

Home for the Holidays: Four OFWs in Iraq finally return to the Philippines
(Story inside)

CAVITE DIGEST

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Destruction of confiscated firecrackers by City Government of Dasmariñas



In view of the campaign of the City Government of Dasmariñas against firecrackers and improvised cannon in accordance to the implementation of Presidential Executive Order No. 28-s-2017 and City Ordinance No. 07-s-2018 in cooperation with the Philippine National Police - Dasmariñas and the Barangay Officials, the destruction of confiscated firecrackers was held on January 3, 2018 at Barangay Fatima I Covered Court. The success of the enforcement of the mentioned executive order and city ordinance is due to the combined efforts of the public servants and the cooperation of the Dasmariñeños that also led to the decline in the incidence of firecracker-related injuries. Therefore, the relatively peaceful New Year's celebration in our City which can be considered a great beginning for 2019. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/barzagapi>

DASMARINAS CITY, Cavite -- Mayor Elpidio Barzaga on Thursday destroyed thousands of illegal firecrackers seized before the New Year revelry in this city.

Barzaga led the ceremonial destruction of the confiscated banned firecrackers at Barangay Fatima I here at 11 a.m.

The activity was the result of the implementation of Executive Order No. 28, limiting the use of firecrackers in the coun-

try by confining its use to "community fireworks display". Likewise, the de-

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Sa tulong ng ating mga programa laban sa ilegal na droga at pakikiisa ng mga barangay sa lungsod, ang Imus ay hinirang bilang Silver Awardee na may markang 87.5% sa katatapos lamang na 2018 National Anti-Drug Abuse Performance Award Ceremony noong Disyembre 28, 2018. Tayo rin ang natatanging component city sa Lalawigan ng Cavite na kinilala sa nasabing patimpalak. Congratulations City of Imus! Source: <https://www.facebook.com/MayorELM>

DILG confers 1st National Anti-Drug Abuse Performance Award to 241 outstanding LGUs

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) confers Performance Awards to 241 outstanding local government units (LGUs) with

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(From page 3) silparan labat. Kami ay umiyak. First time namin ng TV at may mga da-

dan. Sabi nanging labat. 'Eto na ang hinaharap na imin."

Like Mr. Tolibas, she has also not returned to the Philippines since she left the country to work for the benefit of her three children and husband.

Choosing Rockets Over Fireworks for Family The choice to work abroad was a decision more than difficult to make. Not only were the OFWs leaving their families to toil in a foreign land, but they were also going to a place that was then in a state of war. Iraq "Grabe Marangang rockets, muna may car bomb. Pagdating ko doon noong 2004 sa Balad, gabi na yun, first time ko pa lang, may pinatay na sundalo mismo sa balod ng kampanya namin. Ganapitan siya ng sniper ng mga kalaban," recounts Nelo Tolibas of Cebu, who went to Iraq to work as a cleaner in a US military base in 2004. He has not been home to the Philippines in 14 years.

Teresta Rogel of Zamboanga, who worked as a dining facility staff in the US Army stationed in Iraq in 2008, shares, "Pagdating namin sa Mosul, pagkasing namin sa umaga, may bumagsak na rocket. Lahat ng riles, namin sa banyo ay sumabog, nagtatalaga, nag-

araw lang, nanonood kami ng TV at may mga damaduan na rocket sa itaas namin, nagtatakaban kami ng labat sa mga Filipino. Natatok ako na 'nang Kararangin ko pa lang pero misip ko na kung babalik na ako (ng Pilipinas) Pero nansip ko na madami ako ng kalilangang bayaran kaya nagbago na rin ang isip ko at tinuloy ko na lang," adds Mr. Tolibas, who went abroad to provide for his family including his six siblings.

"Kadalasan, pang yunmayinig pa 'yung pagdating ko, alam ko sa sarili ko na iyong naman, sa kampo, safe naman siya kasi covered siya ng mga T-walls, mga makakapal na cemented materials. So safe naman kami dun kahit magulo sa labat," says Edgar Avistado of Pangasinan, who went to Iraq in 2004 to work as a security guard.

"Ang kabalalan ng pagtatabaho sa hangbansa ay yung sweldo talaga," says Nelo Tolibas, who went to Iraq to work as an administrative assistant in 2007.

Finding Reasons to Endure Choosing to endure the dangers of their workplace is a shared experience among the Filipinos in the Philippines was not definitely was enough reason to leave, they found in Iraq in 2008, shares, "Pagdating namin sa Mosul, pagkasing namin sa umaga, may bumagsak na rocket. Lahat ng riles, namin sa banyo ay sumabog, nagtatalaga, nag-

try. This meant mandatory evacuation at government expense for the 900 Filipinos in Iraq at that time. However, rather than choosing to be back home in safety, these OFWs chose to stay in the country to give their families better lives.

"Mahirap kasi (dito) kasi ang edad ko ay matanda na. Dito sa Pilipinas ay hindi ko makikita ng sabong nang kaniad ng gamito. Dito rin ay may age limit, samantalang sa Iraq, walang age limit. Pwede kang magtrabaho hangga't

only in September this year when the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration issued Government Resolution No. 06, series of 2018, that allowed them to go home and be able to return to their jobs in Iraq.

"It was not easy to get our Selective Balik Manggagawa proposal approved but we thank our Secretary for Strategic Communications, was able to convince former Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano to approve the proposal in 2017. Unfortunately, it the ban was lifted, these

Then Chargé d'Affaires Elmer Cato, now Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Strategic Communications, was able to convince former Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano to approve the proposal in 2017. Unfortunately, it the ban was lifted, these

President Duterte vows to hasten land distribution under his term

(From page 6) to more than 6,000 beneficiaries, was the largest landholding ever given to agrarian reform recipients in the history of the nation's agrarian reform program.

According to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the CLOA distribution in North Cotabato totalling 11,443 hectares, that were awarded

Long Awaited Home Back Home In 2004, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) raised crisis alert level 4 in Iraq due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the country.

President Duterte visited the wake of Surigao del Sur Governor Pimentel

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Statement of DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año on the filing of murder charges against Mayor Carlwyn Baldo for the death of Rep. Rodel Batocabe

(From page 3) tial terrorist in connection with the forthcoming elections. The DILG-PNP is also committed to dismantling the private armed groups which we shall duly prove in court. In fact, we have already filed cases of double murder and multiple "political terrorism" like es of those found to be ordering the death of their opponents to ensure their hold on political power. Let this, therefore, serve as a stern warning against all politicians not to intimidate, harass, or violence against their political opponents in the fortcoming elections, otherwise the DILG-PNP will run after them and ensure that justice will be served. I have placed the PNP on this case as well as in the heightened alert to monitor the activities of all candidates in the forthcoming govph

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Mayor Dr. Delia A. Loyola (Bayan Comarca) Marini pong salamat sa lahat ng nakikita at nakabagay sa makibabagi sa makibabagi sa mga pagpapatay sa Ika-122 Anibersaryo ng Kadakilaan ng ating pambansang bayani Dr. Jose Rizal.

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President Rodrigo Roa Duterte cordials with the family of late Surigao del Sur Governor Vicente Pimentel Jr. as he pays a visit at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City on December 28, 2018. REY BANQUET/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

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FREE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF MENDEZ



More than 200 residents of Mendez benefitted from the medical and dental mission sponsored by the provincial government of Cavite through the initiative of OPG-Extension Office and Provincial Health Office on December 19, 2018 at Galicia III Covered Court. Volunteer doctors and dentists rendered their services which include medical consultation, dental check-up and tooth extraction. Some vitamins and medicines for basic illnesses such as fever, cough and colds were also distributed during the event. Source: cavite.gov.ph

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Saturday, December 29, emphasized that "with or without the communist" the government would continue to fast-track land distribution to minorities under his term.

propaganda as the government is trying its best to address their primary concerns.

However, the President noted that in a democracy there is always a process that needs to be followed.

He expressed this statement as he graced the distribution of Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOA) to Agrarian Reform beneficiaries at the Amas Provincial Gymnasium in Kidapawan City.

During his speech, President Duterte said that he intends to "dispose of almost all government lands" via land reform to alleviate poverty and friction caused by land disputes.

"Kaya sabi ko, even without communists, there will always be friction for as long as there is no real land reform," he said.

"Without land reform... if land reform is not implemented, this war is not going to end if people continue to be deprived of land," he added.

President Duterte also appealed to humads to not listen to communist

"Wag mo sabihin na uupo lang kami diyan sa puwet namin wala kami gawin. We have already been working on an effective land reform program... at ang sakit ko kasi ayaw ko nang ibandera. I do not want praises, I do not want adulation," he added.

Duterte also instructed Agrarian Reform Secretary John Rualo Castricones to put all government lands under land reform during his administration.

"Sabi ko kay [Sec. Castricones] ibigay mo na. 'Wag mo ng patagalin kasi hindi natin matapos itong friction sa lupa," he said. Another clear example that the President restated was the land distribution to the indigenous people of Boracay.

"Maraming mga mayaman na lumapit sa akin, gawaan [ng] mga resort sa likod. Hindi na 'yan — to the last day, hindi nila alam, sinabi ko i-land reform ko 'yan. Saan ko ibigay? Sa mga natibo," he noted.

"Biro mo ang mga anak nila makahawak ng milyon. Kailan pa ba ang Ati nakahawak ng milyon? Kay binigay ko sa kanila, five years, 10 years from now ipagbili nila 'yan at least makahawak sila ng milyon. Iyon ang gusto kong mangyari. Makatikim lang naman ng milyon 'yung mga lumad diyan sa Boracay," he added.

President Duterte subsequently extended his sincerest condolences to the widow and the children of the late Governor Pimentel.

After the President met with the bereaved family of Pimentel for a few minutes, the President joined the Pimentel family for a photo opportunity before leaving the Rizal Premier Chapel.

Vicente Pimentel Jr. earlier filed his candidacy for re-election but withdrew it later due to his health condition.

President Duterte visits wake of Surigao del Sur Governor Pimentel

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President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Friday, December 28, visited the wake of Surigao del Sur Governor Vicente Pimentel Jr. at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat.

The Chief Executive was received by the brothers of the late governor, Surigao del Sur 2nd District Representative Johnny Pimentel and Tandang City Mayor Alexander Pimentel.

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draw it later due to his health condition.

According to his family, he passed away at the age of 71 in the morning of Christmas Day, December 25, in his sleep a day after he checked out from a hospital in Manila.

The remains of the governor will be flown to his hometown in Tandang, Surigao del Sur.

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LEADING TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

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