

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

PHILIPPINE WARSHIP DOCKS AT PEARL HARBOR

by Dennis GALOLO and Carlota ADER

The Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu and members of Hawaii's Filipino community held a warm welcome for the officers and crew of the Philippines' biggest and newest warship which recently docked at Pearl Harbor.

A former U.S. Coast Guard cutter, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar was expected to refuel, take on supplies and allow its crew to enjoy a brief R&R. As of press time, it was scheduled to depart for the Philippines on Friday, July 29, 2011.

Before leaving Hawaiian waters, the Philippine Consulate of Honolulu hosted a reception and send-off mass for the Gregorio del Pilar. In attendance were Deputy Consul General Paul Cortes, consulate officials, representatives from the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii and U.S. military officials from Pearl Harbor and Hickam.

The outpouring of aloha was deeply appreciated by the ship's officers and crew. "We are overwhelmed with the hospitality shown to us by the Filipino community and the Philippine Consulate," says commanding officer Capt. Alberto Cruz. "It reflects the bayanihan spirit and camaraderie of our kababayans. Thank you for making us feel at home."

BRIEF BACKGROUND

The ship was purchased by the Philippine government for \$13 million as part of the U.S. government's Foreign Military Sales Program and rechristened as the



Commanding Officer Capt. Alberto Cruz and Crew of BRP Gregorio del Pilar—Philippine's newest flagship. Photography: TIM LEENA

Gregorio del Pilar. Its two 1,800-horsepower gas turbines can propel the vessel to speeds of up to 28 knots. The Gregorio del Pilar can remain at sea for 30 days without refueling and is equipped with a helicopter

flight deck, a retractable hangar and other facilities to support helicopter operations.

It will replace the 306-ft BRP Rajah Humabon, a Cannon-class destroyer-escort

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Cheers: SONA Set Directions on Governance

www.philstar.com

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino's State of the Nation Address (SONA) drew praises from congressional leaders and other sectors not only for his statesmanship but also for the inspiration it gave to the Filipino people.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the SONA was inspiring to Filipinos, who now see clear and new directions on good governance in the Aquino administration.

"The speech of the President was good and inspiring because he said we have the power of change. We all can do it," Belmonte told reporters, noting that the



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Feliciano Belmonte applaud as President Aquino delivers his second SONA. VAL RODRIGUEZ

SONA was not "vengeful."

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles and Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the SONA was very clear "on what

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World's Largest, Most Advanced Solar-Powered Boat in Phil

by Rhodina VILLANUEVA

MANILA, Philippines - The world's largest and most advanced solar-powered boat, M/S Türanor Planet Solar, has arrived in Manila to promote solar power, the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature announced yesterday.

WWF-Philippines chairman

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The M/S Türanor Planet Solar, the world's largest and most advanced solar-powered boat, is docked for a welcoming ceremony at the Philippine Navy headquarters yesterday. The multi-hulled catamaran is in Manila in its continuing voyage from Monaco in an attempt to circumnavigate the globe using only solar power.

MANNY MARCELO

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EDITORIALS

A New Graft-Buster

When most people think about the homeless, stereotypical images come to mind—the drug addict wandering grimy city streets or the mentally ill ranting at imaginary phantoms. But high unemployment, the high cost of housing, and a stubbornly depressed economy are pushing a new, diverse population over the edge to homelessness.

Lawmakers urged her to be like a pitbull in going after the corrupt. Others commiserated with her over the challenges ahead. New Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales is expected to speed up the resolution of long pending cases in her office, President Aquino said as he announced her appointment during his State of the Nation Address.

Under the new chief graft-buster, the President said, there would be no watered-down cases filed by the Office of the Ombudsman, cases would be tight and evidence strong, and there would be no way out for the corrupt. People generally hope for the best when a new ombudsman is named. Carpio-Morales attracted the attention of the President and the public because of the positions she took on controversial issues when she was an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Newly retired from the SC, she is expected to display the same kind of inde-

pendent, principled thinking in her new job.

Her predecessor's appointment was also initially welcomed by the public. But the ombudsman who promised to be "merciless" to the corrupt was perceived to be too merciful. Mercedes Gutierrez, the first ombudsman to be impeached, was forced to leave office in an inglorious way. Carpio-Morales, President Aquino said, would not be a "tanod-bayad ng mga nagawang-wang sa pamahalaan" or guardian of those who abuse public office.

Carpio-Morales can best fill this role with sufficient support from the administration that has made the anti-corruption campaign a linchpin of governance. In addition to pursuing pending cases, the Office of the Ombudsman, on its own, can initiate an investigation of public officials suspected of graft and corruption.

While the Office of the Ombudsman is an independent agency, it depends on the national government for funding. The office needs more prosecutors, researchers – personnel and facilities needed to gather evidence, follow the money trail, and prepare cases so airtight the government need not cut a deal with any accused plunderer. Integrity, competence and dedication are required of all personnel in the Office of the Ombudsman. Much is expected of Carpio-Morales. She can do her job better with sufficient resources and logistical support. (www.philstar.com) ■



Stealing the Vote

An election victory, once stolen, is almost always irretrievable. The cheater occupies the contested position and often finishes the term, stealing the vote and undermining the will of the electorate. Victims of poll fraud can get justice only if those who perpetrated the cheating and benefited from it are punished. But how many poll cheats have ended up behind bars?

Recently several individuals have surfaced to talk about vote rigging in 2004 and 2007. It could take years to establish the truth and resolve the controversies with finality. But the latest developments should spur electoral reforms in the near future. Alongside continuing efforts to uncover the truth about past elections, the nation should lay down the groundwork for better enforcement of laws against poll fraud.

Election laws have been amended to include a crime called electoral sabotage, with life imprisonment as the stiffest penalty. As defined under

Republic Act 9369, which was enacted in January 2007 to pave the way for full poll automation, electoral sabotage includes cheating operations such as dagdag-bawas or vote shaving and padding. The amendments also increased penalties for involvement in other forms of vote rigging, particularly for Comelec employees and deputized poll watchers.

The new provisions cannot be applied to those accused of cheating in 2004 and 2007, but they can serve to discourage a repeat of past election scandals. With the midterm elections just two years away, the Comelec should prepare to fully enforce the provisions of RA 9369. Information should be disseminated and training conducted so people will know what to watch out for in stopping poll fraud. This should include Comelec personnel, public school teachers, barangay officials, the military and police, and citizen poll watchdogs, several of which are already well organized.

There is a legal framework to prevent a repeat of vote rigging. The law is tough enough to make politicians and their supporters think twice about stealing the vote. All that the law needs is proper enforcement.

(www.philstar.com) ■



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OPINION

Why PNoy's Destabilizers Are Doomed to Fail

AS I WRECK THIS CHAIR by William M. ESOSO

Some of those who lived through the era of our late President Cory C. Aquino had expressed apprehensions that President Noynoy Aquino (PNoy) may soon be besieged by power grabs just like the six failed coup attempts against his mother. Their apprehensions came after the posting on the Internet of that now infamous video of Marine Colonel Generoso Mariano.

However, the difference in the political terrain then, versus now, as well as the capability of the currently sitting president to protect his power base — all point to a very stable PNoy administration.

POST-MARCOS POLITICAL TERRAIN

In the days following the restoration of democracy on February 25, 1986, there were immediate moves from counter democracy forces associated with the late Dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos to destabilize the young Cory administration. Transitions from authoritarian rule to democracy are often accompanied by these birth pangs.

What made at least two coup attempts serious — the August 1987

and December 1989 coup attempts — was the participation of the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement) that played a key role in the People Power Revolt of 1986.

The Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) camp, the political camp with the biggest incentive to undo the PNoy administration, hardly wields the military connections and capabilities of the Marcoses during the 1980s and the then RAM. If all GMA has are the likes of Norberto Gonzales and Linda Montayre to destabilize PNoy, she'll be like a skater with a piece of rod trying to take on a Tiger Tank.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL

Unfortunately for the GMA camp, public perception remains largely favorable for PNoy who enjoys an over 70% Public Trust Rating in the last Pulse Asia Survey. PNoy is largely perceived as clean, dedicated to the heroic legacy of his parents and has all the intentions of correcting the ills of the country, especially the climate of impunity perpetuated by the GMA regime.

In our largely Judeo-Christian

mindset here, people will tend to support PNoy and clamor for GMA to face all the wrongful acts that she is now accused of having committed during her presidency by her own former allies. These wrongdoings that former ARMM (Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao) Governor Zaldy Ampatuan and former Maguindanao Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol have been revealing are serious offenses. Zaldy Ampatuan can directly link GMA to the misdeeds.

GMA has to live with the fact that insofar as public perception is concerned — she is the "evil" and PNoy represents the forces of "good" trying to set things right.

PNOY PROGRESS IS BEING SEEN

While admittedly many poor Filipinos may not yet feel the improvements that the PNoy administration has injected in government — there is also no denying that the PNoy administration has accomplished a lot in terms of fiscal reform and judicious spending. The new system of line budgeting has eliminated a lot of the corruption.

PNoy's political enemies will also have to reckon with the fact that there is no real hard issue against him. The same is true with

regards his Cabinet Secretaries. There have been innuendoes — plenty in a town like ours — but none have really registered with the public mind to erode the public standing of the PNoy administration.

The surveys confirm high public trust in the PNoy Cabinet. PNoy's Justice, Finance, Science, Public Works, Agriculture and Social Welfare Secretaries are popularly perceived.

PNOY IS NATIONAL

SECURITY AND INTEL SAVVY Few folks realize that national security and intelligence are two areas of expertise of PNoy. His family's political history conditioned him to delve into such subject matters and develop a mastery of it. Don't forget, he was almost killed during the August 1987 coup attempt against his mother.

These charlatans who are trying to undermine PNoy will always find themselves three steps behind him. PNoy will be on to their gimmicks even before they can launch these. I know because I've seen several times how the administration was on to developing destabilization efforts even before these were actually undertaken.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

PNoy is really lucky in that the two groups who are actively attempting to undermine his administration have very little public credibility. We refer to the Left and their front organizations and the GMA camp that is mired in scandals that continue to emerge with every passing day.

The Left manages to get their points ventilated in media but they hardly earn substantial public support. To this date, the Left could not even get a Senator elected. Their two Senatorial candidates in the 2010 Elections both lost miserably.

GMA legal counsel, Raul Lambino, is good for a lot of laughs when he dismisses these emerging GMA scandals, like the Maguindanao cheating operations of 2007, as "political maneuvers of the PNoy administration." Lambino forgot that Zaldy Ampatuan and Lintang Bedol all came from the GMA camp and were never affiliated with the PNoy administration.

Then again, we must always provide some leeway for lawyers especially those who have the unpleasant but lucrative job of protecting the biggest crooks.

Somebody once asked what happens when lawyers die. They lie still. (www.philstar.com) ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Tomimbang Wins Telly Award for Kaanapali Beach Hotel Video

KAANAPALI BEACH HOTEL'S SPECIAL VIDEO "KAAILAAU'S CANOE: A JOURNEY OF SPIRIT" and its producer Emme Tomimbang have been awarded a Bronze Telly, an industry honor for the best work by the most-respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments in the world. Winners are chosen from more than 11,000 entries from 50 states and many countries.

This is the fourth Telly Award for Tomimbang who received Tellys for "Emme's Island Life" (1983), "Memories of Hawaii 5-0" (1995) and "Barack Obama: With Island Roots" (2009).

"Kaailau's Canoe" first aired in 2010 as an Emme's Island Moments Thanksgiving Special and later encored on Christmas Day on KGMB-TV. It is currently being shown over the hotel's in-house video on channel 25 and will also be part of Hawaiian Airline's in-flight entertainment lineup this fall.

"Kaailau's Canoe" tells the story of a canoe that was built during the 2010 Makahiki season, celebrated by Kaanapali Beach Hotel staff, who spent four months building a 32-foot, four-man, single-hull traditional Hawaiian sail-



ing vessel as part of Pookela—the hotel's award-winning cultural enrichment program.

Under the supervision of master canoe builder Charlie Noland, hotel employees assisted with locating and cutting down a 100 foot tall Albessia tree from the forests of West Maui. Located deep inside Honokohau Valley, the tree was kindly donated by Kim and Leimale Lindsey with the simple request that the canoe be named after their deceased child Kaailau who wanted his father to build a canoe from a tree near their home in the valley. Unfortunately, the boy died before his wish could be fulfilled. Fate later brought the canoe builder, the hotel and its 280 employees to make this Maui boy's dream come true.

The canoe took to the waters fronting Kaanapali Beach Hotel for the first time on March 9, 2010. On July 24, 2010, the hotel staff paddled out on the canoe to take the boy's ashes out to sea, accompanied by his parents, family and friends. The canoe is currently used as an educational vessel for guests and visitors at the hotel. ■

Social Security Offices to Close 30 Minutes Early

by Jane YAMAMOTO-BURIGSAY

DUE TO CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET CUTS, ALL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES in Hawaii will reduce their hours to the public by 30 minutes each weekday effective Monday, August 15, 2011.

The five Social Security offices in Hawaii—Hilo, Honolulu, Kapolei, Lihue and Wailuku—will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

While employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face service with the visiting public without incurring the cost of overtime. Congress provided Social Security with nearly \$1 bil-

lion less than President Barack Obama requested for the budget this fiscal year, which makes it impossible for the agency to provide the amount of overtime needed to handle service to the public as it has in the past.

Fortunately, most Social Security services do not require a visit to an office. For example, anyone wishing to apply for benefits, sign up for direct deposit, replace a Medicare card, obtain a proof of income letter or inform us of a change of address or telephone number may do so online at: www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing toll-free 1-800-772-1213. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing may call their TTY number at 1-800-325-0778. ■

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built during World War II, as the Philippines' biggest warship. Among its assignments will be to defend the country's interests in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), particularly in waters near the disputed Spratly Islands.

Initially deployed in 1969, the 378-foot long BRP Gregorio del Pilar has a crew of 95. The ship served in the Vietnam War and was used to prevent weapons from being smuggled into Communist North Vietnam. After the war, it was assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard and used for anti-drug smuggling efforts and rescue operations overseas until it was officially decommissioned in March 2011.

Capt. Cruz is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1988. He is described as a likeable, soft-spoken officer with years of experience in commanding naval ships and people.

In an exclusive interview with the Hawaii-Filipino Chronicle, Cruz says that the Gregorio del Pilar left the port of San Francisco on July 8. After departing Pearl Harbor, it is expected to stop in Guam to refuel and resupply before continuing on



BRP Gregorio del Pilar's Commanding Officer Capt. Alberto Cruz grants an exclusive interview with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle

Photography: TIM LUNA

to its homeport in Subic Bay.

According to Cruz, there have been several historic "firsts" involving the Gregorio del Pilar's trans-Pacific voyage.

"This is the first time ever that a Filipino ship has crossed the Pacific Ocean," he says. "It's also the first time for a Filipino ship to dock at Pearl Harbor."

Other "firsts," Cruz says, are the three female crewmembers—a physician and two engineers—who are serving aboard a

Philippine military vessel. And for many of the crew, it was their first ever visit to the U.S.

A SEAMAN'S LIFE

The mission for Cruz and his crew is to safely sail the ship to the Philippines. It is indeed a tall order, considering that they must navigate Gregorio del Pilar thousands of miles on the open ocean without the supervision of its former American crew and with equipment they

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Vincent Perez said the multi-hulled catamaran aims to be the first solar-powered boat to circumnavigate the world, traveling over 55,000 kilometers westward across the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

"It set sail from Monaco in southern France last September 27, 2010 and has just arrived in Manila from Australia. The Philippine stop is a recognition of the country's strong support for renewable energy," Perez said.

The German vessel measures 31 by 15 meters and tips the scales at 85 tonnes; 537 square meters of photovoltaic solar panels provide up to 127 horsepower — enough to keep the craft moving at a constant 14 kilometers per hour. The ship is exclusively powered by 38,000 high-efficiency solar cells all produced in the Philippines at the manufacturing facilities of SunPower Corp. Already it has won two accolades — the fastest crossing of the Atlantic by a solar-powered vessel and the longest distance covered by a solar-powered electric vehicle.

"The sun has always been our planet's most important source of power—wind, rainfall and waves are all indirectly generated by the sun. Harnessing even a tiny portion of its immense power can provide us with limitless amounts of clean energy."

The message of M/S Tūranor Planet Solar is clear — clean and dependable renewable energy technology is here. Perez served as energy secretary from 2001 to 2005 and has since been active in promoting renewable energy.

WWF-Philippines is encouraging the public to see the docking Tūranor Planet Solar, which will be berthed at the new Mall of Asia Ferry Terminal in Pasay City until the end of the week. SunPower Corp., a partner of WWF and one of the world's leading proponents of solar power, hosted a small morning gathering aboard the vessel to celebrate the merits of renewable energy.

The vessel's name — Tūranor — was derived from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Roughly translated, it means "powered by the sun." (www.philstar.com) ■

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

the President wants, that is to stop corruption and abuse in government so that government funds can be used for the poor."

"But Filipinos must pay the correct taxes, too. It's every Filipino's responsibility to help our country. Congratulations also on the initiative to make Filipinos accountable to the planting of trees and the support government will give to this initiative," Nograles said.

"Thank you to the President for instructing DOJ (Department of Justice) to go after extrajudicial killings. The President wants a change in the character of Filipinos — that is very noble," he said.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said the SONA was "very consistent in his good governance and pro-people agenda. The litany of concrete achievements that he mentioned can be summed up into one: there is hope for every Filipino. His agenda of good governance was highlighted by his announce-

ment of the new ombudsman," Evardone said.

Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, vice chairman of the National Unity Party, said the SONA "was an instruction to Congress and a bugle call to the people on what must be done."

"In so far as the need to provide a sense of direction, the speech achieved it. It dealt with the future instead of dwelling on the past," Alvarez said.

Ang Kasangga sa Kaunlaran party-list Rep. Teodorico Haresco said the SONA "reflected his parents' legacy of deep moral upbringing," while Valenzuela City Rep. Rex Gatchalian, who is also spokesman of the Nationalist People's Coalition in the House, said "The President showed us his firm grasp of the country's economic, and national security programs."

"In the national security front he showed us significant investments in equipment that bolsters our capacity building efforts, while at same

time pursuing international legal efforts to secure of territorial integrity," Gatchalian said.

P-Noy justified very well running after grafters in the past administration as this would result in better services for the poor," Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo said.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos said Aquino showed his determination to rid the government of graft in his speech.

Isabela Rep. Giorgi Aggabao rated the SONA at 85 percent. "I thought it was very substantive and the dollop of humor made the speech alive and interesting."

FORMER LEADERS WERE SATISFIED

Former President Fidel Ramos said Aquino's SONA "was better" than last year's.

"But we need to move faster because, although he (Aquino) show it, we are already at the bottom in the whole of Southeast Asia and in the whole Asia-Pacific region," Ramos told reporters.

"We need to work now," he said.

Former President Joseph Estrada also commended Aquino for his "clear SONA."

"We need to give P-Noy time in restoring faith in government because of the immeasurable and insurmountable acts of corruption of the past administration," Estrada said.

"So while we are eliminating corruption, we should also be empowering our citizens through national building. I hope that in his second year, we see more results in the fields of peace and order, food se-

curely and social services, especially education," he said.

The Black and White Movement renewed its support for Aquino's year-old government but said it needs to know the President's vision.

"We want to know what his vision is. He needs to spell it out," group leader Leah Navarro told reporters. "Where does this government want to take us?"

Navarro said while the government had been coming up with taglines like "Daang Matuwid" or "Kung Walang Corrupt Walang Mahirap," it has yet to lay down plans on how it plans to achieve it.

In a statement, the group also noted that "corruption goes unabated" and that "The President's message of matuwid na daan has not cascaded down to government's subordinate offices."

Navarro, who was part of the volunteer movement that campaigned for Aquino for the 2010 polls, reiterated that her group continues to support the President but they would appreciate it if the government could fast-track programs that will eradicate poverty and produce educated youth, among others.

AFP ALL PRAISES FOR P-Noy

Meanwhile, the military yesterday called President Aquino "a good planner" and is optimistic that he would remain supportive of the armed forces' capability upgrade program.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Commodore Miguel Rodriguez said they

are inspired by Aquino's vision for the country as well as his drive to implement reforms.

"The plan of the President on where he would lead us is very clear. The President is a very good planner and he wants us to tread the straight path," he said in an interview.

Rodriguez said Aquino has given them direction through the internal security plan Bayanhan, which seeks to curb armed conflict through development.

"We also have a clear marching order to step up reforms. He brought back the honor and commitment of soldiers. The soldiers become more enthusiastic under his term," he said. Rodriguez said they are confident that through Aquino's guidance, the internal conflict with armed groups would eventually come to an end.

"We are optimistic that we will finally put an end to internal strife. We are considering the primacy of peace process. We're making inroads in the peace negotiations with CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) and the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)," he said.

Rodriguez also praised Aquino's commitment to upgrade the capabilities of the military.

"He is providing us the necessary support. Under his leadership, we expect the upgrading of armed forces so we can be respectable force," the AFP spokesman said.

Rodriguez said the AFP would remain supportive of Aquino's development programs.

"We're looking at being able to contribute to the development of the countryside especially in conflict areas," he said. (www.philstar.com) ■

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Launches Hepatitis B Campaign

by Fernando ONA, M.D.

ON JULY 28, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEDICAL EXPERTS and community advocates in Hawaii and around the world mobilized for World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness of Chronic Hepatitis B—a disease that affects an astonishing 400 million people worldwide.

While anyone can contract Hepatitis B, Filipino and other Asian communities bear the heaviest burden, representing nearly three-quarters of individuals affected worldwide. Here in the U.S., more than one million Asian-Americans have Chronic Hepatitis B—which is half of all cases in the country.

In response to this issue, state government officials, leading physicians and community advocates across the islands have launched a new campaign called "Hep Free Hawaii," which aims to encourage Asian-Americans to learn about Hepatitis B and get tested for this disease.

But what exactly is Hepatitis B and why is it such a threat to our community?

Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) is

caused by a virus that is found in blood and other bodily fluids. CHB can be managed and the disease can be prevented but if left untreated, the complications of Hepatitis B can be fatal.

In the Philippines, an estimated seven million people—10 to 12 percent of the country's population—are affected by Hepatitis B. First-generation Filipino Americans are at particularly high risk for Hepatitis B due to low rates of infant vaccination against the disease in the Philippines. In fact, most Filipino Americans who have Hepatitis B contracted it during childbirth from their mothers. That's why tragically, in our community, it is common to see multiple members of the same family affected by Hepatitis B.

Despite its high incidence rate in Asian communities, as many as two in three Asian-Americans who have chronic Hepatitis B do not know they are infected. That is because Hepatitis B does not always cause noticeable symptoms. CHB can slowly destroy the liver over time, increasing the risk of serious liver disease. In fact, because of Hepatitis B, Asian-Americans are almost three times more likely to de-



velop liver cancer than Caucasian-Americans. It is because of Hepatitis B that Hawaii has the highest rate of liver cancer in the country.

The good news is that Hepatitis B can easily be detected with a quick and simple blood test. Testing is being offered throughout the islands as part of the Hep Free Hawaii Campaign and everyone should get tested—particularly if you are a first-generation Filipino-American.

If you test negative for Hepatitis B, there is a safe and effective vaccine that can help you stay that way and it is widely available in the U.S.

Did You Know?

- Chronic Hepatitis B is the world's most common liver infection, with 400 million people affected.
- Filipino-Americans are at high risk for the disease.
- Most Filipino-Americans contracted Hepatitis B from their mothers during birth or early childhood.
- Chronic Hepatitis B is treatable but many people do not know they have the disease.
- Everyone should get tested for Hepatitis B.

If you test positive for Hepatitis B, talk to your doctor about whether treatment would be appropriate for you. Regular screenings to monitor the health of your liver are very important and there are treatments that can help protect your liver from future damage—some are just one pill, once a day.

I urge all Filipino-Americans across the islands to get tested for Hepatitis B and to get involved in the Hep Free Hawaii Campaign. We have the tools to end this epidemic in our community—vaccination and treatment—but it all starts with get-

ting a simple blood test to know your status. Get tested for Hepatitis B and encourage your family and friends to do the same. ■

DR. FERNANDO ONA is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine and past president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii.

For more information about Chronic Hepatitis B or to find a testing center near you, log on to <http://hepfree-hawaii.org>, call Aloha United Way by dialing 211 or talk to your doctor.

Hamakua is State's First Site For Rural Outreach Initiative

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (DLIR) RECENTLY LAUNCHED a new effort to provide residents of Hawaii's most rural areas with direct access to government and community resources.

The initiative's first site is located in Honouliuli on the Big Island, where services will be provided at the North Hawaii Education & Research Center (NHERC). The Rural Outreach Services initiative is a partnership between federal, state, county governments and private non-profit agencies.

"We're making it easier for those who live in remote communities to receive the services they expect by bringing together government agencies, community groups, nonprofits and businesses," says Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

Hamakua residents will receive services from 38 agencies on a rotating basis. Services will include job training, health care, housing and agriculture.

"Rural Outreach Services is an initiative that will turn lives around," says State Rep. Mark Nakashima, a member of the advisory board for NHERC. "Because of the long distances that people need to travel on the Big Island, many residents have not been getting the services they need, whether it is job-related, housing or even health care."

The Rural Outreach Services initiative is a public-private partnership supported by the



Gov. Neil Abercrombie

DLIR Workforce Development Division, University of Hawaii-Hilo's NHERC, Hamakua Partners in Eldercare, Hawaii County's Kapulea Lands Project and the State Department of Education's East and West Hawaii Community School for Adults.

"We are creating an opportunity to better serve the rural communities of North Hawaii, which will be a model for other rural areas across the state," says DLIR Director Dwight Takamine. "This is a truly community-driven effort to address barriers to services by empowering rural communities."

Services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with no appointments necessary.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming services, workshops and conferences, contact NHERC at 775-8890. A calendar of events is also available online at: <http://goo.gl/RS9T3>. ■

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HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 4; PHILIPPINE...)

learned to use in a relatively brief time.

However, Cruz and his crew are more than up for the challenge. Cruz and 20 other Philippine naval officers were initially hand-picked for weeks of intense training with their American trainers. The rest of the crew were eventually flown in from the Philippines to join the training.

According to Cruz, crewmembers underwent rigorous physical exams and intensive psychiatric evaluations to determine if they were mentally fit to withstand the pressures of being away from their families for extended periods, to cope with the demands of being in a new environment and a different country and to quickly learn new technologies and procedures.

Earlier this month, the Gregorio del Pilar was taken on a four-day trial run at sea along the coast of California to test the Filipino

crew's capabilities and the ship's sea-worthiness. After a successful trial, the American trainers debarked and the Filipino naval officers and crew were on their own.

"The crew has to be competent in their fields of expertise," Cruz says. "Our training was to familiarize ourselves with the ship's functions, operations and equipment... to a point where if there was an incident, everyone would know exactly what to do and respond quickly to the situation."

Cruz says that a healthy diet, adequate rest and exercise are essential to remaining sharp. The ship is outfitted with exercise and recreation rooms for the crew to do just that. He also stresses the importance of camaraderie.

"We came from all over the Philippines," he says. "From north to south—not only from one town or province. It's important that we get to know each other, including our

strengths and weaknesses."

PHILIPPINE NAVAL POWER

According to Cruz, the Philippine Navy has about 20,000 enlisted men. While the Philippines has a proud maritime tradition, some of its neighboring countries in Asia have overtaken the Philippines in terms of naval prowess.

"These countries have exceeded the Philippines because of new technology and training," Cruz says. "The Philippine government should upgrade its navy and equipment which would advance the younger men in their training and expertise."

His advice to Filipino youth who may be contemplating a military career?

"Why not join the Navy? It's good to give back and show gratitude to your country. Love your country like your family and serve with pride, honor and glory," he says. ■



The Chronicle's Carlota Ader poses with Capt. Alberto Cruz and crew of BRP Gregorio del Pilar

Photography TIM LERNA



The BRP Gregorio del Pilar, the Philippines' biggest and newest warship

Photography TIM LERNA

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AMM Receives Free T-Shirts from CPB

THE ALOHA MEDICAL MISSION (AMM) has received 500 shirts from Central Pacific Bank.

Valued at about \$7,000, some of the free t-shirts will be shipped to Manila and distributed by Philippine Maj. Gen. Charly Holganza to low-income residents. The remainder will be given away during future medical missions to the

Philippines. The next mission is scheduled for October 2011.

David Hudson, Central Pacific Bank's senior vice president and community banking division manager, commended the work of AMM volunteers for donating their time and personal resources to provide free health care to underserved people throughout the world.

"We hope that our donation

will complement Aloha Medical Mission's generosity on its next overseas mission to the Philippines," Hudson says.

The AMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization based in Honolulu. Since its founding in 1983, AMM has sent over 4,000 volunteers on 128 missions to 15 countries. Some 250,000 patients have been treated and 17,000 surgeries performed, all free of charge.

AMM also operates the only free dental clinic in Hawaii, supports two free clinics in Bangladesh and sponsors an advanced training program for Philip-

pine ophthalmologists.

Please go online to: www.alohamedicalmission.org for more details or how to volunteer or donate to AMM. ■



CPB's Gina Reyes-Faria (far left) and David W. Hudson (far right) present free t-shirts to former AMM president Dr. Antonio Tan and AMM executive director Susan J. Hughes.

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by Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte TIPON

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” — Romans 5:12

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” — Ezekiel 18:20

Conflicting Biblical verses? You bet. So how do the courts apply these verses, if they know about them at all, in their judicial decisions on immigration issues? They are also in conflict.

ORIGINAL SIN INPUTED TO CHILD

Rodrigo, a Filipino, was admitted to the U.S. as the unmarried son of a U.S. lawful permanent resident father, although he was married to Maria with whom he had two children. Another child was born after Rodrigo's entry to the U.S.

Eight years later, Maria and the children who were 11, 9, and 6 years old entered the U.S. as the wife and children of a lawful permanent resident. Maria filled out their visa applications. She admitted later that she knew that her husband had lied about his status and that she and their children were not eligible for admission to the U.S.

Removal proceedings were commenced against the entire family on the grounds that they were excludable at the time of entry; for having entered the U.S. by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact; and for having entered the U.S. with no valid immigration documents. The husband died during the

proceedings. Maria and the children conceded deportability for having entered without valid documents. The INS did not pursue the fraud charges against the children.

Maria applied for fraud waiver under the former INA § 241(f) [now 237(a)(1)(H)] as the mother of children lawfully admitted for permanent residence. The children applied for innocent immigrant waiver under INA § 212(k).

The Court imputed the parent's knowledge or state of mind to the child in considering whether the child had knowledge of her ineligibility for admission to the U.S. and ordered them removed. The court reasoned that if the parent's knowledge could not be imputed to the child, it might encourage parents to file fraudulent applications on their behalf, and if the children were eligible for a waiver, then the offending parent could be derivatively eligible for discretionary relief. *Senica v. INS*, 16F.3d 1013 (9th Cir. 1994)

ORIGINAL SIN NOT INPUTED TO CHILD

Singh, an Indian, entered the U.S. by impersonating a deceased cousin and using his immigrant visa. He divorced his wife Parveen. They remarried in India. Parveen and their daughter Amandeep entered the U.S. as the spouse and daughter of an LPR. The government initiated removal proceedings first against the husband and separately against mother and daughter on the ground that they entered the U.S. by fraud or misrepresentation. The IJ ordered the mother and daughter removed. The Court of Appeals reversed, holding that “This scenario, in which the person innocent of the fraudulent conduct suffers consequences more severe than those who actually committed the fraud, strikes us as not only ‘illogical’ but downright unfair.” The court pointed out that “fraud” requires knowledge of falsity and intent to deceive and that Congress did not indicate in the waiver statutes that it can be im-

puted to a third party. The court rejected as exaggerated the Ninth Circuit court's concern in *Senica* that parents would manipulate the process by filing fraudulent applications on behalf of their children, and if the children were eligible for a waiver, then the offending parent could be derivatively eligible for discretionary relief. Such parents, the court explained, would not be strong candidates for a favorable exercise of discretion by the IJ. *Singh v. Gonzales*, 451 F.3d 400 (6th Cir. 2006). ■

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: flamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270 AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.hikoku.com.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Morato Grilled on Electioneering

by Marvin SY/
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **FORMER PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKE OFFICE (PCSO) BOARD MEMBER MANUEL MORATO** may get himself locked up in jail for violation of election laws in connection with his endorsement of the presidential and senatorial candidates of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

At the resumption of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee hearing on the alleged misuse of funds of the PCSO, Morato was confronted about his use of his “Dial M” TV show to campaign for then Arroyo administration standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and for Team Unity senatorial candidates. Dial M has since been cancelled.

When the issue was first raised against Morato, he claimed he was not paid a talent fee and that it was his co-host Maggie dela Riva who was paid. He said that since he did not receive anything for his appearance in the show, he was free to say anything he wished provided it's not pornographic or indecent.

But the usually outspoken and even boisterous Morato was left struggling for words and could only manage to smile when Senator Franklin Drilon ordered the showing

of a clip from an episode of Dial M where Morato was talking about the candidates of both the Arroyo administration and the Liberal Party (LP).

In the clip, Morato criticized Sen. Francis Escudero for being a publicity hound and described his father Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III as being a crony of the former dictator, the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

The clip went on to show Morato taking a swipe at Sen. Teodoro Guingona III, the chairman of the Blue Ribbon committee.

Morato called Guingona a liar who does not deserve his vote.

He went on to call the candidates of the LP conciliated and undisciplined before urging his viewers to consider voting for the administration's candidates led by Teodoro.

Drilon noted that Morato and his co-host were both sporting campaign buttons and ribbons of Teodoro during the show.

“You were campaigning. You had the ribbon of Gibo (Teodoro), so did Maggie dela Riva. If you do not call that campaigning, I don't know what else it is and yet you were part of the board that approved P5 million for IBC-13 from PCSO funds to replay this Dial M,” Drilon said.

Drilon was referring to board resolution 2106 series of 2009 ap-

proved by the previous PCSO board of which Morato was a member. The resolution provided P5 million in funds for the cash-strapped IBC-13 for two of its programs.

A condition stipulated in the resolution was that IBC-13 would air the replays of Dial M as well as other shows that PCSO may run.

“I do not know what got into your head, just to disregard all election laws. This is punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year to not more than six years,” Drilon said.

“In disregard of all these laws, you campaigned for the candidates of the administration. This is the kind of abuse of the funds of the charity sweepstakes which we now seek to stop,” he added.

Morato admitted that he committed a mistake when he signed the board resolution but added that it would still have been approved without his support because majority of the board members signed it anyway.

Seeing that Morato could get himself into more legal troubles with his statements, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile asked him if he wanted to invoke his right to remain silent to avoid incriminating himself.

“Yes your honor, I invoke my right against self-incrimination,” Morato responded.

This prompted Drilon to say in jest that “it is most difficult for Mr. Morato to remain silent” because “it's one of the most difficult qualities that Mr. Morato has.”

In the end, Morato apologized to Guingona.

Morato's excuse was that Dial M was a comedy show and that he was at times, a comedian.

“I would like to ask for your forgiveness for what I said in that comedy show. It was a comedy show, Dial M by the way, so would

you please kindly extend my forgiveness from Senator Escudero as well,” Morato said.

Drilon reminded Morato that being a comedian does not exempt him from the provisions of the election code.

“As long as I have been forgiven, it's alright with me,” Morato said.

Guingona said that he did not take the comments of Morato personally and that he accepted his apology. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Aquino to China: Filipinos Will Defend Territory

from www.philstar.com/
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III WARNED CHINA

in a major national speech today that the Philippines was ready to defend its Spratly Islands claims by acquiring more weapons and would elevate the territorial feuds to a U.N. tribunal.

In his State of the Nation Address to Congress, Aquino also announced a new chief anti-graft prosecutor and said his year-old government plans to file its first major corruption case this year against corrupt officials and their accomplices. He did not name the officials but vowed punishment for the guilty.

"We do not wish to increase tensions with anyone, but we must let the world know that we are ready to protect what is ours," Aquino said, drawing loud applause at the packed House of Representatives. The address also was televised live to the nation.

Aquino's tough rhetoric echoed past criticisms of China over the Spratlys, so may have been meant to project him as a strong leader dealing firmly with an issue about which many Filipinos feel emotional, political analyst

Ramon Casiple said.

"He was playing to a domestic audience. It's more of asserting to the people that he's a leader," Casiple said, adding that Aquino's reiterated position was unlikely to surprise China.

Aquino noted the efforts to bolster the military's capability, citing the recent purchase of a US Coast Guard cutter and plans to acquire more patrol vessels, helicopters and weapons in deals he guaranteed would be aboveboard.

Aquino did not name China in his speech but clearly referred to it in laying a clear claim to the South China Sea feature called Recto Bank, also known as the Reed Bank, where the Philippines alleges China has intruded.

"There was a time when we couldn't appropriately respond to threats in our own backyard," Aquino said. "Now, our message to the world is clear: What is ours is ours; setting foot on Recto Bank is



President Benigno Simeon "Nonoy" C. Aquino III

no different from setting foot on Recto Avenue."

Recto Avenue is a popular street in downtown Manila. The Philippines has said Chinese forces have repeatedly intruded into Manila-claimed areas in the sea since February, including at the Reed Bank. Filipino officials said two Chinese patrol boats threatened a Filipino oil exploration ship into leav-

ing the Reed Bank, which they said was within its regular territorial waters and not part of the nearby Spratlys.

Two military planes were deployed during the March 2 incident, but the Chinese boats have left by the time the aircraft reached the Reed Bank, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) from the Philippine coast.

Chinese officials have said there were no intrusions because those waters belonged to China.

The chain of barren, largely uninhabited islands, reefs and banks in the South China Sea are claimed entirely or partly by China, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines,

Vietnam and Brunei. They are believed to be rich in oil and natural gas and straddle a busy international sea lane.

The Spratlys have long been regarded as Asia's next potential flashpoint for armed conflict.

Washington has said the peaceful resolution of the territorial disputes and ensuring the freedom of navigation there were in the US

national interest, a position that irked China.

The Philippines has said it intends to bring the Spratlys disputes before the U.N.'s International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea. China opposed the plan and wants to negotiate bilaterally instead.

Aquino said bringing the case before an international arbitrator would ensure that "all involved nations approach the dispute with calm and forbearance."

On government corruption, Aquino did not identify the officials his government would charge this year but he has been under intense pressure to have his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, prosecuted for alleged plunder.

Arroyo was steadfastly denied any wrongdoing and criticized Aquino for a lackluster performance, traveled to her home province of Pampanga, north of Manila, but later returned to the capital and was confined to a hospital for a still unspecified reason, her spokeswoman, Maite Defensor, said.

More than 6,500 mostly left-wing protesters rallied outside Congress as Aquino spoke, demanding higher wages, farmland and Arroyo's prosecution. They were blocked by riot police from getting near Congress. (www.philstar.com) ■

Peso Hits 3-Year High, Closes at 42.225 to \$1

by Lawrence AGCAOIL/
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PESO APPRECIATED YESTERDAY TO ITS STRONGEST LEVEL** in over three years due to the general weakness of the dollar as the Aug. 2 deadline for the adjustment of US debt ceiling to avoid a downgrade of its Triple A credit rating nears, traders said yesterday.

The peso gained 16.50 cen-

tavos to close at 42.225 to \$1 from Monday's close of 42.39 to \$1. The local currency hit an intra-day high of 42.21 to \$1 yesterday as volume was heavy at \$1.103 billion from the other day's \$727.24 million.

This was the highest level for the peso since closing at 42.17 to \$1 in April 29, 2008.

Traders attributed the continued strengthening of the peso to the gen-

eral weakness of the US dollar due to the debt deadlock, the uncertainties about the recent bail out in Greece as well as the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

Metrobank said the Asian region may experience a slow grind towards further strength against the US dollar as the market looks for further leads as to what direction to take.

"Players may even take a cautious optimistic approach given the deadline of the US debt ceiling looming as it posts unfavorable effects in the global economy if the said nation fails to meet its target," Metrobank said.

It added that the market still has a keen eye over any additional developments from the Eurozone as they are far from full recov-

ery despite the 109 billion euro bail out package for Greece approved by the European Union.

Metrobank also said investors are awaiting the outcome of the policy-rate setting meeting of the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) scheduled tomorrow.

"The upcoming Monetary Board meeting will be a factor this week as well, as the market waits what policy tool will be put into action in order to address inflationary pressures in the economy," the bank said. (www.philstar.com) ■

WHAT'S COOKING?

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200 gm - assorted lettuce greens
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1/2 cup - store-bought salted pili nut, toasted
1 cup - fresh strawberries, cut into bite-sized pieces
(use any fruits in season or available)

Dressing:

1/2 cup - corn oil
1/2 cup - olive oil
1/2 cup - white wine vinegar
1/2 cup - maple syrup
1/2 cup - mango bits

Procedure:

1. Wash lettuce and pat dry. Cut into serving pieces. Set aside.
2. For the dressing combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor and pulse until well blended. Toss salad greens in dressing.
3. Place on a serving plate and top with mangoes, fried bacon bits, nuts and fruits.

Makes 6 to 8 servings. ■



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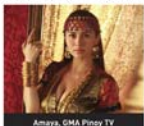
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■ PHILIPPINE NEWS

Aquino Appoints New Ombudsman

from www.philstar.com/
Monday, July 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III TODAY ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT of Supreme Court Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales as the new Ombudsman, filling in the vacancy left by Mercedes Gutierrez in April.

The President made the announcement in his second State of the Nation Address.

"When the new Ombudsman, former Supreme Court Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, takes office, we will have an honest-to-goodness anti-corruption office, not one that condones corruption and abuses in government," he said, eliciting loud cheers and applause from the lawmakers and the gallery.

Carpio-Morales, who was in the crowd, was prompted to stand up to acknowledge the applause.

"We wish Ombudsman Carpio-Morales luck, and we are confident that she will not fail to be what our people expect," Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said in a statement.

Lacierda said the Ombudsman "must be independent, one of unquestionable integrity, and willing to face the rigorous task of restoring faith in our recovering institutions by ensuring that the corrupt are held accountable for their misdeeds" and that "guided by these, President Aquino has appointed Conchita Carpio-Morales as the new Ombudsman."



The newly-appointed Ombudsman, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales

The President had chosen Carpio-Morales to administer his oath of office as president on June 30, 2010, as he had questioned the constitutionality of the appointment of Chief Justice Renato Corona, whom he had believed to be a midnight appointee of his predecessor.

According to her bio on the official Supreme Court website, Morales joined the Judiciary in 1983 as Presiding Judge of the Pili, Camarines Sur Regional Trial Court. She was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1992, then as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 2002. (www.philstar.com/) ■



Firm Supplying PNP Helicopters Under Probe

by Cecille SUERTE-FELIPE/
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - INVESTIGATORS ARE CHECKING IF THE MANILA AEROSPACE PRODUCTS TRADING (MAPTRA) was qualified to deal with the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the supply of three helicopters, marketed as new but two of which turned out to be already five years old and previously owned.

Senior Superintendent Christopher Laxa, chief of the CIDG-Special Investigation Task Group on helicopter procurement, said yesterday they have acquired documents of incorporation of MAPTRA from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as part of the investigation.

"We are now analyzing the documents of MAPTRA," said Laxa, who noted that based on initial assessment, MAPTRA was originally registered as a sole proprietorship when the firm participated in the first failed bidding.

Laxa pointed out that a few months later, when MAPTRA joined the second bidding, it already had several proprietors.

Laxa said they have summoned some personalities to shed light on the alleged anomalous procurement. They are expected to appear today or tomorrow at the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Laxa advised the unnamed individuals to bring their own lawyers since the investigation being conducted might result in the filing of criminal charges.

Director Arturo Cadacac Jr., chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), found out that two of the three helicopters were five years old.

Cadacac said only one of the choppers turned out to be new with only 9.9 hours flying time. The two other aircraft have an average flying time of 500 hours when turned over to the PNP SAF Air Unit on Sept. 24, 2009.

The choppers were previously registered to the Asian Spirit, Inc., which leased them to Lion Air, Inc. in 2004.

Laxa said they have yet to establish when and how the ownership of the helicopters was transferred from Lion Air to MAPTRA.

The DIDM fact-finding has forwarded the names of 27 PNP personnel, retired and active, to the CIDG for further investigation.

(www.philstar.com/) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

P-Noy Submits Proposed P1.816T Nat'l Budget to Congress

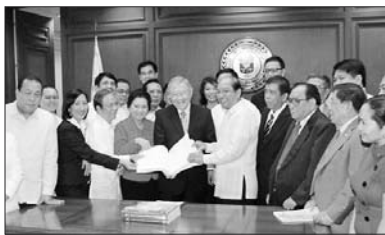
from www.philstar.com/
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS the proposed 2012 national budget of P1.816 trillion this afternoon.

Malacañang said that the proposed budget is higher by 10.4 percent or P171 billion over the 2011 P1.645-trillion national budget. It added that the budget represents 16.5 percent of the projected gross domestic product (GDP) and was based on a conservative growth assumption of 5.5 percent.

"This budget embodies our commitment to lift the poor from poverty through honest and effective governance. It is intensely focused on fulfilling my administration's Social Contract with the Filipino People," President Aquino said in his budget message to Congress.

"This proposed budget is a re-



sults-focused budget," he added.

Budget and Management Secretary Florencio B. Abad, who delivered the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing and other documents to the House of Representatives, said the proposed national budget for 2012 seeks to make the dividends of good governance reach the poor in "a direct, immediate and substantial way."

He said the proposed budget seeks greater focus in funding and fulfilling the priorities identified in

the Social Contract, particularly, anti-corruption and good governance, poverty reduction and the empowerment of the poor, inclusive economic growth, just and lasting peace and the rule of law and integrity of the environment.

"We again applied the zero-based budgeting (ZBB) approach to eliminate ineffective and inefficient spending. This allowed us to focus our resources on priorities, so that each and every peso we spend will count in empowering the poor," he said.

"Moreover, this proposed budget sustains our new tradition of transparency, accountability and citizen participation in public expenditure," he said.

To intensify transparency and accountability, the administration fleshed-out P150.5 billion in lump-sum funds into regional and sub-regional allocations. The proposed budget again mandates the disclosure of budget information on agency website.

The proposed budget was

also the first to go through a process of consultations with civil society organizations (CSOs). Six departments and three government firms—Departments of Education (DepEd), Health, Social Welfare and Development, Public Works and Highways, Agriculture (DA) and Agrarian Reform; National Food Authority, National Housing Authority and National Home Mortgage and Finance Corporation—piloted this new process. (www.philstar.com) ■

Unemployment Rate Down to 7.2 Percent

from www.philstar.com/
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - BY CREATING MORE JOBS, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED in lowering the unemployment rate from 8 percent to 7.2 percent in the fiscal year ending April, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said in his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) yesterday.

Aquino said in the past, the Filipinos' foremost ambition was to work in another country. Now, the Filipinos can take their pick. As long as they pursue dreams with deter-

mination and diligence, they can realize them.

However, the president pointed out problems such as job mismatch in local market. Aquino quoted figures of the Philjobnet website as saying that every month there are 50,000 jobs not filled because the knowledge and skills of job seekers do not match the needs of the companies.

Aquino urged the Department of Labor and Employment and relevant organs to work together to address this issue, by reviewing curricula and offering better guidance to students. (www.philstar.com) ■

MMDA Forms Emergency Team, Lifts Number Coding

by Angelo L. GUTIERREZ/
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA) CONVENED an emergency team this afternoon to prepare for tropical storm "Juaning" which is expected to dump more rains on the metropolis as it makes landfall in the Aurora-Quezon area.

"The meeting of the emergency team is ongoing," Tolentino said in an interview with radio dzMM this afternoon.

He said that the team is discussing the MMDA's deployment of its personnel, particularly its rescue workers, to flood-prone areas in



MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino

Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, Tolentino announced that he has suspended the implementation of the number cod-

ing scheme around the metropolis in consideration of car owners planning to go home early and avoid being stranded due to the storm.

He said that the number coding scheme was suspended at 3:30 p.m. He added that car owners whose vehicles' license plate numbers end in 3 and 4 can now travel.

Tolentino said that the agency is closely monitoring water levels in dams around Metro Manila, including Angat and La Mesa. He said the MMDA is also monitoring the level of water of the Marikina River.

The state weather bureau expects the storm to make landfall in Aurora-Quezon area overnight. As the storm makes landfall, it is expected to pound Metro Manila with heavy rains and strong winds.

(www.philstar.com) ■

No Mention of Peace Talks in SONA Not Good Indication: MILF

by Delon PORCALLA/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

COTABATO, Philippines (Xinhua) - A SENIOR LEADER OF THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) was disappointed Monday at Philippine President Aquino III second state of the nation



Mohagher Iqbal

address (SONA), citing the central government has no clear policy on

no strategy mentioned on how to

end rebellion in Mindanao.

"It's very clear.

The government

has no platform for

peace. This is not a

good indication,"

MILF chief negotiator

Mohagher Iqbal said.

Iqbal said that

in President

Aquino's 55-minute

speech there was

"It's intentional. I don't think his speech writers forgot to mention it," Iqbal said.

Earlier, civil groups have expressed concern about the direction of the Aquino government's peace negotiation with the MILF.

Peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF collapsed in August 2008 after the two sides failed to sign a territory agreement as scheduled, prompting some radical rebels to launch deadly attacks on Christian communities in the region. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Erap to Pinoys: Heed Aquino's Appeal

by Sandy ARANETA/
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA YESTERDAY** called on the Filipino people to help President Aquino in his work in nation building and bring back the "bayanihan" spirit to improve the country's situation.

"On our part as citizens, let us just help P-Noy. Let that be our way of honoring the memory of President Cory (Aquino). Like what I've always said, no one will help the Filipino but his fellow Filipino," Estrada said in a press statement.

He added that Aquino needs time to restore faith in government "because of the immeasurable and insurmountable acts of corruption of the past administration."

"In fact, the last decade can be called the lost decade or the stolen decade in Philippine history because reports are glaring that not only the presidency was stolen, even the votes of the Filipino masses were stolen in 2004. The fertilizer fund was stolen. If it wasn't stopped by the Supreme Court, Mindanao could have also been stolen," he said.

The former president, who was ousted in 2001, accused former Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of being "responsible for the stolen decade," along with "all those who joined in the grand conspiracy to rob the nation and suppress the will of the Filipino people."

But while the nation lauds Aquino's anti-corruption programs, Estrada also believes that nation building must be simultaneous with eliminating corruption.

"I hope that in his second year

we see more results in the fields of peace and order, food security and social services, especially education," he said.

Estrada also congratulated Aquino on his first year as president, saying his administration is on the right path "because it is focused on restoring faith in government."

"I also congratulate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales on her appointment as ombudsman. I hope she will be instrumental in our quest to correct history," he added.

JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES

Paranghale City Rep. Rollo Golez, meanwhile, said that if President Aquino is bent on implementing transformation in government, then he should try to adopt the traits of Optimus Prime, the noble leader of the Autobots from the hit movie "Transformers."

"I think the way the speech was crafted and delivered, that was the Optimus Prime approach because he wants to address the ills of society," Golez said.

He said Aquino should also have an "adamant commitment to leadership" and avoid hypocrisy in his command because "this is what our country needs."

Golez said he is hoping that the Chief Executive would be inspired by the traits projected by the Autobots leader.

As for the "Megatrons" or enemies of the Aquino administration, he urged the Filipino people to look for them and destroy them.

Golez said the "no waging war policy" of the Aquino administration was a transformational signal and when he stopped using sirens in his presidential convoy, everybody fol-



Former Pres. Joseph "Erap" Estrada

lowed.

The veteran legislator was not alone in his observation.

Political leaders from various parts of Mindanao agreed that the President delivered a much better SONA last Monday compared to his first address last year.

"I liked the positive tone of his speech compared to fault-finding last year," said North Cotabato Gov. Enmylym Talino-Mendoza, whose husband, Raymund, is a party-list representative of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).

Mendoza said she also liked

the President's commitment to pursue and file charges against tax evaders as well as corrupt officials.

"Honestly, we are enjoying some respect from the international community because of his anti-corruption drive," she added.

Mayor Michelle Rabat of Mati City, Davao Oriental, said Aquino's SONA showed him as a reformist.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez said that Aquino, from all indications, just might be the first president to ever break the vicious cycle of corruption in the country.

CBCP: LISTEN TO US

Meanwhile, members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urged the President to listen to their advice.

The bishops came out with a statement after Aquino mentioned in his SONA that he met with Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and emeritus Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. The President also expressed hope for better coordination with the prelates

under the leadership of incoming CBPC President Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma.

"He is a very good President if he is open really to listen, seriously listen, to the frame of mind of our bishops. He should be really serious about it... because we, bishops, are very, very serious in thinking for the good of our country. I would expect that he would listen to our prelate," said CBPC-Episcopal Commission on Canon Law Bishop Leonardo Medroso.

CBPC-Public Affairs Committee (PAC) chairman Calocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez supported Medroso's statement and expressed hope that the President would listen to the advice of the Church leaders.

Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos said there should be cooperation between the government and the Catholic Church for the good of the Filipino people, but "the cooperation must be critical, no strings attached and cooperative to promote common good to the people. Above all, we must be critical and aware."

(www.philstar.com)

Be a Pit Bull, Morales Told

by Marvin SY/
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **LAWMAKERS ADVISED NEWLY APPOINTED OMBUDSMAN**

Conchita Carpio-Morales yesterday to make her office both "inspiring" and the "most feared" in the government, with one even asking her to assume the ferociousness of a pit bull in dealing with wrongdoers.

"The new Ombudsman has a reputation for uprightness and quick action so we expect she will be more active," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. told reporters.

He and his colleagues acknowledged that Carpio-Morales alone or whoever is sitting as ombudsman would not be able to effectively prosecute government officials accused of graft, including former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Ar-

roy, without the help of competent investigators and prosecutors.

"We hope the new ombudsman would be much feared and can fight with hotshot private lawyers," Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo, who is also a lawyer, said.

"She must be inspiring but she also must be like a pit bull," he said. "That's the intention of the President, that's why he put her there."

He said Morales is unlikely to allow herself to be used in harassing specific individuals or groups unsympathetic to the current administration.

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, who worked for a long time as a prosecutor before entering politics, said prosecutors and evidence would determine whether a case would be won or not.

"As a practicing lawyer we are always saying to our client that

we're good only as far as the case is concerned. If the case is not really winnable we can't win the case. In the same manner that if there is no evidence to establish probable cause, I do not think that the ombudsman would be filing cases," Barzaga said.

Deputy Speaker and Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, who is also a lawyer, called on the public to monitor the work of the ombudsman and government prosecutors.

He cited the plunder case against former military comptroller Carlos Garcia that he believed was airtight. But the case, he said, was bungled because the special prosecutors stuck a compromise deal with Garcia.

"The key is also insuring that the person who would prosecute the case is on the same wave-

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES

Changes Urged in Processing Deferred Action Requests



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

Deferred action is a form of relief granted to aliens for humanitarian reasons and which allows them to temporarily remain in the United States.

This type of relief is usually given to those who can demonstrate compelling circumstances and whose removal is not a priority of the government. It may be requested as a pre-adjudication relief by an applicant for an immigration benefit, such as widows of U.S. citizens and qualified victims of a crime or abuse. It may also be requested by individuals for humanitarian concerns whether or not they

have a pending immigration petition or application. Examples of this latter type are those filed by individuals with extreme medical cases.

Among the factors that the USCIS considers are the likelihood of the alien's removal, the presence of sympathetic factors, likelihood of a large amount of adverse publicity given the sympathetic factors, desirability of the alien's continued presence for law enforcement purposes, and whether the individual is a member of a class that is given high enforcement priority, such as terrorists and drug traffickers.

Deferred action is a discretionary administrative act. It is not subject to judicial review and neither may it be granted by an immigration judge. The request is reviewed by the district director who makes a recommendation to the regional director, who in turn issues the decision.

Deferred action is not and does not lead to permanent resi-

dent status. However, the individual requesting it may apply for employment authorization. If granted, deferred action is usually valid for one to two years.

A recent analysis by the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman of deferred action requests revealed that there is currently no standardized national procedure for the handling of these requests. The public, according to the Ombudsman, also does not have clear and consistent information on the requirements for submitting a request and on what to expect after submission.

The review found that most local offices follow an informal standard process, and that there is no nationwide system for acknowledging receipt of these requests. Typically, an application for deferred action is made by submitting a request to a local USCIS office in person or by mail, but there is no standardized application form.

There is currently no fee charged for making this request.

The Ombudsman also found that there is no mechanism to keep adjudications within a certain timeframe and that decisions have been issued from a range of two weeks to 60 days, while some requests remained indefinitely pending. The study showed that some offices do not issue the template letter confirming receipt of the request, while some offices do not issue any written acknowledgment at all. It was also reported that obtaining status updates on pending requests can be very difficult.

These findings led the Ombudsman on July 11, 2011 to make the following recommendations in order to make the processing of deferred action requests transparent and consistent.

First, the USCIS must use public information describing deferred action and the procedures

for requesting it.

Second, it must establish procedures for accepting and processing deferred action requests to promote consistency and to assist local offices in responding to increases in demand.

Third, it must inventory all pending requests to verify that each request received a confirmation of receipt with estimated processing timeframes and USCIS contact information.

Fourth, it must consistently track data related to requests and make available statistics identifying the number of requests received and the number of requests approved and denied.

The CIS Ombudsman is the official is mandated by law to identify areas in which people encounter problems while dealing with the USCIS, and to propose changes to the administrative practices of the agency to minimize these problems. ■

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

(cont. from page 12; BE A FIT BULL...)

length as the ombudsman. That's why we have to watch that," Tañada said.

Meanwhile, Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo filed House Resolution 1502 to express the chamber's support for Morales' appointment.

"Ombudsman Carpio-Morales enjoys the reputation of being able to marshal facts essential to decide legal cases with dispatch, impartiality, and probity and seriously address the vicious backlog that has eroded the public perception in the larger justice system," Castelo said.

"Now that it is a personal affair on the part of the President himself to run after the grafters and the corrupt in government, it behooves the ombudsman to play complementary role," he said.

SURPRISE VISIT

Less than 24 hours after President Aquino's announcement of

her appointment, Carpio-Morales made a surprise visit yesterday to the anti-graft agency's central office in Quezon City.

She arrived unannounced at around 9:30 a.m. and stayed for more than an hour exchanging niceties with officials and employees with whom she would be working in the next seven years.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro's spokesperson Mary Rawnsley Lopez confirmed the visit but declined to give details.

Sources said the Office of the Ombudsman was preparing an official welcome for Carpio-Morales and was not expecting her to drop by so soon.

The new Ombudsman, who did not get a chance to meet Casimiro in person because the latter was at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) attending an event, arrived with a land security detail and at least two staff members. Sources said she candidly asked

for patience from her would-be subordinates as she had yet to learn the ins and outs of her new job.

She appealed to ombudsman officials and employees to help her "restore the public's trust and confidence" in the anti-graft body.

She was also reported to have asked for an inventory of all pending cases and a list of all officials and workers, including those accused of being midnight appointees of her predecessor Merceditas Gutierrez who resigned on May 6 ahead of her trial by the Senate acting as an impeachment court.

Carpio-Morales also met with Ombudsman Employees Association (OMBEA) president Eric Durano Gutierrez and newly appointed Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Francis Jardeleza during her short visit.

Sources said the retired magistrate had already taken her oath before the Supreme Court but is expected to again take her oath be-

fore President Aquino within the week.

FIRST VISITOR

While her first visit was generally welcomed, her supposedly coincidental meeting with former special prosecutor Dennis Villagracia sparked some concerns.

"We are demoralized," an official who asked not to be identified said of Villa-Ignacio's visit.

"Villa-Ignacio is back making his mark again. He wants to impress people, he is very friendly with the new ombudsman and will fix all his cases," the official said.

Sought for reaction, Villa-Ignacio dismissed the accusations, say-

ing they came from people with guilty conscience and are paranoid.

"Hi and how are you, that's not a meeting. I was there with Akbayan who were with me during the impeachment of Mercy just to give support to a group with the same vision to stop corruption," he told The STAR.

Risa Hontiveros from the party-list group Akbayan was at the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday to file a plunder complaint against Mrs. Arroyo in connection with the misuse of intelligence funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

(www.phstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Dr. Sonido ken Rep. Abinsay ti Padayawan ti Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii a President Elpidio Quirino Awardees 2011



ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

President Elpidio Quirino Award. Daytoy ti umuna a proyekto ti Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii (ISAH), a kas suno a pamataudan ti pondo para iti ISAH Homecoming & Medical Mission.

Tallo a darasan a nagsignation ti ISAH kadagidi Disiembre 2005, 2007, 2009. Napataud dagiti nayon ti pondo a naigatgatang kadagiti naidononan ken naus-usar nga ag-agas ken medical equipments babaien iti Mrs. Ilocos Surian a nairugi idi 2005 a nakapilian a reyna ni Nancy Clemente [Mrs. Luat tan] a tubo ti Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. Simmaruno ni Helena Puesta, 2007, a tubo ti Santa, Ilocos Sur. Ket ni Davelyn Ancheta Quijano, i-Snait, Ilocos Sur ti napili a Mrs. Ilocos Surian idi 2009.

Dakkel ti kalikagum ti ISAH a mangkorona koma [maner] iti Mrs. ISAH 2011 tapno agtuloy ti proyekto a salip ti mimisis, ngem gapu iti ekonomia, imbes a pasalp ti inna, nagangayanna a kiruna ni Danny Villaruz a presidente, Dance with the Mission, wenna Distinguish

Award maipaay kadagiti laikari a mapadayawan, aglalo dagiti napinget a nangdadaulo ti nagsasaruno a mission.

Wen. Panawenen. Naisingas-ing a mapanganan no ania daytoy a Distinguish Award, saan a basta Award wenna Pamadayaw lattan. Masapul a mapanganan iti maidatan iti mayasa a bannuar, lider wenna mabigbig a tao, aglalo dagiti nagkauna a patanon ken teddek ti Ilocos Sur, iti panawen ti rebolusyon, republika wenna commonwealth.

Indatagni dagiti nagan a makuna a "Dayaw Ti Ilocos Sur" pakairamanan da Isabelo delos Reyes, [nakipagbangon ti Iglesia Filipina Independiente ken Labor organizer], Leona Florentino, [nadayaw a mananaw], Padre Jose Burgos, [mayasa a martir a padi a nairaman iti Gomburza], Gabriela Silang, [asawa ni Diego a nangtuloy ti panangdadaulo ti grupo ti asawana. Maawagan iti Joan of Arc iti Ilocandia] Cosme Abaya [padi ken revolutionary chaplain], Elpidio Quirino, [presidente] ken dadduma.

Naimosion ken nasigundanan sa nagkaykaysaan ti hunta direktiba a ti

maipanangan iti daytoy a pammigbig ket President Elpidio Quirino Award.

Ni ERQ ti umuna nga Ilokano a nangpresidente ti Filipinas.

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Imbitado ti publiko ken dagiti nadumaduma a kameng ti gobierno, munisipio, estado, gunglo. Imbitado pay ti gobernador ti probinsia ti Ilocos Sur, ken mayor ti Cabugao ken Vigan City.

Respetado dagiti napili nga awardee da Dr. Charlie Yadao Sonido, anak ti Sinait-Cabugao, narokan a tawen nga agsanasanay a doktor ti medisina, isu ti kapingetan a mangdadaulo ti ISAH mission. Lider iti komunidad kangrunaan iti tay-ak ti medisina. Nagpresidente iti Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii. Publisher ti Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, ti aglinawas a wamak.

Dati a representante iti Hawaii State Legislature District 29 ni Felipe Palma Abinsay, Jr. iti aganay a sangapulo a tawen. Akibito iti lehislatura. Nagpaay a pangulo ti House Agriculture Committee.

Iso ti nangdadaulo ti panakabukel ti Filipino Centennial Cel-



2011 Pres. Elpidio Quirino awardees (R-L) Dr. Charlie Sonido and Rep. Jun Abinsay

ebraction Commission [Act 159] a nakairanudan ti pannakadukot dagiti sangapulo ket lima a komisionado a Filipino babaien ken ni Gobernador Benjamin Cayetano. Dagito a komisionado ti nanglano, nangiyawat ken nangtipangpal ti pamakaselebrar ti maikasangagasut a tawen a pangsanget dagiti immuna a rekuta a sakada ti HSPA, a kaaduan ti nagpappu iti Candon, a naglulan iti SS Doric a simmaglad iti Puerto ti Honolulu idi Disiembre 20, 1906, ken natarusda iti Ola a Sugar Plantation idiyag Big Island.

Pasado a presidente ti OFCC, nagbise presidente ti UFCH, pon-

dador ti Vigan Association of Hawaii. Tubo ti Cabaroan Daya, Vigan City. Maangay ti programa iti Hilton Hawaii Village Beach Resort Hotel & SPA babaien ti pangbrigi intono Agosto 27, 2011.

Ipaglulan Da Danny Villaruz, Maria Etrata, Amado Yoro, Al Sabangan, Rose Sabangan, Davelyn Quijano, Loida Yamamoto, Art Abinsay ken dagiti opisipal ti ISAH ti Steering and Coordinating Committee ken dagiti presidente ti tunggal unit organizations a kameng ti ISAH.

Agpannurray iti komunidad ti baliigi daytoy a paskan. Agbalinto a tinawen a proyekto ti ISAH. ■

GLOBAL NEWS — Son of Prince Charles' Wife Raves About Pinoy Dishes

by Wilmo YAMZON/
Monday, July 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines — AFTER EATING SISIG, KARE-KARE, ADOBO AND SINIGANG, THE SON OF THE DUCHESS of Cornwall Camilla Parker Bowles, Tom Parker Bowles, raved about Filipino dishes in an article he wrote for a magazine in the United Kingdom.

Bowles, food editor of Esquire magazine, visited Manila recently to have a taste of Philippine cuisine.

He also dined with former first lady Imelda Marcos who, he said, was "clever, funny, and charming."

In the article titled "Anyone for Filipino?" in Esquire's Aug. 11, 2011 issue, Parker Bowles talked about dishes he enjoyed in Pampanga and Manila, food ingredients such as sili, bawang, sibuyas, and calamansi, and heirloom rice.

He also gave recipes of Pampanga's crunchy sisig and Manila's adobong manok.

He also found delight in balut, which most, if not all, foreigners dread eating.

"Street food is not a big draw here, certainly when compared to

Thailand or Vietnam. But then, there's balut, the pavement equivalent of Animal Farm, the porno version you saw as a teenager on grainy VHS. It's a fertilized duck egg, complete with embryo," he wrote.

And finally, there's lechon, a great shiny roasted pig, he said. "It's the finest piece of pigskin I've ever eaten. One of the best things I've ever tried, full stop. It's a celebratory dish, but also a very traditional one, eaten before the Spaniards arrived."

Parker Bowles also praised Filipino food prepared for him by top chefs such as Claude Tayag, Margarita Fores and Juanita Vazquez.

He also toured Market, Market in Taguig where one can have a taste of food from various regions of the country.

And in his tours, culinary masters and historians Joel Binamira, Ivan Henares, and Ivan Man Dy guided him.

"Manila's a city with a pock-marked face and a horrible limit, a place of erroneous preconceptions. But it has a heart of gold," Parker Bowles concluded.

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