

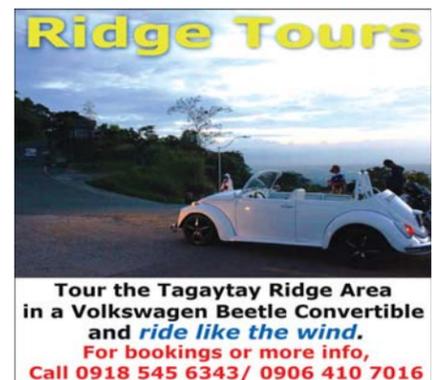


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VOL. 12 NO. 1

More Tycoons Bid For Laguna Lakeshore PPP Project

More tycoons have set their aims on the government's next big-ticket public-private partnership (PPP) contract, the Laguna Lakeshore Expressway Dike.

Taipan **Lucio Tan**, Conglomerate **San Miguel Corporation**, and a handful of other groups have brought the number of interested bidders to 14, according to PPP Center executive director **Cosette Canilao**.

The increasing number of "would-be" players suggests there is strong interest in the P123-billion expressway project.

"Interest appears high because of the real estate play. Plus it will open new

gateways, solve one of our major problems — flooding," Canilao said.

Even others like San Miguel Corp., which was expected to draw back from engaging in further PPP projects, pending the P35.4-billion Cavite Laguna Expressway project that the conglomerate is currently contesting, went on to bid.

Canilao said six more companies had purchased bid documents ahead of the pre-qualification deadline on Oct. 16, adding to the initial eight companies. Those which recently bought bid documents are San Miguel Corp; the Gotianun family's **Filinvest Land;**

Lucio Tan's LT Group Inc., a tobacco, beverage and banking conglomerate that also owns builder **Eton Properties Philippines.**

Macquarie Capital Securities, Laguna Lakeshore Consortium of **Wenceslao Group,** and **JV Power and Wealth Corp** are also keen into becoming players.

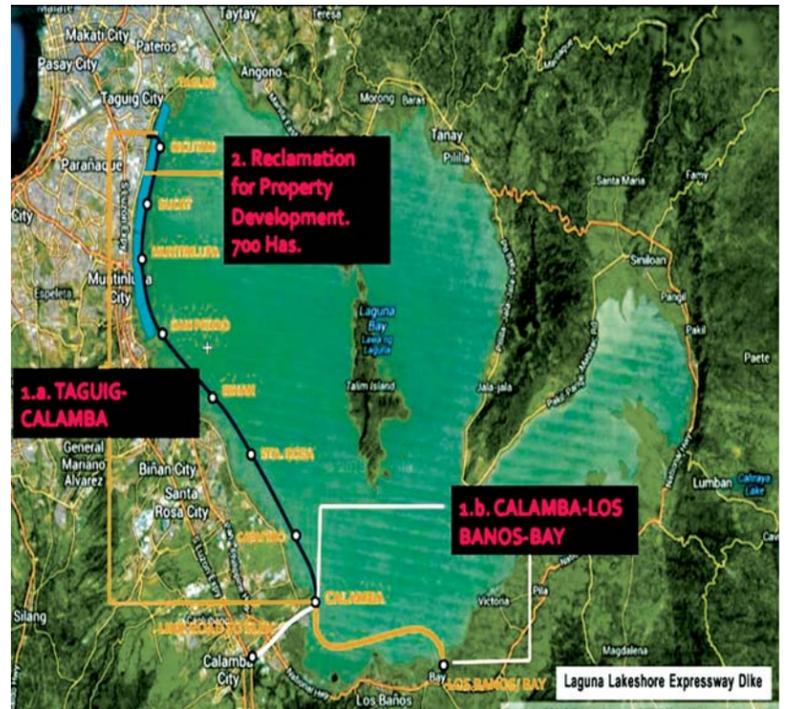
While the earlier batch that already have bid documents are **GT Capital Holdings of George Ty, Ayala Land Inc., Megaworld Corp. of Andrew Tan, Metro Pacific Investments under Manuel V. Pangilinan, Minerale Industrials Corp., M u h i b b a h**

Engineering Corp. of Malaysia, Egis Projects SA of France and Australia's Leighton Contractors.

According to Canilao, the groups are expected to partner with one another given the size of the project.

Aside from the construction of a flood control dike and an expressway linking Taguig, Metro Manila to Los Baños, Laguna, the gargantuan project involves the reclamation of an area one-third the size of Makati City—around 700 hectares of land near Taguig and Muntinlupa.

At least eighteen more PPP projects would roll at before June next year, as part of the PPP



Center's goal to ensure the sustainability of the program and the development of key infrastructure beyond

President Aquino's current term. Among these will be Metro Manila's first subway system, which would require about \$3

billion to develop. Another one will be the North-South commuter railway with a price tag of \$6 billion.



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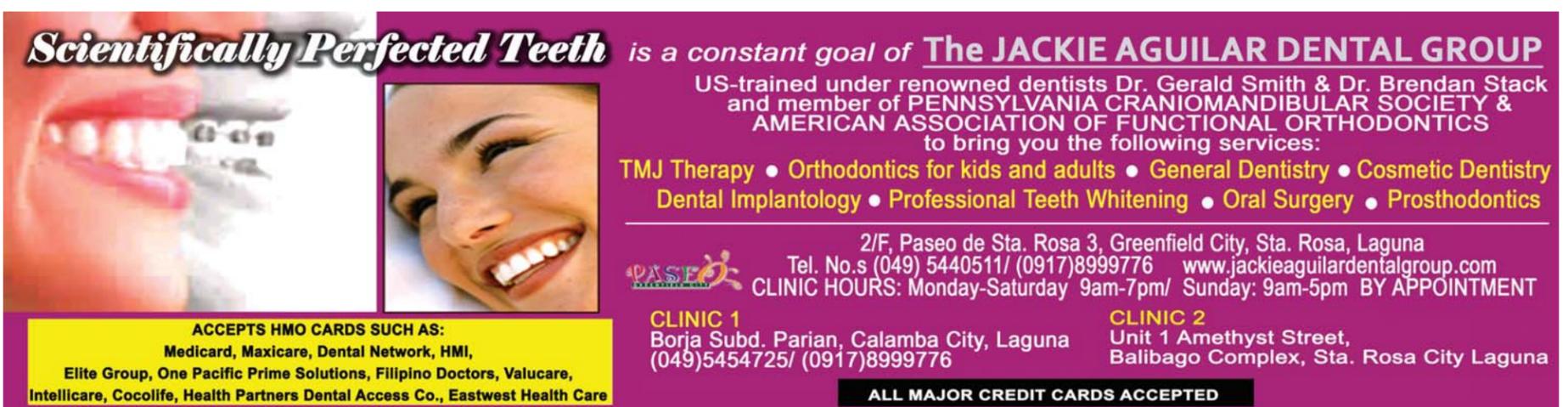
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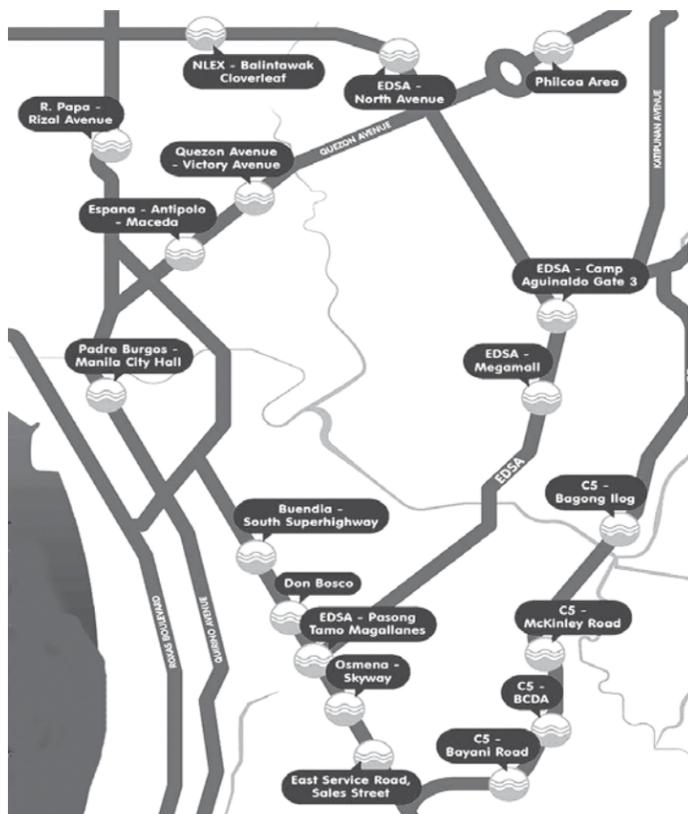
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Metro Manila's Most Flood-prone Roads

With the season of rains and storms now here, prudence and smarts become priceless things. In the face of all sorts of troubles, including traffic, floods and failing telecom systems, good information, and actually using these, keep us on high ground. And here's a gracious bit:

A considerable percentage of people living in provinces south of Manila still have to venture down the metro—for work, recreation, or social obligations. Whenever they do, they get subjected to all the hellish things that many of them have tried to avoid by migrating to the suburbs. And increasingly topping the list of these hellish things are flood prone roads.

Thank goodness for a recent Metro Manila Development Authority report, released earlier this month, we can be guided as to where these places are.



As shown in the map above, the major trouble spots when it comes to flooded roads include the stretch of **C5 down south, beginning in the Bagong Ilog area in Pasig, stretching all the way down to Bayani Road.**

Along **EDSA, the length of road by Camp Aguinaldo and alongside SM Megamall** are trouble spots as well during heavy rains. **Osmeña Highway, extending all the way down to the SLEX/Skyway area** has several flood-prone zones.

Farther north, trouble spots are strewn across the map. There's the **NLEX-Balintawak, the EDSA-North Avenue area, Padre Burgos**, and a couple of spots along the notoriously flood-prone **España Avenue**.

Even as these roads are still passable, it'd be best to avoid them during rainy days, given that the already-bad traffic even gets worse during such times.

EDITOR THINKS



The Best Argument For Charter Change

-by Jo Chanco

With P-Noy sticking to an “all bark and no bite” policy on graft and corruption, the Aquino administration’s good governance facade has pretty much gone bust. Still defended and still implemented by crooked politicians, the pork barrel system, be it the PDAF or the DAP, as the root of corruption, has basically reduced the legislative to a bribery ring comprised of belligerent hypocrites who, at the drop of a hat, will trade principle for “money in the bag”. Meanwhile, a leisurely narcissistic judiciary has successfully made justice so rare in this country, Filipinos will only find it under the light of a blue moon, tucked between a rock and a hard place.

Philippine progress is back to square one, folks. Despite the horde of hullabaloo stomping on P-Noy’s so-called “straight path”, smashing up the president’s credibility and causing his trust rating to spiral down to hell, impeaching him will not work. Thanks to P-Noy loyalists in Congress who used some legal hocus pocus to do away with all our hopes for accountability.

No Future In The Past

While a mostly exasperated electorate ponders on a revolution to physically unseat P-Noy, and with the 2016 Presidential Elections just around the corner, it brings to mind...who can replace him and actually fulfill the promise of good governance he’s been blabbering about? Certainly, P-Noy cannot extend his term. So who is it gonna be?

Will Jejomar Binay or Mar Roxas finally be able to stop corruption? Will Grace Poe or Allan Peter Cayetano succeed in promulgating transparency? Will Mirriam Defensor-Santiago or Bong Bong Marcos make, at long last, justice roll forth so that those responsible for the series of extra-judicial killings are punished? Will Manny Villar or Chiz Escudero be able to eradicate poverty? If we choose right, electing the best available option for a leader, are we going to see then the most glorious Philippines ever? Perhaps not.

If all we had to concern ourselves with was choosing the best leader, then all the crises we face could be solved within the framework of the existing political system. But the reality is, the problem is much deeper, and infinitely more profound than just that. To summarize, even the best of our leaders find themselves so paralyzed because the institutions they must work through are already defunct.

It shouldn’t be that difficult to understand that our political and government structures, to begin with, were outlined for a time when this nation was still being born. And much of the design of our so-called nation—our tenets and the principles by which we establish our democracy—was even tailored after that which was meant for American society. We could have, by far, made more independent decisions to have a government more custom-built for Filipinos.

The Reality Of A “Globalized” World

As we are witnessing today the chaos and helplessness of government in the face of ever-complicating challenges, abiding by such obsolete systems has become close to impossible, even as we hold on to the myth of sovereignty. Government is so inept that foreign control over our nation has become a pandemic, not even P-Noy or his successor can halt. Even if all of a sudden, we become some sort of a “hermit kingdom” and attempt to industrialize on our own, detached from the world economy with strictly controlled ports, we’d still be dependent on external sources for oil, food, technology, credit, etc.

This exact moment, around the world, events are unfolding that even make the situation more precarious. Russia’s aggression towards Ukraine could trigger a NATO response which could very well be a precursor to a Third World War. From North Africa to the Middle East, the terrorist group Islamic State (IS) is fast-rising to be a mighty armed federation, cornering strategic territories and resources, and threatening a jihad of Armageddon-like proportion. Ebola or some other new contagion can anytime explode into a global epidemic and shut down the ports of nations. Worsening global climate is already producing freak weather conditions that devastate cultures and economies everywhere. Each decision one country makes to address such concerns will impose challenges or responses from the other.

The world, in a sense, is much, much smaller now. Nations, especially neighboring ones, have become so connected, their problems more commonly shared. Radiation from Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant could affect entire populations elsewhere. The carbon emissions from China’s numerous coal-fired power stations could melt the Earth’s polar ice sheets significantly faster and cause the sea level to rise so that shorelines in many countries recede several hundred meters. An oil spill in Mexico can imperil the Texas coastline hundreds of miles away. And civil war in Syria could drive half of its population to seek refuge in nearby Turkey.

No matter how many nuclear missiles they possess in their armaments, or how great their mass communication faculties are, the leaders of nations seem to have lost much of their effectiveness in this tightly woven world. Most of the time, they are forced to make decisions that have damaging repercussions at both international and local levels, making the powers bestowed upon them seem vastly disproportionate compared to the scale and magnitude of what will be affected in today’s world. And this is just one example proving why the existing political structures are already obsolete.

Archaic Methodologies

Besides bearing outdated purposes, our political institutions also manifest archaic methods of collating, assimilating and organizing information. Each government department is dedicated to a specific field, like finance, defense, foreign affairs, commerce, agriculture, science and technology, or transportation. The Philippine Senate and Congress have committees categorized in the same manner, each dealing with problems according to their respective fields. What is so apparent, yet so ignored, is the chaos, confusion and wastage caused because of the failure to integrate the activities and information of all these bureaus, often due to their mix of duplicating, contradictory and self-canceling functions.

What many of our politicians casually ignore is actually the one thing we should have realized in the past few decades: that all social and political problems are intermeshed. Energy, for instance, affects economics, which then affects well-being, which then affects

labor, family, education and myriad other things. Therefore, by employing the old-fashioned ways of dealing with problems, by classifying issues as isolated cases, apart from one another, without integrating them into a whole picture where they are interwoven, we only make things more complicated and convoluted. Yet we precisely adhere to this faulty approach.

We follow this obsolete systems even as they lead to endless jurisdictional power struggles, to the absence of accountability (as each agency simply points blame and responsibility upon the other), and to many other adverse societal illnesses we hope to remedy. Blindly, we do this amidst failure after failure by government. We pay no attention to what is actually happening, even as all our endeavors to cure our problems in government only create a wave of new problems that are often worse than the original one.

Politics Is Dead, But The Corrupt Won't Accept It

Except for public officials who are at the same time proponents of charter change but have no intention to stay in power, nor any ulterior motive—such as to evade prosecution or maintain privilege over an existing corruption racket—the Philippine government has shown no resolve at all to change the malfunctioning status quo. In fact, what is so common in the aims and purposes behind proposed executive orders and memorandum circulars of the president is the direction towards further centralization of matters that any one authority will find already impossible to manage.

Most of the propositions for Charter Change conclude with a parliamentary type of government that would further empower a single individual to take command of the nation, under the illusion that things would be ran more efficiently because there would be less red tape. Never mind if he happens to be corrupt and indifferent to what needs to be done for the betterment of this nation, or ignorant and idiotic as to decree laws that would confuse or paralyze the mass population even more with further bureaucracy as soon as he is dethroned.

Centralization of power no longer works. Even if we, in our denial and desperation, resort to creating a lot of pseudo-independent departmental committees to coordinate and review leadership decisions, we'd only find ourselves more baffled. For verily, the only way out of this bureaucratic labyrinth is, not only Charter Change but the total transformation of our mindsets about what and how government should be. And the more we postpone this, the more we aggravate our crisis.

Even if we switch to a parliamentary form of government, the system we'd be following would be of archaic design, thus accustomed to make painstakingly slow decisions, as it was fitted for a world where it would take days for a message to travel from Mindanao to Manila. Nowadays, if President Aquino eats siopao across the street from the scene of an international hostage crisis, or lights a cigarette beside a "no smoking" sign, the masses will know it, and Malacanang will have to respond decisively about the matter in minutes. So many of our politicians are caught off guard by the extreme rate of transformation in society, their embarrassment or guilt even add to their impulse to resist change.

High speed media documents the turmoil besetting our leaders in this emerging new age of information. On August 19, 2013, various newspapers reported that President Aquino was spoke in defense of the Pork Barrel funds, claiming that it is only the process that needs to be changed, because as the pork barrel can be abused, it can also be put to good use.

"I think the premise [of people who want it abolished] is that all the ways pork barrel is used are wrong. But if you look at the COA (Commission on Audit) report, I don't think that's the case. There are some ways it was wrongly used but those cases, we investigate. There's a case now against

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Mrs Napoles, there's a warrant of arrest against her for something somewhat related to [the pork barrel]," he said.

Four days later, the president, through a televised public address, suddenly announced "It's time to abolish the PDAF", adding that despite reforms, it continues to be prone to corruption.

P-Noy, naturally, received numerous criticisms for the mixed stance. Protest groups claimed he was just fooling the people, and did not have a real conviction about the lump sum fund system, but only wanted to pacify public ire about the scam. Many called him a hypocrite and dared him to abolish his own Pork Barrel which is the DAP (Disbursement Acceleration Program).

Forever In Limbo If We Do Not Change The Charter

There is, no doubt, an on-going turbulence felt across-the-board by the leadership, which if we continue to pay no heed, will only intensify and speedup political and governmental breakdown. In an era when our leaders are required to make intelligent and decisive moves on critical and encompassing issues, they churn out nothing but lame excuses for their failure and inaction, or lies to cover up their incompetence and their helplessness amidst ancient frameworks.

The most vital issues—such as sovereignty and territorial disputes; U.S. colonialism and economic bondage; the extrajudicial killings and human rights violations by the military; the widespread graft and corruption in government; the culture of migrant workers and the labor abuses by foreign investor companies and local hacenderos; the autonomy of Mindanao and the Moro peace agreement; the communist insurgency; privatization and the decline of public service; monopolies and the absence of consumer protection; patronage politics and the impunity of erring leaders; political dynasties, warlords and private armies; poll fraud and election-related violence; smuggling and narco-politics; the failure of agrarian reform and the spate of land-grabbing by the rich; poverty and the landlessness of farmers; pollution, over-population and traffic; poor education and the disintegration of culture; militarization and the case of disappearing farmlands; mining and tribal violence; and the non-existent relief for, and rehabilitation of, disaster-stricken areas—all these are stuck in a stalemate precisely because the decisional capacities of our public institutions are incongruent with what is required by the times, everything in government has become so hopelessly dysfunctional, regardless of who the president is or will be.

So definitely, and as soon as possible, we have to do a Charter Change.

Thrifty Rent-a-Car Soon To Launch In The Philippines



The world's largest car rental company, Hertz Global Holdings, will launch Thrifty Rent-a-Car Franchise in the Philippines, through its exclusive master franchisee in the country, Exclusive Cars International Holdings.

Thrifty Car Rental started way back in 1958. It became a public company in 1987. But then the company was acquired by Chrysler in 1989 in conjunction with Dollar Rent a Car. Nevertheless, it is still a globally recognized brand that stands for good value and quality service.

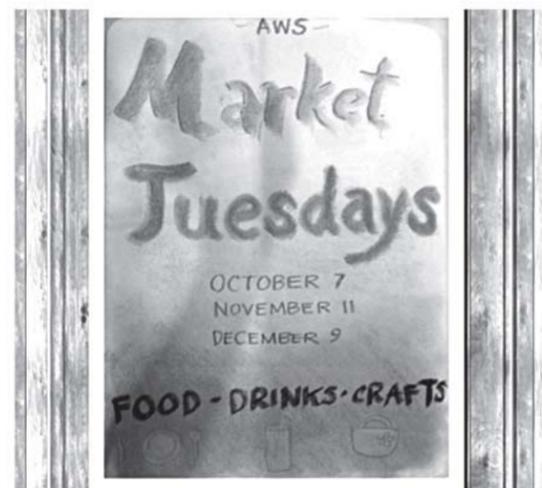
At present, it is a part of the global rent-a-car giant Hertz. The Thrifty Car Rental brand has more than 1,028 locations in 68 countries,

including its corporate-owned locations and those of its franchise owners.

Eyeing a launch date around the 4th quarter of 2014, Exclusive Cars, through Thrifty Rent-a-Car, intends to serve the country with a completely differentiated fleet and service offering.

According to Group Vice-President of Exclusive Cars, Mr. Raul Evangelista, "Exclusive Cars International Holdings, the exclusive country licensee of Hertz Rent-a-Car in the Philippines, is proud to have Thrifty Rent-a-car in its roster given its global footprint in car rental service to be readily available for local airports and transport".

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Dreaming of Concha's

Some dreams do come true. For Gemma Sembrano, it was to operate a restaurant of her own design.



Gemma started her professional career in selling life insurance and other financial products. And it's been a rewarding occupation for her.

For several years now, she'd been pouring her time and energy into helping others attain financial literacy and financial security as a leading consultant of a renowned insurance firm. Together with her husband, Joray, and some friends, she even launched a more serious endeavor, putting up a satellite office here in the south.

While business was good, Gemma realized something else was calling her attention. It was her dream...her passion, something which she found was too strong to ignore. And then, she realized, it was a calling which came from the blood which runs in her veins. She couldn't escape it. So she just had to do it. With some close friends as partners, she put up Concha's Garden Cafe.

"I grew up around my grandma Concha's cooking", claims Gemma. Caridad Concha Escueta is the "lola" Gemma is talking about. Known to many as simply Concha, she was a woman whose fondness for cooking, for her friends and family, opened up a whole new world of ingenious recipes—some original, some tweaked from others'. Concha became known in social circles for her warm hospitality and excellent cuisine.

Affinity for good food, the love for entertaining guests, the knack to invent culinary delights, and the drive to share in the celebration of life, comprised 'lola' Concha's soul. And now, Gemma realizes these make up part of her character too.

"To this day, Lola Concha remains to be an inspiration to me", Gemma said, as the same old recipes are served at Concha's garden cafe.

Her dream did come true. And now people are dreaming about her dream. A whole new set of patrons is quickly coming to be the restaurant's die-hard followers, ranting and raving about that familiar and refreshing place that keeps on serving up heart-warming dishes and soul-pleasing beverages.



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Concha's Spicy Beef Adobo Ribs sports a scrumptious yet revolutionary taste that's hard to forget.



The **Lumpiang Sariwa** is easily a vegetarian's favorite.



Concha's Laoya—lightly sweetened beef bulalo with marinated sweet potato, eggplant and banana



A medley of remarkable desserts: **Blueberry Cheesecake, Red Velvet Cake, and Concha's Ensaymada topped with Queso de Bola**



Located along the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road in Silang (just about a kilometer past Nuvali if you're going up Tagaytay), Concha's Garden Cafe has a stirring country garden set-up that can enchant even the most jaded hearts.



Meticulously designed by Mother Earth garden landscapers, the artsy, rustic touch deliberately assigned to the greenery inspires families, lovers, and solo trippers alike. And just like the way Lola Concha beguiled visitors, the intrinsic warmth and breeze-brushed serenity of this place speak the one-word mantra that's well-understood by all: welcome.

Another Beautiful Feather in Bobbie's Cap



"Bobbie Mabilog with her interpreter Janella Salvador during the Finals Night." © Star Magic



"3rd Best Song Trophy designed by renowned sculptor Michael Cancio."

The country's best venue for new breed of music composers, ABS-CBN's Himig Handog Pinoy Pop (P-POP) Love Songs 2014 showcased the musical geniuses of this year's 15 finalists last September 28, Sunday at the SMART Araneta Coliseum. From among the top 15, Bobbie Mabilog's beautiful, heart-warming, soulful, and youth-oriented song entry "Mahal Kita Pero" which was interpreted by the equally talented and pretty Janella Salvador scored the third best song. Following KZ Tandingan's interpretation of Edwin Marollano's "Mahal Ko o Mahal Ako" which won the Best Song and David Dimaguila's "Halik sa Hangin", interpreted by Ebe Dancel and Abra as the second best. "Mahal Kita Pero" of Bobbie Mabilog was also chosen as MYX Choice for Best Music Video.

Truly a very remarkable feat for Bobbie Mabilog who at 20 years of age,

is the youngest ever composer among the top 15 finalists. This was her first time to submit one of her original songs in the prestigious event which was deluged by more than 6,000 entries not only from local participants but also from the international communities. This is another beautiful feather in her cap having won a Special Citation – Secular Album in the 2011 Catholic Mass Media Awards for inculcating the values of Filipino Youth through Music.

From her array of astonishing, witty, and value-laden original songs (performed with her band, Y.M.I. Band, formerly known as C-Major Seven Band), Bobbie opted to submit "Mahal Kita Pero" to Himig Handog P-Pop Love Songs 2014 as her entry. She believes that its very timely message is for the schooling youth to be reminded of their utmost priorities. Teenagers believe they

are in love and are ready to make commitments notwithstanding their responsibilities-family and studies. The song playfully evokes the minds and hearts of young listeners that committing the wholeheartedly to someone else should come at the right time and place. "Mahal Kita Pero" has garnered a lot of positive reviews from the online community especially from those teenagers who could truly relate to its message.

A singer herself who believes that music should be a medium to further the advocacy of reaching out to young people who need a little reminder of this and that, Bobbie surely has more of her original songs to be shared to everyone. Catch her and her band, the Y.M.I Band, perform live these songs in the coming second season of Young Minds Inspired in GMA News TV.



"Bobbie Mabilog with her interpreter Janella Salvador during the Finals Night." © Mark Evangelista Photography



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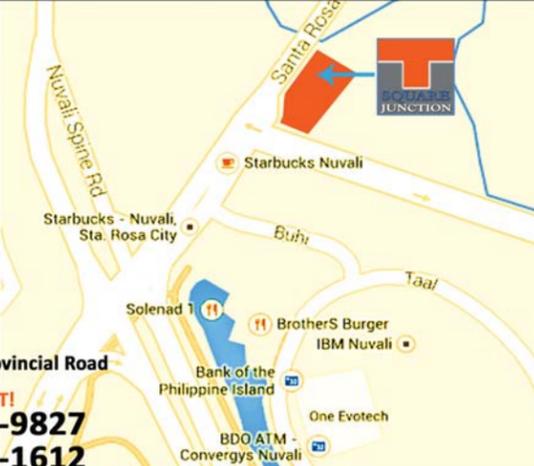
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PCCI- Muntinlupa holds 1st Salt & Light Leadership Award

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)-Muntinlupa City in cooperation with the Local City Government of Muntinlupa held the 1st SALT & LIGHT Leadership Award 2014, Thursday, September 11, at the Ballroom of Vivere Hotel in Alabang. Coinciding with PCCI-Muntinlupa's 18th General Membership Meeting and the Induction of new members, the event was particularly significant to the city's esteemed business community.



Masters of Ceremony, **Mr. Willy Lorenzana** and **Atty. Ethel Aldea** agreed with the vibe. "It's really a time to celebrate", they said, as they excitedly primed everybody to start the event with a good lunch, a prayer, and a few minutes of reverence for the national anthem. And everyone did in that exact order.



A couple of heart-warming performances by the **Himig Muntinlupa Chorale** quickly ensued the Opening Prayer and National Anthem. These were followed by a dramatic rendition of the Muntinlupa March.



The Opening Remarks were delivered by the graceful **Mrs. Elvie Sanchez-Quiazon**, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)-Muntinlupa and General Manager of Vivere Hotel. Perhaps after seeing the build-up of audience in front of her, she got reminded of just how significant the event was to the community, for she articulated: "Indeed it is an amazing day! Today we see a convergence of brilliant minds possessing the spirit of excellence in entrepreneurship, yet also hearts dedicated to fellowship and social responsibility. Certainly, these are reasons for us to celebrate."

Further fueling the celebration, Mrs. Quiazon explained, is the fact that the PCCI-Muntinlupa's membership grew by 40%, far exceeding expectations. This was, of course, well demonstrated by the sheer number of inductees among the audience, the exceptional businessmen and professionals all gleaming with enthusiasm as they were to become new members of PCCI-Muntinlupa, and thereby gain more opportunities to expand the city's economy.

Shortly after Mrs. Quiazon's initial welcoming remarks, Muntinlupa City Administrator, **Engineer Alan Cachuela** came up to give an inspirational message and spoke of how PCCI-Muntinlupa truly bears a noble cause

in tirelessly creating avenues for the development of globally competitive enterprises. He also expressed his gratitude, reiterating that PCCI is certainly an augments of the city's economic interests and the community's progress as a whole.



And then it was time for...**The Salt and Light Leadership Awards**. PCCI-Muntinlupa stands by the maxim of "heralding values and commitment through transcendence to a higher level of P-C-C-I (P-assion, C-ompetency, C-reativity, and I-ntegrity)". Such are the values espoused by great leaders who belong in this proudly progressive city. The awards are to acknowledge the transformational and adaptive leaders who have transcended to a higher awareness and have learned to recognize how partnering with all sectors—including the LGUs, the Academe, and even church organizations—is in itself an act of leadership, advocating cooperation and unity, and by that effort also advances the Chamber's principle of "Attitude for Beatitude."



Ms. Pearl Innocencio and Mr. Chris Del Rosario announced the Awardees.



The **Harvest Leadership Award** is given to the institution/individual that contributed in planting seeds of strong leadership qualities and nurturing bright young minds. **San Beda College-Alabang** came first in this particular aspect.

Lyceum-Alabang and **Muntinlupa National High School** garnered the **New Dawn Leadership Award** as institutions that epitomize hope for the needy and inspire positivity for the youth.

For being an institution that is unrelenting in its efforts to encourage the youth to excel above and beyond expectations, **PAREF Woodrose** was given the **Shine Leadership Award**.

STI-Alabang got the **Lighthouse Leadership Award**, recognized for its service of providing a guiding light that steers the youth towards a good direction.

After honoring the outstanding institutions of the academe, it was business sector's turn to churn out its accented members. The winners of the **Paragon Recognition** are distinguished for commendable Corporate Social Responsibility and outstanding contributions to the projects and community missions undertaken by the local government. The Paragon awardees were **Madam Robina Gokongwei Pe** of **Robinsons, Inc.**, **Mr. Ranny Sanchez** of **Jag**, and **Mrs. Josephine Briones-Gonzales** of **Ford Group Philippines**.



Management icon **John Maxwell**, who sold more than nineteen million copies of his dissertations on leadership—with titles that include *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* and *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*—outlined a handful of specific traits that separate good leaders from the great ones. Great leaders, according to him—a) reproduce themselves in their career development; b) value people knowing human capital is an important resource; c) provide mass employment to localities in proportions that directly spur community growth; d) and strongly advocate humanitarian principles that prompt social responsibility as well as environmental or ecological stewardship.

The **Quintessence Recognition**, Salt & Light Leadership Awards' highest honor, is reserved for such leaders. Through this award, such high praise and admiration are bestowed by PCCI-Muntinlupa to the following principals:

Mr. Angus Murray of **Fluor**; **Mrs. Josephine Gotianun-Yap** of **Filinvest Development Corporation**; **Mrs. Veronica Arcenas-Timbol** of **Alabang Town Center**; **Ms. Jennifer Colayco** of **SM Supermalls**; **Mr. Bienvenido Tantoco III** of **Rustan's Supercenters**; **Mr. Fulgencio Ching** of **CT Citimotors-Alabang**; **Mr. Furqan Ahmed Syed** of **Pepsi Cola Products Philippines**; **Mr. Hitoshi Inoue** of **Kawasaki Motors Philippines**; **Mr. William Garcia** of **Amkor Technology Philippines**; **Mr. Andres Licaros Jr.** of **Asian Hospital**; **Ms. Marife Zamora** of **Convergys**; **Mr. Manuel Bonoan** of **Skyway O&M Corporation**; **Mr. Vicente Ayllon** of **Insular Life Assurance Company**; and **Mr. Mayo**

Jose Onsingco, also of **Insular Life Assurance Company**.

The captains of **Zuellig Pharma Corporation**, **Chowking** and **Jollibee Foods Corporation**, and **Nissan Westgate Alabang** were also awarded the **Quintessence Recognition**, though received by representatives on their behalf.



A talk on **Multiple Accountabilities: the Key to Market Competitiveness** followed after the last award was given. **Cecil "Yay" Padua-Olmedo** was the event's Guest Speaker as, incidentally, the event also featured the soft-launch of her 4th book, **"Now that You're Boss: Timely and Timeless Lessons for New (& Seasoned) Leaders"**. She talked, not only about leadership, but what it means to be a leader in this high-speed age of information.



Mrs. **Elvie S. Quiazon** presided over the **Induction of PCCI-Muntinlupa's new members**.

Afterwards, **Dr. Danilo Ayap**, Vice President of PCCI-Muntinlupa City, delivered the **Closing Remarks**, reiterating that whether your interests are in **Independent Business Development**, **Community Relations**, **Labor Relations**, **Sports and Fellowship** and **Special Projects**, **Advocacy** or **International Affairs**, you can find a niche at the Chamber, and ultimately find the business leader in you.



The event was capped by the book-signing of **Yay Olmedo's Now That You're Boss**, where an overflow of patrons lined up for both her autograph, and some photos with her. The big little book not merely speaks to our "boss" mind but to our soul too. It is rich with timeless wisdom and insights on business principle and examples. It tells us that leadership is not just a job but a divine calling and life's mission.

PCCI-Muntinlupa hosts a variety of events every month, creating opportunities for business leaders to connect and strengthen relationships. The Chamber serves as the voice for local businesses. It also has strong international roots as approximately 200 multinational companies, as well as 20 consular corps and trade offices, are based in Muntinlupa. With the support of members, city officials, local organizations, and residents, the Chamber strives to strengthen various types of services available to the community.

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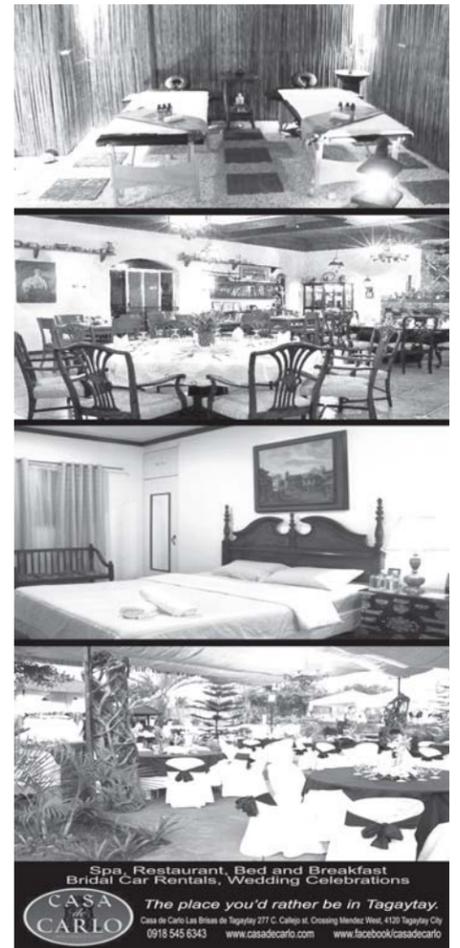
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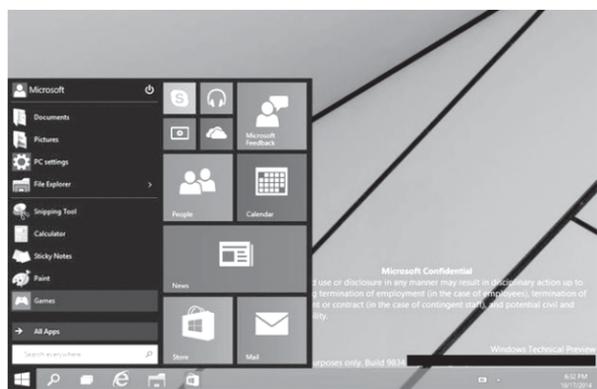
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TechKnow

Leaked Screenshots of Microsoft's Windows 9 Show A Redesigned Desktop

A clearer picture of—what the next version of Windows will look like—is gradually unfolding. Microsoft already let in a peak of a classic-style Start Menu, while ZDNet's very credible Mary Jo Foley suggested that the Charms Bar might be removed.

Expected to launch next year, Windows 9, as seen in these images, features a Desktop with, not just the Start Menu, but a refined Taskbar, with a new search icon located next to the Start button.

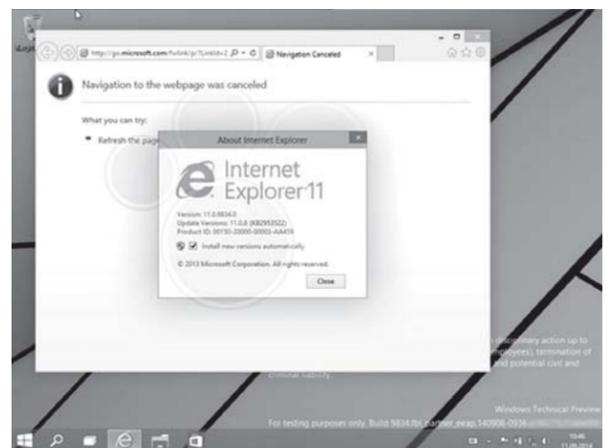
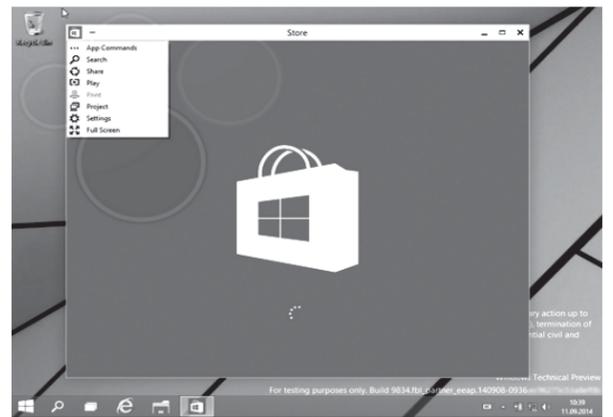


And now, we have an exclusive sneak preview of some screenshots from the German sites ComputerBase and WinFuture. The following images are from the "Windows Technical Preview".



There's a new icon by the Search Button. It seems to be a Shortcut for the rumored Virtual Desktop feature.

These screenshots show a pane along the bottom of the screen that you can use to toggle between different desktops.



Also, one of the screens include the Notification Center, though it is still unclear how exactly these notifications work. It seems to reside in the System Tray at the lower-right corner.

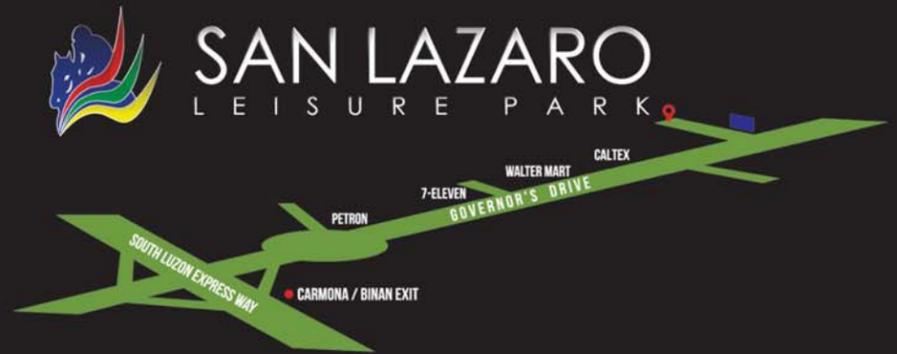
It's good to be reminded, however, that these images almost certainly do not represent the final version of the software, as not even the preview version has been released yet.

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