner of traveling for tourists and businessmen as well as increase trade and commerce.

The proposed 88 kilometer expressway, Esperon said, will be similar to the North Luzon Expressway.

It is divided into three phases: La Paz to Gerona, Tarlac; Gerona to Carmen, Pangasinan and Carmen to Rosario, La Union.

Once the new expressway is completed, Esperon estimated the travel time from La Paz, Tarlac to Rosario, La Union will be reduced to one hour. (PIA-Ilocos Norte)



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THE damaged Boao Bridge in Vintar, Ilocos Norte is set to be rehabilitated following the visit of Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael Keon in the said locality.

LANIE ADRIANO

## Human Rights Desk for PNP stations coming soon

BY CARLO P. CANARES  
CONTRIBUTOR

ALL PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) stations nationwide will soon have human rights desks following the approval for its activation by the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

Napolcom vice-chairman Eduardo Escueta said that the human rights desks shall monitor and maintain files or records of PNP personnel involved in human rights violations for analy-

sis and subsequent formulation and implementation of necessary interventions.

"The PNP must ensure that the designated human rights desk officers are properly educated and trained in the field of human rights," Escueta said. He also added that "it is high time that the PNP activates the human rights desks in all its police offices to cope with the alleged growing number of human rights violations."

The intensified awareness

campaign on human rights within the PNP is in view of the Napolcom en banc resolution number 2009-072. The resolution provides for the designation of human rights desk officers under the office or unit of regional, provincial, districts, city and national directors and chiefs of police who shall serve as focal points on all aspects of human rights relevant to the police within their respective jurisdiction. (PIA-Ilocos Norte)

## Pimentel urges opposition groups to hold unification convention

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Q. Pimentel, Jr. (PDP-Laban) urged various opposition groups to hold a national convention as part of the steps to unify their forces and to field a common presidential candidate in the 2010 elections.

Pimentel, chairman of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan, said the holding of a national unification convention is one of the practical ways by which the opposition parties can choose a single standard bearer in a most democratic, fair and transparent manner.

He said the opposition is fortunate to have a stable of bankable presidential aspirants. But he said it could also be a curse to them if they will fight each other, instead of joining forces to defeat their common foe—the party in power and its presidential candidate.

"There are so many opposition leaders aspiring to be president in the opposition camp. But political realities make it imperative for the opposition to choose

and support only one common candidate of the opposition. The others have give way and sacrifice their political ambition. Otherwise, they are courting electoral defeat," the senator from Mindanao said.

Opposition's presidential hopefuls include former President Joseph Estrada (Pwersang Masang Pilipino), Senators Manuel Villar (Nacionalista Party), Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero (Nationalist People's Coalition), Mar Roxas (Liberal Party) and Panfilo Lacson and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay (PDP-Laban).

Pimentel said he is proposing each of the presidential contenders in the opposition will be allowed to nominate an equal number of delegates to the convention, to be nominated by their respective parties and the aspirants themselves.

During the convention, all the presidential aspirants will be requested to address the delegates and present their platforms of government. The delegates will then cast their votes through se-

cret balloting. Whoever will get the highest number of votes will be proclaimed winner and official presidential bet of the united opposition.

Pimentel said the leaders various parties, together with the presidential aspirants, should meet as early as possible to draw up the rules and mechanics of the selection process and to make preparations for the national unification convention.

He lauded the initiative of Mr. Estrada in taking steps to unify the opposition forces and persuading the aspirants to agree on one common standard-bearer.

## Construction of P183M Solsona-Apayao road set

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venient to travelers and businesspeople.

Other new road networks are also being constructed in Northern Luzon integrating Regions I, II and the Cordillera.

## LC biz establishments urged again to install CCTV system

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

AS ONE OF its operations and security measures, the Laoag City government has again mandated all banks, pawnshops, moneychangers, financial institutions, and large-scale commercial establishments here to procure and install closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems in their respective establishments.

Laoag Councilor Joseph H. Tamayo, author of the ordinance, said this aims to help business establishments in the city in their operations and security.

Tamayo said the CCTV system will serve as their monitoring system of day-to-day operations inside and in the vicinity of the establishments.

Tamayo explained that he was prompted to sponsor this ordinance following crimes, irregularities and other untoward incidents that reportedly occurred in some business establishments.

Tamayo cited the armed robbery case of a business establishment of fellow Laoag Councilor Mariolito J. Carag, wherein around P60,000 cash was carted away.

If a CCTV system has been installed, Tamayo said the police would have been able to see the

suspect which would facilitate their task of tracking him down. However, in the absence of such system, law enforcers are having a harder time in their investigation.

Carag has strongly favored the CCTV ordinance saying this would be a great help to business people.

Tamayo added that based on the ordinance, business establishments have the right to choose where to acquire their CCTV systems, contrary to rumors that this would be used for Tamayo's business.

All banks have been given 90 days to comply with the ordinance while other establishments have up to one year.

Failure to comply to ordinance would be penalized with a P5,000 fine and revocation of business permit.

## No tuition fee increase at NWU

IT'S JUST THE same as last year. The tuition fee, that is, as Northwestern University opens its admission to freshmen, transferees and existing students this coming School Year 2009-2010. NWU president Ben A. Nicolas approved the implementation of the "No Tuition Fee Increase" for the upcoming academic year.

As with last school year, academic units remain at P323.62 for most of the undergraduate courses which includes Engineering, Nursing, Maritime and more. The only exception is the course BS Environmental Science which is at P290.52 per unit. For the Doctorate courses, it remains at P503.41 while it's at P402.21 for the Masters. Masters in Nursing has a slightly higher fee of P494.42 for the majors and 395.54 for the minor subjects.

According to an in-house study last year, among the private schools in Ilocos Norte, Northwestern University remains as the institution with the lowest tuition fee price per unit.

Summer enrollment is ongoing. Inquiries into the first semester in June are being entertained.

For additional information on the "No Tuition Fee Increase" at NWU, contact Spider Rodas at 7720322, 7721871 Loc. 116 or at 09293422333.

## 3 disco houses burn down at Discolandia

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Fire Officer 2 Lowell Tungpalan said the fire lasted about three hours resulting in the burning down of Discovery Disco and Videoke Bar, Amianan Disco, and the Asia Night Disco.

Tungpalan however said he could not yet determine the exact amount of damages.

Laoag fire marshal William Ralleca however promised to give the exact figure of damages after they have gone further in their investigation as they have invited concerned people to shed light on the issue, specifically the origin of the fire.

Ralleca was thankful that there was no casualties or injuries during the said incident.

Fire trucks from San Nicolas, Batac, Banna, Dingras, Paoay, Bacarra, Vintar and Sarrat also arrived on the scene to assist Laoag firefighters. The city government's water tanker was also deployed on the scene.

Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas thanked all the municipali-

ties which extended their assistance during the Discolandia fire as he also clarified rumors that the Laoag BFP was late to respond to the fire alarm.

Fariñas explained that the public should be understanding enough as a fire could spread easily and the Laoag firefighters also need time to respond depending on the distance of the fire scene.

As a result, Fariñas said he is contemplating the possibility that some amount from the city's calamity fund could be used in the purchase of another water truck.

THE ILOCOS TIMES learned that the city government water truck, which can carry 15,000 liters of water, played a big part during the fire incident as it was used by Laoag fire trucks to replenish their water supply.

"Awaten tay kad met dagitoy [Let us be more understanding of the] fire marshal. I believe they work quickly enough in their response it's just *alisto daytay panag-spread daydi uram* [the fire spread too quickly]. The good thing *ket awan naan-anu* [there were no injuries]," Fariñas said.

## Court issues TRO vs LBP, LC on loan negotiation

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the matter.

The TRO is meant to freeze any transaction entered into by the said bank and the city government to give "justice and fairness" to an earlier petition filed in court.

Earlier this year, the provincial government, represented by Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon filed a petition for permanent prohibitory injunction in court against the city government alleging that the proposed LCGH upgrade is illegal.

The provincial government said in its petition that there was "no Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution has been approved and adopted for the construction of the proposed health facility except for a city resolution authorizing Fariñas to obtain a P350 million loan for the hospital upgrade."

According to PGIN lawyer Zandro Marie Obra, the acquisition of a P350-million loan for the LCGH upgrade is "not in accordance with the approved local development plan and investment program" as the city government has only allocated P9 million for the upgrade of the existing LCGH.

In handing down the TRO, the court believes there is a need to maintain the "status quo" until the Provincial government's present petition for permanent prohibitory injunction is resolved.

A hearing for the continuance of the current petition has been set on April 30 at 2:00 pm.

Meanwhile, officials of the city government was surprised by the TRO but said they respect the court's decision.

"Actually we were surprised, together with the city mayor *idi kalman. Ta uray kuma na-grant-an ta TRO no adda kuma met bond nga inpan*

*da* [yesterday (April 14). For they should have put up a bond when they granted the TRO]," Laoag City legal officer Marlon Wayne D. Manuel said.

Manuel added: "What about if the city will win the case, *napanan ngarud tay damage tayon ta maysa ak met nga umili iti siyudad iti Laoag* [what would happen to the damages that would be incurred by the delay for I am also a Laoag resident]."

Manuel however maintained that he respects the decision adding that it is only a 20-day TRO and that the April 30 hearing could delve on its possible extension.

The city government also remains hopeful, according to Manuel, that the honorable judge would not close his eyes to the fact that the city needs better health services for the people.

Manuel stressed that one of the priority projects of the current Laoag administration is health.

"That's why we are praying that the judge will look into the noble intention of the city government," Manuel explained.

Manuel also pointed out that no one should claim victory for the TRO for it is the people of Laoag as well as other Ilocos Norte residents who need better health services are the ones losing out.

For his part, Laoag Councilor Francis Dacuycuy, chair of the council's health committee, said he was disappointed by the TRO as this is one way of delaying the necessary services for the people of Laoag.

Dacuycuy however said that the city government could wait for the 20-day TRO to lapse and maybe the court would then see the importance of upgrading the said hospital.

## Is calcium important?

By ANNIE LYN D. BACANI  
CONTRIBUTOR

CALCIUM is the most abundant mineral in our body. It keeps the body alive by performing numerous functions including building and maintaining bones and teeth. It also helps in regulating blood clotting, transmitting nerve impulses, muscle flexing and heartbeat.

Ninety nine percent of the calcium in our body is stored in the bones and teeth. The remaining one percent is found in the blood and other tissues. Calcium-

rich foods, therefore, should be regarded as an essential part of our diet.

Calcium is important because once its level in the blood drops, our blood looks for another source of calcium to keep us alive. And this will be taken from our bones! This is called "calcium cannibalism", the process where blood feeds on the calcium in the bones.

If calcium cannibalism continues unchecked, it may lead to weaker, more brittle bones, and possibly osteoporosis later in life.

Calcium deficiency can cause nerve sensitivity, muscle spasms,

and leg cramps or tetany when very low levels are in the blood. It can lead to loss of calcium from the bone, initially from the jaw and the backbone, which can result to deformity. In conjunction with high sodium intake, this is related to a higher risk of hypertension. It can also cause sleep disorders and hyperactivity.

Our need for calcium varies. The Philippine Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake (RENI) published by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST), dis-

Population group	Reference weight (kg)	RENI (mg/day)
Infants (months)		
Birth - <6	6	200
6 - <12	9	400
Children (years)		
1 - 3	13	500
4 - 6	19	550
7 - 9	24	700
Male (years)		
10 - 18		1000
19 - 64	59	750
65 and over	59	800
Female (years)		
10 - 18		1000
19 - 49	51	750
50 and over	51	800
Pregnant women		800
Lactating women		750

cusses in detail the calcium intakes for specific Filipino population groups.

Good sources of calcium are milk and milk products which have the highest concentration per serving of highly-absorbable calcium. Dark leafy green vegetables, dried beans and legumes have varying amounts of absorbable calcium. Other sources of calcium include dried *dilis* or anchovies, *tofu*, canned fish, eggs, and nuts. Bread and cereals, although relatively low in calcium,

contribute significantly to total intake of calcium because of the frequency of consumption. Calcium-fortified food products, like juices and snack foods are also available.

So, is calcium important? If your answer is yes, make sure to drink at least one glass of milk a day and eat foods rich in calcium. This will help meet the requirements for maintaining optimal bone health and smooth operation of other vital body processes. If not, brace for a crippling disease like osteoporosis!

For more information on calcium or any food and nutrition concern, write or call: Dr. Mario V. Capanzana, Director, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City. Email [mvc@fnri.dost.gov.ph](mailto:mvc@fnri.dost.gov.ph) or [mar\\_v\\_c@yahoo.com](mailto:mar_v_c@yahoo.com). Tel/Fax: 837-2934; 837-3164; 837-2071 local 2296 or visit our website at <http://www.fnri.gov.ph>. (FNRI-DOST S&T Media Service)

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### Offers P2,999 seat sale to Incheon, Busan, and Osaka

PHILIPPINE value-airline Cebu Pacific (CEB) is offering a promotional P2,999 one-way fare to Korea and Osaka, Japan from April 16 to April 23, 2009, reflecting as much as 70 percent in savings from current fares from other airlines.

Travel period is from June 1 to July 31, 2009 for the Manila-Osaka route and June 1 to September 30, 2009 for the flights to Korea.

Promotional fares are non-refundable. Fare is exclusive of applicable government taxes.

CEB offers daily flights from both Manila and Cebu to Incheon (Seoul) and twice weekly flights (Tuesday and Sunday) from Cebu to Gimhae, Busan. The airline also offers thrice weekly flights (Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday) from Manila to Osaka.

CEB president Lance Gokongwei said the low fares are designed to duplicate CEB's success in stoking travel within the Philippines where it continues to be the Number 1 domestic carrier.

After the sale, CEB's lowest year-round fare to Korea and Osaka starts at P4,999 one-way, which is still 60% lower than those offered by other airlines.

"The seat sale of Cebu Pacific for flights from Osaka and Korea will definitely be a tremendous boost to our efforts to attract more Japanese and Korean travelers to the Philippines," said Department of Tourism Director Benito Bengzon Jr.

Passengers traveling to Korea with no check-in baggage get a P200 discount from the fare.

For flight bookings, passengers can log onto [www.cebupacificair.com](http://www.cebupacificair.com), call the reservations hotline at 70-20-888, or visit their nearest travel agent.

CEB has the most number of inter-island routes and flight connections from its hubs in Clark, Manila, Cebu and Davao. It flies to 31 domestic destinations and 15 international cities.

Now on its 14<sup>th</sup> year, CEB continues to have the youngest aircraft fleet in the Philippines, comprised of 11 Airbus A320, 10 Airbus A319, and eight ATR 72-500.

# Paradise

AS THE SUMMER of 2009 beckons, Ilocos Norte is making a pitch towards becoming one of the pre-eminent summer destinations in the country. Recently, this stark and ruggedly beautiful province has been extensively featured in newspapers, magazines and TV. All extolling the various unique features of the province; from its rich colonial and historical legacies to its pristine forests, mountains and beaches.

Take a trip back in time by visiting the centuries old Spanish buildings and churches. Or staying at the renowned Sitio Remedios resort in Currimao.

Or hearken back to a more primeval age by trekking through the ancient rainforests of Adams.

## VIEW FROM THE BELLTOWER

STEVIE T. BARREIRO



Or enjoy the timeless beauty of the sea by one of the many fine beaches that abound along our magnificent coastline.

Visitors such as the Rotary GSE groups from Wales, England and Wisconsin, USA were struck by the sheer beauty of this place. Even those who have lived here before, are no less inspired. As in ABS-CBN TV Patrol reporter Nina Corpuz; who is the daughter of entrepreneur and former Board Member Nesty Corpuz.

Ilocos Norte. Enchanting. Magnificent. A place so often described as... "paradise".



SURVEYING the surreal rock formations in Kapurpurawan with ABS-CBNs Nina Corpuz, sister Naomi Corpuz and cousin Niko Corpuz of Caterpillar Learning Center.



CORPUZ cousins traverse the hanging bridge in Adams, Ilocos Norte



AN idyllic scene in Adams.



ADMIRING the sheer majesty of the Patapat Viaduct with ABS-CBNs Nina Corpuz



NINA Corpuz poses with the indigenous mountainfolk of Adams garbed in their traditional costume.



IN Governor Michael Keon charms 2004 Miss Wisconsin Molly McGrath



ROTARY GSE visitors from Wales and Wisconsin having a good time at Gertes Resort.

# Samtoy-Bannatiran

Ni CRISTINO ILORETA INAY, SR.

WEN, KAILIAN, saanak a nagriro idi ibagak a kasla saanen a makaanak a pusa dagiti agpangpanggep nga agkandidato iti masungad nga eleksion ti 2010. Adayo pay ti eleksion ngem mangruging nga agkamkampania dagiti agpangpanggep nga agkandidato. Ti imasna ipetteng latta ti Komisyon ti Eleksion nga awan kano ti linabsing a linteg dagita a tattao nga agpangpanggep nga agkandidato iti masungad nga eleksion ti 2010 idinto a nakalawlawag nga adayo pay ti aldaw a naikeddeng a panangrugi ti panagkampaniada a kas kandidato iti napilida a posision ngem ngawngawdan a ngawngaw. Itadiak maawatan ti utek dagiti adda iti ikub ti Komisyon ti Eleksion. Salbag! Ayna, sal-it ketdi a biag! Ita ania met ti makunam, Kailian? Ngirsi wenno isem a kasla isem ti aso ti maisungbatmo kadayta a saludsodko? Dika koma agbalin nga umel, Kailian.

Ita matdaak laeng nga agsisiim ken agpaliw no addan garaw ti nakatugaw iti Palasio ti Malakanyang, dagiti senador ken dagiti diputado maipanggep kadagiti kunniber a HUES ken PISKAL nga agaw-awat ti pasuksok wenno pasukib? Nakapuy a pudno ti nakatugaw iti dayta a Palasio ti Malakanyang. Sumangkautro met a sadut dagiti senador ken dagiti diputado. Ngem awan la ngatan, aya, kadakuada ti saan a rinuker ti kararuana? Diak mamati a bin-igda amin nga IBBONG a senador ken diputado. Ala, aguraytayo man ketdi, a, amangan ta addan gunay wenno garaw nga aramidenda tapno mapasardeng ken mapukawen a maminpinsan dagiti kunniber a HUES ken PISKAL kadagiti amin korte iti intero a pagilantayo a Filipinas. Sapay la koma ta saanda nga agintutuleng wenno agintuturog. Saan nga amen ta saan a tur-og ti SAMTOY-BANNATIRAN. Adu pay ti nayonna.

Ditoy America, Kailian, sibibiag latta a kanayon ti makunkuna a racial discrimination kadagiti kailiantayo ditoy a paset ti lubong. Saantayo koma a kaluban ti agdadata a kinapudno. Ngamin no sika a Filipino ket mailaokka kadagiti Espanggol, este, Espaniol kunak koma sigurado a maaruska. Iti ababa a panna saanak nga agbayag nga agrabaho kadayta a kompania. Saan a tungtong basilio dayta ta pudno nga awan ti surok ken kurangna. Agbalinka a nakakaasi. Kanayonka a maipaspasuli. Uray dagiti pugot narigat met a kaludon dagitoy a tattao. Narigat a maawatan ti ugalida. Ngem no agdamagka kadagiti kailian, ayna, pamrayanda la a kuna ti kastoy: an-anusli... barbarengli. Ngem inton kaano pay a dumteng ti kaasi ti nangato a langit... a... Kailian? Inton umayan

ti Armagedon? Iti ababa a panna, Kailian, pudno a narigat ti biag ditoy America. Saanak nga agsalsalawasaw! Anong sey mo, Kabayan?

Lagidawek met ti agdama a nakatugaw iti Palasio ti Malakanyang nga isu awan sabali no di ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ta ti kayatna ngamin ket maituloy koma ti makunkuna a cha-cha wenno charter change. Ti kayatda a sawen, Kailian, balbaliwanda ti agdama a porma ti konstitusiyon. Uray dagiti dadduma a senador ken

diputado kayatda met a mabalbaliwan ti agdama a konstitusiyon. Ti makunak: SAL-AT! Sapay nalipatam kadin, aya, di panawen ti martial law, Kailian? Matmaturogka kadi pay laeng? Agridamka koma a kanayon.

Saan nga ang-angaw ti mapaspasamak iti uneg dagiti amin a korte iti intero a Filipinas. Kaaduanna kadagiti HUES ken PISKAL ti napeklan a kunniber. Agaw-awatda kadagiti pasukib wenno pasuksok. Iti kasta a mapaspasamak sigurado a saan a nasayaat ti pannagna wenno panaglaway dagiti amin a korte iti intero a pagilantayo. Nalawag dayta a ladawan ti kagimongantayo. Dagiti kriminal saanda a mabalud. Matdada laeng nga agragrag sak uray nakapatayda. Kasano met daytan a biag, Kailian? Saanto ngatan, aya, nga agbalbaliw wenno agreporma dagiti kunniber a HUES ken PISKAL kadagiti amin a kortetayo, Kailian? Nabaked dayta a saludsod. No adda la koma mabalud a kunniber a HUES ken PISKAL nalabit nga agbalbaliw ti ugali ken kadawyan dagiti amin a HUES ken PISKAL. Aguraytayo....

Iti masungad nga eleksion 2010 masapul a dimo koma ilako ta butosmo, Kailian.

Agpilika a sitatanang. Imuriam ti listaam. Kugtaram dagiti mananakaw, dagiti kriminal, dagiti adu ti assawana, ken dagiti sugador. Kailian, laglagipem koma ti masakbayan ti pagilantayo.

Ditoy Amerika, Kailian, adun a Kadaraantayo ti di agsarday nga agaramid ti maikanniwas ti linteg. Diak maawatan ti kababalinda. Agbalinda a kriminal, mananakaw ken naturedda metten a makikamalala. Uray naisaapawen ti ubanda. Sal-at di nalpas a sal-at! Ngem pudno dayta a kunak, Kailian. Isuda dagitay IGGES ditoy Amerika. Ay, saanda koman nga aglinglinged iti sinammata ta pudno amin dagiti sinaok. Ti pakasdaawak la unay no apay a nakaumay dagiti nga IGGES ditoy Amerika. Ulitek adu dagiti kailian nga aglemlemeng ditoy lubong ni Angkel Samuel. Napia koma no saanda a mangibabain!

No maysaka a mannurat masapul koma nga igaedmo ti agsurat. Dayta ti maibalakadko kenka, Kailian. Dika agsadsadut.

Agbasaka ken agsuratka a kanayon. Iti

kasta maasa ta panunotmo. Agsanayka koma nga agsurat. Ti maysa a mannurat nalaing nga agpaliw. Nasidap ti panunotna. Sapay koma ta maawatannak met laeng, Kailian.

Agingga kadagitoy a darikmat diak latta maawatan no ania itan ti pagturogan ti GUMIL Filipinas. Pudno a malidayanak la unay, Patgek a Kamannurat, ti kastoy a mapaspasamak iti ikub ti gunglotayo a mannurat nga Ilokano. Agsasaruno dagiti parikut a mangted ti mansa ti GUMIL Filipinas. Sapay? Nakastreken dagiti PUDNO NGA IGGES iti ikub ti GUMIL Filipinas! Inayontayo pay dagiti mannurat wenno mannurot a nalaing a tumaul iti sintonado. Taulda a taul! Salbag! Ita sadino itan, Patgek a Kamannurat, ti pagturogan ti GUMIL Filipinas? Iti purgatorio, langit wenno iti umap-apuy nga IMPIERNO? Riingek dagiti amin a kamannurat nga Ilokano a kameng ti GUMIL Filipinas. Agtimekkayo itan!

Agingga kadagitoy a panawen diak la ketdi agsardeng a mangdillaw wenno manglagidaw ti awan sardayna a kinapangas dagiti dadduma a kailian ditoy America ken Hawaii a kunada a nakapimpintas kano ti biag ditoy a paset ti lubong. Saanda nga ammo ti agsao ti pudno. Bulsek dagitoy a kailian. Ipangasda la unayen ti kaaddada ditoy America ken Hawaii. Saanda nga ammo nga imutektekan ken amirisen dagiti kinapudno a mapaspasamak iti kagimongantayo ditoy ballasiw-titaaw. Agbalbaliwkayo koman, Kailian! Apay saankayo kadin nga agrigat kabayatan ti kaaddayo ditoy a paset ti lubong? Saanyo koma a lablabsan ti agsarita ta nakababain ti kasta nga aramid. Sapay koma ta maawatannak, Padak a Nagurat!

Kadakayo amin a, Patgek a Kamannurat nga Ilokano, saantayo koma nga itulok a marebba ti GUMIL Filipinas! Kugtarantayo nga iparusisi dagiti IGGES nga agpanggep a mangrebbba ken mangpukaw ti GUNGLLOTAYO A MANNURAT NGA ILOKANO! Ketdi tulongantayo koma a kanayon ti gunglotayo tapno saan a mapukaw a kasla asuk! Mmamatikayo koma. Ngamin nakastreken dagiti mananggundaway a diak ammo no mannurat wenno mannurot dagitoy. Agumda. Awan baina. No ammoda la koma no kasano a naitukit ti BUKEL ti gunglotayo a kinapudno. Agin-inayadkayo met, a. Adu pay ti nayonna. No adda dillaw-singasingyo, Kabsat a Kamannurat, suratandak laeng iti email adresko: [crisinay@yahoo.com](mailto:crisinay@yahoo.com) wenno [samtoybannatiran@yahoo.com](mailto:samtoybannatiran@yahoo.com).

# Pick your scholar

## GSIS Scholarship Program

With the 2009 G SIS Scholarship Program, your relative or friend can enjoy up to Php 20,000 tuition and miscellaneous fees per semester, and a monthly stipend of Php 2,000.

Members of good standing are qualified to join. Winners in the electronic draw may nominate a friend or member of their family who is an incoming freshman or an enrolled college student. There are 200 slots available.



Application forms are available at all G SIS offices nationwide, and are also downloadable from [www.gsis.gov.ph](http://www.gsis.gov.ph). Application period is from February 9 to April 14, 2009. The electronic raffle draw is on April 17, 2009.

For more information, please call Emma, Amie, or Jesse at 9764970 or visit [www.gsis.gov.ph](http://www.gsis.gov.ph).



## BI posts P544-M take in first quarter of 2009

DESPITE the low turnout of arriving foreigners in the country due to global economic slowdown, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) still managed to earn more than half a billion pesos during the first quarter of the year.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan disclosed that the bureau's income from January to March amounted to more than P544 million, which is P24-million higher than the P520 million the agency earned in the same period last year.

The three-month take is also P62.3-million or 11-percent more than the collection target of P482 million during the first quarter.

Libanan said that with its

impressive collection performance in the first quarter, the BI is on track to duplicate, if not surpass, its P2.1-billion income in 2008.

"This is a good indication that even with the prevailing economic crisis, foreigners are still entering the country and that they are complying with our immigration laws and paying their fees to the government," the BI chief said.

Last year marked the first time the bureau's annual income reached more than P2 billion, thus furthering bolstering its position as a member of the "billionaires' club" of government agencies.

He also attributed the steady rise in the BI's income to the success of the reform programs that were instituted

to cut red tape and facilitate the delivery of fast and efficient services to the transacting public.

According to BI finance chief Elvira Presado, the bureau's monthly collection in the first quarter was also higher than the monthly take during same period in 2008.

Presado reported that the bureau's take was highest in January when collections amounted to more than P216 million compared to P207 million in January last year.

The bureau's collection in February was P169.4 million and in March it was P158.5 million while the take in February and March last year amounted to P155 million and P158 million, respectively.

THE **ilocos times** is the longest running community newspaper in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte, founded in 1920. Its regular weekly publication started in October 1957.

Edited and published in Laoag City, the paper contains 80% English and 20% Iloko, with a primary circulation covering the Ilocos Region and subscribers in Metro Manila and other provinces, and Ilocanos abroad.

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THE **ilocos times - ON LINE EDITION** was constructed in July 2000. Now on its 9<sup>th</sup> year, it is the first and only Ilocos Norte-based electronic source of local news and information for Ilocanos across the globe.

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## Reading the signs of the times

(The following is an article written by Fr. Roy Cimagala—Ed)

THIS TASK already had its tricky parts since time immemorial. But compared to present conditions, the past was rather a very simple and easy task to carry out.

Given the multiplying forces and influences that go into our current culture, reading the signs of the times has become more a formidable task that approaches the level of a nightmare.

### Editorial

And precisely because of our complex, intricate and puzzling world, this task has become more necessary. We need to stay away from the grip of ignorance, confusion, error, the ingredients of perdition.

Still, not everything is lost and beyond hope. The amount of information, given our ever-developing technologies, is not only massive and profound but is also much easier to access now.

Besides, we are never lacking of people with great potentials to effectively undertake this delicate task. We just need to discover them and inspire them.

What we needed at present is the discipline to have an abiding concern to read the signs of the times. This is no simple thing, since it's not just a matter of attitude, habits and skills, though they figure prominently in this task.

Yes, we need to learn how to collect data, compare notes, dialogue with different parties, consult experts, study, reflect, make conclusions and plan, etc., but all these are not enough.

Rather, this discipline in the end depends on our living contact and relationship with what we consider as our God, what we regard as our ultimate source of light and understanding.

This is where the main problem comes. Many of us still rely almost exclusively on our own devices, our own natural endowments. Many still have not managed to link our best resources with an objective and transcendent God.

Instead, many of us still feel our high intelligence, our cleverness, our increasing scientific expertise are enough. It is as if these can be equivalent to God. Thus, we fail to realize that our sophistication can turn into naivete.

Remember St. Paul saying: "The foolish things of the world has God chosen, that he may confound the wise. The weak things of the world has God chosen, that he may confound the strong." (1 Cor 1,27)

Many of us still don't realize that this objective and transcendent God, completely supernatural to us, makes himself accessible to us in ways that are revealed as well as established by him, with our cooperation.

There are the doctrines, the sacraments, the Church, etc. that can truly connect us with this living God. What's needed is that we have the necessary dispositions, and from there, the appropriate practices and virtues, to keep this bond alive and abiding.

With these prerequisites, we can aspire to read the signs of the times. We can penetrate the externals and appearances, expose the ethos animating our society, and monitor its development—from gestation to maturity and decay.

With these prerequisites, we can have the needed criteria for judgment, and keep distance from shallow and narrow perceptions. We would have a running account of how things are evolving in the different areas.

We have to acquire the expertise of identifying the significant elements of our current culture, and to articulate what is good and bad in them, what is right and wrong. Only then can we attempt to come up with the appropriate remedies. And I believe that there always are cures for our problems.

These days, for example, the Pope has warned us about the dangers of relativism, both in belief and in morals. We need to be familiar with its nature, ways and manifestations.

There are other disturbing isms affecting us today, like individualism, hedonism, positivism, etc. We need to know them and see how they are affecting us.

From there, we can try to clarify matters, pointing out their lack of basis, their inherent contradictions, and the unavoidable dead ends that they lead to. Of course, we have to do all this with utmost charity, shunning unnecessary frictions with other people.

We have to outgrow whatever hesitation we may have with respect to this responsibility. Sometimes, we think this is too cerebral, too abstract and not relevant, since its need and effects are often not directly felt.

## Not for 2010

### IN & OUT

STEVIE T. BARREIRO



LAST APRIL 13, Judge Conrado Ragucos of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 16, issued a TRO effectively preventing the Laoag City government from transacting a P350 million-peso loan with the Land Bank for the proposed LCGH upgrade.

City officials reacted with disappointment and comments about the reversal being detrimental to the citizens of Laoag.

But is the proposed project really intended for the benefit of the good citizens of Laoag City?

In a press conference earlier this year, Laoag Mayor Michael Farinas announced the acquisition by the city of five hemodialysis machines to the cheers of a sympathetic yet unknowing audience. Reportedly, treatments would be given at a much cheaper rate than the normal, some even for free.

With regards to the LCGH upgrade, City officials maintain that there is a need for a modern medical center that can provide the "best" medical treatments. How true. But will the proposed upgraded LCGH really provide first class medical care to the people of Laoag?

The bottom line is: Who is going to pay for the first class medi-

cal treatment? There are state of the art medical facilities in the Philippines such as the renowned St. Luke's Medical Center. But availing of treatment at this facility can be very expensive. A comprehensive executive check-up alone costs anywhere from P25,000-35,000 depending on the package option. That is just for an executive check-up alone. While the facility commits a percentage of its income, a significant amount for charity, the vast majority of patients have to PAY.

That is why the St. Luke's Medical Center is able to establish and maintain such a high medical standard. But this facility is privately owned and thus profit oriented. This facility provides excellent medical care. To those who can afford to pay. It is not for the marginalized general public.

Not so with the LCGH. The facility even if the upgrade ever pushes through is government-owned and by definition is a service-oriented facility. Govern-

ment hospitals exist to provide medical care to the vast majority of citizens who cannot afford costlier, private medical care. Limited budgets, limited income opportunities, coupled with more numbers of patients

seeking treatment result in medical care that is qualitatively inferior to the services provided by a private hospital. Not to mention the corruption inherent in every government run facility.

Therein lays the contradiction. City officials claim that the people need a state of the art medical center to provide first class medical care to the people. They do not say that the people will have to PAY for such first class treatment. Thus only a few people will be able to avail of the proposed facility. Not the majority of the people of Laoag contrary to what City officials claim. Otherwise, there is no way that the City can maintain the supposed "high-tech" medical services that the LCGH will supposedly provide. *Binobola na naman tayo ng mga opisyal na ng ciudad!* WHY?

At one of our monthly meetings at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a prominent civic leader and busi-

Turn to page 8

## To dream

To dream just within your means is no dream at all.

It is a breath in a coffin, a step on the grave, a sprint to putrefaction, and a swim toward oblivion.

To dream just the easy option is no dream at all.

It is forging the obvious, sketching the completed, revising the evident, and adoring the wasted.

To really dream

### THE BARD OF BLAISE

JOPO GUERRERO



is to live amidst deaths, to rise amidst falls, to fight amidst surrenders and to fly toward the rain of fire.

Yes, to really dream

is to have a steely resolve to realize the unfeasible — whatever it shakes or breaks in this selfish, arrogant and cold present.

-o0o-

**BARD NOTES:** Happy bard-reading to all employees of MTCC Branch 2 in Laoag City and the Calajate and Prieto families of Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

Email — jopo\_guerrero@yahoo.com / URL — www.redroom.com/member/jopoguerrero.

## Carved in stone

"NO VISITORS ALLOWED," the hospital room sign read. The wife pressed me gently forward. So, we tiptoed in.

Hooked to tubes, the gaunt man, on the bed, was a friend of many years. His kindnesses to me were many. After

anointing, the priest gave him "Vaticum"—Latin for the "way with you." My friend would not cross the passageway alone. *Hindi siya mag-iisa.*

"I'm fighting," he gasped. He was one never to wallow in self-pity. A tear trickled down as he gripped my hand. "Good of you to come." At a loss for words, I squeezed his hand. Goodbye can be said in many ways.

As we closed the door, Thomas a' Kempis words resonated. "Man is here today. And gone tomorrow... You're a fool if you assume you'll live long when you're not even sure of one day."

Easter infuses death—and resurrection—with the light of Christ's crucifixion and rising.

But pre-conceived ideas of Easter trap many of us, notes Irish theologian Eamonn Bredin. Some assume Easter is "little than the simple resuscitation of a larger-than-life Jesus." They lump His rising with that of Lazarus, startling though that was.

If that be the case, "we have no hope," Bredin writes in "Rediscovering Jesus." That'd be a reprieve, before falling back into death. "If for this life only we hoped in Christ," Paul wrote, "we are, of all men, most

### IN-DEPTH

JUAN L. MERCADO



to be pitied."

Today, four out of every 10 teenagers (aged 13-19) do not believe in life beyond death, a survey of 1,300 urban students by Philippine Jesuits reports. "Those who believe 'there is no resurrection' are majority of the young around us," Loyola School of Theology's Catalino Arevalo, S.J. writes

What are the empty tomb and folded burial shroud to these kids? Like the women on Easter morning, will they futilely "seek the living among the dead?"

Luke and John come close to a physical description of Jesus after his crucifixion. Time and space no longer bind Him. He comes and vanishes, even if doors are shut. Nor do they recognize Him immediately, in the Upper Room or on Lake Galilee.

They encounter Him in a new way. "He had become another," Fr. Arevalo notes. "I think of that quaint expression people sometimes use in *Taglish*: You are very another *na*."

"Their eyes were opened," the evangelists add, "and they recognized Him in the breaking of bread"—description of the Eucharist, since Pilate's time.

The disciples, too, were from

the D and E social classes. They abandoned their master. What transformed them after Easter?

They met Jesus after Calvary and arrived at an absolute certitude: this Jesus, who died on the cross, entered a radically transformed life.

That "brought Peter the Rock, out of Simon the betrayer, or a crucified Paul out of a crucifying Saul, or a church of martyrs out of the scattered disciples."

"We Filipinos use the idiom *itaga mo sa bato* ("anchor to a rock") to assert our utmost confidence," Pastor Lino Pantoja writes. And 2,500 years before Easter, a man spoke of the resurrection in "words engraved in rock."

As Easter's "unrecognized prophet", Job uttered his primitive theology of the resurrection: "Oh that my words were engraved in rock forever...I know that my Redeemer lives. And in the end, He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19: 25-27).

The experience of Job and the disciples has been refracted to us over the centuries. Those who lived out the implications of Easter—Mother Teresa or John Paul II—stammered to articulate its meaning.

"Not everything has a name," Solzhenitsyn writes. "Some things lead us into the realm beyond words... For an instant, you glimpse the Inaccessible. And the soul cries out for it."

(E-mail: [juanlmercado@gmail.com](mailto:juanlmercado@gmail.com))

## Crowning of Jesus with thorns shows His kingship

**CROWNING OF JESUS WITH THORNS:** The Third Sorrowful Mystery of the Holy Rosary of Roman Catholic Christians talks about the crowning of Jesus with thorns.

The account of this event is found in Matthew 27:29, Mark 15:17, John 19:2 of the Bible. There is no account of it in the Gospel of Luke.

According to these Biblical passages, Pilate tried to release Jesus who, by then, was presented to Him after He was arrested.

But the crowd instead asked for the release of another man, Barabbas, the convicted murderer, and insisted that Jesus be crucified.

Jesus was subsequently flogged, on orders of Pilate, and later was brought to the Praetorium in the company of many soldiers. The soldiers stripped Jesus of His clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Then the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head. Putting a staff in His hand, the soldiers then knelt in front of Him and mocked Him, saying "Hail, king of the Jews."

After they mocked Him, they took off His robe and put on His own clothes on Him.

The soldiers then led away to crucify Him, thus fulfilling His prophecies about His suffering in the hands of the Jews before His crucifixion.

### KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

-o0o-

**HOW DO WE SHOW THAT WE TRUST GOD?** Ernesto Turla, a Pampangueno who is a member of the Kapampangan Community Worldwide e-group, asked a question in relation to a column of mine: how can man show his trust in God? Here is my answer to him:

"The Bible teaches us how to trust God, in its many verses.

"One such wonderful verse is found in Proverbs 3:5-6. From my recollection, this particular passage says: TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH.

"Trusting the Lord with all our hearts, and leaning not on our own understanding could mean following God's commands, laws and decrees, even if we do not comprehend what those commands, laws and decrees are.

"How do we follow God's commands, laws and decrees? By knowing exactly what these commands, decrees, and laws are. How do we know what these commands, decrees and laws are?

"By reading the Bible of course. The Bible says that 'All Scripture is inspired by God' (2 Timothy 3:16).

In Joshua 1:8, it says (if my memory serves me right, of course) that we should not forget to read the Book of the Law (the Bible), and to meditate on it day and night, taking care to follow all the commands and the decrees we will find there, so that it would go well with us and our lives would be longer here on earth.

-o0o-

**READING THE BIBLE IS TRUSTING GOD:** "By reading the Bible, we listen to the Word of God. And if we listen to the Word of God, and comply with what He commands and decrees us to do, we shall be exalted among all the nations (Deuteronomy 28:1).

And we would also be given all the blessings and benefits of following God (Deuteronomy 28:2-14, among others).

"This was, in fact, what Jesus Christ also emphatically said in Matthew 7:24-25. He said, paraphrasingly, "whoever hears My Word and lives according to the Word is an intelligent man who put up his house with a strong stone foundation. Even when problems came, that house stood strong."

Trusting God is therefore not simply saying "bahala na" and "Ikaw na po ang bahala O Diyos".

"No, far from it. Trusting God is precisely striving to know His commands, laws and decrees and then following all of them, even if many a time we may feel that these commands, laws and decrees are impossible to comply with.

"Let us remember that both God the Father and God the Son took care to point to us that we should both know His commands, laws and decrees, and then follow them, live them, and use them as the basis for our thoughts, words and actions everyday.

"That is the real way to trust God—learning and knowing and then living His Word.

"Merely saying we trust God is not enough. That is tantamount to faith without works, which is actually useless (Please see James 2:17 and 26, and then James 2:20).

"The real way is, as I already said, knowing His commands, laws and decrees, and then following all of these commands, laws and decrees without fail. May God have mercy on us always."

-o0o-

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

## The new life

THAT'S WHAT Easter actually means. With Christ's resurrection, with his triumph over sin and death, through the Cross, we actually have a new life.

We are not anymore enemies of God, alienated and cursed, condemned to eternal death.

We are now children of his, his people, living members of Christ's mystical body!

That is, as long as we do our part, learn to correspond to his love, since as St. Augustine once said, while he created us without us, he cannot save us without us. That's just how it is, my friend.

And this is simply because we are men, we are persons, with intelligence and free will. Things that happen in our life, while always under God's loving and all-powerful providence, are also things for which we just have to be responsible.

That's the reason why Our Lord had to do so many complicated things to save us. Yes, what a complicated plan of salvation he undertook! This is to show us the way for which we too can be responsible for our own salvation.

The second person of the Blessed Trinity had to become man, he truly shared the condition of man, even in our weakened nature. He respected the way we are and was willing to recreate that wounded nature of ours by showing us the only way.

He had to be born poor, he spent 30 years of hidden life subject to Mary and Joseph and to all other human authorities. He worked hard, with his hands, as a carpenter.

### ANALYSIS

FR. ROY CIMAGALA



We are told that he did all things well.

Then he started his public life, preaching about the Kingdom of God, about repentance, about the beatitudes. He did some miracles, but only to highlight his divinity and his mercy.

Then he culminated all these by dying on the Cross. He could have chosen another way, a more comfortable one, after all nothing is impossible with him. But he chose the Cross.

That was the most painful, most humiliating kind of death! No other death can approximate the cruelty of his death. To die by the tsunami or by poisoning, already very ugly in their human form, cannot compare with his death.

This is to show the enormity of all the malice of all men, from Adam and Eve to the last person to be born in this world. He was willing to carry all the burden of our sins, to be the lamb to be sacrificed, the ransom to be paid.

This is also to show how much he loves us. He accepted his death calmly, peacefully, with only the human whimper of pain of a son to his father. His love is not passive or formalistic. It was, it is total and active always, going all the way.

This is also to show us how we

can truly recreate ourselves, by learning how to love, all the way to its most demanding part—to learn how to suffer, how to forgive.

May we learn how to suffer, how to embrace and love the Cross, not just tolerate it, but to love it. Suffering, in whatever

form, should be for us the invitation to identify ourselves with Christ, the surest sign of loving.

This is the new life that our Lord is giving us with his resurrection. If we only can be better Christians, by learning how to correspond to his love!

He had given us his sacraments and doctrine, he has given us nothing less than the Church—over which the gates of hell cannot prevail, he assured us—to make sure we can always be with him.

This new life wants us to be more consistent to the teachings and life of Christ himself, a legacy entrusted to the Church. Let's not get entangled with the mistakes and weaknesses of the men that comprise the Church—that's us.

We just have to try to go deep in our knowledge of Christian doctrine, to be more determined to develop the virtues, to be more concerned with the others.

The Church has issued the Compendium of the Social Doctrine, a book that clearly spells out our Christian duties towards others in all levels of our life, and I wonder if people are studying it.

That could be one specific project we can do these days to truly possess that new life that Christ has won for us through the Cross.

## PRANGKAHAN

Ni CARLOS JUAN

## HELL-leluja???

Dalawang disco house sa Barangay Uno, Laoag City, nasunog!  
**MAINIT kasi ang mga kaganapan doon?**

Bukod sa Amianan Disco at Discovery Disco, tatlong iba pa ang muntik nang maabo sa sunog!

**Tuluyan nang NAHUBARAN ang kanilang negosyo?**

Naalerto ang mga tao sa paligid sa compound ng B-1 dahil sa sunog?

**RED ALERT ang mga nakatira sa RED LIGHT?**

Habang sinusulat ito, blangko pa rin ang BFP kung ano ang sanhi ng sunog!

**Ano kaya ang kanilang madi-DISCOVER?**

Araw ng Linggo ng maganap ang sunog sa discolandia!

**Domingo HELL-leluja???**

Tuluyan na ring nawalan ng pagkakitaan ang mga GRO na nagtatrabaho sa mga nasabing disco houses!

**Hindi na sila muli puwedeng maglaro ng APOY?!**

Sa likod ng trahedyang, the show must go on pa rin daw sa ibang disco house?!

**Sila ang mga nagsusunog ng kandila para lamang kumita ng pera!**

Bagamat nawala ang ibang babaeng sumasayaw sa ibabaw ng entablado....

**...Mayroon namang mga babaeng sumasayaw sa likod ng APOY!**

Wala naman daw nasugatan sa naturang sunog?!

**Sugatan lang sigurado ang kanilang mga puso at mga bulsa!**

Muntik na raw maging Ozone Disco ang Discolandia pero buti na lang walang na-trap sa loob at namatay!

**Naging FIRE-ZONE disco lang?**

Marcos Mausoleum at Marcos Mansion, dinaray ng mga turista ngayong bakasyon?!

**Eh, kung wala nang bakasyon? Wala na ring mansion?**

PDEA, pinayuhan ang mga opisyal ng PNP Ilocos Norte na maging alerto sa mga Nigerian Nationals?

**I-usad mo na ang kampanya kontra sa kanila Apo LUSAD!**

PDEA, magpapatayo raw ng opisina nila sa Batac?!

**Home of Great Dealers? Este, leaders pala!**

Alkalde ng Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte, nakipag-away raw sa isang traffic aide?!

**Prrrrrrrrrrrrrr! Stop! Red Light is on!**

Dating First Lady Imelda Marcos, dinipensahan ng mga taga-Ilocos Norte kaugnay sa masamang impresyon sa kaniya?!

**SAPATUSIN natin ang mga tumitira sa'yo Madam!**

*Paalala lamang po! Ang pikon ay hahayaan kong mapikon! Ang sa akin lamang po, Prangkahan lang, walang personalan!*

**INBOX :** Happy reading sa lahat ng ka-Prangka sa United States of America! Most especially to Mr. RAY VILLANUEVA and Mr. ANTOLIN UCOL! Thank you to Provincial Treasurer Josephine P. Calajate, Mrs. Mely Ortega of PTO at si Assistant Provincial Tourism Officer Joegie Jimenez!

# Obama's immigration reform plan—something for everybody including auntie

HERE IS President Obama's immigration reform plan announced in Costa Mesa, CA on March 18.

"We have to have comprehensive immigration reform.

Now, I know this is an emotional issue, it is a controversial issue. People get riled up politically about this.

But ultimately, here is what I believe:

1. We are a nation of immigrants.

2. We have to have control of our borders.

3. People who have been here for a long time and have put down roots here have to have some mechanism over time to get out of the shadows because if they stay in the shadows in the underground economy, oftentimes they are pitted against American workers, they cannot join a union, and they end up being abused. That depresses the wages of everybody, all Americans.

We cannot do this piecemeal. We have to come together and say: We got to strengthen our borders. We have to figure out how to control our borders that have become more violent over the drug trade.

We have to crack down on employers who are exploiting undocumented workers. We have to make sure that we have a verification system to find out whether somebody is able to work here or not. But we have to make sure that the verification system does not discriminate because you have a Spanish surname.

We must say to the undocumented: Look you have broken the law. You did not come here the way you were supposed to. This is not going to be a free ride. You are going to pay a fine. You are going to learn English. You are going back to the end of the line so you do not get ahead of somebody who is in Mexico City applying legally. But after you have done these things over a certain period of time you have earned your citizenship. It is not something that is guaranteed or automatic. You got to earn it. Over time we give people an opportunity.

We must also deal in a humane fashion with folks who have been here for a long time.

That is the kind of compre-

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE

EMMANUEL S. TIPON



hensive approach that we have to take."

Immigration stakeholders took parts of his speech out of context to suit their particular objectives.

### Illegal alien lovers rejoice

"HALLELUIAH! Obama is with us," cry illegal alien lovers. He said "We are a nation of immigrants." Those are buzzwords for open borders. He also said: "People who have been here for a long time and have put down roots here have to have some mechanism over time to get out of the shadows." That's amnesty.

### Immigration law enforcers hopeful

"NOT so," argue the law and order advocates: He said "We have to have control of our borders." And: "We must say to the undocumented: Look you have broken the law. You did not come here the way you were supposed to. . . . You are going back to the end of the line so you do not get ahead of somebody who is in Mexico City applying legally."

### Illegal alien employers smirking

EMPLOYERS of illegal aliens who pay them about \$6 an hour without benefits compared to about \$20 an hour with benefits to citizens or green card holders seem undaunted by Obama's words: "We have to crack down on employers who are exploiting undocumented workers." They have heard this before.

### Obama's aunt smiling

HOW about Obama's aunt, Zeituni Onyango? She has a final order of deportation since 2004 that has not been enforced. As we told you in previous issues, when Obama won the election, an Immigration Judge in Boston where she is hiding reopened the case even after the 90-day deadline for reopening, without announcing the reason and set the case for hearing on April Fool's Day. It was contin-

ued to February 4, 2010, giving Auntie a 10-month reprieve. "If the rule of law were applied in this case, Zeituni Onyango should have been deported a long time ago," said the

head of Americans for Legal Immigration (Washington Post, 04/01/2009)

### Amnesty without a new law

PRESIDENT Obama can give amnesty to illegal aliens without a new immigration reform law. How? He can direct the Attorney General (AG), who is under him, to use the Immigration Courts who are controlled by the AG to grant immigration benefits to illegal aliens. Watch what happens in the case of Auntie. Who is going to complain? Even if somebody complains, do you think the complainer will go anywhere?

### Whatever Obama wants

WHATEVER Obama wants, Obama gets. He wants to bail out the incompetent and greedy and appoint tax evaders to his cabinet, he gets it. The hapless opposition can do nothing. And if he wants amnesty for illegal aliens, he will get it. "Life is not fair." Especially for the honest and hardworking.

(Atty. Tipon has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Office: 905 Umi St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on KNDI AM 1270 every Thursday and Friday at 7:00-8:00 AM. Hear him on the internet at www.iluko.com. Click on KNDI Damdamag iti Kailukoan. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.)

## Not for 2010

From page 4

nessman asked "Why does the City have to spend so much for a new building? A building already exists- at the provincial hospital. Why not use the money instead to really improve the provincial hospital?" Devoid of all the legalistic arguments, in a utopian world, would this not be the sensible thing to do with the money?

For the good of the people. Not for 2010.

-o0o-

FIRE destroys three establishments at the B-1 entertainment complex in Laoag City. Accidental? An act of God? Wrath revisited on the modern day version of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Or deliberate? To make way for an oil depot? A school? Or even a mall?

Just asking.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF  
ILOCOS NORTE  
First Judicial Region  
BRANCH 13, LAOAG CITY

THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS  
PETITIONER

JULIAN ABAD, ET. ALS  
CLAIMANTS

EUGENIO PADACA  
HERMINIGILDO C. PADACA  
LAZARO C. PADACA AND  
SPOUSES CRISPIN P. PASTOR  
SR. AND LEOBIE A. PASTOR  
MOVANTS/CLAIMANTS

CAD CASE NO. 31  
L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 1173  
Lot No. 31362  
x-----x

ORDER

Before the Court is a Motion to Amend Decision filed by movants/claimants thru counsel on March 23, 2009.

Finding the motion to be meritorious, the same is hereby granted and the hearing is hereby set on May 22, 2009 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court at Marcos Hall of Justice, Laoag City, at which date, time and place, any person who is adversely affected by the said motion may file opposition or appear and show cause, if any, why the motion should not be granted.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in the City of Laoag and in the Province of Ilocos Norte at the expense of the petitioner.

Likewise, let copies of this Order together with the motion be furnished the Office of the Registry of Deeds of Laoag City and the Office of the City Prosecutor, Laoag City.

SOORDERED.

GIVEN this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2009 at Laoag City.

(SGD) PHILIP G. SALVADOR  
Presiding Judge

Cc:  
City Prosecutor  
Atty. JC Respicio  
Registry of Deeds, Laoag City  
LRA

April 19, 26, May 3, 2009\*IT

NOTICE OF IDENTIFICATION  
OF HEIRS WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late RUPERTO PARAOAN, who died in Batac, Ilocos Norte (now Batac City) on August 31, 1961, consisting of a parcel of land designated as Cadastral Lot No. 15566, Cad-398, situated at Brgy. #35 Bil-loca, Batac, Ilocos Norte (now Batac City), covered and described under Original Certificate of Title No. P-21163, issued by the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Ilocos Norte, has extra-judicially settled and adjudicated by his heirs, and simultaneously sold in favor of Jesus Ariel R. Garcia of Brgy. # 3 Cangrunaan, Batac City, Ilocos Norte in which they executed and ratified before Notary Public, Atty. Jesus C. Nalupta Jr. of Batac City, Ilocos Norte designated as Doc. No. 379; Page No. 75; Book No. V; Series of 2009. April 19, 26, May 3, 2009\*IT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 11, LAOAG CITY

RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF PRESUMPTIVE DEATH OF AAMIR SHAH SYED

JUDITH DOMINGO SYED,  
Petitioner.

Sp. Proc. No. 14503  
x-----x

ORDER

Filed with this Court is an amended petition for declaration of presumptive death of Aamir Shah Syed by Judith Domingo Syed of Brgy. 50, Buttong, Laoag City.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby sets the hearing of the petition on June 2, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. at the Regional Trial Court, Marcos Hall of Justice, Branch 11, Laoag City at which date, time and place, any interested person may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in the province of Ilocos Norte and Laoag City at the expense of the petitioner.

Let a copy of this Order, together with the petition and its annexes be furnished the Solicitor General.

The Clerk-in-Charge is hereby directed to furnish a copy of this Order to the last known address of Aamir Shah Syed.

SOORDERED.

Done in the City of Laoag, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2009.

(SGD) PERLA B. QUERUBIN  
Judge

April 19, 26, May 3, 2009\*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH  
PARTITION AND ABSOLUTE  
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late LIBERATO A. CAYABAN and MAURICIA VALENTIN-CAYABAN consisting of twenty-three (23) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 7722; 9650; 9683; 9679; 9681; 9635; 9653; 10276; 13455; 13996; 13755; 14007; 14281; 14282; 19193; 20395; 18804; 18803; 18838; 18854; 18655; 18753; and 18754 all of Piddig Cadastre (Cad-657-D) covered by Original Certificates of Title Nos. P-56227; P-56229; P-56233; P-56231; P-56232; P-56228; P-56230; P-56371; P-56234; P-56238; P-56372; P-56291; P-56237; P-56292; P-56295; P-56296; P-56242; P-56241; P-56470; P-56294; P-56374; P-61251; and P-56240 located at Barangay No. 7 Sucsuquen, Barangay No. 10 Arua-ay, Barangay No. 11 Lagandit, Barangay No. 12 Maab-abaca, Barangay No. 13 Libnaoan and Barangay No. 14 Calambeg all of Piddig, Ilocos Norte have been adjudicated and partitioned by Gilberto V. Cayaban, Jesus V. Cayaban, Libelinda V. Cayaban-Baniaga and Cristeta D. Valentin and simultaneously sold the three (3) parcels designated as Lot Nos. 18655; 18753 and 18754 to the Spouses GENARO B. AGUSTIN and MARIVIC C. MANUEL as per Doc. No. 354; Page No. 71; Bk. No. CCLXVIII; Series of 2009 ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Juan Conrado A. Respicio II. April 19, 26, May 3, 2009\*IT

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Ilocos Norte  
Municipality of Paoay

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION


In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that NICANOR B. TABULINAR has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from LEONOR to NICANOR in the birth certificate of LEONOR TABULINAR who was born on January 10, 1953 at Paoay, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Marcelino Tabulinar and Justa Bacena.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than April 20, 2009.

(SGD) ROBERT M. GUIEB  
Municipal Civil Registrar

April 6-12, 13-19, 2009\*IT

**NOTICE**  
**Ilocos Medical & Health Service Coop**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MAY 10, 2009 1 PM at**  
**ST. THERESE HOSPITAL**  
**DEADLINE: Filing of Candidacy**  
**March 30 3PM in person**  
**Required Membership Education**  
**March 21 & 28 2-4PM**  
**CALL 770-53-51**

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**HELP STOP GLOBAL WARMING**

## LC dads dignify *palakasan*, adopt Mikey Arroyo as son

**JUAN MIGUEL "MIKEY" MACAPAGAL ARROYO**, eldest child of the most distrusted president in Philippine history, was recently declared by the Laoag City council as an adopted son of the city.

Based on a news report written by Dominic Dela Cruz and published inconspicuously in an inside page (*meaning: treated as a story of little significance*) in last week's issue of THE ILOCOS TIMES, city officials explain that the resolution "seeks to recognize Arroyo's assistance to the marginalized sector of the city through his endorsement of their medical cases to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) which in turn granted medical and social services to the needy constituents of the city."

The sponsor of the said resolution is Laoag Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) president and city council ex-officio member Chevylle V. Fariñas, who is strongly convinced of Arroyo's worthiness of said recognition.

According to the *feng shui*-guided Fariñas, also the city's first lady, the PCSO would not have denied the people's request but that the Pampanga solon's recommendation—being a son of the President of the Republic—made it **easier** and **faster** (emphasis mine) for those who need help to be granted their requests.

Voting unanimously, the council then approved the resolution adopting Mikey Arroyo as a son of Laoag. He joined the ranks of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Architect Rex Hofileña who had likewise been bestowed such honor recently.

I would understand, *karikna*, if you don't immediately grasp my disgust for the said resolution. Helping the sick and needy is a perfectly moral thing, and recognizing Good Samaritans is, in no small measure, praiseworthy.

But in approving the said resolution, Laoag City councilors have legitimized one of the hideous evils in Philippine government—the *palakasan* system, roughly translated in English as influence-peddling.

In the case at hand, this is what it means: PCSO would not act as quickly and efficiently in helping the poor if influential people like Mikey Arroyo would not give the push. The needy people of Laoag get quick help not because they deserve it, not be-

**RIKNAKEM**

**HERDY LA. YUMUL**



cause PCSO has a heart for them, but because Mikey Arroyo, the alleged coddler of Jueteng protectors in Pampanga, gives the word.

This is sad because when relatives and friends of government officials get in the way of governance, our democratic institutions are muddled and compromised. This is also related to the *Padrino* system and Transactional Politics, wherein favors and opportunities are given not on account of meritocracy but by virtue of political loyalties and accommodations. This is an art that has been mastered by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and, as heredity now unfolds, his son Mikey.

I ask hypothetically: what if our city officials were principled enough to stand against the anomalies and abuses of Malacañang, will Mikey Arroyo still come rushing to sign endorsement letters for Laoag indigents? Or, if Arroyo would offer heaven and earth, will city officials then keep mum?

By forwarding such endorsements, Mikey Arroyo, a manipulative architect of his mother's prolonged stay in power, confirms what all of us already know: PCSO is a political machine masquerading as a charitable institution.

And the story does not stop here. Councilor Vicentito Lazo suggests that the PCSO chairman be accorded the same recognition as well. If so, the Laoag City council would then honor a man who, going by the logic of Chevylle's statements, only acts expeditiously when prodded by the relatives and minions of the bemoled.

Of course, am not naive. I know, that's the way the political cookie crumbles. But to pass a resolution honoring a perpetrator of the *palakasan* system is more than what I can stomach. (This is not to say that our city officials have larger and more complex tummies.)

If it is any consolation though, I am relieved that my discomfort over Mikey Arroyo's adoption is shared by many legitimate sons of Laoag, both here and in exile. They sent me messages, some of them unprintable, condemning the move. But this does not come as a surprise. Many Bacarra natives were also irked when Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the I-am-sorry girl no less, traced her

roots in the said town. It does not take a political scientist to understand why. Bacarreños know very well that their town is no breeding ground for callousness,

hypocrisy, avarice, and greed—moderated or otherwise.

It would have been easier to bear if Mikey was adopted on account of his being an excellent actor. Yes, the comedy-action star is yet to win any acting award, but his films are national legacies, true works of art that imbibe golden lessons and universal values among the youth. The 40-year-old Arroyo's filmography includes the movies "Sablay ka na, pasaway ka pa", "A.B. Normal College", and "Masamang Ugat", which is not-true-to-life and does not refer to his parents as you may be tempted to think.

-o0o-

**(un)Quotable quote:**

**"Now, whatever they [critics] say, let it be. I hear it on my left ear and I let it go out on my other ear."**

*-Laoag City Mayor Michael V. Fariñas, referring to the critics of his Rang-ay ti Barangay program, wherein city officials go to every barangay to conduct consultation and socialization with the folks.*

I personally believe that the Rang-ay program is well-intentioned, but something is ironic with the statement coming from a person who projects himself as a believer in dialogue. While feedback is an important element in a democracy, a man who hears unfavorable comments on one ear and lets them go out through the other (without mention of any processing that goes in the gray matter in between), only fuels more speculations on the sincerity of his acts.

The mayor could have said it this way, "I respect my critics' opinions, which I have given enough thought and consideration. But after carefully weighing the issues, I remain deeply convinced of the importance of the program, and in the interest of service I decide to carry on."

But this is so ideal. I concede that when the *pidit-pidit* is oh-so-hot, we say things we don't really mean... or mean things we don't actually say.

-o0o-

[www.riknakem.wordpress.com](http://www.riknakem.wordpress.com)

## PIA DISPATCH

By PIA-LAOAG CITY NEWS SERVICE

### RP to pursue job opportunities in Qatar

THERE ARE golden opportunities for Filipino workers in Qatar.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque said the Philippines has barely used its allocations for workers in the middle eastern country.

He said employment opportunities can be found in the services, gas and oil, maintenance and healthcare sectors.

Roque attended a market encounter in Qatar with recruitment agencies from the Philippines and big companies to seek out possible job vacancies.

Generally, the Middle East is not yet affected by the global financial turmoil according to Roque.

He said recent job losses in the Middle East are mostly cases of contract terminations and illegal recruitments that occur even without global financial crisis. *(Carlo P. Canares)*

### Other job opportunities soon

MEANWHILE, Filipinos may look forward for other job opportunities elsewhere in the coming months.

DOLE reported that the Philippines will renew the labor arrangement with South Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS) which would give priority to displaced Filipinos working in South Korea.

EPS is expected to be signed in May.

The country has similar hiring agreements with Canada, Australia and Japan where there are employment opportunities specifically in healthcare, education, energy, and real estate sectors.

Insiders in the banking industry say the relocation of the U.S. Naval forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam in 2010 could also provide job opportunities to Filipino workers. *(Carlo P. Canares)*

### Garantisadong Pambata 9

THE DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) has launched Garantisadong Pambata 9 (GP9): 9 Ways to Save your Child campaign nationwide.

The GP program is a twice-a-year health campaign where a package of services such as immunization, Vitamin A capsules and de-worming drugs are given to children below-5 years-old.

GP9 campaign uses low-cost and low-technology with high impact interventions that can prevent under-five and maternal deaths as well as reduce malnutrition.

The nine essential child survival packages include: skilled attendance by health professionals during pregnancy, delivery and immediate postpartum; care of the newborn; breastfeeding and complementary feeding; micronutrient supplementation and deworming; immunization of children and mothers; integrated management of sick children; and child injury prevention and control; birth spacing and proper personal hygiene. *(Carlo P. Canares)*

### Can Defense chief Teodoro win the presidency?

**From page 11**

Magsaysay who used the army. Remember Ramos? Do you think he would have won without the military? If Teodoro is going to run as the administration candidate, he will have all the cheating equipment available if he wants to use them.

**Popularity**

Many Filipinos suffer a serious character flaw. They believe that one must be popular to become President and that Teodoro is not yet popular. Look what happened to the last "popular" President. To the extent that popularity is a factor, Sec. Teodoro can easily become popular with a media blitz six months be-

fore the elections, just like what the liberal American media did with Obama. He has nowhere to go but become popular.

**No brainer**

For the 44-year old Teodoro, running for president should not be a brain teaser but a "no brainer," as Danding once told this writer about his own presidential bid. He does not need Obama's "audacity of hope" — just audacity.

*(E.S. Tipon is a lawyer practicing in Hawaii. He wrote the best-seller "Winning by Knowing Your Election Laws". E-mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com))*

# 6-year-old dies from rabid dog bite

## 9 others being treated

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**LAOAG CITY** health officer Dr. Renato Mateo confirmed the death of six-year-old John Lawrence Hicat of Barangay Pila, Laoag City due to rabies after he was bitten by a rabid dog.

Mateo said the victim was bitten on February 15 and was immediately given the traditional "suma" treatment. The "suma" is a local remedy for animal bites.

Mateo said "suma" is not considered a cure or treatment to animal bites by the medical society and is not advisable and recommended.

The health officer related that the victim was brought to the Gov. Roque B. Ablan Sr. Memorial Hospital and was later transferred to the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center in Batac. He added that based on the report received by the City Health Office, there were three other victims bitten by the same dog and are now currently undergoing treatment at the CHO where they are being given anti-rabies injections.

Aside from these three, there are also six other victims that may have come in contact with Hicat.

Mateo explained that the Hicat may have played with the

six other victims wherein he came to contact with them.

He further reported that the dog, after biting three more persons, was gunned down and later eaten, which should not be the case as the brain of the dog was still needed for further observation.

As for those who ate the rabid dog, the CHO is monitoring them as they may also be infected with the rabies virus.

Mateo however said that if the meat was well cooked the virus could have been killed.

Mateo also appealed to city residents to be more vigilant in cases of dog biting incident by observing the victim and the dog first then to report to the CHO the incident. The CHO is also equipped to treat dog bite victims.

The CHO provides free anti-rabies injections to victims provided they are certified as indigents by their barangay chairperson and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

## Deodorize pig manure with ....

From page 12

method of turning animal waste into organic fertilizer.

Most of the seminar participants, however, could hardly believe Dr. Datuin's pronouncement, according to Jun. Yet, he wanted to deodorize the manure of his swine so that his neighbors would no longer say anything against him and at the same time, make money by selling organic fertilizer from the decomposed pig manure. Hence, he bought 5 kg of Fedgrozyme and 1 kg of Biosec.

He was eager to tell his wife about the two products, but when she heard about it, she concluded that these would be an additional expense.

After three days his wife "was already singing a different tune" for the obnoxious odor of the manure was gone. And when they started to sell the first bag of organic fertilizer from the decomposed pig manure, his wife became more enthusiastic and started to gather the manure herself whenever he had other matters to attend to.

"That is how effective Fedgrozyme is in eliminating the foul odor of the manure," Jun said.

For swine pre-starters and starters, he mixes 1.5 kg of Fedgrozyme per ton of feeds. For older pigs, he mixes only 1.0 kg of Fedgrozyme per ton of feeds.

He has also observed that pigs given feeds mixed with Fedgrozyme grow faster and heavier. The pigs' feed conversion ratio (FCR) improves by 8 - 10 percent and the average daily gain in weight increases by 4.5 percent. Litter size

has also improved. He adds that the market vendor who buys his fateners has told him that their back fat is not thick, and this is the kind of meat that is preferred by consumers.

Like Jun, Marianito, a Tubao police officer, is also very pleased with the effects of Fedgrozyme. His piggery is practically a stone's throw away from the municipal building so he was told to do something about the obnoxious odor from his farm or else he would be forced to close it. Worse, he was throwing his pigs' animal manure to the irrigation system, making the environmental condition more unpleasant to the municipal employees and his neighbors.

When the municipal sanitary inspector heard of the improved environmental condition in Jun's farm, he told Marianito to consult him. Right away, Jun sold him 1 kg of Fedgrozyme and, presto, his problem was solved. After one week, he bought another kilo again. And in a span of two months, he has already bought 4 kg.

Fedgrozyme is also used in the farm of Tubao Mayor Noemi Balloquing. Her caretaker, Jovito Bualan, started to use it last July and much has changed since then. For one thing, he said, the foul odor has gone. And for another, the pigs have become healthier unlike in the past when the animals were afflicted by diseases. Mayor Balloquing is very satisfied with the performance of her pigs.

So try using Fedgrozyme, and you'll find that your neighbors have nothing anymore against you.

## LC Holy Week ...

From page 12

Independent Church.

The mayor added that he and his family also joined the said processions.

He further disclosed that he also instructed Blanco to cancel all leaves of police officers in the city to ensure high police visibility and safety of the people in Laoag.



DEFENSE Secretary Gilberto Teodoro (second from right) in Hawaii, with (from left) John de los Santos, Emmanuel Samonte Tipon, and Art Caleda.

EMMANUEL TIPON

# Can Defense chief Teodoro win the presidency?

By EMMANUEL SAMONTE TIPON

HONOLULU—"If you really want something, you must lust for it," exclaimed Bill Clinton. No, he was not talking about Monica Lewinsky. He was talking about how he won the presidency, despite being a relative unknown from the small state of Arkansas. He added: "If you don't toot your own horn, who will toot it for you?" He was mouthing something we all learned at Yale Law School.

When we asked Secretary of National Defense Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr. who came to Hawaii to meet with Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, whether we could address him as "Mr. Future President," he smiled and replied that he was a member of a coalition which will decide who will run for president.

We had expected him to say something quotable or humorous. But then, he is from Harvard not Yale.

If he had said "Yes," we would have asked: Will you run with the opposition or the administration? Would you rather be a savior of your countrymen from perdition or a protector of the Arroyos from prosecution?

Former Defense secretaries who have successfully won the presidency, like Ramon Magsaysay and Fidel Ramos, did not wait for coalitions to endorse them. They just quit their posts and ran. In the case of Ramos, he was even rejected by the coalition but ran anyway.

3 Gs vs 5 Cs

We consulted the Oracle of Waikiki

on what it takes to become President of the Philippines. We learned that in the olden days, a candidate needed the 3 Gs - goons, guns, and gold.

Today, one needs the 5 Cs—(1) cash, (2) constituency, (3) charisma, (4) competence, and (5) capability to combat cheating or capability to cheat, depending on which side you belong.

Does Teodoro have the 5 Cs?

1. **Cash.** He belongs to the wealthy Cojuangco clan. His mother, Mercedita, is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's sister. He can easily raise the cash necessary to win. The Chinese businessmen will rain money on him. He can always ask Uncle Danding to "lend" him some money if necessary. He might not even have to ask.

2. **Constituency.** Being an Ilocano from Tarlac who speaks the language fluently which he demonstrated when he visited Hawaii, he has the "Solid North" to start with. He will also take the Capampangan vote nearby. Furthermore, he can get Western Visayas voters, thanks to his Uncle Danding who has established roots there. And if he selects Senator Chiz Escudero of Sorsogon as his running mate, they win the Bicol bloc. The young voters will be a significant bloc, and they will more likely gravitate towards him rather than his much older competitors. Most importantly, he could get the Iglesia Ni Cristo that solidly backed Danding in 1992. And there is the Erap group, to boot.

3. **Charisma.** When you look

at him from a distance or listen to him deliver a speech, he may not exude the kind of charisma of a Barack Obama until you have a conversation with him. He can be very funny too, as when we asked him privately whether he would take Manny Villar as a running mate to form the most formidable team. (We will not reveal what he said in Ilocano which had a tinge of gallows humor. We regard Manny as a friend). He is very accessible and chats with everybody who approaches him. People flocked to him eager to have their picture taken with a "future president". He fielded all questions at an open forum, sometimes going into detail instead of just dishing out sound bites.

4. **Competence.** Undoubtedly he has the competence to run for President. His resume includes: bar topnotcher with law degrees from the University of the Philippines and Harvard, a successful law practice with a very prominent law firm, three terms as congressman from the first district of Tarlac, and Defense Secretary for two years. He is more competent than some bobos who have aspired to be or became president.

5. **Capability** to combat cheating or capability to cheat, depending on which side you belong. If he is going to run as the opposition candidate, he has the tools to combat cheating by the administration. As defense boss he has cultivated strong ties with the military and they will be behind him or at least not work against him. Remember Magsaysay? Quirino could not use the army to fight him. In fact it was

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## LC set to join 2009 Aliwan Festival ...

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In view of this, Fariñas has asked his wife to consider Navarro's request as he reasoned that attending other city's festivals could give a big boost to Laoag's tourism industry.

Fariñas has also clarified that the Laoag delegation's expenses, including accommodation, transportation and food, would be shouldered by the host cities of Dagupan and Santiago.

He explained that the two local government units have al-

located in their respective budgets their festivals. Ms Fariñas meanwhile disclosed that the city would be participating in all three categories.

She said the Ilocos Norte Regional School of Fisheries (INRSF), being the champion in the recent Pamulinawen Festival street pageantry competition, will represent the city in the dance competition while Miss Laoag c 2009 Kate Lao will vie for the Reyna ng Aliwan crown.

The city's entry in the float competition will be *Abel*-inspired where three women weaving will be shown in the float.

In a related development, the Laoag City Association of Barangay Councils will also be participating in the Aliwan Festival 2009 as this would be in time for their Lakbay Aral.

Ms Fariñas said all barangay chairpersons will join the city delegation in the floral parade.

# LC set to join 2009 Aliwan Festival at CCP

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**THE MULTI-AWARDED Laoag City is set to join the 2009 Aliwan Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila on April 23 to 26.**

Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas made this announcement after his wife, Laoag City Tourism and Social Concerns Council (LCTSCC) chair Chevylle V. Fariñas confirmed that they are joining the said event.

Fariñas stressed that Laoag should join the festival as it is the defending champion in the Best Float category for two years now.

Aside from bagging the top prize in the float category, the city also won runners-up honors in the dance competition.

Fariñas said the preparation is now on going as the float will be constructed in the third week of April.

Laoag delegates are set to leave on April 23.

After the Aliwan Festival, Fariñas said the city would also join the Bangus Festival in Dagupan City in Pangasinan.

The mayor further disclosed that the city would also participate in a festival in Santiago City, Isabela after Santiago Mayor Amelita Navarro has requested Laoag's participation in the said event.

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**GLEDCO OFFICERS.** Laoag Mayor Michael Fariñas congratulates the newly elected and re-elected officers of the Government of Laoag Employees Development Cooperative (Gledco) after they took their oath of office on April 13 after the flag-raising ceremony at City Hall. Sangguniang Panlungsod secretary Enrico Aurelio (second from right) was re-elected as Chairman of the Board.

DANNY SABIO

## LC Holy Week commemoration, generally peaceful—PNP

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**LAOAG CITY** police chief P/Supt. Sterling Blanco announced that the commemoration of the Holy Week in the city was generally peaceful and orderly.

Blanco based his observation in the fact that no untoward incident was reported in the city's different barangays as well as in Police Assistance Centers (PACs) located around the city.

According to Blanco, the Laoag police was in full alert during the whole week as per instruction of Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas.

The city police chief also instructed barangay officials to help maintain peace and order in their respective barangays through their barangay tanods (village security officers).

Checkpoints were also established around the city during the Holy Week.

In line with their duties, Blanco also said that police officers were also advised to entertain foreign and domestic tourists who may want to ask for directions.

Reacting to this, Fariñas thanked the Laoag police for a "job well done" in keeping peace and order during the Holy Week.

Fariñas also said he was able to monitor the influx of people who joined and participated in the commemoration especially in the series of processions conducted by the Catholic Church and the Philippine

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## Deodorize pig manure with fedgrozyme

### HARVEST TIME

BY SOSIMO MA.  
PABLICO

**THE OBNOXIOUS** smell of pig manure is a big problem of every swine raiser unless they know how to go about in eliminating the foul odor. However, Hipolito "Jun" Saoyao and Marianito Garinggo of Tubao, La Union have licked the problem by adding an enzyme-based solution called Fedgrozyme to the feeds.

In a seminar on livestock production and management, Jun learned from Dr. Jovita Datuin, a livestock expert and head of the Ilocos Integrated Agriculture Research Center (ILIARC) of the Department of Agriculture, that the offensive odor of swine manure could be eliminated by adding Fedgrozyme to the feeds. Incidentally, Jun is the chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the Tubao Sangguniang Bayan.

Fedgrozyme was developed by

Berlin-trained industrial microbiologist Dr. Ronaldo A. Sumaoang, who is also the president and CEO of the Novatech Group of Companies. It is manufactured by the Novatech Vet and Biologicals, which also produces other veterinary and biological products.

According to Dr. Sumaoang, Fedgrozyme eliminates the odor of the manure by lessening the ammonia that it emits. Likewise, the protein that is still present in the manure continues to be degraded by Fedgrozyme microbial activity. Fedgrozyme is actually a stabilized source of potent enzymes of micro-

bial origin for animal use, Dr. Sumaoang adds. It contains immobilized biological microorganisms, organic acids, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, phospholipids, and other growth factors.

Dr. Datuin reportedly said during the seminar that Fedgrozyme is definitely the solution to the continuing problem of livestock (pigs, poultry, ducks, goats) raisers on the obnoxious odor emitted by their animal manure, most especially during the rainy season when the manure gets wet. The lady livestock expert reportedly told the farmers that she herself could personally testify on the effectiveness of Fedgrozyme.

Jun adds that during the seminar Dr. Datuin also introduced the use of Biosec as a very effective

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