



Photo by Robot Photography

Camille Agbayani

BEAUTY WITH A PURPOSE

By Antonette Ang

Manila Up! International is honored to have Ms Camille Agbayani grace the cover of our magazine once more. This time, for our First Anniversary edition. She had given us the same honor 12 months ago, when she became our first cover girl.

A lot has happened in her life since then, and we are grateful for this opportunity, indeed a privilege to learn about her walk in the past year. We do appreciate her sharing that journey with us.

Prior to Manila Up! International, Camille was crowned Queen Universe for Beautiful Life, since then, she had acquired new acquaintances which helped expand her clientele base. She had hosted two special events, the “Runway Dinner and Dance for L’Au-

ra Wellness Glamorous Calendar Ladies,” and the “Event for A Cause Concert of Asia’s Crooner, Arthur Manuntag.” She was also named “Outstanding Businesswoman of 2016” by Gawad America. She had ventured into a second Board and Care business as well, founded ‘Helping Hand Global Services, on top of partnering with ‘Absolute Hospice & Palliative Care.’ She had traveled to Manila four times this year, and had visited Hongkong, London, and Hawaii. I should say, she has maintained her elegance and poise despite the busy schedule that she had tackled in the past year. Her visit to Manila in May, for the birth of her first granddaughter, stood out as the most elating experience she’s ever felt. “It was

such an overwhelming feeling to see our little angel, and that makes me super excited to go back and forth every now and then.” Although the feeling of happiness is incomparable to anything experienced before, “My frequent absences had caused some setbacks in my business and relationships...” “Based on what I’ve experienced this past year, I have learned to be more careful in my future business and personal dealings...no matter how pre-occupied I am, I should still be in full control of everything, and not allow myself be caught off-guard.”

“I am very blessed to have the support of my family and loyal friends, the ones who extend their unconditional love. Dr. John for his endless support, and Dr. Rob for guiding me with his honest opinions, conscientious concern, and sage advice, on how to reclaim my losses and rebuild my good self, and especially, to God Who empower me with His abundant blessings.”

Camille’s focus, regarding her business standing is to continuously grow and be productive. “Setting up a business is tedious, and much more so if it’s multiple businesses. How to keep it running, the maintenance required, which is very costly. Since we offer personal service, it is required of us to be constant in giving the best quality and satisfactory and excellent service, always ensuring that our clients are happy!”

She believes that no matter how bad a situation is, if it is given to us it’s a ‘Blessing in disguise.’ Camille regards the problems that come her way as promotions of something even greater. She enjoys the ‘silence of solitude,’ where she can give glory to our Almighty, thanking Him for all the graces, as well as the challenges that she goes through.

Despite her busy schedule, she still finds the time to enjoy playing golf and doing interior design for friends and relatives. She plans to get into abstract oil painting, if her schedule frees up. She would like to own a world class Retirement Community in the not so distant future, where she herself can spend the rest of her life.

“I wouldn’t change anything that has happened in my life, be they good or bad. A few years back, I saw a vision, and with God’s help and guidance, I followed the trail leading me to where I am right now.”

“If I could go back to the past, I would tell my young self to stay focused, be more accountable with regards to my responsibilities, pray for the ability of discernment. I’m a strong believer of the Law of Karma, so I choose to be fair and nice at all times.” As a parting word to those out there who wants to be successful in whatever they wish to embark on, “Be passionate with your goals, and when you achieve it, stay Grounded and Remember to look back and show your gratitude to everyone who has helped you in your Quest.



Photo by Robot Photography



Wardrobe by Charmaine Joie Couture
Photo by: Hyde Abrahan



ATTY. SAL PANELO

Controversial and High Profile Case Lawyer

Chief Legal Counsel of Duterte

(Part one)

Malacanang Palace, Manila

Atty. Panelo's mother was from Naga, Bicol and his father was from La Union, Ilocos. A native of Naga, he grew up in Manila with a very disciplinarian mother, who exposed him and his siblings of 11, to household chores at a very young age, cleaning, cooking, and so forth. Having been trained well doing house chores, his maids find it difficult to perform the chores to his satisfaction.

There were rumors that he was with the NPA (National People's Army), which he denies. "I am not, I was not, never was. It all started when I was attending college in UP (University of the Philippines), I was a moderate activist. During that time, there was a prominent group - KM (Kilusang Makabata), and another one. The middle class was not comfortable with these two groups because they were so rigid and were very fanatic with their ideology. I organized the KMKP (Kilusan ng Makabagong Kabataang Pilipino) against the Marcos regime. I started teaching in rural areas in Albay, helped organize the farmers. The farmers conducted their self-organization, the NPA, that's when the rumor started, it never ended. When Martial Law was declared, I changed the way I looked; known for wearing long hair, MacArthur shades, jeans and camiso de chino with vivid colors: red, yellow, blue and white. I took off my glasses and went back to my old casual self. They were looking for someone who fits my old description and never found me, I have never been detained. I voluntarily gave myself up and was granted amnesty."

Atty. Panelo later on joined the Mabini lawyers, a militant group that was organized during the late 70s. Among its famous members were Saguisag, Joker Arroyo, and Binay, fighting against Marcos. Even though the known members were past senators, he didn't join the politics. He was advocating an ideology, a violent revolution for a change. Until 1984, in Pila, Laguna, when he came across a group called "Bromoki" which stands for "Brotherhood of Mothers" Kids," a spiritual group. A turn around for Sal. "I started advocating for love, and the only way to change the society is to change ourselves. I became a preacher of love for a peripheral religious group. I am still up to now an active member."

In 1987, after the EDSA revolution, he thought that his involvement with the spiritual movement will be a venue for changing our society, advocating spiritual change and have a national audience. He resigned from Unilab (United Laboratories) and ran for Senate as an Independent candidate. During the course of his campaign, he witnessed a group of Marcos loyalists at the Manila Hotel being kicked out by the police and questioned Joker Arroyo (who was with him at that time) about it. He wanted to defend them against police brutality, and Joker, said they cannot do it because they are for "Cory." "I then thought that we should defend the human rights being violated. I broke away from the Mabini group; I got expelled. From that time on, I became the 'Tinik ng Lalamunan ni Cory' (lump on the throat),





from the time of her presidency ‘til her last days in the office.”

While campaigning in the Ilocos region, Ablan took notice of Sal, once a Mabini lawyer, a vanguard against Marcos, now a pro-Marcos. On the course of his campaign, Speaker Yniguez drafted him as an official in Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan (KBL party). It meant that his campaign will be funded; his team will have a budget to ride airplanes, people to hand out campaign materials, unlike before, when Sal and his friends will go to markets handing out flyers themselves. “Myself, as the forefront “pangbato” of KBL, became the loyalists’ leader.” He was then rallying against Cory’s administration. Regarded as a loose cannon, they didn’t let him win, instead, they placed Juan Ponce Enrile in the Senate seat.

“After the Senate race, I became active in my practice and handled high-profile, controversial cases like Antonio Sanchez’s, the Marcoses, and Amanpatuan. I continued teaching at the University of the East College of Law, at Philippine Women’s University College of Law, and Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila.”

Sal was a regular radio commentator at Eagle Broadcasting, a slot was given to him by Ferdie Manalo, another venue to campaign for change. He then partnered with Pinky Webb in an ABS-CBN radio program. Eventually, he started writing articles about Duterte.

It was in 1994 when Duterte and Sal Panelo formed a friendship. They always talked about how to change the system, the judicial practices, criticizing, conniving, or opposing what the concern was at that time. Everyone was surprised when President Duterte named Sal as the first appointee, as the Presidential spokesperson, and now the Chief Legal Counsel.

