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OPEN ENROLMENT

Ombudsman Finds Famy Mayor Guilty of Serious Dishonesty

The mayor of Famy, Laguna, Mayor Edwin Pangilinan, recently appealed a decision of the Office of the Ombudsman that found him guilty of grave misconduct and serious dishonesty in relation to his participation in a convention on Boracay Island in 2010. Speaking on the mayor's behalf, municipal administrator Jun Calin said they found the penalty "too harsh" for an offense that involved an amount of "only" P22,400.

Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera signed a seven-page ruling on Aug.

9, dismissing Pangilinan from the service with the accessory penalties of cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from holding public office. The case originated from a complaint filed by Mayor Renonia Muramatsu in 2016, who incidentally also filed a separate case of falsification of documents against Vice Mayor Gertrudes Andaya. The case against Andaya, however, is still in a local trial court.

According to Muramatsu, Pangilinan and Andaya, who

were both former councilors, each received P22,400 in cash advance when they attended the Continuing Local Legislation Educational Program (CLLEP) convention on June 24 to 26, 2010, in Boracay. Upon liquidation, however, the officials, according to the complaint, presented "spurious" documents such as the official receipt and the certificate of appearance to the convention.

On the other hand, in Pangilinan's counteraffidavit, he said he only "defer[red]" liquidating the amount because he and the rest of the councilors at the time "entrusted"

their money to then vice mayor Melvin Laminero for the purchase of their plane tickets, accommodation expenses and registration fees. But then it all becomes a toss up of blame as Laminero, in turn, denied taking any of the councilors' money. Also, six other municipal councilors and the Sangguniang Kabataan representative attended the 2010 convention besides Laminero, Pangilinan and Andaya, but, oddly, only the three were charged.

Amidst all these, the court ruling maintained, "The elemental components of corruption and

clear intent to violate the law are present to constitute the acts complained of as grave misconduct". The ruling, furthermore, stated that Pangilinan committed serious dishonesty "when he made it appear that he attended the CLLEP in the falsified official receipt and certificate of appearance, manifesting his disposition to defraud or cheat the government in the amount of P22,400."

Bacolod Chk-n-BBQ House's RAINY DAY comfort foods



Turn to CHOWTIME, Page 4

ACACIA WALDORF SCHOOL and the "Human Touch"



Hinged on the tenets of anthroposophy, Waldorf education puts emphasis on the role of imagination in learning, continually attempting to integrate holistically the intellectual, practical, and artistic development of the young human being.

Turn to EDUCATION, Page 6

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Voice of the South

Published monthly by
Voice of the South Newsletter
7 Belltower, Laguna Bel-Air 2,
Brgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel. No.: (049)543-1420
Mobile Nos.: (0919)468-1441/ (0915)489-9827
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Publisher & Editor-In-Chief: Joseph Roces Chanco
Advertising & Circulation: Tess S. Blardony



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EDITOR THINKS



The “Change” To Evil

-by Jo Chanco

Internet trolls have really gone way to the deep end of idiocy by calling those who decry extrajudicial killings as anti-Duterte, “dilawan” or pro-Aquino. Nothing, perhaps, is more stupid, politically, than the attempt of trolls to disenfranchise the voice of millions of citizens who bear only valid concerns about a government gravid with abuses, and with the attempt, also damn one’s own battlecry in the discredit of such a myopic sentiment.

“Hail, Duterte!” Is this where things boil down to nowadays? For, as it seems, those who do not agree with the lunacy going on, are automatically labeled enemies of the state by the supporters of this strange, wildly controversial president.

Even if President Rodrigo Duterte governed the country perfectly, it is still dumb to allow the fate of our nation be held hostage by the comstockery of pro-Duterte trolls. Blind fanaticism will not let us see past the shallow colors that now comprise our politics and, therefore, keep us from seeing the truth...the appalling reality happening around us.

More than 7,000 poor citizens are dead because of the Duterte administration’s so-called “War On Drugs”...and yet people are applauding. Nevermind, if evidences point to these deaths as actually being summary executions carried out by “killer cops”, or that these violent operations have mostly been carried out under dubious circumstances and highly questionable methods. Most Duterte fans have basically narrowed down their thinking to these points: Hurray, Duterte. Kill all of them. Shut up, you yellow-loving critics!

The truth is, different groups, local and international, denounce all these deaths that come as a result of the government’s campaign against drugs, be they extrajudicial or not. They’re not all members of Noynoy Aquino’s yellow fan club. Many of those who protest and condemn the extrajudicial killings now, as a matter of fact, did likewise during Aquino’s leadership. And, by no means, do the occasional checks on sloppy police procedures, on the senseless loss of life, and the many ways wherein power can be abused, translate immediately as hatred for Duterte.

Looking at the different angles of the anti-drug campaign, one must be either a bonehead or an unthinking fanatic not to realize that—

1) The thousands of supposed drug personalities already felled by the police are mostly drug couriers or drug users, not drug lords, despite President Duterte’s claim of having a list of government officials who are involved in narco-politics, and actually fit the profile more of the narco-politicians that he professed to neutralize at the start of his anti-drug campaign.

2) Various probes into the deadly incidents that have resulted from the war on drugs point to voluminous evidences of unlawful police procedures, poorly conducted police operations and even the abuse of authority by ruthless and trigger-happy lawmen.

3) Drug lords profiting millions of pesos from the illegal drug trade are not poor, but then most of the drug suspects killed by police are from the lowest economic class. If ever the war on drugs could be won, it is certainly more rational to go after the “big fish”—the local officials who have allowed huge, factory-scale shabu laboratories to rise and operate in the respective areas of responsibility; the municipal police chiefs who take bribes from drug dealers and turn a blind eye on the true syndicate supplying the petty drug pushers; the smugglers of billions of pesos worth of illegal drugs that uncannily escape the attention of customs and port officials; and the international syndicates that, according to Duterte himself, are the source of the greater amount of drugs circulating in our country—instead of the small-time pushers who (even as hundreds of thousands or even millions of pesos worth of drugs found near their dead bodies are presented as evidence against them) are mostly wearing flipflops and shorts, can’t even afford to buy cars, and tote (supposedly) poorly branded guns.

4) If there are 5 million Filipinos who are caught in the snare of narco-politics and rampant addiction to contraband narcotics, the solution cannot simply be to kill all these individuals. Even if drug-pushers or drug-users fired their guns at police, the right to life provided by the Constitution to every Filipino should still be the priority of state agents who have sworn to protect and serve the citizenry. When many other methods can be used in sting operations, to disarm, capture, and neutralize drug suspects without killing them, it’s just awful how thousands already been killed without a chance for a fair trial. It seems, as “dead men tell no tales”, more of a silencing of individuals by way of murder, instead of a legitimate campaign by the police to protect the nation from the menace of drug abuse.

5) Even President Duterte admits he was wrong in his estimate of being able to end the country’s drug problem in 3 to 6 month. Now, with his most recent claim that it might take more than one term to finally rid our society of illegal drugs, it is only sensible to re-evaluate the viability of and the rationale behind the Duterte administration’s strategy, methodology and philosophy in its very controversial and murderous war on drugs. Is it not, for instance, a failure already? Also...how and when can we say that it is a success? How many more will have to die?

6) Equality under the rule of law requires that, as much as those accused of corruption and high crimes in government are deemed innocent until proven guilty, so should drug suspects be treated also.

7) There are many among us who do support the Duterte administration and agree that a drug-free Philippines is a better one, however do not see how the rampant killing of drug suspects can better the situation. Many also feel even more terrorized by the police than the probability of a drug addict becoming violent.

8) Belief in the notion that drug abuse is the foremost problem of this country should not translate to an automatic license to kill citizens who are victims themselves of drug syndicates, corrupt public officials and government negligence. Far worse crimes are being committed that outright threaten the Filipino race—including treason, plunder, smuggling, electoral fraud, and state-sponsored assassinations of progressive nationalists—yet many of the culprits (who frequently hold positions of power) are simply pardoned by the government.

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9) It is our duty to correct what we think is right or wrong with our government, to speak out our moral beliefs in connection with policy, and to uphold our God-given rights as a people. To cower from these duties because we are afraid of authoritarian retribution is to betray our national ideals of freedom, equality, and decency in the cause of self-determination.

10) If the allegations that Paolo Duterte is a protector of drug traffickers in the Bureau of Customs are false, and therefore should not warrant his arrest by gun-brandishing cops—then Kian Delos Santos, too, shouldn't have been slain in a purported gun battle with arrestors who simply based their information on social media.

Charmed by cunning, or a common knack for indifference to the weak and helpless, it's quite understandable how Duterte fanatics couldn't tell an honest and legitimate exercise for the greater good, from a lame excuse to proliferate a fascist's reign of terror. But to not see the wrong in what are already self-damning messages of a leader—messages such as “I will kill you”, or “Shoot them” and “I guarantee you, you won't be prosecuted if you kill them, as I have your back”—is truly worrisome, as it already demonstrates a capacity for evil.

Complacency amidst inequality may mean a mere lack in the sense of justice. To laud wickedness, however, especially one that is as brazen and vastly injurious to the innocent as Duterte's so-called war on drugs, is nothing short of diabolical. Only demons mock the hapless victims of abuse, insult the dead who can only be faulted for falling prey to vile conspiracies, and laugh at grieving mothers whose children were brutally killed by the merciless. In short, only the evil cheer for evil deeds.

The summary killings, the young casualties, the police brutality, and gross disdain for human rights brought about by the government's anti-drug campaign shouldn't be nightmarish only to those guilty of drug crimes, but also to everyone who is good. This is precisely why the church, the local and international human rights groups, and various governments around the world that uphold good are calling out Duterte for what seems more and more a chilling bloodlust.

United, basking in power and feeling invincible, Duterte fanatics, like the Nazis, can go on insolently until the irrefutable truth is unveiled and comes around to judge them. And when that time comes, they should be held accountable too, for empowering the one who promised to kill tens of thousands of criminals,

urged people to kill drug addicts, and ordered the police to carry out numerous atrocities—Gestapo-style. In their twisted idolatry, they've dimmed their own wits and refused to heed the warnings about a Davao Death Squad then, and a National Death Squad now.

Evil's greatest trick, they say, lies in convincing people it doesn't exist. Maybe this isn't true, not anymore at least, as another trick seems to promulgate evil's ends more efficiently nowadays: demonizing its own victims. The ploy is clever as it is simple. “That's the bad guy. I can't be the bad guy because I'm killing the bad guy. Therefore, I'm the good guy.”

In light of these happenings, may we remember—that it is criminal enough to watch and do nothing while a murder. But to be cheering, goading, defending and supporting the murderer and even go to the extent of lambasting his victim, well...that's actually being accomplices to the crime.

The Preamble of our Constitution states that we, as a people are “*to build a just and humane society, and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity, the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace*”. Seeing what's happening today, we have to wonder: Are we the same people?

“There is much more to being a patriot and a citizen than reciting the pledge or raising a flag.”
—Jesse Ventura

“A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.”
—Edward Abbey

“Being a patriot doesn't mean prioritizing service to government above all else. Being a patriot means knowing when to protect your country, knowing when to protect your Constitution, knowing when to protect your countrymen, from the violations of and encroachments of adversaries. And those adversaries don't have to be foreign countries.”
—Edward Snowden

ARTS & CULTURE

De La Salle University – Dasmariñas Chorale celebrated their 20th Anniversary

“The group that is not solely about pure talent but also sings with passion and out of love for the Lord.” This is how their University sees them as students, performers, and as student leaders. They can be seen in various performances not only inside the campus but also outside of Cavite. They have engaged with various connections and institutions though the achievements of their past members and are now sustained by the current members. Recently, the De La Salle University – Dasmariñas Chorale celebrated their 20th Anniversary which they commemorated through a year-end concert last April of 2016.

The group was founded in 1988 by their first conductor, Professor Jesus B. Esguerra. Through the years, they have been competing and performing not only within the region but also in an international scale. The group now has 14 active members from the different colleges of the university and is currently under the musical trainings of Mr. Vell Luis Litan, alumnus of 2 world renowned choirs, the Philippine Madrigal Singers and the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club.



With their perseverance, hard work, and commitment in what they do best, they have been receiving awards and recognitions through the years. They have been a consistent receiver of the *Performing Arts Group of the Year* award given annually at the Luntiang Parangal, the grandest award-giving body in De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. The group is also a member of the Madz et Al, a network of choirs under The Philippine Madrigal Singers, which annually produces choral productions with their variations of genres like folk, sacred, modern and inspirational songs.



The DLSU-D Chorale have competed in various regional, national, and international choral competitions and festivals such as the Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival, and FEUropa, to name a few. Currently, the group is aiming to hit the battlegrounds of choirs overseas as they are about to join the Singapore International Choral Festival 2017 – the group's first ever foreign competition which will be held on July 12-15 at the Esplanade Concert Hall, Singapore. For this purpose, the group is open to and is in need of event partnerships and sponsors that will be of big help for them to generate funds. Also with your help, you will also be able to reach out to scholars of the university. For those who are interested with this matter, you may message DLSU-D Chorale at their Facebook page (facebook.com/dlsudasmachorale.officialpage) or contact them through their EVP for External Affairs, Chris De Mesa (+63 926 353 5947). The group is more than willing to discuss with you the packages that they offer for your sponsorship and partnership.

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The rainy season is here. In these cold, wet days, something commonly rises from within most of us, though not everyone is conscious of it. It's the need for comfort food. And at "The Original" Bacolod Chk-N-BBQ House, the solution to this need is quite plentiful.



Bacolod Chk-N-BBQ House may be known best for their Inasal, chargrilled meats that have a special marinade originating from Bacolod. But the popular food franchise really has more to offer. Bacolod Chk-N-BBQ House is practically a depot of Filipino comfort food, straight up and done well.

It's where patrons can enjoy authentic Pinoy comfort foods that are so familiar it soothes hungry bellies the way home-cooked food does. But different from home, here there are no lingering concerns about cooking and having to buy ingredients, or washing dishes after, or setting the table before. Simply order, and dining satisfaction on comfort food will be underway. In this sense, it's an option that's hard to beat.

As a matter of fact, Bacolod Chk-N-BBQ House's arsenal of Pinoy comfort food is enough to drive the "rainy day blues" away, and in turn generate warm delight from happy tummies. The Pancit Molo Soup; La Paz Batchoy; Beef Kare-Kare; Dinuguan and Puto; Sinigang na Baboy, or Bangus, or Hipon; Arroz Caldo; Miki Bihon Guisado; Ginataang Kalabasa; Chopsuey; and Pancit Palabok-- all of which come out as pleasant eats during gloomy weather, aside from the range of Inasal favorites.



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Mesa Filipino Moderne

Mesa Filipino Moderne presents a successful combination of the classic and chic, not to mention, delicious. When in Solenad 3, Nuvali, Santa Rosa, Laguna, try these three: Manga Salad, Boneless Crispy Pata (P505)at the Inihaw Sampler(P725)



Boneless Crispy Pata



Inihaw Sampler



Mangga Salad

KANIN CLUB @ PASEO DE SANTA ROSA

With an almost hermetic Filipino menu, Kanin Club can be situated in the most clandestine of places, and still it would draw a crowd of diners. The long queues for a table, whether lunch or dinner time, after years in operation, only cements the restaurant's bulletproof reputation. The one in Paseo de Santa Rosa in Laguna still stands, and remains a celebrant amidst loyal patrons, and through some mall renovations that have seen the end of many nearby restaurants of its era that once stood in a row, along with it.



The unforced charm and enthusiasm of the attendants does help a lot in determining the orders quicker. The verdict: **Pocherong Tinomas, Ensaladang Mangga with Salted Eggs, Tokwa't Baboy and Garlic Rice.**

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ACACIA WALDORF SCHOOL and “The Human Touch”



Through the years, the Waldorf pedagogy has become a recognized philosophy on education and has influenced public schooling, with many Waldorf schools even receiving state funding.



Acacia Waldorf School in Hacienda Santa Elena, Santa Rosa, Laguna, follows the Steiner philosophy in its educational system. Hinged on the tenets of anthroposophy, Waldorf education puts emphasis on the role of imagination in learning, continually attempting to integrate holistically the intellectual, practical, and artistic development of the young human being.

This philosophy is reflected in the school's approach in teaching and thus manifest as lessons that are practical, designed around hands-on activities and creative play, particularly in early childhood education. After building this practical foundation upon the child, the focus is then shifted to the development of artistic expression and social capabilities in elementary education. And then, critical reasoning and emphatic understanding are instilled during secondary education.

The headlines nowadays seem to be concocted from a mind gripped by lunacy. War rages in the southern part of the country over which Martial Law has been declared. A lone gunman went on a rampage in a casino and caused the deaths of dozens of innocent people. Jeepney drivers—many of whom voted for Duterte and his platform of “change”—are leaving masses stranded in the middle of transit, as the hold strikes in protest of the government's agenda to phase out the old, inefficient, unsafe, and pollutive means of transport for better ones.

Amidst the turmoil, the chaotic information, and increasing insecurities we face, one can't really help but ask more questions, restlessly musing over ever-deepening thoughts. Especially when we realize the fact that generally much of the troubles reeling our concerns these days could have been prevented or even automatically mitigated by very fundamental things, like good education, a consciousness for humanity and a proper understanding of our respective roles in the universe, as human beings and also as spiritual beings. Why are we here? What must we do? Why are such things happening around us? These come to mind. And these are the fundamentals of a philosophy called Anthroposophy.

the cultivation of a form of thinking independent of sensory experience, and to present the results of these with rational verification. Its fruition would be seen in the practical applications of theory by its “humanity-conscious” students in various fields—in indoctrination, in biodynamic agriculture, in medicine and healing, in ethical management of resources, in social synergy and organizational development, and in the multiverse of the arts.



In the Waldorf system, the qualitative assessments of each student's works are applied in both the classroom and home life. On the other hand, quantitative testing is limited to a minimal role in primary education and standardized testing usually limited to that required for college entry. Meanwhile, teachers are given a significant amount of freedom and autonomy in determining curriculum content, teaching techniques and lessons, and overall student governance.

Waldorf education is built around the ultimate purpose of developing free, morally responsible, and well-balanced, well-integrated individuals that possess a high degree of social competence. In a world that is quickly spiraling down to an abyss designed by the inhumane, perhaps Acacia Waldorf School can do a lot, providing “the human touch”.

For more information on Acacia Waldorf School and anthroposophy, you may call 09175540435 or 09989808185. Or email: admin@acaciawaldorfschool.com.

You may also check out Acacia Waldorf School's website at:

<http://acaciawaldorfschool.com>

and their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/AcaciaWaldorf/>



Founded by Rudolf Steiner, anthroposophy postulates the existence of an objective, intellectually comprehensible spiritual world that is accessible by direct experience through inner development. It is a discipline that specifically aims to develop faculties of perceptive imagination, inspiration and intuition through

The first Steiner school opened in 1919 as a result of a request by Emil Molt, the owner and managing director of the Waldorf-Astoria Cigarette Company in Stuttgart, Germany at that time. The school was to supposed to serve the children of employees of the factory, and so the name “Waldorf”, which is now trademarked in some countries in association with the method and system of educating. The Stuttgart school grew surprisingly fast and soon enough, the majority of pupils enrolled were already from families not connected directly with the company. This first Waldorf model school was the also the first comprehensive school in Germany, accepting children from all social classes, genders, abilities, and interests.

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Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia

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The expanding influence of violent extremism in Southeast Asia presents a challenge to the peace and stability of the ASEAN region. To address this threat, over 300 representatives of civil society, government and various sectoral groups will gather in Manila next week for the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**.

SEPT 22-23 2017 at the PICC, Pasay, Manila

OTHER NEWS

Santa Rosa City Officials support CALAX Laguna on its ground breaking

The government officials of the City of Santa Rosa showed their support to the **Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX)** project as they attended the ground breaking of the Laguna segment of the project yesterday, June 19. The ground breaking was held at the Nuvali Spine Road, Barangay Don Jose in the City of Santa Rosa.

The event was attended by officials from both the national and local government. National government was represented by Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary **Arthur Tugade**, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary **Mark Villar**, and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary **Benjamin Diokno**.

Santa Rosa Mayor **Danilo Ramon Fernandez** and Vice Mayor **Arnold Arcillas** attended the event. Also in attendance were First District Representative **Arlene B. Arcillas**, Laguna Governor **Ramil Hernandez** and Vice Governor **Karen Agapay**. Officials from adjacent cities also graced the event.

"Our presence to this event signifies our support to the project as we share the belief that roads will bring more opportunities for people in terms of economic and social development," said Mayor Fernandez. He added that this project will further boost the status of the City as the **Lion City of South Luzon**.

The City of Santa Rosa is headquarters to some of the major corporations in the Philippines like Coca-Cola FEMSA Philippines, Inc., Monde Nissin Corp. and Enchanted Kingdom. It is also home to three master-planned communities which are Nuvali, Eton City and Greenfield City.



Officials of the Provincial Government of Laguna, and the City Governments of Tagaytay, Biñan and Santa Rosa supported the ground breaking of the Laguna segment of the Cavite-Laguna Expressways (CALAX) project.

Santa Rosa is also known as the **Motor City of the Philippines** for housing Toyota Motors Philippines, Honda Cars Philippines, Univation Motor Philippines, Inc., and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation.

The City also serves as home to four PEZA-registered industrial estates that provide employment to thousands of our people. These are Laguna Technopark Inc., Greenfield Auto Park, Santa Rosa IT Park and Toyota Special Economic Zone.

As Top Next Wave City of the Philippines, BPO industries have established in the here including INFONXX/KGB, Convergys and Teletech, among others.



DPWH Secretary Mark Villar lowering the time capsule and backhoe bucket.



The ground breaking for the Laguna segment of the Cavite-Laguna Expressways (CALAX) project was attended by DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade, DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, DBM Secretary Benjamin Diokno, MPIC Chairman Mr. Manuel Pangilinan, MPTC President Mr. Rodrigo Franco, and MPT South President Mr. Jose Luigi Bautista. Officials from the Provincial Government of Laguna, and the City Governments of Tagaytay, Biñan and Santa Rosa supported the event.

According to the project brief, the Laguna segment of the CALAX is an 18-kilometer construction project. It is part of the 45 kilometer closed system modern tolled expressway connecting CAVITEX and SLEX. The project starts from CAVITEX in Kawit, Cavite and ends at the SLEX-Mamplasan Interchange in Biñan, Laguna.

The project will have four interchanges in the Laguna area including Silang East, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Laguna Blvd. and Technopark. Objectives include reducing traffic congestion in existing major roads and improving competitiveness of the CALABARZON Region as an investment hub.

The project was awarded to **MPCALA Holdings, Inc.** of the Metro Pacific Group. Its officers were also present during the ground breaking including Mr. **Manuel Pangilinan**, Chairman of Metro Pacific Investments Group; Mr. **Rodrigo Franco**, President of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and Mr. **Jose Luigi Bautista**, MPT South President.

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ASC Ref. No. : S002N102616S