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25¢

DOCL's Torres to bar owners:

"It's illegal to restrict girls to quarters!"

by Rafael H. Arroyo

The practice of some nightclub owners of restricting their female employees in their quarters during their off-hours may have to be curtailed as the Department of Commerce and Labor recently came out with a reminder on a statute in the Labor Law that prohibits that practice.

In a notice to all employers dated March 3, 1992, DOCL Director Joaquin S. Torres said that all nonresident workers living in employer-provided residential facilities shall have the right to leave and return to their homes at all times while under employment in the CNMI.

The notice, currently being circulated to all employers regardless

of the nature of business, was said to be part of an information thrust being initiated by the DOCL on some labor regulations that may have been "forgotten" by some businessmen.

According to Torres, any employer, his agent or other representative, who requires any nonresident worker to stay or otherwise remain at the housing premises, shall be liable for the payment of wages at the worker's employment contract wage rate pursuant to 3 CMC 4437 (b).

This means that the employer would have to pay his workers for the time they are confined to their quarters, minus a reasonable period for sleep.

Largely affected by the notice are nightclubs and the CNMI's

hospitality industry since these employers have reportedly took it upon themselves to disallow their entertainers to go out even outside duty hours apparently to protect them, in view of the nature of their job.

It was found out that such a practice is common among nightclub owners, although Torres indicated that there have been not too many complaints on this subject matter, apparently because of the lack of information about such a regulation.

The director's notice came at a time when labor conditions in the CNMI are being questioned on account of adverse reports in the international media.

It is believed that the image of the garment industry is being

tarnished by allegations of "slave labor" as reported by news dailies in the mainland.



DOCL Director Joaquin S. Torres

According to Torres, his directive to employers was merely coincidental, but that the "slave

labor" issue may have hastened the issuance of the notice.

"We intend to pursue this matter vigorously. We may have a few complaints on this but we're not going to sit here and wait for complaints. We'll tell the people what the law is and what we expect them to comply with," he said.

"If these employers do not comply and continue to impose this illegal practice, I would have no sympathy for them, and they would have to bear the consequences," said the director.

In addition to the wage liability, the DOCL may revoke the permit of the managing employer responsible for the restrictive housing policy and the employer

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Fund's Aldan frowns on insurance bill

by Rafael H. Arroyo

Retirement Fund Administrator Tomas B. Aldan recently expressed apprehension over a bill pending in the House of Representatives that would es-

tablish a government employees health insurance program for the CNMI.

In a letter to House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare Chairperson Ana S. Teregeyo, Aldan said that the bill when ap-

proved would only benefit the private sector health insurance carriers, and not the Commonwealth Health Center, which is said to realize more revenue once the bill is passed.

Under the bill, all employees of

the Commonwealth government, including its public corporations and semi-autonomous agencies shall become members of the proposed insurance program as a condition of employment.

The measure has as its purpose to provide for the health care of government employees through prepaid health insurance programs offered on a competitive basis by private sector insurance carriers whose services and rates are to be reviewed and regulated by the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner in cooperation with the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services.

The program is also expected

to offer employees the broadest range of health care options, maximize the participation of the private sector and increase the revenues of the CHC.

Apparently, Aldan sees otherwise, saying that there is no need for a compulsory membership to the program.

"Justification for mandatory membership other than an assumed revenue increase for CHC is grossly inadequate to justify the passage of the bill," he said.

But apparently, the Fund Administrator is in doubt as to whether the program would indeed raise income for the

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FLSA not for CNMI, says Tan counsel

by Teri M. Flores

Attorneys for a five-company garment manufacturing conglomerate are challenging the applicability of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in the Northern Marianas.

The counsels for the Tan family, operators of the American International Knitters, Inc. and four other affiliated apparel

manufacturing companies based on Saipan contend that the applicability of section 213 (f) and the remaining provisions of the FLSA rested with the United States Congress.

According to the Tan memorandum in support of their motion for summary judgement, the U.S. Congress merely had the "right to apply" the FLSA to the Commonwealth after the Covenant

was executed.

Six years after the Covenant between the Northern Marianas and the United States was put into effect, Congress has yet to exercise its right to apply the FLSA and federal labor laws in the CNMI.

The Tans further contend that the CNMI has the power to create labor statutes that is favorable to

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Levi's severs ties with Tan's firms

by Teri M. Flores

Levi Strauss & Co. on Friday formally severed its business ties with a five-company garment manufacturing conglomerate named in a pending U.S. Department of Labor lawsuit to be in violation of labor standards.

Dave Samson, Levi's manager for corporate communication said the management of the California-based company made the decision after a fact-finding mission visited Saipan early last week to conduct their separate investigation of the allegations against the Tan family's unfair treatment of Chinese immigrant workers.

The apparel company decided to send the investigative team to the Northern Marianas after wide-spread publicity of the "slave labor" conditions of alien workers were featured in a number of U.S. major dailies and television news programs.

"We were certainly disturbed by the allegations. We are concerned because we try to conduct business in a responsible manner," Samson said in a telephone interview.

Samson said management also decided to terminate its ties with the Tan group of apparel companies due to an on-going criminal investigation by the U.S. Justice Department on their questionable business practices.

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The Tourism Week Committee members display Governor Larry I. DL. Guerrero's recently signed proclamation designating May 3 to 9 as CNMI Tourism Week.

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Bluefin tuna takes center stage in Wildlife Trade Conference

TOKYO (AP) - As on almost every day for the past 30 years, chef Shizuo Hosono sits at the wooden counter of the Kiraku sushi bar awaiting the dinner hour rush.

In a glass case behind him lie two strips of "toro" most pink cuts of bluefin tuna the most popular dish in the house. Without bluefin, he says, he might not have a job.

Bluefin tuna long has been one of the top menu items at thousands of sushi shops around Japan. But this week, bluefin also is getting top billing at an international conference on trade in endangered wildlife.

The forum is the triennial meeting of signatories of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which opened in Kyoto Monday.

During the 11-day conference, delegations from 112 countries also will debate what must be done to

protect elephants, rhinoceroses, leopards and scores of other flora and fauna.

To the surprise of many participants, accustomed more to the discussion of mammals and plants, a proposed bluefin ban that is strongly opposed by host Japan has become one of the top issues, and dominated debate Tuesday.

Largely because of its huge sushi and sashimi markets, Japan accounts for nearly half of all tuna consumed internationally. Japanese also ate about half of the 30,000-ton worldwide bluefin catch last year.

One of the world's largest animals, the bluefin can weigh as much as 700 kilograms (1,500 pounds). Because of its prized taste, it command up to \$ 350 a pound (\$ 770 a kilogram) by the time it reaches Japanese diners.

Even though most of the bluefin eaten in Japan comes from fish populations that would not be in-

cluded in the ban, many Japanese fishermen and sushi chefs feel they are under attack.

For every 10 customers that come in here, eight want bluefin tuna," said Hosono, who added that two pieces of sushi topped with the fish cost 1,800 yen (\$ 14). "We'd be in trouble if we could not sell it anymore."

Conservationists argue that the high prices the Japanese are willing to pay have encouraged over fishing, making the bluefin more endangered than the African elephant.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what is happening to the bluefin," said Mike Sutton of the World Wildlife Fund, a major conservation group.

"If it were a land animal, we wouldn't even be talking about it," he said by telephone from Kyoto. "It would have been listed a long time ago."

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, a 23-nation forum that regulates tuna fishing, estimates that the adult bluefin population in the western Atlantic has plummeted from about 250,000 in 1969 to 22,000 last year. Japanese tuna fishermen, who picketed the conference Monday, dispute the accuracy of those figures and claim the population has been increasing recently.

After the bluefin cause was taken up by several groups in the United States last year, the U.S. government expressed support for a bluefin ban. But it has since backed down, leaving Sweden to assume leadership.

Under a Swedish proposal now being considered in Kyoto, the western Atlantic bluefin population would be listed on Appendix I of the convention, banning its international trade.

Bluefin in the eastern Atlantic

would be listed on Appendix II, which limits trade.

Opposition in Japan toward any bluefin listing is strong, and often linked to the emotional issues of whaling and drift nets, both of which were supported by Japan but banned internationally.

Tuna fishermen have presented the Swedish delegation with 60,000 signatures on a petition against the bluefin proposal.

"The Japanese are paranoid," Sutton said. "They want to avoid (listing on) CITES and are ready to cut all kinds of deals."

Even if bluefin is listed, however, it is not likely to disappear from Japanese dinner tables, since only 15 percent of the bluefin eaten in Japan comes from the western Atlantic.

Sources close to the conference said Sweden is under intense pressure to withdraw the proposal. If doesn't, a final vote on a bluefin listing should come early next week.

Supreme Court lifts freeze on Cojuangco shares in major bank

MANILA, (AP) - The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed presidential aspirant Eduardo Cojuangco to vote his shares in a major bank, paving the way for his control of the nation's largest private company.

"After six long years of fighting for the right to vote the shares, justice finally triumphed," Cojuangco, a close ally of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, said in a statement.

President Corazon Aquino's government had sequestered 94.4 percent of the shares of the United Coconut Planters Bank, including Cojuangco's 17.7 percent holdings, after she took power in a 1986 revolt that ousted Marcos.

Cojuangco, Mrs. Aquino's estranged cousin, fled into exile in the United States with Marcos in February 1986. He returned in 1989, the year Marcos died.

The majority of the bank's shares, owned by 1.4 million coconut farmers and 14 coconut firms, had been assigned to Cojuangco. The bank then acquired about 33 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp., the country's largest conglomerate.

Cojuangco personally controls about 18 percent of San Miguel shares, which gives him three of the 15 seats on the giant food company's board of directors.

If he retains the proxies of the coconut farmers, he could regain

control of the bank and through it, five more San Miguel seats, giving him a majority of eight.

Analysts believe the Supreme Court decision, the latest in a series that has helped Cojuangco regain his economic clout, would boost his candidacy in the May 11 presidential election.

Cojuangco is running against seven other candidates, including Mrs. Aquino's favorite, former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos. Other leading candidates include House Speaker Ramon Mitra and former Senate President Jovito Salonga, who headed the Presidential Commission on Good Government, in charge of trying to recover wealth alleg-

edly acquired illegally by Marcos, his family and associates.

"This will be a psychological boost for Cojuangco," said Conrad Andres, an analyst of Asia Equity, a securities firm. "His former resource network would be restored, thereby making him the most viable candidate in terms of resources."

Andres said, however, that many businessmen are wary of Cojuangco becoming president because of his reputation for acquiring companies during Marcos' rule.

"The sentiment is that during the time of Marcos, it was

cronyism, during the time of Aquino's, it was her relatives (seizing proprietorship)," Andres said.

Joey Sarte Salcedo, research director of Baring Securities, said that "rightly or wrongly, (Cojuangco) enjoys 'low trust characteristics,' which may impede the inflow of foreign investments."

"However, foreign investors should eventually learn to adjust while (he) hopefully mends his ways and changes his views, particularly as he seems to remain committed to the doctrine of industrial rationalization - the mother of crony capitalism and industry monopolies," Salcedo said.

British eyeing Southeast Asia for trade, investment

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) - Rapid economic growth in Malaysia and other Southeast Asian nations is prompting British companies to look for more trade and investment in the region, the head of a Manchester trade mission said Monday.

Many companies formerly saw

Singapore as the regional trading capital but the impressive growth rates of countries like Malaysia were making it necessary to establish more direct trading links with them, said Stephen Welch, head of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry's International Trade Department.

Welch, heading a 10 member mission that arrived Monday for a five day visit, told a news conference that these companies also saw joint venture possibilities in Malaysia and other Southeast Asia countries.

For Malaysian companies seeking a base to expand into the European market, he said, Manchester offered a very highly skilled technical labor force, good infrastructure and lower operating costs than other parts of

Britain.

Yoong Wong, from International Power Presses, said his company was looking for joint venture partners in Malaysia in steel-making automotive parts and other related industries.

China seen becoming South Korea's third largest trade partner

SEOUL (AP) - China will emerge as South Korea's third largest trading partner this year, with two way trade reaching \$10 billion, Seoul's top envoy to Beijing said Wednesday.

Roh Jae won, head of South Korea's trade office in Beijing, told reporters that China would be Seoul's third largest trade

partner after the United States and Japan.

Germany was South Korea's third largest trade partner last year.

China and South Korea do not have diplomatic relations, but their trade offices perform limited diplomatic functions.

The two way volume would rise to \$10 billion this year from about

\$5.7 billion last year, Roh said. Last year's trade was up 50 percent from 1990, he added.

He attributed the growing trade to the recent signing of a trade pact between the two countries. The agreement, which went into force last month, calls for each side to give most favored nation treatment to imports from the other.

Solon seeks restriction on gov't cars, housing

by Rafael H. Arroyo

A Saipan congressman has introduced measures which when made into statutes would place restrictions on the use of government vehicles as well as on government housing benefits.

The thought of probable abuse of these two benefits accorded to government employees might

have prodded Saipan Representative Francisco A. Flores to author House Bills 8-47 and 8-48, which were meant to amend existing statutes on government vehicles and housing.

House Bill 8-48 seeks to propose additional language to 1 CMC Section 7406, such that the use of government would be restricted to the governor, the

lieutenant governor, the Senate president, the House speaker, executive department heads, and executive division chiefs.

Also, government non-passenger vehicles such as pick-up trucks, and specialized equipment vehicles, including but not limited to police cars, firetrucks, ambulances, and heavy equipment may be utilized by those depart-

ments of the Commonwealth government which are designated to provide public services which require the use of specialized non-passenger vehicles.

On the other hand, H.B. 8-47 aims to restrict the use of government housing or housing allowances to persons hired outside the Commonwealth.

Section 8227 of 1 CMC was pro-

posed to read as follows: "Government housing or housing allowance may be provided only to persons recruited from outside the CNMI."

The bill proposes that these benefits shall not be provided to any person who holds, or whose spouse holds an interest exceeding a term of one year in any residence or home located in the Commonwealth.

Flame tree fest to highlight Tourism week

by Teri M. Flores

Governor Larry I. DeLeon

Guerrero yesterday signed a proclamation designating May 3 to 9 as CNMI Tourism Week.

The highlight of this year's festivities will be the celebration of the annual Flame Tree Festival.



Governor Larry I. Guerrero signed a proclamation designating May 3 to 9 as CNMI Tourism Week. In the background are the members of the Tourism Week organizing committee.

The festival, scheduled for May 9 and 10 at the American Memorial Park, will showcase traditional crafts from local art exhibitors, cultural demonstration and performances and a local food sale.

A series of scheduled activities will also be held within the week and among them include a job fair which the Marianas Visitors Bureau (MVB) has organized in cooperation with some of the island's businesses who are MVB general members.

Job seekers will find possible employment opportunities on the site and employers will also accept applications on the site.

A tourism education brochure to be disseminated to students, interested groups and organizations will also be made available during the week. The brochure will include an overview of the CNMI tourism opportunity, career opportunities, qualities of a destination and other informa-

tion regarding the CNMI's primary revenue earner.

Other activities include a poster display, an arts exhibition featuring artworks and performances by the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas adopted schools, a tourism arbor day, a cultural exchange with the Wakai Nekko No Kai group and a mini Japanese language workshop for Department of Public Safety employees.

For the sports enthusiasts, the annual Ayuda fun run is scheduled on May 3 and a registration fee will be charged with proceeds going to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association. The three mile run will kick-off tourism week activities.

Government officials and tourism organizations will also be competing in a mini golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting various civic organizations.

Saipan Ice asked to close plant again

Saipan Ice Company ceased operating again since Tuesday this week after water samples taken from their facilities were found once more to have exceeded the maximum microbiological contaminant level established in the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations.

Based on the news release issued by the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), analysis of samples taken from Saipan Ice company last Monday indicated the presence of coliform bacteria that was more than the maximum allowable under existing regulations.

DEQ said Saipan Ice voluntarily shut down their facilities after follow-up samples taken on March 3, Tuesday, confirmed the results of the March 2 samples.

Consequently, DEQ also advised the bottled water company to discontinue their sale of ice and water and take measures to inform the public about the monitoring results. In addition, the company was also asked to investigate the possible source of contamination and to correct their system deficiencies.

When asked for comment, Tony Pellegrino, who owns the water company said they have already

undertaken corrective measures which include some structural changes in their facilities and are closely working with the DEQ people to address the problem.

Pellegrino explained that the task of pinpointing the possible sources of contamination and eradicating the colonies of these micro-organisms is somehow complicated to undertake.

"We're not trying to circumvent the rules. We cleaned-up everything and we disinfected the entire facility last week and, in fact, we were granted clearance to resume selling. Unfortunately the samples taken this week have shown that they're there again," Pellegrino said.

"As of now, we haven't re-

ally pinpointed where the colonies of these micro-organisms are coming from so we're putting in more chlorine to hopefully clean it up," Pellegrino added.

The company has been ordered by DEQ to report to them when the system deficiencies have been corrected prior to commencing the sale of water and ice to the public.



Governor Larry I. DL. Guerrero yesterday met with the Man Amkos who were give a tour of his office on Capitol Hill. Guerrero (foreground right) also briefed Saipan's senior citizens of the local government's activities.

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Variety GOES DAILY

To be heard at the Rota Round House are arguments for or

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The Rota Legislative Delegation deemed it imperative that litter clean up and sanitation as well as nuisance control must be determined by local law to take care of the health and welfare of the people of the island.

Seeing the detriment of having these eyesores unattended, the local act intends to address this problem to the immediate attention of those responsible for bringing, importing, shipping, or transporting these parts onto Rota or within its waters upon notice by the Office of the Mayor of Rota. It is further the intent of the

Likewise, the safety of small children is effectively increased when they are also required to wear child passenger restraint systems, thereby necessitating a requirement that both adults and children in vehicles operated within the first senatorial district are to buckle up.

According to Camacho all the claims being brought by Rabo are mere fabrications meant to discredit him for their trouble.

What Gabaldon said that he was just helping my two ex-farmers is ridiculous. If he really wanted to help he should have taken them to Labor at the onset and not to the faraway island," lamented Camacho.

March 16-21st, 1992
March is the month when the *Marianas Variety* was founded. Thus March 16-21st has been designated as 20th Anniversary Week.

/s/Reynaldo O. Yana
Attorney for Petitioner

Marianas Variety News & Views

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INVITATION FOR BID

PSS-IFB92-007

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of COPIER PAPER for the Public School System. All bids shall be CIF to PSSPANDS warehouse Saipan. The copier paper shall be of U.S. standard #4200-SR2047 & #4200-SR2051, equal or better.

1. 1,000 boxes - #4200-3R2047 - 8 1/2 X 11 - 10 reams per box, white
2. 200 boxes - #4200-3R2051 - 8 1/2 X 14 - 10 reams per box, white
3. Copier paper 8 1/2 X 11 - 10 reams per box colored:
Blue - 67 bxs.
Green - 65 bxs.
Yellow - 42 bxs.
Buff - 42 bxs.
Pink - 42 bxs.
Golden Red - 80 bxs.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelope, marked IFB92-007 to PSS Procurement and Supply Officer, Puerto Rico, Saipan, NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M. local time, March 24, 1992, at which time and place all bids received will be publicly opened and read. Bids received late will not be considered. A non refundable fee of \$25.00 U.S. dollars must accompany the bid. The twenty five dollars fee may be a certified check, cashier's check or other forms acceptable to the Public School System made payable to the treasurer, Public School System Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid proposal a copy of his business permit.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to amend, reject, or award any or all of the bids in the best interest of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this invitation for bid maybe directed to Ms. Louise Concepcion during regular working hours at telephone number 322-9256.

/s/William S. Torres /s/David P. Babauta
Commissioner of Education Procurement & Supply Officer
(11258) 2/21-28-3/8F

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3/46

Taisague assumes PSS post in Rota

by Teri M. Flores

Former Board of Education Chairman Jesus I. Taisague was named on Monday as the new Public School System Liaison Officer for Rota.

Taisague succeeds Fermin Atalig, now with the Board of Education as the representative for Rota.

Commissioner of Education

William S. Torres said in an interview that he personally handpicked Taisague among two applicants for the post. Oscar Quitugua, Rota High School principal was the other candidate for the office.

No selection committee was formed and according to Torres, he chose the former Board of Education Chairman after a review of his letter of intent and

credentials.

The announcement of Taisague's appointment came after allegations were hurled at education officials for their "unfair and unjust" selection of Taisague to the post.

Quitugua said he was "shocked, dismayed and disappointed over the unprofessional manner by which the Public School System arrived at their decision."

"I was not interviewed and given the chance since the selection was made in favor of Taisague," Quitugua, a 27 year employee of the Public School System said.

Torres however said he did not deem to interview the two applicants since he had worked with both Taisague and Quitugua for almost ten years.

"There are personal, sensitive

things that made me decide against Quitugua," Torres said.

Torres also belied the information that Quitugua had been made the acting liaison officer for Rota immediately after Atalig announced his candidacy to the Board of Education.

Quitugua will continue to maintain his position as Rota High School Principal.

Joeten approves retirement plan for workers

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. employees who have served the company for one or two years can now look forward to additional benefits when they retire.

The employee's retirement plan program was approved by the Board of Directors and similar programs will also be implemented in other Joeten affiliates in the next few months, Priscilla Tenorio Quan, Vice-President for Personnel said in a press release.

The program applies to both resident and non-resident employees of Joeten affiliates including Construction and Material Supply Inc., Joeten Motor

Company, Marianas Management Corporation, Athletes Foot Saipan as well as the smaller entities.

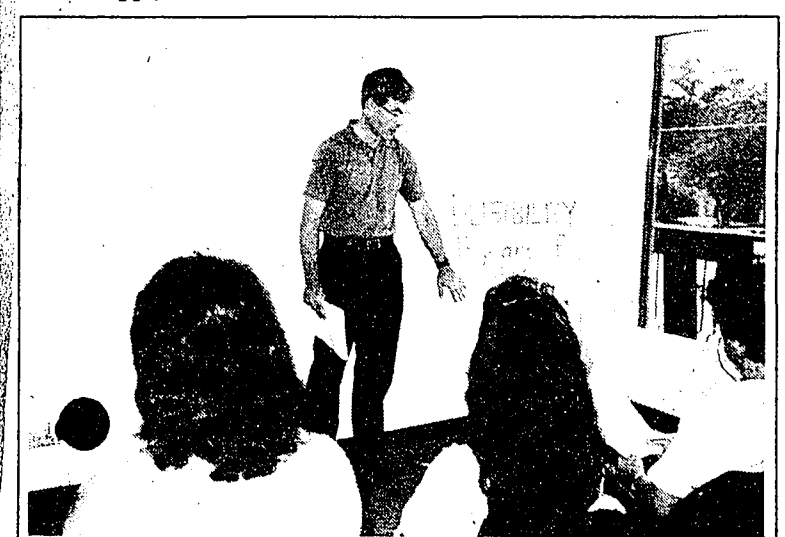
The plan's effective date retroacts to April 1, 1991 and carries a graduated vesting schedule starting with 20% after two years of service and full investing after six years of service to the company.

A major feature of the program is the contribution the company will make based on company performance.

Kemper Financial Corporation will manage the Joeten Employees Retirement Plan fund.



Mark Curtis of Inter-Pacific Investors explains to Joeten employees the retirement program. Brokered by Inter-Pacific Investors, Joeten's profit sharing retirement program will be managed by Kemper Financial of Chicago, Illinois.



Employees of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. participate in various retirement program seminars to gain understanding of the program.

Program to assist farmers for crop loss

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will administer a crop disaster assistance program to compensate eligible producers for crop losses caused by drought, flood and other natural disaster in either 1990 or 1991.

To be eligible, producers must have suffered a crop production loss greater than 40% said ASCS official Ralph Ajifu. Only production from commercial crops, intended for harvest in either 1990 or 1991, may be considered.

Applications may be filed from February 3 through March 13.

The 1990-91 crop disaster program provides cash payments for production losses on all commercial non-program crops which include vegetables, orchards, nursery and flower crops; and non participating program crops that include peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, sugar beets and sugar cane.

Further details on the disaster payment program may be obtained at the Department of Natural Resources at 256-9868 or at 256-3317; Tinian at 433-9298; Rota at 532-4001 or at the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at 233-3415, 532-9491.

Farmer's coop to meet

The Saipan Farmer's Cooperative Association will have a general membership meeting on March 7 at 1 p.m. at the Marianas High School Cafeteria.

The meeting will be held to discuss the current financial and management status of the cooperative and the assistance the Northern Marianas College faculty and staff can provide to the ailing cooperative as discussed in a previous meeting between the two groups.

Further information can be availed of from any of the board members.

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Castro tops RGA 1st quarter tournament

Veteran golfer Frank Castro once again proved that he is a force to reckon with among local golf enthusiasts when he shot a

steady two over 74 last Saturday to win the championship flight of the 1st Quarter Tournament staged by the Rafalawasch Golf

Association (RGA).

Close on the heels of Castro was feisty Jess Taitano who carded a 75, and also Eddie Peter who was three strokes behind the winner.

In the A-flight, Joe Camacho shot a 77 to deny Leo Kani a chance of winning his first ever tournament. Kani finished second with a score of 81.

But the real battle was in the C-flight where Joe Lizama faced Jack Taitano in a sudden-death play-off. It was a big day for Joe Lizama as he defeated Jack Taitano to claim first place in their own flight.

A new star emerged in the la-

dies flight as newcomer Marti Kanis slipped by Alice Concepcion 92 to 96.

In the feature prizes, Jack Guerrero won the closest to the pin on # 15 while rose Igitol won the prize in the longest drive

competition.

Officers and members of RGA also expressed their gratitude to the management of Marianas Country Club particularly Mr. Won and Lou Kapileo, for making the tournament possible.

Displaced Mid-east workers may file claims here

Claim forms are now available at the Philippine Consulate for Filipino contract workers who have worked in Iraq or Kuwait and were displaced or seriously injured due to the outbreak of the war.

Deadline for the submission of claims to the Philippine Claims and Compensation committee in Manila is on May 2. All claimants are enjoined to secure the forms now so that they can be forwarded to Manila before the deadline.

The claims process is simple and claimants should avoid using "fixers" and refrain from assigning their rights to claim to third parties.

FLSA not for. . .

Continued from page 1
the local government.

Faye Von Wrangel, a U.S. Labor attorney representing the federal government in the Tan lawsuit said on a Tuesday meeting with the legislature that federal labor statutes including the FLSA, are applicable in the Northern Marianas.

Federal District Court Judge Alex R. Munson is expected to hear the government's motion for a summary judgement tomorrow morning.

Munson's decision will determine whether or not the Tan's will face jury trial for their alleged failure to properly pay their employees based on U.S. wage and hour statutes.

Levi's severs. . .

Continued from page 1

He however regrets that the team failed to conduct a thorough scrutiny of Tan's factories and business practices. "We regret we were not more cautious," Samson said.

Samson however said there was no basis to say that garment factory workers in the Northern Marianas were living under "slave labor" standards as was reported in recent news articles.

The Tan's produce mostly Levi dockers products for menswear, womens and youth wear. It is reported that Levi buys about \$50 million worth of apparel from the Tan companies which are shipped duty-free to the United States.

The company spokesman said their recent decision also affects the Tan owned factories in the Philippines. The company is currently not seeking any new contractor on Saipan or elsewhere as it has quite a number in the United States and other parts of the world.



Edward Demers and Melvin Teregeyo from 441 agricultural program received donation in the amount \$2,400, as "seed" money to assist the program. (On the left Rotarian Peter Davis made the donation on behalf of Rotary Club of Saipan.



Rotary Club contribution: Kim Prinz receives on behalf of Marianas Track 7 Field Federation a check in the amount of \$600 from Rotarian David Welch.

"It's illegal to restrict. . . Continued from page 1

may be permanently disqualified from employing any nonresident workers in the future.

Torres ordered that the notice shall be posted by all employers in a conspicuous place at the employees' workplace and at all employer-provided residential facilities, and shall be posted side-by-side with a version translated by the employer into the common language of its employees.

Failure to post the notice or any retaliatory action taken by an employer against any employee because the latter made a complaint that she or he is being restricted to housing facilities or is not being paid wages, may subject such employer to criminal or

civil penalties or sanctions as provided by CNMI laws.

"We're concentrating on education - informing people about the law here in the Commonwealth and how workers are to be treated. We hope we could induce voluntary compliance from the people concerned so that we won't have to go through the legal process of issuing notices and imposing sanctions," said Torres.

The Commerce and Labor director sounded resolute when asked about the "voluntary compliance program" he initiated to provide information to both the employer and employee sectors of the CNMI.

According to Torres the rule on housing restrictions has been there

for a while but that this is one area where people are not too familiar with.

"These are some of the provisions of our law that may have been stacked in one corner, and what we're doing is highlighting these provisions since these are rules which may have not been getting the necessary media mileage," said the director.

The DOCL is currently in the process of finalizing a leaflet/brochure on the Alien Labor Law which will be circulated to all incoming guest workers to acquaint them with their rights, and responsibilities.

The goal of such an undertaking is to minimize problems that may

arise with the lack of understanding of basic labor laws.

"I don't want these people to say they did not know about it. So what we're trying to do is to make them aware so they comply, instead of spending time litigating labor problem," Torres said.

Asked on whether the notice could encourage prostitution in the islands, Torres said there is no justification for hindering a worker's basic right to freedom to go wherever he or she wants to go.

"This is the essence of freedom. We can't confine these people to their places of abode just because of our concerns on prostitution and other social issues. This is a free country, anyway" he asserted.

Fund's Aldan frowns. . . Continued from page 1

Commonwealth's public health facility.

He pointed out that the advent of health insurance coverage offered by the private sector being available to employees is fairly new, and that even the government health plan was not previously available to all government employees.

Indications, however, were that a good majority of government employees already have health insurance coverage, and that given the number of employees who have coverage now, CHC should have had better revenue collection, as claimed in the measure.

"Can we relate this to increased revenue for the hospital? If not,

how can we justify that such a bill will effect such an increase. Take a look at the revenue for CHC for the past ten years; how much has it increased since health insurance became available to government employees?" he queried.

According to him, there is no legitimate purpose if the

bill is only requiring government employees. "Try and find out how much premium was collected the past five years and how much of which is used to pay CHC. Don't be surprised if you find that maybe about 20% of the premium finds its way to the CHC," he continued.