

Another labor leader arrested

POLICE last week arrested a labor organizer, suspected of being one of 72 militants in Southern Tagalog facing charges in connection with an alleged ambush by communist rebels in March 2006.

Leonardo Arceta, 51, was arrested inside a friend's house in Westdrive Subdivision,

(Turn to Page 4)



Magastos na ang biyahe rito

FOREBODING. The still vacant provincial livelihood building (left) seems to hint of what will happen to the Batangas Port (right).

Batangas Port dilemma

BATANGAS PORT is confronted with a serious problem in management albeit shipping industry support to make it the primary seaport in the Calabarzon, or Region 4A.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is now faced with a dilemma on who will manage the Batangas Port Phase II as the expiration of its contract with Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) draws near.

ATI Batangas Inc., a subsidiary of Manila-based ATI, has been engaged by the PPA to temporarily manage the Batangas Port Phase II and provide cargo-handling services at the international container terminal of the port for one year starting March 25, 2008.

Recently the port authority has issued an indefinite permit to operate to ATI in order not to further hamper commercial operations of the port.

It is also one of the two eligible bidders for the 25-year management and operations contract for Batangas. The other bidder is International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI).

The PPA is also working on the privatization of Batangas Port. It has received interests from many firms to operate an international cargo terminal at the Southern gateway.

Those interested include the Filipino-Kuwaiti firm KGLI-NM, International Container Terminal Services Inc.—operator of the Manila International Cargo Terminal—and Asian Terminals, which also runs the Mariveles grains terminal.

The PPA is also working out with the Peza and the BOC a list of possible incentives to entice shippers into the region.

Planning for the development of Batangas port started in the 1980s. The port is envisioned to contribute to the economic

Various sectors of the shipping industry support the idea to make the Port of Batangas the primary seaport in the southern part of the country.

Representatives of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), Association of International Shipping Lines, Asian Terminal Inc. and Peza locators in Calabarzon stressed the importance of developing the port to service the shipping needs in the region.

Calabarzon is the acronym for the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

Development of the Batangas Port should be considered as extremely important for the country's economic development as the port is vital to the transportation of

(Turn to Page 3)

P285.8 M road project to interconnect 2 Mindoros

A P285.8 million road construction project will interconnect the southern portions of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said it has released the fund for the Mindoro East Coastal Road Nautical Highway (MecrnH) which will start right after the bidding set this month.

MecrnH will pave the way for the interconnection of the two Mindoro provinces, a vital link that is expected to jumpstart their economic

recovery.

Dubbed the "food basket" and major tourist destinations in the Southern Tagalog Region. Mimaropa DPWH Director Veniedo O. Reyes said the new fund infusion came from the regular budget of the department.

DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane has ordered its release to fast-track the development of the two Mindoro provinces, Mindoro newsman Robert Evora reported.

The P285.8-million MecrnH

fund is on top of the R174 million earlier released by the DPWH for the concreting of the 23-kilometer Calapan South Road in northern Oriental Mindoro. The total amount now earmarked for the projects in Oriental Mindoro is P459.806 million.

The P459.8-million appropriation is allotted for the concreting of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro, and Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, MECRNH mountain road, P115.800 million; concreting of the Calapan South Road,

Western Nautical Highway, P96.5 million; rehabilitation, reconstruction, and upgrading of Calapan South Road, Strong Republic Nautical Highway, P74.305 million; concreting of the 23-kilometer Calapan South Road stretch in Naujan, Victoria and Socorro towns, P170 million; and repair of the damaged Calapan-San Teodoro-Puerto Galera Road, P4 million.

The second engineering district, which under the

(Turn to Page 4)

Sudoku Tricks

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SAGOT SA PAHINA 2
 "Entered as Second Class Mail Matter" at the Calapan Post Office, Oriental Mindoro on February 27, 2008.

Sa Tawa-tawa: Dolphin nalunod
 (Basahin sa Pahina 4)

'Panginoon, kung ibig Ninyo'y mapapagaling Ninyo ang aking bayan!'

ALAS dose na ng gabi noon. Ang sabi, ganung oras aalis ang barko. Pero kagaya nang palagi nating karanasan, maaaring huli na naman ng 15 hanggang 30 minuto. Habang ako ay naghihintay, sa isang upuan ay napansin ko ang isang matandang babae.

Sa aking tantiya, maaring siya ay magwa-80 taong gulang na ayon sa kanyang panlabas na kaanyuan at bahagyang pagkakuba. Sa tabi niya ay ilang supot ng mga kakanin na nalaman ko lamang na inilalako niya nang may napadaang pasaherong inalok niya.

Naisip ko, sa ganoong edad, sana ang babaeng ito ay nagpapahinga na sa piling ng mga anak at apo na nag-aaruga sa kanya. Bahagyang nawala ang pansin ko sa kanya at muli ko siyang nakita nang

paalis na ang barko – nasa pantalan at naghihintay nang susunod na barkong maaring muli niyang paglakuan.

Nang magtungo ako sa bansang Holland mga ilang taon na ang nakararaan, pinalad akong tumira ng isang Linggo sa isang pamilya. Ang mag-asawang tumanggap sa akin ay may 55 at 60 taong gulang. Buhay pa ang kanilang mga magulang at itinira nila sa isang bahay para sa mga matatanda kung saan ay mayroon silang animo'y sariling bahay kasama ang isang nurse.

Di ko maiwasang ihambing ang kalalagayan ng matandang nakita ko sa barko at ang mga magulang ng aking mga kaibigan sa Holland. Napakalayo ng bansang Pilipinas kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang pangangalaga sa mga mata-



Ni Fr. Bar Fabella, SVD

Sa Maikling Salita

tanda at mga maysakit ng ating lipunan.

Kung may pagkukulang man ang mga anak at kaanak ng matandang nakita ko sa barko, maaring di lahat ng sisi ay maaring ibuntun sa kanila.

Kahirapan - ito ang sakit na matagal na nating pinapangarap na malunasan.

Maliit pa ako, naitanim na sa isip ko ang katotohanang ang ating bansa ay isang bansang mahirap,

hanggang ang katotohanang ito ay konkreto kong masak-ihan at maranasan sa mga lugar na aking nadestinuhan sa mga taon ko bilang pari.

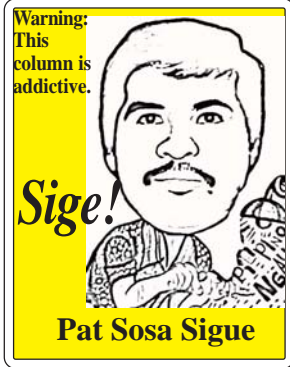
Habang laman ng ating mga pahayagan ang kung anu-anong imbestigasyon sa iba't ibang uri ng anomalyang nangyayari sa ating pamahalaan, sa katauhan naman ng matandang babaeng iyon ang larawan ng maraming biktima sa ating bayan ng kasakiman at pagkamanhid ng mga nasa

katungkulan na sa kabila ng kanilang yaman at kapangyarihan ay naghahangad pa ring patuloy sipsiping parang mga linta ang dugo ng bayang lugmok na sa kahirapan.

"Panginoon, kung ibig ninyo'y mapapagaling ninyo ako". Ito ang panalangin ng isang ketongin sa Ebanghelyo. "Panginoon, kung ibig ninyo'y mapapagaling ninyo ang aking bayan!"

Maaring ito na rin ang panalangin ng marami sa ating mga kababayan sa harap ng kawalan ng pag-asa. Ipanalangin nating nawa ay ito rin ang maging panalangin ng marami sa namumuno sa ating ang karamdama'y higit pa sa karamdaman ng taong ketongin.

Para sa anumang komento o rekasiyon iparadala sa : ibarra_svd@yahoo.com



The lesson of Bataan

THE province of Bataan is historical.

It symbolizes the last stand of the Filipino and American soldiers against the invading forces of Japan during II World War.

Which is why we mark the Fall of Bataan (later changed to Bataan Day) on April 9.

The infamous Death March started from Bataan to the Japanese concentration camp in Capas Tarlac.

A giant white cross was erected atop Mt. Samat in memory of the many Filipino and American soldiers who died fighting the invaders.

Bataan is also the site of the nuclear plant built during martial law considered to be the biggest scam of the dictatorial Marcos regime.

Except for the astronomical bloated cost, the nuclear plant is now found to be an important and practical investment project of government.

Politics had it mothballed while Filipino taxpayers continue to pay its loan and high cost of electricity supplied by independent power producers. Now, there's a move to have it repaired and operate.

Last week, another important invent occurred in Bataan which placed the Philippines in the world map.

Hundreds of dolphins were found in the shores of Pilar town. It they continue to stay in the shallow waters and beach, they will surely die.

The event was reported by the wire services and beamed by television networks worldwide, making us Filipinos beaming with pride.

The world watch with awe how concerned Filipino fishermen and local officials guided them back to the deep and unto the ocean.

Hope this community action in Bataan will inspire Filipinos to do a similar movement to cleanse the government of the evils of corruption and moral depravity. We are a noble race.

A position paper against the scandalous prevalence of illegal gambling in the Municipality of Odiongan

THE teachers also labor hard in moulding the minds and hearts of the youth. In fact, from kindergarten to the highest educational attainment we are taught in

By: Mario G. Fradejas Jr.
(2nd of a Series)

school not only to be enlightened to be assets in developmental efforts but also to be law-abiding to have order in society.

Due to the prevalence of illegal gambling activities which the people are aware of as being tolerated by public officials and the police the people lose their respect for law and develop a propensity to disobey lawful authority.

Thus, rather than enlightened law-abiding citizens, what we have are consistent non-conformists and defiant law breakers. The enormous expense of the herculean efforts of the teachers in moulding the minds and hearts of the youth to produce ideal citizens is uselessly laid to waste.

3) Public officials rob themselves of their moral authority to govern.

The exercise of authority in governance is not dependent only in the power vested in the office, especially when one is installed in office by virtue of an election. The particular official must also enjoy the confidence of his

constituents that he is performing his official duties and functions honestly and with honor. This is what is known as moral authority to govern.

When the performance of a leader or a public official is not in conformity with law and morality that leader/public official loses his moral authority to govern. He may exact obedience only from his constituents when he conducts himself strictly within lawful and moral bounds.

4) Illegal gambling, if allowed during and in connection with a fiesta celebration, is a sacrilegious desecration of Christian beliefs and observances and a renunciation of one's loyalty to his church and priest.

Fiesta was originally a purely religious activity. People from far and near troop to a place to pay homage to the patron saint of that place. Such convergence of people, especially for a certain celebration, inspires them to socialize.

Thus, there are preparations of sumptuous foods in the homes of residents, usually for relatives and visitors

coming from other places.

There are dances, music, athletics and other forms of entertainment. Being a religious activity, if other forms of entertainment will have to be introduced, they ought to be strictly limited only to those that would enhance the spiritual, moral and cultural values of the people.

Any activity that is anathema to law and morality must be altogether eschewed and avoided. Anyway those who go to the Tupada and other gambling activities do not have in mind the patron saints; they are only driven by their itch to gamble, a vicious immoral habit.

By tolerating illegal gambling therefore during a fiesta, public officials are guilty of desecrating the patron saints who they thereby unwittingly convert into patron saints of illegality and immorality.

It is a blatant disrespect for and denunciation of the church and priest who is pitifully reduced to an impotent figurehead incapable of exercising moral influence over his flock.. It also indicates that attendance in regular church services by said officials is a mere uniform of compliance to show semblance of being piously religious although the truth of the matter is what is being imparted to them inside the church are really of no significance to them.

(To be continued)

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Mindoreños assured of Mindoro Nickel's continuity

FOUR different groups from Mindoro Island came out in the open and gave or expressed their resolutions of support to Intex Resources and its Mindoro Nickel Project during the visit last January 13 of Intex Resources board chairman Kjell Almskog in Oriental Mindoro.

Relative to this, Mr. Almskog impressed to Mindoreños, particularly stakeholders, Intex Resources personnel and some local government officials the company's assurance of MNP's continuity, as the former articulated the Norwegian firm's resolve to develop Mindoro Nickel in particular and the whole island in

general.

After arriving from Oslo, Norway, where Intex Resources ASA is based, Almskog proceeded to Intex Resources Philippines' office in Ortigas Center in Pasig City, and met with company officials in the Philippines led by Intex Resources ASA president Erlend T. Grimstad, Intex Resources Phils., Inc. president and chief executive officer Atty. Leo Cleto A. Gamolo, and Intex consultant Atty. Ben A. Delos Reyes and Mindoro Nickel project chairman Jake Foronda.

From there, the Intex chair was joined by the said company officials and went to a scheduled visit in this

- *Intex chair, visits Or. Mindoro*
- *Intex gets resolutions of support*

capital city where they met some local government officials here.

Dropping by at Intex Resources' office in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, Almskog and company were given a warm reception by company personnel and some Victoria stakeholders led by Municipal Councilors Imelda Callo and Luis Dela Roca, who accompanied the more than 150-member strong Victory Women's Association of Victoria in showing their full support to the company and its project.

During the said encounter, three written resolutions of

support were read and presented to Mr. Almskog and his group. Councilor Callo read the resolution from the women's group which affirmed the unwavering support for Intex Resources and its project.

Immediately after, Engr. Esteban Callo, an Intex staff, also read two declarations confirming support to the company from Sta. Cruz Ministers Fellowship, Inc. and Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) of Sta. Cruz municipality in Occidental Mindoro.

Another resolution of support for Intex, this time from the barangay council of Villa Cerveza in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro was read and presented to Almskog as the latter and his group visited the said barangay. Villa Cerveza is a direct stakeholder of Mindoro

Nickel Project, being part of MNP's two sites.

The other direct stakeholder is Sablayan town in Occidental Mindoro. The pledge from the said barangay was read and given to Intex group by Villa Cerveza Brgy. Captain Domingo Oplencia right inside the latter's barangay hall and witnessed by other barangay officials and local folks there, and some Intex personnel. Oplencia stated there that he and his barangay constituents were already apprised of the planned mining operation of Aglubang Mining Corporation (AMC) and Intex and that, the Mindoro Nickel Project is in order and on right process, and is in accordance with the Philippine laws.

The village chief added they (the people of Villa Cerveza) believe that the company will greatly help improve their lives through employment and livelihood, and through their active participatory involvement.

The Villa Cerveza resolution was unanimously passed by the barangay council in a special session held last January 7. Almskog appreciated the said support and in return, assured the local folks of the company's continuous developmental efforts first in Villa Cerveza and the municipality of Victoria and the in Mindoro in general. Mr. Almskog's entourage was also treated to a sumptuous lunch hosted by Pola town Mayor Alex M. Aranas in the latter's residence in the said municipality.

And for his part, Mayor Aranas intimated his hope for Pola to host the supposed processing plant or port of the nickel project, as the mayor reiterated his unwavering support to AMC and Intex Resources' exploration activities.

Kababaihan ng Victoria, nagpasalamat sa Intex sa bigay na ambulansiya noong nakaraang taon

LUBOS na pinasalamatan ng may 28 pangulo ng iba't ibang grupo ng kababaihan sa Victoria, Or. Mindoro ang pamunuan ng Intex Resources Phils., Inc. nang dumalaw dito kamakailan ng matataas na opisyal ng nasabing kumpanya, kasama ang pinakamataas na opisyal nito na nagmula sa bansang Norway, kaugnay sa ibinigay ng mga ito sa kanilang samahan ng isang modernong ambulansiya noong nakaraang taon.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagbigay ng Victory Women's Association of Victoria ng isang resolsuyon, na binasa ni Victoria Municipal Councilor Imelda Callo sa harap ng mga kawani at opisyal ng Intex sa pamumuno ni Intex Resources ASA Chairman Kjell Almskog, ipinahayag

Read the Island Observer on the the website:
islandobserver.tripod.com

SAGOT SA SIDUKO

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ng naturang samahan ang kanilang kagalakan at lubos na pasasalamat sa pagbibigay ng nabanggit na ambulansiya.

Binanggit din dito ang gayo'y buong pusong pagsuporta ng women's association sa Intex Resources, sa mga gawain nito sa Oriental Mindoro at sa planong Mindoro Nickel Project.

Kaugnay nito, personal na ipinahayag ni Gng. Leonila Valencio, presidente ng mga kababaihan sa Brgy. Merit dito, na nasasaktan silang mga sumusuporta sa naturang mining company kapag nakakarinig sila ng masasakit na salita at pangungutya kontra sa kumpanya.

Napakalaking tulong aniya ang ambulansiya para sa mga mamamayan ng Victoria, hindi tulad noon na hindi maihatid o madala agad sa ospital ang mga pasyente sa dahilang wala umanong gasolina o kailangan pa ng kung anu-anong papeles para lamang madala ang pasyente sa pagamutan.

Sa pamamagitan umano ng Intex Resources ay nabigyan sila ng isang ambulansiya na kahit anong oras ay handang magdala ng pasyente saan mang pagamutang nais o dapat dalhin.

Samantala, nais ding

ipaalam ng nasabing women's association na hindi lamang "pro-mining" ang maaaring isakay o gumamit nito, ang ambulansiya ito umano ay bukas at handang itulong sa mga nangangailangang maysakit hindi lamang para sa bayan ng Victoria, kundi maging sa iba pang bayan na kailangan ang serbisyo nito.

Nabatid pa rin sa nasabing pinaka-pederasyon ng mga grupo ng kababaihan na sa 28 barangay sa bayan ng Victoria, 28 na rin ang naitatag nilang pamunuan ngayon ay buong pusong sumusuporta sa lahat ng mga gawain at proyekto ng Intex. Sa kasalukuyan ay umabot na sa 1,827 miyembro ng kababaihanang kasapi nito na deretsahang nagsasabing sila ay "pro-development" at "pro-mining" matuloy man o hindi ang Mindoro Nickel ng Intex o Aglubang Mining Corporation.

Ang paggawad at pagbasa ng resolyuson ng pagsuporta ay mismong isinagawa ng Victory Women's Association of Victoria nang dumalaw sa Oriental Mindoro noong Enero 13 si Mr. Almskog kasama sina Intex Resources ASA President Erlend Grimstad, Intex Resources Phils., Inc. President Leo Cleto Gamolo, at Intex Resources Consultant Atty. Ben A. Delos Reyes.

BATANGAS PORT ... (From Page 1)

goods to and from Mindoro and nearby islands. It is also a strategic trading point for all industries in the region.

The port, the representatives said, also plays an important role in the economic, social and tourism development of the country by being linked with interisland ports known as the nautical highway.

Batangas port is the gateway to Southern Luzon, since it is strategically located within the region that has a volume capacity of 10,000-ton equivalent units (TEU) a month, Asian Terminals pointed out.

The roads leading to the port should be improved, it added. This would improve travel and processing procedures and lower trucking costs.

Meanwhile, the BOC stressed that Calabarzon locators could save as much as 14 percent in cargo-handling service and 40 percent to 60 percent in transport cost, and the processing of customs documents would only take about 30 minutes.

Large parcels of land would also be available for the container freight-station needs of shipping lines. The BOC noted there would be faster turnaround of trucks because there is no truck ban in Batangas.

Overall, the port is expected to boost local and global trade and unlock huge possibilities to support the country's continued economic expansion. Once in full swing, the port would also help lift the Philippine shipping industry out of its rut.

Other industry stakeholders, however, expressed concern. As in any well-planned, well-funded and well-intentioned government project, the Port of Batangas, they noted, has its own share of hitches and obstacles.

Owing to low shipment volumes, the private cargo handler tasked to run the port's

domestic terminal has yet to turn in a healthy profit from its operations 10 years after the company secured a concession to manage the facility's domestic shipments.

The PPA is working on the privatization of the Southern Luzon gateway. It has received interests from many firms to operate an international cargo terminal at the Batangas port.

Those interested include the Filipino-Kuwaiti firm KGLI-NM, International Container Terminal Services Inc.—operator of the Manila International Cargo Terminal—and Asian Terminals, which holds the temporary permit to operate the Batangas port terminal and runs the Mariveles grains terminal.

The PPA is also working out with the Peza and the BOC a list of possible incentives to entice shippers into the region.

Planning for the development of Batangas port started in the 1980s. The port is envisioned to contribute to the economic development of interisland trade and stimulate the regional economic development of the Southern Tagalog, and function as the point of access to Mindoro Island, which supplies agricultural products to the capital region and the Southern Tagalog.

It is also envisioned to serve as the country's second port after the Manila port which suffers from traffic congestion.

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Batangas Port is one of the 10 ports being groomed to be at par with world standards by 2010 and is also seen to become one of the major transshipment hubs in Asia.

Tawa-Tawa Bulaklak ng Saya

Kahit mahirap ang buhay dahil sa pandaigdigang krisis pangkabuhayan na nararanasan ngayon, harapin natin ang Taong 2009 na nakangiti.

Inosenteng madre
ISANG madre and dumating ng gabing-gabi sa kumbento. Susperior: Saan ka galing?

Madre: Ako po'y nagtampisaw sa batis ng kasalanan dahil sa tawag ng laman. Superior: Paano nangyari 'yun?

Madre: Sabi sa akin ng pari ang pinto raw ng langit ay nasa pagitan ng aking mga hita at ang susi raw ay nasa kanya kaya ipinasok 'nya ang susi sa aking pinto. Susperior: (Sa sarili) 'Sabi nya sa akin yun ang trumpeta ni San Gabriel. Isang buong taon 'nya yung ipinatorotot sa akin.)

Seedless
Isang Mangyan ang nagbubungkal ng lupa para magtanim. Akala ng isang Tagalog na nakakita ay nagloloko lamang ito.

Tagalog: Wala ka namang itinatanim , a!

Mangyan: Bobo. Seedless, 'to!

Valentines gift
Mister: Luv, tuwang-tuwa ako sa pagkakaroon natin ng anak. Kaya heto ang regalo ko sa'yo ngayong Valentine's. Misis: O, bakit

kalahating puso lang itong palawit ng kuwintas. Mister: Di, ba kalahati lang naman ako sa anak natin.

Dolphin
Reporter: Ano po ang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng dolphin?

BFAD Doc: Nalunod. Reporter: Itong ikalawa, ano pong ikinamatay?

DFAD Doc: Dehydration. (Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink. —from the Old Man and the Sea)

Onggoy
Anak: (umiyak) 'Tay sabi ng kapitbahay natin mukha ka raw onggoy.

Tatay: Gagong kapitbahay ito, a!. (Pinuntahan yung kapitbahay).

Tatay: Hoy! Ano yung sinabi mo sa anak ko na mukha akong onggoy? Kapitbahay: Sinungaling yung anak mo! Di ko sinabi na mukha kang onggoy! Sabi ko yung onggoy ang kamukha mo...!

Tatay: Ganun ba. Anak masama,ang sinungaling!

Fire exit

Nasusunog ang gusali. Sekyu: Sir, nasusunog po ang building!

Promdi: Alam ko! Saan tayo dadaan?

Sekyu: Dito po sa fire exit...

Promdi: Ogag ka pala, e!.Daanan 'yan ng apoy! Seku: (Napakamot sa ulo) Oo,nga 'no.

U can send in ur jokes n dis corner.

**P285.8M road...
(From Page 1)**

jurisdiction of Engineer Padilla, is the exit point of SRNH, particularly in Roxas town, where the Dangay Port is located.

The port hosts Ro-Ro boats bound for Boracay on Panay is

Continuous rain (for over three months now) prevented the DPWH maintenance crew, under Chief Maintenance Engineer Edwin Dinglasan, to work

round-the-clock on the San Teodoro-Puerto Galera and Calapan City-Socorro stretch, now the "focal point of the department in its rehabilitation program, District Engineer Gonzales said.

The damaged Calapan South Road (CSR), which was asphalted 30 years ago, was not designed for heavy trucks. The old design of the CSR could not cope with the present-day mode of land transportation, such as heavy trucks and passenger buses.



PALAY DRYER. Ipinakikita ni Fernando Salazar, presidente ng sa Brgy. Lucio Laurel Farmers' Association kay Kagawad Mabini Solas ng Brgy. G. Antonino ang manual palay dryer na kaloob ng De-



partment of Agriculture sa ilalim ng proyekto ni DA Secretary Arthur Yap. Humihingi rin ng katulad na dryer ang Brgy. G. Antonino sa ilalim Livelihood Committee na pinamumunuan ni Kgd. Solas.

Kuha ni Patrick Tan Sigue

Boracay Muslims to help DOT promote Halal Tourism in Boracay

THE Boracay Muslim Community Association here vowed to support the thrust of the Department of Tourism (DOT) by introducing the so-called Halal Tourism soon.

Halal Tourism is a new product of the tourism industry. It provides holiday destinations for Muslim families all over the world. The package complies with the Sharia rules which Muslim families abide by.

Hotels in destinations do not serve alcohol and will have separate swimming pools and spa facilities for men and women. Restaurants serve Halal foods.

**ANOTHER...
(From Page 1)**

Barangay Labas, Santa Rosa City, by at least 10 policemen, said Hermie Marasigan, executive vice president of the Organized Labor Association in Line Industries and Agriculture-Kilusang Mayo Uno (Olalia-KMU).

Marasigan said, Arceta was arrested with Jessa Brillon, house owner, and her 5-year-old daughter. Brillon and the child were released two hours later while Arceta was detained at Camp Vicente Lim.

Supt. Josemarte Paras, Calabarzon regional police public information chief, said an investigation was ongoing.

Arceta's brother Rudy, 49, who immediately went to the camp to verify the arrest, said it was an illegal arrest since the name on the arrest warrant and list of the so-called Southern Tagalog 72 said "Rey Arceta."

"That's not him," he said, insisting that his brother is Leonardo. In a statement,

Muamar Faisal Arumpac, head of the 700 Muslim community members in this resort island, said that some Muslim businessmen based here are also preparing for Halal Tourism.

This year, at least four to six small resorts will be open up in this resort island in preparation for Halal Tourism.

"We wanted to invite Muslim millionaires in other countries with the assistance of the DoT but right now we need to have large investment facilities for Halal Tourism for them to be invited to also visit this resort island," said Arumpac.

Marasigan said Arceta is a legitimate organizer of Olalia-KMU. Arceta's eldest son Reynaldo, 31, said that the cases against ST 72 were bogus charges filed against union leaders.

He questioned the arrest warrant as it only bore the name "Rey Arceta," while his father's name is Leonardo. He said the family was worried because Leonardo was suffering from goiter and had difficulty breathing. Arceta is the eighth militant leader arrested for the alleged 2006 ambush of police by suspected rebels in Oriental Mindoro.

Others in the list of ST 72 include Remigio Saladero Jr., chief legal counsel of the KMU, who has been detained since Oct. 23 last year. The 72 face charges of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder in connection with the ambush.

Arceta was released from Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna at around 5:15 a.m. Tuesday and was taken to the Calapan Provincial Jail in Oriental Mindoro, said his eldest son Reynaldo Arceta.

It was learned from tourism officials that the DOT was scheduled to conduct a seminar to introduce Halal Tourism in this resort island last November but it was cancelled for unknown reasons.

The DOT is planning to reschedule the seminar here this year.

Recently, the group of Muslims in this island resort has implemented an ID system as a reminder that they should guard their ranks and to show that they are helping in maintaining peace and order.

"If something happens

bad in Boracay, we understand that our respective businesses will also be adversely affected. So we agreed among ourselves to cooperate with the authorities at all times," Arumpac said.



Happy Birthday!

*To Celso Magol
Greetings from the
Senior Citizens*

**POLICE ...
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relatives, several men in civilian clothes and who introduced themselves as members of the Philippine Army, arrested Egar and forced him into a black Crosswind with plate number WDF543.

Several other men were aboard a Honda Civic.

"No arrest warrant was presented," Calimutan said in treating the incident as an abduction.

Officials of the nearby Brgy. Macalamlam, together with Egar's wife and relatives, followed the two vehicles and found the Crosswind in Camp Vicente Lim, Canlubang.

Egar has been working with the Commission on Christian Witness and Service, under UCCP, on human rights and environmental issues in Macalamlam, Batangas, for four years now, according to his co-workers in the UCCP.

He has been listed as one the 72 activists facing murder and frustrated charges for an alleged New People's Army ambush in Occidental Mindoro.

As of 9 p.m. Wednesday, Superintendent Primitivo Tabujara, chief of the regional intelligence, said he was still checking which unit of the police or the military conducted the operations arresting Egar.

As of 10 p.m., Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Magtibay, PNP deputy regional director for the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon region), said they were "on the way" to bring Egar back home Wednesday night, as the murder warrant was already quashed.

"It was just a misunderstanding with the Philippine Army (arresting unit)," he said.