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JUNE 2, 2012

NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

PHILIPPINE SENATE IMPEACHES CHIEF JUSTICE CORONA

By HFC Staff



Impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

The Philippine Senate voted 20-3 to impeach the nation's top judge on corruption charges. For nearly five months, prosecutors and defense attorneys squared off in the impeachment trial for Chief Justice Renato Corona, who was accused of failing to disclose millions of dollars in wealth, betraying public trust and violating the constitution.

"The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, having tried Renato C. Corona, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, upon three Articles of Impeachment charged against him by the House of Representatives, by a guilty vote of 20 senators found him guilty of the charge under Article II of the said Articles of Impeachment," says Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate president and impeachment court presiding officer.

Corona faced only three

of the eight articles of impeachment filed by the Philippine House of Representatives. On December 12, 2011, the House initiated an impeachment complaint signed by 188 members against Corona which was filed the next day in the Senate. The Senate began the impeachment trial against Corona on January 16, 2012 with designated members of the House of Representatives serving as prosecutors.

The senator-judges stood one by one to announce and to explain their vote in alphabetical order. Joker Arroyo, Miriam De-

fensor-Santiago and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. were the three senators who voted for acquittal.

Senator Francis Pangilinan, who voted to impeach Corona, says the chief justice should not only be dismissed but also disbarred.

"Respect for the rule of law will only be realized if punishment to the guilty is swift in a fair trial," Sen. Pangilinan says. "Those who wish to abuse will continue to be embolden. The rule of law should be respected and it should strike fear to those

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PHILIPPINE CONSULATE RECEIVES 2012 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMENDATION

by HFC Staff

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu was awarded the 2012 Historic Preservation Commendation by the Historic Hawaii Foundation during the annual Preservation Honor Awards Ceremony held May 11, 2012.

Consulate officials were commended for outstanding efforts in presenting and



opening the Consulate to the Nuuanu-Candlelight Tour every February. The tour allows participants to view and visit the historic sites in Nuuanu, where the

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NEW AMBASSADOR TO CHINA BREEZES THROUGH COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

by Marvin Sy

MANILA, Philippines - The Commission on Appointments (CA) has confirmed the appointment of Sonia Brady as the Philippine ambassador to China, less than a week after her nomination was announced by Malacañang.

Brady, a retired career foreign service officer, had no problems hurdling her confirmation hearing because of her extensive experience as a former ambassador to China and



Amb. Brady and Sen. Enrile

undersecretary for policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

She breezed through the CA unlike President Aquino's original nominee, businessman Domingo

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EDITORIALS

Moving Forward

The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, has spoken. The court has performed its mandate efficiently, with credibility, and with the deliberate haste that the situation called for. With an overwhelming vote of 20-3, senator-judges voted yesterday to convict Renato Corona and remove him as Chief Justice. From his hospital bed, Corona quickly issued a statement, accepting the verdict of a co-equal branch of government.

His historic impeachment was initiated ostensibly in the name of transparency, public accountability, and better administration of justice. Those objectives should be pursued in earnest following his removal from office, a year after Merceditas Gutierrez resigned as ombudsman rather than face an impeachment trial.

President Aquino had earlier said Gutierrez and Corona were major hindrances to the administration's anti-corruption campaign and good governance initiatives. Now that the two are out of the



way, public expectations are higher for the President's achievement of his objectives. The momentum for reforms must not be dissipated.

The Aquino administration should also not overlook the need for national healing. Corona's impeachment has been a divisive issue, and perceptions that the executive is trying to undermine the independence of the Supreme Court need to be decisively dispelled. SC justices themselves can strengthen their own institution by showing in the coming weeks that all their decisions are based on blind justice, with no favors owed to anyone.

The nation has survived martial law, the difficult restoration of democracy, and the ouster of two presidents; it will survive the removal of a chief justice through a constitutional process. Such upheavals can leave institutions weakened, but they also offer opportunities for building a better, stronger nation. When we look back at the 44 trial days that led to the re-

moval of Chief Justice Renato Corona, we should remember the period as the beginning of a better judiciary, and a better Philippines. (www.philstar.com) ■

Planning a Productive Summer

With the school year and graduation season over, many families are eagerly awaiting a summer break. Students have worked extremely hard during the past year to complete assignments, exams, classes and all-nighters, and have deservedly earned a little time for relaxation. However, the smart student should use the break wisely and consider all options. The question begs...is it possible to have both a fund AND productive summer? We think it's indeed possible.

To avoid becoming distracted and lazy, it would be advisable to first develop a plan. It will be to your advantage to create a list beforehand to determine what you want to do during summer vacation. Don't wait until the last moment, especially if you want to start working on your long-term future goals. If your goal is to graduate faster and save thousands of dollars in tuition, consider taking summer classes. Or you could do an internship, paid or non-paid, which is a good way to experience for yourself the type of field you are entering. More and more college graduates are finding it difficult to land a job without any experience or internships.

Or you could do worthwhile volunteer work, which would look good to graduate schools that you are considering applying to and also strengthens your resumé. Whether you choose to volunteer for a hospital, animal

shelter or other non-profit group, it shows that you are dedicated to public service.

If taking classes or volunteering is not your cup of tea, perhaps learning something new might be more up your alley. You could join a book club, play a new sport, take a cooking class or even learn a new language. There are many opportunities out there for you to learn new things and start a new hobby. Whatever you choose, make sure it is something that you find enjoyable and fun.

No matter what you do this summer, keep in mind that the next few months make up nearly a quarter of the entire year, so spend your time wisely. Those who can balance the need for a little down time with a focus on productive activities can make the most of this great time of the year. Happy summer! ■

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Senators Save SC, Opt for Transparency

GOTCHA by Jarius BONDOC

Filipinos revere Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos as the greatest hero of World War II. The Japanese invasion was only 17 days old when President Manuel Quezon appointed him on December 24, 1941. When Quezon and Vice President Sergio Osmeña moved the seat of government temporarily to Washington, Abad Santos chose to stay behind as caretaker of the national administration. The Japanese Military Command repeatedly approached him to swear allegiance to Japan, but he refused. Japanese troops under a colonel overtook him in Lanao and warned him once more to kiss their flag or

be executed. Adamantly Abad Santos shook his head. Moments before he was shot to death on May 7, 1942, he told his son Jose Jr., "Weep not; show the enemy that you are brave. It is an honor to die for one's country. Not everybody has that chance." He was 56, the youngest Chief Justice of the Philippines to die.

Many other Chief Justices had served the country well. Roberto Concepcion was so appalled by the farcical ratification of the Marcos Martial Law Constitution that he resigned two months before the mandatory retirement at age 70, forfeiting the bulk of his pension. Bypassed five

times by Marcos despite being the most senior associate justice, independent-minded Claudio Teehankee waited 18 years before he was named Chief Justice in a restored democracy. After retirement, Cesar Bengzon functioned with prestige as judge in the International Court of Justice. A few CJs took the path less noble.

Seventy years this month since Abad Santos chose death rather than shame the race, the position of CJ had sunk to a depth so low that Filipinos were beginning to feel demoralized. The justice system seemed in shambles. A CJ was exposed to have concealed, against constitutional rules on transparency by public officials,

personal wealth in the hundreds of millions of pesos. That CJ confessed to the truth of the impeachment charge, but offered the lamest alibis for it. He also had led a cabal in the Supreme Court in consistently ruling for certain business and political patrons. His shameful acts were the fruits, it seemed, of his midnight posting at a time when his political patroness Gloria Arroyo was prohibited from making any appointments.

But yesterday 20 of 23 senators corrected the anomaly. On the pleading of 188 congressmen-impeachers, they removed Chief Justice Renato Corona and perpetually barred him from public office.

The process of removal took 44 hearings over five long months. It divided the nation, and diverted attention from other pressing concerns. But it had to be done. The Supreme Court had to

be saved from internal decay and public distrust. The senators have earned their place in history: Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara, Alan Peter Cayetano, Pia Cayetano, Franklin Drilon, Francis Escudero, Jinggoy Estrada, Teofisto Guingona III, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson, Manuelito Lapid, Loren Legarda, Sergio Osmeña III, Francis Pangilinan, Aquilino Pimentel III, Ralph Recto, Ramon Revilla Jr., Vicente Sotto III, Antonio Trillanes IV, Manuel Villar.

Truth and justice will begin to be restored. Our country can now move on, stable in our institutions, although struggling still to rid the government of grafters and abusers of power. We can now face other urgent tasks, foremost of which are to prevent the bully China from grabbing our territories, to reform our electoral system, and to lift up a third of our population from want and ignorance. (www.philstar.com) ■

With CJ Corona Out, It's Time for Cleansing

SHOOTING STRAIGHT by Bobit S. AVILA

The conviction of Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice Renato Corona by a vote of 20-3 is a total victory of the political establishment belonging to the Legislative branch of government in total collusion with the Executive branch that made no qualms in seeking the ouster of the highest magistrate in the land using all the resources of government, including black propaganda, lies, fake or spurious documents. Regardless of what Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (JPE) says in public that he voted to oust CJ Corona from the point of view of the evidence... he still ended up voting because it was politically expedient for him.

Twenty Senators voted to oust CJ Corona, while only three voted not to convict. Everyone gave all their reasons for their vote, but in my book, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago gave the most eloquent, albeit a most truthful reportage of what stuff our politicians are truly made of. I'm sure that the Filipino people applauded Maid Miriam when she said, "God, please give me one more life so I can investigate all of them in the Senate and Congress, including myself." It was at this point that Presiding Officer JPE tried to stop her... because she was now literally spilling the beans on the truth about our politicians. I was never a Maid

Miriam fan, but now I salute her!

At this point, I'm glad that CJ Corona has already accepted his fate. In my book, the Senate convicted him on his failure to declare his dollar accounts, to which Sen. Miriam clearly pointed out that this was not an impeachable offense as the Bank Secrecy Act protects anyone with dollar deposits, of which no less than CJ Corona dared, invited and challenged all the 188 and Sen. Franklin Drilon to also sign their bank waivers.

But the die has been cast... as Teddy Locsin Jr. of ANC's "Teditorial" said last Tuesday night, "The decision of the Senate impeachment court making up a law as the trial went along and then convicting for it is the bill of attainder of which Enrile warned. This was not impeachment as a political process, but a political assassination masquerading as a judicial procedure. An impeachment aspires to judicial procedure, ever mindful of judicial rules, above all respectful of due process that no citizen can be denied however high or low.

That is why the senators wore the costumes of judges to look like judges. But this was not a trial but a long execution carried out by the legislature at executive behest. The grounds for the chief justice's im-

(continued on page 5)

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(cont. from page 1; PHILIPPINE SENATE...)

Attorney Andy Hagad, convenor of Negrenses for Corona's Removal, says Corona's conviction has given teeth to the SALN as a means to check the corrupt in government.

who want to violate it." According to Senator Antonio Trillanes, who also voted to oust Corona, the conviction affects transparency.

"It also signifies that our system of checks and balances is working well. And that impeachment can be used as a tool to make high government officials accountable. No one is untouchable."

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. believes Corona's conviction has upheld the nation's democracy.

"This should serve as a lesson to everybody, especially the public officials, that the government will catch the corrupt because even the chief justice is convicted," he says. "A strong message was handed out that the justice system is fair and high officials of government can be convicted."

Corona was targeted for inaccuracies in his 2011 Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN). He failed to include \$2.4 million and Php80 million in bank deposits.

In the Philippines, public officials are constitutionally required to file a SALN each year to verify that they are not funneling money to themselves from their government positions.

"It is no longer just a piece of paper that they play around with and pay little attention to," he says. "The SALN has become our sword against the corrupt."

Many observers say the verdict is a boost for President Benigno Aquino and will help to end a culture of corruption that was so pervasive during previous administrations.

Corona is the first Philippine magistrate to be impeached and convicted, and his trial is the first of its kind to be concluded in Philippine history. The 63-year-old Corona, whose term ends in 2018, will now be removed from his post, disqualified from holding public office and may face criminal charges.

REACTION FROM CORONA

Chief Justice Corona watched the verdict in his room at the Medical City hospital in Pasig, where he had been recently confined with regard to a kidney ailment complicated by diabetes and a heart problem.

Supreme Court spokesman Midas Marquez said Corona remained calm as the senator-



Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, along with Senators Joker Arroyo and Bongbong Marcos, believes that the charges against Corona are not impeachable offense.

judges explained their votes.

Though he accepts the verdict, Corona maintained his innocence.

"Bad politics prevailed," he says. "I am innocent. There's no truth to the allegations against me in the Articles of Impeachment. My conscience is clear."

Corona accused the president of using government resources and agencies in destructive media campaign in radio, television and newspapers against he and his family. These include the House of Representatives, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Ombudsman and others.

LET THE HEALING BEGIN

Several lawmakers have called on President Aquino to begin the healing process, calling it essential for the good of the nation, particularly in the

wake of a tumultuous and drawn out legal battle. After all, there are many pressing social issues to consider, such as food, jobs and the economy.

Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo says Aquino should address the wounds caused by the impeachment trial, particularly to the judiciary. These include the rank-and-file who supported Corona believing that the impeachment trial could weaken the judiciary.

"As the father of the nation, the president should mend the broken hearts, so to speak, and whisper soothing words to their ears that everything is fine and that we will all pick up the pieces after the impeachment ordeal," Castelo says. "The President should articulate our collective desire to move forward and seize the moment."

Castelo's sentiments were echoed by Ang Kasangga party-list Rep. Ted Haresco who urged Filipinos to "unite and work together in the national effort to build a better and stronger nation."

"Let's buckle down to work and move forward as one nation against the common enemy, poverty, (and for) job creation, opportunities for the helpless," he says. "Everything that happened during the impeachment

trial was part of God's process of trials before triumphs."

In a press statement, the Makati Business Club (MBC) says the Philippines took a major step in the challenging road to political maturity with the conclusion of the impeachment trial against Corona.

"It is our sincere hope that this difficult process will lead to the strengthening and deepening of the commitment to build a culture of integrity not just in the Supreme Court and the judicial system but in the other branches of government—the Executive, the Senate, and the House of Representatives—and the private sector as well," the MBC said in a statement.

MBC also believes that the decision rendered by the senator-judges was fair and impartial.

"The process leading to the senator-judges' final decision against Chief Justice Renato Corona was transparent, fair and impartial," MBC said. "We hold the outcome of this impeachment trial as a triumph of our democracy's system of checks and balances, and a revalidation of the fundamental principle that public office is a public trust and that all public officials are therefore accountable to the people."

(www.philstar.com) ■

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

Lee, who underwent three hearings without getting a favorable action.

The urgency of sending an official representative of the country to China was well understood by CA members who

decided to allow and consider Brady's nomination in spite of the fact that the documentary and publication requirements for her nomination have not yet been complied with.

However, the same privilege was not granted to Jocelyn Ba-

toon-Garcia, who was nominated as ambassador to Thailand, and Henry Bensurto Jr., who was promoted to chief of mission class II.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said that the waiving of the requirements for Brady was allowed because there is a critical matter that the country has to attend to in China.

Brady told the CA that her mission to China was clear and that her experience in dealing with the Chinese officials would help ease tensions between the two nations.

"The reason that I'm being sent there is to try to seek a diplomatic solution to the problem. Whether we can do that early or later is something that I cannot say at the moment," Brady said.

"The only thing I can do is to try and convey our position to the Chinese government and see how we can deescalate the situation and turn off the fire so that the two countries can talk and find a solution to the problem," she added.

According to Brady, the two

sides have been discussing the issue of the West Philippine Sea and maritime boundaries in general on informal levels for some time already.

She said that the situation was generally under control even when the Philippines passed its so-called baselines law, which was seen by Beijing as an effort by the country to encroach on its territory.

"They had apparently been surprised that we passed the baselines law and they canceled all official visits to Philippines and issued statements. We were able to patch things up and able to talk to them and explain. It did not result in the kind of action that has been happening now," she noted.

Brady said the recent discussions have been focused on coming out with a proper code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea "so that it will be more enforceable and all the parties involved will be guided."

Brady, 67, retired in 2007 and admitted that she suffered a stroke earlier this year.

However, she said that she

underwent therapy and was certified by her doctors as being fully recovered.

Asked by Osmeña if she could handle the high-pressure job and if she feels that she is strong enough to last as long as Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who is now 88, Brady responded by saying that "our Senate President is sui generis, very unique." Meanwhile, the Palace expressed its gratitude to the commission for taking swift action to fill the sensitive post.

"Realizing the importance of and recognizing an experienced career diplomat to foster and improve our relations with China, we thank the Commission on Appointments for their swift confirmation of Sonia Brady," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

The CA also confirmed Philippine ambassadors to Jordan, Russia, Libya, Nigeria and Poland, as well as the four-star general promotion of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Jessie Delloso and 30 other senior officers of the military.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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YWCA to Honor Dr. Aquino

DR. BELINDA AQUINO, PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-MANOA, will be among several women leaders honored by the YWCA of Honolulu's 35th annual LeaderLuncheon on June 12, 2012 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom from 11 am to 1 pm. The unique event highlights

the contribution of women to community leadership in the state. The other honorees include:

- Lucy M. Gay, Director for Waianae Educational Opportunity
- Ann H. Kobayashi, Honolulu City Councilwoman
- Betty Lou Larson, Catholic Charities Hawaii Legislative

Advocate on Housing Issues

- Shelley Wilson, President of Wilson Homecare

Dr. Aquino enjoyed an illustrious career in the fields of academe, govern-



Dr. Belinda Aquino, Ph.D

ment, journalism, community development, social activism and International Philippine Studies. She retired after 35 years as professor of political science and Asian studies at UH-Manoa, and was the founding director of the Center for Philippine Studies, which has organized eight global conferences in Asia, Australia, the U.S. (Hawaii), Europe and the Philippines.

The YWCA encourages business owners to show their support for the advancement of women in the workplace by sponsoring their employees to attend the event. Officials say that the honorees will inspire employees, particularly women, to strive for greater achievement. For individuals, the luncheon will be a wonderful opportunity to make new contacts and network with other aspiring women.

More information on the LeaderLuncheon is available by contacting the YWCA of Honolulu at 538-7061. ■

Firefighters Union Retaliates Against Own Retirees for Cayetano Endorsement

RETIRED FIRE CHIEF DONALD CHANG SAYS THE HAWAII FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (HFFA) and the Honolulu Fire Department have retaliated against HFD retirees for endorsing mayoral candidate Ben Cayetano.

Chang says that current HFD Fire Chief Kenneth Silva informed him in a letter that retirees are no longer allowed to step foot in the Honolulu Firefighters facilities, can no longer hold meetings there or even pick up their mail.

Members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association are concerned that other retaliatory measures may be

taken against them if they do not retract their endorsement of Ben Cayetano by June 4, 2012. "We retirees differ with the HFFA over its endorsement for mayor," says Chang. "I can understand the union's disappointment but I think I speak for all retirees when I say we are very disappointed in the way HFFA and HFD have acted."

Cayetano describes HFD's actions as "throwing one's parents out of their own house."

"HFD's retaliation against the retirees is mind boggling," Cayetano says. "Retired firefighters like former Chief Donald Chang built the Honolulu Fire Department into one of the finest in the nation.

"My grandson is a firefighter and I am proud of him and all of the rank and file firefighters but I find it sad and disrespectful that the current leaders of the HFFA have retaliated against the retirees simply because they endorsed me."

While the HFFA supports Kirk Caldwell, the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association have endorsed Cayetano due to his years of experience and track record as a leader. Members say Cayetano, who took care of his elderly father for many years, understands the challenges retirees who live on fixed incomes face every day just to make ends meet. ■

OPINION (CONT.)

(cont. from page 3; WITH CJ OUT ...)

peachment were culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust. Culpable means blameworthy that excludes unintentional wrong. In this case, the act was not even wrong. The BIR says no taxpayer ever declared dollar deposits."

Teddy Boy added, "Of what was the chief justice accused that made him pestilent and his tenure perilous? It is the chief justice's accusers in the Palace, in the House, in the Senate and in the media who threaten democracy, the rule of law and the order of political society." This is the first time I quoted Teddy Boy Locsin Jr. for his "Teditorial" last Tuesday evening was more eloquent than most of our Senators' statement of their votes.

At this point many of us had a huge sigh of relief that this "Made-for-Reality-TV" episode is finally over and

done with so that our political leaders can move forward to fix all what needs to be fixed in this country. But let me make this declaration... we must learn the bitter lessons of this Senate impeachment trial and use it to cleanse the ranks of our government of deeply-rooted corruption. Since the 20 Senators declared CJ Corona guilty as charged... then the next step is for them to prove that they too are exemplary and like Caesars' wife... must be above suspicion.

Already the social networking sites have gone viral and have targeted Sen. Lito Lapid purported for trending, but the bigger expose' was that last November 2011, his wife was caught smuggling US\$50,000 dollars in Las Vegas. Wags are asking... whether that money came from Sen. Lapid's dollar deposits? Ordinary folk like you and me could only be

amazed that a Senators' wife would be so bold as to try to bring in US dollars in cash into the US without declaring it in US Customs? Yet the same Sen. Lito Lapid found CJ Corona guilty for not declaring his dollar deposits in his SALNs. If you want to see the face of a hypocrite that that Sen. Miriam Santiago mentioned, it is the face of Sen. Lapid.

So where do we go from here? First let me say it now... the RH Bill will finally be passed against the church's objections and soon we will have a Divorce law and same sex marriage. Then the PCOS machines TRO will be dropped so the Comelec can have its Electronic Dagdag Bawas, then finally the SC will reverse the decision on the Hacienda Luisita. So there you are... under Pres. P. Noy, it is truly more fun in the Philippines! (www.philstar.com) ■

HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

Consulate is located.

The award is Hawaii's highest recognition of preservation projects that perpetuate, rehabilitate, restore or interpret the state's architectural, archaeological, and/or cultural heritage.

It also recognizes the Consulate's historic value and underscores the importance of undertaking necessary maintenance work, even if expensive.

Located along Consulate Row, in close proximity to the Korean Consulate General and the Japanese Consulate General, the Philippine Consulate endeavors to preserve the facade's aesthetics and at the same time, ensure that it is structurally safe, especially in Hawaii's sub-tropical climate and the building's wooden architecture.

The Consulate's building

was constructed from 1904 to 1905 and served as the residence of German pineapple and sugar plantation owner Albert Horner.

A group of sakadas, through the Philippine Memorial Foundation, pooled their resources and purchased the property in 1948, the purpose of which was to house the newly-established Philippine Consulate General.

The Philippine government took over the property in 1961.

Until the first quarter of this year, the Consulate maintained the century-old structure, through patchwork and cosmetic finishing, as structural repair jobs were costly and required more resources.

In February 2012, the Consulate undertook repair and maintenance work charged against the Consulate's own funds. ■

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Pine Announces Candidacy for City Council District 1

ALONGSIDE MEMBERS OF HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY, State Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine filed official nomination papers to run for Honolulu City Council District 1 (Ewa Beach-Kapolei-Ko Olina-Nanakuli-Waianae-Makaha).

"I feel tremendously blessed to have enjoyed this day with my grandmother, Alionora Marcos, who grew up and worked on the plantations

of Hawaii," says Pine. "It means the world to me that she could witness her granddaughter stepping up to make a difference in the lives of hardworking families across the Leeward coast."

As councilwoman, Pine's focus will be to bring good jobs to the Leeward Coast as she has done in supporting the development of UH-West Oahu, the Kroc Center in Ewa Beach,

several new shopping centers and the Aulani Disney Resort & Spa.

Pine will also continue to work on easing traffic congestion, ensuring easy access to community healthcare and lowering the cost of living and doing business on Oahu. She recently played a key role in working with doctors at the Hawaii Medical Center site to increase their services and

opening an Urgent Care Center.

Pine has 14 years of experience working for the people of Hawaii at the State Capitol. As Director of the Minority Research Office at the State House of Representatives, she ran a team focused on finding waste and mismanagement in government spending and creating new solutions to Hawaii's problems as the author of the \$600 Million Waste and Mismanagement Report.

She also worked for over six years at U.S. VETS-Hawaii, a home for former homeless veterans and was a member of the State Housing Committee that implemented sweeping improvements in homeless services.

Pine has been a victim advocate for 15 years, is an expert in cyber crime law and was the former chair of the Ewa Weed and Seed's Beautification Committee. ■

Councilmember Cachola Announces Bid for State House District 30

HONOLULU CITY COUNCILMEMBER ROMY M. CACHOLA has filed nomination papers to run for the State House of Representatives, District 30 (Kalihi, Sand Island, Airport, Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Ford Island, Halawa Valley Estates).

Cachola, whose current term expires at the end of this year, has served as a member of the City Council since 2000. He is the current Council Floor Leader, chair of the Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee and vice chair of the Zoning & Planning Committee. He is also a member of the Parks & Cultural Affairs, Budget and Transportation committees.

As a policymaker, Cachola has been a staunch advocate of protecting taxpayers and their pocketbooks—particularly on big ticket items like the fixed rail project, sewer, water, infrastructure and other fee increases.

"I'm always looking at ways to save taxpayers' money," he says. "If we are not careful to hold the line on these and other big public works projects, our children and their children will be the ones to pay."

Prior to joining the City Council, Cachola served as a member of the State House since 1984. As former chair of the House Tourism Committee, he introduced numerous legislation and initiatives that benefited tourism—the State's number one industry.

He also saved taxpayers over \$230 million via a bill that established cost saving mechanisms for the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. The savings were used by the State to balance the 2011-2012 budget.

Cachola brings with him a proven record of accomplishments—an asset for the State Legislature, which is facing cru-

cial decisions on the economy, education, homelessness, transportation and other hot button issues.

Each year, Romy, civic groups and Dr. Erlinda Cachola organize the annual Kalihi Community Health Fair, which provides free health screenings for the public. Now in its 29th year, the event is geared towards immigrants, low-income or at-risk groups, the unemployed, homeless and others who do not have access to basic medical services. In 2011, he introduced legislation to assist property owners across Oahu who were hit with a four-fold increase in their real property tax rates.

Cachola has also received numerous awards over the years in recognition of his contributions to the community, including:

- "2011 Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Service," given by the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH).
- "2009 December 18 Award," given in Manila by the Philippine government to honor Filipinos who have significantly contributed to the welfare and protection of the rights of Filipino migrants in the Philippines and overseas, 2009.
- "2008 Farrington Governors Hall of Fame Award" for excellence in community service and for his accomplishments that benefited Kalihi, Farrington High School and its students.
- "2004 Certificate of Recognition" from the Honolulu City Council, For Achieving

a Fair & Equitable Settlement on Golf Course 5&6 property, which saved \$150-\$200 million in taxpayers' money.

- "1999 Outstanding Legislator Award" from the Hawaii Medical Association.
- "1990 Public Servant of the Year" from Community Advocate Magazine.
- "1990 National Distinguished Legislator Award" presented at the National Conference of State Legislators in Tennessee.

"I am excited with the opportunity to return to the State House of Representatives, where I served my constituents for many years," Cachola says. "I have a continued passion to serve the community and to make a difference in the lives of my constituents." ■

FOOD & LEISURE

Not Your Usual Back-to-School Recipe

MANILA, Philippines - For a number of homemakers, the month of June also means busy days ahead, especially when preparing tasty but healthy dishes for their school-bound kids. With a few tips from Glad, the reliable brand of kitchen wraps and bags, moms can actually bring excitement back to their recipe for school baon. Try chef Eugene Raymundo's chicken vegetable roulades with fruit tomato salsa.

CHICKEN VEGETABLE ROULADES WITH FRUIT TOMATO SALSA

Ingredients:
600 gms ground chicken meat
1/3 cup minced onions
2 tbsp. minced garlic
1/4 cup chopped parsley



Chicken vegetable roulades with fruit tomato salsa

- 1/2 cup chopped oyster mushrooms
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil
- 1 egg
- 3 tbsps. flour
- 2 tbsps. Parmesan cheese
- 12 pcs. asparagus
- 1 pc. carrot, julienned
- 1/3 cup shredded red cabbage
- 1/4 cup strawberry jam
- 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 1/3 cup red chopped onions
- 1/3 cup canned mandarine

1/4 cup chopped green apples
salt & pepper

Procedure:

1. In a bowl, blend first 11 ingredients in a bowl and divide into three portions.
2. Lay a sheet of Glad Cook 'n' Bake approximately 14 inches long and flatten a portion of chicken mixture trying to make it to a 6"x5" rectangle. Arrange 1/3 of the vegetables on the middle of the mixture and roll away from you, lifting the paper as the ends of the mixture meet. Press lightly to form a log. Secure ends with a string and set aside. Do the same on the remaining mixtures.
3. Boil water in a pot and put in chicken rolls and cook for 25 minutes. Let cool for a few minutes. Slice and serve with fruit salsa.
4. To make the salsa, blend jam, oil and juice. Toss in fruits and season with salt and pepper. (www.philstar.com) ■

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by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

Is Child Conceived After Father's Death Eligible for Social Security Survivor Benefits?

Whether a child conceived after the death of the biological father is eligible to receive survivor benefits under the Social Security Act is a matter of geography. That, in effect, is what the U.S. Supreme Court said in today's (May 21) decision in *Astrue v. Capato*, No. 11-159, 05/21/12.

Shortly after they were married in New Jersey in 1999, Robert and Karen were told that Robert had cancer. His doctor told him that if he underwent chemotherapy treatment he would not be able to procreate. Because he wanted to have children someday, Robert deposited his sperm at a sperm bank for later use through in vitro fertilization. The couple had a child by natural means before Robert's cancer worsened. In his will, Robert made provisions for his child with Karen and his two

children from a previous marriage. However, he did not make provision for unborn children who might be conceived through in vitro fertilization after he died. Robert passed away in March 2002 while living in Florida. Karen moved back to New Jersey. She underwent in vitro fertilization using the frozen sperm of Robert. On September 23, 2003, 18 months after Robert died, she gave birth to twins.

STATE INTESTACY LAW GOVERNS ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS

Karen applied for social security survivor benefits for the twins. The Social Security Administration (SSA) denied her application. She went to U.S. District Court in New Jersey which affirmed the SSA's decision. The District Court held that the twins could qualify for benefits only if they could inherit from their father, the deceased wage earner, under the state intestacy law as provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 416(h)(2)(A). The court found that Robert

was domiciled in Florida when he died, and that under Florida law, posthumously conceived children do not qualify for inheritance through intestate succession.

DEFINITION OF "CHILD" IN FEDERAL LAW GOVERNS ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS

Karen appealed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals which reversed the District Court. The appellate court held that under 42 U.S.C. Section 416(e) which defines "child" to mean, inter alia, "the child or legally adopted child of an [insured] individual," the biological children of an insured and his widow qualify for survivors benefits without regard to state intestacy laws. *Capato v. Commissioner*, 31 F.3d 626 (3d Cir. 2011).

SUPREME COURTS SAYS STATE INTESTACY LAW GOVERNS

In a rare show of unanimity, the Supreme Court reversed the appeals court. Speaking through Justice Ginsburg, the court held that the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. Section

416(h)(2)(A), provides that "In determining whether an applicant is the child or parent of [an] insured individual, . . . the Commissioner of Social Security shall apply [the intestacy law of the insured individual's domiciliary state]." The court explained that the Act's objective is to "provide . . . dependent members of [a wage earner's] family with protection against the hardship occasioned by [the] loss of the [insured's] earnings."

The court rejected Karen's contention that this interpretation of the statute raises concerns under the equal protection clause of the Constitution, saying that the statute passed the rational basis test.

COMMENT: This is not an isolated case. Many service members deposit their sperm in a sperm bank before being deployed for future use in case they are disabled or die. The Supreme Court took this case because the various Circuit Courts of Appeals were divided on the issue, with the Third and Ninth Circuit (covering California and most of the western states) holding that posthu-

mously conceived children may be eligible for survivor benefits under certain circumstances. *Gillett-Netting v. Barnhart*, 371 F.3d 593 (9th Cir. 2004)(applying Arizona law). However, other circuits like the Fourth held that they were not. *Schafer v. Astrue*, 641 F.3d 49 (4th Cir. 2011).

RECOMMENDATION: To insure equal protection of the laws, Congress should quickly enact a law providing for a single rule in determining entitlement to social security survivor benefits rather than leaving such determination to the varying state laws.

(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: filmlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.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.iluko.com.) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

No Need to Sign Waiver - Enrile

by Christina MENDEZ
Thursday, May 31, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE ENRILE SAID** yesterday he is not signing any waiver to open his bank accounts and described the move of ex-chief justice Renato Corona as mere "theatrics."

Enrile said a waiver to allow the ombudsman to look into his assets is included in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Enrile declared his total net worth at P117,726,369 in his 2011 SALN. He also listed the companies under the JAKA Investments Corp.

Sen. Francis Escudero pushed for the passage of his bill that would automatically allow the release of the SALNs of senators. He said the experience of the impeachment trial against Corona should compel all 23 senators to approve the measure.

GMA TO ALSO SIGN WAIVER

As this developed, House Minority Leader and Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said opposition lawmakers, including former President and now Pampanga Rep Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, would follow Corona's signing of a waiver.

"I don't see any problem with the former president signing a waiver," Suarez said.

Suarez signed a waiver to allow the opening of his bank accounts during a press briefing yesterday.

He said this would allow the office of Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to furnish "any and all parties a copy of my latest and previous (statements of) assets liabilities and net worth upon their written request."

He said he does not have a dollar account or other foreign currency deposits.

"Many senator-judges and officials of the administration

keep on saying that they give due credit to the statement of the chief justice to open his (peso and dollar accounts) for public consumption and transparency, so let's open ours," Suarez said.

He said those examining his SALN might be surprised to see a P91 million entry on transportation. He said this represents the value of two helicopters that he co-owns with five other people, including celebrity host Willie Revillame.

The minority bloc earlier challenged the 188 lawmakers who signed the impeachment complaint against Corona to sign waivers on the records of their wealth ahead of the opposition lawmakers.

GOV'T OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES SHOULD ALSO SIGN WAIVER- ERAP

Former President Joseph Estrada said all government of-

ficials and employees should also sign a waiver to ensure transparency in government.

"All public officials should be subjected to a waiver. From the president, vice president,

senators, congressmen, governors, mayors, councilors down to barangay captains and kagawads. The rule of law applies to all," Estrada told The STAR. (www.philstar.com) ■

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10 Cool Things to Do in LA

LIFE & STYLE by Millet M. MANANQUIL

Forget Jaws and Mickey Mouse for now. If you're going to Los Angeles this year, try other fun sights waiting to be discovered in the City of Angels.

This is what we did when we attended the 2012 International Pow Wow in Los Angeles last month. We were eager to be wowed as always by LA — our favorite city in the USA aside from New York — a place visited by an estimated 43 million tourists last year. LA ranks third behind Orlando and New York City as one of the United States' leading tourist destinations.

1. Feel and hear Bob Dylan, the Beatles, heavy metal and Michael Jackson at the Grammy Museum.

Upon entering my cozy hotel room at Luxe City Center on Figueroa Street, the first thing that greeted me was the colorful floor-to-ceiling mural showing Steven Tyler with his signature look: huge screaming mouth, skinny pants, layers of chains on his neck and his tasseled hair flying in all directions. Thank goodness it was not the usual boringly predictable hotel room painting. A week before, I had just finished reading Tyler's autobiography (Does the Noise in My Head Bother You?) which I saw at National Book Store, and flashes of his certainly-not-boring life (read: music, drugs, love and sex) came to mind.

I opened the window curtains, and saw an inviting view right across the hotel: the Grammy Museum! I easily succumbed to the \$12.95 invitation and got transported through different decades of music. A traveling exhibit on Boy Dylan focuses on his role in American folk music revival centered in Greenwich Village, New York with a collection of photographs by Daniel Kramer, and original instruments from icons like Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly.

A lot of production instru-

ments and original costumes are shown in "The Beatles Love" on the third floor, which is actually a glimpse of the permanent show at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas.

I got to better appreciate my son's kind of music (when he was in his heavy metal phase) as I saw the interactive exhibit on "The History of Heavy Metal," complete with tutorials and a scream booth, artwork and costumes.

A few of Michael Jackson's sequined gloves and beaded jackets are on display also in an exhibit that pays tribute to this music idol on the second anniversary of his death.

The Grammy Museum is at 800 Olympic Boulevard, corner Figueroa Street. There's a discounted \$8 entrance fee after 5 p.m.

2. Enjoy art and lifestyle exhibits at the LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art).



It is so easy to find LACMA on Wilshire Boulevard. Just look for the cluster of urban lights by artist Chris Burden right in front of it. This art installation, now an iconic landmark, has appeared in movies (like No Strings Attached), music videos and fashion shoots.

I was so happy to view an exhibit at LACMA which I had ached to see but missed on a trip to Mexico some years ago: artwork by my favorite artist, Frida Kahlo. Luckily a few of her paintings were part of an exhibit of the surrealist women artists in Mexico and the US. Of course, for me, Kahlo's was the best and most painfully stirring.

Also showing at LACMA is "Living in a Modern Way," an ex-



Grammy Museum

hibit on California design from 1930 to 1965, featuring furniture, fashion, ceramics and graphic designs of the period. Examples are chairs by Charles and Ray Eames, and bowls by Gertrud and Otto Natzier. The admission fee is \$15 but as in most museums and galleries, entrance is free if you have a press ID. Admission is also free if you're below 18; and \$10 for seniors and students.

3. Be amazed at the Annenberg Space for Photography.



This was a big "Wow" in my Los Angeles PowWow trip! Truly amazing surreal photographs on display by artists from the US, UK and France jolted my perception of reality and confused my mind. But I enjoyed the experience. Long before Photoshop, there were many tricks in the darkroom used by artists.

On exhibit are 17 artists but my top favorite is Jerry Uelsmann. A short film takes viewers behind the scenes. There is also a room featuring 3D works with terrific imagery.

Located at the Avenue of the Stars, entrance to the Annenberg Space for Photography is wonderfully free. "Always free," their postcard emphasizes.

4. Shop for beautiful bargains at Santee Alley.



If you like 168 in Chinatown and the tiangge market in Greenhills, you will like Santee Alley even more. It is less chaotic and more trendy. Located within two blocks between Santee Street, Maple Avenue, Olympic Boulevard and 12th Street, and open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Santee Alley has 150 stores which offer everything from shorts to formal gowns. And yes, you can test your bargaining skills here.

I found shoes à la Louboutin, evening bags with skull rings à la Alexander McQueen and clothes à la Miyake. Thank goodness, this market does not scream with cheap Vuitton fakes.

5. Have a dinosaur experience at the Natural History Museum.



You must include this in your must-see list, because it is one of the most awesome state-of-the-art dinosaur exhibits in this part of the planet. If you were an avid follower of the TV sitcom Friends where Ross the paleontologist talks dinosaurs and fossils, you will most likely appreciate the 25-foot-long Triceratops, and the world's only T-Rex, and a Stegosaurus-fighting predator, Allosaurus, here. The Dinosaur Hall of the NHM features 20 full-body dinosaur specimens. The NHM is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard. Oh yes, US Travel Association president Roger Dow welcomed the PowWow media with a delicious brunch amid beautiful flowers and shady trees at the NHM Gardens.

6. Get a fashion fix at the FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising).



Our very own Monique Lhuillier is one of the most notable alumnae of FIDM, located at 919 Grand Avenue. The FIDM museum features a collection of more than 10,000 costumes, accessories and fabrics from the 18th century to modernity. There's a special section on menswear by Versace. Clothes on display include vintage Carolina Herrera, Dior, Galanos and Yves Saint Laurent. Costumes will remind you of scenes from old films and theatrical shows.

7. Watch a new take on cinema by Cirque du Soleil.



Pow Wow attendees at the LA Convention Center were treated to glimpses of "IRIS: A Journey Through the World of Cinema," a major new show at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. "IRIS" combines acrobatics, dance, projections and live music. Isn't it heartening to know that Cirque du Soleil started with 20 street performers in 1984, and this Quebec-based group has performed before 100 million spectators in 300 cities around the world!

8. Enjoy glam shopping — and celebrity watching — on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.



In this playground of the stars are the best of the best luxury brands, from Armani to Dolce & Gabbana to Lanvin to Prada to Vuitton to Rimowa. Our group was given a walking tour

(continued on page 9)

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SALNs of Judges, Justices Released

by Edu PUNAY/
Thursday, May 31, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **A DAY AFTER RENATO CORONA WAS OUSTED** as chief justice for inaccuracies in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, the Supreme Court (SC) approved yesterday the release of the full SALNs of all justices and judges.

Speaking to reporters, acting SC spokesperson Ma. Victoria Gleoresty Guerra said the justices agreed in a special full-court session yesterday to set aside the May 2, 1989 resolution prohibiting public disclosure of SALNs of members of the judiciary.

"It was a collective decision of the justices," she said. "The net effect is that the earlier resolution has just been set aside."

However, Guerra said the justices still have to meet in special session on June 13 to come up with the guidelines on the issuance of their SALNs for 2011.

Guerra said it is best to wait for the release of the resolution and guidelines where the SC would explain the grounds for the ruling.

"Let's not forget CJ Corona set a precedent in issuing the waiver (on bank deposits)," she said.

In the 1989 full-court resolution, the SC laid down guidelines on requests for copies of the

SALNs of the chief justice and associate justices.

The ruling, reiterated in 1992, stated that it is unlawful for any person to obtain or use any statement filed under Republic Act 6713, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, for any purpose contrary to morals or public policy, or any commercial purpose other than by news and communications media for dissemination to the general public.

The SC expressed willingness to have the clerk of court furnish copies of the SALNs of justices to any person upon request, provided the request has a legitimate reason.

But even requests of journalists for copies of the SALNs of SC justices were denied.

"The independence of the judiciary is constitutionally as important as the right to information, which is subject to the limitations provided by law," read the ruling.

"Under specific circumstances, the need for the fair and just adjudication of litigations may require a court to be wary of deceptive requests for information, which shall otherwise be freely available."

In 1992, the SC denied the requests of a graft investigation officer of the Office of the Ombudsman and a military captain for certified true copies of the



"Kumpadres" Justices Corona and Carpio during happier times

SALNs of two judges.

CARPIO IS ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

SC justices discussed yesterday in full-court session the Senate verdict removing chief justice Renato Corona and its accompanying consequences, particularly the administrative re-organization in the court.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio was designated acting chief justice in accordance with SC rules.

He will serve temporarily until President Aquino names a new chief justice within 90 days from the vacancy.

Carpio called the full-court session at 2 p.m.

Senate clerk of court Jessie Tamondong delivered the notice of the decision finding Corona guilty to the office of the SC clerk of court before 10 a.m.

The Senate ruled that the decision is immediately executory.

Twelve of the 14 remaining justices attended the special session. Associate Justices Lucas Bersamin and Diosdado Peralta were attending a prior commitment in Baguio City.

With Carpio's designation, the justices in effect have accepted the Senate's interpretation that the verdict on Corona is immediately executory, according to Guerra, who was designated acting chief of the SC public information office.

"We have an acting chief justice," she said. "You can draw the necessary implication from that."

Guerra said Carpio took over the top SC post "since he is the most senior of the justices."

Carpio had extended the stay in office of their staff in the PIO as well as the staff of Corona for 30 days, she added.

Guerra takes the place of Midas Marquez, who was coterminous with Corona as SC spokesman and chief of the SC PIO.

The SC also approved several other administrative issuances, which were not immediately released to the media, Guerra said.

'JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE GONE'

Judge Franklin Demonterverde of the Bacolod Regional Trial Court believes judicial independence has passed away with the conviction of Corona.

"The men and women in judicial robes are grieving as they cower in fear while the sword of Damocles hovers over their heads," he said.

"These honorable men and women will be walking on dangerous grounds lest they step on the toes of the powers that be. While we abide by the decision of the impeachment court, we can only pray - God help the judiciary!"

Bacolod Councilor Caesar Distrito said the senators had voted on the basis of political survival, not on the basis of evidence.

"I admire Senators (Joker) Arroyo, (Miriam Defensor-) Santiago, and (Ferdinand) Marcos (Jr.) for standing with the rule of law," he said.

"Although I disagree with the decision of the Senate convicting CJ Corona, as it was shown

that evidence were taken illegally and still they considered it, we have no choice but to respect it. "But if Corona was made accountable for such failure to disclose all his assets, then I think the same standards should be applied to all, from the President down to the barangay officials."

On the other hand, Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Maramba Jr. believes Corona's conviction has upheld the nation's democracy.

"This should serve as a lesson to everybody, especially the public officials, that the government will catch the corrupt because even the chief justice is convicted," he said.

"A strong message was handed out that the justice system is fair and high officials of government can be convicted," Maramba said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez, one of 188 lawmakers who signed the impeachment complaint, said the conviction of Corona "just raised the bar of standards for public officials."

Mayor David Albert Lacson of E.B. Magalona town, Association of Chief Executive (Mayors) of Negros Occidental president, said Corona was given his day in court.

"He went through due process," he said. "(But) the hammer came down, a decision was made. We have to abide by the law."

Negros Occidental Rep. Jeffrey Ferrer said the senator-judges made the right decision based on evidence presented.

Negros Occidental Rep. Mercedes Alvarez said the conviction of Corona proved that no one is above the law.

"Even the highest officials of the land should comply with our constitutional duties as public officers," she said.

"After today, I hope we can all move on now as we have a lot of work to be done and a lot of bills to be passed in Congress."

Alex Ozoa of the Negrense 4 Noy Movement congratulated the senator-judges and the 188 lawmakers, as well as Rep. Rudy Fariñas, one of the prosecutors who delivered a closing argument.

"A big nail was removed from the matuwid na daan of President P-Noy," he said. (www.philstar.com) ■

TRAVEL & TOURISM

(cont. from page 8; 10 COOL ...)

by the vivacious Joe Katz, the in-house stylist of Beverly Hills' newest hotel, Montage Beverly Hills. Too bad we didn't get to catch any celebrity doing any panic shopping or sitting at the sidewalk cafes. We had to be content with photographing glamorous residents walking their bejeweled poodles.

9. Shop healthy, eat healthy at Beverly Hills Farmers' Market.



Our tour guide said this market on the 9300 block of Civic Center Drive, is where the likes of Cameron Diaz, Halle Berry and Sharon Stone shop for fresh

produce. Never mind if we didn't see any celebs here either, because the organic fruits and veggies, the foods cooked on the spot (crepes, panini, grilled fish and barbecues) were enough of a treat. Open every Sunday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., this market also sells flowers, soaps, lotions and oils. They also have live entertainment from a band, cooking lessons and pony rides for children.

This is where Katsuo Suguira, executive chef of the Beverly Hilton Hotel and reigning executive chef for the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards, goes shopping for the freshest produce to satisfy the most finicky tastes.

10. Be a child once again at Universal Studios Hollywood with the Transformers and King Kong.



Universal Studios was closed to the public for one night as it was booked exclusively for the Pow Wow attendees who were treated to free popcorn, free dinner, free rides, free everything! The current major offerings are the Transformers (giant robots walk around for photo-ops) and King Kong, and both rides are 3D! The revolutionary Transformers ride allows visitors to "live" the movie using state-of-the-art technology. The King Kong ride on-board the studio tram brings you to Skull Island where you get caught in a ferocious fight between King Kong and a giant T-Rex. (www.philstar.com) ■



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DepEd Issues Warning Vs Unaccredited Private Schools

 by Dennis CARCAMO
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON WEDNESDAY** cautioned parents against enrolling their children in unaccredited private schools.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro also advised parents to confirm if the schools of their children have the necessary DepEd accreditation.

"We encourage parents to check whether the private school where they intend to enroll their children has the required permits so the department can easily track down unaccredited private schools and pursue immediate action," Luistro said.

The DepEd has also ordered all its regional offices to submit the list of names and addresses of private schools with government permit to operate as this will serve as guide for parents and students on which private schools to enroll in.

The list will then be posted in all regional and division offices, municipal halls and other conspicuous places to inform

the public of the duly recognized and accredited private schools in the country.

The deadline for the submission of the list is on May 31.

Luistro said that studying in an unaccredited private school might pose a problem on student's learning owing to possible unauthorized curriculum.

"If a private school does not go through the process of government accreditation, we are not even sure if they follow the minimum academic standards set by the appropriate government agencies," he said.

Pupils and students who had finished an alleged grade/year level in a school without the required permit are advised to take the Philippine Validating Test (PVT) prior to admission to another school to validate the acquired learning gains. PVT is administered at the National Education Testing and Research Center at the DepEd Central Office.

A master list of private schools with DepEd accreditation is available at the DepEd website, www.deped.gov.ph. (www.philstar.com) ■

Erap: At Least Corona Got Due Process

 by Jose Rodel CLAPANO
Wednesday, May 30, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA** said yesterday that although Chief Justice Renato Corona was convicted, he is still more fortunate than him because Corona was given his day in the impeachment court.

"He is even fortunate than me because he was convicted on the basis of the evidence presented by the prosecution and the defense panels," Estrada said.

He recalled that the prosecution panel in his impeachment case walked out, which deprived him of the chance to defend himself in 2001.

"I was unconstitutionally removed and they created the special court in Sandiganbayan to convict me. I was not given the chance to defend myself," Estrada said.

He cited the time when Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile ordered the sergeant-at-arms to close all entry and exit

points in the Senate when Corona walked out immediately after delivering his lengthy speech before the impeachment court last week.

"(Chief Justice Hilario) Davide should have ordered the same and locked up the Senate entry points when the prosecution panel walked out and ordered the private prosecutors to return to the impeachment court as well as dismissed the case against me for failure to prosecute. But he did not do that," Estrada said.

Estrada, who followed the entire proceedings at the Senate, lauded presiding officer Enrile for his high quality leadership during the impeachment trial, adding that the recently concluded proceeding is a boost to the country's democracy.

"I congratulate the impeachment court for successfully concluding the impeachment trial. Regardless of the result, today was a good day for our democracy because the impeachment court proved that we can abide by the rule of law," Estrada said. (www.philstar.com) ■

Noy Won't Rush Selection of CJ

by **Delon PORCALLA**
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **PRESIDENT AQUINO SAID YESTERDAY HE WOULD MAKE FULL USE** of the 90 days provided by law for selecting a replacement for ousted chief justice Renato Corona.

In a televised speech at Malacañang, Aquino said he has 90 days to ensure that the next chief justice will be independent, competent, and with the integrity needed to lead the judiciary.

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) will meet on Monday to tackle the process of nominating a replacement for Corona, Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. said yesterday.

"Since the council has no chairman because the Senate impeachment has found CJ Corona guilty and has removed him from office, we may designate a temporary presiding officer," he said.

Tupas, as chairman of the committee on justice of the House of Representatives, sits in the JBC, whose ex-officio chairman is the Chief Justice.

Council members include the chairman of the Senate committee on justice, a representative of academe, one former Supreme Court justice, and a representative of the private sector.

Tupas said an acting chief justice cannot sit as council chairman "because the Constitution explicitly states that the Chief Justice, not an acting chief magistrate, heads the JBC in an ex-officio capacity."

He said the designation of a temporary presiding officer has a precedent.

He recalled that during the Ramos administration, the JBC once made such designation when the Chief Justice was indisposed.

"The council is a collegial body. It can function even without the Chief Justice, like in this case when the Chief Justice is

removed from office through the impeachment process," he said.

He said the JBC has to come up with a list of three nominees for Chief Justice "since under the Constitution, President Aquino has to appoint a replacement within 90 days from the time the vacancy occurs."

"Without such list, the President cannot appoint a replacement. He also cannot appoint one not in the JBC's nomination list," he added.

Tupas headed the House panel that successfully prosecuted Corona in his Senate impeachment trial.

He said the ousted chief justice should not listen to some of his lawyers who are suggesting that they appeal his conviction to the Supreme Court.

"He should realize that his conviction by the impeachment court is the end of the road for him. There is no appeal process in impeachment. The Constitution is very clear on this," he said.

He said Corona would expose himself to more embarrassment if he listens to the suggestion of some of his lawyers. Corona has said he was accepting the Senate's guilty verdict.

Tupas said he would have wished that Corona resigned early in the trial "so we would not have gone through this painful process."

He said he could not understand why Corona had to expose himself and his family to pain, suffering, anxiety, embarrassment, and ridicule, knowing that he had hidden assets that could potentially be found, which could lead to his conviction.

"He also risked his health. I pitied him when he returned to the impeachment court from the hospital last Friday, obviously still sick," he said.

At the Senate, Liberal Party stalwart Sen. Franklin Drilon said he is keen on finishing his term until 2016 as he reiterated



he had no interest in succeeding Corona as chief justice.

"To set the facts straight, I am not interested in the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court," Drilon said in a statement, reacting to a STAR report that he was among those being considered for the post.

"I believe I can serve our country better as senator," Drilon, one of 20 senators who voted for Corona's conviction, said.

Meanwhile, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said Corona's replacement should just be chosen from among the incumbent justices while the Senate's representative to the JBC believes the body should set into motion its selection process, including accepting applications from outsiders.

Enrile said there is no need for a candidate for the post of chief justice to undergo JBC's selection process since the post of JBC chairman, held by the chief justice, is also vacant following Corona's removal from his post last Tuesday.

He said only an outsider needs to undergo JBC's screening procedures.

For his part, JBC's Senate representative Sen. Francis Escudero said the JBC must convene soon to avoid a vacuum in the Supreme Court.

Escudero said he would ask the council to immediately convene and send notice of applica-

tions and nominations for the chief justice position.

Escudero said the Constitution provides that "any vacancy shall be filled within ninety days from the occurrence thereof."

"The law always abhors a vacuum. Not because the SC lost its chief justice, we stop functioning as a council. We need to continue with our work as usual and part of it is to immediately look for someone to fill the vacancy in the highest court," he said.

Escudero said he wants to see an outsider to replace the former chief justice and ex-

pressed hope the President would appoint someone not in any way identified with him or with any vested interest.

"I am hoping that the vetting will be from the outside circle of the President's official family, friends and the current Supreme Court composition so that we strictly adhere to the new leaf we all are looking forward to," Escudero said.

"It's time for all of us to work for healing, reconciliation so we can already move on and move forward," he said.

Escudero said he wants the JBC to require all applicants and nominees to execute a waiver that would allow the council to examine a candidate's assets and finances if necessary.

"As I have said in my explanation of vote yesterday, from now on, we should measure everyone aspiring to join the government with the measure we used with former CJ Corona," Escudero said. (www.philstar.com) ■

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New Guidelines in Cardio Care

from www.philstar.com

MANILA, Philippines - Philippine heart doctors received practice guidelines from European cardiology experts at the 17th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society held recently at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Global healthcare leader MSD invited guest speaker Alberico Catapano, chairperson of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), to deliver a lecture on the topic "New Advances in Cardiovascular Risk Reduction in High-Risk Patients."

Professor Catapano, who is also affiliated with the Department of Pharmacological Science at the University of Milan, presented a new set of treatment strategies drafted by the EAS and the European Society

of Cardiology (ESC). The guidelines were developed for the management of dyslipidaemias as an integral part of cardiovascular disease prevention. Dyslipidaemia is a spectrum of coronary afflictions that includes the condition of having high levels of bad cholesterol (low-density lipoprotein/LDL) and decreased amounts of good cholesterol (high-density lipoprotein/HDL) in the blood.

Cardiovascular illness, due to thickened arteries from lipid accumulation, is reported to be one of the leading causes of premature mortality and disability in Europe and in other parts of the world, including the Philippines. More than 60 percent of the global burden of coronary heart disease occurs in developing countries, and ill-health, disability, or early death resulting from the illness is projected to rise to 82 million by 2020. In the Philip-

pines, the incidence of cardiovascular disease, as well as the prevalence of established risk factors, such as high cholesterol and increased LDL levels, is increasing.

As presented by Catapano, the EAS/ESC guidelines cover areas which include approaches in pharmacological treatments and advice concerning dyslipidaemia in elderly, patients with diabetes and transplant patients, among others. The guidelines also offer risk estimation charts and summaries of recommended goals on lipid-lowering therapy, and mention that LDL cholesterol remains as the primary treatment target.

A section on medicines affecting high-density lipoprotein explains that "raising of HDL-C may be considered as a secondary and optional target in patients with dyslipidaemias."

Among existing treatments that raise good cholesterol levels, niacin has been shown to give the best percentage of increase in HDL, resulting in reduced cases of cholesterol-related cardiovascular disease, although the guideline notes that "the adverse effect of flushing may affect compliance." In order to address this, laropiprant has been added to an extended release formulation of niacin which raises HDL-C and brings down triglyceride levels, while reducing the flushing caused by niacin.

For patients complying with multiple drug therapies, the EAS/ESC guidelines advise doctors to simplify dosing recommendations if possible by reducing daily doses and concomitant medications, to explore affordable options, and to work the treatment around the patient's lifestyle and needs.

When patients seeking therapy are involved in the treatment, they have a chance of getting the best benefits from the medical regimen.

Despite available therapeutic remedies for lowering cholesterol, the health goals of many patients remain off-target, and one of the reasons could be the suboptimal use of lipid-lowering agents. It is important to remember that management of lipid levels is an essential and integral part of cardiovascular disease prevention.

MSD remains committed to the continuous advancement in the research and development of medicines for cardiovascular diseases and other unmet medical needs to improve the quality of life of patients. It is also MSD's goal to help in the continuing medical education of physicians so that they can in turn give better care to their patients. Talk to your doctor about available options to reduce your risk of cardiovascular diseases.

MAINLAND NEWS

LA TV Producer Joins Gawad Kalinga



JANNELLE SO, THE HOST AND PRODUCER OF "KABABAYAN LA," was recently elected to the board of directors of Gawad Kalinga-USA, the official representative of GK in North America.

GK works to eradicate poverty in the Philippines by building communities through providing shelters, livelihood, values formation and other major components needed to

educate and re-educate kababayans on how rich the Philippines is because of its people and what the nation can become if everyone practiced the true essence of giving care, or "Gawad Kalinga."

Tony Olaes, GK-USA Board CEO and chairman says the organization is excited to have So on board.

"With her talent and experience, she will bring so much to

the table in creating awareness for Gawad Kalinga so more people can have the opportunity to be a part of building a nation," Olaes says.

So's "Kababayan LA" is the longest-running Filipino daily talk show outside of the Philippines. Last March, the show celebrated its sixth anniversary. In 2011, it received an Honorable Mention at the Los Angeles Press Club's Annual Southern California Ex-

cellence in Journalism Awards.

Filipino-Americans make up the largest Asian sub-group in Los Angeles with a population of over half a million. "Kababayan LA" provides a platform for discussion of significant issues, from serious news topics to light lifestyle concerns, by featuring exceptional interviews and live call-in segments to connect with the community at large.

So has also been named to the list of 100 Most Influential Filipinas in the U.S. by Filipina Women's Network. ■

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Pinay Ex-Nanny Sues Sharon Stone for Pay Dispute, Insulting Her Filipino Heritage

LOS ANGELES—SHARON STONE IS BEING SUED by a former nanny who claims the Oscar-nominated actress insulted her Filipino heritage and fired her after discovering she had been paid overtime.

Erlinda T. Elemen filed the lawsuit seeking unspecified damages on Wednesday, 15 months after she was fired. The lawsuit stated Elemen worked for Stone for more than four years and was promoted to head nanny, but was fired after the actress demanded she return overtime payments.

Elemen's complaint states

Stone's accountants made the overtime payments because the nanny worked on vacations and holidays, but Stone did not approve. She claims the actress insulted her accent and also denigrated her religious beliefs.

Rob Schmitt, reporting for CBS2 and KCAL9, spoke to Elemen's attorney Solomon Gresen.

Gresen maintains that Stone routinely degraded his client for her culture and her religion. He says at one point, Stone told Elemen she wasn't allowed to read the Bible in Stone's home.

He also alleged Stone told Elemen she wasn't allowed to

speak in front of Stone's children so they wouldn't learn to talk like she did.

Stone's publicist, Paul Bloch, wrote in a statement that Elemen was a disgruntled former employee and called her claims absurd and fabricated. He also said the former nanny was just trying to make money "any way she could." Bloch said Stone would be "completely vindicated in court."

Last year, the actress was ordered to pay \$232,000 in compensation to a worker who injured his knee after slipping and falling in her backyard in 2006. (Associated Press) (www.asian-journal.com) ■

Report Finds Very Little 'Fun' in the Philippines

by Cheryl M. ARCIBAL
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MAY PROMOTE THE PHILIPPINES** as a "fun" tourist destination, but the country remains a laggard in the travel and tourism industry compared to its peers in Southeast Asia, a report by the World Economic Forum said.

According to the Travel and tourism Competitiveness Report 2012 of the Switzerland-based WEF, the Philippines ranked 94th out of the 139 countries included in the poll.

Among countries in South-east Asia, Singapore is leading in tourism competitiveness, ranking 10th; followed by Malaysia, 35th; Thailand, 41st; Brunei Darussalam, 67th; and Indonesia, 74th. Cambodia did worse than the Philippines, ranking 109th.

"Travel and tourism is not only a critical driver of economic development and social progress. It also represents a formidable factor of regional integration," said Børge Brende, Managing Director, World Economic Forum. "By improving connectivity and mobility, travel

and tourism contributes to creating a regional identity, a sense of 'ASEANness' among citizens."

The rankings are based on data covering 14 areas: policy rules and regulations; environmental sustainability; safety and security; health and hygiene, prioritization of T&T (travel and tourism); air transport infrastructure; ground transport infrastructure; tourism infrastructure; ICT infrastructure; price competitiveness in the T&T industry; human resources; affinity for T&T; natural resources; and cultural re-

sources.

Of the 14 pillars of the index, among the members of the Association of the South-east Asian Nations, the Philippines got the worst score in ground transport infrastructure - 114th and safety and security, 109th.

"Mirroring the profound political, cultural, and economic diversity that characterizes ASEAN, its member countries spread across the TCI rankings. We can classify them into four groups. Singapore is in a league of its own, leading ASEAN in all but two areas of

the Index. Second, Malaysia and Thailand do well, despite a few weaknesses. The third group consists of Vietnam, Indonesia, and Brunei Darussalam, which all display very wide performance swings. Finally, both the Philippines and Cambodia present serious shortcomings

in most dimensions," the report said.

Overall, Switzerland is the most competitive in travel and tourism, followed by Germany and France, respectively.

Also included in the Top 10 are Austria, Sweden, United States of America, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada and Singapore. (www.philstar.com) ■

UN Council Gives Philippines Positive Marks on Human Rights Record

THE PHILIPPINES RECEIVED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland held May 29, 2012 for its continuing efforts to promote and protect human rights and to meet the development needs of its citizens.

A number of countries appreciated President Benigno S. Aquino's strong anti-corruption and good governance platform. As an example of the Aquino ad-

ministration's adherence to human rights, good governance and the rule of law, and the fight against corruption, Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima informed the Human Rights Council of the impeachment verdict against Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"This historic development shows that in the Philippines, no one is above the law as the Aquino Administration pursues human rights, good governance, and anti-corruption measures,"

Secretary de Lima says.

UN member states were unanimous in citing the significant decrease in reported incidents of extrajudicial killings as a positive development. Secretary de Lima appreciated the commendation and told the UN Human Rights Council that Philippine government "utterly condemns such crimes."

"The government pays special attention to such cases and the wheels of the Philippine justice system are indeed turning. All cases, where evidence permits, are fastidiously investigated and

filed," she says. "Let it be said that the government will be relentless in its efforts to pursue those responsible for such crimes and bring them to justice."

UN Member States also commended the Philippine Government for its progressive measures to improve education, health and alleviate poverty in the country, such as the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino program.

The Philippine government was also commended for ratifying a large number of international instruments such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). The enactment of the Philippines' Anti-Torture Law is seen as a

concrete measure to strengthen implementation of human rights obligations.

UN member states furthermore lauded the Philippines' Magna Carta of Women, and domestic legislation and Government programs to enhance protection of children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples.

"We received positive encouragement from the UN. Such acknowledgement from the international community augurs well for the Philippines under the leadership of President Aquino. It inspires the government to work even harder to strengthen its human rights protection measures," Secretary de Lima says. (DFA) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 13; WITH ...)

and another 30 US Representatives and are looking for the House Veterans Affairs Committee hearings on an undisclosed date before the National Elections.

Now, on the 2nd year at being lobbied at the Congress by veterans groups and supporters right now is House Bill 210 or the Filipino-American Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 which asserts for full equity of WWII veterans in a similar treatment with the other allied nationals.

Most notable supporters of HR 210 are Reps. Ron Paul, Jeffrey Miller, Bob Filner, Dennis Kucinich and former Speaker Nancy Pelosi and 90 others. This shows the bi-partisan nature of the JFAV lobby.

ERRORS OF THE PAST

Making the HOR Veterans

Committee meeting urgent will be the issue of veterans widows denied of lump sum and the case more than 24,000 veterans who applied for lump sum were denied and are being given a run around by the DVA, one of the most inefficient and corrupt agency of the American government.

Despite the pleadings of the current President of the Philippines and other leaders of the different Fil-Am groups, the DVA stood pat on its brazen decision to deny the veterans their proper dues.

For more than 66 years now, the US Government, its instrumentalities like the US Congress refused to recognize them. The first denied them the rights by 79th US Congress by passing an unjust Rescission Act in 1946 and the 2nd time when they passed the new GI Bill of

(continued on page 15)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Travel & Leisure Names Jollibee Among World's Top Food Chains

NEW YORK-BASED TRAVEL & LEISURE MAGAZINE RANKS JOLLIBEE, the Philippines' all-time favorite quick-service restaurant, as one of the "Best fast food chains in the world" in its May 2012 issue.

Others on the list include England's Pret a Manger, Russia's Teremok, Taiwan's Din Tai Fung, Puerto Rico's El Mason Sandwiches, Japan's Ippudo, Australia's Chocolateria San Churro and Brazil's Girafas.

"Fast food gets a Filipino twist at this quick-serve chain, which is so beloved that its mascot stars in its own children's television show," says

staff writer Jamie Feldmar. "There are more than 700 locations across the country, serving everything from fried chicken and hamburgers to local favorites like palabok, rice noodles with meat sauce, shrimp and hard-boiled egg."

Feldmar also recommends the "Spicy Chickenjoy—fried chicken coated with chili powder" to first-time diners.

Jollibee became a household name in the Philippines for its Jolly Spaghetti, Palabok Fiesta, Yumburger and Peach Mango Pie. The chain started as a two-branch ice



cream parlor in 1975 and grew into what is now the largest and most popular fast food chain in the country. It currently is the largest fast food chain in

the Philippines, operating a nationwide network of more than 750 stores.

The company has also embarked on an aggressive international expansion plan and currently has 79 stores outside the Philippines, including the U.S., Vietnam, Brunei, Hong Kong, Qatar and Kuwait. (*Good News Pilipinas*) ■

3 Pinoys Among 19 Killed in Doha Mall Blaze

MANILA, Philippines - **THREE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS)** were among the 19 people killed in a fire that gutted a mall in Doha on Monday, according to an embassy report.

Citing a report from the Philippine embassy in Qatar, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday that three OFWs died of smoke inhalation while suffering minor burns.

In his report to the DFA, Philippine Ambassador to Qatar Crescente Relacion identified the casualties as Maribel Orosco, Margie Yecyec and Julie Ann Soco, employees of the Gympanzee Nursery School.

Relacion said that the embassy would coordinate with authorities to facilitate the repatriation of the remains of the three victims.

"With investigation by authorities, it may take time to repatriate the bodies, longer than one week," Relacion

explained.

The embassy also verified that the three OFWs, who worked as teachers and assistant teachers, had only tourist and business visas.

"Perhaps, they were still applying for working visas here," Relacion said.

However, based on the information obtained by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the three OFWs apparently entered Doha illegally since they did not have any records with OWWA or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

"They do not have records with us and based on the information we got they entered Doha using visit or business visas," OWWA chief Carmelita Dimzon said.

Despite the undocumented status of the three victims, Dimzon gave assurance that OWWA would still help out in the repatriation process and provide other necessary assistance to their families.

Another OFW Michael Orosco, brother of Maribel, is being treated for smoke inhalation at Hamad hospital and is reportedly out of danger.

DFA spokesman Raul Hernandez said the families of the victims were already informed about the incident.

The embassy added that it would make representations with the management of the mall and the owner of the school for possible death benefits.

The fire was reportedly caused by faulty electrical wiring and started at about 11 a.m. inside the Villaggio mall where the nursery school was located.

"It appeared that they were trapped inside the school when the fire broke out at about 11 a.m. last Monday," Dimzon noted.

Out of the 19 confirmed casualties, 13 were reportedly school children. According to their respective governments, four children from Spain, triplets from New Zealand and a French child were among those who perished. (*www.philstar.com*) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 14; WITH ...)

Rights in 2008 and deleting the whole section about the Filipino World War II veterans and just giving them a lump sum, without recognition and with a waiver that denies them further benefits in the future.

Out of more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in the Second

World War, than are less than 40,000 veterans and the same number of survivors and widows who are not recognized as American veterans and have not received their benefits.

JFAV has suffered the indignities and discrimination of being treated as second class citizens. They have to bear to fall behind the lines of Ameri-

can veterans every Memorial Day and got only token praises and awards. But, we the Filipino-American community will not let this insult and injury to get by without any fight.

This Memorial Day, we will continue to fight for justice and equity no matter how long will it take. For justice and equity will not fall from heaven

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and will not come from gracious rulers who denied them such rights in the first place.

While we honor all veterans who fought for freedom and democracy, we especially honor our own Filipino-American Veterans who won the good fight in the Pacific but are now being denied a place of honors among the American Veterans of this nation.

On this memorial day, we renew our vow to fight until we are victorious. (*www.asianjournal.com*) ■

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RAIL FINANCING

It is sad. Some of our people are being fed wrong information about how we will finance rail and it is causing them concern. Here is the truth and nothing but the truth.

FACT #1:

Rail is paid for by General Excise Tax or GET. It is the best way because it means everyone will share in the tax burden, including tourists, military personnel and non-residents. Our property tax or income tax is NOT linked to financing the rail. **It is NOT true that your income tax or property tax will increase to pay for rail.**

FACT # 2:

The Federal government is giving us \$ 1.55 billion. BUT we cannot keep the money if rail is not built. On the GET, the law is very clear: it can only be used for rail. **It is NOT true that money for rail can be diverted to pay for Honolulu's sewers, potholes or education.**

FACT #3:

The GET surcharge will terminate on December 2022. At the end of that period, the rail will be fully paid for and will have NO debt. **It is NOT true that you will be mortgaging your children's future to pay for rail.**

FACT #4:

We are in great financial position. Our GET collections are higher than expected. So far we have collected more than \$810 million or 25% of the total revenues. On the construction side, our contracts are \$300 million lower than projected. **It is NOT true that the Project has been irresponsible with its budget or that rail will bankrupt the City.**

Know the Facts.

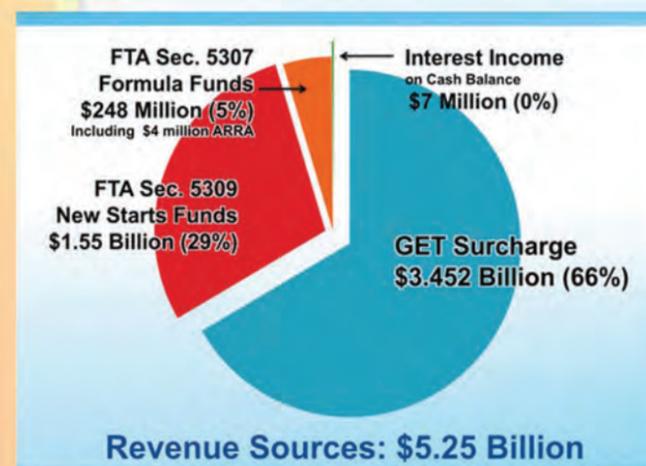
Rail will benefit the Filipino community.
Rail means a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

Join us.

Filipinos for Rail

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Filipinos for Rail is a coalition of Filipino community leaders who are committed to making rail a reality. It is a non-partisan group, which accepts support from all pro-rail stakeholders regardless of political affiliation. It was formed to highlight messages of project benefits and to counter misinformation. Seven of the 12 communities directly served by the rail line have large Filipino populations.