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# Voice of the South



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**VOL. 13 NO. 3** 

# Camp Eldridge to be officially Camp Sakay

As heroic as General Macario Sakav was, nothing commemorates his bravery, except for a nondescript steel arch announcing his name inside a military camp in Los Banos, Laguna. Other than that, there's no bust, nor statue, not even a portrait of the fierce freedom fighter who fought for our country...on an epic scale.

Sakay was falsely accused of being a bandit, made to be forgotten from our history. That's why today hardly anyone, even those from around Los Baños, knows where Camp Sakay is. Many know nothing of him, unfortunately.

Born in 1870, in Tondo, Manila, Macario de Leon Sakay is a hero overshadowed by the likes of Jose Rizal or Andres Bonifacio. He was a worker at a calesa shop, then a tailor, and he joined the underground revolutionary society against Spain called Katipunan.

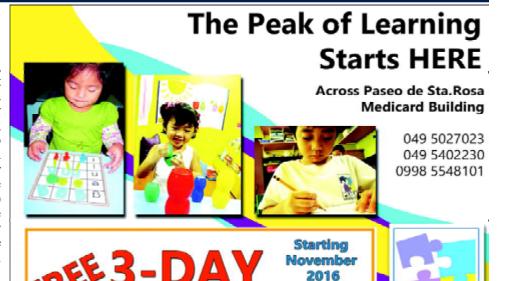
A staunch believer in Philippine independence, he was against the tyranny of the Spaniards and the Americans.

When US President Theodore Roosevelt declared the end of the war between the Philippines and the United States in 1902, Sakay did not stop fighting for independence. He led numerous successful skirmishes in the southern Tagalog against the U.S., from 1902 until 1906. before the Americans captured him and sentenced him to death on Sept. 13, 1907.

Col. Ronald Jess Alcudia was intrigued about this particular hero when in 2007, the government commemorated Sakay's centenary at UP Diliman

then a stage actor before in Quezon City. Alcudia, meaning to correct history, proposed that a military camp in Barangay Lalakay in Los Banos, widely known as Camp Eldridge, be renamed Camp Sakay. The facility as of now houses the AFP's 403rd (Laguna) Community Defense Center, headed by Alcudia, and a unit of the Philippine National Police.

Alcudia's proposal went through tight scrutiny, but on Dec. 28 last year, then Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin approved the camp's new name. On Sept. 13 this year, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and the However, a certain Lt. Philippine Veterans Affairs Office led a ceremony officially recognizing the camp's new name in time for Sakay's 109th death anniversary.



# 16 Hurt in Nagcarlan Collision

A multi-vehicle collision in Nagcarlan. Laguna occured last November 14. As a result, 16 people were hurt. The injured were brought to the Nagcarlan District Hospital.

According to Superintendent Chitadel Gaoiran, spokesperson for the CALABARZON police, a dump truck loaded with sand was on its way to Sta. Cruz town when the driver lost control

of the wheel and the brake failed. Consequently, the dump truck plowed through four motorcycles, four tricycles and eight cars.

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Police were prompted to file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple serious physical injuries and multiple damage to property against the driver of the dump truck identified as Isagani Albor.











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Ang Himpilan ng Bawat **PILIPINO** 

# **EDITOR THINKS**



# **Decoding Duterte**

President Duterte is a walking hot potato. Almost everything he says and does spark controversy and immediately conjures a hailstorm from critics who simply damn him—for being crass, ambiguous, evil or

stupid. His spokespersons are busy with damage control. The media can't seem to interpret him correctly. Even veteran political analysts seem hopelessly confused in their efforts to decipher his agenda.

Headlines everywhere reflect mass bewilderment about Duterte, clashing on many points and instances. A battle of words and claims, between netizens from warring political camps, in fact, rages on, exacerbated by the random, nonsensical slurs of "trolls" on social media.

For instance, his recent hints on severing our military and economic ties with America, forced U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel to demand some clarification, saying and said Duterte's controversial remarks only inflate a "real climate of uncertainty" and have sparked distress, not only in the U.S. but around the world. Even some of Duterte's supporters had glaring question marks in their heads after his "Goodbye, my friend" pronouncements, as implications may be galactically greater, with Duterte extending a hand of peace with the communists rebels beforehand, and then suddenly declaring his preference in partnering with China and Russia instead. But then again, it was news well received by nationalists and anti-American movements.

With so many intelligent people perplexed by the president, it's difficult to think of it as just an inability to understand his message. It's not likely also to be a case of careless assumptions, nor imaginations going wild. So, understandably, there's a lot out there who might wonder: Did we just elect a madman for president?

#### The Duterte Way

Duterte is not a hardliner communist deep inside, as many fear he is, for he himself said he believes communism to be an ideology that is already passé. And him being a lawyer should also discount the possibility that he is simply a blundering buffoon or a raving lunatic who miraculously rose to the top. Behind the outrageous speech and alarming decisions is actually a framework of solid rationale. The secret to understanding Duterte's agenda, it seems, is in reading between the lines.

The move to "separate" from the U.S., for one, really isn't just about two friend nations parting ways. What the president is doing is putting in effect the long-due societal changes he promised during his campaign, one of which is our disadvantageous situation as an American colony. He is, in fact, asserting our sovereignty with the move. And for us Filipinos, it might just turn out to be the best thing since sliced bread.

# The Will To Change

It's a mistake to think of the Philippines as a shining example of democracy in Southeast Asia, when the opposite is true. This country is, in fact, the most graphic illustration, not so much of democracy's disintegration, but more of how it can be faked.

In 1992, David Timberman underlined what seems to be a persistent paradox about our country in his book "A Changeless Land: Continuity and Change in Philippine Politics". Timberland explained that despite a change in the form of government, from authoritarian to democracy in 1986, Philippine politics was mired with persisting paradigms of corrupt governance, electoral fraud and poverty. This is by no means an inaccurate perception of a lone foreign observer, but a reality that spans many years past, and still holding true today.

It is no coincidence that the Philippines has had a series of corrupt presidencies, a voluminous history of plunder scams perpetrated by public institutions that have gone unresolved, wholesale injustice and gross ineptness in public service, all persisting at the same time. The key to understanding our real situation is in asking ourselves why we are made to believe we have a democracy that works, when it is in fact dysfunctional as hell.

The problem of this country is deep, wide and complex. It is convoluted with conspiracy, hypocrisy, greed and betrayal that's buried under the tombstones of countless forgotten martyrs and obscured by the mists of untold history. But at the core of it all is our denial of the truth, a reality that's been kept in the dark for so long...perhaps as long as our supposed independence as a nation.

The solution to the problem is a revolutionary leader who knows what the real problem is, has the desire to enlighten the Filipino people with the truth, wields the power of the masses, and possesses the will to change things for the better. Duterte, so far, has shown these hallmarks.

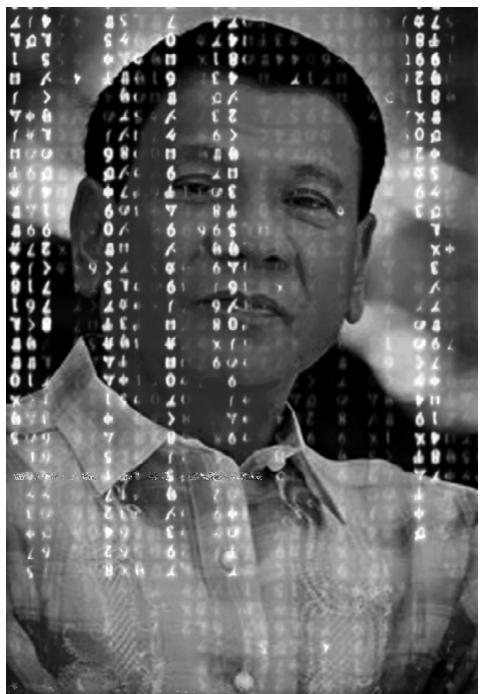
# Signals of Salvation

With a surprising rush of praises, even coming from leaders at the odd corners of the world, President Duterte's popularity has recently reached phenomenal heights...almost to the level of a messiah. A survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS) conducted September 2016 showed Duterte enjoying an excellent trust rating, with 83% of Filipinos having much trust in him, despite international criticisms that were flung his way about his bloody war on illegal drugs. Add to this the very positive responses from OFWs evidenced as he recently carried out 'short visits' to several Asian countries, and it seems more people than ever before look to Duterte for the Filipinos' salvation.

The people don't seem to mind his vulgarity, and instead love his frankness. As the case may be, no Philippine leader in the past can be remembered to have such openness as to speak of and shed light on the institutionalized corruption in government, the extensiveness of narco-politics, the need to dismantle the country's oligarchic system, or the reality that we are a neo-colony of the United States. Someone, at last, among the dozens of leaders who could have before, is talking about how the oldest democracy in Southeast Asia is not really a democracy

but a nation that's perpetually on the verge of becoming a failed state. And better yet, that someone isn't just talking, but actually doing something about it...on a national scale.

Rather than speculating on what President Duterte means to do, maybe we should be acknowledging what he has already done. In just 100 days, Duterte was already able to make such groundbreaking changes in government and society, he makes previous presidents seem like lame ducks. "Change is coming" is the catchphrase uttered by Duterte's supporters. But looking at what he's achieved in just a short period, one would easily surmise that change, perhaps, is already here.



Despite a barrage of flak for the thousands of civilian deaths in its wake, Duterte's war on drugs garnered the surrender of more than 800,000 drug pushers and users, who then were directed towards rehabilitation and productive living. The hypocrisy of corrupt government officials, police generals, and judges involved in narcopolitics has been exposed. Tax-evading oligarchs are quickly put in check, and online gambling, which had about 4,000 outlets during the Arroyo

administration, and about 8,000 during Aquino's, has been abated in a blink of an eye.

Freedom of Information, at least in the Executive branch, is finally in effect (after being stalled for 2 decades). There's suddenly less red tape in the bureaucracy, as government employees are starting to treat the public more respectfully, expediting transactions with a smile. At airports, legit Balikbayan boxes are no longer mishandled, and luggages no longer need to be plastic-wrapped as the notorious "Tanim Bala" syndicate that Aquino government couldn't stop simply vanished into thin air.

A bonanza of public service mandates were quickly made, including the launching of 911 emergency and 8888 public complaint hotlines, the removal of the processing fee on travel tax exemption, the commissioning of new buses from the airport to major hubs and nearby cities, and the extension of drivers' license validity to 5 years. Social welfare and security have become more tangible as immediately ordered were the resubmission of the P2000-SSS Pension Bill, and a sack of rice was added to each cash grant of the Pantawid Pamilya Program (During the Aquino administration, hungry peasants clamoring for rice were shot by state forces.)

The needs of farmers are now facilitated—with the opening of the DAR gates (which were closed for 18 years), the acceleration of irrigation projects, the order for the long overdue distribution of Hacienda Luisita land parcels to farmers, and the distribution of agricultural equipments that were purchased by the previous government but were not distributed for some political reasons. The cartel that's cornered the fish pens in Laguna Lake, comprised of ex-military and local government personalities, have been ordered removed to allow small fisher folk a fair chance to use it for their livelihood.

The plight of workers has been heeded at last, with the end of contractualization, and the removal of the age limit requirements for job seekers. Overseas Filipino Workers were responded with the creation of a one-stop shop for OFWs in the POEA, and the immediate repatriation of stranded OFWs in Saudi Arabia.

Mining companies that conduct operations destructive to the environment and are a threat to people's safety have been shutdown. And with the launch of Bantay Dagat, the Badjaos are now deputies of the sea.

Bilateral talks with China over the West Philippine Sea dispute are generally better. The peace talks between the communist rebels and Islamic separatist groups seem more progressive than ever. Philippine servicemen now serve the country with pride and higher self-esteem, with salary increases, a modern veteran's hospital project, and the hastened system in claiming benefits for families of fallen men. Moreover, our delegates to the Olympics got increased allowances without having to fight for it.

After decades of deterioration, Baclaran, Divisoria, and other places that were going down to the dogs, now look better and cleaner. Residences have more peace at night with the 10pm karaoke curfew. The employment rate is up, crime rate down. Meanwhile, more positive changes are foreseen...about six more years of them. Now imagine how the goodwill goes rolling exponentially if Duterte succeeds in his plan to shift our system of government to federalism.

# The Road to Transformation

Duterte isn't just doing a slight repair, nor a major overhaul, but a complete destruction of traditional politics and existing government systems, and then a total rebuilding from the ground up. This is especially true in the Philippine situation where there is a pressing need for a whole nation to not only innovate but make revolutionary transformations on the fundamental level. When a fundamental shift is in the offing, it's only normal to expect huge, sometimes inconceivable, changes from the status quo. It's actually irrational to think we'll simply cruise through it.

The Duterte Way is not a straight path. It's not a *daang matuwid*. There will be a lot of bumps, humps, potholes and sinkholes along the way. But at least it is in the right direction. He may have to roll, crawl, hop, skip, jump, and somersault to get through. And if we want to get there faster, we have to do it with him.

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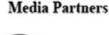














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It's chic. It's smart. It's Earth-friendly. And it's by being all these that Azumi Boutique Hotel quickly gained acclaim as one of the better places to stay in Alabang.

Azumi affords guests distinctively warm, cozy comfort with a modish ambience at impressive, value-for-money rates. Neatly arrayed décor and furnishings compose a wholly sophisticated poise that welcomes from the first step into the lobby, and onwards to any of its 186 handsomely-characterized rooms.

Perhaps it's the crafty use of earth tones—like the highlights of orange on wood laminate floors, or the sharp black lined alongside glass—that bring forth Azumi's homey feel. Or maybe it's how a lingering sense of "condo living" emanates from just absorbing the hotel's interior design. Whatever it is though, it's quite evident how Azumi promptly establishes a familiar intimacy with hotel guests.

The initial appeal, however, goes full bloom and turns into a magical experience at Azumi's famed roof deck. Many have been enraptured by the surreal visual effect of the top floor's infinity pool, which amplified the magnificence of Alabang's lakeside cityscape, while snug lounge arrayed on the perimeter whispered subtle invitations.

How the hotel manifests its commitment to hospitality is also a factor in this general impression of comfort, as made observable by the 24-hour Front Desk, Daily Housekeeping, Mail and Parcel Services, Scheduled FREE Shuttle to Nearby Malls, Airport Transfers, In-room Massage, as well as Laundry, Pressing & Dry Cleaning Services. Such exemplary amenities are elevated even more by the efficiencies that are readily offered with the rooms, like High Speed Internet Connection, LED TV with Cable, Individually Controlled Airconditioning, Safety Deposit Box, Microwave Oven, Coffee-making Facility, Glass-walled Bathroom with Privacy Blinds, Hot and Cold Shower, IDD/NDD Telephone Facility, Refrigerator with Mini Bar, Iron and Ironing Board, Pool Towels and Hairdryer. And to complete the hotel's service enhancements—there's a rooftop function room which can serve as a venue for social or corporate events, and also a Nail Spa and Salon found at the lobby. And... for an authentic Filipino gustatory experience with a side of Philippine history, one only needs to visit the iconic **Romulo Café**, also at the hotel lobby.

Situated at the heart of the south, Azumi Boutique Hotel is but a short drive to Ninoy Aquino International Airport and its location within Madrigal Business Park makes it central for business and leisure travelers. Alabang Town Center and Molito Mall, with its varied offerings of shopping and dining pleasures are but a stone's throw away.

Azumi Boutique Hotel is managed by Hospitality Innovators, Inc., one of the leading local management companies in the hospitality industry with 15 years of reimagining and transforming management and operation of hotels, "condormitels", resorts, condominiums and serviced residences.



The Garden Room asserts such a distinct character with its "high-styled hip" furnishings and picturesque view of the cityscape.



Voice of the South

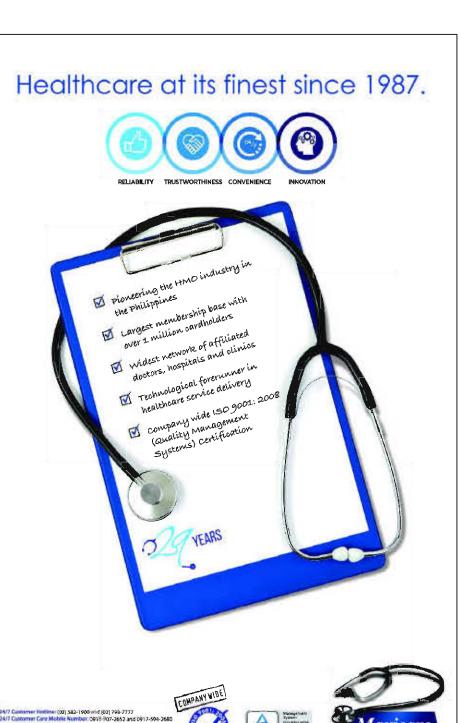


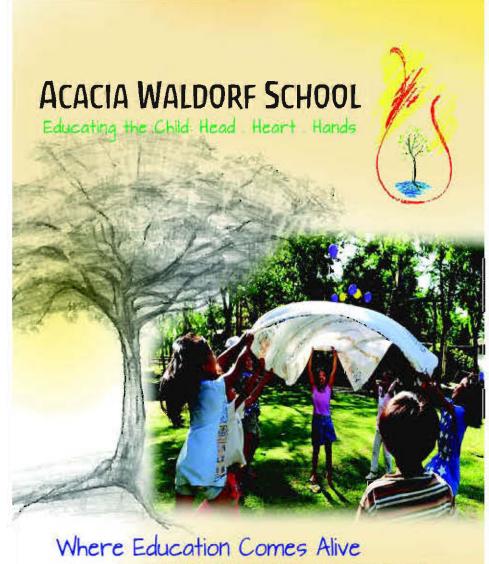
For its wall surfaces, Azumi uses ECOCARAT tiles, a revolutionary ceramic that absorbs harmful substances, moistures and odors, fostering healthful and comfortable living at a level unmatched by other wall surfacing products.











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# Sprawl

# All Day Supermarket Opens Branch in Santa Rosa



Santa Rosa residents can now experience a better place to do groceries, as All Day Supermarket opened yet another branch Vista Mall in Santa Rosa, Laguna last September 8. Great opening deals and exciting promos are in store for the shoppers during the special opening period, adding more reason for customers to cheer.



The Villar Group, through its retail arm All Value Holdings Corp., is investing an additional P1.4 billion to fund the continued expansion of its All Day supermarket chain. The Santa Rosa branch is the third branch of All Day Supermarket, following the opening of first two stores in Vista Mall in Taguig and Starmall Edsa-

Shaw. In an interview during the opening ceremony, All Value chairman Manuel B. Villar Jr. said two more branches of All Day Supermarket were expected to open before the end of the year. Plans are underway to build four to five more branches in 2017.





Villar said the sites of All Day Supermarkets are leased from Vista Malls of sister company Vista Land & Lifescapes. The inventory, meanwhile, is largely consigned by suppliers. All Day Supermarket in Vista Mall Bataan will soon follow as the fourth, and even bigger, branch. The fifth branch, also the last to open this year,

will be in Vista City in Daang Hari, and set to open this December. All five stores will have a total floor area of about 20,000 square meters. Next year, however, the goal is to launch All Day Supermarket branches in key areas of Mega Manila.



"All of our supermarkets are successful. The response from consumers is very good. They have an upscale look but the prices are low so they cater to the masses," Villar explained.

Open for business as early as 8am, All Day Supermarket offers a variety of goods, bigger floor areas, nice store interiors and novel services. Guaranteed fresh by accreditation from the National Meat Inspection Service, the supermarket's fresh meat, poultry, vegetables as well as seafoods are ensured to be of premium grade. All Day also offers a "paluto" section that cooks food the way customers like it. And for every family's hardware and repair needs, All Day has a Quick Fix Section, increasing the supermarket's viability as a provider of one-stop convenience.

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# Quality Healthcare should be Affordable and Accessible.

At present, quality healthcare is a luxury in the Philippines. While this may sound like a sweeping statement, numbers back it up. Six out of 10 Filipinos succumb to illnesses without ever seeing a doctor. Infant mortality rates are also high with 42 out of 1000 babies dving compared to 19 out of 1000 in more developed countries (University of the Philippines National Health Institute, 2015). The fact is, healthcare is just too expensive for the common Filipino. Many are too concerned about making day-to-day ends meet, that healthcare gets shoved to the bottom of the priority list.

# THE NEED FOR ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS REAL AND WE NEED IT NOW.

Nobody plans to get sick or to get rushed to the hospital but it can happen to anyone – it can happen to you or any of your loved ones. The big question is not an if but a when, because at some point, every person needs to see a doctor may it be for a routine check up or for treatment of an illness.

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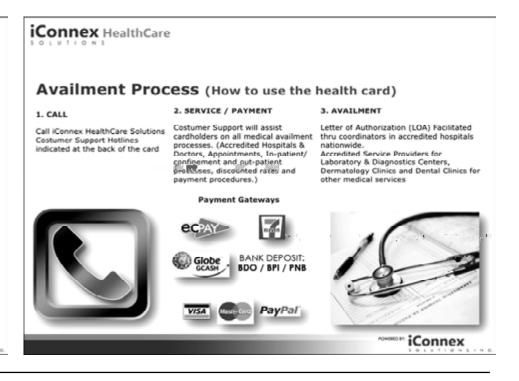
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ActiveLife Chicago Physical Therapy Clinic specializes in pain management. Using a variety of techniques and procedures, ActiveLife tackles problematic conditions such as muscular and join pains, sports injuries, arthritic conditions, plantar fasciitis, sciatica, nerve impingement, neck and shoulder pains, knee and hip pain, and even stroke-related afflictions. The following services

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**Vibracussor**- is part of ActiveLife's basic treatment that helps relieve pain, spasm and tenderness

**Dry Needling/Acupuncture-** is similar to acupuncture but the needles are placed on the painful spots instead of acupuncture points.

**Physical Therapy-** is a staple service using actual physical therapists who specialize in treating frozen shoulder, knee pain, back/sciatica, plantar fasciitis, arthritic conditions, sports injuries, carpal tunnel, tennis elbow, neck and shoulder pain, disc bulge, scoliosis, joint and muscle pains.

Dr. Ron Samaniego (Doc Ron) is the owner, operator and Physical Therapy Doctor of ActiveLife PT Clinic.

After a lengthy practice on Physical Therapy in the United States, particularly in Chicago, Doc Ron decided to come back to the Philippines to open a special clinic designed exclusively for physical therapy. He opened one clinic first in Mandaluyong City, where he learned there is a lack of physical therapy facilities in the country,

after seeing the massive influx of patients and inquiries. So the logical thing to do was to open more branches in key areas in order to cater to more people who suffer from musculoskeletal



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# **Active Life...(continued from page 8)**

"We have clinic branches in Metro Manila, and one provincial clinic in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, but soon we will put up clinics in Cebu and Davao. We plan to put up more clinics around the country", Doc Ron said.

What's amazing is many of Doc Ron's patients attest that they tried all sorts of other hospitals and massage establishments for treatment, but only felt truly relieved after a visit to a licensed physical therapy doctor. This fueled his passion all the more, and made him more determined to revolutionize the field of physical therapy in the country, to make it both more viable as a career, and more accessible as a solution to patients.

"I want people to get better. I would not come over from Chicago to Manila if I'm not passionate about this", Doc Ron claims.



**ACTIVE LIFE CHICAGO PT** 



For more information on Active Life, visit their Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/ActiveLifeChicagoPT
Or their website at:

http://www.manilaphysicaltherapist.com/

You may also call Tel No: (02) 997-5704 or Email: ronald456@yahoo.com

# Clinic branches:

415 Cityland Tower Shaw Blvd. Cor St. Francis, Mandaluyong City

1472-1476 Pacific Century Tower, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City Unit 805
Near Crossings Mall/National Bookstore
Contact: (0977) 290 0650

303 Philippine Business Bank corporate center 1906 Finance drive Madrigal Center 1, Alabang, Muntinlupa (Same building as Ringside) Contact: (0977) 292 1917 or (02) 772 0719

12 Concepcion Bagong Barrio Caloocan City. Behind BIR building along Edsa before Monumento Circle.

Gymboree Building Brain Train center Unit 108 Sta. Rosa Business Park, Greenfield, Sta. Rosa, Laguna (Behind Medical City Santa Rosa) Contact: (0995)844 1166 Globe/ (0950) 6347938 Talk N Text

Room 708 BPI Condominium Bldg 150 Plaza Cervantes Street Binondo, Manila Contact: (02) 2435398

Marian Medical Arts Building Unit 213 Dahlia, Fairview, Behind FEU (02) 461 3322



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