Everything about RP culinary arts, tradition

by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer.net

ALMOST a decade before the big television networks popularized the catchwords "*Kapuso*" and "*Kapamilya*," Milagros Santiago-Enriquez coined "*Kaluto*" for everything about Philippine culinary arts and tradition.

The inclusive "*ka*" should be adjunct with "*luto*" because after all, food nurtures the body and mind and, if shared, the way Filipinos do during fiestas, strengthens family and community ties.

That thought went into the making of her cook book, *Kasaysayan ng Kaluto ng Bayan.*

Awarded the Cook Book of the Year in 1995 by the Manila Critics Circle, the book has seen no reprint since the Bulakenya food historian died of cancer on June 8 last year.

To have it reprinted was one of her last wishes, her niece and protégé, Nicanora Teresa Hernandez, shared in one of the presentations in the First National Conference on Bulacan and Pampanga History, Arts and Culture held in Angeles City last week.

The book, consisting of eight chapters and written in Filipino, capped Enriquez's lifetime of indefatigable work of collecting recipes and trivia that go as far back as the 17th century.

Historical context

"She put each food in historical context to help the readers and cooks appreciate their evolution and functions," said Hernandez.

She said Enriquez, "*Ka* Mila" to many, did not mind spending money on phone calls or traveling to reach the heirs of national heroes.

"*Ay, ano ba ang paboritong kainin ng iyong nuno?* [What's your ancestor's favorite food?]" was the basic query she pestered the heirs, recalled Hernandez.

That was how she learned about Gregorio del Pilar's "*puto karamba*," Marcelo del Pilar's "*pochero,*" Dr. Pio Valenzuela's "*kare-kare*," and Mariano Ponce's tempura.

She never kept recipes secret, promoting local cuisine through cooking demonstrations, food exhibits and festivals.

Food, she thought, could also be income-generating, which was why she developed a module for making "*gurgurya*," "*dulce de pacencia*," "*soreche*," "*kalabasang" leche* flan and "*empanadang tinapa*" that poor women could make and sell.

Enriquez also dug the past not only for the love of eating or cooking. "She kept track of the evolution of Philippine cuisine to help the new generation learn about the past," Hernandez said.

Enriquez's decades of quiet crusade were recognized during the Philippine Independence centennial in 1998. She was named one of the 100 women who made lasting contributions in the fields of arts and culture.

28 new suspected H1N1 cases quarantined

TWENTY-eight new suspected cases of the Influenza A(H1N1) virus have been quarantined and submitted to tests in government hospitals in the capital and in the provinces, the Department of Health (DoH) said last May 27.

Meanwhile, the two confirmed A(H1N1) cases—a 10-year-old girl and a 50-year-old woman—will be discharged from the hospital if their repeat tests on Wednesday clears them of the disease, said health undersecretary Mario Villaverde.

"Both cases are well and have no symptoms [of the disease] as of today [May 27]," the undersecretary told reporters.

The seven suspected cases that were reported in Metro Manila last May 26 were cleared of A(H1N1) infection, Villaverde said.

Of the 28 new cases, 21 are from Metro Manila, four are from Central Visayas, two are from Caraga, and one is from Western Mindanao, he said.

The patients, with ages ranging from nine months to 72 years, are confined at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and the Lung Center of the Philippines in the capital and in regional government hospitals, he said.

Villaverde said the DoH was verifying a tip received through text message about a Filipino-Japanese boy who was suspected to have the A(H1N1) virus.

"The only thing we know is that his mother is Filipina and his father is Japanese. We don't know his age or if he resides in the country," he said.

According to the World Health Organization, a total of 12,954 people have been infected with A(H1N1), 92 of whom died. *(Inquirer.net)*

A NAIA personnel wearing a mask looks on a passenger as he passes by security.

San Miguel eyes further exposure in energy sector

by Donnabelle L. Gatdula
Philstar.com

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is interested to further expand its exposure in the energy sector, this time in the upstream oil industry development.

SMC president and CEO Ramon Ang told reporters at the sidelines of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) stockholders' meeting last Tuesday, May 26 that they are on the lookout for other potential business ventures in the energy industry.

The SMC group was reportedly interested in joining the bidding for the National Government's share in PNOC-Exploration Corp., the oil and gas exploration arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC).

SMC acquired recently a majority stake in Petron Corp., the county's largest oil refiner. This puts the company in a strategic position to go for business opportunities in the downstream oil industry.

The largest food conglomerate in Southeast Asia also bought a 43-percent stake in Meralco, the biggest power utility company in the Philippines.

"We will join and evaluate any opportunity available," he said when asked if they are still interested to join the PNOC-EC bidding.

Ang said SMC's thrust is to continuously explore business opportunities.

"We will always be interested in any investment as long as we think that it is a viable one and we have funds to support it," he said.

Publicly-listed PNOC-EC is seen to be a good investment since it owns 10 percent of the $4.5-billion Malampaya deep water gas to power project in Northwest Palawan. The project supplies 2,700 MW worth of power to three natural gas-fired power plants.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government plans to sell PNOC-EC by September this year.

Teves said three financial advisors were hired to handle the privatization of PNOC-EC. These are Development Bank of the Philippines, Citibank Group, and ATR KimEng Securities Corp.

DBP president Reynaldo David, in a chance interview during the same event, said they have yet to receive official documents from the DOF.

"We have not been officially appointed yet. We will let you know," David said, when asked if they have already decided what to do with the PNOC-EC sale.

Teves earlier said the financial advisors have recommended a phased sale which will allow the government to sell the 40- percent stake in tranches or stages.

"They want to stage it initially at 40 percent and this is also the advice of our financial advisors," the finance chief said.

The government hopes to generate P11 billion from the sale of the PNOC-EC shares.

So far, there are a lot of interested parties that have signified their intentions to participate in the bidding.

At present, PNOC-EC is finalizing the terms of reference (TOR) for the sale.

Aside from PNOC-EC, SMC is also eyeing investments in the power sector by bidding for generation assets of the National Power Corp. (Napocor).