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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

FIL-COM CENTER TO HOST GALA DINNER FUNDRAISER

Lani Misalucha and Albert Maligmat to Entertain

By HFC Staff

The Filipino Community Center (Fil-Com Center) will honor three outstanding members of Hawaii's business and philanthropic community at a gala fundraiser set for December 3, 2010 at 6 pm at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballroom.

The three honorees are Group Builders president Lito Alcantra, Hawaiian Airlines and Patti Lyons, former executive director of the Consuelo Foundation. All three will be recognized for their contributions to Hawaii, as well as their on-going support for the Fil-Com Center.

Proceeds from the fundraiser—called "Bayanihan" (the Filipino value of coopera-

tion and helping each other)—will help support Fil-Com's youth and senior programs, cultural events, citizenship and technology sessions, and dance, exercise, and martial arts classes. The Fil-Com Center, the largest facility of its kind in the nation, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides cultural, social and educational services to Hawaii's Filipinos as well as the community at-large.

Financial support from the community is essential, particularly during the bleak economy. Fil-Com Center president Toy Arre is appealing to the corporate community, Filipino Community organizations as well as individuals to purchase sponsorship tables or individual seats.

"The Fil-Com Center needs to fundraise because government

(continued on page 4)



LITO ALCANTRA



CEO MARK DUNKERLEY OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES



PATTI LYONS



Lani Misalucha Albert Maligmat



Photo by Tim Llena

Olelo to Broadcast "Love Stories" Musical

By HFC Staff

Olelo Community Media, the source for public, education and governmental (PEG) access on Oahu, will broadcast "Love Stories" by Doctors-on-Stage throughout the month of December. The musical was performed at the Filipino Com-

munity Center in Waipahu on October 9, 2010 to a sold-out audience. "Love Stories" is the fourth major musical production by Doctors-on-Stage, which is comprised of physicians, their assistants and friends who banded together several years ago under the direction of Dr. Char-

(continued on page 4)

Philippines 4th Among World's Top Remittance Recipients

By Ted P. TORRES

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines ranks as the fourth biggest recipient of remittances worldwide with an estimated \$21.3-billion inflow this year, a new World Bank study showed.

The World Bank's latest Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011 show that OFW remittances have been rising steadily from \$10.24 billion in 2003 to \$19.76 billion last year. Remittances accounted for 12 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product

(continued on page 4)



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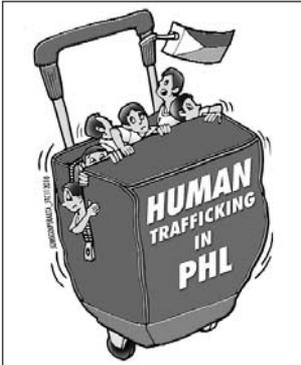
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EDITORIAL

Unresolved

The country may lose \$250 million in US aid, and it has nothing to do with the looming formal review of the Visiting Forces Agreement. Washington has set standards for qualifying for the aid, and the Philippines cannot meet certain requirements. Among these is the resolution of human trafficking cases filed in court. Last year Washington placed the Philippines on a Tier 2 watch list for weakness in curbing human smuggling, and the country could lose the \$250 million if it is downgraded to Tier 3.

The other day, the Supreme Court ordered lower courts to give priority to human trafficking cases and resolve these within 180 days from arraignment. That's six months, unless the order refers to working days, but even then that will add only a few months to the deadline. That speed of resolution will be a record in Philippine courts, which are notorious for backlogs and snail's pace of resolving cases.



Courts are not sitting specifically on human trafficking cases. The glacial pace of justice has long bedeviled the country, affecting all types of court cases. Suspected law-breakers are arrested and indicted, but the conviction rate for many crimes is dismal. Multilateral agencies have noted the same problem even in tax evasion cases. The conviction rate is also low for corruption cases, particularly the major ones.

The campaign against human trafficking happens to be a priority of the US State Department, and the possibility of losing \$250 million in aid is galvanizing Manila to improve its record in this department. It would be better, however, if the Supreme Court could push for the speedy resolution of all court cases. Many of those cases do not allow the accused to post bail. If such cases drag on for many years, it is unfair to the innocent who land behind bars. The long wait is also unfair to the victims, who know only too well that justice delayed is justice denied.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Regulating Lobbying

For an administration that champions transparency, this legislative measure is worth supporting. A bill seeking to define and regulate lobbying in Congress, Malacañang and other government offices has been filed by Marikina Rep. Marcelino Teodoro. House Bill 1199 is patterned after similar laws and rules in the United States, where lobby groups are registered and their activities regulated.

In this country, lobbying is as old as Congress, but the activity has taken on an unsavory connotation. Payoffs and other under-the-table deals have come to be associated with lobbying, with no limits on the amount that might be paid in exchange for the passage of a legislative measure.

There is no guarantee that a law regulating lobbying activities would put an end to corruption in the legislative process and related government transactions. But with a law in place, violators of transparency rules can be penalized. Under House Bill 1199, violators face a fine of at least P30,000, imprisonment of up to six months, and a three-year suspension of the lobby group's registration.

The proposed law will require special interest groups to register their lobbying activities with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Lobbying is defined as any oral or written communication with a public official, which is intended to influence the crafting of a legislative proposal by the government or any member of Congress.

In several countries, a limit is set on the value of gifts that public officials can receive from people doing business with their agencies. Lobbyists are banned from treating public officials to pricey meals. While such activities are hard to monitor, those caught breaking the law – both the lobbyist and public official – can

be penalized.

Citizens have a right to lobby their legislators to pass certain laws. But the process must be transparent and must not provide opportunities for corruption. Massive slush funds have built family fortunes in Congress, and House Bill 1199 might have as much chance of passage as proposals to regulate campaign finance and discourage political dynasties. But the administration that won on a platform of transparency and reforms might be able to make a difference.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Tips For Those Planning to Retire

by Jane YAMAMOTO-BURIGSAY

Planning to retire in early 2011? If so, now may be the time to apply. Applying for benefits is easier than you think, especially if you do it online. The Social Security website makes the process easy and convenient.

Just logon to your computer and visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline. You can apply online for your retirement

benefits from the comfort of your home or office and be done in as little as 15 minutes.

To use our online application to apply for Social Security retirement or spouse's benefits, you must:

- Be at least 61 years and 9 months old
- Want to start your benefits in the next four months

- Live in the U.S. or one of its commonwealths or territories.

If you are already age 62, your benefits could start as early as this month. If you are almost 65, your application for benefits will include Medicare. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application

and contact you if any further information is needed.

Deciding when to retire is a personal choice and you should consider a number of factors, but we can certainly help. Visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html> and read our factsheet about the things you should think about when making this important decision.

Regardless of when you plan

to retire, you should consider doing it about three months ahead of time. Then you'll know that your payments will make it to you on time.

If you are not quite ready to retire but are thinking about doing so in the near future, you may want to visit Social Security's website to use our convenient and informative retirement planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2. Here you can find out just how close you are to meeting your financial goals and then "bookmark" the website to file for retirement benefits when you are ready. From there, you can use our "Retirement Estimator" to get an instant, personalized estimate of your retirement benefits.

Remember that you're always first in line whenever you go online. Learn more about Social Security by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov. ■

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Unveils New Heavy Duty Buses

CITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS recently announced the purchase of 24 new heavy-duty clean diesel buses, which will replace older models to be retired from the City fleet.

"This purchase is a prudent and cost-effective upgrade to Honolulu's award-winning bus service," says Mayor Peter Carlisle. "Public transportation is vital to Oahu, and we will continue to carefully invest in our island's future."

The 40-foot-long buses are manufactured by Nova Bus, part of the Volvo Bus Corporation, and cost \$435,696 each. They are one of the lightest heavy-duty diesel buses made, which makes them more fuel efficient and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

The buses will be used primarily on less-congested, long-haul routes, where they are most efficient. The City will continue to deploy hybrid diesel-electric buses in urban, congested routes, where they provide better fuel economy.

Each bus can accommodate 39 seated and 31 standing passengers and is equipped to carry two wheelchair or scooter passengers and three bicycles. The buses also feature automated "next stop" announcements, air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, wide front doors and large windows. ■

HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

operating grants have literally dried up during the last two years," Arre says. "Further income from rentals has dipped due to the depressed commercial rental market.

"The goal of the fundraising gala is to raise \$100,000 to support Fil-Com's on-going projects like the NCLEX review courses for nurses, the Smart Seniors program, the Banda Kawayan musical performing group and computer training classes to name a few."

Arre says this year's gala fundraiser is different from the last one in 2006 because organizers are bringing in top entertainers. Entertainment will include vocalists Lani Misalucha, who has recently returned from headlining a show at the Hilton Las Vegas, and Little Albert Malimat. Also scheduled to perform is the Fil-Com Center's resident bamboo band—the "Banda Kawayan." The group is composed of students from

Waipahu schools and community members who are learning to play the traditional festival instruments.

"There will be no Silent Auction," Arre says. "But there will be six business class round trip tickets to Manila, courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines, that will be raffled."

TV personality Emme Tomimbang will emcee the evening's festivities. Honorary chairs are former Governor Ben Cayetano and his wife Vicky, and Hawaiian Air's President and CEO Mark Dunkerley.

MEET THE HONOREES

The first Bayanihan Award honoree is Lito Alcantra, who was born to a farming family in San Vicente, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. On arriving in Hawaii in the early 1970s, he worked himself up from the bottom to form Group Builders which is now the largest finishing contracting company in Hawaii.

Alcantra was president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce

when the building of a Filipino center for Hawaii was initiated. He was instrumental in the completion of the \$14 million project in 2002. He also serves on the boards of many non-profit and professional organizations.

The second honoree is not an individual, but a company—Hawaiian Air. Since it began offering direct flights from Honolulu to Manila, Hawaiian Air has assisted the Filipino community of Hawaii in airlifting materials and supplies for medical missions and victims of floods, typhoons and other emergencies. Hawaiian Air also faithfully supports other programs and projects, including the Filipino Chamber of Commerce trade mission and the Fil-Com Center's annual Filipino Fiesta and Parade.

Last but not least, is the third honoree—Patti Lyons who headed the Consuelo Foundation for many years after serving as its first executive director. Lyons currently serves as historian, secretary and board member of the Consuelo Foundation, which serves poor and disadvantaged communities in Hawaii and the Philippines.

A pioneer in the social services field, Lyons was instrumental in the establishment of the first Child Protective Services Center, Hawaii Healthy Start, and several child protective laws in Hawaii. She has also headed Child and Family Services and has received numerous honors, including this year's Mayor's 2010 Honolulu Forever Young Award and the University of Hawaii's Honorary Doctor of Human Letters designation.

Individual tickets are \$250. Table sponsorships are available, with \$175 in ticket donations tax deductible. For tickets and information, contact Tess of the Fil-Com Center at 680-0451, Bryan Andaya at 542-9511 or Fil-Com Center President Toy Arre at 520-1450. ■



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

lie Sonido. The musical will be aired on the following dates:

- December 1, 2010 at 11:30 am on Channel 49
- December 9, 2010, at 2 pm on Channel 49
- December 17, 2010 at 3 pm on Channel 52
- December 21, 2010 at 9:30 am on Channel 49

In case you missed it, the main story line or theme of "Love Stories" is that love never dies. Love in fact, endures and cannot be destroyed. "Previous themes for our musicals were about war and peace and rais-

ing children," says Dr. Sonido. "This year, we have chosen love stories as our theme and how love can be enduring despite illness, separation, divorce or death." "Love Stories" raised funds for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), a non-profit clinic that provides free medical and dental services to immigrants and underserved residents of all ethnicities who do not have medical insurance. Doctors-on-Stage's previous three musical productions—"War and Peace," "Rainbow Connection" and "Butterflies and Kisses" were performed at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall and on the neighbor islands. ■

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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

for 2009, the report said.

The Philippines trailed India (\$55 billion), China (\$51 billion) and Mexico (\$22.6 billion) in terms of remittances received.

Other nations in the top 10 remittance-receiving countries are: France (\$15.9 billion), Germany (\$11.6 billion), Bangladesh (\$11.1 billion), Belgium, (\$10.4 billion), Spain (\$10.2 billion) and Nigeria (\$10 billion).

Overall, migrants sent a total of \$325 billion to their home countries this year, up six percent from last year.

The report further noted that despite the weakening of the developed economies, the deployment of migrants increased, and along with the expansion of new markets, have helped deal with the struggling developed economies.

The report also showed that the Philippines ranked ninth in the world in emigrants, with a total of 4.3 million Filipinos out of the country. At least 51.1 percent of overseas Filipinos are female while only 13.7 percent of migrants finished college.

Mexico is the country with the greatest number of citizens working abroad with 11.9 million, followed by India with 11.4 million, the World Bank report said.

The report also showed that a total of 20,149 doctors or 17.5 percent of physicians trained in the Philippines have left the country for jobs abroad.

Top destination countries for Filipinos are the US, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Italy, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the UK.

World Bank lead economist Dilip Ratha said he expects remittance to developing countries to increase by 6.2 percent in 2011 and

8.1 percent in 2012. He, however, warned that the outlook for remittance flows could be affected by fiscal retrenchment in major destination countries in North America and Europe.

He also warned that movements in currency exchange rates and commodity prices can pose unpredictable risks for remittance flows.

"While a weaker US dollar can imply larger dollar-denominated remittances from Europe, it can also increase dollar prices of assets and goods in remittance-receiving countries such as India, Mexico and the Philippines," he said.

Finally, he said stricter immigration controls imposed in response to high domestic unemployment rates could adversely affect migration and remittance flows.

Ratha said remittances in 2008 and 2009 became even more of a lifeline to poor countries, given the massive decline in private capital flows sparked by the crisis.

He noted that in addition to crisis-related risks, there are major structural and regulatory changes in the global remittance market. He said regulations to combat financial crime have become a roadblock to the adoption of new mobile money transfer technologies for cross-border remittances.

"There is urgent need to reassess regulations for remittances through mobile phones and mitigate the operational risks," Ratha said.

The World Bank report also noted that the increased adoption of mobile technology for remittances have been experiencing roadblocks as nations are reviewing the process in order to curb financial crimes such as laundering.

(www.phlistar.com) ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Appeal For Assistance for Cagayan Flood Victims

OAHU RESIDENT ELIZABETH BALAO is appealing to Hawaii's Filipinos to assist tens of thousands of flood victims in the Cagayan Valley region, which was devastated in the wake of Super Typhoon Juan on October 19, 2010.

She described the situation as "desperate."
 "If we don't do anything now, the possibility of starvation is imminent," Balao says. "I am begging everyone to help the people of Cagayan Valley."

Juan left billions of pesos worth in damages on staple crops, vital infrastructure and power transmission lines in Northern Luzon. Thousands of

people were left homeless, including some 12 people who died. Government officials are now bracing for an outbreak of waterborne diseases.

Judge Pablo Agustin, who is from the Cagayan Valley region and a classmate of Balao, saw first-hand the damage caused by Juan. He says over 100,000 residents in 19 towns have been affected by the damage. The flood waters left many of the towns isolated.

"This is the worst flooding in 30 years," he says in an email dated November 5, 2010. "I took pity of a child who was walking in the rain barefooted. I gave him the slippers I was wearing. Unfor-

tunately, I had only a few pesos in my pocket so I was able to buy only two boxes of instant noodles. You could have seen how happy the recipients were. They make you feel like their hero. Had you been here, you would probably shed tears because of their kawawang kalagayan."

A list of urgently needed items for flood victims include rice, noodles, canned goods, sugar, coffee, bottled water, flashlights, batteries, used clothing, blankets, towels, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, according to Balao.

For more details on how to assist the flood victims, please call Balao at 599-7623. ■



Schizophrenia Seminar to Shed Light on Disease

THE MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF HAWAII is inviting the public to a brown bag seminar and discussion on the "Myths & Facts of Schizophrenia" on November 16, 2010 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Central Union Church's Parish Hall.

A panel of mental health experts will be present for the discussion and available to answer questions. The panelists include:

- Tom Leland, M.D.—Psychia-

trist, Department of Public Safety, Oahu Community Corrections Center; Retired, Kalihii Palama Community Mental Health Center and Community Care Services

- Eva Kishimoto, CSAC, DCSW—Special Populations Service Director, Adult Mental Health Division, State Department of Health
- Margie Durant—Retired Social Worker; NAMI Hawaii Volun-

teer; parent of adult child with schizophrenia

- Chenille Garcia—Peer Educator, Department of Health; Massage Therapist; diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder

Topics to be discussed include:

- What are the symptoms of schizophrenia?

- Can schizophrenia be prevented?
 - Do people with schizophrenia recover?
 - Are people with schizophrenia more violent than others?
- Organizers are requesting attendees to bring a brown bag lunch as well as a donation of \$10 to \$25. To register or for more details, please call 521-1846. ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Massacre Witness: Ampatuan Jr. Shot 40 of 57 Victims

by Paolo ROMERO / Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A POLICE-MAN WHO WITNESSED AN ELECTION-RELATED massacre of 57 people last year told a court Wednesday a former town mayor — the main suspect in the deaths — gunned down 40 victims as they pleaded for their lives.

Senior Police Officer Rainier Ebus testified he saw former Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., the scion of the clan that was in control of southern Maguindanao province, shoot about 40 of the 57 victims after stopping their vehicles.

Among the dead in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre — the worst political killings in recent Philippine history — were at least 30 media workers accompanying supporters of Esmael Mangudadatu, a local politician running for governor.

His rivals from the Ampatuan clan and militiamen under their command have been charged with murder. They have pleaded innocent.

Ebus, testifying for the prosecution, said he was among police who accompanied Am-

patuan and his gunmen to a village where they stopped a convoy of journalists and political supporters of Mangudadatu, who was challenging the Ampatuan clan for governorship.

Mangudadatu was not traveling in the convoy since he felt his life was in danger but sent his wife, sisters and other female relatives in the belief that women would not be harmed.

Previous witnesses have said that Ampatuan clan members, including patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr., had plotted the killings over dinner six days before the ambush.

Ebus said Ampatuan Jr. ordered about 10 people from the convoy to get down from their vehicles and form a line. He then opened fire as the others, still in their vehicles, cried and pleaded for their lives. Shortly after, Ebus testified, Ampatuan shot about 30 other people.

"They were crying but they were gunned down by Unsay," Ebus said, referring to Ampatuan by his nickname.

Ebus said when the shooting started, he stayed inside one of the vans because he was scared for his life.

"(Ampatuan) has a lot of money. He has a lot of guns and ammunition. He can kill," Ebus added. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Billionaires Galore

SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH by Ernesto M. MACEDA

According to the Forbes Asia Magazine 2010 list, the top 40 richest Filipinos' net worth rose 39% to \$22.8 billion from \$16.4 billion last year. Topping the list is Henry Sy with \$5 billion or \$21.5 billion at today's exchange rate of P43-\$1 followed by Lucio Tan with \$2.1 billion or P9 billion and John Gokongwei in 3rd place with \$1.5 billion or P6.45 billion.

Other peso billionaires are:

- Jaime Zobel de Ayala \$1.4 billion or P6.02 billion
- Andrew Tan with \$1.2 billion or P3.61 billion
- Tony Tan Caktiong \$980 million or P4.21 billion
- Enrique Razon, Jr. \$975 million or P4.19 billion
- Betty Campos \$840 million or P3.07 billion
- George Ty Jr. \$805 million or P3.46 billion
- Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. \$760 million or P3.26 billion
- Ifrigo and Mercedes Zobel \$730 million or P3.13 billion
- David Consunji \$715 million or P3.07 billion
- Emilio T. Yap \$665 million or P2.85 billion
- Andrew Gotianun P500 million or P2.15 billion
- Vivien Que Azcona \$445 million or P1.91 billion
- Oscar Lopez \$420 million or P1.80 billion
- Manuel Villar \$380 million or P1.63 billion

- Jon Ramon Aboitiz \$360 million or P1.54 billion
- Mariano Tan \$330 million or P1.41 billion
- Robert Coyuto Jr. \$310 million or P1.33 billion
- Roberto Ongpin \$300 million or P1.29 billion
- Alfonso Yuchengco \$260 million or P1.11 billion

Moving up into the top ten are young businessmen Andrew Tan of Alliance Global/Megaworld/McDonalds, Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee/ChowKing/Greenwich and Ricky Razon of ICTSI and power projects.

Missing from the above list are PLDT/Meralco/Philex tycoon Manuel V. Pangilinan; Nickel Asia/Rio Tuba Mining magnate Manuel Zamora; Ramon Ang, CEO of San Miguel Corporation; spouses Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Jose Arroyo and the Marcoses.

There are also several low profile billionaires, some from the mining sector, several provincial governors who derived their wealth from so-called "small scale" mining operations and appropriation of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and gambling payolas, the most prominent being Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr., and former GMA corporate officials. A Governor in Southern Luzon and Central Luzon will receive at least P200 million a year from STL/jueteng operators.

The No. 1 gambling operator is definitely a billionaire as he nets at least P500 million a year. He owns a P300 million cockpit in San Juan. He is not in the list. How about the drug lords?

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares should now focus on these secret billionaires to meet her collection targets.

8.4 MILLION JOBS NEEDED

Based on our 95 million population and a 2.1% population growth rate, there is a need to provide 900,000 jobs yearly for those entering the job market to achieve the first major step in eradicating poverty in the country.

At present, there are about four million unemployed persons in the country which is increasing by the day. In addition, several thousand banana growers in Cotabato are about to lose their jobs with the loss of Iran, their principal market. The target should therefore, be set at 8.4 million jobs, for the P-Noy administration to create for the next six years.

What is being asked is — Where is the plan to achieve that goal? Up to now, five months after P-Noy's inauguration, there are still no employment targets set, much less a masterplan to create 8.4 million jobs. Will DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, NEDA Director General Cayetano Paderanga and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad give us the answer to this all-important questions?

CONTROLLED... President



(L-R) Henry Sy, Lucio Tan, John Gokongwei

Aquino showed his control of the House of Representatives as he refused to agree to any cuts in DSWD/CCT P21 billion budget. The House of Representatives meekly approved P-Noy's P1.654 trillion 2011 budget without any cuts. Pork barrel was released, of course.

Now we want to see if he also controls the Senate where several Senators led by Sen. Edgardo Angara want the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) appropriation reduced to P15 billion.

TIDBITS... U.S. Amb. Harry Thomas Jr. has, together with Newell Rubbermaid, donated one million Mongol pencils for the use of public schools. This implies that for such a basic tool as pencils (and workbooks) the government has failed to provide the same...

Malas naman! After a succession of distinctive typhoons and floods, now it is Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon erupting...

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) has paid out more than P11 billion to claimants of deposits in the 26 Legacy owned banks of Celso de los Angeles. Yes, that much. With P3 billion more pending...

Among the most hardworking Congressmen is 3rd term Rep. Jeffrey Ferrer (NPC, Negros Occidental, 4th dist.) and Cong. Rufus Rodriguez (PMP, Cagayan de Oro, 2nd dist.)...

Councilor Shalani Soledad acquitted herself well in her TV debut on the Willing Willie program over TV 5. Certainly, she was glowing

and projected a beauty with a lot of class. She's quite tall pala... It was in bad taste for several DZMM broadcasters to downgrade her.

Malacañang has admitted that Maria Lucille Ortilla, former HUDDC top aide of VP Noli de Castro, now works in the office of Exec. Sec. Jojo Ochoa. The Pag-IBIG Fund has filed a case of syndicated estafa against Globe Asiatique President Delfin Lee and several others. But to date no HUDDC or Pag-IBIG official has been charged.

Many Pacquiao arrived in Dallas, Texas with a 188-man entourage on board a B757 chartered plane for \$120,000. Pagcor is financing the trip of some government officials going to Dallas...

It is laudable that DOJ Sec. Leila de Lima has decided to reopen the 2007 GloriaTita bombing incident. It was AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Ricardo David and retired NCRPO Director, Gen. Gerry Banas who concluded it was a methane gas explosion that have some explaining to do.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "One aspect of governance that the President should prioritize is peace and order. If one reads the newspapers and watches television as often as I do, one would think that crime rates is the country."

"One would think that we don't have a police organization at all, or that it is useless in making the country safe for the people." Emil Jurado's "To the Point" column, Nov. 9, 2010. (www.philstar.com) ■

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Pretending Wife Alive Although Dead – Is There Relief from Deportation?



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

There are men who refuse to accept that their wife is dead. Some will even set a place at the dinner table for her. Eerie.

Kelly, an alien, did not such thing. Rather, he was petitioned by his U.S. citizen wife. He applied for a visa abroad but did not reveal to the U.S. Consulate that his wife had died in the meantime. He received a visa as the immediate relative of a U.S citizen and entered the U.S.

He was charged with being deportable under INA § 241(a)(1) [now 237(a)(1)] 8 USC § 1227(a)(1) because at the time of his entry he was excludable (1) for having procured a visa or other documentation by fraud or by willfully misrepresenting a material fact in violation of INA § 212(a)(19) [now § 212(a)(6)(C)(i)] and (2) for

not being in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, re-entry permit, border crossing identification card, or other valid entry document in violation of INA § 212(a)(20) [now § 212(a)(7)(a)(i)(I)]

The Immigration Judge ordered him deported. After he was notified that arrangements had been made for his departure to his country, he married a U.S. citizen. He moved to reopen his deportation proceedings, contending that his second marriage made him eligible for relief under INA § 241(f) [now §237(a)(1)(H)] [former 8 USC § 1251(f) now 8 USC § 1227(a)(1)(H)] which provides:

“(f) The provisions of this section relating to the deportation of aliens within the United States on the ground that they were excludable at the time of entry as aliens who have sought to procure or have procured visas or other documentation, or entry into the United States by fraud or misrepresentation shall not apply to an alien otherwise admissible at the time of entry who is the spouse, parent, or

a child of a United States citizen.”

The government contended that INA § 241(f) applied only when an alien was charged with violating INA § 212(a)(19) which excludes an alien who procured a visa by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, but was inapplicable when an alien was charged with violating INA § 212(a)(20) which provides for the exclusion of an alien who at the time of admission is not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa.

The court rejected the government’s contention, holding that fraud in procuring documentation results in invalidity so that whenever acts of fraud are perpetrated in securing documents, INA § 212(a)(20) as well as INA § 212(a)(19) are violated. INA § 212(a)(20) therefore, is, for all intents and purposes, a “lesser included offense” under INA § 212(a)(19). Since the facts which support a finding of deportability under INA § 212(a)(19) also establish a violation of INA § 212(a)(20), the charges are not separate and

independent, but rather, are inextricably intertwined. Consequently, the fraud forgiveness provisions of INA § 241(f) apply to violations of INA § 212(a)(20) and § 212(a)(19). *Persaud v. INS*, 537 F.2d 776 (3rd Cir. 1976).

COMMENT: We are currently defending 15 deportation cases involving fraud or misrepresentation where the government is charging violations of § 212(a)(6)(C)(i) (fraud) and § 212(a)(7)(a)(i)(I) (no valid visa) in 5 cases involving siblings but only § 212(a)(7)(a)(i)(I) (no valid visa) in 10 cases involving their wives and children. We will be invoking the fraud forgiveness provisions of the INA for everyone, whether charged with fraud or not ■

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. He is from Laogang City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KHBC at 1060, AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

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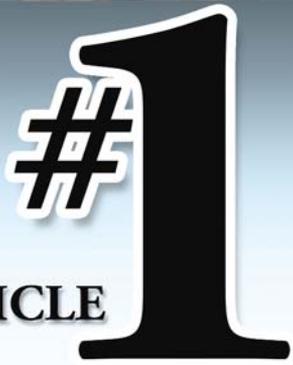
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■ **PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Manila Under Red Alert Until
January 1**

by Dennis **CARCAMO** /
Wednesday, November 10, 2010

MANILA, (Xinhua) -- **THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY SAID WEDNESDAY IT WILL EXTEND its Red Alert, its highest military security status, for Metro Manila until New Year next year, citing the need to protect the people from all possible threats.**

The Philippine military has put the country's capital under Red Alert since Sept. 25.

"The National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM) has extended its red alert status until New Year and ordered its deployed troops in different parts of the metropolis to remain in their positions until further notice of pull out," Lt. Col. Armando Rico, NCRCOM spokesman, said in a statement.



But Rico maintained the extension of the Red Alert status has nothing to do with the persistent talks of terrorist threat in the metropolis, triggered by travel advisories from the United States and several other foreign countries.

On Today's visit of former US President Bill Clinton, Rico said 1,200 soldiers are on standby for security operations. (www.philstar.com) ■

**Families Evacuated Following
Latest Eruption of Mt. Bulusan**

by Paolo **ROMERO** /
Wednesday, November 10, 2010

MANILA, Nov. 10 (Xinhua) -- **SOME 24 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN EVACUATED** following the latest eruption and ash fall of Mt. Bulusan in the northern Philippine province of Sorsogon, military officials said Wednesday.

First Lt. Oliver Dela Cruz, commanding officer at the 49th Infantry Battalion, said in a press statement that residents living within the four-kilometer permanent danger zone in the village of Ingladian, Casiguran town, have been trooping to the evacuation centers since Tuesday afternoon.

Dela Cruz said local officials led by Casiguran Mayor Ester Hamor distributed food to the evacuees, most of whom are small-time farmers in the upland village of Gimaloto. Some of these evacuees are also requesting that they be allowed to return to their villages to look after their farm and live-

stock.

"They have asked the local authorities to allow them to go home in the day and come back to stay in the evacuation center every night," added Dela Cruz.

Lt. Col Santiago Engino, Commander of the 49th Infantry Battalion based in Juban town said that his soldiers accompanied the group of Mayor Jimmy Bragata who inspected the four-kilometer danger zone in the town to look for any remaining people.

"My soldiers found no one in the upland villages," he said.

Officials and staff from the defense, health and disaster reduction departments are also visiting the villages around the volcano to assess the security situation and coordinate their plan of action with the local government. At least 400 soldiers under the 49th Infantry Battalion are placed on alert status to help in the evacuation. (www.philstar.com) ■

**Exports Surge 46% to \$5.314
Billion in September**

by Rica D. **DELFINADO** /
Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SURGE,** posting a double-digit growth of 46.1 percent to \$5.314 billion in September - the highest in almost 30 years - as global recovery

boosts demand for locally-made electronic products, the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported yesterday.

The latest growth rate was the highest export growth recorded since January 1981. In August, exports recorded a year-on-year expansion of 37 percent.

Month-on-month, exports rose 11.7 percent from the \$4.758 billion posted in August this year.

For the first nine months of the year, exports increased by 38.5 percent to \$38.298 billion from \$27.649 billion registered during the same period in 2009.

Electronic products, the country's main export item with a share of 65.5 percent of the total bill, surged by 54.6 percent to \$3.478 billion from last year's \$2.250 billion.

Articles of apparel and clothing accessories emerged as the second top dollar earner with \$146.59 billion or a share of 2.8 percent to total export revenue. The figure was also 27 percent higher than last year's \$114.59 million.

Woodcraft and furniture which comprised 2.1 percent of total exports in September was the country's third top gainer with revenue valued at \$113.66 million, an increase of 28 percent from last year's \$88.53 million.

Ranked fourth in September was coconut oil with \$97 million followed by other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis with \$97.49 million.

(continued on page 11)



PHILIPPINE NEWS

Clinton Makes Pitch for VFA

by Marichu VILLANUEVA/
Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - HE MAY BE OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT but former US President Bill Clinton still pitched for the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) as a source of military assistance the Philippines needs to cope with the constant threat of global terror.

Clinton made the pitch at the start of his 35-minute speech yesterday at the Tent City of the Manila Hotel where he spoke about "Embracing our Common Humanity" as founding chairman of his William J. Clinton Foundation.

Clinton's pitch for the VFA came amid renewed calls for the abrogation of the accord. However, President Aquino earlier announced the desire of his administration to call for a review of the VFA instead.

The former American president laid claim to the VFA's signing while he was in office at the White House for two consecutive terms from 1993 to 2001. Clinton said the VFA was among the important agreements the two countries entered into during his administration.

"We formulated the Visiting Forces Agreement, which permitted operations between our military and called for greater military assistance from the United States," Clinton said.

"And now the ambassador (US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr.) told me that President Obama and the secretary of state - the only member of my family that has any influence anymore - that (military assistance) has been increased," Clinton disclosed, referring to his wife, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The VFA took effect in May 1999 after ratification by the Philippine Senate during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada. The VFA came about a few years after the Military Bases Agreement with the US was abrogated by the Philippine Senate in September 1991 during the administration of former President Corason Aquino, the late mother of President Aquino.

Clinton's pitch for the VFA was made before an audience that in-

cluded key members of the Senate foreign relations committee who would pass upon the proposed review of the VFA, namely Senators Loren Legarda, Ralph Recto, Francis Escudero, and Ramon Revilla Jr. Legarda, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, earlier concurred with the desire of Mr. Aquino for a review of the VFA.

Clinton enumerated in his speech the major global challenges that the Philippines faces, including the lingering effects of the financial crisis that first broke out in the US, coping with the threats of global terrorism, and climate change.

"The world is too unstable for sustainable development and we have seen this in the financial crisis that started in the banks of the United States and spread to the rest of the world. We terrorists who do not respect global borders," Clinton warned.

During his speech, Clinton walked down memory lane, saying he visited the Philippines twice during his term. "I like this country very much," he said at the start of his speech, but noted that he has always come in the month of November.

He first came to Manila for a brief state visit in 1994 during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos and again in November 1996 when he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit in Subic, Zambales.

Ramos, along with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was Clinton's Georgetown University classmate, were among those in the audience and their presence was duly acknowledged by the former US president.

Also present were Vice President Jejomar Binay, former first ladies Amelita Ramos and Imelda Marcos who is now Leyte congresswoman, and other top government officials and business and industry leaders and society personalities.

In the short question and answer session that followed his speech, former ABS-CBN vice president for news and public affairs

Maria Ressa, who moderated the affair, asked Clinton about his impression of the new Philippine President whom he met for the first time yesterday.

Clinton said he found President Aquino a very "energetic" leader.

"One thing I like about him is he has lots of energy. I asked him about a lot of things and he seems to be well informed," Clinton said, adding that they discussed education, agriculture, energy, and even the issue of private armies.

Before his program at the Manila Hotel, the former US president met with President Aquino at Malacañang in a courtesy call hastily arranged by the Palace with organizers of the Clinton event.

Asked by Ressa why he thinks the Philippines has not reached its potentials despite regaining democracy after the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution, Mr. Clinton conceded that the country's colonialism by Spain and the US may have something to do with it.

"I think, first of all, on the whole, it is not a big advantage to have been a colony of Spain and the US," Clinton pointed out.

In a light vein, Mr. Clinton admitted he may no longer have much influence in the US government since he stepped down from office.

"When you are a former president, you can say what you want but people don't care what you say - unless you are the husband of the US Secretary of State," he quipped referring anew to his wife, Hillary.

The former US president flew in and out of Manila in less than twelve hours. Clinton's schedule was kept secret, with the US embassy saying it had nothing to do with the visit.

It was only earlier yesterday morning that presidential aide Ricky Carandang announced Clinton's meeting with Mr. Aquino at Malacañang.

Clinton's entourage reportedly sought 27 individual exemptions from the gun ban of the Commission on Elections, imposed during the period of the just concluded barangay and Sanggunian Kabataan elections. The gun ban officially lapsed last night.



President Benigno S. Aquino III meets with former President of the United States William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton in a courtesy call Wednesday November 10, 2010 at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

US embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson reiterated yesterday the visit of Mr. Clinton was completely a private sector undertaking.

Except for the security provisions for the former American president, Thompson explained the US embassy had nothing to do with the arrangements of the Clinton visit.

"The security personnel composed of the US Secret Service men who are with him (Clinton) are with government like us in the US embassy here, so in that sense, perhaps we're involved," she pointed out.

Clinton told the audience that he recently met in Las Vegas with a "great boxer" from the Philippines, world boxing champion Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, whom he thanked for having campaigned for his fellow Democrat Party member Harry Reid who ran and won in the last US Congress elections.

"I'm sure he won because Manny Pacquiao campaigned for him," Clinton said to loud applause.

Clinton and his small delegation quietly flew out of Manila on a private jet last night at the US hangar of the Manila Domestic airport. (www.phlistar.com) ■

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(cont. from page 10; EXPORTS ...)

Rounding up the losing lot of top exports were ignition wire set, \$94 million; cathodes and section of cathodes, \$80 million; metal components, \$53 million; copper concentrates, \$39 million and tuna, \$31 million.

Singapore emerged as the Philippines' top market for September, accounting for 24.2 percent of the total exports at \$1.283 billion.

Japan came in second, with \$765.85 million, followed by China (\$669.74 million), US (\$556.68 million), and Hong Kong (\$383.99 million).

Other top markets for Sep-

tember were Taiwan, \$201 million; Netherlands, \$192 million; South Korea, \$189 million; Thailand, \$168 million; and Germany, \$155 million.

The government expects exports to climb 15 percent this year, and imports are forecast to increase 20 percent.

The electronics industry group, meanwhile, expects its exports to climb by 25 percent to 30 percent this year.

As demand from the country's trading partners continues to improve alongside with the global economy, the government is confident it can beat its growth targets this year. (www.phlistar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Phl May Lose \$250-Million Aid Over Human Trafficking

by Jess DIAZ /
Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - TWO MINDANAO LAWMAKERS WARNED their colleagues yesterday that the country would lose up to \$250 million in aid from the United States unless it makes a serious effort to curb human trafficking.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and his brother Maximo, who represents the party-list group Abante Mindanao, made the warning in Resolution 560, in which they asked the House to look into cases of human trafficking.

The two said the US "has an

anti-human trafficking law that directs the State Department to monitor efforts of every country against trafficking, and from 2009 until now, we have been on the Tier 2 watch list."

"Under that same law, if a country has been on the Tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years, they are automatically downgraded to Tier 3 in the third year unless there are significant efforts to curb human smuggling," they said.

They said the US can defer or withhold assistance to any country in the Tier 3 list.

They pointed out that "there are many cases of overseas Filipino workers all over the globe who are victims of human trafficking and illegal recruitment."

"The US government is concerned that the Philippines has a high number of human trafficking cases, and yet, they have not heard of a case or cases filed and won against those who had abused the victims," the Rodriguez brothers said.

They said among the funds that the US could withhold are "those meant for Mindanao."

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said

human smuggling syndicates continue to victimize Filipino workers even after America had expressed its concern over human trafficking.

Just a few days ago, immigration officers stopped three Filipino tourists from boarding their plane for Singapore when they discovered that their real destination was Lebanon, where the deployment of workers is banned, he said.

He added that when brought to the airport immigration office, the alleged tourists admitted that a recruiter deployed them to work in Lebanon.

Rodriguez said shortly after President Aquino appointed Lela de Lima as his justice secretary, she ordered the relief and investigation of several immigration officers at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Angeles City for their alleged involvement in human smuggling.

He said a female officer, who was herself being linked to trafficking, spilled the beans on her colleagues.

He urged De Lima to now reveal the results of the investigation of the immigration personnel posted in Clark. (www.philstar.com) ■

Statement of Assets Shows Noy Worth P50 Million

by Michael PUNONGBAYAN /
Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - THE PUBLIC IS EXPECTED TO MONITOR the wealth of President Aquino considering that his predecessor, former president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, had earned as much as P76 million during her nine years at Malacañang.

Mr. Aquino had submitted his Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) to the Office of the Ombudsman after he assumed office and the documents showed that he is worth P50.194 million. His real estate property valued at P33.755 million includes a house in Quezon City, which he declared to be worth P13.8 million. Mr. Aquino inherited the house and lot.

He also owns a residential lot in Antipolo, Rizal, which he also inherited and is now worth P12.2 million; another residential lot in San Juan (inherited) valued at P7 million; another residential lot in Tarlac (purchased) worth P604,680; and an agricultural land also in Tarlac (purchased) worth P116,588.

Under Personal and Other Properties, he listed motor vehicles as his most valuable assets valued at a little over P9 million, followed by investment in stocks in seven companies worth P4.774 million, and cash on hand and cash in bank declared in the amount of more than P3.635 million.



Mr. Aquino, who is a bachelor, has two relatives working in government - his aunt former senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta who now heads the office for Early Childhood Care and Development, and his aunt-in-law Margarita Conjuangco, president of the Philippine Public Safety College.

Mr. Aquino listed only one liability in the form of mortgage payables, amounting to P2.430 million.

Former president Arroyo had declared assets worth P66.7 million when she became president in 2001 after then President Joseph Estrada was ousted by a people's revolt following allegations that he took kickbacks from illegal gambling

operators.

Then president Arroyo listed only one liability in the form of a P3.5-million car loan from the Export and Industry Bank for the purchase of a Toyota Lexus.

Her value had increased while she was president and her assets included stocks worth P71.311 million and notes receivables worth P13.853 million.

FDIs Post Net inflow of \$80 Million in August

by Iris C. GONZALES /
Thursday, November 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDIS) posted a net inflow of \$80 million in August, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday.

The latest FDI level is eight times higher than the \$10-million net inflow posted in the same month a year ago.

BSP Governor Amado M. Tetanco Jr. attributed the increase to positive economic developments including the strong economic growth for the second quarter of 7.9 percent and reports of higher corporate earnings for the first half of 2010. "These helped perk up investor sentiment," Tetanco.

Net inflows of equity capital amounted to \$66 million, representing a year-on-year increase of 187 percent with equity capital infusion coming mostly from the US and Japan.

The hefty inflows went to the real estate, mining and the information and communication sectors.

Reinvested earnings and other capital investments also posted net inflows of \$5 million and \$9 million, respectively.

The inflows in August brought the inflows in the first eight months of the year to \$1 billion.

However, this was lower by 38 percent from the year-ago level as the decline in net equity capital inflows more than offset the growth in net inflows coming from reinvested earnings and other capital investments.

Similarly, gross equity capital investments for the eight-month period totaled \$412 million or lower by 78.3 percent compared to the level posted a year ago.

The BSP said that in 2009, gross equity capital inflows were significantly higher at \$1.9 billion mainly because of big-ticket investments arising from the privatization of a local power corporation and the acquisition of a number of shares of a local beverage company.

Reinvested earnings, meanwhile, surged to \$221 million in January to August from \$18 million a year ago as investors opted to retain part of their earnings in local corporations.

Intercompany borrowings between foreign direct investors and their subsidiaries reversed into positive territory, posting net inflows of \$599 million compared to the \$163 million net outflows recorded a year ago.

"Most of the inflows were attributed to higher trade credits extended to Philippine-based subsidiaries and affiliates by their parent companies abroad," the BSP said. (www.philstar.com) ■





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LEGAL NOTES

Fight for Immigration Reform Must Continue



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

The midterm elections drastically changed the composition of Congress with the Republicans seizing control of the House of Representatives. Whether the shakeup will result in gridlock or compromise remains to be seen. What is certain is the effect that this power shift will have on the future of immigration policy in this country.

First, the bad news. Representative Lamar Smith of Texas is in line to become chair the House Judiciary Committee. A known immigration hardliner, Rep. Smith is expected to promote Arizona-type

immigration laws nationwide, among other items in his restrictionist agenda.

The House Immigration Subcommittee will be chaired by another known anti-immigrant, Rep. Steve King of Iowa, who has announced that he will propose a birthright citizenship bill, legislation in support of Arizona-type immigration laws, and a bill denying federal income tax deductions for wages and benefits paid to undocumented workers.

Now for some good news. The Democrats still hold majority in the Senate. Pro-immigrant Harry Reid triumphed over the anti-incumbent wave and won a fifth term. Even if he steps aside as Majority Leader, Sen. Reid will be most likely replaced by either Senator Schumer of New York or Sen. Durbin of Illinois – both allies on the broad immigration front.

Moreover, the Democratic casualties in both houses are not as

bad as they seem; many of those who were ousted from the House were "Blue Dogs" or conservative Democrats who were less likely to support a comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) bill.

When Congress reconvenes for its "lame duck" session to take care of unfinished business, we can still expect to see some efforts at pushing for immigration action. Senator Reid, for instance, has stated that he will reintroduce the DREAM Act and try to get some outgoing Senators who had voted against it to change their mind.

Everyone will feel the palpable effect of a closely divided Congress come January 2011. As a CNN article put it, where one party has a supermajority, there is little or no incentive to compromise. In this new Congress, compromise is key.

Immigration reform will help the economy by raising wages, creating jobs, increasing consumption and generating more tax

revenue. Filipinos could benefit greatly from the provisions of the last CIR bill introduced in the House, and these are issues that we should continue to fight for.

For instance, under the bill unused family and employment visas would be recaptured, resulting in hundreds of thousands of visas being added to the visa pool. In such an event, some preference categories will probably become current while the others will have a considerable reduction in their visa number wait.

Another provision in the bill seeks to upgrade spouses and children of lawful permanent residents, presently classified under second preference category, to the immediate relative classification, thus exempting them from the annual cap. The bill also provides for the increase in the percentage limit of visas issued for each country from the current seven percent (7%) of the worldwide total. In addition, the bill gives an exemption to the children of Filipino World War II veterans from the annual visa cap – a fitting recognition of the contribution of the veterans by accelerating re-

unification with their families.

Nurses and physical therapists would also be exempted from numerical limitations which will result in their ability to immigrate immediately. Currently, these professionals are classified under the third preference category, where the wait time for a visa number is over five years.

There are groups that continue to advocate for immigration reform on behalf of the Filipino community. One is NAFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Associations) which monitors legislation and public policy issues affecting Filipinos in the United States. Another is the Fil-Am Reform Immigration for America Task Force which is part of a coalition of more than 700 groups and 60,000 people behind the CIR proposal.

We must continue advocating immigration reform and not lose sight of our goals. Clearly, the battle is not lost. Despite the setback caused by the Republican takeover, immigration reform may still be achieved. ■

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Pacquiao's Killer Speed Awes Crowd

by Abac CORDERO / Thursday, November 11, 2010

DALLAS – MANNY PACQUIAO AND ANTONIO MARGARITO went under public scrutiny Tuesday at the spacious Longhorn Exhibit Hall of the Gaylord Texan Hotel here.

And it came very clear to the hundreds who came who the bigger fighter is, who the faster one is.

"Hey, Manny! Show us your speed!" shouted a Mexican fan, one of those who rooted for the Filipino boxing superstar, and carried his picture, during the public workout.

Pacquiao did not disappoint, putting his vaunted speed on display as he shadow-boxed on top of the ring, worked the mitts with his chief trainer, Freddie Roach, the speed ball, and on his abdominal exercises.

He gave the public more than what Margarito did.

Pacquiao was on display for nearly two hours. He faced and fielded questions from the media for so long that the fans started chanting, "Let Manny go! Let Manny go."

Then he worked the line, planting a thousand signatures on photographs, paintings, gloves, hats and even the white beach towel he used up the ring, which his trainer, Buboy Fernandez, tossed to the crowd.

Margarito didn't stay longer than an hour, and opted to do the media interview behind the black curtains.

He was first to get up the ring,



and smiled a lot as he exercised. In his sweat pants and long-sleeved shirt, he seemed to dance to chants of his name, pointing his fist to the crowd.

The bigger and taller Mexican worked the mitts with Robert Garcia for only three rounds. His hand wraps were tossed to the crowd, and a male fan gladly picked it up from the floor.

Even before the show began, Top Rank chief Bob Arum spoke to the media.

"The issue in this fight is Margarito is the bigger, stronger guy. But you can see from this workout that he's much slower than Manny Pacquiao," he said.

But Arum warned that Pacquiao's speed won't carry him to victory if he can't keep it the entire evening.

"That speed has to be maintained throughout the fight. If Manny is not in good shape, and that speed become less in the later rounds, he would be in trouble," Arum added.

"If he can do that, Margarito, as

the fight wears on, will get weaker because people do. And that's when he's vulnerable to Manny."

Arum said what he saw up the ring is the same old Pacquiao.

"He seems to be in top shape now, which means that he can maintain his speed for the entire fight," he said.

There's no one who can say no to that. (www.phstar.com) ■



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TRAVEL ADVENTURE

The Philippines: Every Island Is An Adventure

by Gregory Bren **GARCIA**

The Philippine's rich tapestry of natural wonders and cultural heritages is truly one for the books. But not even several volumes of Lonely Planet would really suffice to introduce all the wondrous secrets that the Philippines has to offer. Because for one to be able to truly experience the Pearl of the Orient, one should not only traverse the more popular destinations, but also the roads less traveled.

SPRINGBOARD TO
A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

Nestled between the boundaries of Tagaytay City and Alfonso in

the Province of Cavite is a little piece of European heaven. Marcia Adams' Restaurant, a lovely country bistro constructed in a rustic manner reminiscent of Tuscan architecture is a wanderlust's little oasis. Surrounded by lush greenery, the surrounding gardens provide the fresh produce used in the preparation of the delectable Mediterranean dishes which the owners, Marcia and Neil Adams, cook themselves.

Balikbayans hoping to get their first breath of fresh air outside of Manila's hustle and bustle should definitely pass by Marcia Adams' Restaurant. If you have a penchant for dining al fresco and would love to sample fresh, organic cooking

featuring Tagaytay's wholesome greens, this place wouldn't disappoint you. You can choose from a variety of table d'hôte dishes or à la carte items like the Aegean Salad, which is comprised of grilled pears, mixed veggies, coltidge cheese and roasted pistachios in a special dressing, or Fish Slouavski, which is tangique kebab marinated in olive oil, lemon and a variety of herbs. Feel free to try out their pasta dishes too, like the Ai Funghi, which is served with fresh garlic, basil and mushrooms, and their vegetarian desserts like the Panna Cotta with Lemon Sauce, as well as the Guava Shells in Syrup with Crème Fraîche. Main courses cost just between \$15 to \$18 and they also carry a good selection of fine wines and beer from Europe and Australia.

Full and sufficiently watered from Marcia Adams', you can then explore the rest of Tagaytay and surrounding localities which are famous for their cool climate and fresh air. Not to be missed is the view of Batangas' Taal Lake and the Taal Volcano, a geological wonder known for being one of the world's smallest active volcanoes. Boat trips to the Taal Volcano are available and will set you back \$25 to \$35. Donkeys can also be rented at less than \$18 if you are not in good enough shape to go trekking to the summit of the volcano once you reach the island.

If you want to have a picnic with family and friends, you can bypass the traditional Tagaytay Picnic Grove and head instead to Calaranga. Located in the adjacent town of Nasugbu, Batangas, Calaranga is a beautiful complex comprised of camping and picnic areas, retreat houses and conference venues resting on a serene location surrounded by trees and rolling hills. It is also home to the Transfiguration Chapel, a majestic church whose façade is a reproduction of the original chapel in Calaranga, Spain. The Church is famous in the Philippines for being a dream wedding location for couples who wish to tie the knot amidst nature's spectacular opus.

PHILIPPINE ADVENTURE 101

A sojourn in Tagaytay, which is only 55 Km away from Manila, can be your springboard to an adventure-filled journey around the Philippines. Lovers of the outdoors and adrenaline junkies of all ages will find a cornucopia of places to visit and activities to do in the Philippines.

The Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales province, located 110 Km north of Manila, is a tax and duty free zone similar to Hong Kong and Singapore. Subic, along with the Clark Freeport Zone in the adjacent Pampanga province, is a former bastion of U.S. military power but both are now symbols of the Filipino economic prowess. The Subic-Clark corridor is currently one of the country's major economic engines and is fast becoming one of the most competitive international service and lo-



A floating restaurant traverses the Loboc River in Bohol. (Photo by Elaine Obien)

gistics hubs in Southeast Asia. Subic is also home to ecotourism venues like the Ocean Adventure open-sea marine theme park, the Zoobic Safari and the Pamulaklakin Nature Park.

From these family-oriented venues, thrill seekers can head to the Subic Tree Top Adventure at Cubi Point, Subic Bay. Here you can enjoy jungle trails located 100 feet above the ground by walking through treetop platforms and suspension bridges or through a motorized canopy cable ride, an offering which is first in the world.

Make sure to try the park's Tree Drop Adventure, wherein you can "flirt with gravity" by rappelling down 60 feet from a tree. At just \$3 per rappel, you can descend through a variety of ways, including the spider style and the daring Australian style where you drop face first.

The faint of heart can sidestep the heights and instead experience a natural high by keeping their feet firmly on the ground. A serene walk through the wilderness featuring Subic's flora and fauna is what the Trekking Adventure will offer you. A member of the indigenous Aeta community, who once trained U.S. military personnel in jungle survival, will usually accompany groups through the jungle to teach them centuries-old survival techniques.

Outside of Subic, the Philippines never runs short of other adventure destinations fit for different activities. You can check out destinations like Caliraya in Quezon province, Anilao in Batangas and Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte for board sailing, and Atimanan in Quezon Province, Apo Island in Negros Oriental and Wawa Gorge in Montalban, Rizal for rock climbing.

Top mountain biking destinations include Sagada, Mountain Province, Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental and Mt. Apo and Samal Island in Davao del Sur in Mindanao.

If surfing is your cup of tea, the Philippines will surely not disappoint you. La Union, located in the Ilocos region northwest of Manila, is locally accessible by road and offers gentle waves for beginners. Meanwhile, locations like Baler and Infanta in Quezon, Dait in Caramine Norte and Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte in Mindanao offer bigger waves for more adventurous wave riders.

White water rafting and kayaking is also becoming more popular in the Philippines nowadays. The prime rapids of Cagayan de Oro

River in Misamis Oriental, Tibiao River in Panay, Chico River in Tuguegarao and Calbiga River in Samar offers white water action that rival those found abroad.

FINDING REPOSE
IN NATURE'S BOSOM

Truth be told, Filipino-Americans living in Hawaii may be the luckiest people on the planet. Just how many people could claim roots to two places that are home to the best beaches in the world? If you had the choice of living in one Nirvana and vacationing in another, wouldn't you feel blessed?

So while adventure seekers go to the places mentioned above and even as party people may crowd the hip resorts of Boracay Island in Aklan Province, those looking for relaxation are often drawn to Palawan's pristine beaches and magnificent stone cliffs. So spectacular is Palawan's coastline that when the Chinese explorer Chao Ju-Kua discovered it in 1225, he called the island "The Land of Beautiful Harbors." No wonder it was chosen by the National Geographic Traveler magazine as the best island destination in South and Southeast Asia in 2007.

El Nido, one of the most famous destinations in Palawan, is home to breathtaking white sand beaches, lofty marble cliffs and crystal clear lagoons. While in El Nido, make sure to visit three places of interest: Bacuit Bay, Dilumacad Island and Cadlao Island.

Bacuit Bay is home to a number of wildlife including sea turtles, dugongs, manta rays, corals and fishes and if you're lucky enough, you might even get a glimpse of the gentle whale shark or butanding. Try staying at the luxurious and eco-friendly Lagen Lodge, where you can enjoy activities like trekking, scuba diving and kayaking and enjoy a spectacular sunset unlike any other.

Dilumacad Island too has beautiful beaches that are perfect for family picnics, plus an underwater tunnel which can be accessed by diving. Cadlao Island, on the other hand, is home to the enchanting saltwater Makaama Lagoon. The lagoon's mangrove cover attracts tropical birds which are best observed when they are feeding at dusk and dusk.

El Nido is rated as one of the best diving destinations in the world, where there is a propensity of great diving sites like Matinloc Is-

(continued on page 15)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Indonesian Volcano Erupts, Canceling Flights Again

JAKARTA (AP) — AN INDONESIAN VOLCANO ERUPTED Wednesday sending clouds of ash that forced some international airlines to again cancel flights, after President Barack Obama cut short his visit over air safety concerns.

Mount Merapi, hundreds of miles (kilometers) east of Jakarta, has belched volcanic debris high into the air for more than two weeks, killing at least 153 people and causing travel chaos.

Obama sliced several hours off his whirlwind 24-hour tour to Indonesia on Wednesday and flew to South Korea for the Group of 20 summit.

Syaiful Bahri, who oversees operations at Jakarta's international airport, said concerns about the ash also forced several international carriers to again cancel flights into and out of the capital. Among them were Cathay Pacific, Value Air, Qantas and Malaysia Air.

One of the world's most active volcanoes, Merapi has erupted many times in the last century, killing more than

1,400. But last Friday was the mountain's deadliest day since 1930, with nearly 100 lives lost.

Merapi was still issuing explosive roars as it shot clouds of gas and debris up to 3,000 feet (1 kilometer) in the air as ash and pyroclastic flows poured down its slopes.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 235 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanoes because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped string of faults that lines the Pacific Ocean. www.phillystar.com

(cont. from page 10; THE PHILIPPINES ...)

land, Banayan Point, Bikananoy Rock, Ingobal Point, Miniloc Island, Tagbao Island, Biet Point and Twin Rocks.

While in Palawan, you also shouldn't miss Coron, which has been hailed by Forbes Traveler Magazine as one of the top 10 best scuba diving sites in the world, and the ABERAWAN RIVER, where tourists can go on a mangrove tour and watch egret and other exotic birds roost among the mangroves at the river delta.

If you're looking for a one stop shop for activities and nature sightseeing, then a triumvirate trip to Mindanao's Camiguin Island, Bukidnon province and Cagayan de Oro in Misamis Oriental province would be a good option. Camiguin offers a great beach plus trekking on Mt. Hibok-Hibok, while Cagayan de Oro offers white water rafting on Cagayan de Oro River. For its part, Bukidnon is home to the longest zipline in Asia, a must for those seeking a good view of the province's forests. If you can extend your visit for just a single day, we suggest that you take a side-trip to Iligan in Lanao del Norte province, which is home to the majestic Maria Cristina Falls, the tallest in the Philippines, and to Timago Falls, a lesser-known but equally impressive waterfalls.

FILIPINO HERITAGE AT ITS FINEST

The Visayas is the cradle of the Hispanic heritage in the Philippines and in Asia. It is where Magellan's blood was shed when Lapu-Lapu defended his kingdom's freedom and it was also the region where the first Spanish colony was established in the country.

Located at the heart of the Visayas is the beautiful island of Bohol. Just like Palawan, it has superb nature and adventure sites, including the famous geological formation, Chocolate Hills which total 1,268 all in all. Two of these perfectly cone-shaped hills have been developed into tourist complexes, which offer lodging, conference halls, restaurants and view decks.

Bohol is also home to beautiful white sand beaches like the Balbalban Beach, Clarin Beach and Duero Beach and to a number of waterfalls like the Busay Falls, Pangahog Twin Falls and the Niluksoan Falls. The Busay Falls drops to the Loboc River, where floating restaurants cruise its length while groups of guests are treated to native Boholano dishes and rondalla music.

Bohol is also a very popular caving destination, with caves like the Hinagdanan Cave, Eva Cave, Kokok Cave, Nueva Vida Sur Caves and Kamira Cave in Danao offering great spelunking experience for people who want to see the spectacular underworld of stalactites and stalagmites.

Of course Bohol's heritage extends beyond the hills and caves because it is also home to many architectural wonders. The old heritage churches of Bohol alone are a subject worthy enough to fill several books, or at least a separate feature, so one should never miss them

when visiting the island. From earthquake baroque, to neoclassical, to art deco, Bohol churches feature all these architectural styles, and many are among the oldest and most beautiful in the Philippines.

A good place to stay in the island is at the Bohol Bee Farm Resort in Panglao Island, where you can sample the farm's organically-grown vegetables and delicious food, naturally made products like honey spreads, herb teas, and corn coffee, as well as experience the traditional hilot (Filipino massage) in a hut by a cliff. It cannot get any more relaxing than that and a good spa experience may just be the right piece de resistance to cap off your amazing journey around the Philippines.

This summer, prepare to be surprised yet amazed by the Philippines. It has more than just white sand beaches or old stone churches and its 7,107 islands are surely more than meets the eye. It is a country steeped in tradition, artistry and spirituality; it is a place that is pulsating with the energies of the ancient and of the modern, of the East and of the West, of the natural and of the anthropogenic — things that have seemingly contradictory characteristics but nevertheless harmonize to make one magnificent holiday destination. ■

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