

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

COMELEC PREPARING FOR WORST-CASE 2010 SCENARIO

By Perseus ECHEMINADA

MANILA, Philippines – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has activated a crisis management group tasked with planning and implementing damage control measures to cope with the worst problems that may arise during the 2010 elections.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said yesterday that the group will formulate action plans for contingencies such as breakdown of computers or a terrorist attack on election day.

Jimenez said a separate "continuity group" is coming up with possible scenarios and recommending action plans to deal with them.

"All possibilities are being taken into consideration, including mass breakdown of computers and terror attacks during the election," he said.

According to Jimenez, the group has adopted action plans for problems such as technical failure or glitches in the computer

system counting the ballots.

"The solution to the problems is computer replacement which can be (made) immediately," he said.

In extreme cases, however, when the ballots are stolen from the precincts and the computers are destroyed in a terrorist attack, Jimenez said the initial option recommended is a declaration of failure of election in the affected areas.

But in a worst-case scenario where all the computers are taken away or destroyed but the ballots are still intact, the computers can be replaced.

Jimenez said the Comelec is still in the

(continued on page 4)



WHAT IS A HUB?: Senator Richard J. Gordon (Ind.) questions the Commission on Elections' choice of "hubs" for transmission of precinct results in the 2010 elections during the Senate hearing regarding the updates on the preparation for the May 2010 elections. (www.senate.gov.ph)

Cell Phone Law Takes Effect July 1



By HFC Staff

In just a few short days, a new law will take effect that will forever change the driving habits for tens of thousands of Oahu motorists

Beginning July 1, 2009, it will be illegal for motorists to use cell phones or other mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle—even if stopped in traffic or at a red light.

The new law is a result of Bill 4, which

was approved by the Honolulu City Council and signed into law early last month by Mayor Mufi Hannemann. The law has the support of the Honolulu Police Department, which launched a public educational campaign to inform motorists and the public. On July 1, HPD will begin enforcing the law and citing violators. Those caught will be fined \$67 for the first offense.

BANNING CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING

Hawaii joins the District of Columbia and six other states—California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah and Washington—that have banned the use of hand-held cellular phones while driving.

Advocates say that the purpose of the new law is to make Oahu's roads safer for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. In addition to cell phones, mobile devices that will be prohibited while driving include the following:

- Text messaging devices
- Paging devices

(continued on page 4)

Cabuguenians Hold Global Reunion in Honolulu

By J.P. ORIAS



The three-day event kicks off with an Aloha and Mabuhay reception at the Fil-Com Center. The reception is a welcome night for out-of-town guests.

The following day on the 18th, organizers are planning the Grand Ball at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The ball will pit the musical versatility of Kit Samson band against the band of Janet Trevas. The main feature of the evening is the coronation of the 5th Cabugao Global Reunion royal court in an elaborate Victorian ambience. This gala coronation night will crown the 2009 Mrs. Cabugao Global Queen.

The Grand Ball is the major fundraising event of the reunion, with proceeds to benefit the people of Cabugao. Al Sabangan, president

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EDITORIAL

Cell Phone Ban is Good Idea

Early last month, a commuter train in Boston rear-ended another train, injuring dozens and sending 49 passengers to area hospitals. Investigators faulted the driver who was text messaging his girlfriend while operating the train.

Crashes such as this have led to a growing number of states nationwide to ban the use of cell phones while driving. Hawaii is the latest state to enforce such a ban. Starting July 1, 2009, police officers will start ticketing motorists who use cell phones and other electronic device while behind the wheel.

Critics are quick to point out that cell phone use is not the only distraction for drivers. Simple things like changing radio stations, putting on make-up, reaching for something, eating, drinking, talking with other passengers and other things can easily divert a dri-

ver's attention. Still, many of us can personally attest to the dangers of drivers who choose to operate a vehicle while engaged in a conversation on their cell phones—seemingly oblivious to others around them.

While Hawaii's new law may seem to some people as a bit restrictive of individual freedoms and superseding personal responsibility, there are at least built-in exceptions that soften the impact. For one thing, the law allows motorists to cell phones while driving in the event of an emergency and if they use a wireless, hands-free accessory.

The City Council purposely limited the number and type of exemptions, since too many would have resulted in a watered-down, ineffective law. Nevertheless, the new law is certainly a very good start. It reminds motorists to keep both hands on the wheel and their eyes in front of them. The bottom line is that it makes our streets and highways safer, and could very well prevent serious injuries and even save lives. ■

'A Private Visit'

Presidents live in a fishbowl, although they are still entitled to some measure of privacy. The use of public funds curtails that privacy, especially when the funds are used for items or activities that are perceived to be unnecessary. In such cases, taxpayers deserve an explanation for the expenditure.

President Arroyo's visit to Colombia on her way from Japan to Brazil is one such case. The visit to Colombia was not announced by Malacañang, but mass media got wind of it and reported the side trip. Yesterday, amid ugly speculation about the secrecy surrounding the stopover, Palace officials said the visit was not secret but a private one.

Does this mean the President and her entourage spent private money for the stopover? With the Philippine president entitled to contingency and intelligence funds whose utilization requires little or no public accounting, it is easy for an unscrupulous chief executive to blur the line between official and private use of public money. The blurring of the line becomes more appalling when done amid criticism of the massive expenditures for the President's monthly—and sometimes bimonthly—foreign trips in a year of recession.

At the slightest excuse, the President has been packing her bags and taking off to see the world, with relatives, nannies and friends in tow. Rarely are the bills footed by the countries she visits, and the stopover in Colombia was certainly not one of those rare occasions. In the interest of transparency and accountability in the use of scarce funds, the public deserves an explanation for this trip. (www.philstar.com) ■



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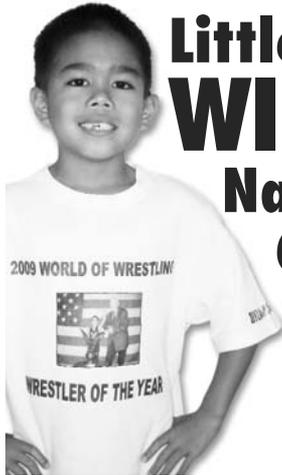
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YOUTH FEATURE



Little Boy WINS BIG in National Wrestling Competition

"I like winning awards and standing on the top of the podium," said Dylan. "I felt proud of myself." For 3 feet, 8 inch tall Dylan, it's more than about the competition



by Caroline JULIAN

He's small, but he's proven he's mighty. 7-year-old Dylan Cuesta recently wrestled his way to win four titles in all four tournaments under the World of Wrestling (WOW)/Cliff Keen Athletics held in three cities across the nation.

In his age/weight division, Dylan won the titles: The Ultimate Triple Crown-Trinity Award, Outstanding Wrestler, Wrestler of the Year and 2009 All Star Team Member. He became the first from Hawaii to win all the national tournaments under WOW.

"I like winning awards and standing on the top of the podium," said Dylan. "I felt proud of myself."

"I was very nervous, proud, and full of joy because the anticipation was stressful," said his mom, Frances.

"I was very proud because he worked so hard and (I was) relieved because it was stressful," said his dad, Shannon.

Up to 2-thousand wrestlers ranging in ages 6 to 18 years old competed in the annual

tournament.

For 3 feet, 8 inch tall Dylan, it's more than about the competition.

"Going on trips and winning awards, big trophies and shiny medals," listed the Milliani like Elementary School second grader. "I don't get scared before the competition. I train hard and I feel confident about myself," he added.

But for his parents, it's a nail-biting and exciting experience.

"I tend to be very nervous and most of the time I am cheering for him. What goes through my mind is that I just hope that he remembers the techniques he learned and practiced and most of all he does his best," said his mom.

"I get excited. I also help at practice and coach Dylan at competitions so being a coach and a Dad is challenging. I take mental notes on what works and what he has to work on. I wouldn't be normal if I didn't get nervous. I hope he wins but more importantly that he tries his best. I give him some words of encouragement and the stage is all his," said his dad, who was also a wrestler in high

school.

A sprouting athlete, Dylan began wrestling at the tender age of four. He has also participated in sports like gymnastics, judo and kajekenpo.

"But he chose the sport as he liked it the best and felt that he learned the techniques fast," explained Frances.

"He also plays soccer and he wants to try jiu jitsu, basketball and football," added Shannon.

Both parents also believe wrestling has helped their son develop important skills that would be useful on and off the mat.

"I believe Dylan learned to be more focused on his techniques and moves. He also learned to be more attentive and alert to be ready to attack his opponent," explained Frances.

"Dylan learned that it takes hard work and lots of practice to be successful in wrestling. Wrestling is an individual sport that requires a lot of mental and physical preparation...total commitment and discipline is key to success," added Shannon.

They also encourage other parents to put their children into wrestling because of the discipline

and self-confidence they believe the sport teaches.

The Cuestas hope Dylan will continue the sport through high school and college.

Dylan also sees a future in wrestling.

"I would like to be a wrestling coach," he said.

But for now, he will continue practicing 2 hours a day, for about 2 to 5 times a week as he prepares for another big face-off.

And, maybe he'll be able to put in some time playing his favorite Nintendo DS game - Super Mario 64. ■

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HEADLINE NEWS (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1; Comelec...)

process of determining the actual size of the official ballots to be printed, considering the number of candidates that will be vying for local and national posts.

He said official ballots that will contain the names of as many as 300 candidates from president down to town councilors would be printed back to back.

Jimenez, however, downplayed concerns that it would take a long time for voters to fill out the ballots with so many candidates running.

"Our initial test showed that it will only take five minutes for every voter to shade the names of their candidates," Jimenez said.

Lawmakers have expressed apprehensions over the readiness of Comelec to automate balloting for next year's presidential polls, and they feared a "social explosion" if the process failed.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile had warned Comelec to ensure the automated poll system would be in order and address all concerns of irregularity and flaws in the system.

Politicians and analysts have been casting doubt over the automated process. Many fear chaos due to potential machine breakdown and delays in result transmission, which could lead to a failed election and political limbo.

About 50 million people are



SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE-ENRILE

SENATOR CHIZ ESCUDERO

COMELEEC SPOKESMAN JAMES JIMENEZ

COMELEEC CHAIRMAN JOSE MELO

expected to vote at 350,000 precincts next May to elect a president, vice president, nearly 300 members of the two-chamber legislature and more than 17,000 local officials through the as yet untested automated system.

Unlike in past elections when counting and tallying of votes were done manually, taking almost a month to determine results at the national level, Comelec is promising results within 36 hours under the new system.

But senators said they were not sure how Comelec would conduct the actual balloting and whether there were backup plans if the machines failed to scan the ballots, print and transmit results.

Sen. Francis Escudero said yesterday that Comelec would be held accountable by the people for its decision to go ahead despite questions about its capability to

implement automated elections nationwide in 2010.

"It's their call, not mine. Let it not be said that I kept silent during my watch, that I failed to act responsibly in monitoring the bidding of the largest single contract to be awarded by this administration," said Escudero, co-chairman of the congressional oversight committee on poll automation.

Escudero noted the announcement of Comelec commissioner Rene Sarmiento that the poll body has postponed the signing of the contract yesterday with winning bidder, the Barbados-registered Smartmatic-TIM. The formal signing was moved to July 1.

Escudero said that once Comelec signs the contract with Smartmatic, the role of the lawmakers is to work with the poll body to ensure that there will be no hitches in carrying out the un-

precedented machine count of the nationwide vote in May next year.

"But this does not mean that the Comelec should discard its Plan B, just in case something goes wrong," Escudero said, referring to manual counting of ballots.

"I would rather be accused of grandstanding than be blamed for not doing anything to stop what could be an onerous, illegal and unconstitutional contract," he said. Escudero also reminded Comelec of the possibility of hacking into the computer system.

Comelec chairman Jose Melo, on the other hand, said losing bidders might be feeding the senators information that would cast doubt on the poll body's choice of the winning bidder Smartmatic.

Melo said he got that impression when the senators raised the same issues against Smartmatic

in last Tuesday's hearing at the Senate.

"That's why I don't want to answer them (losing bidders). I let the SBAC reply to them," Melo said, referring to the poll body's Special Bids and Awards Committee.

Melo confirmed the delay in the signing of the contract with Smartmatic.

He said the incorporation of Smartmatic and Total Information Management Corp. (TIM) has yet to be legalized by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Comelec is hopeful that the contract can be signed next week so it can go full blast in its preparations.

The Netherlands-based Smartmatic and its Filipino partner TIM had offered a bid of P7.2 billion to lease some 82,000 automation machines to Comelec.

(www.philstar.com) ■

(cont. from page 1; Cell phone...)

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WIRELESS OPTIONS

Fortunately, the new law allows motorists to still use cell phones provided they do so via hands-free and/or Blue Tooth devices. Such devices must be wireless and allow motorists to answer their cell phones by either touching a button on the device or via voice activation, and which does not require a motorist to hold the phone while in use.

One popular option for those who want to comply with the new law is to purchase a simple, easy-to-use headset which is available in basically three choices: a simple ear bud that fits snugly in your ear canal, a boom headset which has a microphone positioned near the mouth so people can hear you a bit better, or a retractable headset that stores the wire in a small case and prevents a tangled mess.

Don't like wires? A second option is to purchase a wireless headset which is basically a device that uses Bluetooth technology. You must have a Bluetooth-enabled phone or a Bluetooth adapter for your phone in order to use a Bluetooth headset. This option is best suited for those who want to use their cell phone hands-free all the time and not just while driving.

A third, but more expensive option is an installed car kit connected to your car stereo, allowing you to hear your calls through your car's speakers. These installed car-kits are easy to use and provide good voice and listening quality and are ideal for those who spend a lot of time in their car and don't want the hassle of ca-

bles. A cheaper alternative is to go with a portable car-kit that plugs into your car's cigarette lighter or power outlet. Some portable car-kits are also Bluetooth-enabled allowing them to connect to your phone without the need for a wire.

Cell phone users are encouraged to check with their respective cell phone companies. AT-Mobile, the most popular Bluetooth headsets range in price from a low of \$29.99 to a high of \$119.99.

OTHER EXEMPTIONS

The new law allows motorists to use their cell phones to make an emergency 911 call. Passengers are exempted, as the law applies only to drivers.

The bill also exempts fire fighters, police officers, civil defense workers and other emergency responders; drivers who use two-way radios while on the job; and amateur radio operators.

Resti Paguirigan, public safety specialist for Hawaiian Electric Company, supports the new law. He says that HECO began a new company policy to limit cell phone use by employees while driving. A result of the policy is that HECO employees who use cell phones are already accustomed to some of the restraints of the new law.

"Come July 1st, if our employees are to use cell phones during the course of business, then they will have the necessary equipment to allow for the safe and lawful use of cell phones while driving," Paguirigan says.

Paguirigan's advice is to familiarize yourself with the new law. The intent is to have drivers concentrate on the road and to limit distractions caused by cell phones and other mobile electronic devices. ■

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FEATURE

Ryan Pugal: A Talent Showcase



By Fiedes DOCTOR

Do you want a personalized song? Talk to Ryan Pugal for five minutes and in 10, he can blurt out a heartwarming song about you. He closes his eyes when he sings, to pull emotions from his heart. That's how passionate he is for his music.

Ryan, our very own singer-songwriter who was propelled to national and international recognition through the Famecast competition in 2007, is in town to celebrate the release of his latest indie sophomore album titled "Jukebox45." His very first concert show on September 27, 2009 at Dave and Buster's Show Room

will feature several surprise guest performers, including Rick Rock of Rick Rock Productions and top Filipino hypnotist Greg Gabaylo.

"This is my best material to date," he says. "It features my kind of sound and style—pop, dance, funk and love ballads."

"Jukebox45," with 17 original tracks written by Ryan himself, has debuted on Amazon music charts at number one. It remains on the Top 25 Best Selling Albums at the Amazon contemporary R&B sales charts along with Beyonce, Jennifer Hudson and John Legend.

Coming from a large musical family who enjoys karaoke most Sunday nights, Ryan knew by the tender age of 4 that he was cut out to be a singer-songwriter. But it was through Famecast that he truly saw his potential and started serious composing.

His fans placed him fourth in the finals held in Texas, pared down from the initial thousands from all over the world who entered the contest.

"I figured I was just lucky when I was put in the top 100. I thought then that there was no way I would make it to the next cut which was top 75," he recalls.

But he did. From top 75 to Top 25 and Top 10—Ryan's name kept appearing.

"I eventually realized that so many people liked me and my music, which were all original. I was one of the favorites," he says. "I was happy and shocked at the same time."

He was placed fourth overall and won the Best Artist Promotion Award.

Ryan released his first indie album "This Is Me the Demo Project" in June 2007 and sold over 11,000 digital downloads of his music worldwide. He can be heard on over 400 radio stations throughout the U.S. Locally, listeners may request his songs at 93.9 FM.

Ryan was born and raised in Aiea with his sister Leliani, by his father Esteban who is from Laoga and Vigan City in the Philippines and mother Virginia who is from Paoya, Ilocos Norte. He can understand Ilocano fluently but can only speak a few sentences. He sings Tagalog songs but "doesn't have any idea what he's singing about."

He always gets requests to sing "Paano ang Puso ko," the first Filipino song he learned, he says.

Ryan sings mostly original compositions, which now numbers more than 200. The first song he composed, also one of his favorites, is "Miss You So Much, Don't Know Why." Done in 10 minutes flat. Again.

"The words just came to me. I heard a beat, closed my eyes and pressed the record. I sang

whatever came out of my mouth," he recalls.

"I write music from the heart, from real life experiences, family experiences or stories from a friend or someone I know who is going through something," Ryan says. "Sometimes I can finish a song in 5 minutes. Sometimes it takes awhile."

He takes inspiration from Filipino vocalist Lorie Salvatera, Michael Jackson, Nicole Scherzinger, Martin Nievera, Boys II Men and Elvis Presley.

Despite the fame, Ryan remains down-to-earth, thanks to his family which keeps him grounded. No special treatment for him and he definitely does not take himself seriously.

"I'm a nice guy with a big heart," he says. "I treat people the way I want to be treated."

He gives back through his "Living the Dream Project" with UNICEF, which helps kids who are sick and hospitalized.

"I'm just a simple guy who has a dream. I had a dream for over 10 years and never gave up," he says. "If you have a dream, don't let anyone stop you from doing it."

Tickets for Ryan's September 27 concert are now on sale online through Ticket Leap. The \$45 ticket includes a dinner buffet and a gift bag. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the 6 p.m. show.

If you're lucky, you might get a free song. ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Deforestation Among Highest in East, Southeast Asia

MANILA, Philippines - STUDIES BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK revealed that the Philippines has one of the highest annual deforestation rates in East and Southeast Asia at 1.4 percent, a senior House member said.

This report prompted Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara to sound the alarm over the state of forest destruction in the country, described as the most rapid and massive in the world. Economic giants China,

Japan, Taiwan and Korea belong to the group of nations known as East Asia.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines' neighbors are Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Brunei.

"There is no single solution to all these problems. The Tree for Legacy Act as a Forest Management program is certainly one of them," Angara said in filing House Bill 137, otherwise known as the "Tree for Legacy Act."

Angara said the measure, if passed into law, would ensure equitable access and sharing of rights to natural resources including development, management, protection and utilization by providing opportunities for the people to participate actively in forest resource development.

HB 137 recognizes the role of local government units, people's organizations and the community in general as effective partners of the government in the implementation and management of community-based forestry projects and other forest development projects.

Under the bill, the proposed Tree for Legacy program shall be a nationwide reforestation program to be administered by LGUs in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies.

The program encourages the active participation of individuals, indigenous peoples, concerned citizens or groups such as youth, students, and even police and the military and religious groups by providing incentives as well as rights and privileges to tree planters.

It aims to attain the following objectives: 1) enhance public awareness and participation in environmental restoration and protection; 2) encourage the participation of the public and private civil society in the reforestation program of the government; 3) generate incentives and additional sources of income and livelihood without impairing the ecological balance of our natural resources; 4) reduce poverty in the uplands; 5) cover all available land possible; and 6) accelerate implementation of reforestation programs with minimal government assistance. (www.philstar.com) ■

LEGAL MATTERS



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

There is a Waikiki attorney who, if he had never come to America would never have felt the pangs of age discrimination. He came on a work visa to write law books. Twenty years later when he reached 60, he was laid off together with more than 100 others. The President of the company, a Yale law graduate like him, who was the first to be laid off whispered: "They never taught us how to cope with this at Yale."

Friends suggested that he should sue for age and race discrimination. He was the oldest and the darkest in the group. However, his employer offered a generous lump sum "early retirement" benefits, plus a monthly pension and medical benefits for life. They indicated that if he sued he would not get medical benefits.

In a month's time, his company called and offered him his old job but would have to move to New York. He declined. He enjoyed California and his pocket was full. They asked him if he wanted to write on a contract basis. He accepted and is still writing.

One of his colleagues with less ground to complain (white and less than 50) sued and got a nice settlement. "See," his friends told him, "you should have sued."

WHAT CONSTITUTES AGE DISCRIMINATION

The Age Discrimination and

Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), 29 U.S.C. § 623(a), provides that it "shall be unlawful for an employer (1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual's age."

THE "BUT FOR" STANDARD

In the olden days, where an employee produced sufficient evidence to constitute a prima facie case, the burden shifted to the employer to show that the adverse employment action was taken for legitimate, nondiscriminatory reasons. The burden then shifted back to the employee to demonstrate that the employment action was actually motivated by the employee's age.

Even then, age discrimination suits were difficult to prove. How does the employee establish that age was the "because" of the adverse employment action? The employer could always claim that his productivity had gone down or the quality of his work had depreciated, etc. If your employer no longer wants you, it can manufacture all sorts of reasons why you should go. In a mass reduction in force situation, it is extremely difficult to prove that the employee was singled out because of age.

On June 18, 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court made it even more difficult to prove age discrimination. In *Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc.*, No. 08-441, it held that a plaintiff bringing an ADEA claim must prove by a preponderance of the evidence (direct or circumstantial) that age was the "but



for" cause of the challenged adverse employment action. In other words, the adverse employment action would not have been taken except for the age of the employee. The Court said that the burden of persuasion does not shift to the employer to show that it would have taken the action regardless of age, even when a plaintiff has produced some evidence that age was one motivating factor in that decision.

EMPLOYEE DEMOTED BUT PAY MAINTAINED

Gross was employed by a financial group in 1971. In 2001, he was claims administrator director. In 2003, when he was 54, he was reassigned to the position of claims project coordinator. The employer transferred many of his responsibilities to a newly created position - claims administration manager. That position was given to Lisa, a 40 something, whom Gross previously supervised. Both received the same compensation. Gross considered the reas-

ignment a demotion. He sued the employer alleging violation of ADEA. He introduced evidence showing that his reassignment was based at least in part on age. The employer said that the reassignment was part of a corporate restructuring and that Gross new position was better suited to his skills. The jury awarded Gross \$46,945 in lost compensation.

The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded for new trial, holding that the jury should have been instructed only to determine whether Gross had carried his burden of proving that age was the determining factor in the employer's employment action.

The U.S. Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals and remanded for further proceedings, saying that plaintiff bringing an age discrimination claim must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that age was the "but for" cause of the adverse employment action.

DECISION CRITICIZED

Four dissenters led by Justice

Paul Stevens said: "The most natural reading of this statutory text prohibits adverse employment actions motivated in whole or in part by the age of the employee." He said that the majority interpreted the words "because of" as colloquial shorthand for "but-for-causation." He said that the dictionaries do not define "because of" as "solely by reason of" or "exclusively on account of."

WHERE'S THE BEEF

This case should not have been brought at all. It seemed weak, to begin with. The plaintiff did not present direct or indirect proof that "but for" his age, he would not have been reassigned. He was not demoted. His salary remained. His responsibilities were diminished. It should have made him happy.

People should not be too sensitive like the Filipino cook who was formerly chief cook and now was only a cook with fewer responsibilities. He wanted to sue for age discrimination since the new chief cook was younger. However, his pay remained. I asked: "Where's the beef?" ■

(ATTY. TIPON is from Laog City, Philippines. He holds a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from U.P. He is admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court, other U.S. Courts, and Philippine courts. He handles cases throughout the U.S. and the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 905 Unit St., Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel: (808) 847-1601. E-mail: filianlaw@yahoo.com Website: www.immigration-services-usa.com. Listen to his very interesting, useful, and humorous program "Immigration X Files" on KNDD Hawaii radio 1270 AM on the dial every Friday 7:30-8:00 a.m. This article is for general information only. It is not legal advice. It may not be cited as an authority.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pacman Urged to Run for Senator, Not Congressman

by Jess DIAZ / Saturday, June 27, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - HOW ABOUT BEING CALLED SENATOR PACMAN, instead of Congressman Pacman?

Former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., Lakas-Kampari arbitration committee chairman, suggested yesterday that Filipino boxing champion Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao should run for senator in next year's elections.

"If he seeks a Senate seat, with his national exposure and popularity, he will be a sure winner," Pichay said in a Quezon City news forum.

"If he runs for congressman



of Sarangani against a member of the influential and wealthy Chiongban family, he is not sure of victory. He could lose again," he said.

Pacquiao has transferred residence and his voter registration from General Santos City in

South Cotabato to nearby Sarangani province in preparation for a second congressional run.

He built a mansion in Sarangani, whose incumbent representative, Erwin Chiongban, is on his third and last term. Another Chiongban is expected to seek Erwin's seat. Erwin took over from another Chiongban, Victor, who served for three terms. The Chiongban, who are administration allies, are into shipping and other businesses.

Pichay, a former three-term congressman, said Pacquiao should learn his lesson in politics from his defeat in 2007 to Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio of the first district of South Cotabato,

(continued on page 10)

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COMMUNITY PARADE



L to R: Ford Castillo from New York, Eduardo Montesevis, visiting from the Philippines, Federico Arrieta from Chicago and Jonathan Madrigal from New Jersey during a recent wedding reception.



Councilmember Romy Cachola with grandson Aiden, granddaughter Ayla, daughter Lyla, wife Dr. Erlinda Cachola and grandson Joey

John & Michael Zobian during the PMAH Fashion Show Event at Ihilani Hotel



Dr. Lea McMann with son Ryan and husband Dr. Michael McMann attending a Memorial weekend event at Ihilani Hotel during a memorial day weekend



L to R: (Seated) Cynthia Rojasles, Lita de la Cruz, and Dr. Chochi Vocalan (Standing) Dr. Amy Jacang and Dr. Glorifin Belmonte during a PMAH meeting



Dr. Mercedes Kua dancing Hula during a PMAH event



L-R: Dr. Arnold Villafuerte, Ariti Bumatayo, Marco Vallencia, Oliver Arguero, Drs. Nicamor Joaquin, Ray Romero, Charlie Sonido and JP Oras (Ancestral)

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HEADLINE NEWS (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1; Cabuguenians ...)

of the Cabugao Sons and Daughters Association of Hawaii (CSDAH) and reunion coordinator, has already earmarked this year's funds to connect the three public high schools in Cabugao to the World Wide Web.

"The main purpose of the reunion is to raise money to fund for the internet connection for our high schools in Cabugao," Sabangan says. Sabangan is a 1961 graduate of the University of the East in Manila, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and banking finance. He served as president of CSDAH from 1982-1983.

On the third and final day of the reunion, attendees will have the opportunity to further reinforce town and family ties in a more casual setting at a private beach house in Kailua.

CABUGAO'S RICH HISTORY

Cabugao in Ilocos Sur is nestled in between the Cordilleras and the China Sea. An eight-hour destination from Manila, Cabugao is 16 miles north of Vigan and 34 miles south of Laoag.

Cabugao established its international presence through the historic port of Salomague, one of its barangays. During the American occupation, it served as a mooring place for boats that ferried thousands of sugar plantation workers across the Pacific Ocean to sugar plantations in Hawaii and California. The port is marked with a Sakada Centen-

rial Station donated by Ilocano residents of Hawaii.

After a century, the descendants of these early migrants have mushroomed into great proportions, varied professions and spread all over the world—hence, a need for a well-planned reunion to reconnect with town mates and friends.

The first reunion of Cabuguenian expatriates was held in Los Angeles in 1994. In successive years, reunions were held in Honolulu in 1999, Santa Clara, California in 2004, and Anaheim, California in 2007.

The desire to meet more often is evidenced in the narrowing year gap of each reunion. The good that comes out of each reunion is the collective desire of ex-pats to give back to the community they left behind in Cabugao.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

This year's guest list is headlined by Honorable Deogracs "DV" Saveliano, Governor of Ilocos Sur, and Honorable Diocesar Suero, Mayor of Cabugao.

"We're expecting around 350 to 450 attendees coming from the Philippines, Canada, Europe and continental U.S.," Sabangan says.

Guests from the Mainland who are expected to attend the reunion include Romeo Sajor, president of Cabugao Organization of Southern California (COSCA); George Pahed, Presi-

dent of Cabugao Organization of Northern California (CANCA); and Charlie Concepcion, Coordinator of the first Cabugao Global Reunion in 1994.

CABUGAO GLOBAL QUEEN

CONTESTANTS

Angelica Niña Serna Foronda represents CANCA. Born in Honolulu, Angelica is the reigning Queen of the Cabugao Association of Northern California. She is the daughter of Dedita P. Serna and Elias Serna Foronda Jr.

Angelica spent four years of her youth in the Philippines. Although she has moved to Sacramento and has resided there since, the Philippines has never been far from her heart.

In high school, she competed on her school's golf team and maintained high enough grades to earn her various academic honors, such as the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Scholarship and the Presidents Volunteer Service Award.

A graduating senior at the Sacramento State University, Angelica is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and plans to attend graduate school in Dietetics. In addition to school, Angelica works for the City of Elk Grove and as a private tutor for elementary and middle school children.

When not studying and working, she participates in community service activities with Circle K and is a member of the Golden

Key International Honor society. She enjoys photography, playing golf, dancing and practicing her arnis techniques. Angelica is consistently on the Dean's List at Sacramento State University.

She believes in integrity and the importance of commitment. With a strong work ethic and dedication to assisting others in any way she can, Angelica has a very promising future.

Mila Pe Benito Benavidez. Mila was born in Cabugao. Her parents are the late Vicente Rosal Pe Benito and Coleta Santella Pe Benito. She attended the University of St. Tomas, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in accounting. Mila is certified public accountant by profession and is married to Benjie Benavidez, Jr.

Before moving the U.S. in 1980, Mila worked as an accountant at the Sheraton Hotel in Manila and Pepsi Philippines. She also worked as a senior accountant at Ushio America, Inc., a leading manufacturer of industrial and specialty lamps. She has been with the company for 29 years and is currently its comptroller. Despite a busy schedule with frequent trips to branch offices in Japan, the U.S. and Canada, Mila still manages to spend time with family and friends, and to get in a few rounds of mahjong.

Mila is an active member of COSCA USA, Inc. She is the auditor of the organization. Being a candidate is a way to support COSCA, the organization hosting this grand affair and to help the less fortunate back home.

Rosaline Sol Sabangan, aka "Rose" is a kamaaina, having migrated to the U.S. in 1961.

She is a product of the Cabugao Institute—the only private high school in Cabugao. She later earned a B.S. in home technology from the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños, Laguna in the Philippines. She also attended Honolulu Business College and received a certificate in junior accounting.

Rose worked briefly with the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Association in Ilagan, Isabela before coming to Hawaii. During her early years here, she worked for Phil Am Life Insurance Company, American Savings Bank and is currently employed by Territorial Savings Bank as senior savings counselor/notary public.

She is a very active supporter of several community organizations, having served as treasurer of St. Joseph School in Waipahu. She also served as CSDAH treasurer for several years, was elected president in 1999 when she was awarded the Distinguished Leadership/Service for chairing the 2nd Cabugao Global Reunion. Currently, Rose is one of CSDAH's advisers and in her sixth year as treasurer of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii.

Her hobbies and interest include shopping, ballroom dancing and traveling. She has been married to Al Sabangan for over 44 years and they have two children and five grandchildren. ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

(cont. from page 1; Pacman ...)

which includes General Santos City.

"Politics in the district is different. People vote for you because you have built a road, a water system, a school, a multi-purpose pavement, or some other projects in their communities, or have helped them in some other way. They will not vote for you because you are popular," he said.

He said the Antoninos have helped a lot of their constituents over the years.

"That's why they defeated Pacman," he added.

Darlene's mother was a former three-term congresswoman, while her father was a mayor of General Santos City.

"Perhaps, the Chiongians are a stronger opponent than the Antoninos. They are definitely more moneyed and can match Pacman's \$40-million earnings last year," he said.

He said if, on the other hand, Pacquiao seeks a Senate seat, his nationwide popularity and high awareness rating would get him elected.

"In 2007, I started with a 4.9-

percent approval rating and awareness of 45 percent. Because of television and radio ads, my ratings shot up to 40 percent for approval and 99 percent for popularity shortly before the elections. I nearly made it," he recalled.

"A senatorial run is largely a popularity game," he added.

Pichay admitted that if Pacquiao takes his unsolicited advice, Sarangani would be removed from his list of "conflict areas" where he would have to arbitrate disputes among administration allies.

A congressman who was a guest at the forum said if Pacquiao wins a Senate seat, "he would be in good company."

"Since he is a budding actor, he will join several showbiz colleagues in the Senate," he said.

Showbiz personalities in the Senate include Lito Lapid, Jinggoy Estrada and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

There are several others in the Senate who are aspiring actors and actresses. You see them frequently on television," said the congressman, who did not want to be named. (www.philstar.com) ■

■ PHILIPPINE NEWS

Belmonte Endorses Daughter as Vice Mayor, 'Bistek' as Mayor

by Ted P. TORRES /
Thursday, June 11, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – **QUEZON CITY MAYOR FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.** announced yesterday that his daughter, Joy Belmonte-Alimurung, will run for vice mayor in tandem with mayoralty candidate Herbert "Bistek" Bautista, the city's incumbent vice mayor, next year.

"She is not running for mayor as some people think. She is running for vice mayor," Belmonte said.

Joy, as the first lady of Quezon City, has been spearheading various outreach activities in the city and other parts of the country.

Belmonte made the announcement after he turned over two checks representing P43 million in premium arrears from the Quezon City Government to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

"Let me tell you, Joy Belmonte has a long record of social work, not only in Quezon City but in the country. Immediately after she graduated from college, she spent more than a year in Bukidnon as (part of Ateneo de Manila University's Jesuit Volunteer Program) and even in Quezon City, this has been her advocacy," he said.

Belmonte said he will also endorse Bautista's mayoralty bid.

The mayor, however, remains close-lipped on his political plans after he finishes his term. When asked if he will run as congressman again, Belmonte said: "That's one of my options. There are many options. Let's just wait."

Before going to GSIS yesterday morning for his appointment, Belmonte attended the



Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. poses with his daughter, Joy Belmonte-Alimurung

first meeting of the national executive committee of Lakas-Kampi in Quezon City. "It is more of a household fixing-up sort of meeting," he said.

Belmonte also defended Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando from insinuations that he (Fernando) should back out of his presidential plans.

Apparently referring to the statements of Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who has openly revealed his support for the bid of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Belmonte said Fernando remains one of the administration's choices for presidential candidate.

Belmonte said Fernando called him up to clarify the matter.

"Hey, that's not true. That maybe the view of one or two people who were present but certainly on an official basis, we have never excluded you. We continue to regard you as a prime candidate," Belmonte told Fernando. (www.philstar.com) ■

AFP: NPA Leaders Extorting Millions

by Jaime LAUDE /
Thursday, June 25, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – **SENIOR LEADERS OF THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY** (NPA) extort money from businesses and sexually exploit their female subordinates, a military spokesman said yesterday.

The Philippine Army said the case of Leoncio Pitao, the most prominent NPA leader in Davao, was typical of his colleagues of equivalent rank. The military allegations could not be independently confirmed.

Citing depositions from former NPA soldiers who have since surrendered, Army spokesman Col. Daniel Lucero said the central committee of the group's mother organization, the Communist Party of the Philippines, also sanctioned Pitao in 2007 for "pocketing party funds."

"Leoncio Pitao pockets an average of P5

million (\$100,000) per quarter extorted from different business establishments in Davao, which he embezzles for his personal use," Lucero said in a statement.

He said Pitao also underwent "disciplinary action" in the mid-1990s for sleeping with a married female member of his guerrilla unit.

Early this month, the senior rebel was shot and wounded by a comrade who accused Pitao of sleeping with his wife, Lucero said.

"This account involving a (rebel) leader's sexual opportunism and financial extortion in the guise of revolutionary taxation is not an aberration but a widespread practice among leaders of this communist terrorist group," Lucero alleged.

But the NPA accused the Army of riding on the controversy of the Hayden Kho-Katrina Hallil sex scandal to hit Pitao, alias "Commander Parago," by exposing his alleged sex escapades with female comrades. (www.philstar.com) ■



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Borrows P258.6 Billion in January-May

by Iris C. GONZALES /
Thursday, June 25, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – GOVERNMENT'S BORROWINGS WENT UP by 20 percent to P258.6 billion in the first five months of this year from P216.05 billion a year ago on the back of a swelling budget deficit, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTR) reported yesterday.

Of the total amount, the government's foreign borrowings increased by 141.1 percent to P101.44 billion from P42.08 billion

in the same period last year as the country tapped more official development assistance (ODA) loans from multilateral lending institutions including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Data showed that program loans disbursed during the period jumped 53 percent to P21.31 billion from P13.93 billion. These included loans from the World Bank (P9.622 billion), the Asian Development Bank (P7.056 billion) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) amounting to P4.63

billion.

The lending agencies likewise disbursed P8.75 billion worth of project loans in the first five months, or 11.3 percent higher than the P7.86 billion project loans available by the National Government last year.

On the other hand, government borrowings from domestic creditors declined by 9.7 percent to P157.14 billion from P173.97 billion.

The Treasury issued P144.5 billion worth of five- and seven-year benchmark bonds and it re-

leased P136.6 billion worth of existing bonds in January to increase liquidity in the domestic bond market.

In terms of payments, the government settled P209.85 billion worth of foreign and domestic debt from January to May, or P11.3 billion higher than the P198.63 billion it paid in the same period last year.

In all, the government borrowed P48.74 billion in the first five months of the year or 178 percent higher than the P17.52 billion in the same period last year to finance the budget deficit.

The budget deficit swelled to P123.2 billion from January to May from the P18.8 billion deficit recorded in the same period last year. In May alone, the deficit amounted to P11.4 billion from a surplus of P7 billion recorded a year ago.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the interagency group that sets the country's macroeconomic assumptions, has already revised the government's budget deficit ceiling to P250 billion or 3.2 percent of gross domestic product from the ceiling of P199.2 billion or 2.5 percent of GDP. (www.philstar.com)

5 Dead, 7 Missing as 'Feria' Batters Luzon, Visayas

by Jaime LAUDE /
Thursday, June 25, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL (NDCC)

reported yesterday that five persons were killed and seven were reported missing after tropical storm "Feria" slammed Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the storm has maintained its strength as it continued to move out of the country towards the South China Sea.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., who is also NDCC chairman, said five persons were confirmed dead, four of them crew members of a motorboat that was hit by a tornado as it took shelter at a local port in Perez, Quezon around midnight, while the other person drowned in Bantayan, Cebu.

Teodoro identified the fatalities in Perez, Quezon, as boat captain Roberto Longaza, Ruben Rajas,

Boyet Drias and Ryan Brogada.

The four were on board their motorboat that was hit by a tornado while docked at Sitio Pinagbayan, Barangay Sanguitun.

The fifth fatality drowned during a flash flood at Hilutungan in Bantayan.

The NDCC said most of the missing were fishermen who went out in the rough waters off Eastern and Central Visayas.

Among those reported missing were Rey Pelaque, Rudy Boderos, Potenciano Amante, Boyboy Cabatan, Olimpio Darang, all of Eastern Samar and Totoy Croyan of Southern Leyte.

The NDCC also reported that 20 houses were destroyed after a tornado hit Canavid, Eastern Samar at the height of the storm.

Three more houses in Barangay Concepcion Sur, Sta. Maria, Romblon were destroyed as the tropical storm made landfall in the island province yesterday.

The weather bureau said that as of 11 a.m. yesterday, storm warning signal no. 2 was raised over Marinduque, Romblon, North-

ern Quezon, Mindoro provinces, Lubang Island, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Zambales, Rizal, Tarlac, and Metro Manila.

Signal no. 1 was raised over the Calamian Group, Cuyo Island, Masbate, Ticao Island, Burias Island, Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines provinces, Southern Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Aklan, Northern Antique.

Storm warning signals in other areas were lowered yesterday morning.

Classes in the elementary and high school levels were suspended in the areas that were covered by storm warning signal no. 2.

Pagasa administrator Prisco Nilo said Feria made landfall in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro yesterday afternoon, bringing strong winds and heavy rains.

He said the storm passed near Metro Manila between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. last night.

The storm is expected to be at 130 kms west of Dagupan City this afternoon, at 310 kms west of Basco, Batanes tomorrow afternoon, and at 80 kms west of Taiwan on Saturday afternoon.

Nilo said the weather would improve gradually this afternoon. Feria is the sixth tropical cyclone to enter the country this year and the first this month.

The storm is packing winds of 75 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph. Feria is predicted to move northwest at 17 kph.

It is expected to be at 70 kilometers west of Iba, Zambales this morning, at 140 kms northwest of Laoag City tomorrow morning and at 210 kms northwest of Basco, Batanes by Saturday morning.

Pagasa continued to warn residents living in low-lying, mountainous, and coastal areas under storm warning signals no. 2 and 1 against possible flashfloods, landslides and storm surges.

FISHERMEN MISSING

Two fishermen were reported missing while some 3,067 passengers were stranded in 12 ports in Bicol, the office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.



Passengers queue at a train station in Manila after services were interrupted because of rains caused by Typhoon Fera. (UP)

Raffy Bernardo, OCD regional director, said that Tito Gaspe, 52, and a certain Joshua, both fishermen from Barangay Baris in Matnog, Sorsogon were reported missing.

The NDCC said two other fishermen who were earlier reported missing while fishing off Barangay Sofia in Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte, were found alive at the coastal area of Barangay Malibago in Surigao City yesterday.

Bernardo also said that some 3,067 passengers were stranded in Camaligan (36), Sabang (20), Pasacao (12), Pio Duran (12), Pilar (200), Bulan (86), Matnog (2,283), Bapor (225), Milagros (20) and Placer (8), including 55 trucks, 52 cars, 44 passenger buses, 13 vans and 10 motor boats.

Alejandro said that most of the stranded passengers were bound for the Visayas and Mindanao.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda has ordered Albay Public Safety and Management Office (APSEMO) head Cedric Daep to activate the various city and municipal disaster coordinating councils to prepare for evacuation, especially in low-lying and landslide-prone areas to insure zero casualty as he ordered classes at the elementary and high school levels suspended throughout the province.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued 14 passengers of a motorized boat that reportedly capsized near Mactan Island in Cebu.

PCG commandant Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo said that all 14 passengers and crew of M/B Jon Jon survived the incident and were brought to Barangay Alegria, Cordova, Mactan Island where they were given medical assistance.

Initial information reaching

the PCG headquarters showed that the Jon-Jon left Tubigon, Bohol at around 3 p.m. of June 23, Tuesday. They were on their way to Hilatongan, Cebu when their boat capsized.

Tamayo said there had been reports that the 14 passengers and crew of the Jon-Jon could have been rescued earlier but another passing passenger ship did not stop to rescue them.

He ordered Commodore Rolando Dizon, district commander of PCG-Central Eastern Visayas district, to conduct a formal inquiry into the incident.

If it is proven that the vessel was aware that there were people in distress and yet ignored them, then the ship captain may be held liable for violating provisions of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.

SHIP PASSENGERS

STRANDED

Around 1,200 passengers were stranded at the ports of Batangas City and Calapan in Oriental Mindoro when the PCG suspended all sea vessel trips to Mindoro, Batangas and Romblon due to storm Fera Wednesday morning, officials said.

Joy Hernandez, administrative assistant of Batangas 2 Port Terminal, said the PCG suspended all trips as early as 3 p.m. last Tuesday in anticipation of the strong wind and rainfall brought by the typhoon.

Hernandez said around 600 passengers were stalled in terminals 2 and 3 in Batangas Port when all roll-on, roll-off vessels from Montenegro Shipping Lines, Besta and StarLine were barred from traveling, as well as the fast-craft of SuperCat and RS Shipping Lines. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

Relief for Widows and Orphans



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to allow orphans, parents and spouses of U.S. citizens to continue their family-based immigration applications despite the death of their sponsoring relative.

Under the current law, the surviving spouse is eligible to obtain a green card only if the cou-

ple had been married for at least two years.

In the past, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had taken the position that if the American spouse died before the second anniversary of their marriage, the spouse could no longer obtain his/her green card based on the marriage and he/she could be deported.

The bill introduced last June by Senators Robert Menendez, Kirsten Gillibrand and Patrick Leahy is known as the Orphans, Widows and Widowers Protection Act (S.1427.)

It will allow the spouses and unmarried children of family-sponsored immigrants and derivative beneficiaries of employment-based visas to benefit from a filed visa petition after the death of the

sponsoring relative if the application is filed within two years.

It will also allow the spouse and minor unmarried children of refugees and asylees to immigrate to the U.S. despite the death of the principal applicant and allow them to adjust their status.

Cases that have been previously denied may be reopened to allow the foreign applicant to be paroled into the U.S. when the sponsoring relative died after submitting a family-based petition.

The bill will also allow the surviving spouse to continue his/her naturalization as long as the deceased spouse was a U.S. citizen during the three (3) years prior to filing.

Senator Gillibrand said that "this legislation is an important part of our efforts to reform America's

family-based immigration system to reunite loved ones, promote family stability and foster economic growth that immigrant families have provided throughout history."

The introduction of the bill follows an announcement by Janet Napolitano, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, to grant "deferred action to the widows or widowers of U.S. citizens who otherwise would have been denied the right to remain in the U.S."

This would allow these individuals and their children to stay in the U.S. pending resolution of their legal status. This directive is applicable whether the citizen relative submitted a visa petition on behalf of his/her spouse and children before his/her death.

Deferred action means suspended deportation proceedings against a particular individual. It allows the individual to apply for work authorization.

Secretary Napolitano in her announcement said that the deferred action is only a short-term arrangement and that a legislation would be required to amend our immigration laws. Such amendment she said should allow surviving spouses to remain indefinitely after the U.S. citizen spouse dies to enable him/her to obtain permanent resident status. ■

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695-5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

GLOBAL NEWS



Jollibee is Philippines' Best Company

POPULAR FAST FOOD EATERY JOLLIBEE Foods Corporation is the most-admired company in the Philippines, according to the Annual Asia 200 survey by the Asian Wall Street Journal (AWSJ).

Jollibee also ranked number one in terms of corporate reputation and innovation.

The corporation's tenacity in the face of the global economic downturn earned votes from AWSJ's subscribers and top businessmen. Despite a drop in overall spending by Filipinos, Jollibee

increased its fourth quarter sales by 18 percent compared to the previous year, thanks to consumer-oriented expansion and marketing strategies.

With its consistently high-quality food at value prices, Jollibee was the top choice of more customers trading down from more expensive restaurants—customers who preferred more value-for-money fare. Apart from its popular burger and fries joints, the Jollibee also offers pizza, pasta and even Chinese food through its other brands Greenwich and

Chowking.

The AWSJ article quoted a consumer as saying: "I used to go to Starbucks for coffee and maybe a pastry for breakfast, but now most days, I pop into Jollibee where I can eat breakfast for half the price or less."

To date, the corporation already has 1,825 stores, including 307 overseas. Jollibee also continues to expand internationally, having just opened a store in Queens, New York and with more in the works for Asia and the Middle East. Currently, Jollibee has 660 local and 50 international branches.

The same article quotes Luz Lorenzo, an economist in Manila: "Jollibee is a barometer for the Philippine economy."

Financial experts agree that Jollibee's continuous growth and leadership signal good things for the Philippine economy, the bulk of which is made up of consumer spending that the corporation helps to keep going. (*Good News Pilipinas*) ■

UN Pays Tribute to Philippine Peacekeepers in Liberia

THE UNITED NATIONS recently paid tribute to Filipino peacekeepers serving in Liberia by awarding them medals for upholding the UN's values of integrity, professionalism and respect for the people and communities they serve, and for their contribution to peace and stability in that country.

Members of the 11th Philippine Peacekeeping Contingent serving with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) were presented with medals by during a special ceremony held on June 25, 2009.

Ambassador Ellen Margrothe Lej, the Special Representative of the Secretary General and head of

UNMIL, commended the 135-member contingent responsible for the security of the UNMIL Headquarters, saying the Filipino peacekeepers have "discharged their duties with discipline and rigor."

Ambassador Lej made special mention of the recent decision of the Philippine government to send more women to peacekeeping missions. She described the role of the nine Filipino peacekeepers serving in UNMIL's clerical and logistical components as "invaluable to our success."

Ambassador Lej singled out the work of Filipina peacekeeper Consolacion Frias, whose collec-

tion of peacekeeping-inspired poetry "moves us all to further embrace our roles as protectors of peace and justice with great pride."

The UN envoy also gave special recognition to Lt. Col. Arnel dela Vega, the contingent commander, for his strong leadership and inspiring fellow officers to live up to the UN's highest ideals.

Lt. Col. Dela Vega said the participation of the Philippines in Liberia manifests the government's resolve to become an active and committed partner of the UN to bring peace and stability to Liberia and other nations. (*DFA*) ■

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MAINLAND NEWS



ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

Kas ito nawada a langit, awan met pay ti marmardani nga ulep kunatayo. Ngem ania kettin nga apuratayo a kumanang ken sumalpingpeng ito linong no ti narasay nga ulep itay ket nagbalin a nabengbeng, sa gidaddo nga itinnagna ti tudo a mangdapep ti daga!

Saanmi a mailadawan ti pangyaringan itoy a pasken nga inummong dagiti nadumaduma a grupo, gunglo ken tattao a taga llocos Norte iti kas man "kapardis ti kimat" a panagasagna. Good planning; quick planning and action agadi!

KAALDAWAN ti Aldaw dagiti Amma iti Hunio 21, 2009. Naangay daytoy a pasken iti natalak a parke a Neal Blaisdel Park. Napuseken ti parke. Iti taldiap man wenna panangimutektek, kasla naglubuan ti adu sarpaw. Iti kalsada itay, tumtoy dagiti lugan nga aglutrong diotay.

DAKKEL A PIESTA! Kasla parambak iti kabesera ti probinsia. Ilokan, Norte man ken Sur, adu pay met ti sabasbali a nag-gapoy iti nadumaduma nga ili ken probinsia.

Nasungadmi ti booth ti KNDI

Radio. Madama nga agsarsarita ni Gobernador Michael Marcos Keon babaien iti inuman man Tony Sagayadoro. Ipekpeksa ti gobernador ti nalaus a pangayamanna iti pannakasangpelda iti Hawaii a makininninged, makomusta ken makininnadali iti ania man a banag a mabalin a panagdur-as iti probinsia ken iti kaprobinislaanna iti ballasiw.

Nasaludod no agpaliyavonto iti masungang nga eleksion: agpanagratay iti pagyatan dagiti lao.

Naisaruno a nagsarita ni Board Member Yvonne Ranada, ken dadduma pay.

Rinetratami dagiti nadumaduma a sarpaw [lent] ti tunggal grupo wenna ili kas iti Vintar Hawaii Ohana, Nueva Era, Currimao, Burgos, Sarrat, Annak Ti San Nicolas, San Nicolas Teachers Assn of Hawaii, Annak Ti Batac, Pasquinio Assn of Hawaii.

Naisabitkami iti yan da Jess Quemado iPaoy ken dati a bise presidente ti OFCC ket inyam-amona ni Paoyay Mayor Bonifacio Clemente, Jr., adda met ni Board Member Jessie Galano. Sangaplatoy a aku pokit, fried chicken ti adda iti sangoda.

"Narambak daytoy a panagtipon," kinuna ni Art Caleda, iPa-suquin, presidente dagiti beterano

iti Hawaii, "nasayaat unay ti di-toytoyto manen nga agkikita ta nabayag metlen a diak nakabakacion," imayonna iti panagsarsarita ken ni Mayor Clemente.

Impagnami pay tapno makitami pay dagiti sabali a sarpaw, naawagan ti naganami, ni gayam Atty Mar Apuya. ti baro a presidente ti gungloda, ti adda iti sarpaw ti Annak Ti Batac, ket nabuldag met ti Batac Pinili Aid Assn of Hawaii a natsariping iti banner ti Annak Ti Batac.

Inalambi ti retrato iti grupo da Mayor Thomas Toralba, adda met ni dati a diputado Jun Abinsay.

Dagiti kinakuyog ni Gobernador Michael Marcos Keon, maibang da

1. Mayor Thomas Toralba, Batac
2. Mayor Salvacion Cimat, Bangui
3. Mayor Carlito Abadilla II, Banna
4. Bise Mayor Carlito Abadilla, Banna
5. Board Member Alberto Chua,

Batac City

6. Board Member Ma Elena M. Nalupa, Batac City
7. Mayor Cresente Garcia, Burgos
8. Mayor Rosario Go, Currimao
9. Mayor Roberto Castro, Dingras
10. Mayor Francis Espiritu, Dumalneg
11. Board Member Shirley Ong Sin, Laoag City
12. Board Member Portia Pamela R. Salenda, Laoag City
13. Board Member Yvonne Ranada, Laoag City
14. Board Member Vicentino Lazo, Laoag City
15. Executive Assistant Miriam A. Damo, Laoag City
16. Consultant Rep. Jonathan dela Cruz, Laoag City
17. Consultant Atty Ferdinand Dumalao, Laoag City
18. Mayor Salvador Pillos, Marcos
19. Mayor Aldrin Garvida, Nueva Era
20. Mayor Marlon Ferdinand Sales, Pagudpud
21. Bise Mayor Matilde Sales, Pagudpud
22. Board Member Jessie Galano, Paoy
23. Mayor Bonifacio Clemente, Jr., Paoy
24. Mayor Edito Balintona, Sarrat
25. Mayor Joseph de Lara, Solsóna

[Naammuanni a simmang-gap ti grupo idi kalman [Sabado]

Welkam to Hawaii Apo Keon Ken Kakad-uam. Ket Nagpiesta Dagiti Taga Ilocos Norteniens Iiti Hawaii Iiti Kaaldawan Ti Aldaw Dagiti Amma

ket sinabat ida ti grupo ti INA ken dadduma pay. Naammuanni pay a mayasa a nabaknang a pangngaldaw iti pagtaengang dagiti agassawa nga Orlando Ken Emi Ganir]

Adda met dagiti local politlician a nalitubon pakabilangan da Honolulu Council Member Donovan Dela Cruz, Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Rep. Joey Manahan

Dagiti organizers, maibiang da Dante Jose, Buddy Tuncat Ii Vintar Hawaii Ohana. Dr. Danilo Ablan, Mito Ablan, Baybee Domingo, Emma Pacle, Baybee Hufana Ablan. Thannie Agarpao. JP Orias. Ken dadduma pay.

Ni Dwayne Bueno ti presidente ti Ilocos Norteniens of America, Inc.

Naawang daytoy a panagtipon [wenna piesta] ti Taste of Ilocos Norte ken iti likudan ti panagkururang gapu iti ekonomia, nakalabalaban ken nakabakabangkang dagiti naisagana a taroan kas iti popular a Mang Gorio's Lechon. Adda pinakbet, pansit, ken adu pay.

Nayon ti parambak ti health fair, Free health assessment, orientation on Diabetes, Mamogram, Bone Marrow, Cardio, Ophthalmology, Thoracic nga inseyangkati ti Sirmata Vision 2002, ken ti Hawaii Medical Clinic a dinangyanan ti Clinical Laboratories.

Itoy Hunio 24, 2009, maang-gap ti mayasa pay a panakasabaro daytoy a sangaili iti FilComCenter. ■

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-MAINLAND NEWS- Processing of Fil Vets' Claims on Track

AFTER RECENT CONSULTATIONS with the U.S. Veterans Administration, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa says the filing and processing of claims by Filipino World War II veterans remain on track.

"We are in constant consultation with officials from the U.S. Veterans Administration," Ambassador Gaa says. "The Philippine Embassy, particularly the Veterans Affairs Section, will continue to monitor the process."

To date, a total of 32,657 claims have been received. Of the amount, 2,834 claims have been granted and 1,060 claims denied. A total of 28,763 claims are pending.

"In light of our Independence Day celebrations earlier this month, we must always remember the courage and sacrifice of our Filipino World War II veterans and rededicate ourselves to the ideals



Ambassador Willy C. Gaa

and values they fought for and to ensure that they continue to receive the recognition and benefits that they so justly deserve," Ambassador Gaa says.

"We also thank our many friends in Congress and in Filipino-American communities across the U.S. for all of their efforts on behalf of our veterans."

(DFA) ■

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JUNE TO AUGUST—Overseas Absentee Voting Registration for Filipino citizens who wish to vote in the presidential elections in May 2010. Registrants may come to the Consulate in person with their Philippine passports to accomplish the application form.

JULY 10-14TH — Ambassadors and Consul Generals Tour to the Philippines, a special package tour for the public.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) ANNUAL CONVENTION/ SATURDAY
June 27, 2009 • 7:30 am - 4 pm • Hilton Hawaii Village Resort & SPA
• Contact event chair Carlota Ader at 688-3215 or Lina Longbo at 375 0828 for more details

July 17, 2009 • 6 pm. • FilCom Center

CABUGAO, GLOBAL REUNION, GALA NIGHT/ SATURDAY
July 18, 2009 • 6 pm. • Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village

CABUGAO, GLOBAL REUNION, FAMILY PICNIC/ SUNDAY
July 19, 2009 • 9 am. • Kaneohe Beach
For details, call Al Sabañagan at 677-94-87 or 783-4678

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS GALA / SUNDAY
July 19, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki

BATAAN CATALINA 79TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION/ SATURDAY

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