

SPANISH MIME ARTISTS PERFORM AT ROXAS BOULEVARD BAYWALK

Free daily afternoon performances started

THREE popular and highly talented street mime artists from Barcelona, Spain – Luis Silva, Eduardo Bizarro and Ruben Perez – perform at the Roxas Blvd Baywalk as part of the week-long celebration of this year's celebration of the Araw ng Maynila.

The three mime artists arrived in the country and rendered a sneak preview of their performance during the awarding of the City of Manila's Top Taxpayers (ten for real property taxes and ten for the business taxes) at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas at Manila City Hall.



MAYOR Lito Atienza and Councilor Miles Roces of 3rd District, with the three popular and highly talented street mime artists from Barcelona, Spain, Luis Silva, Eduardo Bizarro and Ruben Perez. (Ben Aquino)

Silva, Bizarro and Perez were invited by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to come and

perform in Manila after watching them during Atienza's recent visit to Barcelona,

Spain.

The favorite character impersonations of the three are an "Ameri-

can Cowboy" for Silva, "Chief Sitting Bull" (a Native American tribal chieftain) for Bizarro

and Latin American Revolutionary "Che Guevarra" for Perez.

The three Spanish mime artists will show off their uncanny ability to hold a pose for long periods of time, with their eyes not even blinking as they stay still.

A visibly impressed Atienza urged Manileños and residents of other areas in Metro Manila to watch the performance of the mime artists, which is free and open to the public.

"I am sure that watching this trio perform would be a new and very pleasant experience for many Filipinos. I am inviting everyone to come and watch them perform at the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk every afternoon at five o'clock starting tomorrow," Atienza said.

The performance of the three Spanish mime artists precedes the Manila Invitational Fireworks Competition, also the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk.

The top six fireworks display outfits in the country, most of whom have participated and even won in international fireworks competitions abroad, provided a colorful fireworks display launched from a barge on Manila Bay. The six competitors rendered their fireworks display for an average of twelve minutes each.

MANILA TO FUND AND CONDUCT OWN DRUG TEST ON COPS

Testing to be unannounced and on-the-spot

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza said that although that he is willing to accede to the request of Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief, for Metro Manila mayors to fund mandatory drug tests for cops assigned to their respective towns and cities, but clarified that the city government would rather conduct the drug tests on their own.

"We are willing to provide the funding but we should conduct it ourselves, unan-

nounced and on-the-spot. Scheduling mandatory drug tests for policemen is tantamount to giving those who are using illegal drugs ample warning before they undergo a drug test and they may be able to find ways to test negative for use of illegal drugs," Atienza explained.

Atienza said that if the drug tests that would be conducted on members of the various units and commands of the Western Police District would not follow any schedule so that no one would be able to undertake evasive mea-

sures.

"Otherwise, they won't be able to catch anybody and all those tested would probably yield negative results even if some of them are actually using illegal drugs," Atienza reiterated.

"We have to bear in mind that many if not all of these police officers, by the very nature of their job, are familiar with the various illegal drugs that are being sold and used in the country and they probably would also know how long these drugs would remain in a person's system for

these to be detected when a drug test is conducted," he pointed out.

Atienza, who is also the president of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, had earlier said that he and his fellow mayors in the national capital region are fully supportive of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's all-out anti-drug campaign.

Atienza was present during the launching of the Batang Iwas Droga (BIDA) campaign of Arroyo at the Quirino Grandstand last Saturday afternoon.