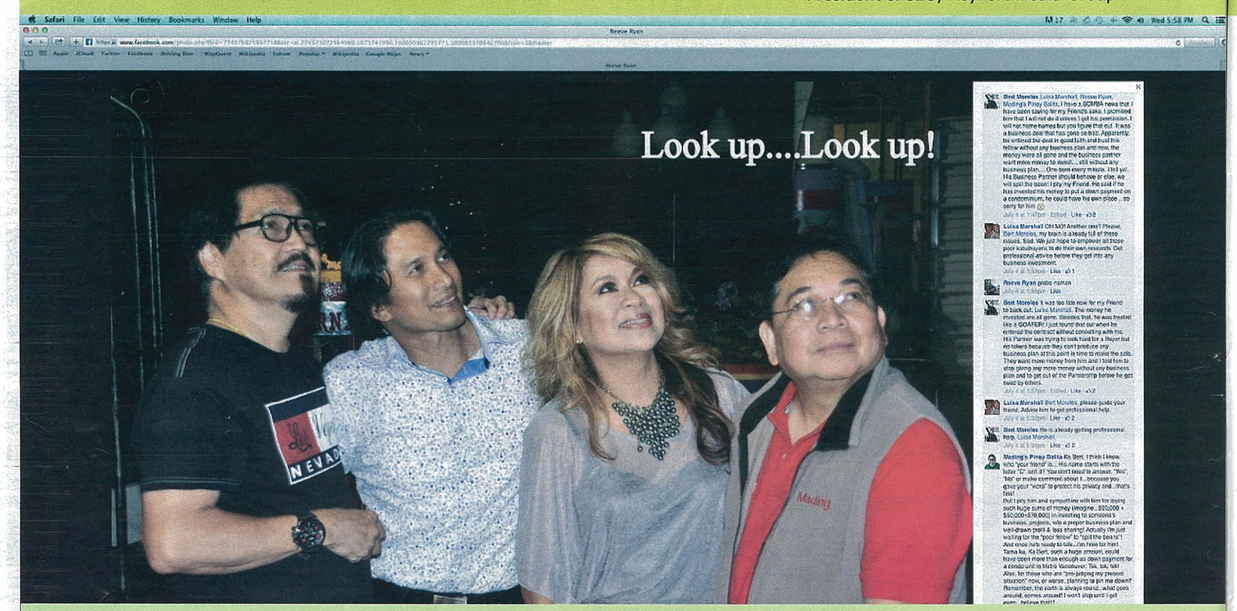
BUSTED: "BOMBA NEWS" VERSUS REY FORTALEZA

By Rey Fortaleza
President & CEO, ReyFort Media Group



This screenshot of a Facebook page shows accused fraudster Amado Lugtu (right) and friends Bert Morelos, Reeve Ryan, and Luisa Marshall talking about a business that did not succeed but can be used as "bomba news" against one of the partners involved in the venture. Facebook page includes a Bert Morelos photo taken of the four pals and dated July 3, 2014, the same day Lugtu first appeared in a Vancouver court to face a fraud charge for allegedly embezzling money from a non-profit group and five days before Lugtu threatened to thrash Rey Fortaleza's reputation over his business dealings.

Days before Amado Lugtu threatened to thrash my name, he and his friends were openly gabbing on social media that there is a "BOMBA news" against me.

Amado Lugtu is the publisher of Mabuhay news. He is currently facing fraud charges in court, and accused of embezzling money from a Vancouver arts organization.

Their conversation started on July 4, one day after philippinecanadiannews.com, the online site of journalist Ted Alcuitas, reported that Lugtu made his first appearance before the Vancouver provincial court on July 3.

They were obviously talking about my joint TV venture with Christian Cunanan.

Lugtu said on the thread, "Actually I'm just waiting for the 'poor fellow' to 'spill the beans'! And once he's ready to talk … I'm here for him!"

The innuendo was clear. They were implying that I took advantage of Christian Cunanan. They were saying this is another example of Filipinos ripping off fellow Filipinos.

Bert Morelos said, "I have a BOMBA news that I have been saving for my Friend's sake."

Luisa Marshall said on the thread, "OH NO! Another one?"

Reeve Ryan chimed in, "Grabe naman."

I entered into a partnership with Christian Cunanan. I had hoped that it succeeds. But fortune was not on our side.

The RFTV & events joint venture did not generate enough revenues to cover the investments I and Christian Cunanan put in. We lost, and we have to accept that.

On July 8, I, Christian Cunanan, an accountant, and Christian Cunanan's financial advisor sat down to determine the future of our partnership. We reviewed the financial statements, and it is undisputed that the business was a loss.

I lost a considerable amount of money in that enterprise. I blame no one for that, and I have learned hard lessons.

I did not pocket Christian Cunanan's money. In fact, I kept on pouring money, hoping that I can turn around the business.

There were no improprieties on either party with regards to the finances of the business. That was clear in the July 8 meeting among myself, Christian Cunanan, an accountant, and Christian Cunanan's financial advisor.

Earlier on that day, July 8, Amado Lugtu sent me an email, claiming that I was one of those pinning him down in connection with his fraud case.

Amado Lugtu threatened to unleash his Mabuhay writer David "Kuya Dave" Fernandez on me. He mentioned "business investors" and "skeleton/s".

I have nothing to do with the lawsuit against him. I am not a party to that case.

What's revealing is that days before he sent me the email, Amado Lugtu, Luisa Marshall, Reeve Ryan, and Bert Morelos were also discussing a "BOMBA news" against me.

Notice that on the Facebook thread, Amado Lugtu indicated that he knows the "Friend" that Bert Morelos talked about. Amado Lugtu said, "His name starts with the letter 'C' isn't it?"

To Christian Cunanan's credit, he had no intention to smear me. Although he discussed with Bert Morelos and Reeve Ryan business matters that should have been kept between him and me in confidence as partners, he had no plan to discredit me.

As proof that he and I are on good terms, Christian Cunanan sent out a text message that he didn't realize that his sharing of his business issues were going to be used by other parties against me.

It's also interesting to note that it was only on July 9 that someone shared with us the Facebook thread that had Bert Morelos, Amado Lugtu, Reeve Ryan, and Luisa Marshall talking about a "BOMBA news" against me.

When my wife Araceli made it known we had copies of that Facebook thread, we received denials that they were talking about my business venture with Christian Cunanan.

On July 10, Luisa Marshall's husband Steve emailed my wife, and said, "Amado has not ever said anything to us about Rey."

The reply of Bert Morelos is even more interesting.

In a reply email to my wife Araceli, Bert Morelos claimed that they were not talking about me and my business venture with Christian Cunanan, "Was it you that we were talking about? Did we mention your name? That could be another person that we were talking about."

I will have to deal with my financial losses in the TV business I had with Christian Cunanan. I have no rancour against Christian Cunanan, and if there is a way I can help him recover his investment, I will do that.

What I find shameful is that other people will use the trust given to them by Christian Cunanan, and use that to destroy my person.

Christian Text Messages to the Fortaleza

I disagree that I was part of the plan to do something against Kuya Rey. Ate Cely sent me the thread, I looked at the events dated July 4 of the other group posted thread and the date Ate Cely posted an article of the fraud case against Mading Lugtu on her timeline from Philippinecanadiannews website dated July 3. I think it was their direct response to her posting and they are worried on the reality of the article being published in PNT newspaper. I went to Mike's office to meet Kuya Rey in good faith and my decision regarding my position in the company is based on honesty.

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It's meeting and seeing most them in events I was invited d really didn't thought much I perceived its on normal nversation and gave general swer not specific one but s misquoted to serve their enda.

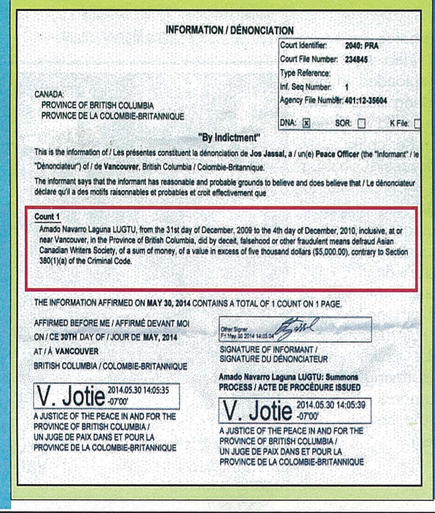
****

sed to think and work the background that's here my comfort zone. w I find myself in the iddle of a crossfire, it's very comfortable situation I'm in ght now. I'm asking for your nderstanding if I offended or id something that was being isquoted and used to serve meone else bad intentions.

****

Feel the same, rtaleza's family and my son ichael are the only family n glad to belong here in ncouver.

Copy of Indictment of Amado Lugtu courtesy of philippinecanadiannews.com



INFORMATION / DÉNONCIATION

Court Identifier: 2040: PRA
Court File Number: 234845
Type Reference:
Inf. Seq Number: 1
Agency File Number: 401:12-35604

CANADA:
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PROVINCE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

DNA: ☒ SOR: ☐ K File: ☐

"By Indictment"

This is the information of / Les présentes constituent la dénonciation de **Jos Jassal**, a / un(e) **Peace Officer** (the "Informant" / le "Dénonciateur") of / de **Vancouver**, British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique.

The informant says that the informant has reasonable and probable grounds to believe and does believe that / Le dénonciateur déclare qu'il a des motifs raisonnables et probables et croit effectivement que

Count 1

Amado Navarro Laguna LUGTU, from the 31st day of December, 2009 to the 4th day of December, 2010, inclusive, at or near Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, did by deceit, falsehood or other fraudulent means defraud Asian Canadian Writers Society, of a sum of money, of a value in excess of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00), contrary to Section 380(1)(a) of the Criminal Code.

THE INFORMATION AFFIRMED ON **MAY 30, 2014** CONTAINS A TOTAL OF 1 COUNT ON 1 PAGE.

AFFIRMED BEFORE ME / AFFIRMÉ DEVANT MOI
ON / CE **30TH** DAY OF / JOUR DE **MAY, 2014**
AT / À **VANCOUVER**
BRITISH COLUMBIA / COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

V. Jotie 2014.05.30 14:05:35 -07'00'
A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN AND FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA / UN JUGE DE PAIX DANS ET POUR LA PROVINCE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

Other Signer Fri May 30 2014 14:05:35

SIGNATURE OF INFORMANT / SIGNATURE DU DÉNONCIATEUR

Amado Navarro Laguna LUGTU: Summons PROCESS / ACTE DE PROCÉDURE ISSUED

V. Jotie 2014.05.30 14:05:39 -07'00'
A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN AND FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA / UN JUGE DE PAIX DANS ET POUR LA PROVINCE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

Bert Morelos Luisa Marshall, Reeve Ryan, Mading's Pinoy Balita, I have a BOMBA news that I have been saving for my Friend's sake.

Bert Morelos Luisa Marshall, Reeve Ryan, Mading's Pinoy Balita, I have a BOMBA news that I have been saving for my Friend's sake. I promised him that I will not do it unless I got his permission. I will not name names but you figure that out. It was a business deal that has gone so bad. Apparently, he entered the deal in good faith and trust this fellow without any business plan and now, the money were all gone and the business partner want more money to invest.....still without any business plan.....One born every minute, I tell ya!. His Business Partner should behave or else, we will spill the bean! I pity my Friend. He said if he has invested his money to put a down payment on a condominium, he could have his own place....so sorry for him 🙁
July 4 at 1:47pm · Edited · Like · 2

Luisa Marshall OH NO! Another one? Please, Bert Morelos, my brain is already full of these issues. Sad. We just hope to empower all those poor kababayans to do their own research. Get professional advice before they get into any business investment.
July 4 at 1:53pm · Like · 1

Reeve Ryan grabe naman
July 4 at 1:55pm · Like

Bert Morelos It was too late now for my Friend to back out. Luisa Marshall. The money he invested are all gone. Besides that, he was treated like a GOAFER! I just found that out when he entered the contract without consulting with me. His Partner was trying to look hard for a Buyer but no takers because they can't produce any business plan at this point in time to make the sale. They want more money from him and I told him to stop giving any more money without any business plan and to get out of the Partnership before he get sued by others.
July 4 at 1:57pm · Edited · Like · 2

Luisa Marshall Bert Morelos, please guide your friend. Advice him to get professional help.
July 4 at 5:32pm · Like · 2

Bert Morelos He is already getting professional help, Luisa Marshall.
July 4 at 5:33pm · Like · 2

Mading's Pinoy Balita Ka Bert, I think I know who "your friend" is... His name starts with the letter "C" isn't it? You don't need to answer, "Yes", "No" or make comment about it...because you gave your "word" to protect his privacy and...that's fine!
But I pity him and sympathize with him for losing such huge sums of money (imagine...$20,000 + $50,000=$70,000) in investing to someone's business, projects, w/o a proper business plan and well-drawn profit & loss sharing! Actually I'm just waiting for the "poor fellow" to "spill the beans"! And once he's ready to talk...I'm here for him! Tama ka, Ka Bert, such a huge amount, could have been more than enough as down payment for a condo unit in Metro Vancouver. Tsk, tsk, tsk! Also, for those who are "pre-judging my present situation" now, or worse, planning to pin me down? Remember, the earth is always round...what goes around, comes around! I won't stop until I get even...believe that!!!
Likewise, you-- "Mr. Nice, Good Guy", who just made "Judas" to me! Make sure, you commit no mistake in your life while...you're alive! Maybe I could still outlive you....so I'll watch/observe you and haunt you down!!!
I'm a good friend, who's ready..."to go for broke" or "walang iwanan"! Who knows? Maybe I could even take the bullet for a "real" friend? So make no mistake, I'll be your worst enemy now! You could

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Bert Morelos Mading's Pinoy Balita, don't worry so much. Don't loose sleep about it. You know who your Friends are. Yes, that is a big amount of wasted hard earned money invested. I am not going to give any more hints because i told my friend that I will be mum about it for now. So sorry for him.
July 5 at 12:54am · Like · 2

Luisa Marshall OH NO! Another one? Please, Bert Morelos, my brain is already full of these issues. Sad.

Reeve Ryan grabe naman
July 4 at 1:55pm · Like

Mading's Pinoy Balita Ka Bert, I think I know who "your friend" is... His name starts with the letter "C" isn't it?

Actually I'm just waiting for the "poor fellow" to "spill the beans"! And once he's ready to talk...I'm here for him!

Amado Lugtu EMAILS to Reyfort

From: ANL_MabuhayNEWS <arlugtu@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 3:03 AM
Subject: Just stay "clean" or else...
To: reyfort@gmail.com

Hi Rey,

Just make sure you maintain to be "cleaned" at all times in your business transactions with your clients, including your "dealings" with other people, business partners and other "business investors" and that...you don't make mistakes or have "skeleton/s" inside your closets, so to speak!

Kuya Dave and I won't hesitate to do just the same to you IF or WHEN that time comes!

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: ANL_MabuhayNEWS <arlugtu@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 10:51 AM
Subject: As a colleague in the local community media...
To: rey fortaleza <reyfort@gmail.com>

Good day to you too, Rey!

There were even occasions in the past, when Kuya Dave and I just kept mum to some...(probably you also know) rather than adding "insult to their injury", as we call it!

From: rey fortaleza
Sent: July-08-14 9:44 AM.
To: ANL_MabuhayNEWS
Subject: Re: Just stay "clean" or else...

Good day, Mr. Lugtu!

We are not a party to the fraud charge you're facing, which causes us to wonder why you have to email us with threats.

From: Bert Morelos [mailto:bertmorelos@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2014 10:28 AM
To: Philippine News Today; Luisa Marshall; Luisa Marshall; Mading Lugtu Mebuhay; Lito Pablo; Lito Pablo
Subject: RE: Showbiz Newspaper....why you dragged my name?

Celi,

Did we mention your name? That could be another person that we were talking about. Just to let you know, that picture is my

From: Steve Marshall
Sent: July-10-14 10:15 AM
To: Philippine News Today
Cc: Bert Morelos ; arlugtu@shaw.ca
Subject: Re: Showbiz Newspaper

With regards to your email, why are you including us on this issue between Amado and Rey? Amado has not ever said anything to us about Rey.