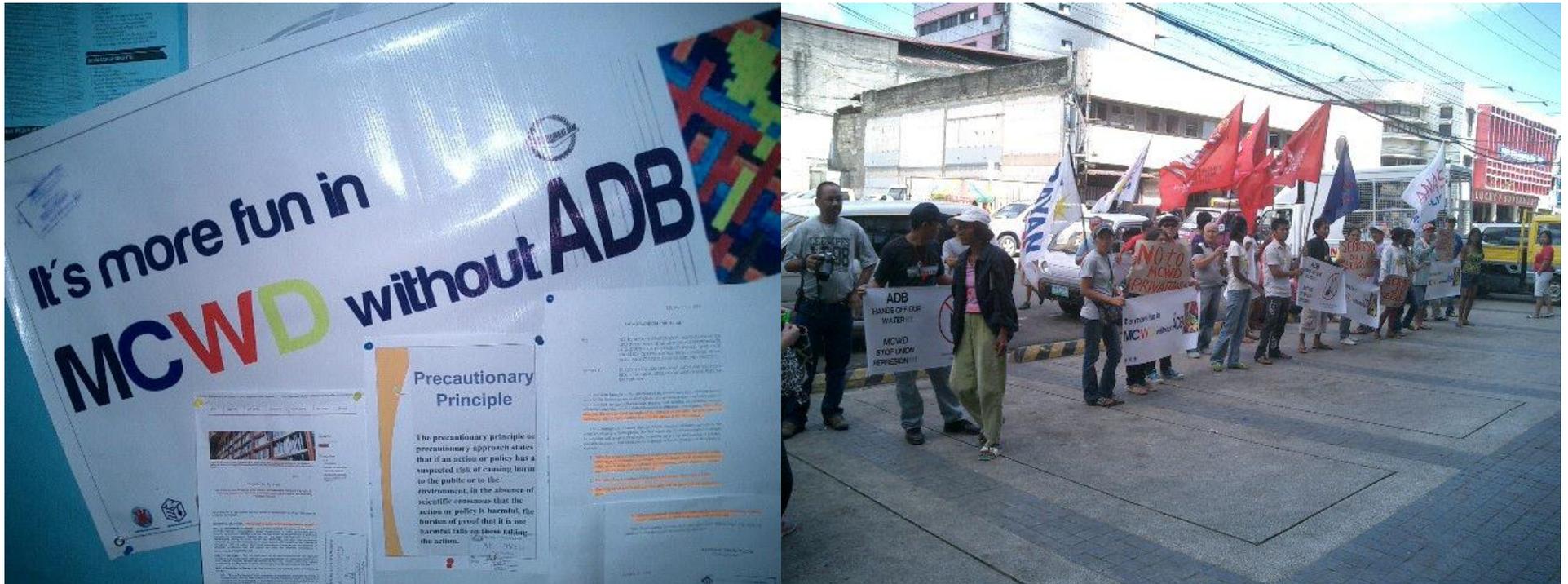


## I-ama-guerilla in Manila (and Metro Cebu and now back in Manila) - Week Three, 4 February 2012!

**From Davao City to Metro Cebu and back to Manila.** The 45-minute DAV-CEB flight made pleasant by a charming Filipina. Ate an MSG hot soup – incredibly delicious! Luggage arrived well. Me too. I took a cab to another low-cost winner in the *terrible hotel* category; \$20/night. No hot water in bathroom sink, no shower curtain, no room Internet service, no towel, no coffee/ tea caddy, no newspaper, no money exchange, no convenient electrical outlets and no complementary anything. The TV remote does not control volume. The bathroom door locked. I had someone take off the lock. My 10 x 15 ft cell is on three levels. Bright low-energy lights – you could perform surgery in my cell if it had hot water and sanitation; might not need a license to do it. Bright pink walls. Lobby Internet password: *trulyaffordable*. Great 6<sup>th</sup> floor cell-window view of industry, Marines complex and Bay. Had to pay in advance plus deposit in pesos which I didn't have. Thanks to Doc M to help me get PHPs.

**Magellan.** My cell is a few 100 feet from Magellan's Cross. Cebu is protected by Saint Niño of Cebu. Very Roman Catholic.



**Proposals.** At Logos Boat book tour, I received four unsolicited marriage proposals in 30 minutes. Next day, I received another at the café adjacent to my three-star dump of a hotel. I woke up entangled in several 18- to 24- inch long strands of shiny black hair. Certainly not mine. Wish they would change sheets in these dumps. I moved the TV to get to the e-plug, very dusty table. No cleaning service. Ugh. Oh, on Monday, I went to extend my visa at the Bureau of Immigration in Mandaue. Sure enough, while waiting online, a woman asked me if I was looking for a wife!

Which reminds me of the guy who walks into a bar in Houston. He orders a drink. A woman walks up to him and says, “Say, I haven’t seen you in here before? Are you new?” “Yes, I am new in town,” he says. “Oh, where have you been?” she asks. “I was in prison the last 20 years,” he says. “Oh, what were you in for?” she asks. “I killed my wife,” he says. The woman asks, “So, you’re... single?”

**Government officials and entrepreneurs.** I interviewed seven senior officials, average tenure of 21 years. I saw a TV series by ING on “My wealth,” on how to save, reduce debt, invest and develop several passive income streams. I also saw a TV program on “Are you a winner?” summarized below. Very cool. In the Talisay City Hall, there are big, red-block letter signs saying “NO NOON NAPS.”

What winners say and do	What losers say and do
Always is part of the answer	Always is part of the problem
Always has an answer	Always has a problem
Says “let me do it for you”	Says “it’s not my job”
Sees an answer for every problem	Sees a problem for every answer
Says “it may be difficult but it is possible”	Says “it might be possible but it is difficult”
Says “is there more I can do?”	Says “I’ve done enough”
When the winner makes a mistake, says “I made a mistake”	When the loser makes a mistake, says “it’s not my fault”
Says “I’m good but not as good as I can be”	Says “I’m not as bad as other people”
Feels responsible for more than his job	Says “I only work here”

**Currently favorite Pnoy jokes.** Three teenagers meet at Jolly Bee and share a table. One says, “I’m Jesus but not the God.” Another says, “I’m Peter but not the Apostle.” The third says, “I’m Mary but not the Virgin.”

If McDonald’s is the American Ambassador, then Jollie Bee is the Philippines Ambassador.

Pnoys like to tell jokes about the intelligence of former President Joseph Estrada. Like, Estrada walks into a bar in the US. One guy tells the bartender, “Johnny Walker, double.” Another says, “Jim Bean, double.” Estrada says, “Joseph Estrada, single.”

Estrada’s doctor tells him to avoid whiskey but drink red wine for his heart condition. He is at a party, drinking a bit, when a Church Cardinal approaches him. The Cardinal says, “Say, are you drinking wine? You know that’s not good for you.” Estrada says, “Sorry, it’s only water,” but it’s actually white wine. The Cardinal smells Estrada’s drink, picks up the glass and says, “No, it’s wine.” Estrada says, “Holy cow, you turned my water into wine like Jesus did!”

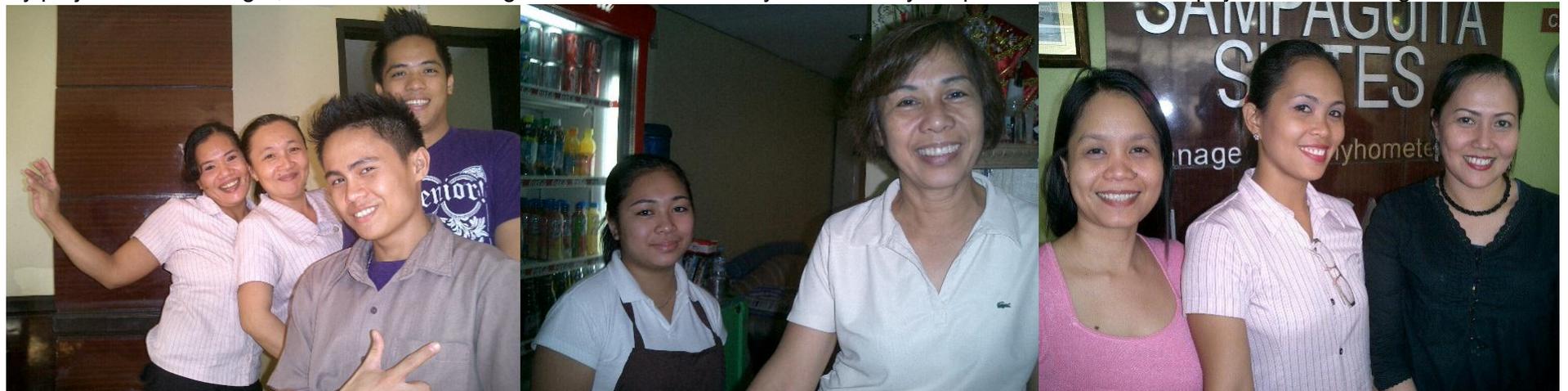
A Pnoy enters the Foreign Legion. He has a local girlfriend named Suzette so he has the letter **S** tattooed on his penis. One day, he’s at the communal urinal standing next to a 7-foot tall African. He notes an **S** on the man’s penis, and says, “Suzette?” The man responds, “Non monsieur, pour la libertad, fraternidad, igualdad et **securidad!**”



*Yep, a tough job it is!*

**Other updates:** Surprise, surprise. BBC reports Pakistani official elements as well as the vast majority of Afghans, including the Afghan US-trained police, actively support... the Taliban! So much for human rights, religious freedom, democracy and gender equity. Plus, the Cebu Daily News notes the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs is raising the alert for the over 470 Overseas Filipino Workers in Iraq citing "escalating bombing incidents and the apparent diminution of security." BBC says they have a secret document confirming Pakistani military support for the Taliban and great Taliban support by the Afghans. Surprise, surprise.

**Amazing governmental agency experience.** I have been interviewing government agency representatives in Metro Cebu and Davao City for the past two weeks. Ghesh, I have like 40 years experience in such stuff. But Friday, I had a new experience. A municipal engineer actually opened his brown leather wallet, pulled out a 1000 Philippine Peso and waived it at me implying a bribe before I could interview him! I made a scene of it, called my project office manager, who talked to the engineer who then suddenly became very cooperative. No, I did not pay the bride! Go figure.





*Yes, it's a tough job but someone from the West Bronx is chosen to do it!*

**Satisfy your nitrogen fixation with two books recommended by A:** *Holy Shit, Managing Manure to Save Mankind* and *The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why it Matters*. Oh, last week in Davao, I tried to evacuate my Roadway Inn café because I smelled a poisonous gas. The registration clerk said she didn't smell anything. The waiters said they didn't smell anything. It was my first whiff of the infamous Darien fruit – smell worse than the backend of a delivering cow! Ugh

**Technical notes: Davao Summary (work in progress).** Davao is a wide, long and flat tropical coastal area subject to extensive and more frequent flooding. Davao also has extensive ongoing fresh groundwater withdrawals leading to land subsidence and seawater intrusion. It is possible that sea levels are rising, contributing to seawater intrusion, but there reportedly are no readily available records or studies. Human wastes are disposed directly in canals, rivers and streets, and in some cases, in concrete block septic tanks without leaching fields. There are desludgers or honey-wagon truckers who for a modest fee remove septage for dumping. *Unauthorized residents* or squatters have taken over some canals and river banks, and beach fronts; they have no toilets or septic tanks and deposit human wastes directly to receiving waters. Administratively, Davao City has only one Local Government Unit and the Davao City Water District. Its population is rapidly growing as well. Hauling desludged wastes to Septage Treatment Plants (SpTP) is the low-cost and readily implementable wastewater treatment and disposal solution.

Health and economic benefits from improved sanitation include: health impacts and longer, more focused school and work and taxing activities; direct employment of sanitation workers; environment, habitats, fisheries, and improved economic competitiveness, municipal reputation and tourism. SpTPs can be replicated to other locations, as well as scaled up or expanded at the same location by several options:

- Replace aeration mixing systems with oxidation systems
- Expand size of aeration and oxidation tanks if land is available
- Recycle micro-organisms from removed headworks grit for use in aeration/ oxidation tanks
- Expand to vertical structures
- Keep non-sanitary wastes from septic tanks: 1. decrease use of water for toilet flushing; 2. keep household greywater out of septic tanks
- Add enhancing treatment enzymes and super-bugs



*Would you hire this man for your water supply or wastewater treatment system?*

**Have fun, be happy, don't worry! It doesn't help! It's really more fun in the Philippines!**