

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## FIESTA TIME—A GREAT TIME FOR ALL FILIPINOS!

By HFC Staff

In the U.S., there's an old saying: 'Everyone loves a parade.' Americans come out in droves to see colorful parades of all shapes and sizes—from small towns to the more famous and extravagant Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston and the Independence Day Parade in our nation's capital.

In much the same way, Filipinos love their fiestas. And in Hawaii, the signature fiesta is the annual Filipino Fiesta & Parade, which is currently in its 19th year. The 2011 version is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand.

Organizers of this year's fiesta are looking to build on the success of last year's event, which drew thousands upon thousands to Kapiolani Park. Themed "Lakbay Kultura" (A Cultural Jour-

ney), the 2010 fiesta focused on the distinctive cultural aspects of the Philippines. It featured a historical-cultural parade from Fort DeRussy to Kapiolani Park in the morning, which showcased marching bands, colorful floats, cultural groups, street dancers, and various business and community organizations.

Also included in the parade was the Flores de Mayo featuring Filipina beauties. After the parade was an all-day Fiesta at the Kapiolani Park with local entertainers

showing their different talents, cultural village showcasing the various regions of the Philippines, food booths, a keiki village, and business and non-profit booths.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FIESTAS

Fiestas are as Filipino as baseball, hotdogs and apple pies are American. Fiestas are not only deeply ingrained in the psyche of Filipinos but are also a social force that bring people together.

(continued on page 4)



Photos show Mirasol (left), sister of Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, talking on the phone with relatives, and Cornelia Peralta, mother-in-law of Ramon Credo, crying upon hearing news of the execution

photo by Boy Santos

## 3 Pinoys Executed

By Pia LEE-BRAGO

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Weeks of anguish turned to national mourning yesterday as China carried out before noon the execution by lethal injection of convicted drug couriers Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, Ramon Credo and Elizabeth Batain - the first Filipinos to be executed for drug crimes in China.

The three learned of their impending execution only during the promulgation of

their final sentences, according to Consul General Noel Novicio of the Philippine embassy in Beijing.

Villanueva, 32, was convicted for smuggling 4.11 kilos of heroin on Dec. 24, 2008, and Credo, 42, four days later for smuggling a slightly larger amount of the same drug. Batain was sentenced to death on May 24 in the same year also for drug trafficking.

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## First Liver Transplant in Phl a Success

By Aie BALAGTAS SEE

**M**ANILA, Philippines - About four months ago, 51-year-old rural health physician Julito Sabornido Jr. was told he had only six months to live because of end-stage liver cancer.

Yesterday Sabornido gamely cracked jokes and posed for pictures when St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig presented him to the media to relate his story and showcase the country's first successful adult liver transplant on first try.

Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes, chief of the hospital's center for liver diseases, said

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Rural doctor Julito Sabornido Jr., the country's first liver transplant survivor, walks with Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig

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## EDITORIAL

# No, To A General Excise Tax Hike; Yes, To Suspending GET Exemptions

**A** House hit and Senate miss -- this could be the best way to describe two live tax proposals at Hawaii's state legislature. In either scenario, Hawaii residents and businesses may have to take on a bigger financial burden should these bills pass, but the question now is by how much and who pays more.

If State Senate leaders have it their way, everyone's pockets will undergo further unstuffing. Freshman Senate President Shan Tsutsumi says raising the general excise tax is an option to close the budget deficit, despite Gov. Neil Abercrombie's earlier shelving of the idea. The Senate's unwise proposal to raise the GET comes at a time when businesses are just starting to inch out of the worst recession in decades; its passage could halt any momentum toward recovery. Taxpayers are already feeling the hurt of the recent 0.05 GET percentage surcharge to pay for a now questionable rail transit project. Additional financial burden in the GET will do greater harm to poor and struggling working families in particular because of the broad nature of this tax affecting all goods and services.

The State House, on the other hand, should be commended for its fairer approach in distributing the burden of taxation to close the deficit gap. Like other state legislatures nationally, Hawaii's House members are looking at suspending tax exemptions of certain businesses. Such exemptions, usually handed to politically heeled and well-connected companies, could generate millions in funds for the state and prevent tax hikes like the GET onto working families. Rep. Pono Chong said as this moment the state is giving away close to "a billion dollars in overall exemptions from the GET." He appropriately described the process as "unfair" to exempt some types of businesses and not others.

Under the House proposal HB799, businesses that have been enjoying exemption status finally would be charged a GET of 2 to 4 percent over the next few years. HB 799 could bring in an estimated \$55.7 million in fiscal year 2012 alone and could be the largest source of new revenue to help stabilize the state's financial budgetary plan.

Some of the companies lobbying against the proposal are as expected, powerful large corporations whose executives somehow must have it in their minds that their companies' value to the community is more important than small businesses. As a result, their businesses activities



ought to receive special exempted privileges, even in times of a potential budget shortfall. Hawaiian Airlines, Outrigger Enterprises Group and Alexander & Baldwin are among the large companies opposing HB 799. All of them happen to be solid, profitable companies.

For far too long big corporations' special protections with tax exemptions and subsidies (or corporate welfare) have resulted in the tax burden being shifted onto middle to small businesses, and eventually poor and working-class America. While these large companies maintain stellar profits, Americans annual salary haven't risen in the past 30 years, adjusted for inflation; and middle-to-small businesses' closure rate propels skyward. Tax exemptions and subsidies of rich corporations have ultimately contributed to the diminishing presence of sound, healthy small businesses being able to compete fairly in the market. This increasing absence of multiple-

sized and diverse companies in the long run weakens our country's overall economic strength, leading to a singular over-reliance on big corporations to move the economy forward. And as we have seen in this recession, when big corporations are unable to perform, the whole country suddenly finds itself deep in recession without a viable sector of middle-to-small sized businesses around to pick up the slack. Adding insult to this whole process of unfairness, large corporations are the first to passionately justify their need for continued tax exemptions while others are expected to pay more.

It's reprehensible for some of these local big corporations posting healthy profits to be lobbying against this exemption bill. We encourage the House leadership to move forward on suspending GET exemptions on select businesses and to reject the Senate's consideration of raising the overall GET percentage. The powerful few ought to pay their fair share of GET and spare the majority from greater hardship with a GET hike. We are pleased that Hawaii's House leaders are courageous enough to join this nationwide movement in what amounts to being corporate welfare reform. The first step is to adopt a fairer tax structure.

In one of the grossest example of corporate greed and irresponsibility to the people in our country, the New York Times reported that General Electric posted worldwide profits of \$14.2 billion, \$5.1 billion came from its operations in the US. GE's American tax bill? Nothing! Not only did GE

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## HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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# LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

## Around the Capitol



by Senator Will ESPERO

**B**ills under consideration are not the only activity buzzing around the State Capitol. Many events to educate lawmakers and the public are held, as well as those to recognize and honor members of our community. Here are three recent ones.

### EDUCATION WEEK

The value of education in our nation is greater than ever. While precious time is yet in our hands, teachers know they must give their best to prepare students for a future that we cannot yet imagine. Former First Lady Hillary Clinton's famous declaration that it takes a village to raise our children is just as true today. Teachers are a centerpiece of

that social structure. As the Leeward District Teacher of the Year Alisa Bender put it, our collective task is to lift our youth onto our shoulders so they can see what we may never see, go where we may never go, and do what we may never do.

Each year the Legislature honors outstanding educational professionals and schools, to recognize their efforts and to encourage others in the noble work of teaching. Among the awards presented: the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching; Librarian of the Year; Excellence in Service; Milken Educator; Milken Educator Teacher of Promise; MetLife/NASSP High School Principal of the Year; MetLife/NASSP Middle School Principal of the Year; NAESP Distinguished Principal of the Year; Blue Ribbon School; state Teacher of the Year; and district Teacher of the Year.

What also makes Education Week exciting is the chance to share information. Students from Campbell High School and Wash-

ington Middle Schools made a presentation on the heralded AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, a college readiness curriculum to prepare youth for higher education. The UH system brought its solar decathlon team, showed its progress in renewable energy on its buildings, and the beautiful design of the up and coming Kapolei campus for UH West Oahu. It also shared information on some of its many programs: culinary; carpentry; tropical conservation and biology; summer bridge; biofuel; digital media; plant and biotechnology; engineering; nursing; and veterinary assisting. The Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education held an Open House.

Other displays and discussions: HiKi No, the country's first statewide student-run television network – public charter schools – Hawaii Education Matters (healthy foods) – Early Learning Council – and, robots from robotics programs at six schools. The Hawaii State Council on Development Disabil-

ties held its 12th annual Day at the Capitol, and the Kupuna Program celebrated its 30th anniversary.

### MEDAL OF HONOR

September 11, 2001 – a date of tragedy in American history. A decade later, our response to the terrorist attacks continues to have repercussions. Thousands of troops have been deployed to dangerous and volatile regions around the globe, particularly in the Middle East. Every year, the Legislature holds a Medal of Honor ceremony to recognize those men and women in uniform who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. The Legislature created the state Medal of Honor in 2005 to express Hawaii's deep appreciation and gratitude to the loved ones of those fallen members of military. This year's ceremony was held March 29 at the State Capitol.

### STATE SHERIFFS

Hawaii's sheriffs can trace their office all the way back to royalty, a heritage unique among the 50 states. King Kamehameha III established the sheriffs' office in

1846 to serve and protect the people of Hawaii. Its enduring mission is to preserve the peace by protecting all persons and property falling within the state's jurisdiction.

Never a dull moment for those in uniform, the purview of the sheriffs covers a wide range all across the state. Sheriffs serve as body guards for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and on request for national and international dignitaries. They provide security for the State Capitol District, Maui Memorial Hospital, Hawaii State Hospital, Waimano Training School and Hospital, and Fort Ruger. It is the lead agency for implementing federal Homeland Security guidelines. Sheriffs assist the state Harbors Division with law enforcement on waterways and in harbors. With its canine unit, it is responsible for detecting narcotics in Judiciary buildings and prisons. Sheriffs serve warrants and other legal documents, and handle accused persons from arrest through entrance into corrections centers.

The Senate recently honored the state sheriffs for their dedication and service and putting their lives on the line each day in its commitment to the safety of the public. ■

## EDITORIAL

### Executed

**A**s the Chinese government repeatedly told the Philippines, there would be no commutation of sentence, although Beijing granted a rare but brief reprieve. Their laws are equally applied, the Chinese said, and their laws penalize trafficking of at least 50 grams of prohibited drugs with death. And so yesterday morning, in two sites in southern China, three Filipinos caught bringing in several kilograms of drugs were executed.

As Filipinos commiserate with those left behind by Elizabeth Batain, Sally Ordinario-Villanueva and Ramon Credo, the government must intensify measures to prevent more Filipinos from being recruited as mules by international drug rings. Filipinos, especially women, are in prison even in South America for serving as drug mules. The toughest measures must be directed against the recruiters. The country has cooperation agreements with other countries in fighting transnational crime, so it's possible to go after foreign-based groups that lure Filipinos to serve as drug mules.

In our own backyard, the government needs to boost anti-narcotics efforts. Screening of luggage for drugs at all international airports must be improved. The country has gained notoriety for being an international transshipment point for prohibited drugs including heroin, and a manufacturing base for synthetic drugs particularly shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride. Raids on shabu laboratories rarely lead to the arrest of the drug dealers themselves, raising suspicion that they enjoy the protection of Philippine law enforcers. Those who do get caught and are prosecuted are often freed by corrupt judges; several notorious suspects have managed to escape.

(cont. from page 2; NQ....)

pay zero in taxes, but it claimed a tax benefit of \$3.2 billion. GE, like other large corporations wanting a free ride, is able to accomplish this by lobbying for tax breaks and exemptions.

Even as the government faces a mounting budget deficit, politicians would rather look to working families to collect more in taxes than to call on these politically influential, large corporations to pay up. ■

Finally, the nation must be reminded that drug trafficking poses a serious menace to society. Drug abuse can kill; it can destroy families and the future of youths. Some of the most atrocious crimes have been committed by people high on drugs. The menace posed by drug abuse is so grave that drug trafficking warrants capital punishment in several other countries apart from China. This fact has to be drummed into every Filipino. The realization that drugs can destroy lives should be the biggest deterrent to serving as a drug mule. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



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## HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

"Fiestas bridge our past and present lives," says Dr. Raymond Liongson, professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program at Leeward Community College. "They are celebratory, invigorating and therapeutic, recharging human energies and challenging creative potentials. Often times, they are vehicles in the celebration of our rich and diverse culture as a people. It is during these occasions when we see, hear, smell, taste and feel the richness of our culture."

Fiestas in the Philippines are generally associated with the celebration of the feast of certain saints or religious figures. Consider the following fiestas:

- In Lucban, Quezon, residents celebrate the colorful and exuberant *Pahiyas* in honor of San Isidro, the patron saint of farm-

ers.

- The *Ati-atihan*, *Sinulog*, and *Dinagyang* in the Visayas revolve around the Santo Nino, or the image of the Infant Jesus.
- In San Juan, Metro Manila, the seemingly unwelcoming practice of dousing a passerby with water is a supposed "re-enactment" of baptism associated with the townspeople's patron saint, St. John the Baptist.
- The popular Santa Cruzan in the month of May is in itself a depiction of a Christian legend.
- And of course, the biggest fiesta of all—*Pasko* or Christmas—is the commemoration of the birth of Jesus.

A predominantly Catholic society wherein most of its citizens re-



vere the saints, it is therefore not hard to understand why fiestas have become customary in the Philippines.

Fiestas are also occasions for Filipinos to live the song *Panahon na para magsaya; Forget muna ang problema.* Others display their energetic and artistic expressions in a chain of activities such as processions and parades, singing, dancing, pageants and feasting. Nowadays, however, Liongson says fiestas are becoming less religious in nature. In his hometown of Laoag City, the commemoration of the feast of San Guillermo is held February 10 of each year.

"In my hometown, however, fi-

(cont. from page 1; 3 PINOYS ...)

Under Chinese law, smuggling of 50 grams or more of heroin or similar drugs is punishable by death.

Malacñang expressed its condolences to the families of the three and vowed to address concerns over the rising cases of Filipinos falling prey to drug syndicates.

"Consistent with the laws and values of our country, we pleaded with the Chinese government to commute their death sentences to life imprisonment. Unfortunately, the Chinese government did not agree and we must respect their legal processes. I ask the public not to allow this situation to affect our historic friendship with the Chinese people," a statement from President Aquino read.

"The nation sympathizes with the families of the condemned, sharing their sense of looming loss. We sympathize with these families now. Their deaths are a vivid lesson in the tragic toll the drug trade takes on entire families," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

Based on a timeline of events sent by the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen to the Department of Foreign Affairs and read to media, Credo and Ordinario-Villanueva were taken to the execution chamber at 10:40 a.m.

The timeline sent by the Philippine Consulate General in Guangzhou showed that Batain was taken to the execution venue at 11:18 a.m. Relatives of Credo and Villanueva together with consulate officials were allowed to talk to the two at separate booths from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Xiamen No. 1 Detention House.

The final and executory sentences on Credo followed by Villanueva were read to them at the 2nd Criminal Tribunal of the Inter-

mediate People's Court starting at 9:40 a.m.

In Shenzhen, Batain's relatives arrived with consulate officials at the No. 3 Detention House at 9 a.m. Villanueva's remains were presented to her relatives at noon at the Xiamen Funeral Parlor. A firm called Corpse International Travel will ship her remains to the Philippines.

Death certificates of Credo and Villanueva, as well as their passports and personal belongings, were turned over by the Intermediate People's Court officials to Philippine consulate officials at 1:50 p.m.

The DFA said the Credo family and consular officials claimed his cremated remains at the Xiamen Crematorium at Jimei District.

The Guangdong High People's Court officially notified the Philippine Consulate General of the executions at 12:30 p.m.

The DFA said the shipment of Batain's remains was being arranged with Chinese authorities.

The DFA observed a minute of silence at 12 noon in memory of Credo, Villanueva and Batain.

"To each of the three families we're like to say that we're truly sorry for the loss of their loved ones, that they're about to endure today. We'll pray for them," acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters after a special Mass at 8 a.m. at the DFA.

"May God bless their souls," DFA spokesman Eduardo Malaya said. "In deference to the extreme difficulties and grief being experienced by the families of the three Filipinos, the DFA is not making further statements as of the moment," Malaya said.

China had originally set the execution of the three last Feb. 21 and 22 but decided to give them a reprieve following a visit from Vice

President Jejomar Binay, the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers affairs.

Binay, who had flown to Beijing to plead for a stay in the execution of the three, appealed yesterday for prayers for the repose of their souls and advised Filipinos to draw lessons from the tragedy.

"Let us all pray for the repose of their souls and for strength for their families. In this time of grief, let us give them our support and prayers," he said.

"I joined the entire Filipino nation in praying for the souls of our three kababayans to have peace. Let us also pray for their respective families. May the Lord give them the strength to overcome their grief," Binay said.

"We must all commit ourselves fully to the fight against drugs, and to take all necessary action to stop this menace from destroying more lives and families," he said. Binay was in Qatar yesterday, where he offered Mass for the three.

"The administration of President Aquino is committed to look

(continued on page 5)

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## LESSONS LEARNED

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# HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1: FIESTA...)

"In past years, the Fiesta at Kapiolani Park has attracted tens of thousands of locals and tourists," he says. "The magnitude of this event, the significant exposure it creates and the various opportunities it provides for public contact will be a boon to participating organizations."

Arre concurs and says that despite the down economy, businesses should not pass up this "once-a-year opportunity to highlight their goods and services to a great number of people."

The title sponsor for the third straight year is Hawaiian Airlines. In addition to a generous sponsorship of \$10,000 in cash, Hawaiian Air is also donating 10 roundtrip tickets to Manila. Entry forms may be picked up from the Fil-Corn Center booth during the fiesta.



Iza Calzado and Dennis Trillo

"Six will be raffled at the end of entertainment portion of the program. One must be present to win," Arre says.

This year's media sponsor is GMA Pinoy TV, which will provide two well-known talents in Dennis Trillo and Iza Calzado. Trillo is a

singer and film actor, while Calzado is an actress, TV host and model. Both will close the Fiesta entertainment in the afternoon and will host a "meet and greet" photo session at GMA Pinoy TV's booth.

Other generous supporters include the City & County of Honolulu and the Hawaii Tourism Authority (Kaibigan sponsors); Western Union and Hawaii Community Foundation (Mabuhay sponsors); and Island Insurance (Bayaninhan sponsor).

## SEE YOU AT THE FIESTA!

The Filipino culture is essentially on display during the Fiesta and Parade for all to see. As such, it is a great opportunity to share with friends and visitors the Filipino culture and to experience it in song, dance, food and costumes—to

name just a few.

Because the event is the largest and most visible Filipino gathering in the state, organizers emphasize the importance of Filipinos to come out and support the 19th Annual Fiesta and Parade.

Crowds or the lack of parking should not discourage you from attending, Arre says.

"There is plenty of parking around Kapiolani Park," he says.

"You may have to walk just a little further but it's a perfect exercise before you load up on *lumpia*, *adobo*, *pinakbet*, *caccaron* and *suman*. Bring the whole family. We promise that it will be fun for the young and old. It's an excellent and relatively inexpensive entertainment for the whole family and to socialize."

And, who knows, you may win one of the round trip tickets to the Philippines on Hawaiian Airlines. But only if you attend! ■

(cont. from page 1: 3 PINOYS...)

after the well-being of our overseas Filipino workers. Our President is determined to introduce much-needed reforms in government to address the concerns of our OFWs, and make our government agencies more responsive to their needs," Binay said.

The Supreme Court also extended sympathies to the victims' families but said the laws of China should be respected. "We're supposed to respect the rule of law there in the same way we have a rule of law in our jurisdiction that foreigners have to respect," SC spokesman Midas Marquez said in a press briefing.



## SYMPATHIES.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Ed Malaya, left, leads officers and staff in observing a moment of silence after the execution.

Photo: PAT ROQUE, AP

conviction and punishment," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casasio said.

Zambales Rep. Milagros Magaysay said the executions should prompt the government "to be serious in its anti-drug campaign and implement strictly the law at the borders so that people will not be emboldened to commit crimes."

Bagong Henerasyon party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy appealed to the government "to guarantee that similar tragedies will not fall on the more than 72 overseas Filipino workers now languishing in various Chinese prison cells on illegal drug and other serious criminal offenses."

Gabriela party-list Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan said "many of these OFWs have long complained of the lack of legal assistance and support from the government, a problem that will most likely continue as the Aquino government slashed the budget for legal assistance to OFWs for this year," Ilagan said.

She said only P30 million is allocated for legal assistance to OFWs in the 2011 budget as against P100 million in 2009.

## LAWNS FOLLOWED

Meanwhile, Sen. Miriam Santiago said China cannot be faulted for standing firm in its decision.

"The principle of international law is once you enter the territory of another state, you immediately fall under the laws and under the legal regime of that state," Santiago said.

"As a nation, we grieve for the loss of our kababayans who were executed in China today. But along with our sympathies to their families and loved ones, we must also look into the circumstances that have brought about the situation," Senate

committee on youth, women and family relations chairperson Pia Cayetano said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan advised fellow public servants to "do what we can to modernize our economy so that our people would seek gainful employment here at home rather than elsewhere."

(www.philstar.com) ■

(cont. from page 1: FIRST LIVER...)

Sabornido was the first liver transplant patient in the country to be discharged within three weeks without medical complications after a 12-hour operation. Sabornido said he was excited to go home.

"Thank God for giving me part two of my life," he said.

St. Luke's president Jose Ledesma said the surgery was performed by a team of 36 doctors headed by Allan Concejero together with Cervantes and hepatologist Ian Homera.

The P3-million cost of the operation was shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, St. Luke's Medical Center and several donors, including Sabornido's friends.

"Today we are saying we have a very competent, confident liver transplant team. Filipinos no longer have to go abroad for liver transplantation," Ledesma said.

Cervantes said the patient is now ready to live a normal life again so long as he continues med-

ication.

Sabornido, a physician based in Miami Oriental, said he discovered his liver problem in 2006 but failed to have it diagnosed because of lack of money.

Last December, however, his condition worsened causing him to vomit blood. When his condition was diagnosed, it was discovered that he was suffering from end-stage liver cancer.

Cervantes said he had advanced liver cirrhosis, caused by chronic hepatitis B.

"We are not God but based on statistics he has six months left to live and only liver transplant can save him," she said. Sabornido said despite the ordeal, he never lost hope because his strong faith in God gave him strength.

Because he is still recovering from the operation, he may not yet go back to his old job. For the meantime, he would be helping St. Luke's to encourage people with liver problems to undergo liver transplant. (www.philstar.com) ■

## SYMPATHIES AND WARNINGS

Lawmakers joined the nation in mourning and said the tragedy should serve as wake-up call for authorities to step up the campaign against drug syndicates.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said authorities, particularly anti-drug law enforcers, should be stricter in screening outbound travelers.

He also warned Filipinos traveling out of the country to be wary of criminal syndicates who might dupe them into carrying illegal drugs.

"We exhausted all efforts to save the lives of our kababayans. We each made our separate appeals to the Chinese government, on top of the official negotiation the government has made, but the Chinese government remained firm in their decision," Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello, chairman of the House committee on overseas workers' affairs, said.

"We also raise our voices and join the world in condemning the implementation of death penalty in China and elsewhere, and call for its subsequent abolition," Bello said. There are still 66 countries that implement this punishment.

"Now that the last-ditch efforts to stop the killings have failed, it is a matter of justice that we now find out if the government could have done something more to prevent their

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## OPINION

## How a Person Loses a Sense of Shame

AS I WRECK THIS CHAIR by William M. ESOSO

After following the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings on the corruption scandals in the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), many folks have been wondering just how these civilians, as well as former and still active military officers undergoing investigation, can shamelessly feign to forget important details and hide behind the abuse of the right against self-incrimination. You eventually wonder if these persons being investigated in the Senate have altogether lost their sense of shame and sense of honor.

A person loses a sense of shame after that person loses a sense of honor. That's a reality that people must understand if they're to appreciate just how corrupt our country had become.

It's a strong sense of honor in a country that compels public officials to resign immediately once they are linked to the slightest public scandal. The British Secretary of State for War John Profumo resigned once the Christine Keller sex scandal hit the national press during the 1960s.

The political fallout of the Profumo Affair resulted in the subsequent resignation of Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, citing reasons of health. Here, we have a public official who even videotaped and circulated his sexual escapade with a showbiz personality.

It's a strong sense of honor in a country that compels the Japanese ancient warrior to take his own life when a vital mission had been botched or when he had committed an act that brought shame to his shogun. Here, we have public officials who cannot even offer to resign after violating their oath or after having compromised our national interest.

It's a strong sense of honor in a country that compels a South Korean President to publicly apologize for wrongdoing and willingly accept punishment. Here in our country, we've seen how political power is misused at will to protect the biggest thieves from prosecution.

Thus, it's hard to fathom how all these former and still active officers

of the AFP can shamelessly be claiming memory loss during the Senate hearings. It's hard to fathom how it doesn't appear to affect them that their countrymen are condemning them in the Court of Public Opinion with the way they've been hiding the truth. Because of them, the AFP is now rated by Filipinos as the most corrupt institution in government — as shown by the latest Pulse Asia corruption survey.

A soldier is conditioned to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Dying with his boots on is the soldier's concept of supreme honor. Lying through their teeth during a Senate hearing is the exact opposite of that concept of supreme honor.

They don't realize that even if they escape legal prosecution — they stand to suffer a worse fate in the Court of Public Opinion. There is no Court of Appeals or Supreme Court to reverse a conviction in the Court of Public Opinion. Dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos was never convicted in a Court of Law but his family is unable to reverse the severe verdict of the Court of Public Opinion on

the late dictator.

This blatant demonstration of a lack of sense of shame and sense of honor can be considered a reflection of our damaged culture. People can afford to lose their sense of shame when in their country the filthy rich are considered "honorable" even if they accumulated wealth through foul means. Petty bureaucrats with big mansions and expensive cars — which are obviously not within their means to afford — are easily accepted in our communities. Worse, they're even fawned upon, sought for advice and patronized.

We never really ostracized a big crook in our country. Oddly, we tend to be less forgiving to the petty crooks — the ones who are forced by circumstances to steal in order to feed their hungry children. A people's culture cannot be more damaged than that.

British public officials like John Profumo have no other choice but to resign at the slightest hint of scandal because they know that the British public will subject them to a fate worse than resignation if

they shamelessly attempt to hold on to their positions. Not only that, their very own colleagues or party mates will force them to resign lest they bring the entire house down with them. Here, we see and allow the exact opposite.

Instead of pressuring Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) to resign after the Garci Tapes scandal broke out — the Lakas-CMD and Kampi political parties of the administration wove a protective shield around her. The protective shield was extended to GMA through all the attempts to impeach her for various alleged culpable violations of the Constitution. During times like these, we cannot blame some of our young people who admitted in surveys that they privately wish that they were born as another national, instead of a Filipino.

Considering how our institutions have already been corrupted to the point that many of our public officials no longer feel a sense of shame — the Filipino must utilize People Power again to shake the comfort zones of these callous individuals.

For starters, let's ostracize them, turn our backs to them and refuse to sell anything to them. (www.philstar.com) ■

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Poster/Slogan Contest for Peace

THE EARTH CITIZEN MOVEMENT (ECM) OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (IBREA) are encouraging Hawaii's young artists to participate in a poster design contest for peace.

Posters and slogans must be original and use the theme "Achieving our Dream of Peace." The contest is open to all students ages 11 to 18.

IBREA Hawaii and ECM are non-profit groups whose mission is to educate individuals, communities and nations on the potential of the human brain to bring health, happiness and peace to all of humanity and the earth. Both organizations believe in the artistic inclination of Hawaii's youth, as well as their sincere desire to foster peace through



their talents.

All entries will be on display at the McCoy Pavilion on May 15, 2011 during the Mago Earth Festival for Peace, from 11 am to 4 pm.

Prizes for first, second and third place are \$500, \$300 and \$200, respectively and include a certificate as well as recognition for the winners' schools.

## Poster Requirements/Guidelines

Posters must have a positive message and may not use copy-

righted characters, photographs, and magazine or newspaper illustrations without permission. Posters must also incorporate an original slogan regarding your own dream of peace and how it can be achieved. The deadline to submit posters is April 14, 2011.

Students must work alone and may submit only one work per person. Posters must conform to the following dimensions: 11" x 17" or 12" x 18" and may be of any art medium, including paints, cut-outs, pen and ink, chalks, pencils, crayons, charcoal, computer graphics and photography. Live matches, glass or objects over 1/2" in diameter or height will not be allowed.

Entries should be submitted on or before April 14, 2011, at the Dahn Yoga Center, 401 Kamaeke Street. Entrants can only submit one poster. Each entry should have an entry form pasted on the back of the poster stating the title of the work, the artist's name, mailing address, telephone number and email. It should also include a statement that says the artist has read and agrees to the rules and regulations.

Winners will be notified via email or phone. Awards will be given during the Mago Earth Day Peace Festival on May 15th at McCoy Pavilion.

For more information, please call the Honolulu Dahn Yoga Center 596-9642, Ruth Managalo at 956-6970 or Liz Kial at 533-2045. ■

## BBB Warns Cell Phone Users of "Smishing" Scam

A NEW YEAR OFTEN MEANS A NEW SCAM and this time the unsuspecting targets cell phone users.

Like traditional "phishing," "smishing" schemes often pose as banks or lottery sweepstakes asking customers to contact them immediately about a pressing issue that needs to be discussed.

Victims of the scam are often asked to call a toll-free number and provide information such as their debit card or account number and password, to a fake automated system. Victims have complained they have received text messages that claim their bank account is frozen but include a toll free number for them to call and clear things up.

"These hackers are looking for you to respond with vital information that can ultimately lead to identity theft," says Dwight Kealoha, CEO of Hawaii's Better Business Bureau (BBB). "In the cases of the lottery 'smishing' scam, hackers want you to wire over money before receiving your 'prize,' one of the biggest red flags of a 'smishing' scam."

Text messages such as "Win cash now!" and "Short on cash? Reply here!" are all red flags that a lottery sweepstakes "smishing" scam is in the midst. Many of these

messages come with embedded links that can ultimately spread viruses to the phone if clicked.

Hawaii's BBB offers consumers the following advice if they suspect that they have fallen victim to a "smishing" scam:

- Never reply to the text message. Scammers are preying on victims that text back and ultimately verify that the text has been sent to an active cell phone. Never click a link in a message to prevent a possible viral attack on your phone.
- Report the text immediately. If you believe you have fallen victim to a "smishing" bank scam, call your bank. They'll be able to verify if the text is legitimate.
- Call your cell phone provider. Your cell phone provider should be able to block the number, as well as any premium text messages.
- Do your research. If you think you're a victim of a "smishing" lottery sweepstakes scam, contact the BBB to confirm the legitimacy of the text message and file a complaint against the business responsible.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC works to legally prevent fraudulent business practices in the marketplace. File a complaint with the FTC by calling 1-877-HELP. ■

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## LEGAL MATTERS

# Might Makes Right? – From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli



by Atty. Emmanuel  
Samonte TIPON

**W**henever I hear the Marines' Hymn "From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli," I am reminded of my son Noel, a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps, as he marched off to "fight our country's battles" not in Tripoli but in Iraq. Thank God, he is back in Hawaii uncaptured and is now practicing law with me.

When First Lady Imelda Marcos traveled to Tripoli, Libya to ask Col. Khadafy to intercede with the Muslims who had set Mindanao ablaze, she was ushered into the tent of Khadafy. According to an anecdote, the Libyan leader was being massaged by a masseuse. He was unclad. In his excitement to meet Imelda, Khadafy forgot to wrap himself in a towel. "Kadako!" exclaimed Imelda in Visayan. "It's Khadafy, madam," replied Khadafy.

Khadafy has been good to Filipinos. He negotiated a cease fire between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation

Front (MNLFF) on December 23, 1976 - the Tripoli Agreement. Libya has provided more than 13,000 jobs to Filipinos, many of whom have no visas or have expired visas. Libya is not deporting them, unlike America.

## IS AMERICA ADDICTED TO WAR?

Now these hard-working Filipinos are losing their jobs and maybe even their lives because of the bombardment of Libya by the three amigos – United States, France, and Britain avowedly to save civilian lives in the wake of the rebellion by anti-Khadafians. Instead of saving lives, the bombardment has actually caused the death of scores of innocent Libyans, including children.

Khadafy has not harmed any Americans, French, or Britons nor has he placed their interests in jeopardy. This unprovoked attack by the three amigos does not appear justified. It is a blatant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

They say Khadafy is a dictator. Has he forced Libyans to buy health insurance or ordered straight soldiers to fight alongside gays?

As the aphorism says: "Might makes right," meaning "that people who have power can do whatever

they want." Legal or illegal.

<http://www.enotes.com/sidemountain/q-and-a/what-does-mean-that-might-right-107075>. "Might makes right" has been described as the credo of totalitarian regimes. GE White (1973). Evolution of Reasoned Elaboration: Jurisprudential Criticism and Social Change, The Va. L. Rev. It appears also to be the credo of many consular and immigration officers who are denying for flimsy reasons applications for immigration benefits or deporting aliens without balancing their positive and negative character traits.

Why don't the three amigos attack the Somali pirates who constitute more of a threat to humanity? American vessels have been hijacked by these pirates. Recently, the yacht of an American couple planning to distribute Bibles in Africa was captured by the pirates. They were killed. Que barbaridad! What did the brave Mr. Obama and his cohorts do? Nothing, awan, wala.

In February 1986, sympathizers of Cory Aquino, who lost the election to Marcos, appealed to China to join the U.S. in pressuring Marcos to resign and give her the presidency. China replied that the contested election was an internal affair of the Philippines, Marcos had

been proclaimed elected by the National Assembly, and that China continued to develop relations based on 'five principles' which include respect for the internal affairs of another country. This is according to our friend, Col. Arturo Aniza, Marcos' chief aide, with whom we spent hours in Makiki Heights talking about their kidnapping by the Americans.

Why doesn't the rest of the world emulate China's wise policy? The leaders of the U.S., France, and Britain profess to be Christians. Why don't they hearken to the Biblical injunction: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." Zechariah 4.6. ■

(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.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com). He is from Laogaj 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 KNDD 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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## TRAVELOGUE

# Mabalacat-Clark: Your Gateway to the World

RENDEZVOUS by Christine S. Dayrit

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Voltaire's keystone maxim simply suggests that we see things beyond what we look at.

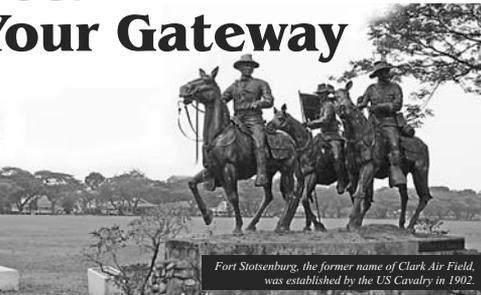
Our late dad Vincent Dayrit divulged to us siblings before he died 14 years ago that he envisioned it would take short of a decade for his beloved province Pangampangan and its environs to embrace unprecedented progress and development. He also said that from the ashes caused by the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo, a promising future would emerge.

The dazzling diamonds that signify beauty and grace were formed by tremendous heat and pressure just like a seonic caldera is formed when the volcanic movement sends its vent crashing down as pyroclastic debris are ejected from the fiery bowels. Yes, the most enchanting beauty can be borne from adversity.

A trip north of Manila last month took me to a precious tourist destination in Central Luzon — Mt. Pinatubo, led by my brother Mark, brother-in-law Pael Romualdez, design planner Kenny Quintal and 10 Japanese entrepreneurs who intended to study how we as a nation coped with the disaster of Mt. Pinatubo's explosion. The Japanese contingent specifically came to learn about disaster management and re-

covery. They were impressed with what they saw and enlightened by what they learned. With the recent natural double-catastrophe that hit Japan, we received word that the lessons they learned from their trip to Pinatubo are helping them cope. Our indefatigable tour leader, Guy "Indra" Hilbero, who has trekked this area 42 times as head of the Mabalacat Tourism Council, established the four routes to reach the most amazing spots here. His work includes a collaboration with Robbie Talingco, director of Center for Kapampangan studies, Holy Angel University on the book entitled "A Volcano in Our Backyard" This will be launched on June 15, 2011 on the 20th anniversary of the Pinatubo eruptions. Guy shared that the infamous volcano that erupted in 1991 after centuries of dormancy is recorded as the biggest and most destructive volcanic eruption in the recent years. He said that nature has a graceful way of correcting its own wrath as we prepared to trek to the crater to view the tranquil and majestic 2.5-km crater-lake.

What used to be a five-hour hike has been conveniently reduced to an hour. The natives called Aetas, the original inhabitants of these lands, serve as your gracious guides for the trek as they narrate interesting stories of survival. They have chosen to remain here and live



Fort Stotsenburg, the former name of Clark Air Field, was established by the US Cavalry in 1902.

a life detached from material desires. They espouse their amazing belief that everything here is alive and take their role as stewards of the environment seriously. We have much to learn from them.

The spectacular scenery of gigantic boulders, exotic plants, rolling terrains of verdant greens, romantic streams, gurgling brooks, various rock formations may remind you of Switzerland, New Zealand, Grand Canyon and Sedona in Arizona. Some of the trekkers exclaimed it is like being in shangri-la or finding your lost horizon. You can also take the Cessna flights that hover above the Cessna and its vistas.

Upon viewing the emerald-turquoise waters that sparkle from the dint of the sun, one can't help but be amazed by how one's sense of fatigue or weariness suddenly dissipates at this marvelous sight. One surmises one is in wonderland, in a sanctuary of magical healing. One can swim in these calm waters but due to the sulphur content, fish cannot survive. From the dramatic crevices, steam emanates like gentle smoke towards the heavens. Mt. Pinatubo can be reached from the Crow Valley nearby, where the bombing and gunnery range of the American forces used to be. Today, it is the gateway to one of Mother Nature's most spectacular treasures.

"Mabalacat has much more to be proud of as it prepares to be a component city this year," said the dynamic Mabalacat Mayor Mariano "Boking" Morales after the trek. He

revealed that Mabalacat became a town in 1712 thus they were preparing to celebrate the town's 400th anniversary. He further added, "We have a comprehensive land use plan and master plan. We have the spacious Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), the Clark Freeport Zone, investment and incentive opportunities, several parks, lush trees, lots of new infrastructure and world class hotels."

The premier address to stay here is in the well-appointed Holiday Inn Clark, in close proximity to the 36-hole Mimosa Golf and Country Club. Just five minutes drive from the DMIA, this 299-key hotel evocative of an elegant colonial mansion has a huge palm tree-lined outdoor pool, which, together with its posh spa, commands rest and relaxation. Over a hearty lunch of exotic and delectable Brazilian spit roasts featuring a selection of mouthwatering certified Angus Beef steaks and Mongolian barbecue at the Rodizio Roof Top Grill of Holiday Inn, we learned more about synergy of Mabalacat and Clark. This famous roof top grill also boasts a walk-in wine cellar that will surely make even the most discerning wine connoisseur sated.

Did you know that 95 percent of Clark is located inside Mabalacat? EVP of Clark Development Corp. Philip Panlilio welcomed us to his office. We learned that Mabalacat-Clark, the gateway to the world, is fast emerging as a globally competitive, logistically efficient location for information and communication, technology aviation, industrial, business and tourism. Almost the size of Singapore, Clark lies 80 km. north of Manila, 90 minutes' drive along the North Luzon Expressway. You can reach Subic within a 45-minute drive and the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac in 15 minutes via the scenic Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway. A natural entry point to the Asia Pacific Region, Clark is only a three-and-a-half-hour flying time away from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Korea and other key points in Asia. With increasing flights by Air Asia (South East Asia's) largest budget

carrier at Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and over 60 flights a week to date, DMIA is expected to be the premier international gateway where the Airbus 380 can land.

Other attractions here are the Global Gateway Logistics City (GGLC) comprised of 177 hectares with over four million square meters space available. It is bigger than Fort Bonifacio and the Makati Central Business District with an initial investment of \$2 billion from Kuwait Gulf Link 2. The former Expo Filipino has been transformed into the Clark Education City. Billion dollar business conglomerates like UPS, Texas Instruments, Phoenix Semiconductors (a subsidiary of Samsung) and more have chosen Clark as the hub of operations.

There is also the "Next Frontier," the 10,684-hectare vast expanse of land adjacent to the Clark Freeport Zone, which is ideal for tourism, light industrial, agro-industrial and commercial development. For decades, Clark Air Base was the largest base outside mainland USA. It was established by the US Cavalry in 1902 as Fort Stotsenburg. Today graceful old homes with large verandas called barn houses by the former occupants are well preserved to remind visitors of the grandeur of Fort Stotsenburg.

In retrospect, Mabalacat, once a settlement of a Negrito tribe that occupied an area inhabited by virtual forests of balacat trees four centuries ago has evolved into the dynamic and progressive haven that it is. Make the time to visit this booming and progressive soon-to-be-city, under the leadership of Pangampangan Gov. Lilia "Nanay Baby" Pineda and Mayor Morales, and discover the many wonderful activities and possibilities of this dynamic place. Mayor Morales added, "At the rate we're going, we can be Manoma or Makati North of Manila in the near future. This is our vision. We must dream big."

There is so much more in store. Mabalacat is one destination that is better experienced than explained.

Dad was right after all. (www.philtar.com) ■

The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark is an entry point to the Asia Pacific region.



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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Pinoys Divided on Marcos Burial

by Helen FLORES  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - FILIPINOS ARE DIVIDED ON THE PROPOSED BURIAL** of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, a non-commissioned survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) revealed yesterday.

The First Quarter of 2011 Social Weather Survey, conducted from March 4 to 7, found 50 percent of Filipinos favored the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani while 49 percent said otherwise.

To the survey question, "In your opinion, is the body of ex-Pres. Marcos worthy to be buried in

the Heroes Cemetery or not?" 50 percent answered "Worthy to be buried in the Heroes Cemetery," 49 percent answered "Not worthy to be buried in the Heroes Cemetery," and one percent had no answer.

SWS also asked respondents who favored Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani the question, "Do you think he deserves a burial with official honors or a private burial only?" to which 30 percent said he should be "buried with official honors," and 20 percent said "private burial only."

The survey found majorities of respondents, or 58 percent in Metro Manila and 54 percent in balance Luzon, supporting Marcos' burial at the Libingan.



Former President Ferdinand Marcos

However, majorities of respondents, 59 percent in Mindanao and 54 percent in the Visayas, oppose it.

SWS said opinions on Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani are split across classes: 53

percent in class ABC support and 46 percent oppose it; among respondents in class D or "masa," 50 percent support and 49 percent oppose it; among those in class E, 51 percent support and 49 percent oppose.

Those who favor a Libingan burial with official honors for Marcos are 34 percent in balance Luzon, 32 percent in Metro Manila, 26 percent in the Visayas, and 24 percent in Mindanao.

Those who prefer having only a private Libingan burial for the former president are 26 percent in Metro Manila, 20 percent in balance Luzon, 20 percent in the Visayas, and 16 percent in Mindanao.

By class, preference for a Li-

bingan burial with official honors is 31 percent in class D, 29 percent in class ABC, and 29 percent in class E.

On the other hand, preference for a private Libingan burial is 24 percent in class ABC, 22 percent in class E, and 19 percent in class D.

The SWS survey used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults in Metro Manila, the balance of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

It has sampling error margins of plus or minus three percentage points for national percentages and plus or minus six percentage points for area percentages.

Over 200 lawmakers, including those from the opposition, have signed a resolution urging President Aquino to allow the burial of the remains of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## Lawmakers Want Increase in Assistance to OFWs

by Jess DIAZ  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - THE EXECUTION YESTERDAY OF THREE FILIPINO CONVICTED DRUG COURIERS** in China has prompted lawmakers to call for a substantial increase in funds for legal assistance to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) facing criminal charges in their host countries.

Seven representatives of militant party-list groups in the House of Representatives proposed that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) legal assistance fund for OFWs should be increased from the present P30 million to P500 million.

The authors of the supplemental budget bill are Representatives Teddy Casifio and Ner Colmenares of Bayan Muna, Luz Ilagan and Emni de Jess of Gabriela, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, Raymond Palatino of Kabataan, and Antonio Tnio of ACT Teachers.

They made the proposal in Bill 4406, which seeks the appropriation of a P9-billion supplemental budget for this year to augment funds for "unforeseen circumstances and developments that affect our OFWs in Asia, North Africa and the Middle East."

Some P5.5 billion of the P9 billion in additional funds would go to the DFA, including the P500-million augmentation to the OFW legal assistance fund.

"Our foreign policy will be a

complete failure if government cannot allocate funds for the safety and bailout of Filipinos caught in dire situations abroad," Casifio said.

The lawmakers extended their condolences and sympathies to the families of Sally Villanueva, Elizabeth Batain and Ramon Credo who were executed by lethal injection in China.

"Even as we are saddened by the news of their execution, lessons must be learned. Much needs to be done so that no other OFW will have the same fate as Sally Villanueva, Elizabeth Batain and Ramon Credo," Ilagan said.

She said thousands of OFWs are in very similar circumstances in various jails in China and the Middle East.

"We have documented at least 125 OFWs in death row, of which 85 are drug-related cases. There are over 7,000 OFWs in jail in different parts of the world," she said.

DFA officials have assured the families of Villanueva, Batain and Credo that they have provided the necessary assistance to the three suspected drug couriers, including lawyers and interpreters.

The bulk of the proposed P9-billion 2011 supplemental budget would be used to extradite OFWs in countries facing political turmoil such as Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain. Of the amount, P500 million would go to the Department of Labor and Em-



Rep. Teddy Casifio

ployment, P500 million to the Department of Trade and Industry and P2.5 billion to the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Local workers yesterday expressed grief over the execution of three Filipinos convicted of drug trafficking in China.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) said the execution of the three Filipinos proved once again that the government is incapable of protecting the people.

"This is very sad day for the Filipino workers and people. The execution of Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, Elizabeth Batain and Ramon Credo is a painful reminder of how far Filipinos have been pushed by extreme poverty, chronic joblessness and low wages in the country, and how the Philippine government is powerless in protecting migrant Filipino abroad," KMU said in a statement.

KMU chair Elmer Labog said as fellow Filipinos, local workers could also feel the pain of Villanueva, Batain and Credo's loved ones.

KMU criticized President Aquino for issuing a "shallow" directive to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to ensure that international drug syndicates will not recruit Filipinos again.

Labog said Aquino's directive only showed that the government would not be doing much to really address poverty and unemployment in the country, but is desperately trying to appear to be doing something for the Filipino workers.

Retired Ligayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said it is heartbreaking for the young children of the three Filipinos executed in China, adding they would forever bear an inexplicable trauma in their minds.

Cruz said it's so saddening to see the young kids crying, knowing their parent would be executed.

He said there are many Chinese in the Philippines who also commit grave offenses yet they are not sentenced to die.

Cruz based on reports, there are many more Filipinos sentenced to die in China. "When will this ever end?" he asked.

The umbrella group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the government should review and abandon its labor-export policy after the three Filipinos were executed in China.

"Government should work to provide long-term employment opportunities in the country so that Filipinos will not have to go abroad and be vulnerable to exploitation. Government should also exert more effort to protect OFWs from drug traffickers and others who are out to exploit them," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## PNoy: Gov't Steadfast in Going After Drug Syndicates

by Aurea CALICA  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) -- PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III SAID TODAY THAT SINCE HE ASSUMED** the presidency in June last year, his administration has been steadfast in going after drug syndicates.

In a statement, Mr. Aquino said in the first quarter of this year alone, the National Capital Region Police Office has seized methamphetamine hydrochloride with a market value of P1.4 billion, shut down two illegal drug laboratories and arrested 23 foreign nationals involved in drug trade.

There are Filipinos languishing in jails all over the world, especially in the Middle East, because of their alleged involvement in drug trafficking, noted Mr. Aquino.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a situation where people are not pressured to resort to these things, where they can find enough gainful employment in the Philippines," the President said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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■ **PHILIPPINE NEWS**  
**BSP Trims Growth Target on  
OFW Inflows**

by Lawrence **AGCAOLI** /  
Monday, March 18, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - THE BANKGO SEN-  
TRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) IS SET TO  
CUT THE GROWTH TARGET** on overseas  
Filipino workers' remittances due to the political  
tensions in Middle East and North Africa  
(MENA) states and the disasters in Japan.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo  
said authorities would review the country's  
monetary targets aimed at lowering the growth  
target on remittances from Filipinos abroad as  
well as its corresponding impact on the balance  
of payments (BOP) position.

"There could be some downward adjust-  
ments," Guinigundo stressed.

The BSP sees OFW remittances growing  
by another eight percent, breaching the \$20 bil-  
lion level this year.

OFW remittances went up by 8.2 percent  
to hit a new record level of \$18.76 billion last  
year from \$17.348 billion in 2009 due to the  
continued demand of skilled Filipino workers  
abroad.

He pointed out that the BSP would take  
into consideration the political tensions in  
MENA states as well as the 8.9 magnitude  
earthquake and tsunami in Japan when it re-  
views the country's monetary targets next  
month.

He added that the BSP usually conducts  
a review of the country's monetary targets  
every April and October of each year to look  
into developments affecting the country's ex-  
ternal payments position.

Countries in the Middle East accounted for

about 16 percent or \$2.96 billion of the total  
OFW remittances last year. More than half or  
\$1.644 billion came from Saudi Arabia followed  
by the United Arab Emirates with \$776.3 mil-  
lion, Qatar with \$248.8 million, Bahrain with  
\$167.28 million, Kuwait with \$106.5 million,  
Israel with \$67.3 million, Oman with \$66.76 mil-  
lion, and others.

On the other hand, Asian countries ac-  
counted for 12.6 percent to \$2.36 billion of the  
total amount of money sent home by OFWs  
last year. Japan was the major contributor with  
\$883 million followed by Singapore with  
\$734.13 million, Hong Kong with \$362.5 mil-  
lion, and Taiwan with \$121.7 million.

He pointed out that developments abroad  
play a crucial role in the country's external pay-  
ments position.

As of October last year, the BSP set an  
eight percent growth target for OFW remit-  
tances and sees the country's BOP surplus sta-  
bilizing at \$1.9 billion.

However, Guinigundo said the BSP is now  
looking at a lower OFW remittance growth tar-  
get and a higher BOP surplus.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said  
earlier that the central bank sees the country's  
BOP surplus ranging between \$6 billion and \$8  
billion while the country's gross international re-  
serves (GIR) would hit a new record high of  
\$68 billion to \$70 billion.

The country's GIR - the sum of all foreign  
exchange flowing into the country - surged  
36.8 percent to a record level \$62.371 billion  
last year from \$45.03 billion in 2009 while the  
BOP - the difference of foreign exchange in-  
flows and outflows - posted a new all-time  
high surplus of \$14.4 billion from \$6.42 billion.  
([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

**House Leader Blames  
Church for Uncontrolled  
Pregnancies in Phl**

by Rose **TAMAYO-TESORIO** and  
Evelyn **MACARAN** /  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - HOUSE MINORITY  
LEADER EDCAL LAGMAN BLAMES  
THE CHURCH OPPOSITION** to the Repro-  
ductive Health (RH) Bill for the uncontrolled  
pregnancies of many poor Filipino women.

Lagman, principal author of the RH Bill,  
said "unremitting" pregnancies can be consid-  
ered "serious cases of violence against  
women."

He also blamed the government for "pro-  
crastinating" on the passage of the bill, and the  
men who impose themselves on their partners  
without proper contraception.

A National Demographic and Health Sur-  
vey showed that 11 women die daily from child-  
bearing causes.

"This form of violence against women con-  
stitutes physical, psychological and financial vi-  
olence which are punishable under Republic  
Act No. 9262 or the 'Anti Violence Against  
Women and Their Children Act,'" he said.

Lagman said uncontrolled pregnancy is a  
form of physical violence because it causes  
health risks and may even cause death. It is  
likewise psychological violence because  
women may be driven to commit abortion be-  
cause of the economic constraints in raising a  
child.

A study done by the University of the  
Philippines Population Institute showed that an  
average of 500,000 abortions are performed in  
the country every year.

"It is likewise financial violence because  
unremitting pregnancies prevent women from  
finishing their education and securing remu-  
nerative work for which reason they are con-  
demned to financial subjugation," Lagman said.

Last Friday, the Catholic leaders and pro-  
life groups held a rally with 40,000 followers at  
the Quirino Grandstand to oppose the passage  
of the RH bill in Congress.

Among the prominent personalities who  
joined the rally was boxing superstar and  
Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, a staunch  
opponent of the bill who believes the use of  
artificial contraceptives is a mortal sin.

"As a Catholic and God believer, I firmly  
believe that artificial birth control method is  
against the will of God," he told THE STAR. "Ar-  
tificial birth control could not address the na-  
tion's poverty and cannot cure our country's  
economy. It is the rampant corruption in the  
government that should be eliminated."

A member of the Catholic Bishops' Con-  
ference of the Philippines, who questioned  
anonymity, said the Catholic hierarchy actually  
misses former President Gloria Macapagal-Ar-  
royo, who supported their pro-life stance.  
([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Peace Between Gov't, MILF Still a Long Shot

by Paolo ROMERO/  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) — AFTER AN INITIAL OPTIMISM THAT THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III'S administration could finally sign a peace accord with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), there are now some doubts that this could be achieved in the short term.

Although the next round of talks are scheduled in Kuala Lumpur from April 27 to 28, a serious internal squabble within the top hierarchy of the MILF could derail the resumption of the negotiation and, if not resolved, could trigger more bloodshed in the southern Philippines.

The root cause of the MILF problem is Ameril Ombrá Kato, a hardline Moro commander, who has since bolted from the MILF Command with thousands of his armed followers and formed the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF). He vowed to wage a

separate armed struggle against the government.

In a recent interview at Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao on the southern Mindanao island, the stronghold of the main Muslim rebel group, MILF chieftain Al-Haj Murad confirmed that the 70-year-old Ombrá Kato, former chief of the MILF's 105th Base Command, has left the movement seven months ago.

After the botched signing of the Aug. 5, 2008 Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD), Kato and his men attacked Christian communities in Central Mindanao in the dead of the night, killing scores of innocent civilians, including children and women. The MOA-AD would have granted expanded autonomy, including rights to ancestral lands, to Muslim Filipinos.

After the massacre, government forces pursued Kato but he sought sanctuary in MILF camps, which were off-limits to military forces because of the existing



ceasefire agreement.

Kato has also been blamed for aggressive attacks against military forces and residents, particularly Christians.

Kato has been vocal about his all-out war plan against the government and insisted that the government should revive the provisions of the MOA-AD, which the Supreme Court has found unconstitutional. He said that the Aquino government is not offering anything beneficial to the Muslims in Mindanao.

Because of Kato's intransigence, some sectors have now expressed grave concerns about the outcome of the talks between the Philippine government and the

MILF.

The Brussels-based International Crisis Group (ICG) has said that the problem with Kato has complicated the already difficult negotiations between the two sides after they were scuttled in 2008 with the scrapping of the MOA-AD.

The ICG said that there are now serious doubts on whether the 11,000-strong MILF can deliver on any accord that might emerge from the negotiations, especially in maintaining peace and security in the area.

Members of a minority bloc in the House of Representatives have even urged the government to re-think its move to pursue negotia-

tions with the MILF after it appears that its leadership cannot control some of its armed factions.

In a joint statement, the opposition group said any peace agreement that may be forged with the MILF would be useless if the rebel group's leaders cannot control their more militant factions who may not honor a pact that could come out from the negotiations.

The minority bloc also urged the Aquino administration to be careful in dealing with the communist National Democratic Front as its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), continues to commit atrocities despite the resumption of the peace talks.

"We are greatly disturbed by the breakdown of a rogue MILF unit and continuing NPA attacks and plots to release captured insurgents," Dimaporo said.

"If rebel leaders cannot control their units, then the government must reassess the wisdom of resuming negotiations, which may just allow enemies of the Republic to strengthen their positions," the opposition statement said.

(www.philstar.com) ■

## Admin Mulls P117-Billion Local Borrowings

by Iris C. GONZALES/  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

MANILA, Philippines — THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO BORROW P117 billion from the local debt market in the second quarter of next year, higher than the first quarter borrowing program of P114 billion, the Bureau of the Treasury (BT) announced yesterday.

In a statement, the Treasury said that the government plans to sell P63 billion worth of Treasury bills from April to June, higher than the previous quarter's offer of P51 billion.

For Treasury bonds, the government is selling P54 billion worth of T-bonds, lower than the P63-billion programmed T-bond sale in the previous quarter.

Under the planned borrowing schedule for the second quarter, the Treasury increased anew the size of its T-bill auctions to P9 billion from P8.5 billion previously. Of the amount, the government is selling P1.5 billion worth of the 91-day paper, P3.5 billion for the 182-day paper and P4 billion for the one-year debt.

For T-bonds, the Treasury maintained the auction size at P9 billion,

similar to the previous quarter. Furthermore, the Treasury is selling four, seven and 10-year debt papers.

The government Issues Treasury bills and bonds to finance its budget deficit. This year, the government is eyeing to contain the budget deficit at P300 billion or 3.2 percent of total economic output.

Last year, the budget gap

hit P314.4 billion or 3.7 percent of gross domestic product.

The local borrowing program has been increasing every quarter

since last year. The P114 billion programmed borrowing for the first quarter of 2011 is higher than the 2010 fourth quarter borrowing program of P75 billion and year-ago borrowing program of P110.5 billion.

(www.philstar.com) ■

## Gov't Asks Local Executives to Help Combat Human Trafficking

by Paolo ROMERO/  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) — THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT on Wednesday the cooperation of the local executives to strictly inspect and monitor the operations of licensed recruitment agencies in their respective localities to intensify campaign against illegal recruitment and human trafficking.

"There is a need for the support of the local government units for the government's intensified campaign against illegal recruitment because many of our fellowmen became victims of these shrewd illegal recruiters," said Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Robredo urged local officials to revoke the business permit of agencies found to be engaged in illegal recruitment and human trafficking. He also asked local officials to hale



DILG Sec. Jesse Robredo

these agencies into court.

He warned local executives who will fail to decisively act on illegal recruitment and human trafficking concerns will be meted out with disciplinary actions for gross negligence or dereliction of duty.

Robredo, who is also the concurrent chairperson of the National Police Commission (Napolcom), directed Philippine National Police chief Director General Raul Bacalzo to monitor and help address said problems and cause the filing of charges against illegal recruiters and human traffickers.

"I expect the submission of periodic reports on your accomplishments regarding the anti-illegal recruitment and trafficking campaigns to the Napolcom," he said.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## New 6-year Blueprint to Help Phl Catch up with ASEAN Neighbors

by Paolo ROMERO /  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

Manila (Xinhua) — **THE WORLD BANK AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE PHILIPPINES** have expressed confidence that the newly-unveiled 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan (PDP) would spur economic growth in the country for the next six years.

It could also be a vehicle for the Philippines, which is lagging behind in economic development in the region, to catch up with its neighbors, particularly in ASEAN.

Speaking to the participants to the recently-concluded 2011 Philippine Development Forum, World Bank country director Bert Hofman said that renewed optimism and a strong trust of the Filipino people in President Benigno Aquino III would help create an inclusive growth for the Philippines under the PDP 2011-2016.

Hofman said that participants to the forum have lauded the Aquino administration for its commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency and performance.

According to Hofman, the participants noted the strong growth posted in 2010, the timely passage of the first budget of the administration, and the priority given to the conditional cash transfers program and the household targeting system.

The Philippine economy performed strongly last year, growing by a 34-year-high 7.3 percent compared with just 1.1 percent in 2009. The 2010 growth rate was also higher than the government's target of 5 percent to 6 percent for that year. For this year, the government is aiming for 7 to 8 percent GDP growth.

But the main challenge for the government, according to Hofman,

is to maintain high growth rates that could impact on the country's marginalized sector.

He said, however, that the programs and policies presented in the PDP 2011-2016 have the potential to achieve sustained inclusive growth for the country.

President Aquino formally approved the PDP 2011-2016 after its presentation by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on March 28.

NEDA Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said that the primary goal of the PDP is to create "inclusive growth, not the trickle-down and jobless growth that we had in the past years."

He said that among the key targets of the PDP are an annual economic growth of seven to eight percent and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs are a set of specific and time-bound development goals committed by international governments to be achieved by 2015.

"To achieve inclusive growth, the country needs to achieve a high and sustained growth path, provide equal access to development opportunities across social spectrums, and implement responsive social safety nets that would assist those who are left behind by the character of growth," Paderanga said.

He said that the PDP would transform President Aquino's "Social Contract with the Filipino People" into effective, efficient and inclusive interventions that will guide government agencies.

According to Paderanga, the overarching theme of the PDP 2011-2016 is good governance and anti-corruption in achieving in-

clusive growth, which would create massive employment opportunities and significantly reduce poverty.

But the PDP 2011-2016 is not without its critics. Former Budget and Management Secretary Benjamin Diokno pointed out one serious flaw in the PDP: it is fuzzy on how it would be financed.

Diokno, who now teaches economics at the University of the Philippines, said that development

plans, as a rule, should have a solid, comprehensive chapter on financing and the Plan has none.

Diokno stressed that there is a need to explain the financing gap in the development plan. "How will it be financed? How much will be financed through improved tax collection or through tax reform, which the Aquino government is resisting?" Diokno asked.

He also asked on how will the public-private partnership projects be financed and what and how

many are these projects.

These were also the same issues raised by the participants to the World Bank-organized forum. They said that to deliver on the targets set by the PDP while reducing corruption and improving equity, there is a need for new tax policies or an in-depth tax administration reform.

To achieve fiscal consolidation and increase priority spending it is essential for the government to raise taxes and strengthen its tax collection. But for reasons of its own, the Aquino administration is coy to this idea at the moment. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Gov't Urges Exporters to Diversify Their Markets

by Paolo ROMERO /  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) — **THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT URGED LOCAL EXPORTERS** to diversify markets in particular those where the country has free trade agreements (FTAs) amid uncertainties in Japan and Middle East markets.

"Free trade agreements pres-

ent significant trading opportunities for our manufacturers and exporters. We want businesses to benefit from our FTA markets and this can be achieved by knowing the available trade preferences and how to utilize these," Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo said Thursday.

"We are also encouraging them to look into other markets to increase their export revenues," he

added.

But Domingo said uncertainties brought about by the political crisis in the Middle East and the disasters in Japan could only be temporary and not necessarily have a long term impact on exports.

But at the same time, International Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the trade department is reviewing the country's export targets to determine if it has to adjust the goals and strategies. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Gov't Disputes Corrupt Assessment Findings

by Aurea CALICA /  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) — **THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ON WEDNESDAY DISPUTED** a finding of a Hong Kong-based risk consultancy firm that the country is perceived to be the most corrupt nation in Asia.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said that the findings of the latest Asian Intelligence Report of Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, Ltd. (PERC) is "very contrary" to the level of optimism in the Philippines expressed by visiting business executives.

Valte said in a press briefing that President Benigno Aquino III met with representatives of the US-Asian Business Council Wednesday morning.



Abigail Valte

Valte said the group "welcomed the thrust of the government when it came to anti-corruption and they agreed with moves to rationalize laws when it came to investments and incentives."

Valte said the President is

strengthening the fight against government corruption.

She said that the perception of the respondents over a thousand business executives working in Asia had been apparently influenced by the congressional hearings on alleged corruption in the military, committed during the previous administration, especially as the survey period was from November 2010 to February 2011.

In the PERC survey, the Philippines maintained its rank as third worst, in terms of corruption, among 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific included in the poll.

The Philippines obtained a score of 8.9, slightly higher than the 8.25 score it got in 2010. Respondents were asked to rank the countries in terms of corruption on a scale of one to 10, with one being the least corrupt and 10 as the worst. (www.philstar.com) ■

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LEGAL NOTES

H-1B Filing Starts April 1



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

cap of 85,000 on H-1B petitions, of which 20,000 is reserved for workers with an advanced degree from a U.S. university. For fiscal year 2011, the 20,000 cap was reached on December 24, 2010, while the 65,000 cap was reached on January 26, 2010.

There have been recent significant developments in the H-1B program that need to be highlighted.

First, the USCIS has introduced certain revisions in its Form I-129, the principal form for the H-1B petition. One change in the latest revised form pertains to additional questions for employers seeking to sponsor employees who will perform off-site work. In such cases, the new form asks whether the employer has included an itinerary with the petition. There is now

also a specific section in the H-1B Data Collection Supplement asking the employer yes/no questions on off-site assignment.

Second, the revised Form I-129 also incorporates in the same supplement the fee increase imposed by Public Law 111-230, which was signed into law in August 2010. H-1B petitioners that employ 50 or more employees in the U.S. with more than 50% of its U.S. employees in H-1B or L status must pay an additional fee of \$2,000.

Another development in the H-1B program that should not be overlooked is the "cap-gap" regulation. This regulation allows F-1 visa holders who are graduates of U.S. universities and are working under the optional practical training (OPT) program to remain in the U.S. and continue working until the H-1B pe-

tion filed on their behalf is approved and their status changes effective October 1st.

This regulation remedies the dilemma faced by F-1 students with OPT work authorization which ends one year after their graduation or usually in June. Under the new regulation, these graduates no longer need to depart the U.S. and re-enter after a few months in time for the start of their H-1B employment. The graduates' status and work permit are automatically extended until USCIS approves the H-1B petition that was filed by the employer before the expiration of the OPT.

Very recently, the USCIS also announced that it is reviewing its policy on the H-1B cap exemption for "non-profit entities that are related to or affiliated with an institution of higher education." As an

interim procedure, the agency will give deference to determinations made since June 6, 2006, that a non-profit entity is indeed related to or affiliated with an institution of higher education, but the burden remains on the petitioner to prove such relation or affiliation. The employer may do this by submitting a copy of a previously-approved cap-exempt petition and a copy of the approval notice.

The USCIS has also clarified that where the proposed H-1B employment will occur in more than one location, the state where the petitioner's primary office is located will determine the appropriate Service Center to which the Form I-129 must be filed, regardless of the actual work locations. ■

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](http://www.seguritan.com)

On April 1, 2011, the USCIS will start accepting cap-subject H-1B petitions for employment beginning on October 1, 2011. Cases are considered accepted on the date USCIS receives a properly filed petition and the correct fee has been submitted, not the date that the petition is postmarked.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Developing Economies' Lead Over Rivals Poses Risks

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ECONOMIES ARE RECOVERING from the Great Recession at troublesome speeds: too fast or too slow.

China, India and other major developing countries quickly returned to breakeven rates of growth after escaping the worst of the economic downturn in 2008 and 2009. Their rapid recoveries showed for the first time that emerging economies have grown big and strong enough to thrive independently while the United States and other rich countries struggle.

And today, to an unprece-

dentented degree, the developing world is driving the global recovery, instead of relying on the United States for economic leadership as it used to. This picture emerges from The Associated Press' new Global Economy Tracker, a quarterly analysis of 22 countries that account for more than 80 percent of the world's economic output.

The shakeup in the world's economic order has taken 30 years. The developing world's share of global economic output has risen from 18 percent in 1980 to 26 percent last year, the World Bank says. So growth in emerging markets now has a far bigger effect

on the world's economic performance.

Leading the transformation is China, an economic backwater three decades ago that last year replaced Japan as the world's second-biggest economy. Japan, after more than a decade of stagnation, is struggling again in the aftermath of the earthquake and nuclear disaster that struck earlier this month.

Rapid growth in emerging economies has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and created vast consumer markets for US goods and services. At the same time, "this two-track world poses some unusual risks," warns

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University. He and others fear that too much money flowing to developing economies is driving up commodity prices and inflating dangerous bubbles in emerging market stocks and housing prices.

Rapid growth in the developing world is also pulling jobs and investment from the United States and other rich countries. And it's fanning international disputes over trade and currencies.

The AP Global Economy Tracker found that:

- The fastest-growing countries — China, India, Indonesia — are all in the developing world. The slowest are all European: Spain, Italy and Britain. The United States ranks 12th

among the 20 largest economies plus Argentina and South Africa.

- Speedy growth is triggering inflation in emerging countries. The countries where consumer prices rose the most last year were Argentina, India and Russia.
- High unemployment is plaguing rich countries. At the end of 2010, unemployment was more than 20 percent in Spain, 9.6 percent in the European Union as a whole and 9.4 percent in the United States. (The US rate fell to 9 percent in January and 8.9 percent in February). In contrast, the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in Brazil. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

U.S. Finds Low Levels of Radiation in Milk

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) — A TRACE AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE IODINE HAS BEEN FOUND in a sample of milk from the west state of Washington, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Wednesday.

According to a joint statement from the two agencies, results from a screening sample taken March 25 from Washington detected 0.8 pCi/L of iodine-131, which is more than 5,000 times lower than the Derived Intervention Level set by the FDA.

These types of findings are to be expected in the coming days and are far below levels of public health concern, including for infants and children, the statement said.

Iodine-131 has a very short half-life of approximately eight days, and the level detected in milk and milk products is therefore expected to drop relatively quickly.

"Radiation is all around us in our daily lives, and these findings are a minuscule amount compared to what people experience every



day. For example, a person would be exposed to low levels of radiation on a round trip cross country flight, watching television, and even from construction materials," said Patricia Hansen, an FDA senior scientist. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

# Panagserbi A Boluntario, Naipakita Manen Ti UFCH Ken OFCC Ken Dadduma A Grupo Filipino



**ILOKO**

by Amado I. YORO

**A**DDA pagsasao: itdem ti ayat ken pannarabay. Itdem ti tiempom, talentom ken sanikua ti nagan ti liderato ken panagserbi, iti man pagtaengan, simbaan, komunidad. Amin dagitoy ket nasken a pakuyogan iti aramid.

Idi Marzo 19, a naangay ti Aloha Aina Recycling Project: Earth Day iti Farrington High School Campus a nakipartisiparan dagiti aganay a 22 a boluntario a naggapu iti salinong ti UFCH/OFCC and partner organizations a timpion dagiti ginasut a community volunteers. "We appreciate your effort in helping us for this good

cause." kinuna ni Willette Naauao iti opisina ni House Vice Speaker Joey Manahan.

Ni Jean Jeremiah, direktor iti OFCC, ti nangiddaya ti serbisioan a manginsuio itoy biang, ket simmaruno da Fe Velasco ken Jesse Pascual.

"It was fun and good feeling" kinuna ni Jesse Pascual, mayasa kadagiti magapalkan a lider iti komunidad. "Ditoy a nakapudno manen ti UFCH/OFCC" kinuna ni Philip Alcaín nga adda latta a makitinnulong kadagiti volunteers works.

Saan met a nagpaudi da Katharina Velasco ken Kaza Kozuma, agpada nga estudiantie iti Maryknoll

Kastoy ti panangiladawan ni Fe daytoy a Sabado "full of great hope and optimism, the intermittent rain and blowing wind never had the

chance to dampen the happy enthusiasm and cooperative spirits of the ever-ready volunteers from the United Filipino Council and Oahu Filipino Community Council and its partner organizations. The Filipino Groups worked hand in hand with the members of the New Hope Chapel and other civic minded citizenry to assist in the realization of the Aloha Aina Earth Day #97 Recycling Community Clean-up/Fundraiser at the Farrington High School organized by the Offices of Representatives Joey Manahan, Karl Rhoads, Aaron Johansen and Senator Susie Chun Oakland, and other community leaders."

Naannays ken nauros ti pannagna dayta a proyekto. Adda met dagiti dadduma pay nga estudiantie tapno mangged ti padas iti panagserbi, pannatubay nga

agserbi ken agtignay ken makidagangy iti teamwork, sincere interaction and to be a good citizen and future leaders.

Iti sabali a bangir, adda pay Feeding the Homeless tunggal maudi a Lunes tunggal bulan, Gapu itoy adda Resolution 001-2010 a naanangoman idi Hulio 2010 iti UFCH Annual Convention Lahaina, Mau.

Nanipud pay idi Nobiemre 2009 nga inadaptar ti UFCH ken OFCC kas pananglungalngal ti DW-CLCAAH daytoy a proyekto idi Setiembre 2009. Gapu iti pateg ti proyekto, timpion dagiti sabsabali pay a gunglo pakairamanan ti Ilcos Surian Assn of Hawaii, Filipino Business Women Assn, Filipino Womens Civic Club, INCAT Alumni, United Group Home Operators, Annet K Ti Sinalt/Sinalt Alumni Assn

of Hawaii, Cabugao Sons & Daughters, San Nicolas Teachers Assn, Score, St. Paul's Church, Fili-Am Sports, International Filipino Society of Hawaii, Vigan Assn of Hawaii ken dagiti partner organizations.

Kuna ni Maria Etrata: "Doing this kind of community service gives me good feeling and it touches my heart when these brothers and sisters of less fortunate greeted you with smile and say thank you"

Maawis ti aniaman a volunteers ken gunglo a makitipon babaien iti yaawayo ito nagsurat.

### DADDUMA PAY A SERBISIO A PANGBOLUNTARIO DAGITI SAMUGANAD:

Adopt a Hwy Clean Up Project tunggal tallo a bulan ti Kalihit St., Hawaii Food Bank tunggal inna a bulan, Partisipasion iti Filipino Fiesta Parade, Honolulu Festival Foundation parade. ■

## GLOBAL NEWS

### Fraprot to Sue Phl Again in US

MANILA, Philippines - **GERMAN FIRM FRAPROT IS SUING THE PHILIPPINES AGAIN** before a World Bank arbitration court in Washington in connection with the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City.

Fraprot local partner Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Platco) built the passenger terminal now being operated by the Manila International Airport Authority.

Fraprot senior vice-president Peter Henkel told the House committee on transportation yesterday

that his company would re-file its arbitration case against the Philippines next week with the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes.

He said the case was dismissed in 2007 but Fraprot, an airport services firm, filed an appeal



Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3

with a higher World Bank body, which ruled in December that the German "was denied its right to be heard."

Since the ruling was made, he said they have written Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and other concerned officials suggesting that the two sides should meet "to avoid more costly litigations."

"But we have not heard from any of them. Thus, we are re-filing our case next week, though that will not prevent us from talking," he said.

Responding to questions from reporters after the hearing, Henkel said Fraprot would seek payment of as much as \$800 million.

He recalled that in 2003, when Fraprot and Platco filed their original case with the World Bank's arbitration center, they sought reimbursements amounting to \$565 million.

He said that the amount should have ballooned to nearly \$800 million, including interest.

The hearing of the House transportation committee chaired by Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado was prompted by two resolutions urging the panel to inquire into cases filed by Fraprot/Platco and the government against each other, and for "liason work" with concerned bureaucrats. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

Magayan de Oro Rep. Rufus

Rodriguez and his brother Maximo, who represents the party-list group Abante Mindanao, also introduced the resolutions, which also urged the two parties to explore an amicable settlement so as not to further prolong litigation.

The Mercado committee found out that cases abroad have already cost the government \$56 million in fees of the foreign lawyers.

Mercado asked Deputy Executive Secretary Teofilo Pilando, who attended the hearing, to inform Executive Secretary Ochoa and other concerned officials that Fraprot plans to revive its case against the government and that the German firm had suggested talks on a possible settlement.

The government claims that NAIA 3 was overpriced by as much as \$300 million. The Senate investigated the controversy and discovered certain huge payments, which senators suspected were laundered funds.

One payment was for \$2 million and was made to a person identified with the husband of a Malacañang official.

It was supposedly for "public relations" purposes, though the payee was not a PR practitioner, and for "liason work" with concerned bureaucrats. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 April 2, 2011, 7pm • Benefit Concert of Divine Mercy Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Trinity • For more information contact: Arlene (808) 255-8165; Agnes (808) 429-8213

**ILOCOS NORTE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADE 12TH ANNIVERSARY AND 4TH MS. INCAT SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT/ SATURDAY**  
 April 16, 2011, 6pm • Pacific Beach Hotel • For more info, contact Larry Ramirez @ 391-9364

**BAYANIHAN CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS' 2011 COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR / SATURDAY**  
 May 7, 2011, 10am - 4pm • Kapiolani Park • For more info, call JP Orías @ 387-8297

**UNITED PANGASINAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII'S 43RD ANNIVERSARY AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY**  
 May 21, 2011, 6pm • Pacific Beach Hotel • For more info, contact Cely Villareal @ 778-2481 or Fred Martinez @ 358-8049

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE DAY OF VALOR / MONDAY**  
 April 4, 2011, 3pm • Punchbowl, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific • For more info, contact Sheila Tarrosa @ 595-6316 ext. 241

**2011 FILIPINO FIESTA / SATURDAY**  
 May 7, 2011 • Parade: 9 - 10am  
 Fiesta at Kapiolani Park: 10am - 4pm  
 • For more information, call the FilCom Center at 680-0451

## GLOBAL NEWS

### Philippines Sends Relief Goods to Japan

**THE PHILIPPINES HAS FLOWN IN MORE THAN 10 METRIC TONS OF RELIEF GOODS TO JAPAN** as part of the government's commitment to assist in on-going humanitarian efforts in areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami that devastated portions of northeastern Japan.

Relief goods bound for Japan worth PHP 848,445.00 were turned over by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to officials of Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The goods were flown free of charge by PAL under the Bayanihan Humanitarian Assistance initiative for Japan that President Benigno S. Aquino III directed the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to undertake in partnership with other governmental agencies.

In keeping with Japan's specific request from the Philippines, the relief goods consisted of food packs, towels, noodles, dust masks and mats. They arrived in Japan on March 25, 2011.

The relief items were earmarked by the Japanese government for distribution to individuals and families in Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures affected by the March 11 disaster.

"It is in the spirit of bayanihan that the Filipino people reach out to help the people of Japan as they endeavor to overcome

this great challenge," says Foreign Affairs Secretary Del Rosario, who adds that the Philippine Embassy is focusing its assistance efforts in the Tohoku area which is home to an estimated 4,600 Filipinos.

Secretary Del Rosario says that in addition to the relief supplies, the Philippines remains ready to send humanitarian assistance personnel from to assist in the recovery efforts, should Japan so request. He says a Philippine Air Force C-130 transport aircraft remains on standby, for this purpose.

Secretary Del Rosario also says that the Philippine Embassy will intensify its efforts to locate and assist Filipinos in the northern part of the country, which continues to reel from the devastation wrought by the earthquake and tsunami and remains under threat from the nuclear emergency at the damaged nuclear plants in Fukushima.

Philippine Embassy has evacuated a total of 143 Filipinos from the Tohoku region who heeded a call for voluntary departure. Evacuees have been brought to temporary shelters in Tokyo where they are being cared for. The embassy is also undertaking consular missions to bring food and other supplies to Filipinos who opted to remain in affected areas. (DFA) ■

### Asian Stocks Edge Higher Despite World Woes

**BANGKOK (AP) — MOST ASIAN STOCKS SHOWED RESILIENCE EARLY THURSDAY**, although Japan's benchmark index slumped as the country struggled to contain the effects of a giant earthquake and tsunami nearly three weeks ago.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index was down less than 0.1 percent to 9,705.91, a day after hitting its highest close since March 11, when a huge earthquake and tsunami destroyed Japan's northeastern coast and took down a nuclear plant that has leaked toxic radiation ever since.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.3 percent to 23,518.82, and South Korea's Kospi index was marginally higher to 2,092.17. Benchmarks in Singapore, Australia and New Zealand were also higher.

The markets plodded higher against a backdrop of unsettling events around the world. Concerns about European debt loomed as Portugal moved closer to needing a bailout and Spain's central bank forecast a lower growth rate and higher deficit than previously predicted.

Seawater near Japan's crippled nuclear facility tested at its highest radiation levels yet. In Libya, NATO forces initiated a new

wave of airstrikes against Gadhafi's troops.

In New York on Wednesday, telecommunications companies led a broad stock rally following a report that private companies are continuing to add workers.

The Dow gained 71.60 points, or 0.6 percent, to 12,350.61. The S&P index rose 8.82, or 0.7 percent, to 1,328.26. The Nasdaq composite rose 19.90, or 0.7 percent, to 2,776.79.

The ADP National Employment Report said 201,000 new private sector jobs were added in March. That is roughly in line with the 210,000 analysts had expected. Investors were encouraged by a strong gain in small business hiring. The ADP report is seen as a precursor to the government's crucial March payrolls report due Friday.

Benchmark crude for May delivery rose 35 cents to \$104.62 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$104.27 a barrel Wednesday, pressured by high U.S. stockpiles in spite of violent political protests throughout the oil-rich Middle East.

The euro rose to \$1.4145 from \$1.4121 late Wednesday in New York. The U.S. dollar was steady at 82.89 Japanese yen, its highest level in almost three weeks. (www.philtar.com) ■

### Over 8M People Need Emergency Food Aid in East Africa

**UNITED NATIONS (Xinhua) — AS THE RECENT DROUGHT CONTINUES IN EAST AFRICA, THE NUMBER OF THOSE NEEDING EMERGENCY** food aid has increased by 2 million to hit nearly 8.4 million people, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said here Wednesday.

The majority of those newly impacted are 1.2 million people who are Kenyan, according to the new multi-agency as-

essment.

From October to December, poor rains have led to harvest failure, decrease in water availability, worsening pasture conditions and livestock losses in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, which are areas already facing conflict, lack of access, high food prices and human and livestock diseases, OCHA said.

The UN agency also reported that outbreaks of drought-related animal diseases have been recorded, with more than 5,000 livestock dying in Marsabit, Kenya, in January, which is still increasing.

OCHA also said that more than 10,000 Somali pastoralists crossed the border into Kenya, while around 30,000 livestock and 10,000 pastoralists from Kenya have migrated to Uganda.

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Cross-border migrations have been reported from Kenya and Somalia into Ethiopia, which has resulted in more competition for scarce resources that create the scenario for resource-based conflicts with local host communities.

"Of utmost concern are acute water shortages," OCHA said, citing that Somalia is experiencing a severe water crisis throughout most of the country, while serious shortages have impacted Ethiopia, affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions in the Somali and Oromia regions.

Meanwhile, the education sector has also been severely affected with an increased amount of school children and teachers migrating in search of pasture and water. (www.philtar.com) ■



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