

GUESS WHAT?



Sujiwo undergoes the hardest cut

JAKARTA: Appearing in a new comedy on politics meant eccentric artist Sujiwo Tejo had to do something he hadn't done in years: Get a haircut.

"This film required a sacrifice for me, because I was willing to get my hair cut even though I haven't had a haircut since I was at university," the previously long-haired Sujiwo told reporters at the launch of the film *Capres* in Jakarta on Sunday.

The 47-year-old performer said he agreed to appear in the film because of his interest in politics.

"I've been waiting for a film on politics for so long," said the actor, whose real name is Agus Hadi Sujiwo. "After all this time we only had horror films."

"*Capres*" is usually an abbreviation for "*Calon Presiden*" or presidential candidate, but in this case it stands for "*Calo Presiden*", which means "a broker for the president".

Sujiwo, who was born in Jember, East Java, graduated from the Bandung Institute of Technology. He worked as a journalist at *Kompas* newspaper for eight years before going on to become a writer, painter, musician and puppet master.

He has appeared in several movies including *Janji Joni* (Joni's Promise), *Kafir* (Infidel) and *Detik Terakhir* (Last Second). He also performed in the play *KabaretJo*, from "Ketawa Bareng Tejo" or "Laughing with Tejo".

As a puppet master, Sujiwo frequently breaks the pattern of traditional Javanese puppetry such as by presenting the evil character Rahwana as a good character or by showing the usually benevolent Pandawa family as not always right in their deeds. — JP

Ozzy Osbourne sues over Black Sabbath name

NEW YORK: Ozzy Osbourne has accused former Black Sabbath band mate Tony Iommi of taking over the heavy metal titans' name and costing him royalties.

Osbourne issued a statement imploring Iommi, considered one of heavy metal's guitar greats, to "do the right thing."

"Tony, I am so sorry it's had to get to this point by me having to take this action against you," the singer-turned-reality show star said.

But, he added, "we've all worked too hard and long in our careers to allow you to sell merchandise that features all our faces, old Black Sabbath album covers and band logos, and then you tell us that you own the copyright."

The band, known for its apocalyptic bent and such hits as "Iron Man" and "Paranoid", has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It made a star — and a spectacle — of Osbourne and his from-the-crypt howl before he was fired in 1979.

"To fans of heavy metal music," Osbourne's lawsuit says, "Ozzy has become synonymous with Black Sabbath."

Iommi, who registered the Black Sabbath trademark in the US in 2000, said the band's co-founders, including Osbourne, legally relinquished rights to the band's name in the 1980s. — AP



MU SOCHUA

ONE OF CAMBODIA'S PRECIOUS GEMS

Sara Veal

CONTRIBUTOR/JAKARTA

When Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen publicly insulted an unspecified female politician recently, he got more than he bargained for: His implied target turned around and sued him.

The prime minister's insult might be considered typical in a country with continuing gender inequality, but that didn't mean Mu Sochua was going to take it lying down.

For 20 years, Mu Sochua has been a voice for exploited Cambodians. As the Vietnam War spread to Cambodia in 1972, the then 18-year-old was exiled, with no chance to say goodbye to her parents, who later vanished under the Khmer Rouge regime. She spent 18 years overseas, studying and working in Paris, the US and Italy and in refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Since her return in 1989, she has been hands-on in rebuilding her homeland, first as an activist and now as a politician, focusing on women's and children's issues.

"I had the choice of being part of the reconstruction of Cambodia and I took that choice," said Sochua, a member of parliament for the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), the leading opposition to the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

In 1991, Sochua formed the first Khmer women's organization, Khemara, and joined the FUNCINPEC political party, winning a national assembly seat representing Battambang in 1998. She soon became the first female minister for women's and veterans' affairs.

"What prepared me for the job was my early return, before the country was even officially open to the Western world, which put an embargo on it during 1975 to 1990."

Her first ministerial act was to launch a national campaign for

gender equality, *Neary Rattanak* (Women Are Precious Gems), which transformed an old Khmer proverb, "A man is gold; a woman is a white piece of cloth" into "Men are gold; women are precious gems."

The rewritten proverb argues that women are as valuable as men; if "dirtied", they can shine again like gems, rather than be stained forever like a muddied cloth.

However, in July 2004, she resigned, claiming corruption hindered her work. She joined the SRP, becoming the party's first female secretary-general in 2006.

Her struggle has been recognized by several nominations and awards, including a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nomination and the 2005 Vital Voices Human Rights Global Leadership Award, presented by then US senator Hillary Clinton.

Sochua, who is fluent in English, French and Khmer, and holds degrees in psychology and social work from US universities, says her international background enhances her work, but only to a point.

"The Western education allows me to know what the international standards are for human rights, for gender equality and for quality of life, and it allows me to set these standards for the women of Cambodia, but in a modified way in order to keep in balance values and culture."

"I am very clear about what can work in Cambodia and what is totally from the West."

She believes the key to positive change lies in giving people the right to participate in national development without discrimination.

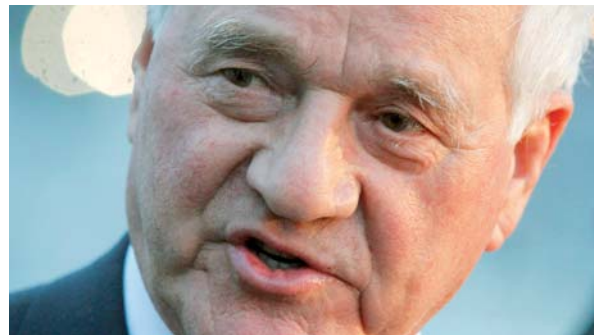
"[Development] must be based on the preservation of the country's resources, which are plentiful but so badly managed because of corruption and lack of rule of law."

Sochua's three daughters have all followed in her humanitarian footsteps. Although she says Asian people look at her with "sorry eyes" when they hear she has no sons, she is fiercely proud of her girls, saying they inspire her to fight even harder for equal access to education and healthcare and for gender equality.

"[Each time] I go to the police station and work with survivors of gender-based violence, I imagine myself a victim and that my daughters are caught in this cycle of violence."

FRANK STRONACH

Magna's rags-to-riches tycoon seeks to crown legacy with Opel



BLOOMBERG/JOCHEN ECKEL

John McCrank and Helen Massy-Beresford

REUTERS/TORONTO, PARIS

Magna International chairman Frank Stronach, who left Europe a virtually penniless toolmaker over 50 years ago, is returning to fashion a car-making dynasty after clinching a deal for Germany's Opel.

The 76-year-old Magna founder — a rags-to-riches tycoon with a passion for soccer, hard work and fast horses — emigrated to Canada aged 21 with US\$200 and a suitcase.

Now his auto parts firm has clinched a deal to take an Opel stake, after a fraught week of negotiations, with rival bidder Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Italy's Fiat, insisting "life will move on" without Opel.

The son of a labor rights activist father and a factory worker mother, Stronach left school aged 14 to become a tool and die apprentice at a factory in Weiz, the town in the

southeastern foothills of the Austrian Alps where he was born.

His personal fortune is now estimated at more than US\$1 billion, but when he arrived in Canada, Stronach's first job was peeling potatoes and washing dishes.

"I experienced what it was like to be hungry, to be discriminated against and to be treated unfairly," Stronach has said.

He now prides himself on treating his workforce well. Staff receive a share in company profits and individual plants are run as independent entities.

After a string of rejections, Stronach got his break with the small tool and die company he went on to manage.

Now, more than half a century on as an unprecedented crisis engulfs the automotive industry, Stronach is setting his sights on Europe and Russia through the long-established German brand General Motors is hiring off.

Stronach is betting firmly on the future, hoping to grab an initial 20



LUCIA DE GIOVANNI

Her struggle led to her decision to sue Hun Sen for defamation, after he allegedly called her "*cheung klang*" (strong leg), an offensive term for women, during a speech in her Kampot constituency. He immediately responded with a countersuit, a threat to remove her parliamentary immunity and a request that the Cambodian Bar Association investigate her lawyer, Kong Sam Onn.

Without immunity, Sochua faces imprisonment and her lawyer faces disbarment. However, she is determined to proceed with the case.

"If no action was taken against

[his] words, the people will never want to seek assistance from me again," she says, adding his comments violated her rights and generally devalued women.

While she believes she has little chance of a fair trial, with the courts said to be under the influence of the executive, she hopes her case will publicize the weaknesses of the judiciary and demonstrate that no one is above the law.

Whatever the outcome, Sochua continues to look to the future. She hopes Cambodia can eventually be economically independent and a key

player in ASEAN, citing Indonesia as a model to follow.

"For that we need to be accountable to our people first and be credible in the eyes of the ASEAN community," she says. "That is the long-term investment I am working on and why I intend to remain in politics: To give what it takes to bring new leadership for Cambodia and to give our youth of today a chance to have what youth in neighboring nations are enjoying."

This determination shows she cannot be stained by any dirty words, no matter who throws them.

MTV AWARDS

Cohen's 'Bruno' steals the show

Derrick J. Lang

ASSOCIATED PRESS/LOS ANGELES

The MTV Movie Awards were a blood bath Sunday night with *Twilight* taking five trophies, including best movie. But it was Sacha Baron Cohen who gave the show its trademark bizarre moment when he landed upside-down on the lap of Eminem, who may or may not have been deeply offended.

Twilight, the popular vampire drama starring Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, sucked up golden popcorn trophies for best movie, best fight, best kiss, breakthrough male performance and breakthrough female performance during Sunday's free-wheeling and often-bleeped ceremony at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, California.

"The fans are the ultimate driving force," Stewart said while accepting her best female performance trophy (which she promptly dropped on the floor, breaking off a chunk of the golden popcorn). Awards were decided by fan votes.

But everyone was upstaged by Baron Cohen, who flew in on a wire, hanging above the audience. Dressed as flamboyant character "Bruno" in a

pair of feathery white wings and his rear end mostly exposed, the comedian crashed into an overhead obstacle and was lowered head-first into the lap of Eminem, his bare hindquarters in the rapper's face.

"Is the real Slim Shady about to stand up?" chirped Baron Cohen.

Eminem seemed visibly upset by the encounter, and members of his entourage roughly removed Baron Cohen as the rapper struggled to get out. But had the self-styled homophobic rapper been punked by Baron Cohen and MTV, or was he in on the elaborate stunt?

Free of the scene, Eminem stormed out with his entourage in tow — and cameras rolling — and hit the exits.

Baron Cohen's descent to the audience was included in rehearsals, but Eminem — who performed Sunday night — didn't take part in that piece of the run-through. As the rapper stormed off, it sounded as though he was wearing a microphone, and cameras were in position to record his fast exit, but he was not seen or heard from again.

Baron Cohen's publicist, Matthew Labov, had no comment. A spokeswoman for MTV would not confirm whether Eminem was caught by surprise.



AP