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## LABOR DEPARTMENT BANS CONTRACTORS FROM JOB FAIRS

AUGUST 31, 2016  
LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Labor contractors and subcontractors are now barred from government-sponsored job fairs in Region IV (Southern Tagalog), according to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). According to DOLE, contractors are temporarily prohibited from such events in order for the department to address crucial employment issues, and as a way of abolishing the

practice of "endo" (end of contract) by 2017.

Contractors are basically defined as manpower agencies, hiring workers for placement to the "principal" or companies, and are most common in the manufacturing and food industries. "Endo", meanwhile, refers to the ill practice of rehiring workers for the same job, post-termination after a short-term service contract, usually five to six months, denying the workers security of

tenure, as well as health and social security benefits.

Maria Zenaida Angara-Campita, labor director in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces), issued a memorandum on Aug. 11 to prohibit labor contracting firms from joining job fairs organized by the DOLE and the local governments' Public Employment Service Offices (Peso). The ban also effectively supports a department order in July that suspends the

registration of "new applicants as contractors or subcontractors."

There are at least 121 reported labor contractors and subcontractors registered with the DOLE in Calabarzon as of July this year. This number was higher in 2015, which was at 255.

In a telephone interview, Campita said the ban on contractors was just temporary as her office is still studying all the aspects of the labor policies that breached, abused or

even encourage ill practices in the employment sector. The labor department is reviewing, in particular, the practice of "labor-only" contractors, a scheme wherein the contractor "merely recruits and supplies" workers to the principal and does not have control over the nature of work of the employee, and thereby waives all liability laborers might incur while on the workplace after they've been designated to an employer. This

practice is prohibited when the contractor also does not have substantial capital and workers are performing jobs "directly related to the main business of the principal (company)," the Dole said.

Campita also mentioned that the policy should not be a problem for employers, especially those requiring more workers. "If your [company] needs the manpower, all the more reason to regularize your employees," she said.

"You should not deceive your employees; instead afford them benefits and their rights to association."

In line with this, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III has begun meeting with business and employers' groups to garner their support for President Duterte's program to eliminate contractualization and other illegal labor practices.

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## EDITOR THINKS



### The Good Governance Farce

Good governance, like Heaven or utopia, has become such a cliché, yet implies a concept that is so intangible and so unattainable, it may as well be a myth. Most of our politicians speak of it incessantly, swearing to practice it and espouse it as their lifelong advocacy. But then, if almost all our politicians have such a strong stance altogether against corruption, how is it that the Philippines has been deemed one of the most corrupt countries in the world, and the most corrupt in Asia?

#### Forever Corrupt

In hindsight, come to think of it...despite all the brouhahas and revolutions against supposedly corrupt governments, not one presidency, over the past three decades, can really be deemed as corruption-free. Each successive president, after denouncing the allegedly corrupt leadership they replaced, was in turn supplanted by another who accused them of corruption later on.

In the People Power Revolution of 1986, Corazon "Cory" Aquino toppled the 21-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, which she regarded as one that was unjust, corrupt and so wicked as to have denied the Filipinos their civil liberties during its dynastic rule. Fidel Ramos, who succeeded Aquino in 1992, as he was endorsed by her, and was also a pivotal figure in the 1986 Revolution against Marcos, turned out wanting to amend the 1987 Constitution ratified under the Corazon Aquino administration, supposedly for its imperfections, and went on pushing for "Cha-Cha" (Charter Change) up to his final hours in office. Joseph "Erap" Estrada, though he served as vice president during the Ramos administration, has repeatedly criticized the Ramos' government, since the former actor became president in 1998, up to this day, blaming him for an assortment of fiascos—from the Social Security System woes, which he attributed to behest loans and rampant cronyism that occurred under Ramos' leadership, to the still-unresolved chaos in Mindanao, and even the poor economy during Erap's own administration. Gloria Arroyo, likewise, propelled to the presidency in 2001 after another People Power Revolt, this time against Erap's supposedly corrupt and scam-infested administration, ousted her predecessor on the premise that Erap's government was so bad it was intolerable, and that she was ordained to better the leadership. And Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, Jr., while advancing his concept of good governance in what he calls, *daang matuwid*, or the "straight path", got into such a habitual vilification of Arroyo whom he succeeded, that it became almost like the main policy of his administration to make a perennial scapegoat of the leadership previous to his. It has pretty much gone to a point where the public, netizens especially, have already damned Noynoy and his straight path in the arena of ridicule, where people are wondering what would he blame on Arroyo next: his plunging ratings, his hair loss, a super typhoon, or him going down in history as a bad president.

Now, newly elected president Rodrigo Duterte, not even one hundred days in office, has gone into quick, decisive and drastic actions to effect positive changes on crucial issues that were hardly acted upon in six years of P-Noy's *daang matuwid*, which he regarded as simply "a fantasy" created by the Aquino administration. He described the government during P-Noy's leadership as "pure corruption", and said it performed as if no one was really taking care of the country, adding that it was the government itself that was the oppressor of the people. And, in turn, vowing to stop criminality and the menace of narco-politics that has encumbered the nation through the years, and through various administrations, Duterte has promptly demonstrated a seemingly iron will, resulting in 465 summary killings of suspected drug dealers and the surrender of over 60,000 drug addicts, two months after he assumed office.

But is our country's situation getting better, or worse? Considering how each succeeding administration is supposed to correct the mistakes and learn from the faults of the previous one it most likely vilified, the state of nation should be improving. But is it?

#### A Track Record of Hypocrisy and Bogus Governance

As clever and capable as all our presidents believe themselves to be, genuine progress for this country has remained largely elusive, as many of the Filipinos' age-old problems still loiter around debates that are devoid of any positive action, to this day. A fresh example of this would be Noynoy Aquino who has recently exited a presidency which he still insists embodied a good government, even when all his preaching about a mythical "straight path"; the nonstop condemnation of the "evil" Arroyo government; and the frequent boasts of a 7.6% GDP growth—all seem like miniscule accomplishments, compared to the disastrous blowback he'd be leaving behind for the nation to deal with, in the wake of a plethora of epic failures that history will most certainly attribute to a hypocritical, sanctimonious and myopic leadership. After the endless mantras of praise that it absurdly handed to itself, the Aquino administration is seemingly even proud of its legacy to the Filipino people: an atrocious mess borne by an audacious farce.

In the face of Noynoy Aquino's supposed good governance and advocacy against corruption, what the nation needed most—which was to effect justice, in the form of proportionate punitive action against the plunderers who've sabotaged our common interests for their personal gain—has taken on a complacency which only declined gradually over six years, and alas amounts to nothing now. Looking back, one can summarize his campaign for good governance as a dimly deteriorated effort to punish plunderers and curb corruption, while completely absorbed in blaming past administrations for the faults and ineptness of his own governance. His administration failed to convict Gloria Arroyo, whom he accused so much, of corruption and a plethora of misdeeds. Meanwhile, despite the long list of names of those who instigated and benefitted from billion-peso scams, in the form of the Pork Barrel and the Disbursement Acceleration Program, only a handful of individuals were arrested, imprisoned, and now even likely to be exonerated with poorly resolved cases before them.

#### Duterte and Good Governance

Perhaps the cynic's can't be faulted in asking: Will the Duterte administration be any different? Well, so far we've seen "The Punisher" crack down hard on small-time drug pushers, with hundreds of suspects killed without due legal process. But, in the same breath, has, by the influence of his office, expedited the release of Gloria Arroyo from hospital arrest at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, with the sudden junking of her plunder case by the Supreme Court. Furthermore, he has recently ordered that the remains of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos be buried at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, as a hero, an announcement that was met by a



hurricane of protests from the public. After seeing this, many, perhaps, are starting to wonder if this gaping disparity of actions on the principles of justice and human rights point, in due time, to another sham of a government, or one that might even be worse than the past administrations it claims to admonish.

There's no way a government can be considered good when it gives big time suspects of plunder the right, privilege and extensive benefit of doubt so as to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, while small time crime suspects are gunned down under very vague and sweeping presuppositions. The menace of illegal drugs and criminality that the new president vows to eradicate will only continue if corruption remains rife in a system that is highly tolerant of plunderous leaders and erring government officials who, as a matter of fact, are frequently the big bosses behind the various criminal rackets gripping our society. And no meaningful change for the better can truly materialize if the government remains hypocritical and double standard, oppressive and unjust, protective and sympathetic towards corrupt personalities who debilitate this country many times more than a legion of petty criminals ever could.

A good government is one that creates and thereby constantly upholds laws that serve the common good, and not only the few who wish to lord over everybody else. It seeks to protect and aid the life of each and every citizen, with equal regard no matter what their standing in society. And it aims to build a just and humane society, under a system that embodies and promotes the principles of good, such as truth, freedom, love, peace, justice and equality.

A good government is what we need this Duterte administration to be, not just because the public is fed up with the pattern of one bad leadership after another, and is understandably already at a breaking point, but because we know these crucial times demand it to be, if we are to survive as a people through the next decade. And hundreds or even thousands of dead drug pushers is hardly evidence at all of good governance.

A good government should be intrinsically sound in its priorities and therefore should put foremost corruption, and not illegal drugs, as the real menace behind our country's failings. There are enough laws and enforcing institutions against illegal drugs, only these are circumvented by corrupt officials. Illegal drug syndicates pervade because of corruption in police and military organizations, in local governments, in the justice system, and in the legislature. Meaning, if we curb graft and corruption significantly, so will our problems with illegal drugs be suppressed noticeably.

### The Changes We Need

Instead of an all-out war against illegal drugs, a leader aspiring for good governance must wage an all-out war against corruption. At any rate, if the Duterte administration does supposedly epitomize change, there are obviously several other things it can do that will certainly present better transformative prospects for our society, than whatever changes are proposed by the vicious lynching and bloody killings of misfits and outcasts who are, after all, victims themselves of a government that seems to have betrayed and neglected its people all this time. With Duterte's popularity, and the Congress practically behind him one-hundred percent, in what seems to be the largest legislative coalition to date, there probably has not been a better opportunity to implement some long-due adjustments and reparations to this very flawed system of governance which we have, absurdly, been following despite an endless profusion of pathetic, tragic and disastrous consequences.

So, let the problems of illegal drug trafficking and substance abuse marinate for a while, in lieu of really urgent priorities. Rather, it would do our country a greater deal of good if, for example, the Duterte administration acts as speedily in imposing a strict prohibition on political dynasties, which though expressly outlawed by a constitutional provision in 1987, has yet to be passed as a law before it can be enforced. Widely tolerated all this time, political dynasties, instead, flourished unabated despite the propensity of such a custom to perpetuate corrupt oligarchs in positions of power, and also bolster warlord-ism in the provinces. Putting a restriction on dynasties will prevent political families from hoarding the opportunities to govern amongst themselves, and consequently phase out the lot of short-sighted *trapos* (traditional politicians) from the vital government posts they've bankrupted for so long with their boorishness, while allowing more chances for new, honest and rightful people to ascend public offices.

It's also high time the Philippine government implements, exercises and upholds the Freedom of Information as a fundamental right of Filipinos, and as an extension of Freedom of Speech and Expression. All departments of government should be mandated to disclose public documents, easily and promptly, upon the request of any Filipino citizen. This will ensure transparency in public offices and their respective policies and agendas, and definitely be an integral element in our pursuit of Good Governance and Anti-Corruption. With Freedom of Information practiced across the board, finally after three decades in suspended animation, the public can break through the cartel of *trapos* who've persistently denied this nation the truth that we supposedly advocate as a people. It would be a lot easier for us to see the whole stories underlying issues, discern lying bureaucrats if there are any, and make erring public servants accountable for their faults.

In line with the full endorsement of the Freedom of Information, the new government should also work on the abolition of bank secrecy laws that prevent investigators of graft and plunder cases from seeing the ends of paper trails and from achieving conclusive reports on dubious fund movements. Only three nations in the world still have bank secrecy laws that serve as the protector of plunderers and their ill-gotten wealth. The Philippines is one of them, and probably has the strictest bank secrecy laws in the world.

To boost transparency even more, instead of plainly accepting the prescribed SALNs (Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth) of public servants and take their word for it, why not make it a prerequisite for all government officials to waive their rights to keep their bank accounts secret, as well as their rights against self-incrimination, since these are clearly used to forge the way to corruption?

We should make it easier now to probe, prosecute and punish those guilty of graft and corruption, and while we are at it, we must do away with the outlandish "VIP" treatment of government officials suspected of malfeasance, and deny them such exclusive privileges, as being able to opt out of the normal imprisonment via house, hospital arrest, or some specially arranged detention. For the sake of equality, which is a principle we uphold as a people, any reason that an official accused of corruption gives in order to avail special treatment must be put under intense scrutiny, with the presumption that it is a lame excuse. And as for the variety of malicious court appeals these villains deliberately file to delay investigations and legal proceedings on corruption cases, the presiding magistrates of court, bearing in mind that justice must be swift, should slap them with contempt for making a mockery of the law.

And then, to complete the proofing of the loopholes used by corrupt government officials to escape prosecution and punishment, it only makes sense to establish a rule that would disallow the granting of executive clemency to convicted plunderers, especially ex-president plunderers. Pardoning high-ranking officials guilty of high crimes makes all the efforts rendered and all the expenses accrued in the administration of justice an exercise in futility. It's a terrible custom that makes corrupt officials feel invincible and more emboldened, as they seem above the law, and thus promoting this trend of recycling bad leaders back into positions of power... where they will most likely fall back to their old corrupt habits. Why even bother instilling anti-corruption measures if in the end game, the guilty don't only go scot free but are essentially resurrected from purgatory?

### Change That Can't Be Kept In Check?

The general public should be able to grasp the idea now, in the wake of the Pork Barrel scandal, and with corruption even becoming worse under *daang matuwid*. Our government was designed by corrupt people, and so naturally it will defend the corrupt and uphold the schemes that foster corruption, though subtly and traitorously disguised by shameless hypocrisy. All else will deteriorate and collapse beneath its evil reality... the whole bureaucracy, our weary and confused society, along with our national hope for a better future.

Newly seated president Duterte may have gone on a kicking start, not to mention a spectacularly bloody one, with the slaughter of several hundred suspected drug pushers and addicts. But all this frenzy about cleansing our society of the drug menace may just be a big cloud meant to conceal yet another floundering leadership before us. For apparently, and in just a short while since he sat at the this nation's helm, a series of bewilderingly questionable executive orders have already taken effect bearing the likelihood of atrocious consequences, while he coolly makes his rounds in the bureaucracy, swagging about, and seemingly oblivious to the implications of what he'd done.

We must, however, in the midst of all these, remember that a drug-free government does not necessarily make it a good one. A corrupt government, on the other hand, is always bad. And using wrong tactics and methods to correct what is wrong, can't really be deemed right.

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order 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, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

—Preamble, The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines

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# ALOHA, from the original Hawaiian BBQ in Tagaytay!

-by Richie Zamora (from [www.thepickiesteater.net](http://www.thepickiesteater.net))

Like I mentioned in my previous post about **The Boutique Bed and Breakfast**, **Tagaytay** is a favorite “Out of Town” spot for barkadas and families. It’s far enough so that you’re away from the pollution of the metro, but not too far that it becomes an exhausting drive just to get there.

Now, lets say you do go to Tagaytay for a quick vacation.. Where would you eat? I have a few suggestions that I’d like to share with you, these coming weeks, but the first place that comes to mind is this awesome place located within The Boutique Bed and Breakfast.. **The Original Hawaiian BBQ!**

The Original Hawaiian BBQ is the brain child of **Happy Ongpauco-Tiu**, and is part of **The Happy Concept Group**, which includes impressive brands, such as The Boutique Bed and Breakfast, and Pamana.

Together with another Happy Concept Group member, **Tsokolateria**, The Original Hawaiian BBQ serves as the in-house “Cafe” of The Boutique.

Recognizing that not capitalizing on the natural splendor of Tagaytay would be a mistake, you may also choose to stay in the Al Fresco area that offers a spectacular view of the hills of Tagaytay. (*The Hills are alive, kung bago*).

After arriving from our short road trip, I couldn’t wait to sink my teeth into what The Original Hawaiian BBQ had to offer!

## SHAKE SHAKE!

Although Tagaytay is known for their “cooler” weather (The “cooler” part is pretty much only compared to Metro Manila), It would be remiss of you not to try some of Hawaiian BBQ’s line up of shakes, especially the **Kit Kat Shake** (P120), and/or the **Oreo Cheesecake Milkshake** (P120)!

## SALADS

Although I’m not interested in Salads, but if I had to (gun to my head), I felt the **Oriental Chicken Salad** (P320) wouldn’t be a bad way to start the meal. Grilled Chicken slices are laid on top of a bowl of mixed greens, then topped with fried wonton strips, and refreshing mandarin orange slices.

## APPETIZERS

Being the kind hearted person I am, the let my friends finish of the Salad, while I concentrated on the other items from Hawaiian BBQ’s Appetizer menu, starting with the **Onion Rings Tower with Three Sauces**, (P200). The onions are dipped in a delicious batter and fried to golden perfection, and stacked together on a platter. The available sauces are an in house BBQ Sauce, Garlic Mayo, and Gravy. The natural sweetness of the onion makes the fried rings quite tasty even without a sauce, but I have to admit, the lightly, sweet, smoky BBQ sauce, was a great condiment.



Spam Masubi puts me in quite the conundrum. Spam is one of my favorite comfort foods, but I really hate Nori (Dried Seaweed). The **Crispy Spam Masubi** (P275), however, is a good compromise. Since the seaweed is dipped in a Hawaiian batter before being deep fried, lightly tempering the Nori flavor to a more tolerable level for my palate. (*Best enjoyed with the BBQ sauce or the Garlic Mayo!*)

## GOOD OLD FASHIONED ALOHA SIDINGS

I feel that Chef Happy conceptualized **The Ultimate Baked Potato** (P150) with me in mind. I am the ultimate meat and potatoes guy, and as you all know, I have a love affair with bacon. So this dish was pretty much everything I was looking for in a side dish. Soft potato chunks, drowned in a cream cheese sauce and topped with bacon strips? *YES, PLEASE.*



Yet another dish in which I felt a little bit of Serendipity, was the **Buttered Corn with Bone Marrow**. You scrape the marrow off the bone and into the bowl of buttered corn kernels, and mix everything together, to add a savory richness to what is usually a simple, but dependable side dish. Amazing.

## TROPICAL SEAFOOD

Many of you still get surprised to hear that I eat fish. I love love love LOVE fish, although I admit that it’s pretty much the only seafood that I actually eat, (with the exception of Shrimp Tempura and Calamares). The **Baked Seafood Pockets in Lime and Honey** (P420), This is a bucket of seafood, particularly Fish, Squid, Shrimp and Mussels, baked in a lime and honey drizzling, giving it a light sweetness with a citric tinge.

I have to admit, Hawaiian BBQ’s batter for their deep fried seafood is quite exceptional. This is evident in their Seafood Tacos. Supposedly a mix of Fish, Deep Fried Mussels, Squid and oysters, I ate it thinking it was pure fish. I would normally have a violently

reaction when I feel the texture of oysters or mussels in my mouth. But seafood was fried so perfectly, that the crunchiness made beautiful music in my mouth, leaving me unable to distinguish the mixed seafood from one another.

Though I didn’t try it, I have to say that **The Hawaiian Famous Spicy Mussels Scampi** (P290) is quite the visual spectacle. The Mussels are steamed inside a trunk of Bamboo, and then is dumped on to a sizzling platter table side.

## HAWAIIAN SURP-RICE

I’ll give you a heads up.. I’m a fan of fried rice, and I really enjoyed the very flavorful **Spam Rice** (P150) of Hawaiian BBQ. There are some people that don’t like having too robust flavored rice with their meals, but I do, and the comfort of the rice, which seemed to be a simple stir fry of Rice mixed with ketchup, bits of Spam, Pineapple and Corn Kernels, was irresistible.



The **Pineapple Chicken Rice** (P190) is pretty much a meal in itself, as it uses the delicious concept of the Spam Rice, replacing the spam with a succulent, BBQ leg of Chicken.



## HAWAIIAN BBQ'S FAMOUS BABY BACK RIBS

In order to understand what all the fuss is about, it might be a good idea to start with the their **Original Hawaiian Baby Back Ribs** (Small P380/Medium P765/ Large P990). These glorious slabs were incredibly tender and slathered in a sweet, tangy sauce, that helps accentuate the smokey meatiness of the ribs.



The Ribs were served with Pineapple slice, and a pile of French Fries on top of it.

Or you may opt for the intriguing flavor of **Waikiki's Rootbeer Sesame Ribs** (Small P380/Medium P765/ Large P990), which offers the unlikely pairing of those two ingredients.

The result? A delightfully sweet and savory sauce that works perfectly with the ribs.



For those that like a little heat in their ribs, try **Sam Choy's Hot and Spicy Ribs** (Small P380/Medium P765/ Large P990). Spicy hot with a gentle touch of smoky sweetness, this will definitely satisfy even the most fiery of palates!



## THE ORIGINAL HAWAIIAN BBQ

If you want to try a little bit of everything, then go for awesome **The Hawaiian BBQ Platter** (P850). This plate of heaven consists of Pork BBQ, Pork Belly, Chicken BBQ, Shrimp, BBQ Mussels, Fish BBQ, Squid, Grilled Corn, and garnished with Orange and Mango slices.

## ISLAND SWEETS



For dessert, we feasted on the **Chunky Monkey** (P160), which was essentially an ice cream sunday, topped with banana slices, then drizzled with chocolate syrup and a scoop of peanut butter!

The **Oreo Overload** (P190) is a cookie lover’s fantasy.. Scoops of creamy chocolate ice cream, topped with crumbled Oreos.

The **S'Mores Dip** (P190) Offers a delicious bed of gooey chocolate, topped with torched Marshmallows! Perfect for dipping with the Graham crackers!

Everything I tried from The Original Hawaiian BBQ was more awesome the next! This is definitely a restaurant that is worth stopping at when you’re visiting Tagaytay!

**The Original Hawaiian BBQ**  
#45 Aguinaldo Highway Tagaytay City  
(Inside The Boutique Bed and Breakfast)





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# LAGO DE ORO & The Thrilling Splash Of Life



As Ellen emphasized, "It's really more than just a wakeboard park."

The hotel has been up since 1994, initially with only sixteen rooms. At present, Lago de Oro has 38 rooms of varying shapes and sizes to accommodate an assortment of clientele. 150 to 200 people can stay comfortably at the resort overnight.

"Corporate guests have their team-building activities over here", Ellen said.

Lago de Oro summons the thrill-seeker inside the cosmopolitan Pinoy. It invites one to head south, to Calatagan, Batangas, to soak up, relax and celebrate life...with a splash. To escape the daily grind and step into a wakeboard, and get wet in the spatter as you dash over the water or as you get dunked in a flop—this is resort's main attraction.



Situated 115 kilometers south-west of Manila, along Zobel Highway and facing the South China Sea, the 11.7-hectare Lago de Oro Hotel and Cable Ski Park is just a little more than 2 hours away from Makati.

"It makes an ideal getaway for urbanites sick of manic schedules, work stress and pollution. It is spacious and secluded—no noisy neighbors", claims Lago's spokesperson Mrs. Ellen Camer-Pesci.

### Wakeboarders' Haven



Lago de Oro is the country's pioneer wakeboard park, introducing the Rixen (Germany) cable ski system here way back in 2000. Wakeboarding is a surface water sport which involves riding a wakeboard over the surface of a body of water. It was developed from a combination of water skiing, snow boarding and surfing techniques.

Normally, the rider is towed behind a motorboat, but at Lago you will be pulled by cable to make the experience more exciting.

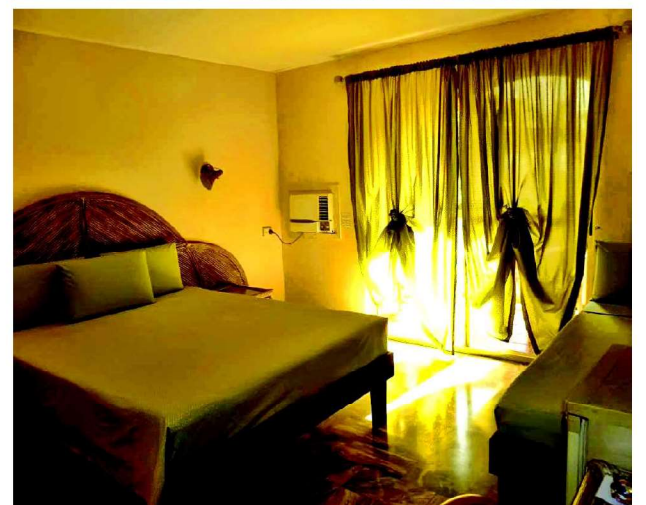
"We have a unique cable system designed for wakeboarding, wakeskating and water skiing", explains Ellen. "Beginners can even try our Little Bro Easy Start System, and learn the basics of wakeboarding from qualified Instructors", she added.

Similar to surfing, wakeboarding has gradually picked up interest in the Philippines, and now has numerous enthusiasts all over, many of whom either learned to wakeboard or continue to practice as veterans at the resort.

### Other Things to Do

Wakeboarding, however, is not the only thing one can do when at Lago. Blending intimacy, comfort and exclusivity in the amiably secluded, notably tranquil, sun-kissed part of Batangas, Lago de Oro has quite an arsenal of surprising treats, besides its cable ski park facility—from barefoot yet sophisticated enjoyment to modern and practical amenities. Many from Metro Manila have come to join the fortunate who have discovered this water fun land, and found it to be the best alternative to malling, binge shopping or trying out the chow in a seemingly endless string of novelty fast-food outlets.

Take a sea-breeze-blessed walk tour around a kilometer-long lake; have a cool dip in the resort's two-tiered pool; go down-to-earth and feed jovial lambs in a farmstead; bounce over the waves on a banana boat ride; loosen up through a pampering manicure-pedicure service; rocket through the waves on a jet-ski; go on an enlivening boat cruise; go snorkeling in waters animated with fish and other sea creatures; feel electrified doing underwater fish-feeding; laze around and have a massage at the spa; or rent a *balsa* and have a picnic by the sea. These are but some of the enjoyable activities guests can do, if they are not there to wakeboard.



### Ecologically Attuned

Lago can also be somewhat an educational tour. The resort's management are so environmentally attuned, several facets of the resort are practically lessons in ecology.



The resort, for instance, produces its own food. Their lamb, bacon, ham, salami, pasta, sauces, jams, cakes, ice cream and garden vegetables are either raised or made there.

Also, there is evident use of solar power. Their septic system is regulated in accordance with natural processes. And they do extensive composting to produce organic fertilizer for the resort's greens.

**Fresh, Homegrown Delights**

The overall holistic approach practiced by the resort's management is a big factor in making it a truly sublime environment where guests can learn a lot and be inspired. But it is also for this reason that the resort serves surprisingly good food.

"Lago de Oro's Restaurant Menu offers a selection of pizza and pasta, soups, appetizers, salad, lamb, beef, chicken, pork, asian medley, seafood, native favorites, sausages, sandwiches, side dishes and dessert plus a choice of budget meal and kiddie meal", according to Ellen.

**WELCOME LAGO DE ORO**

**Things to do**

- Learn to wakeboard
- Wakeboard
- Walk tour around Lake 1km
- Feeding Tupa 9AM & 4PM
- Banana boat ride
- Manicure/Pedicure
- Team building
- Conference
- Jet ski
- Boat cruises
- Snorkelling
- Feed the fish
- Massage
- Local tours
- Rent a balsa



Lago de Oro, whether you wakeboard or not, sums up as a thrilling stop. An exciting pause from the daily hustle and bustle, in order to assimilate life...in a universal, integrated sense. Its appeal is actually a general calling to our souls, a natural beckoning by what we might forget, living a life of haste in the urban jungle. Many, understandably, are captivated. For who does not want to accentuate their life with cool splashes and sober delights?

LAGO DE ORO Wake Park & Resort is at Bo. Balibago, Calatagan, Batangas, Philippines 4215  
For inquiries, you may call:  
+63 (917) 504-2685/ +63 (43) 417-4007  
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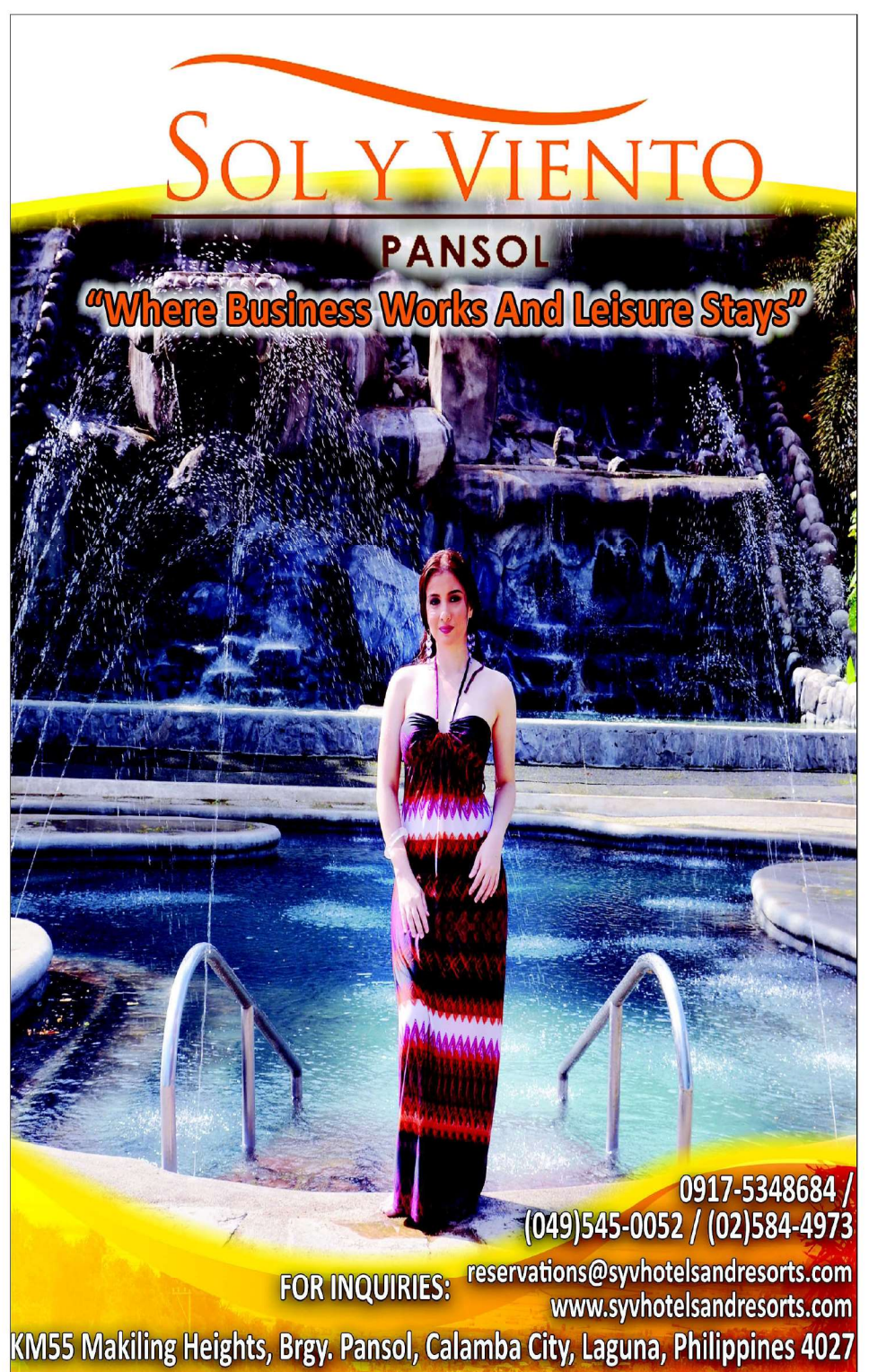
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A Conversation with Hartmut Barries  
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10:30AM-12PM  
The Farm Shed  
Acacia Waldorf School  
RSVP 0915-8979044

On September 29, we celebrate Michaelmas, the festival of courage. What is Michaelmas and what is the reason for celebrating the Archangel Michael? Why is courage the theme for this season? What does it mean as a task for our time? Join us in a conversation with Hartmut Barries on Sept. 6 Tuesday from 10:30AM-12:00PM at the Farm Shed. For parents, teachers, caregivers and the Acacia Waldorf School community.



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