

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 ◆

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EDITORIAL

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Fundraiser Worth Supporting

In 1997, a group of Philippine-born and trained physicians established a clinic that began providing much needed medical and dental services at no charge to those with no health insurance. The previous year, a federal law was passed that denied such services to 800 to 1,000 immigrants who were enrolled in the State's Quest medical insurance program. A public appeal was launched, imploring the aid of private physicians to volunteer their services.

The initial response was heart-warming as over 30 physicians of Filipino ancestry, many of them members of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, answered the call and formed Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW). Now some 13 years later, it is still going strong. BCWW's volunteer physicians, nurses and support staff help the underserved without expectation of reward or payment. It is medicine being practiced in its purest sense.

To raise funds for its many outreach projects, BCWW is co-sponsoring "Love Stories," a new musical from Doctors-On-Stage, which will be held October 9 at the Fil-Com Center. We encourage you to make plans to attend what promises to be a very entertaining and worthwhile event.

Not all of us are gifted in the performing arts that we can sing or dance on stage, nor do we have the talents and medical expertise of these physicians. But we all can certainly do our part to support BCWW. That is the beauty of "bayanihan"—when the Filipino community bonds together and draws strength in sharing resources as a team. The world is derived from Filipinos' long-standing tradition of doing community work together. In fact, *bayanihan* is used to aptly describe a group of people pitching together to transfer a house from one location to another. In the same way, we can make a difference in the community—together in the spirit of *bayanihan*.

Protect The 14th Amendment's Birthright Clause

Soon after anti-immigrant forces pushed through one of the most egregious assaults on personal liberties in the passage of Arizona's SB 1070, a stronger, direct challenge to the U.S. Constitution involving immigrants is gaining traction among Republican leaders.

Key GOP senators are proposing to change part of the 14th Amendment that guarantees citizenship to anyone born on U.S. soil. Proponents believe amending the birthright clause will discourage undocumented foreigners from coming into the country just to have American-born children. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., described this process crudely: "People come here to have babies. They come here to drop a child. It's called drop and leave."

With the fear-mongering surrounding SB 1070 and its surprising popularity in certain regions of the country, this latest attempt at changing the 14th Amendment is actually shameful politicking in a unforgiving election year. This initiative is simply frightened Republicans pandering to their ultra-conservative base. It is a distraction from rampant unemployment, a lagging recession, and clearly, a losing battle (requiring two-thirds approval in the House and Senate, plus ratification from three-quarters of the states). The downside -- valuable energy is wasted that could be better spent on real reform to immigration.

The reality is immigrants come into the country specifically to find work. Having children dropped and left as Sen. Graham disgracefully states is far from truth. It suggests that immigrants possess no parental care or sense of family responsibility. In any case, the reasons behind immigrants' illegal entry is ultimately academic. Where it matters most and where the debate ought to be focused on is concrete, realistic attempts at increasing border patrol and tougher visa screening. If borders are secured properly, there would be less reason to engage in constitutional debates in the first place because people coming into the country with the sole intention to have children as dubiously claimed, would be reduced.

Walking Down A Dangerous Road

The fact that some members in Congress is considering a Constitutional change shows how extreme some sectors of the country is willing to venture on this deeply polarizing issue, even as low to stoop to attacking children.

Scholars assert that the language in the clause in question is very clear: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein

FROM THE PUBLISHER



loha! By the time most of you pick up this issue, the outcome of the September 18th Primary will already have been determined. But if you are reading this and there is still time to vote, we encourage you to please do so! We Filipinos love elections with a passion, so no doubt a good number of you have held signs and/or campaigned for your favorite candidate or candidates. Regardless of the outcome, we hope that you exercised your constitutional right and voted. We commend those of you for doing so! However, don't forget that there is still one more election to go—the General on Tuesday, November 2.

Speaking of elections, we would like to thank our readers for their comments in our last issue, particularly the cover story entitled "Abercrombie Leads Hanemann in Filipino Poll." As expected, we were sharply criticized for the results but nevertheless, we stand firmly behind our poll and believe that it has a fairly good grasp of the Filipino voter and his or her voting preferences. In fact, as the Open Forum column on page 6 states, the results of the Chronicle's poll are in line with that of other polls which have been taken lately.

Besides politics, we Filipinos also love a good love story—the hopeless romantics we are. If so, "Love Stories," a new musical presentation by Doctors-On-Stage, may just be your cup of tea. The musical is scheduled for October 9 at the Fil-Com Center. Proceeds from the musical will benefit Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls—a health care initiative that has benefited thousands of immigrants and other needy residents since 1997. Please consider supporting this very worthwhile fundraiser. More information on the "Love Stories" musical is available in our cover story which begins on page 4.

Lastly, we would like to inform you of two important events that are coming up fast. The first is a women's leadership conference at the Sheraton Waikiki on September 21. Two highly-successful Filipinas are among the list of international speakers. The other event is a special photo exhibit honoring the late Corky Trinidad which will be on display at the Hawaii State Library beginning next month as part of Filipino-American History Month. More on the two events are available on pages 6 and 11, respectively.

That's all for now. Until next time... aloha and mahuyay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

they reside." To protect from possible downgrading of what this clause means, the amendment elaborates in clear protective language: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Many scholars, including Yale University history professor David Bright, said "Everything we believe in America as an idea now flows through the two sentences (Section One of the 14th asserting birthright citizenship), without which we're not the United States. If you mess with it, you mess with the most profound statement the United States has ever given the world about what equality means," he said.

National Cohesion

Should any semblance of group profiling be adopted into the 14th Amendment, the whole citizenship process becomes degraded. Worse yet it creates a new population caste, a permanent underclass of non-citizens who are excluded at birth from receiving the same rights that everyone else enjoys. When considering how far back the law could extend in generations, this new "underclass" population could be more substantial than expected and compromise the entire integrity of national cohesion.

From a bureaucratic standpoint, imagine the tactical nightmare and expense of enforcing the new law, especially during recessionary times of watchful government spending. An unnecessary national hysteria could ensue with multi-generational Americans targeted and suddenly asked to furnish documents proving their ancestors' legal validity for being in the country. Where does it end?

Given the GOP's historical defense of the Constitution, especially citizens' right to bear arms, it's high hypocrisy that they are choosing to alter the cornerstone of the most revered law of the land in the 14th amendment. Let's refuse any further attempts to stoke already-high anti-immigrant feeling, especially dangerous attempts at altering our Constitution.



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COMMENTARY

Filipino Families Hit Hard by Real Property Tax Increase

By Romy M. Cachola

On August 19, 2010, I held a press conference at St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi to alert the media of a four-fold increase in real property taxes that had been slapped on many unsuspecting residents in Kalihi.

The majority of affected residents are needy and elderly Filipinos who were shocked at their property tax bills—some of which were over four times the amount from last year.

Kaunua Street resident Jayme Cabais says his property tax bill for this year was \$10,552—which is more than quadruple last year's bill of \$2,336. Another Kalihi resident, Rosita Macabeo of Factory Street, says her bill went from \$2,400 to \$11,225—an increase of 470 percent.

Rodney Wong, whose 24-unit apartment building on Uni Street has provided affordable housing to low income renters since the 1970s, received a bill of \$31,922, which is three and a half times the amount for 2009. He has no choice but to pass on the increase to renters in the form of higher rents, or to sell the property outright.

In light of the above, the City clearly made a bad decision when it decided to administratively reclassify several properties from residential/residential apartment to

commercial or industrial. The City hopes to generate revenue and to balance its budget, but it should not be doing so on the backs of our poor and elderly taxpayers, especially during this down economy.

This reclassification by the City and subsequent hike in property taxes will directly impact the number of available affordable housing units and on homelessness. The City should be encouraging affordable housing, rather than force families to move elsewhere and potentially exacerbate our homeless problem. The majority of renters in Kalihi are Filipino families who will suffer the brunt of increased rents.

What Went Wrong?

Kalihi was once a residential community before re-zoning to industrial or commercial took place—much of it during the late 1970s. In spite of the rezoning, many Kalihi residents living in this re-zoned area were still assessed the residential/residential apartment, not industrial or commercial, rate for their property taxes.

In December 2009, the city administration notified the residents that their residential/residential apartment properties would be reclassified for property tax purposes to the classification based on "highest and best use."

As a result, many needy and elderly Kalihi residents who live in owner-occupied homes, some for 50 plus years, were hit with a

monster increase in their real property tax bill. Those affected realized an increase in their real property tax rate from \$3.42 to \$12.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value only after they received their property tax bill.

The "Notification of Change in Land Classification" was mailed to residents in December 2009, well past the September 1, 2009, filing deadline for the "Dedication to Residential" for the 2010-2011 tax period.

The "Notification of Change in Land Classification" letter that went to the affected property owners simply informed residents that their property had been assigned to the "Industrial land class." The notification did not state the amount that their tax rate was to be increased. This is another example that demonstrates the need for more transparency in government.

Helping Residents

Many properties in the greater Kalihi area were affected by the rezoning and reclassification. Especially hard-hit is an area bounded by North King Street, Puuhale Road, Dillingham Boulevard and Uni Street.

Only when residents received their tax bills in July and voiced their concerns did the City begin to feel the extent of the impacts of the policy set by former mayor Hannemann's administration. Many of them thought that the City Council was responsible for the reclassification. The truth is that the Council was unaware of when the increase was made. This

decision to reclassify, as confirmed by other councilmembers, came from the Hannemann administration.

To assist my constituents, I canvassed the neighborhood and passed out claim forms and "Dedication to Residential Use" and "Homeowner Exemption" forms to affected residents. The deadline to submit the "Dedication to Residential Use" for tax period 2011-2012 is September 1, 2010.

Additional Relief For Property Owners

I have joined with other councilmembers in introducing several bills on behalf of affected property owners. I introduced Bill 51 (2010) and Bill 52 (2010). One

bill provides relief in the form of rebates equal to the difference between the commercial/industrial rate and the residential rate. The other bill reclassifies residential homes and apartments to other designations such as commercial or industrial only when there is a change in its actual use.

The Council is referring Bill 51 (2010) but Bill 52 (2010) was deferred because Resolution 10-260 was introduced to provide a one-time real property tax relief to eligible owners via a tax compromise. The resolution would be a quicker way of getting relief since a bill requires three readings. The resolution will come before the full Council on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 10 a.m.

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LETTERS

Candidate Overlooked in Special Election Issue

I was missed in your recent article about Filipino candidates in the Primary Election. I am Inam Perreira Rahman and I am running for State House of Representatives District 35.

Although I have a little Filipino blood from my mom's side, my heart is very much Filipino and I am proud of it. That's why I continue to get involved with the Filipino community here and in the Philippines. Some examples include partnering with other Filipino doctors to keep the Hawaii Medical Centers open for the benefit of our community, holding a health fair in Waipahu, opening non-profit diabetic clinics here and in the Philippines, sponsoring fundraisers to help homeless children in the Philippines and supporting several local Filipino organizations.

Besides being a medical doctor, I am also a small businessman, teacher and community volunteer. I will bring honesty, sincerity, hard work, knowledge, experience and a sense of community service. I have already prepared more than 14 bills which will help create jobs, secure existing jobs, provide better education to our children, provide solutions for healthcare and care givers issues, repair infrastructure and use alternate sources of energy.

Inam Perreira Rahman, M.D.

Candidate, State House of Representatives, District 35 (Waipahu)

ERRATUM

In our "Letter From the Publisher" dated September 4, 2010, we mis-identified Donovan Dela

Cruz as a former Honolulu City Councilmember. He has not resigned and is still a councilmember. We apologize for the error.

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COVER STORY



(L-R) Noella Querubin, Reggie Padilla and Dr. Jorge Camara

(from page 4, Doctors...)

ipino community," she says. "I am truly inspired by the performers who give of their time and talents."

Born and raised in NY, Padilla began his musical journey at the age of seven on the piano, and by nine, began studying the saxophone as well. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Classical Piano Performance from Long Island University at C.W. Post, and a Master's Degree in Music Education from New York University.

Throughout his career, Padilla has studied and participated in master classes with Lew Soloff, Phil Woods, Jim Snidero, Doc Severinsen, Marcus Roberts, Billy Taylor, Pete Malinverni, Bob Albanese, Don Friedman, and Martin Wind. He has also performed with Valery Ponomarev, Arturo O'Farill, Stafford Hunter, Yasuko Hayakawa, Eric Miyashiro and Abe Lagrimas Jr. with Bop Tribal.

In January 2007, Padilla relocated to Hawaii and continued his musical journey. He is now a

member of the internationally-acclaimed and award-winning quintet Bop Tribal. Padilla continues to perform and record around the world on both tenor saxophone and piano. He currently directs the jazz ensemble at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, has a private teaching studio and frequently performs with the Royal Hawaiian Band as a saxophone substitute.

Consul General Cardenas joined the ensemble to show his appreciation to the physicians who "not only provide free medical care to kababayans, but also provide us with first-class entertainment."

"I am proud to be associated with them," Cardenas says.

Also playing a role in "Love Stories" are Dr. Gilbert Luceno (production/accompanist), Maria Lauer (vocal coach), Dr. Richard Kua (script), J.P. Orias (artistic director) and Dr. Charlie Sonido (producer).

The main sponsors are Ohana Health Care, Hawaii Filipino Healthcare and the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Other sponsors include Dr. David Wei; Gal-

ther DeRobertis Ono; Diagnostic Lab Services; Nena Kim; Dr. and Mrs. Fort and Nieva Elizaga; Dr. Elizabeth Lim-Abinsay and Dr. and Mrs. Nicanor and Imelda Joaquin.

Dinner and a show will cost \$60. Tickets are available by calling Imelda at 417-8910, Dory at 382-5564, J.P. at 387-8297 or Ofelia at 671-3911.

Mahalo BCWW

Funds raised from "Love Stories" will benefit BCWW, a non-profit, free clinic that provides free medical and dental services to immigrants and underserved residents of all ethnicities who do not have medical insurance.

"We bring this new musical to the community to raise funds for BCWW which serves the most vulnerable members of our

community—our indigent new immigrants," says BCWW president Dr. Nicanor Joaquin.

BCWW is staffed by over 69 volunteer physicians of various specialties, as well as dentists, nurses and other medical professionals who have generously donated their time, skills and resources. BCWW also conducts outreach programs such as community health fairs and medical missions on Oahu

and the neighbor islands. Over the years, BCWW's volunteers have impacted thousands of lives.

"We have been able to help a lot of need immigrants-not just Filipinos but also local born citizens as well as the other ethnic groups such as the Samoans, Chinese, Mexican, Marshallese...you name it," says past president, Dr. Sorbella Guillermo.

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OPEN FORUM

Polls Show Abercrombie With A Commanding Lead Statewide And Among Filipino Voters

By Jovanie dela Cruz and Michael Dahilig

The September 4 Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) cover story "Abercrombie Leads Hannemann in Filipino Poll" is consistent with every credible poll taken recently.

Similar to HFC's results, the latest independent poll by Civil Beat also shows Neil Abercrombie way ahead of Mufi Hannemann. Both the HFC poll on Filipinos and Civil Beat poll of Democratic voters have Abercrombie over 44 percent.

The HFC poll results are Neil Abercrombie 45 percent, Undecided 29 percent, Mufi Hannemann 14 percent and James Aiona 12 percent. The HFC poll was conducted the last week of August, 2010 with 125 registered Filipino voters and a margin of error of ± 6 percent.

The Sept 7-8, 2010 Civil

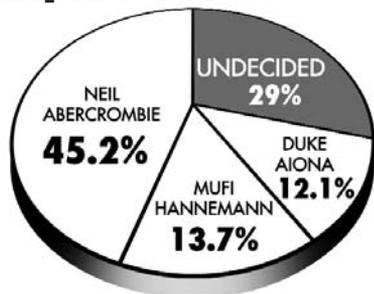
Beat poll shows Abercrombie ahead by a wide 17 percent margin: Abercrombie 48 percent, Hannemann 31 percent, Other 12 percent and Undecided 9 percent. The Civil Beat poll was conducted by Aloha Voter Survey of 1,226 likely primary voters. The margin of error is ± 2.5 percent.

The most recent poll document a "surge" and momentum for Abercrombie in the final weeks of the campaign.

The August 22 edition of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser noted that "the pattern from several public and private polls, including a Hawaii Poll taken in late April, has Abercrombie first. Both campaigns confirmed that their own private polling has Abercrombie ahead...When consistently you see the same candidate on top, it gives you more confidence that that candidate is indeed

ahead," Rebecca Ward, president of Ward Research.

In an earlier poll conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Star-Advertiser/Hawaii News Now on August 10-16, 2010, Abercrombie also led in that poll. The poll has a base or sample size of 425 voters statewide with 206 (49 percent) voting for Abercrombie; 185 (44 percent) voting for Hannemann; Don't Know/Refused 34 (8 percent) and a margin of error ± 4.8 percent. The poll showed Abercrombie leading among all ethnic groups except Filipinos. But the very small sampling among Filipinos in that poll leaves open questions about its accuracy. The Filipino sample consisted of only 48 individuals: 16 (33 percent) vote for Abercrombie, 26 (53 percent) vote for Hannemann, Don't Know/Refused 7 (14 percent) with a margin of error of 14 percent. This poll has the smallest sample size of 48 people and the highest margin of error compared with all other polls, including the HFC poll. It also was conducted earlier than other polls.



The race for the Governorship according to HFC Poll

Given its small sample of Filipinos, the statistical difference between the two candidates is suspect.

In yet another poll on August 21, KNDI conducted an informal call-in voting. In this poll Abercrombie had a very strong lead over Hannemann: 69 Filipino radio listeners called in their vote: 43 (62 percent) for Abercrombie, 24 (35 percent) for Hannemann, and 2 (3 percent) for Aiona.

Polls can be very informative and sometimes influence how people vote. The HFC poll and related articles are helpful and timely so that Filipino voters have current information on

the attitudes of Filipino voters that can be used in making up their minds on who to vote for in the primary. An informed voter is what our democracy depends on and so we commend HFC for giving our community good information and a forum to share information and concerns.

So the bottom line on polls is they are a snapshot of the voting community. HFC's "snap shot" is credible and consistent. Abercrombie is leading and gaining more support. As politicians like to say, the only poll that counts is the one delivered on election day. We'll know Saturday the outcome of this historic election.

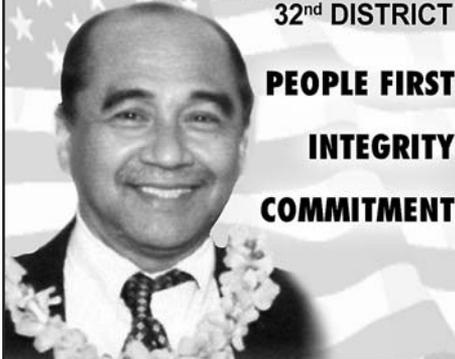
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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Top Filipina Leaders to Speak at Women's Conference

By Linda Dela Cruz

Two Filipinas will be among several successful women from around the world who will share their incredible stories of success at the Hawaii's Seventh Annual International Women's Leadership Conference on September 21, 2010 at the Sheraton Waikiki.

The annual conference is expected to attract nearly 1,000 women from the fields of business, marketing, media, health care, government, international relations, and community service.

This year's speakers will come from the nations of Korea, Uganda, Cambodia, Liberia, China, the Philippines and other countries. The two Filipinas are social entrepreneur Pacita Juan who will reveal her story of helping other Filipino entrepreneurs to succeed, and Dr. Connie Mari-

ano, who will share her journey of how she became the personal physician for the president of the U.S.

Juan and her business partners Jeanie Javelosa and Reena Francisco are trendsetters for social entrepreneurship with their Manila-based ECHOstore which promotes products that are environmentally friendly and help alleviate poverty in the Philippines by giving people a venue for their goods to be sold.

The products include organic cleansers for the home, lotions, shampoos and other products made by Filipino crafters. ECHO stands for Environment, Community, Hope, Organization. The stores are located in Taguig, Quezon City and Mandaluyong.

Juan plans to open more stores in the

(continued on page 7)

IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel in Removal Proceedings

Today, I completed a 500 page book on ineffective assistance of counsel in removal (aka deportation) proceedings. It took more than one year. If I did nothing else it might have been completed in 3 months. I read and analyzed more than 2,000 cases accusing immigration attorneys, consultants, notaries, travel agents, and other creatures victimizing poor immigrants, with being ineffective. Most are Caucasians. Some are favorites of Filipinos in California. A number of them have been suspended or disbarred.

Right to effective counsel in criminal proceedings

In a criminal proceeding, a defendant has a constitutional right, pursuant to the Sixth Amendment, to the assistance of counsel, which has been construed to mean an "effective lawyer". If the lawyer is ineffective and the defendant suf-

fered prejudice, the defendant can ask to have the conviction set aside on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel and have a new trial.

No right to effective counsel in civil proceedings

In a civil proceeding, litigants have no constitutional right to the assistance of counsel, and therefore no constitutional right to "effective" assistance of counsel. If a litigant hires a lawyer who turns out to be ineffective, the unfortunate litigant cannot have the adverse judgment set aside on the ground of ineffective assistance. As one court puts it, the Constitution does not give a civil litigant "a right to good lawyering." The lawyer's mistakes are imputed to the client. The unfortunate client's lawyer is an action against the lawyer for malpractice, but it does not entitle such litigant to a "re-run" of the original litigation.

Is alien in removal proceedings entitled to effective assistance as counsel?

An immigration removal proceeding is unique. It is nei-

ther criminal nor civil. It is an administrative proceeding whose sole purpose is to determine whether an alien should be removed from the United States. Immigration laws give the alien in removal proceedings the privilege to retain counsel "at no cost to the government". Does this given the alien the "right" to effective assistance of counsel such that if the alien is ordered removed because of ineffective assistance the alien can have the order of removal set aside?

The various U.S. Circuits of Appeals are divided. The majority (including the Second, Third, and Ninth where most Filipinos live) say that the alien has such a "right" anchored on the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment. But at least three circuits (Fourth, Seventh, and Eighth) disagree, saying that the due process clause is a protection against government action in depriving any one of life, liberty, or property, but an alien's retained counsel is not a government actor.

What victims of ineffective

assistance must do

Aliens in the circuits adopting the majority view who establish that they are victims of ineffective assistance can have the removal order set aside so that the immigration court can hear anew the merits of the application for relief.

The courts have prescribed strict threshold requirements before an alien can maintain a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. If an alien successfully crosses the threshold, the alien must comply with the requisites to maintain a prima facie case of ineffectiveness. Only then will the immigration judge, the Board of Immigration Appeals, or the Circuit Court of Appeals look at the merits of the ineffective assistance claim. The alien or counsel must show that the lawyer's particular conduct is one that has been recognized by the courts as ineffective and that the alien suffered prejudice.

Nowhere can you find all this information in one place except in the work I have completed. In two succeeding articles I will summarize the contents of the book.

An alien who feels that he is a victim of ineffective assistance of counsel must immediately consult another lawyer. Unfortunately, most lawyers accusing others of ineffectiveness are themselves ineffective. They do not know how to prove an ineffective assistance claim. That is why in the vast majority of the cases the alien's

new lawyer has been unsuccessful in establishing that his client was a victim of ineffective assistance of the former lawyer. "Doble perjuicio".

Hopefully, my book will be of significant assistance in helping lawyers prove the ineffective assistance of the alien's prior lawyer and give the alien a "second bite of the apple" by having his removal order set aside and have another hearing.

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

(from page 4, Top Filipina...)

future and will share at the conference how she discovered this unique business opportunity.

"In choosing a business to get into," she notes, "you must like what you do and like what you sell, so that each day never seems like work."

That philosophy is something she lives by. Juan is also involved in the coffee business as one of the founders of the Figaro Coffee Company chain. There are more than 50 coffee shops in the Philippines, in addition to shops in Shanghai, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

The second speaker is Philippine-born Dr. Connie Mariano, the author of the book "The White House Doctor." Over a nine-year period, she was the personal physician for presidents George H. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. A navy doctor, Mariano was featured in an exclusive story published in the May 22,

2010 issue of the Chronicle.

The Arizona resident's many accomplishments include being named the first Filipino-American rear admiral in the U.S. navy, the first woman to become a medical director of the White House Medical Unit and the first military woman to serve as the White House's personal physician to the president.

Mariano will share stories of trials, tribulations and success at the conference. Communicating is something she's been good at since she was a student at Nimitz Elementary. On her website, www.whitehousedoctor.com, she reveals that she was bitten by the writing bug when submitting a poem about her mom in a local television contest in which she won.

Gov. Linda Lingle



Pacita Juan



Dr. Connie Mariano

launched the first International Women's Leadership Conference in 2004 after meeting other accomplished women in leadership roles in her travels. She wanted the people of Hawaii to have the same experience of benefiting from the knowledge of these women.

Other prominent Filipinas that have spoken at past conferences include film maker Stephanie J. Castillo in 2007 and White House chef Cristeta "Cris" Comerford in 2008. The 2010 conference runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on September 21 at the Sheraton Waikiki. For more information, log onto www.iwlchi.org.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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PICTORIAL NEWS

NINOY AQUINO DAY CELEBRATION

By Fiedes Doctor

The Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu, in cooperation with Hawaii's Filipino community, spearheaded the first celebration of Ninoy Aquino Day on August 20, 2010 at the Philippine Consulate.

The gathering included Filipino community leaders, Filipino-American war veterans, members of the Consular Corps, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, the Philippine Caucus at the State House and Senate and state officials led by Gov. Linda Lingle.

The commemoration included a film showing of the life and heroism of Sen. Benigno Aquino and the struggles he fought for.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, in his keynote speech, acknowledged Ninoy's sacrifice and courage to bring forth democracy in the Philippines

and the important relationship between America and our home country. He said the U.S. is "trying its best" to keep the ties and the brotherhood.

Certificates of recognition were presented by the State Senate, House of Representatives and Honolulu City Council in commemoration of the event. Some 300 guests graced the occasion.



▲ Philippine Consul General Hon. Leoncio Cardenas delivering his welcome remarks



▲ Amelia Cabatu, mistress of ceremony



▲ The Philippine Choral group singing the Philippine National Anthem



▲ (L-R) Pacita Saludes, Filipino Chronicle columnist, Sen. Colleen Hanabusa and Dr. Belinda Aquino of University of Hawaii



▲ (L-R) Sen. Daniel Akaka, Mrs. Irene Inouye and Sen. Daniel Inouye join in singing the national anthem



◀ (L-R) Guests enjoying the hearty meal during the event



▲ (L-R) Bernie Ardiente; Rep. Lyla Berg who is running for Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Patricia Brown and Sharon Matutino



▲ (L-R) Cris Tucay, President of Sta. Maria de Pila, Peter Galvez, Vice-President and Elpidio Maca



▲ Ben Cabreros, Rep. Michael Magaoay, Mrs. Maria Etrata, and Sen. Will Espero



▲ (L-R) Lyna Burian, Buddy and Melga Gendrano



▲ (L-R) Flor Ritarita, President of Filipino Community of Hawaii, and Sally Dizon, President of the Filipino Cultural Club



▲ (L-R) Dr. and Mrs. Edmund Calaycay, former Mayor of Badoc, Ilocos Norte and H.D.P. Rohr, BPWAA (Badoc)



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Youth Leadership Conference**By **Raymund Liongson**

The Rizal Youth Leadership Institute (RYLI) was an excellent venue for dozens of young Filipinos to learn about leadership as well as the life and principles of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal.

Such was the overall sentiment at the first ever RYLI organized by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii (KOR) Chapter held recently at Leeward Community College. About 52 young people, guests and KOR members attended the day-long event.

Inspired by a similar program launched by the Knights of Rizal in the Philippines several years ago, Hawaii RYLI emphasized character building, democratic leadership, global citizenship and service to humanity. The conference format included games, workshops, a simulation, youth participant presentations and short talks from guest speakers.

"The youth participants were incredibly engaged, smart and talented," says Raymund Liongson, KOR commander. "In a simulation activity, they impressively wove Rizalian principles with leadership visioning, planning and collaborative engagement."

According to Liongson, organizers hope to make RYLI an annual summer youth conference and are working to hold it next year for at least two days.

"RYLI is a very promising assembly that instills in our youth time-honored values and principles," says Liongson. "The Knights of Rizal are committed to continuing this program and making it a regular endeavor."

Two speakers lectured on Rizal's life and ideals—retired Circuit Court Judge Reynaldo Grauly and Dr. Belinda Aquino.

Focusing on the theme "Dr. Jose Rizal and the 21st Century Youth," Grauly spoke on Rizal's youthful and productive

life and challenged the institute's participants to emulate the hero's commitment to excellence. Grauly, who also attended Ateneo University in the Philippines like Rizal, was KOR's guest speaker at a June 19th banquet commemorating the 149th birthday and anniversary of the Filipino martyr and hero.

Dr. Aquino, professor emeritus of political science and former Director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, echoed Rizal's call "Where are the youth?" and underscored the role of the young people in charting and shaping the future.

"If he (Rizal) were alive today, he would counsel the youth not to rest on their laurels but to continue their struggle against present injustices and inequalities which modern societies have created or imposed on subject populations," Aquino says.

She encouraged participants to carry on Rizal's noble mission and to keep it alive in their hearts, so that his supreme sacrifice and martyrdom would live forever.

"It is through initiatives like this Rizal Youth Leadership Institute, which will perpetuate the priceless legacies of Jose Rizal, whose mind and spirit are unequalled in the history of our nation, the Philippines, or in the history of any nation for that matter," Aquino says.

Other facilitators of the institute were Jun Colmenares, Toy Arre, Clem Bautista, Darwin Arellano and Randy Cortez.

The one-day conference culminated with an impressive 30 minute program put together by the youth participants which highlighted their talents. Funding was provided by the Hawaii Filipino Heritage Fund through the Hawaii Community Foundation and the Filipino Community Center.

**HPD Looking For Bank Robbery
Suspect**

Crimestoppers and the Honolulu Police Department are asking the public's help in identifying a suspect who robbed Bank of Hawaii's Kunia branch on September 1, 2010 at approximately 9:57 am.

Police say an unknown Asian male, possibly Filipino, entered the bank, brandished a handgun and demanded money. He is described as in his 40s, 5-4 to 5-6 feet tall and weighing between 180 to 200 lbs. He wore a grey-colored wig and black baseball cap with the letters "OLD."

Anyone with information is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 955-8300 or *CRIME on your cellular phone. Free



calls are being provided by AT&T, Nextel Hawaii, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless, Mobi PCS and Hawaiian Tel.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Trinidad Exhibit to Kick Off Filipino-American History Month

A photo exhibit featuring the late political cartoonist Corky Trinidad headlines the list of events for Filipino-American History Month in October.

Entitled "Art as a Weapon: Corky Trinidad's Cartoons," the exhibit will be on display at the Hawaii State Library from October 2-23, 2010. The exhibit is sponsored by FAHSOH, the Hawaii State Library and Office of Multi-Cultural Student Services.

Trinidad was an awarded-winning syndicated cartoonist for the Honolulu Star Bulletin. He began his career in 1960 as a political cartoonist with the Philippines Heard, where he became the first cartoonist of Asian ancestry to break into American journalism and national syndication. His work has appeared in major publications worldwide.

An opening ceremony commemorating Filipino-American History month will be held Oc-

tober 2 at 11 a.m. in the library's courtyard. The ceremony includes welcoming remarks by the Philippine Consulate and entertainment by the Silangan Singers.

A panel discussion entitled "Art as a Weapon: How to Use Cartoons to Make a Political Statement" will follow from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the first floor reading room. Panelists Tom Coffman, Sheila Forman and Carl Zimmerman will discuss

how Trinidad made his political statements through his cartoons.

On October 3, there will be an "Anak" Festival at the Children's Discovery Center. The festival will feature free family events, including storytelling, children's games and crafts.

On October 9, Dr. Patricia Brown will hold a signing for her new book "KULA SAN Maui's Healing Place" at the State Library's reading room. Brown is a psychologist, educa-

tor, researcher and president of the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH). Her book, which details Kula Hospital's history and the surrounding community, was put together from documents and collecting oral histories.

More details on Filipino-American History month are available by calling Lina Burian at 956-0867 or the library's Language, Literature & History Section at 586-3499.

Hawaii's Bicolanos to Mark 300th Peñafrancia Fiesta

By JP Orias

This year marks the 300 years of devotion and spectacular display of faith for the Patron Queen of Bicolandia.

Millions flock to the Peñafrancia Basilica in Balatas Road, Naga City on the third week of September. The fiesta week starts with Traslacion—a slow-moving, three mile long procession to Naga City Cathedral for the Fiesta Novena. Going back to her shrine at Balatas Road is a long and laborious route via a fluvial procession on the Bicol River.

In Honolulu, the Peñafrancia Fiesta started with Traslacion at Star of the Sea Catholic Church on September 11, 2010 simultaneous with the Parish's celebration of the Virgin Mary's Nativity. On September 19, 2010, the Fiesta Celebration will start with a Sakoy or Fluvial Procession, beginning at 10 a.m. at Ke'ehi Lagoon Park, followed by a celebrated mass at noon at St. Philomena Church in Salt Lake. The mass will be officiated by Rev. Vicar General Mark Alexander, Rev. Fr. Marc Del Rosario, Rev. Fr. Marvin Bearis and Rev. Fr.



Viva! La Virgen de Peñafrancia in procession

Marino Angostura.

Capping the Fiesta is the Taste of Bicol with Bicolano hospitality and fellowship at 1 p.m. in the church's courtyard. Bicolanos turn to Our Lady of Peñafrancia as children go to their mother in times of need. Bicolanos supplicatingly call her "Ina"—an endearing Bicol term which literally means "mother."

Their devotion to the Virgin of Peñafrancia takes a tangible form in the image carved to her honor. The image is an inspiration from a picture dug by a visionary in the rocky hills of Peña de Francia, Castañar, Spain in 1434 and brought to the foot of Mount Isaron in Bicol in 1710 by a clergy with ancestry from Salamanca, Spain.

Sariling Gawa to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

In celebration of 30 years of empowering and nurturing Hawaii's Filipino youth, Sariling Gawa Youth Council Inc. will be hosting a Reunion and Recognition Luncheon in honor of its advisors.

The luncheon, themed "A Legacy of Empowerment" will be held at the Hale Koa Hotel's Fort DeRussy Hall on September 19, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. General tickets for the buffet lunch are \$60 and student tickets are \$50.

The Reunion and Recognition Luncheon is in honor of the organiza-

tion's four Advisors—Domingo Los Banos Jr., Ernest Libarios Sr., Lito Asuncion and Dr. Amy Agbayani. These four have been fundamental parts of the organization, serving as inspiration in forming the Sariling Gawa Youth Council Inc. and guiding its growth as it continues to lead the development of Hawaii's Filipino Youth for leadership roles in the community.

For more information on the Reunion and Recognition Luncheon, please contact event coordinator Levy Daguito at 223-0056) or visit the website at www.sarilinggawa.org.

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FAMILY CORNER



Building Partnerships for School Success

By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Everyone's back to school now. Some children have been back a bit longer than others, but it's a good time for reminders about the three-way partnership among children, parents, and schools that contribute to children's school success.

Your child's role as a stu-

dent is to be present and engaged—taking an active role—in the experiences and lessons he will be exposed to. His responsibilities include:

- Being attentive
- Following rules and procedures
- Participating in the classroom
- Completing assigned work
- Being a good citizen of the

school community.

The support your child receives from you and his school is a key ingredient in his ability to fulfill these expectations. As

a parent, your involvement in your child's education, from the time he enters kindergarten through his high school years, contributes to his achievement and success in school. Building

a positive relationship with your child's teachers and school is an important part of being involved. Here are some ways to do this.

FAMILIES/PARENTS CAN...

- Introduce yourself to your child's teacher at the start of the school year, and keep in touch throughout the school year.
- Keep the school updated on any changes in your child's life that might affect his behavior and/or school performance, e.g., divorce, death, or illness in the family.
- Make sure to keep the school updated on any changes in your contact information: addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contacts.
- Promptly respond to inquiries from the teacher or school; return requested forms.
- Consider yourself and your child's teacher as partners in your child's education—explore ways that you can work together to support your child.
- Keep in mind that every child develops at his own rate. Recognize that assessments help the teacher identify your child's strengths and needs.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences; discuss your child's positive accomplishments as well as concerns about his performance in school.
- Be informed about what's going on at the school; read school newsletters or other materials from the school.
- Join the Parent-Teacher Organization and participate in its meetings.
- Offer to volunteer in your child's classroom or assist the teacher or school in other ways.
- Participate in the school's decision making process regarding curriculum, policies, and school reform.

FROM SCHOOLS

(Teachers, Principals, and/or Staff)...

- An introduction through an orientation meeting, a note or letter, or a phone call.
- Information on how to contact the school or teacher if you have questions or concerns.
- A timely response to your inquiries.
- Timely contact about issues or concerns regarding your child.
- Information about school policies, e.g., absences, homework, tardiness, testing.
- Suggestions on how you can support your child's learning.
- Classroom instruction that builds on your child's strengths and meets his needs, based on assessments conducted at the beginning of and throughout the school year.
- Information about your child's progress—areas of positive growth as well as those needing improvement.
- Information about upcoming events such as parent-teacher conferences and Parent-Teacher Organization meetings through flyers, notes, and/or phone calls.
- A variety of opportunities to assist with or participate in school and community events.
- Opportunities to participate in the school's decision making process.

- Ask about resources and services that can benefit your child, such as:
 - (a) free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch;
 - (b) after school programs;
 - (c) ELL—English Language Learner programs;
 - (d) tutoring assistance;
 - (e) parent education classes;
 - (f) assistance for homeless children;
 - (g) transportation services;
 - (h) special education programs;
 - (i) programs for gifted and talented students; and
 - (j) other services.
- Discuss any special needs that may affect your child's learning with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

- Information about developmental assessments and special-needs services available to your child, if needed.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Why the Undocumented Immigrant Population is Down

enforcement measures have been a major factor in this dramatic drop.

According to Mr. Chandler, the DHS has doubled the number of border control agents from 10,000 in 2004 to more than 20,000 today. It has cracked down on more employers that hire illegal labor, has increased seizures of illegal goods, and has removed criminal aliens at an unprecedented level.

Interestingly, some states directly affected by increased DHS enforcement and federal deployment of the National Guard to the border did not show extremely significant reduction in the unauthorized immigrant population. Texas, for instance which is a vocal anti-immigration state, experienced only a negligible drop.

On the other hand, states

that suffered from severe recession, such as Florida, Nevada and Virginia experienced large drops in unauthorized immigration in 2008 and 2009. Arizona had a 20% drop before their harsh anti-immigrant law went into effect. The decline in unauthorized immigration seemed largely the result of the housing bust that ended nearly all new home and real estate development in these states in 2008.

Closer examination into the historic rates of unauthorized immigration flow between the years 2000 and 2009 does not establish a convincing relationship between DHS activity and the steep drop in 2008 and 2009. If the DHS's claims were true, the data would show a steady decline in unauthorized immigration flow between 2004 and the present. However, the data does

not show a decrease in unauthorized immigrant flow compared to increased DHS activity. In fact it widely fluctuates, and finally shows a dramatic decline between 2008 and 2009.

The data in the reports shows that the decreased flow of immigrants was due largely to a combination of abysmal economic conditions and the high levels of unemployment in industries that affected immigrants the most such as construction, hospitality and service. In the past decade unauthorized immigration flow closely matched unemployment rates and economic fluctuations.

Previous to the drop described in the Pew Report, another drastic decline occurred between 2000 and 2002 coincidentally around the last recession. Much like the current drop in immigrant flow, the previous drop coincided with weak job

prospects and precarious economic conditions. As long as economic conditions stay the way they are, unauthorized immigration flow will either remain the same or fall further only to pick up once confidence in the economy returns.

This Pew Hispanic Report has widespread implications for the current immigration debate. Harsh enforcement measures will not fix our broken immigration system, regardless of what Mr. Chandler or Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer say.

It will make more sense to assimilate the unauthorized population and channel our strained government resources to improve our economy rather than to build fences on the border.

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

There has been a sharp decline in the number of unauthorized immigrants in the United States, according to a report released on September 1 by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group. Annual unauthorized immigration inflow between March 2007 and March 2009 were almost two-thirds smaller compared to the period between March 2000 and March 2005.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was quick to take credit. Matt Chandler, DHS Deputy Press Secretary said in a press release that DHS

MAINLAND NEWS

Ayala Foundation USA to Host Fundraiser and Forum

The Ayala Foundation USA (AF-USA) will host a fundraiser on September 25, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose to inaugurate its transformation into the Philippine Development Foundation USA or PhilDev USA.

With a new name, PhilDev USA is positioning itself as a fundraising organization that will guide donors and partners in taking a strategic view in addressing economic, social, political and cultural development needs in the Philippines. PhilDev USA hopes to continue AF-USA's vision of being a "bridge of hope across the seas" and will rely on a long-term partnership with Ayala Foundation, Inc. (AFI) in the Philippines to ensure that funds are disbursed

and used properly.

According to Vicky Garchitorea, president of AF-USA and AFI, the sizable Filipino population in the U.S. is a valuable asset that PhilDev USA is looking to harness in its effort to accelerate socio-economic growth in the Philippines.

"We want to tap the growing Filipino-American community and guide them toward supporting strategic development projects that can achieve significant impact on a sector, plans that can be scaled up and sustained," Garchitorea says.

The Gala will include dinner and world-class entertainment with a concert presentation of the original Filipino musical "Long Season" which is based on Carlos Bulosan's novel,



Vicky Garchitorea of AF-USA

"America is in the Heart" and will be performed by Filipino-American Broadway stars and the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO). Outstanding Filipino achievers in the fields of education, research and development, and entrepreneurship in science and engineering will also be recognized.

In addition, there will be a

fundraising auction for special items such as dream vacations in El Nido Resort in the Philippines, Turtle Bay Resort in Hawaii, a weekend in Lake Tahoe, dinner for 10 couples in Sonoma, Dancing with the Stars VIP tickets and many more.

Guests will include honorary chairs Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala, Antonio and Gail Alvarez, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Ken and Josie Natori, and Lea Salonga, along with members of the board of trustees, key donors and supporters.

Proceeding the gala will be a forum to discuss solutions to the Philippines' most pressing development problems. The forum will bring together resource speakers and panelists, which will include highly successful Filipino and Filipino-American professionals and thought leaders in academe, government and business.

"We hope to bring together representatives from academe, because there exists a need to build an adequate supply of technology experts; representatives from government, because national policies and budget allocations are needed to support science and engineering programs; and finally the business sector, to create technology-based companies and industries," says Ayala Foundation

USA Chairman Diosdado Bantao.

"We envision all three sectors working together on this technology initiative to build economic strength and to ultimately alleviate poverty in our homeland."

AF-USA has invited newly-elected Philippine President Noyonoy Aquino as keynote speaker, along with Felipe Medalla from the University of the Philippines' School of Economics, Dean Rowena Guevara of the UP College of Engineering, Arthur Tan, CEO of Integrated Microelectronics, Inc., Venture Capitalist Winston Damarillo of G2IX, Internet Entrepreneur Sheila Lirio Marcelo of Care.com, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corporation. Its distinguished list of Honorary Chairs includes Mayor Gavin Newsom, Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala, Ken and Josie Natori, Antonio and Gail Alvarez, and Lea Salonga.

Ticket pricing for the Philippine Development Forum and Gala are as follows—forum and gala: \$350; forum only: \$150; gala only: \$200. To purchase tickets, please go to phildev-gala.eventbrite.com or visit www.af-usa.org. To find out more about the Philippine Development Forum and Gala, visit www.af-usa.org or call (650) 598-3126.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Miriam Questions Puno's Belated Revelation

By Christina Mendez /
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago lambasted Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno yesterday for not revealing the attempt of jueteng operators to influence him prior to the exposé of retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz that some members of the Aquino administration were receiving payola.

"If it is true that he has been approached by jueteng fixers, why did he not kick and scream immediately? Those fixers who allegedly contacted him are guilty of the crime of corruption of public officials," Santiago said.

Although she is on sick leave, Santiago issued a statement that the jueteng fixers would be guilty of attempted

bribery if Puno was correct in his version of the facts.

She said Puno's press statement on the alleged fixers was already an admission of the truth that there is a resurgence of interest in the illegal numbers game.

Santiago added that it was "improper and questionable" for Puno to keep to himself the many overtures on jueteng he claims to have received.

"The basic factual issue is whether he merely listened in silence, or whether he accepted the proposals, and edited the facts so as to escape personal criminal liability," she said.

Meanwhile, former President Joseph Estrada yesterday accused police and local government officials of involvement in the operation of jueteng in the country.

Estrada, in a statement, said

the deep conspiracy between jueteng lords, officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP), mayors and governors can only be addressed by legalizing the numbers game.

"The only solution is to legalize jueteng. The police, mayors and governors are involved. I know because I was mayor for 17 years," the former president said.

He said the Aquino administration can turn the legalization of jueteng into an opportunity to give more funds to the local officials by creating a mayor's fund.

The former president, whose term of office was cut short because of accusations that he received jueteng money, among others, made the suggestion in reaction to the renewed challenge of retired Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz for

President Aquino to declare an all out war against the illegal numbers game.

Cruz had accused certain presidential aides of receiving monthly "payola" from jueteng lords.

The retired archbishop also bared yesterday that at least eight dioceses in Luzon and the Visayas are accepting jueteng payola aside from receiving money from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"These people would like to earn or have the goodwill of Church people and they would like to save their souls so they are willing to pay for it. Of course if you are a big fellow you have to pay more. If you are small you have to pay less. That is buying your salvation through jueteng payola," he said, without identifying the dioceses.

Cruz said the bishops know among themselves who are on the take.

He said he was offered P3 million by gambling lords for the repair of their seminary that was destroyed by tropical cyclone "Ondoy" last year when he was still archbishop of Dagupan.

He insisted he will not attend congressional inquiries, stressing that the matter is not for the legislative branch to deal with.

He also noted that an inquiry "in aid of legislation" is not necessary anymore since Republic Act 9287 or the Act Increasing the Penalties for Illegal Numbers Game is already in place.

President Aquino, on the other hand, declared yesterday that his administration will not be paying lip service in stamping out jueteng, but would carry out a "comprehensive plan" that would discourage its patrons. (www.philstar.com)

Bureau of Immigration Pushes Waiver Fee for Minors Visiting RP

By Helen Flores /
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has begun implementing stricter rules for foreign minors who visit the

country without their parents or guardians.

BI officer-in-charge Ronaldo Ledesma issued last week a memorandum order prescribing new rules regarding the issuance of waivers of exclusion to unaccompanied foreign minors entering

the Philippines. Under the new rules, Ledesma said an unaccompanied foreign minor shall be allowed entry only after the minor's guardian or representative pays a waiver fee of P3,120 to the BI cashier at the port of entry.

Immigration officers are also

required to retain for safekeeping the minor's passport as well as a copy of the child's plane ticket and arrival card to enable the BI to closely and effectively monitor the arrival and departure of foreign minors who are on limited stay here as temporary visitors or tourists, the official said.

The rules further require immigration officers at the airports to note the date of a minor's departure and ensure that all important data about the passenger are indicated in the passport. He said the new rules were implemented following reports that foreign minors are allegedly studying in the country without the required study permits or student visas.

Citing reports, the immigration bureau claimed that many of these foreign minors, mostly Koreans enrolled in English lan-

guage centers, enter the country by availing themselves of waivers of exclusion for unaccompanied minors provided under the Immigration Act.

Arvin Santos, BI airport operations division chief, said that to avoid inconvenience, representatives of foreign minors planning to visit the Philippines may apply for a waiver of exclusion with the BI officer-in-charge prior to their arrival.

Under Section 29 of the Immigration Act, foreign children under 15 years of age who are "unaccompanied by, or not coming to" a parent are considered "excludable aliens."

They may be admitted, however, at the discretion of the Immigration OIC by issuing a waiver of exclusion order in their favor, the BI said. (www.philstar.com)

RP Plans Major Renovations in Spratlys

By Paolo Romero /
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines is planning a major renovation of an airport and other facilities on an island it occupies in the disputed Spratlys archipelago.

The South China Sea islands are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and are believed to have large oil and natural gas reserves. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also claim

all or part of the island group.

Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta said today government representatives will soon make an inspection trip to the main island in the Kalayaan Island Group — Manila's name for the Spratlys.

The archipelago straddles busy sea lanes, crucial conduits for the oil fueling China's fast-expanding economy and those of other Asian nations.

The conflicting claims occasionally erupt into armed confrontation. (www.philstar.com)

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December 12 • 9am – 8pm • For more info call FilCom @ 6800451

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Interest Among Foreign Investors in RP Renewed: Aquino

By Paolo Romero/
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - There is renewed interest among foreign investors in the Philippines, President Benigno Aquino III said yesterday.

"There is renewed interest among foreign businessmen to invest in the Philippines," Aquino told some 120 local business leaders and economic managers in Cebu City, central Philippines.

Aquino said that the reinvigorated confidence of the international financial community and the bullishness of businessmen on the Philippines can be attributed to his

determination to get rid of corruption, propel the economic engine to prosperity, and achieve political stability.

He further said that some of the business leaders who were turned off by the corruption and uncertainty in the economy and politics over the last decade have expressed a desire to invest again in the Philippines as evidenced by the recent-business trip of his economic managers in the United States.

According to Aquino, one public-private partnership (PPP) project that investors expressed interest in the construction of an expressway from Manila that will pass through Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Viz-

caya, until Cagayan Valley, which will save the government billions of pesos that can be used to fund needed social services.

Another possible PPP project is the redevelopment and upgrading of the Mactan International Airport, where a new instrument landing system will be installed in the next few months, and eight new air bridges will be bid out in order to finally retire and replace the old ones, he said.

According to the Philippine president, plans are underway for the possible liberalization of the air transport sector to make it easier for people to visit Cebu and other parts of the country.

"You can count on us to do our part," Aquino said. (www.philstar.com)

Unemployment Rate Eases to 6.9 Percent in July

By Paolo Romero/
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) -- The number of Filipinos who do not have jobs fell to 6.9 percent in July this year from last year's 7.6 per-

cent, data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed on Wednesday.

NSO on Wednesday said 2.7 million out of the estimated 60.9 million population of 15 years old and over are currently jobless.

"About one-third of the unemployed were high school graduates, 22.7 percent were college undergraduates, and 20.5 percent were college graduates," NSO said.

The service sector continues to be the biggest employer, followed by the agriculture and industry sectors. (www.philstar.com)

GLOBAL NEWS

Nigerian Syndicate Tricks Pinoys to Smuggle Drugs

By Christina Mendez/
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III has revealed that a Nigerian drug syndicate convinces Filipinos to smuggle drugs in exchange for a round-trip ticket, pocket money, and help in renewing their visas.

"That's why it's very inviting," he said.

"They can renew their visa and it's given to them for free. And they even have money on the side."

Sotto urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to draw up a system to help overseas Filipino workers renew visas to dissuade them from working as drug smugglers.

During a hearing of the Senate foreign relations committee, the DFA said Filipinos have been arrested, charged and convicted in China after

having been victimized by international drug syndicates.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Jose Eduardo Malaya told the Senate foreign relations committee at least two of the Filipinos arrested for drug smuggling are now on death row in China.

Sotto, former Dangerous Drugs Board chairman, said more than 200 OFWs detained last year in China were embroiled in drug-related cases. (www.philstar.com)

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