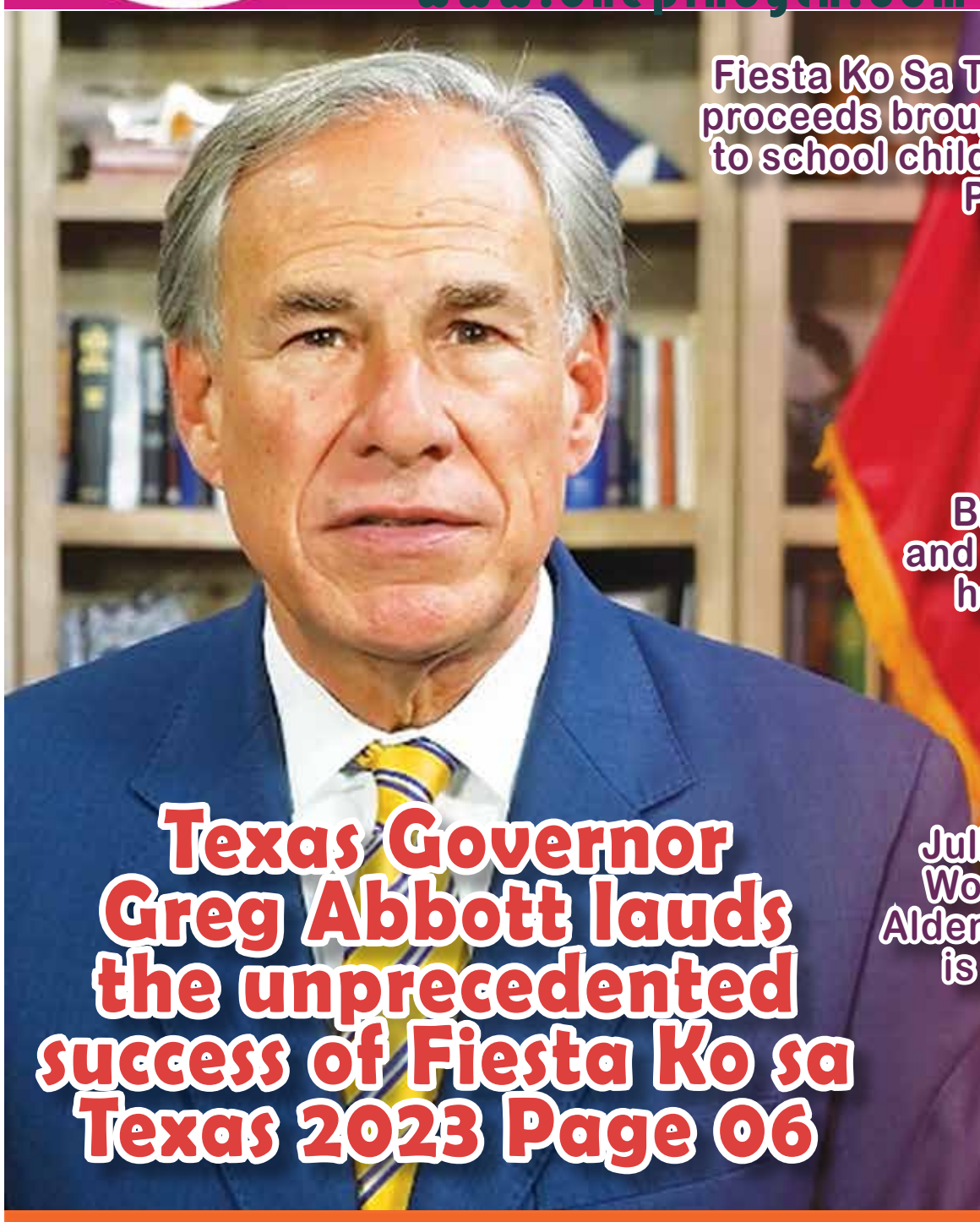
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Julia Montes: Working with Alden Richards is my dream project Page 18





What makes Texas so successful Page 09



Richard Gordon asked why are Duterte's Chinese pals getting a pass for the P11 Billion Pharmally corruption scandal Page16

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October in PHILIPPINE HISTORY

THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES, WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AS A BRANCH OF THE BOY SCOUT OF AMERICA

On October 5, 1923, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was formally established as a branch of the Boy Scout of America (BSA). The Manila council of the BSA, was initially funded through the help of various civic-organizations namely: the YMCA, Knights of Columbus, Masons, Elks, Filipino and Chinese Chambers of Commerce, the U.S. Army, the Catholic and Protestant churches, and the American Legion. Scouting history in the Philippines traces back to the American occupation of the islands. The boy scouts first documented formation of a scout troop in the islands was that of the Lorillard Spencer's troop of Zamboanga formed in 1914 by a U.S. Navy Lieutenant named Sherman Kiser.



PASAKALYE

QUOTABLE QUOTES

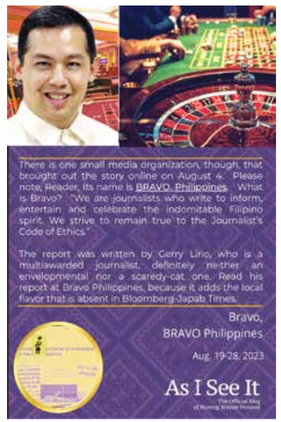
PRISONER OF GEOGRAPHY



BONGBONG: *"Friend to all, enemy to none"*
OLD LEADERSHIP MAXIM: *"No enemy, no character"*
ARISTOTLE: *"A friend to all is a friend to none"*

It is obvious that the country's maritime core interests are diametrically opposed to China's. China seeks to dominate the entire South China Sea in total disregard of international law. On the other hand, our interests are aligned with those of the US and other allies to keep the South China Sea a safe and neutral international waterway. Henry Kissinger says "Geography has been the predominant factor in determining the fate of nations." The sad truth is that the Philippines is a prisoner of geography: we cannot remain neutral and friendly in times of aggression, particularly when we're repeatedly victimized. – *Former National Defense Secretary* **ORLANDO 'Orly' MERCADO**

Why is there a news blackout on Speaker Martin Romualdez' involvement in the Okada Casino bribery case?



It was filed in the US, for heaven's sake. Bloomberg and Japan Times picked it up, featuring Romualdez and not in good way. But our major print/broadcast media orgs are quiet! – SOLITA C. MONSOD

The Philippines rejects China's 2023 10-Dash Line map showing the kingdom's extended claim in the South China Sea



The Department of Foreign Affairs said "This latest attempt to legitimize China's purported sovereignty and jurisdiction over Philippine features and maritime zones has no basis under international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)."

HEADLINES

BONGBONG MARCOS EXTENDS FARMERS LAND PAYMENT DELAY TIL 2025
Inquirer.net

SENATORS COMMIT TO INCREASE PCG BUDGET TO ADDRESS WEST PH SEA 'HARASSMENT'
ABS-CBN

LATEST COURT VICTORY PROVES CASES VS MARIA RESSA, RAPPLER 'POLITICALLY MOTIVATED'
Rappler.com

RICE PRICE SPIKE OFFERS PREVIEW OF CLIMATE FOOD DISRUPTION
Philippine Star

CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS SOUGHT BY MORE AGENCIES IN 2024 BUDGET
GMA News

PH COAST GUARD SEEKING ADDT'L FUNDS FOR SUSTAINED PRESENCE IN WEST PH SEA
Manila Bulletin

WHY THE PUSH TO DECRIMINALIZE LIBEL, CYBER LIBEL CONTINUES
InterAksyon

CALABARZON WORKERS TO GET P35 TO P50 WAGE INCREASE
Business Mirror

'WASTE OF FUNDS,' SONA PROTESTERS ON CHARGES FILED BY POLICE
Bulatlat

AUDIT COMMISSION SCRUTINIZES LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WITH OVER 1.7 LICENSE PLATES UNDELIVERED
Coconuts Manila



PINAG-UUSAPAN

SPEAKER MARTIN ROMUALDEZ IN THE CENTER OF A U.S. BRIBERY CASE OVER THE OKADA CASINO DISPUTE



House Speaker Martin Romualdez is at the center of a bribery case in the United States involving the raging conflict between Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada and his son over ownership of Okada Casino Resort Manila. A US-based company, the 26 Capital Acquisition, has sued Okada Manila's parent company, Universal Entertainment, before the Delaware Chancery Court over an aborted merger between them, and part of its complaint said that Universal officials brought a "heavy luggage" supposedly filled with cash in July 2022 "for Speaker Romualdez to try to secure his support in the dispute in favor of Universal," the company controlled by Okada's son, Tomohiro. In its story on August 1, 2023 titled "Japanese firm accused of improper influence over Manila casino" the Japan Times carried Bloomberg story and reported: 'Heavy luggage mission.' The filing includes emails that 26 Capital says show the (Universal) executives flew from Japan to meet with Romualdez to enlist his help in pressuring the nation's Supreme Court to advance their interests. The SPAC's lawyers claim that Universal's wrongdoing includes `potential bribery of governmental officials followed by efforts to run the deal clock out before such activity comes to light.' "According to the filing, the emails show that a Universal executive flew from Tokyo to the Philippines a year ago, bringing the "heavy luggage" with him. He and a second Universal official met with Romualdez, 26 Capital claims. *(Source: BRAVO / https://brv.com.ph/romualdez-in-the-center-of-a-us-bribery-case-over-the-okada-dispute/)*

R.I.P. DMW Secretary Maria Susana "Toots" Ople



Even though she served for only more than a year as Secretary, her whole life was a testament of how devoted she was to our migrant workers, laborers and women workers. She was the true champion of these sectors..." – *President* **FERDINAND MARCOS JR.**, *at the wake of the late Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Secretary Maria Susana "Toots" Ople, who passed away after a lengthy battle with breast cancer.*

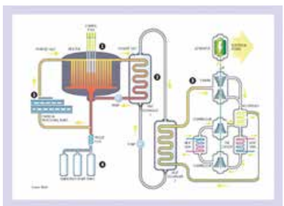
Every kind of service necessary to the public good becomes honorable by being necessary - **ALBERT SCHWEITZER**

MARCOS SIGNS LAW ESTABLISHING MEDICAL SPECIALTY CENTERS NATIONWIDE



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has signed into law the measure that aims to institutionalize the establishment of specialty and healthcare centers across the country. Marcos signed Republic Act No. 11959 — or An Act Establishing Specialty Centers in Department of Health Hospitals in Every Region and in Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporation Specialty Hospitals and Appropriating Funds Therefor — on August 24, 2023. Under the law, the Department of Health is tasked to establish specialty centers in its hospitals in every region and in GOCC specialty hospitals. These facilities will prioritize cancer care, cardiovascular care, lung care, renal care and kidney transplant, brain and spine care, trauma care and burn care. These specialty centers will also address orthopedic care, physical rehabilitation medicine, infectious disease and tropical medicine, toxicology, mental health, geriatric care, neonatal care, dermatology, eye care, and ear, nose, and throat care. Meanwhile, the law also mandates the DOH to categorize the level of service capability of the specialty centers as National Specialty Centers (NSCs), Advanced Comprehensive Specialty Centers (ACSCs), and Basic Comprehensive Specialty Centers (BCSCs) pursuant to the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan. —**KBK, GMA Integrated News**

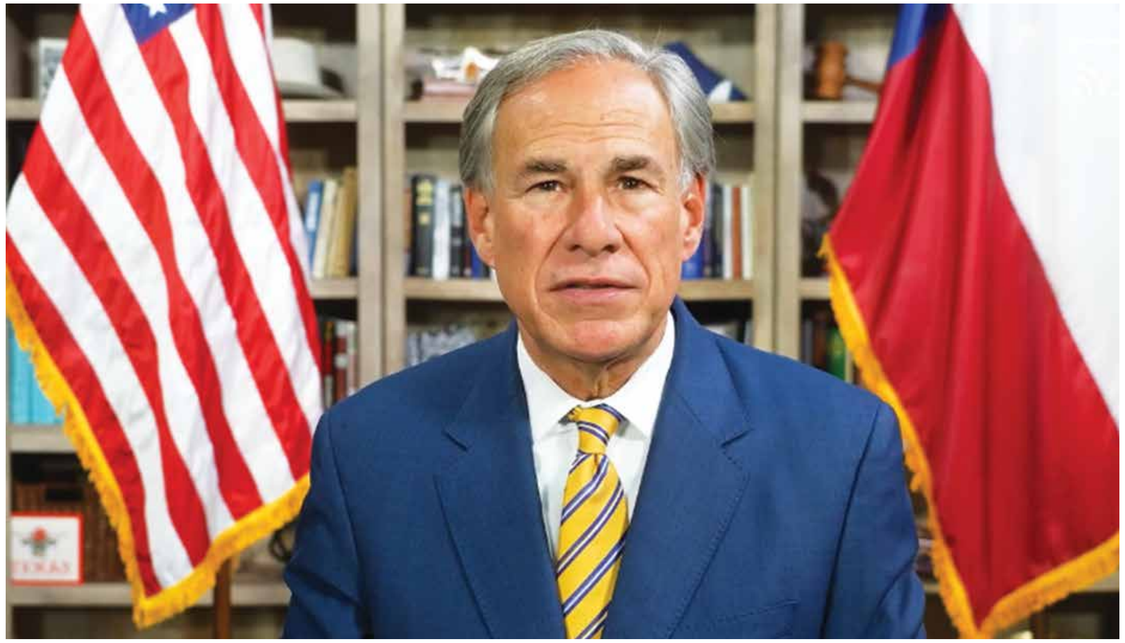
Philippines and U.S. cite importance of nuclear energy



The Philippines and the United States have reaffirmed the importance of nuclear energy as a key contributor to energy security. The two countries last week launched the inaugural US-Philippines Energy Policy Dialogue (EPD) that aims to advance commitments by Washington and Manila to deepen cooperation on energy security, energy access and clean energy transition, as agreed during US Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to the Philippines in November last year. Department of State Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources Laura Lochman and Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Americas Beth Urbanas co-led the US delegation. Philippine Department of Energy Supervising Undersecretary for policy and planning Felix William Fuentebella led the Philippine delegation. The US and Philippine delegations emphasized the centrality of energy security, decarbonization and collaboration among nations with shared values in sustained economic development amid the region's rapid economic growth and rising energy demands. *(Source: www.msn.com/en-ph/news/national/philippines-us-cite-importance-of-nuclear-energy/ar-AA1fwHwm?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=d144e105116d4e5a937114e2452aa58d&ei=56)*

COVER STORY

Texas Governor Greg Abbott lauds the unprecedented success of Fiesta Ko sa Texas 2023



Hi, this is **Governor GREG ABBOTT.** I want to say thank you to the One Philippines Texas Newsmagazine, and its leaders here today for your dedication in promoting the diverse interests of the Filipino American community here in the great state of Texas. Because of leaders like you, Texas is a state where Filipinos and Filipino Americans can be united through community education and opportunities that highlight shared culture and heritage.

Also, **One Philippines Texas Newsmagazine** helps to bridge the generational gap through education and building initiatives like today's ***Fiesta Ko Sa Texas***. The work and community outreach being done here is extraordinary.

For the past 15 years, **One Philippines Texas Newsmagazine** has built a brighter future for Filipino Americans across Texas.

As Governor, I strongly believe it's critical that we all work together to build together a better and brighter future for all Texans. May God bless you in your efforts, and may God forever bless the great state of Texas.

Fiesta Ko sa Texas 2023

Vendors Gallery

































FIESTA KO sa Texas 2023

Vendors Gallery







FIESTA KO sa Texas 2023

Congratulations Raffle Ticket Winners!

Grand Prize Winner
of the 2023 Toyota Corolla are ENRIQUE (IKE) and MARIA RODRIGUEZ from Houston







What makes Texas so successful

By Peter Zeihan

Texas is known for many things - cowboys, bbq, oil, and who could forget the Alamo - but none of those are why Texas has been (and will continue to be) the fastest-growing state in the US.

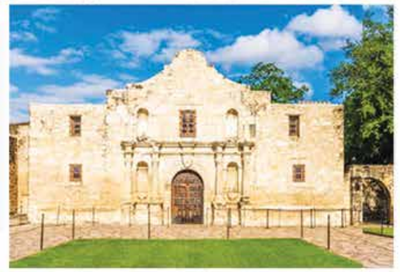
Four big things have helped Texas climb to the top. Thanks to a low cost of living, Texans have been popping out babies left and right, contributing to strong demographic growth. Their proximity to Mexico has bolstered the Texan economy, trade, and manufacturing sector. Texas is a red state with blue cities, so residents can enjoy the perfect regulatory mix. And lastly, Texas has been able to attract businesses from other struggling states.

The past few decades have been great for Texas, but times are changing. Birth rates are falling, the cost of living is rising, immigration is falling off, and the business "stealing" model won't be the same. This doesn't mean Texas is collapsing (cities like Houston, El Paso, and Austin have bright futures ahead); things are just starting to slow down.

(Source: https://mailchi.mp/zeihan/what-makes-texas-so-successful)

























The proceeds of FIESTA KO sa Texas 2023

brought smiles to the school children of

Paaralang Elementarya ng Calacabian

MUNICIPALITY OF LIBACAO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN





Close to one hundred (100) elemenmtary school children received entry-level school supplies as schools opened all over the Philippines last August 2023













Heeee's back!

Senators back Teddy Locsin Jr.'s appointment

The Manila Times via MSN.com

SENATE President Juan Miguel Zubiri welcomed the appointment of former Foreign Affairs secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. as special envoy to China for special concerns.

"I believe Amb. Teddyboy Locsin is perfect for that job. Being a former DFA (Department of Affairs) secretary, as well as the former ambassador to the United Nations, he has the expertise and experience in dealing with China," Zubiri said in a statement.

"His familiarity with the leaders of China as well as their methods is what makes him perfect for the job. I wish him Godspeed," he added.

Malacañang announced that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed Locsin as his special envoy to China for special concerns.

Marcos appointed Locsin as Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in September 2022.

Senators Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero, Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada and Mary Grace Poe all commended Locsin's appointment to the post.

"Given his experience as Department of Foreign Affairs secretary, lawyer and former legislator, I'm sure Ambassador Teddy Locsin could be the best one for the job as special envoy for special concerns," Ejercito said in a statement.

"It is also a good timing as it is still important to keep lines open in the midst of the West Philippine Sea conflict," Ejercito added.

Estrada said the decision was timely.

"It's an interesting move by



the President, I must say, as it came on the heels of a series of disturbing incidents in the West Philippine Sea involving the China Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard. Observers will be keenly watching how he will handle the complexities of his role and whether this will lead to positive developments insofar as our country's relations with China is concerned," he said.

Escudero lauded the President's initiative to designate Locsin to handle issues with China, noting it is a sign of commitment to find and pursue peaceful ways of asserting the country's rights and sovereignty in regard to the West Philippine Sea.

"Any action that promotes talks, dialogue or other peaceful means with the objective of achieving greater understanding, restraint and cooperation is always most welcome," Escudero said.

"He (Locsin) is both competent and capable. But the most important qualification is that he enjoys the trust and confidence of the President who is the 'chief architect' of our country's foreign policy," he added.

Poe described Locsin as "an impressive and interesting choice" for the job.

"He is an adroit diplomat and skilled leader, unafraid to go to whatever lengths necessary for the best interest of the Filipinos," she said.

"We hope he can help the country navigate through the rough waters of the West Philippine Sea to defend and protect what belongs to us," Poe added. Press Secretary Cheloy Garafil, meanwhile, clarified that Locsin would remain as the country's envoy to the UK.

(Source: www.msn.com/en-ph/news/national/senators-back-locsin-s-appointment/ar-AA1fp3cO?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=747ca3623a89484eb136f5c3e106d767&ei=9)

Lawmaker says Sara's P500 million Confidential & Intelligence fund should be realigned

It should be added instead to the Philippine Coast Guard's (PCG) meager P10 million since the PCG bears the brunt of China's bullying and the OVP has little to do with national security

House Deputy Minority Leader France Castro on Tuesday asked the House of Representatives to transfer the Office of the Vice President's (OVP) proposed P500 million in confidential and intelligence funds for 2024 to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

In a statement, Castro stressed that it is "high time" the PCG's intelligence funds are increased, amid its efforts to secure the country's territorial waters.

She said that the OVP should not object to such realignment, and instead support it, if it is "so concerned with national security."

"Ang PCG ang palaging humaharap sa pambubully ng China tapos ang intel funds nila ay P10 [million] lang mula 2009 samantalang ang OVP na wala namang kinalaman sa intelligence gathering ay napakalaki ng intel funds," Castro said.

(The PCG is always dealing with China's bullying but its intel funds has only been P10 million since 2009. The OVP, which has nothing to do with intelligence gathering, has huge intel funds.)

The OVP responded by saying that the matter of confidential funds "should be left to the wisdom of the entire





membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate and not to Ms. France Castro."

A total of P10.142 billion has been allocated for confidential and intelligence funds across all government agencies in 2024.

GMA Integrated News via MSN.com (www.msn.com/en-ph/news/national/castro-wants-ovp-s-p500-million-in-confi-funds-realigned-to-pcg/ar-AA1eX0wq?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=4d71fd6c7f7d40a2a45e850018f5ea7a&ei=76)

G7 supports 2016 ruling on South China Sea claims

The world's seven most powerful democracies back the Philippines' claims in the South China Sea as they opposed Beijing's expansive maritime claims and strongly opposed its militarization in the region.

The Group of Seven (G7) — comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States — plus the European Union adopted this position during the G7 and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) summits in Japan recently.

"The G7 leaders also stressed that there is no legal basis for China's expansive claims in the South China Sea and strongly opposed its militarization in the region," Japan Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa wrote Presidential Communications Secretary Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil in a May 20 letter.

"Significantly, the leaders reiterated the legally binding Arbitral Tribunal award rendered on 12 July 2016 as a significant milestone as a basis for peaceful resolvement



of disputes between the parties," the envoy wrote.

The Philippines was not mentioned during the summit, but Manila, which initiated the complaint in 2013, was the beneficiary of the July 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Peace, stability

"Furthermore," Koshikawa's letter continued, "they affirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and agreed to foster resilience to economic coercion."

During the Quad meeting among the United States, Australia, India, and Japan, Koshikawa said Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida "expressed serious concerns about attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific, including the East and South China Seas."

The Japanese ambassador also told Garafil that Quad leaders have reaffirmed their vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and stable region, "where nations respect sovereignty and are free from any form of intimidation and coercion."

'Respect international law'

Aside from the G7 and Quad leaders, the European Union (EU) also renewed its support for the Philippines' claims in the South China Sea.

Speaking during the Joint EU-Asean Business Council and European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Gala Dinner in Makati on Thursday, EU Ambassador Luc Véron recognized how the Philippines and EU "champion the concept of rule of law, and a rules-based international order."

"We strongly recognize the need to respect international law in the West Philippine Sea," Veron said.

The statement of support from the world's most powerful countries came as Beijing deployed three buoys in the West Philippine Sea days after Manila placed navigational buoys at Philippine-claimed features in the disputed waters.

China has been occupying parts of the West Philippine Sea and has been harassing Philippine Navy ships and Filipino fisherfolk in the country's waters.

(Source: globalnation.inquirer.net/215400/g7-supports-2016-ruling-on-south-china-sea-claims#:~:text=MANILA%2C%20Philippines%20—%20The%20world's%20seven,its%20militarization%20in%20the%20region.)

Rallyists protesting Bongbong's SONA charged with illegal assembly

From The Manila Times via MSN.com

At least 14 members of various militant groups were charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for alleged illegal assembly during the July 24 State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) last August 24, 2023. Charged were:

1 **Felix "Ka Jhun" Pascua Jr.**, Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya spokesman
2 **Palo "Ka Pabs" Rosales**, Pangisda national chairman
3 **Larry Mallorca**, Philfoods union president
4 **Luchell Felix**, Umento spokesman
5 **Jaysie Balunga**, Sugar-Batangas
6 **Miguel Portea**, Southern Tagalog Regional Transport Organization-Piston
7 **Mario Fernandez**, Kilusang Mayo Uno president
8 **Kenneth Rementilla**, Anakbayan-Southern Tagalog
9 **Charm Maranan**, Defend-Southern Tagalog
10 **Jasmin Rubia**, Mothers and Children for the Protection



of Human Rights
11 **Orly Marcellana,** Tanggol Magsasaka leader
12 **John Peter Angelo Garcia**, Youth Advocates for Peace with Justice chairman
13 **Jemme Mia Antonio,** Liga ng Manggagawa-Southern Tagalog spokesman
14 **Kyle Angelo Salgado**, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog spokesman.

"They were charged for violation of Section 13 (a) under Batas Pambansa Bilang 880 or 'The Public Assembly Act of 1985'," QCPD director BGen. Nicolas Torre 3rd said.

(Source: www.msn.com/en-ph/news/national/police-file-raps-vs-14-sona-rallyists/ar-AA1fJ928?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=9b9724574306472b8db52ff1d10e16de&ei=35)

RICHARD GORDON ASKED:

Why are Duterte's Chinese pals getting a pass for the Pharmally P11-Billion corruption scandal?

Former Sen. Richard Gordon has praised the recent decision by the government's chief antigraft prosecutor to charge 13 officials and private individuals allegedly involved in the graft-tainted pandemic supply contracts awarded to Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corp., but he questioned why a Chinese friend of former President Rodrigo Duterte and other key figures were excluded from prosecution.



Michael Yang and associates expand their businesses under Duterte presidency

"What about plunder against the higher authority?" Gordon said in a statement after the Office of the Ombudsman disclosed the results of its investigation of the country's biggest corruption scandal since the P10-billion pork barrel scam was uncovered in 2013.

Ombudsman Samuel Martires approved last week a recommendation by a panel of prosecutors to charge Budget Undersecretary Lloyd Christopher Lao, who headed the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), and 12 others with graft for conspiring to award P4 billion in contracts for COVID-19 test kits to the "favored" supplier, Pharmally.

Gordon headed the months-long inquiry by the Senate blue ribbon committee into the Pharmally deals.

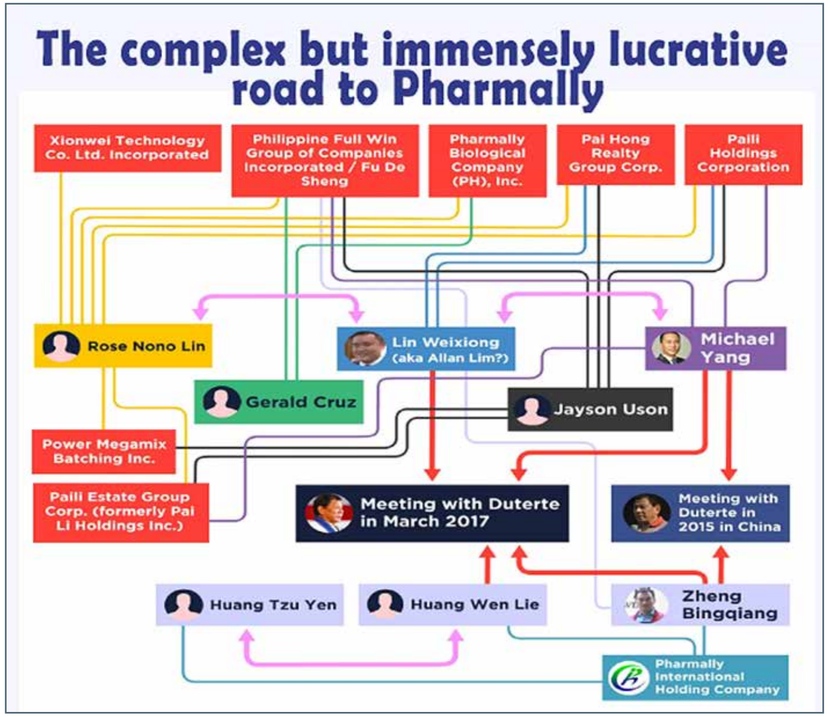
The investigation found that Pharmally, with a paid-up capital of only P625,000, won more than P11 billion worth of contracts, the lion's share of all the pandemic supply deals, during the global health emergency."What about Michael Yang (and) Lin Wei Xiong?" Gordon said. "Without exception, all the major players in this high crime should be charged as well."

Yang, a Chinese national who was based in Davao City, was appointed by Duterte as his special economic adviser in 2018. He was identified by two Pharmally executives as the one who helped finance their company to pay Chinese traders for the pandemic medical supplies that it had acquired for the government contracts.

Lin was identified as Yang's close associate who also served as Pharmally's "financial manager."

Gordon said Lin's wife, Rose Nono Lin, and their subordinates should have also been indicted for the more serious crime of plunder."It is my aspiration that the Ombudsman cast a wider net that will corral all participants in this brazen abuse of power," the former lawmaker said.

(Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1822061/gordon-why-not-plunder-why-spare-dutertes-chinese-pal#ixzz8BzDN2VWE)



Return the Party List to the poor and powerless

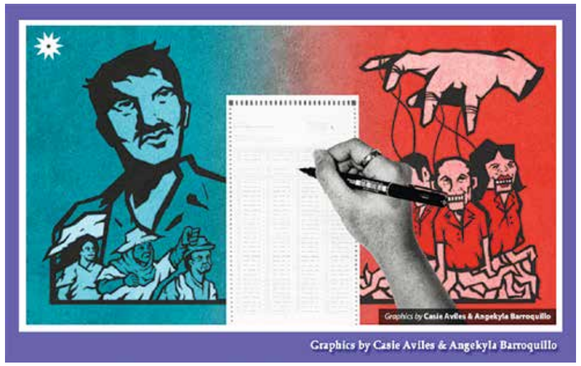
Opinion by Tita C. Valderama
The Manila Times via MSN.com

THE renewed push in the Senate to overhaul the 1995 party-list system law is long overdue. With the President's elder sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, spearheading the move and wanting to clearly define its limits, the administration's allies in the supermajority in both chambers of Congress should realize that the time has come to go back to the noble intention of the party list law.

Republic Act 7941, or the "Party-List System Act," was intended to ensure "proportional representation" of the "marginalized and underrepresented' sectors, organizations and parties in the election to the House of Representatives.

Over the years, however, moneyed businessmen, members of political families and former district congressmen have dominated the party-list seats, edging out those "who lack well-defined political constituencies but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation." They have "bastardized" and "prostituted" the party-list system, critics say.

Marcos, the chairman of the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation, emphasized during a public hearing last week the importance of defining the party-list system in view of a Supreme Court decision that included sectoral and non-sectoral parties, which, she said, made the system "susceptible to abuse" and "drowned out" the truly marginalized and underrepresented groups "in the sea of political parties and party-list groups with questionable, if not entirely non-existent, advocacies."



Graphics by Casie Aviles & Angekyla Barroquillo

Over the years, moneyed businessmen, members of political families and former district congressmen have dominated the party-list seats, edging out those "who lack well-defined political constituencies but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation

"It's obvious that these circumstances have helped create the evil that was sought to be prevented by framers of the Constitution... The primordial issue that we need to discuss is how far can we go in defining the party-list system?" Marcos said during the August 7 hearing on bills related to the party-list law.

Out of the 312 members of the House, 61 are nominees of 54 party-list groups, some of them occupying key positions in the chamber, such as minority leader Marcelino Libanan of Pagtibayin at Palaguin ang Pangkabuhayang Pilipino (4Ps), appropriations committee chairman Elizalde Co of Ako Bikol, and accounts committee chairman Yedda Marie Romualdez, the wife of Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

Three of the top 10 richest members of the House are party-list representatives: Mikee Romero of 1-Patriotic Coalition of Marginalized Nationals Inc. (1-Pacman), Virgilio Lacson of Manila Teacher's Savings and Loan Association Inc. (Manila Teachers), and Romualdez of Tingog Sinirangan.

The confusion over the definition of the party-list system arose from the vague provision in Section 5, Article VI of the Constitution, which says 20 percent of the House of Representatives should be "elected through a party-list system of registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations" and that for three consecutive terms after the Charter's ratification in 1987, "one-half of the seats allocated to party-list representatives shall be filled, as provided by law, by selection or election from the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector."

The enabling law passed by Congress in 1995 provided that only party-list groups receiving at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for the party-list should be proclaimed winners and that each party should have a maximum of three nominees who can occupy legislative seats.

A 2001 Supreme Court ruling said only parties and their nominees "who belong to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors" were qualified to hold party-list seats.

"The intent of the Constitution is clear: to give genuine power to the people, not only by giving more law to those who have less in life, but more so by enabling them to become veritable lawmakers themselves... The law crafted to address the peculiar disadvantages of the Payatas hovel dwellers cannot be appropriated by the mansion owners of Forbes Park," the ruling penned by then Supreme Court associate justice Artemio Panganiban said.

In 2009, the Supreme Court voided the 2-percent parameter, and in 2013, another ruling held that regional and sectoral nominees don't have to represent the "marginalized or underrepresented." The high court said having common ideologies or principles, "regardless of their economic status as citizens," with the party represented is enough.

These circumstances opened the floodgates for moneyed and influential businessmen and politicians to become members of the House of Representatives through the party-list system. It has ceased to be a mechanism to give power to the powerless.

Some progressive organizations have also abused the system by splitting into smaller groups; others formed factions due to power struggles to secure as many seats as they could. However, as a result of rampant red-tagging during the previous administration, progressive groups have also been eased out.

Recently, former broadcaster Erwin Tulfo took his oath as nominee of the Anti-Crime and Terrorism Community Involvement and Support Inc. (ACT-CIS), a few months after the Commission on Appointments bypassed his appointment as Social Welfare and Development secretary. He managed to get a House seat when the party's other nominee, Jeffrey Soriano, resigned.

Former Commission on Elections commissioner Rowena Guanzon was ready to assume her position as nominee of Komunidad ng Pamilya Pasyente at Persons with Disabilities (P3PWD) in July, but the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order because of a protest by Ronald and Ducielle Marie Cardema of the Duterte Youth, another party-list group.

The amendments to the party-list law should prevent such wholesale substitution of party-list nominees, which has raised suspicion that horse-trading had invaded the system. It should prohibit party-list groups from making substitutions for their nominees after elections.

The Comelec should also be meticulous in checking the track record of party-list groups seeking accreditation to become eligible to participate in the election so that only the marginalized and underrepresented sectors or groups are elected to assume legislative seats.

(Source: www.msn.com/en-ph/news/opinion/return-party-list-seats-to-poor-and-powerless/ar-AA1fdK1e?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=906544cda4364015842ee0082b16e9cd&ei=53)

A Gathering Driven By Hope

Gawad Kalinga USA Conference 2023:

Ignite Advance Mobilize #IAMGK

September 22-24, 2023

Century Ballroom, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel 6 East Greenway Plaza, Houston, Texas

In a spirited display of solidarity and shared purpose, the much-awaited Gawad Kalinga USA Conference 2023 is set on September 22-24, 2003. Themed "Ignite Advance Mobilize #IAMGK," the conference promises to be a dynamic platform for change-makers to convene, learn, and ignite progress.



IGNITING Inspiration and Vision Setting

Kicking off the event on September 22nd, the conference springs into action with a lineup of inspirational speakers who ignite the flame of positive transformation. Denise Yap, President of Synchrony Foundation, Elewin Rebaya, Executive Vice President of Seafood City, Mrs. Marita Garcia, long time GK advocate, and Dr. Carlos Capati, Chairman of GK USA, will collectively spark inspiration and rekindle dedication to fostering meaningful change.

Attendees are invited to immerse themselves in compelling narratives, fostering a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to positive change.

Advancing Understanding and Collective Empowerment

On September 23rd, the second day of the conference takes a deeper dive into Gawad Kalinga's journey, programs, and impact. Through interactive workshops and introspective sessions facilitated by Dr. Francis de los Reyes, GK USA Board Member, Armi-Consunji-Genato GKCDFI Marketing Head, Mark Lawrence Cruz, SEED Philippines School Director and Kusina ng Kalinga Program Head, participants explore the Theory of Change and discover how they can be effective ambassadors for meaningful transformation. This day equips attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary to enact real change in their areas.

Special Forums: Engaging the Youth and Re-Thinking the Economy

The conference is not only a platform for visionary talks but also a hub of engagement for different sectors. The GK Youth Forum will provide an avenue for young minds to gather under the theme "YOLO MIC: You Only Live Once, Make It Count." Facilitated by GK Next Gen President Allyson Nepomuceno, this youth-driven forum aims to discuss the crucial role of the youth in mission-building and how they can become powerful young ambassadors of Gawad Kalinga.

In addition, the Business Forum offers a space for business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs, and potential investors to explore new horizons. GK CDFI Chairman Luis Oquinena will expertly facilitate the topic "Re-Thinking the Economy". Attendees will discuss how to build businesses that not only generate profit but also create a positive impact on society, delving into the concept of combining social good with profitability.

Mobilizing for Lasting Impact

As the conference nears its conclusion on September 24th, the focus shifts towards mobilization and action. Attendees are encouraged to channel the inspiration and knowledge garnered over the previous days into actionable strategies. Guided by thought leaders such as Daniel Bercasio Executive Director of GKCDFI and Carol Tulud, GK USA Executive Director, participants collaborate to craft plans for effecting positive change.

A Symbolic Commitment

One of the poignant highlights of the conference is the concept of "Padugo," a symbolic commitment to serve the less fortunate. Attendees symbolically pledge to continue their mission of community betterment even after the conference concludes.

Representing #IAMGK Spirit

Throughout the event, the ethos of #IAMGK – signifying individual roles in effecting change – resonates deeply. The conference serves as a dynamic platform for attendees to connect, collaborate, and share their visions for a better world. By the conference's end, participants depart armed not only with renewed inspiration but also with actionable plans to bring about tangible transformation.

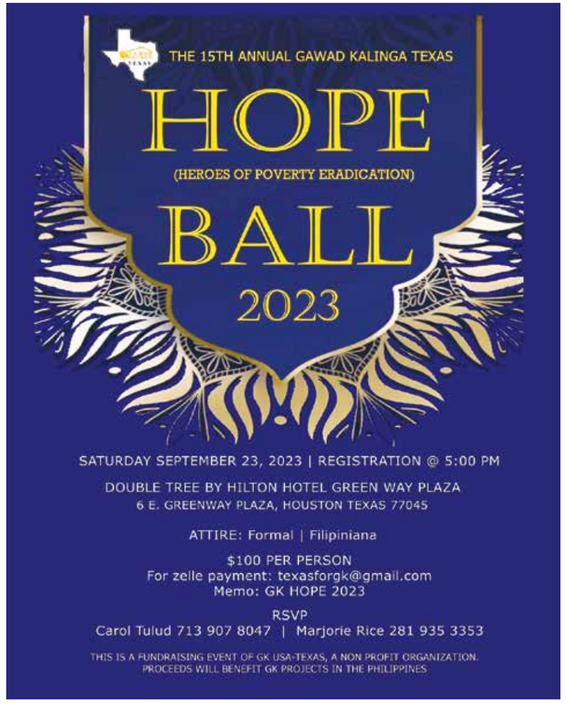
The Gawad Kalinga USA Conference 2023 truly embodies the spirit of solidarity, empowerment, and positive change. With its diverse array of keynotes, workshops, and caring sessions, the conference stands poised to be a pivotal moment in the ongoing mission to ignite progress and uplift lives. As attendees leave, they carry forth a ignited motivation to be active agents of change in their cities, perpetuating the essence of #IAMGK long after the conference has concluded.

Ready to Ignite, Advance, and Mobilize

As the countdown begins to the GK USA Conference 2023, anticipation and enthusiasm are spreading far and wide. With compassionate hearts and a shared vision, participants are poised to ignite inspiration, advance impactful ideas, and mobilize efforts toward ending poverty in the Philippines. This event embodies the spirit of coming together, embracing diverse perspectives, and uniting for a cause that truly matters.

Stay connected for more updates as the conference approaches. For inquiries, opportunities to sponsor, and registration details, please visit http://www.gk-usa.org

Attendees are invited to immerse themselves in compelling narratives, fostering a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to positive change



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FIVE BREAKUPS & A ROMANCE

Julia Montes says working with Alden Richards is her 'Dream Project'

In the film, Alden and Julia are paired up in a complicated story of finding a balance between love and career. Alden plays Lance, whom he describes as a relaxed and shameless guy, while Julia plays Justine, a goal-driven career woman. On TikTok, director Antoinette Jadaone shared a short video of Alden and Julia's scene in the upcoming film, including one where the pair is in the throes of a torrid kiss. Social media had been abuzz since then.

It's been a heck of a major project achievement, and Alden Richards is all praises for Julia, "It's been a while since my last film in 2019. Noong nilatag pa lang sa akin 'to, na-excite ako sa idea of being paired with Julia because I know how brilliant of an actress she is," Alden remarked at the media conference of the movie.

The actor commended how authentic and genuine Julia is, saying, "Si Julia Montes ang isa sa mga naka-partner ko na walang pretensions, nararamdaman ko ang sincerity. Kaya hindi rin ako natakot to give my all in this film kasi importanteng ipakita 'yung individuality niya."

Julia was equally excited to work with Alden. "Noong nalaman ko po siyempre, nagulat talaga ako. I'm honored and happy to work with him. Kahit hindi pa





kami masyadong matagal nagsho-shoot, na-realize kung bakit Alden Richards is Alden Richards," she stated.

The actress remarked that she considers Five Break-ups and a Romance as her dream project.

"Ito matatawag ko talagang dream project. Hindi ko inexpect na sa akin ipagkakatiwala yung role. To be with Alden also with direk Irene (Villamor) na hindi ko in-expect na makaka-work kasi I'm a hopeless romantic kind of girl so pag nanonood ako ng film, what if kaya pine-play ko 'yung ganyang role?" she said.



"Laging ganun lang 'yung mindset ko. Hindi ko ini-expect na eventually time will come ito pala 'yung year na 'yun na gagawa ako ng ganung film," the actress added.

When asked how does it feel that networks are now more open to collaborating with each other, Julia replied, "Siguro ang sarap sa pakiramdam, sana ganun tayo in life, hindi lang sa network, 'yung lahat tayo open, walang wall, walang restriction kasi hindi mo masasabi ang buhay eh."

She continued: "Kapag tulungan, ang dami mong maa-achieve. With teamwork ang dami mong maa-achieve. Ito 'yung perfect example, lalo na sa project na 'to two big companies nagtulungan and another big company nagsama-sama, alam mo 'yun, 'yung talaga teamwork."

Alden added that with the networks now teaming up more in producing projects, it widens the opportunities for artists.

"Maganda na rin po 'yung nangyayari ngayon na ABS-CBN and GMA have been very vocal with the partnerships that they are going into, parang mas lumawak 'yung opportunities especially for us actors," he said.

"Ngayon kasi ang common goal na is to give world class entertainment at mapakita natin na Filipino talent has what it takes to compete with international outfits as well," he continued.

Five Break-ups and a Romance is written and directed by Irene Villamor. The director expressed her excitement working with the two stars.

"First reading pa lang namin, ang saya ko na. First reading pa lang may input na agad sila. Nagre-revise na ako so parang based on how they read it so napaganda 'yung materyal," the director said.

She added: "We have done just one reading pa lang at sobrang dami na namin na discuss about the concept so nakaka-excite makita paano nila bubuhayin yung mga characters sa script."

Cornerstone Studios, GMA Pictures, and Alden's company Myriad Corporation have teamed up to produce the movie.





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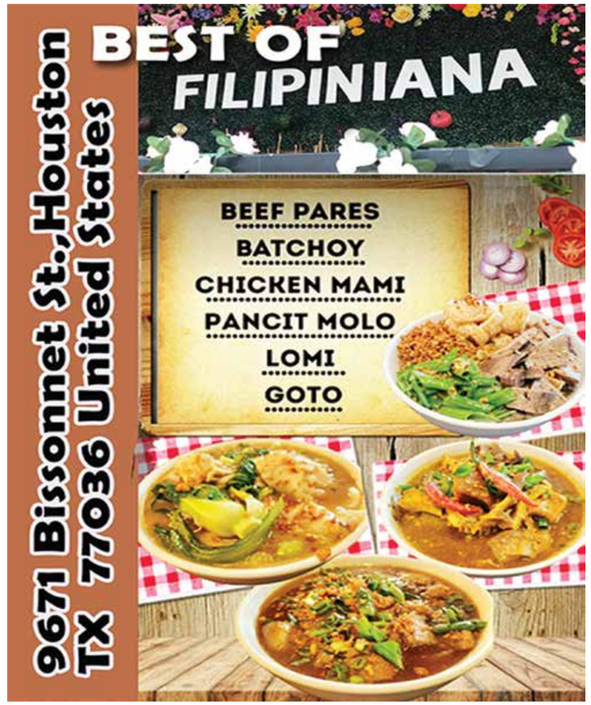
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Get to know more about the Ilocano Club of Metro Houston

Join the Fun at the Annual Picnic

Every year in October, the Ilocano Club of Metro Houston (ICMH) holds a picnic for its friends, supporters and the entire Houston community.

This year's picnic will be held on October 28, a Saturday, from noon till 4 p.m., at the Kitty Hollow Park, 9555 Highway 6, Missouri City, Texas 77459.

The picnic is a day of fun, games, and food—authentic Ilocano dishes, including goat kinilaw, papaitan and pinakbet. Attendees who choose to participate in the raffle also get the chance to win fabulous prizes. For a $2 dollar ticket, one can win the top prize, a 75-inch UHD 4K Smart TV.

"The much-anticipated annual picnic at the park is the ICMH's way of thanking the community for its support to the ICMH, particularly its Scholarship Fund for seminarians," says Ave Basa, the Club's current president.

Pursuing its vision of helping propagate Christianity, the ICMH created a Scholarship Fund to support seminarian. Started some 14 years ago, this program mainly supports seminarians at the Immaculate Conception School of Theology, a major seminary in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines, who are in their last three years of completing the academic requirements toward ordination.

As of August 2023, the Club's financial assistance has resulted in eight Catholic priests being ordained—five of them during the last two years. Four more graduated in June 2023 and are to be ordained by the end of the year.

Starting this school year, the ICMH will increase the number of its seminarian-scholars from five to seven. Each receives $700 a year in financial assistance.

The proceeds of the picnic raffle will augment the ICMH Scholarship Fund. With the continued support of Ilocano Club members and generous benefactors, the ICMH expects to pursue its mission with much greater fervor.

For raffle tickets or to make a donation, call 281-748-3066

- Ryan Tejero







Columnist Writer, Chicago's Via Times
Columnist Writer, **One Philippines Texas**
Chair, Advisory Board
US Pinoys for Good Governance - Michigan
Advisor, **Filipino American Society of Iowa**
Chair, UPAAA
Communications/Publicity









FilAms in Brownsville and Harlingen, TX Held Sports Event:

Engaging more FilAm youth and the community









The recently concluded sports event held in Brownsville, TX brought together the Filipino American community in unity and action. Organized by the Filipino American Association of Brownsville, Texas and the FilAm Youth Club of Brownsville, a friendly volleyball competition between FilAms from the cities of Brownsville and Harlingen opened an opportunity for young people to get together and show one another the true spirit of sportsmanship.

The FilAm Association of Harlingen, TX is about 20 miles west of Brownsville. The tournament gave the Harlingen FilAms an edge which made them win the game. The champions went home with gift-cards as prizes in lieu of trophies. Throughout the game, both young and adults cheered for both teams. The smaller children entertained the crowd with laughter-inducing game, Limbo-Rock. The FilAm Brownsville Youth had set up concession stands for fundraising to benefit their future projects.

The organizers wish to thank the generous donors to the event: Soria family, Bryan Abanilla, Rosary Munoz and Family, Amiel Danugrao, Niduaza Family, and Raneses Family.



Pat Niduaza, Social Events Committee Chair said, "It was a lot of fun for everyone, the kids doing the limbo rock is a joy to watch, and our Pinoy youth are amazing, engaged, and well-motivated. Again, thank you all, Ms. Danielle Modesto, amazing job you've done. It was a well-attended event."

Ken Stucki, Chairman, Sports Committee of Filipino-American Association of Brownsville said, "Sports have always been a place where people are brought together, where opponents become friends, where competitiveness and kindness show up as sportsmanship. As we look forward to what's next on our calendars, the date of the Fil-Am Brownsville Sports fest is always circled with a bright red marker pen."

The FilAm Youth Club of Brownsville is actively engaged in spearheading youth activities. This year, in July, the group gave recognition to FilAm high school graduates of 2023 for their outstanding academic achievements.

Also, this summer, the leadership of FilAm Association of Brownsville President Joseph Modesto, recently completed an Online Summer Paaralang Pilipino 2023, with much success. Joseph would like to thank the collaborative efforts of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, Rio Grande Valley (PACC RGV), and to the following teachers for their hand work and dedication to serve the children of the FilAm community in North America: Mildred Danao-Molito, Jane Yap Ewican, Christine Dames Alog, Joy Samsom, Jackie Co, Mara Ugalino, Christian Toledo, and Charina Alix. The Online Summer Paaralang Pilipino 2023 was held on July 17-21, 2023, with emphasis on learning about games, music, history, values education, cultural dance, social studies and language. The program is open to FilAm youth who are 7 to 18 years of age. The next event for FilAms in Brownsville is scheduled on October 14, 2023 for the celebration of Filipino American History Month.







Be ready this National Prepareness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, a full month dedicated to encouraging the public to assess and prepare for local disaster risks and unplanned emergencies. The National Household Survey (NHS) conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) found that a growing number of people invest in disaster preparation activities. Approximately 59 percent of adults have pursued at least one-fourth of FEMA's basic preparedness actions, and 44 percent of adults have set aside funds in preparation for an emergency. Better Business Bureau (BBB) urges families to prepare for the unexpected and by implementing an emergency preparedness plan.

"A solid emergency plan can give you peace of mind and a greater sense of security," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB in Central East Texas said. "When disaster strikes, you can take actions based on logic even in an emotional situation."

The following are FEMA's 12 Ways to Prepare before a disaster occurs:

Sign up for alerts and warnings
Make a plan
Save for a Rainy Day
Practice Emergency Drills
Test Family Communication Plan
Safeguard Documents
Plan with Neighbors
Make your Home Safer
Know Evacuation Routes



Assemble or Update Supplies
Get Involved in your Community
Document and Insure Property

Start by making an emergency plan with everyone in the home. Discuss how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings, what your shelter plan is, your evacuation route and the household communication plan. Practice your escape plan with your family, including pets, at least twice a year so you are fully prepared when disaster strikes. Prepare a basic disaster supplies kit. Families may also want to consider including such items as prescription medications, infant formula and diapers, pet food and cash. Remember to check your supplies every few months and replace expired items. It's also a good idea for at least one family member to know how to perform first aid and CPR.

Another step you can take is to know who to call after disaster strikes so that you and your family may recover quickly. As part of the vetting process for BBB Accreditation, BBB ensures all businesses who earn the BBB seal maintain the licensing requirements for that industry and provides the following guide to help you find businesses you can trust:

Insurance companies near me
Water damage companies near me
Roofing contractors near me
Plumbers near me
Electricians near me
Heating and air conditioning companies near me
Remodeling companies near me
Tree Service companies near me
Foundation Repair companies near me
Waste management companies near me

For more information on how to prepare before and react to a disaster, go to bbb.org and ready.gov. Please report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices to BBB Scam Tracker. Remember, great businesses are out there. Always look for the BBB seal; it's the Sign of a Better BusinessSM . Start with companies you can trust by going to bbb.org.

Houston Filipino American Lions Club

Soaring Up High with President Ursula V. Palacio

By Ryan Tejero

Organized in 1988, Houston Filipino American Lions Club (HFALC) started its humble beginnings from a small group of dedicated and passionate Filipino American professionals and businessmen who laid the groundwork of the organization. Its first project, the Mrs. Philippines pageant, became its biggest fundraiser that sustained many of its humanitarian projects that evolved through the years. As a group, HFALC adheres to its motto, "We Serve," as shown in the many medical missions that were carried out by its members since its inception. True to its mission, HFALC's membership vows to continue to promote Filipino culture, and discover the ingenuity of Filipino Americans. HFALC will also open new collaborative initiatives with other FilAm organizations in the greater-Houston area.





The current leader of HFALC is Ursula V. Palacio. Outstanding as she is, Ursula shares her passion for directing HFALC to greater heights of accomplishments. She said, "As the President of the Lions Club of Houston, I am honored to have this opportunity to address you and share the reason behind my role in this incredible organization. First and foremost, let me express my deep admiration and respect for the vibrant Filipino community that thrives here in Houston. Your rich culture, strong values, and unwavering spirit of community are truly inspirational."

As Ursula plans to increase membership in HFALC, she added that "One of the primary reasons why I assumed this role is my firm belief in the power of unity and collective action. Together, we can achieve remarkable things. By joining hands with Lions Club members, both locally and internationally, we can create meaningful change and address the challenges faced by our community."

Ursula graduated from the University of Pangasinan with a nursing degree. She became a Clinical Instructor at Computronix College and holds a master's degree in nursing administration from Luzon Colleges. She migrated to the US in 2005. Here in the US, Ursula is a licensed Life Insurance Agent in Texas State. She has produced several fashion shows which include Amir Sali in Houston, which means "Heaven on Earth," the show was featured in TFC locally and internationally: Spring fashion show 2021, Hawaiian Night 2022, and the most recent one - Vila-Style Hawaiian Night 2023. Ursula has gained popularity in the pageant world as she holds the following titles: Ms. World Imperial cover model 2023; Ms. World Imperial Philippines classic 2023; Mrs. Philippines Texas 2021; Mrs. Philippines Texas Tourism 2017, and Mrs. Luzon 2014. Ursula is happily married to Franklin Palacio. She is a mother of two – Aaron Brian and Jr.

The overwhelming success of fundraiser, VS Hawaiian Night at the Philippine Cultural Center on August 19, 2023, had gained HFALC another feather in the triumph list. The models and the choreography spelled out excellent leadership, and the happy guests who left with all positive remarks about the event explained why HFALC is just a great organization. This coming November 11th, HFALC is holding its Mrs. Philippines Coronation Night at the PCCI. Please contact Ursula V. Palacio for tickets and sponsorship at 832.297.5551.







"One of the primary reasons why I assumed this role is my firm belief in the power of unity and collective action. Together, we can achieve remarkable things. By joining hands with Lions Club members, both locally and internationally, we can create meaningful change and address the challenges faced by our community."

- RYAN TEJERO
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SHOWBITZ

World champs Legit Status open 'Showtime' episode

Legit Status set the stage on fire with their world-class dance moves as they opened the Saturday episode of noontime show "It's Showtime!".

The 2023 Hip Hop Megacrew world champion dance group from the Philippines unleashed their winning moves on "Showtime" – where their coach Vimi Rivera was also once part of.

Rivera became one of the judges of the noontime show's segment "Girl On Fire."

According to him, the entire squad sacrificed a lot during their almost a year of preparation to win the title in the international contest.

"We really wanted to represent the Philippine to the fullest kaya pinaghirapan talaga namin siya. Almost 1 year kami nag-train. Everyone had to sacrifice," he said.

And just like what other guest performers did in the program, the group also joined the "Mini Miss U" dance craze.

Legit Status, whose members include Kapamilya artist Gela Atayde, emerged as champions at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship 2023 held in the United States earlier this month.

Gela is the daughter of screen veteran Sylvia Sanchez with husband Art Atayde.



Filipino-American standup comedian JR De Guzman gets real about heckling and thirsty titas



If his viral videos and sold-out shows are any indications, JR De Guzman is pretty funny. The Filipino-American comedian has made a name for himself for his musical comedy and Filipino-inspired humor. Armed with his acoustic guitar, De Guzman delivers his jokes to the rhythm of his R&B strumming. And whether he's joking about his immigrant experience or roasting the Filipinos in his audience, De Guzman knows how to entertain a crowd. He's traveled the world with his comedy, performing at Stand-Up Tokyo, the ROR Comedy Club in Japan, the Jokers Ball in Indonesia, and the Badaboom Comedy Series in Amsterdam. But, with the help of Myx, the prodigal son has returned to the Philippines to take to the Solaire Theater stage on June 3 for one night only. Esquire Philippines got to talk to the comedian before his highly anticipated Philippine return, and he had a lot to say about hecklers and thirsty titas, How do you deal with it when your jokes bomb?

I cry a little bit.

What's worse: silence or heckling?

Oh, definitely silence. I would rather be heckled. You want energy as a performer. So I'd rather have the energy of somebody heckling you. You can still use that in your performance, but silence? It's just dead. Like, I might as well just be at home.

What's the most memorable thing anyone's ever shouted at you?

I had a show and there were some titas in the front row. And they had these note cards and everything. And it was first, "Oh, I love you. Can I hug you?" And then the one after that was, "Can we do that in bed?"I was not expecting that from this sweet tita, who looked like one of my own titas.

Who do you think are the greatest comedians of all time?

I love Jo Koy because he's just a nice human being. Dave Chappelle is somebody I grew up watching. Tom Segura right now. Michelle Wolf is an insane writer. Adam Sandler is somebody who I just love overall, not just on stand-up, but the way that he brings his friends into his productions, his movies, everything.

R.I.P. GMA Network's Mike Enriquez (1951-2023)



It is with profound sadness that GMA Network announces the passing of our beloved Kapuso, Mr. Miguel "Mike" C. Enriquez, who peacefully joined our Creator on August 29, 2023. Enriquez, 71, was one of the anchors of GMA's flagship newscast "24 Oras" and hosted the long-running public affairs program, "Imbestigador." He also served as President of RGMA Network, Inc. and GMA Network's Senior Vice President and Consultant for Radio Operations. He also anchored DZBB's "Super Balita sa Umaga" and "Saksi sa Dobol B." He joined the broadcast industry in 1969 and then became part of GMA Network in 1995, wholeheartedly serving the Filipino audience for 54 years.The Board of Directors, management, and employees of GMA Network, Inc. deeply mourn the passing of Mr. Enriquez. His dedication to the industry will serve as an inspiration to all. We pray for the eternal repose of our beloved Kapuso.



Video ng pagsayaw nina Marian Rivera at Raphael Landicho ng 'Super Bass,' nasa milyon agad ang views

Maria Ressa pays tribute to Amal Clooney in DVF Awards 2023



When the woman who keeps you out of jail calls, you come," Rappler CEO and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa said as she presented Amal Clooney with her DVF Leadership Award at the 2023 DVF Awards on Thursday, August 31.

The DVF Awards, founded by fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg and the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation, seeks to recognize five women each year "who are dedicated to transforming the lives of other women." It also grants awardees $100,000 for their non-profit organization.

The 2023 DVF awardees included United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, actress Lily Singh, computer scientist and researcher Joy Buolamwini, and environmental and human rights activist Helena Gualinga.

Actress and producer Emma Thompson, British singer-songwriter Rita Ora, and former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also attended the award ceremony in Venice, Italy to present the awards.

'BATANG QUIAPO': GRUPO NI TANGGOL, NASAMPOLAN SA PAGPASOK SA SELDA

Nakatikim ng batas ng mga kriminal si Tanggol (Coco Martin) at ang kanyang tropa sa kanilang pagpasok sa selda sa latest episode ng "FPJ's Batang Quiapo." Sa pagkakasangkot sa kasong illegal possession of firearms and drugs, napunta sa kulungan ang tropa at nakaharap sina Jail Warden Colonel Gerardo Balatucan (Robert Sena) at Mang Celso (Soliman Cruz). Sa kanilang pagdating, bugbog agad ang nakuha nila mula sa mga tropa ni Mang Celso o mas kilala bilang Mayor. "'Yan ang welcome namin sa inyo para mawala ang kayabangan sa mga katawan niyo," saad ni Mayor. Nakasama nina Tanggol si Ben (Mark Lapid) at pinakiusapan niyang kuhain na sina Tanggol ngunit hindi ito pumayag. Dumating naman si Jail Chief Superintendent (Brig. Gen.) Dolores Espinas (Jaclyn Jose) at nalamang may nag-aalok ng pera sa kanila para sa ulo ng mga bagong salta. Mapapanood ang "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" mula Lunes hanggang Biyernes, 8 p.m. sa Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, Cinemo, A2Z, TV5, iWantTFC at TFC.



Julie Anne San Jose and Rayver Cruz perform for jam-packed crowd at 'Taste of Manila' in Canada

Julie Anne San Jose and Rayver Cruz are fresh from a successful performance at the "Taste of Manila" event in Toronto, Canada. According to a report on "24 Oras," the Kapuso power couple sang and brought the kilig feels to a jam-packed crowd. "Taste of Manila" is the biggest Filipino festival in Canada. It features Filipino cuisine, live music and performances, and fashion shows. Julie Anne is already in Vancouver where she will be performing live at the "Pista ng Bayan" event at Robson Square last August 26, 2023 Julie Anne and Rayver recently starred in their first movie together, "The Cheating Game." Last year, they had a successful concert titled "JulieVerse," where Julie Anne told Rayver, "I love you, too." Both successful artists, Julie is among the coaches of "The Voice Generations," while Rayver has an upcoming series with Jasmine Curtis-Smith



Maymay Entrata makes it to Times Square billboard



Things forbidden by the Bible that you still do anyway

Many of us are familiar with the Ten Commandments. God told Moses that humankind may not steal, kill, or commit adultery, among other directives. But these are just some of the actions prohibited by the Bible, and many others can be found in the Christian holy book. In this gallery, we bring you some of the most interesting ones.



1. Thou shalt not cut your hair or shave your beard

It turns out men shouldn't shave their beards, nor cut their hair (but then, it might just be a round haircut that's forbidden). Leviticus 19:27 reads: "Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard." Pagan cults shaved their forelocks as a sign of faithfulness to their belief system, so the God of Israel instructed His people to do the exact opposite.



4. Thou shalt not have sex outside of marriage

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 is pretty clear when it says that "each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband." The passage actually encourages the couple to not deprive each other from sex, so that they won't be tempted by Satan.



2. Thou shalt not cross-breed your livestock or mix your crop in the same field

You must obey all my decrees. Do not mate two different kinds of animals." No mules (offspring of a horsed and a donkey); no zorses (offspring of horse and zebras); Thou shalt not mix your crops in the same field "Do not plant your vineyard with two types of seed; otherwise, the entire harvest, both the crop you plant and the produce of the vineyard, will be defiled." Deuteronomy 22:9



5. Thou shalt not pleasure thyself alone

AKA Thou shalt not worship on the altar of Onan. While having sex with our spouse is fine, doing so on our own is not advocated by the Bible. 1 Corinthians 6:18 reads: "Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." Onan was a figure detailed in the Book of Genesis chapter 38, as the second son of Judah who married the daughter of Shuah the Canaanite. He was censured for "spilling his seed on barren soil"; and the Roman Catholic church still officially condemns masturbation as a mortal sin.



3. Thou shalt not wear clothes made of two different fabrics

Leviticus 19:19 and Deuteronomy 22:11 prohibit wearing wool and linen fabrics in one garment. Linen is a product of a riverine agricultural economy, such as that of the Nile Valley, while wool is a product of a desert, pastoral economy, such as that of the Hebrew tribes. Mixing the two together symbolically mixes Egypt (mortal enemy) and the Hebrews.



6. Thou shalt not eat pork

Not great news for bacon lovers, but the Bible is pretty explicit when it comes to consuming pork. Leviticus 11:7-8 states: "The pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you." Animals like cows, sheep, and deer that have divided hooves and chew their cud may be consumed. Pigs should not be eaten because they don't chew their cud. The ban on the consumption of pork is repeated in Deuteronomy 14:8.



7. Thou shalt not eat shellfish

And if you thought you would be laughing at pork-eaters while you indulge in lobster and shrimp, we have bad news for you. Leviticus 11:10 is pretty clear about these animals as well. "But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean."

8. Thou shalt not eat snails

Eating snails is not for everyone, but it's part of many countries' culinary traditions. The Bible, though, doesn't advocate its consumption. Leviticus 11:41 points out that "these also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth."





9. Thou shalt not hang out with gluttons

Sure, many of us like to eat and have a drink or two, and so did people in biblical times. The problem is when we hang out with people who are prone to excess, and we end up following their steps. "Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags," reads Proverbs 23:20-21.

10. Thou shalt not swear

The Bible stresses that we should pay attention to the words we profess. Be grateful and don't swear seems to be the way to go according to the Bible. "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving," reads Ephesians 5:4.



11. Thou shalt not curse your parents

While we're on the topic of watching our mouths, let's not even think about cursing our parents. Because according to Exodus 21:17, "ANYONE WHO CURSES THEIR FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH."



12. Thou shalt not get tattoos

Tattoos are pretty common in this day and age, but back in biblical times, they were a no-no. "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks upon you," reads Leviticus 19:28.

13. Thou shalt not allow women to look hot and rich

1 Timothy 2:9 is pretty clear when it comes to how women should present themselves. "I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes."





14. Thou shalt not engage in gossip and hearsay

Next time you think about engaging in gossip, remember what the Bible says about it: "Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate," (Psalm 101:5).

15. Thou shalt not be gay

You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination." This verse says that gay male sex is forbidden in the eyes of God. The dominant view of western Christianity forbids same-sex relations. This is the first verse that people cite from the Bible to condemn homosexuality. All sexual activities must be engaged in with the goal of producing male offspring who will fight the enemies of Israel. All else is a waste of male seed.



(Source: www.msn.com/en-au/lifestyle/lifestylegeneral/things-forbidden-by-the-bible-that-you-do-anyway/ss-AA1f0Hum#image=7)

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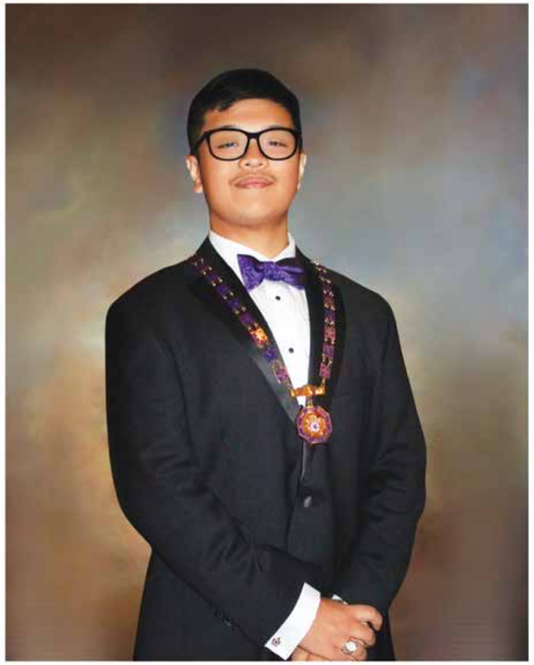
DeMolay's Texas State Master Councilor: Houston's FilAm Youth Inspiring Other Young People

By Ryan Tejero

Now on its 94th year, DeMolay organization continues to be a living proof of grooming young men to become prolific and esteemed future leaders of the land. DeMolay is fun. DeMolay is and can be almost anything you would like it to be. They have sports, dances, all sorts of competitions in all sorts of areas and it's the largest fraternal (fraternity) organization for young men in the world. DeMolay is a youth organization for males ages 12-21.

Since its inception in 1919, there are over 4 million young men who have joined the group. Today there are about 1500 chapters, located in the United States, Canada and sixteen other countries.

With pride and great honor, the highest position called the State Master Councilor is occupied by a Filipino American, Kyle Villanueva. Kyle is the first Filipino American who was elected in such a prestigious organization.



State Master Councilor

As a brotherhood, DeMolay embraces the seven cardinal virtues: Filial Love (Love of Parents); Reverence for Sacred Things (Respect for things you feel are important, or for things others feel are important.); Courtesy; Comradeship (Friendship); Fidelity (Being true to your friends and beliefs); Cleanness, and Patriotism.

This year, a new set of officers was installed. With pride and great honor, the highest position called the State Master Councilor is occupied by a Filipino American, Kyle Villanueva. Kyle is the first Filipino American who was elected in such a prestigious organization. As the new leader, Kyle plans to focus on promoting DeMolay to increase its membership and awareness of the organization in the mainstream. Kyle genuinely believes in the values that he learned from DeMolay which he said, "are influential and blessings in his life."

With the support of One Philippines, Kyle hopes to involve more youth, expand its membership in the Filipino American community and in the public. He wants to invest in activities where he can reach out to other young men so they can learn more about DeMolay and the benefits of joining. Currently, Kyle goes out to various DeMolay open houses where he delivers messages and inspires other youth to join the organization. His goal is meet similar minded young men who will join him in his journey to embrace the cardinal virtues and eventually meet lifelong friends who will turn into his bothers for life.

Kyle is born to his proud parents: Marlon and Djoanna Villanueva from Pearland, Texas. He is blessed with outstanding academic achievements as being inducted in the High School Honor Society. The future is bright for Kyle as he steps forward in his journey of excellence in leadership and commitment to DeMolay and the

- RYAN TEJERO
Columnist Writer, **Chicago's Via Times**
Columnist Writer, **One Philippines Texas**
Chair, Advisory Board **US Pinoys for Good Governance - Michigan**
Advisor, **Filipino American Society of Iowa**
Chair, **UPAAA Communications/Publicity**

"YOU CAN'T GO WRONG BY INVESTING IN THE YOUTHS, YOUTHS ARE GAME CHANGERS, AND CREATIVE THINKERS"
- Bamigboye Olurotimi

HOROSCOPE

September 2023

ARIES



Things are definitely going to go your way on the 2nd. Writing is especially favored for you on the 5th. Travel beckons and could bring a good time on the 21st. Creative projects and fun plans that have been on hold will start to gain speed once again. It's great, however, it's likely that you'll be busy with work, and if not work, general life responsibilities are keeping you rooted where you are. You may experience the frustrating tension between work and play.

TAURUS



If you've been overindulging, this is an excellent time to slow down your overconsumption to a more sustainable level. This can apply to any context—overindulgence in food, maybe you're exercising too and risking injury, overindulging in pessimism and not enough hope, overspending, so much protecting your peace you're now isolated, etc. Find the moderation you need as your holistic wellness is the focus of the month.

GEMINI



YIt's your time to enjoy some of the changes you've had to enact in the past couple of months in terms of your daily routines. A dream can bring hidden motivations to the surface on the 4th. Creativity with the written word is yours on the 25th. Perhaps you had to move, or there's been some changes in your day-to-day environment that required you to adjust. A money-making idea is yours on the 15th. Hopefully, you'll start to reap what you sow.

CANCER



Do you feel a deeper connection to yourself or is the question bringing up more feelings of grief and disappointment? The thing is, focusing on you is not always a feel-good experience. Part of prioritizing your growth is being honest about what's no longer true for you. Regardless of what the context may be about, the month ahead is about a deeper self-inquiry into how much you actually support yourself.

LEO



to yourself or is the question bringing up more feelings of grief and disappointment? The thing is, focusing on you is not always a feel-good experience. Part of prioritizing your growth is being honest about what's no longer true for you. Regardless of what the context may be about, the month ahead is about a deeper self-inquiry into how much you actually support yourself. Self-abandonment can be so effortless that sometimes it's hard to recognize it's even happening. Intuition is exceptionally high for you on the 15th.

VIRGO



Most of the lethargy and/or welcomed rest of the past month, will come to a close, for better or worse. You have an abundance of ideas on the 4th. You may have a low-energy day on the 14th, but it should improve thereafter. On some level, it's nice to finally start moving forward on some stalled projects, or if you've been under the weather, it'll feel nice to be more energized. The downtime of the last days of summer should help clarify some of your life goals and dreams.

LIBRA



The fall equinox is usually a pleasant reset for you, dear Libra. It's an excellent time to pull back, prioritize reflection time, and quietly live your days with intention and purpose. This doesn't have to look like a lack of activity—sometimes quite the contrary. Amid the busyness, bring back the focus on your body's needs as you move through the last quarter of the year. You are particularly charming on the 16th. Be careful not to spend too much money on the 17th. Expect the unexpected on the 29thdream weekend of your choice.

SCORPIO



Spring and summer were undoubtedly busy for you, dear Scorpio. Even if you may feel like the results weren't immediately clear, it's likely that the past few months have resulted in well-needed changes, especially around your work and overall life path. You likely found yourself needing to re/connect with valued folks in your circle and frankly, all that socializing is probably catching up to you. The good news is that the fall equinox is usually a signal for slowing down and going inward—especially for you.

SAGITTARIUS



It's time to launch the ideas you've been sitting on for the past few months. Whether they're personal or work-oriented in nature, it's time to take some action even if conditions aren't the most ideal. You're likely to learn more as you go instead of waiting for the "perfect timing." The best time is when you do it. Trust yourself more and lean into the sense of play and creativity that's available to you right now. Be careful no to overdo on the 4th; pace yourself instead. Insights about your career are yours on the 8th. Writing is favored for you on the 25th.

CAPRICORN



Creativity is yours on the 3rd. You can have a good time with your friends on the 18th. You sparkle and shine on the 23rd. It□s quite a cliché, but there□s a back-to-school vibe going on for you this month ahead. Whether you□re literally starting school or perhaps doing some professional development training, it'll feel pleasant to take on the work ahead, especially if there's been some delays. Perhaps you're lucky that this time signals the start of a vacation or new travels. Whatever you're up to, the fall equinox is about looking forward with hope toward the future.

AQUARIUS



Some of the mysteries of your relationship predicaments will begin to unveil and become clearer as the month progresses. As you move forward, issues in your life that require resolutions will require a more task-oriented approach. It doesn't all look like an external action or event per se. Some of it may just be about a reframe in your mindset and perspective. Those can be incredibly helpful. Your connection with your families of origin will be up for review and reevaluation this autumn. An intuition about improving your finances is yours on the 15th. Folks tend to see things your way on the 25th. Don't get into an argument with your significant other on the 29th.

PISCES



Your mission for the month ahead is to figure out how to balance your need for treats (of all kinds) and the necessary discipline required to live a long and healthy life. In short, is it still a treat if you treat yourself every day? Some things you have to work hard for and the key is finding the sweet balance between pleasure and purpose. Creativity is yours on the 10th. Avoid an argument with your mate on the 19th by keeping quiet. Folks are inclined to see your point of view on the 27th. This fall equinox is about resetting your daily habits with as much kindness to yourself as possible.

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(Sources:http://astrologyk.com/horoscope/monthly//;https://www.321horoscope.com/2023/horoscope-2023html; https://www.sunsigns.org/scorpio-2023-horoscope/; https://www.yearly-horoscope.org/2023-monthly/; https://www.astrosofa.com/horoscopes/; https://www.free-horoscope.com/horoscopes/monthly/2023/leo.htm)

TAWA NAMAN D'YAN

Big Banana



Q: **Ano ang tawag sa mga leader ng saging?**
A: Banana Chip

ERAP ADVICE
BONGBONG: I will put an end to poverty and mass starvation in the Philippines.
ERAP: Teka lang Bongbong, alam mo yang poverty madali lang yan ma-solve, pero yung masturbation, aba eh mag isip isip ka muna. Human rights violation yan!

FISHDA
Ano ang sinabi ng isda nung mamamatay na siya?
"I'm daing!"

MORTAL CONFESSIONS
KILLER: Father mangungumpisal po ako
FATHER: Anong kasalanan mo?
KILLER: Pumatay po ako ng labing-dalawang tao
FATHER: Bakit?
KILLER: Kasi po naniniwala sila sa Diyos, ako hindi. Kayo po, naniniwala ba kayo sa Diyos?
FATHER: Dati…pero ngayon trip trip na lang!

GREASE IS THE WORD
Ano ang tawag sa anak ng taong grasa?
Baby oil!

MORAL SALT
Q: Why is salt bad for you?
A: Because it's asin

DALAWANG LASING
Dalawang lasing naglalakad sa kalye
LASING 1: Pare tignan mo o tsokolate
LASING 2: Hindi yan tsokolate pre, tae yan.
LASING 1: Tsokolate yan, tignan mo titikman ko (tinikman nga).
LASING 2: O, ano?
LASING 1: Oo nga pre, tae nga!
LASING 2: Sabi ko sayo, ayaw mong maniwala eh!
LASING 1: Shet! Buti na lang hindi ko naapakan!

LAW OF GRAVITY
Q: What does an old lady and a banana have in common?
A: They're both saging.

DONUT MAKE HULOG
Q: Anung sasabihin mo kapag may nakita kang donut na nasa bubong ng bahay mo?
A: Bavarian! At dahan-dahan lang baka madulas ka!

DUTERTE DEATH SQUAD
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Drug dealer po.
Bang bang bang
Crickets

CHICKEN OR EGG?
Q: Anong nauna -- Bills or Coins?
A: Coins. Kasi "Coin Purse."

ALPHA DOGS & CATS
Q: Anong tawag sa mga astig na alaga?
A: Malulupets

HOT & COLD
Q: Anong tawag sa malamig na soup?
A: Soupdrink.

BISAYA KA DAY?
Q: Ano ang tawag sa mas malaki sa city?
A: Utsu.

BUFFALO I.Q.
Q: Anong tawag sa kalabaw na umaakyat ng puno?
A: Magaling

FLYING KISS
Q: Anong halik ang lumilipad?
A: Halik-copter.

QUIET TRANSLATION
Q: Ano sa Japanese ang speechless?
A: Wasabi

FEELING DOWN
Q: Anong tawag sa malungkot na pari?
A: Depriest



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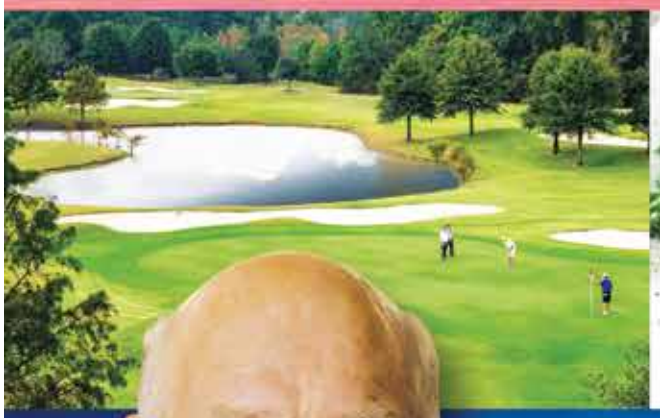


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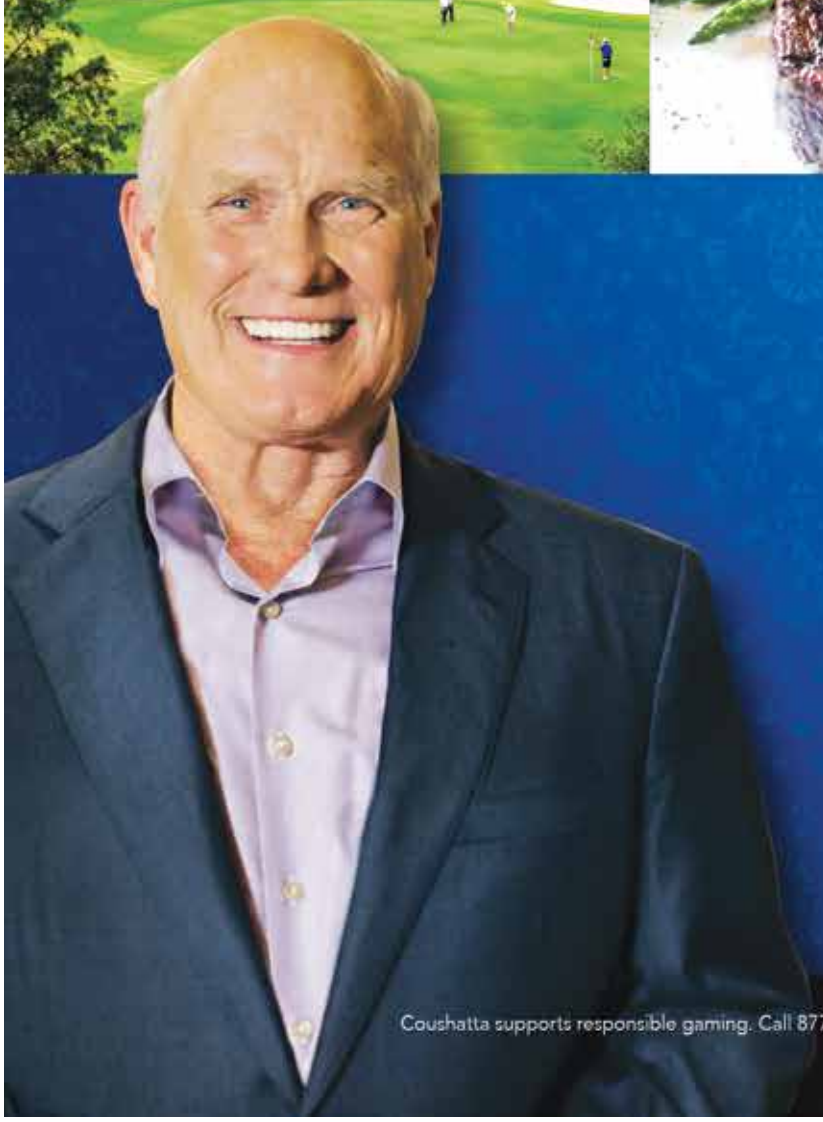
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