

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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EDITORIAL

Congratulations, New Chief Justice of California!

When Tani Cantil-Sakauye was sworn in as Chief Justice of California on January 3, 2011, it marked several historic "firsts." She holds the distinction as the first Asian-American and the first Filipino to serve as the Golden State's Chief Justice. It also marks the first time that California's seven-member Supreme Court will have a female majority.

Cantil-Sakauye's achievements were hailed by immigrants rights groups, who see her as a living, breathing example of the American dream. Hers is the classic rags-to-riches story. Cantil-Sakauye's parents worked as farm and plantation laborers who pinched pennies to provide a good education for she and her three siblings. She later put herself through college and law school by waiting on tables. Even after earning her Juris Doctor, a tight job market forced her to work briefly as a blackjack dealer in Nevada. Eventually, she landed a job as prosecutor in the Sacramento District Attorney's Office. She worked her way up the ladder, serving on the Sacramento Municipal Court and then the Superior Court before being appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Court of Appeals.

We hope that Cantil-Sakauye will inspire young Filipinos to not only study hard but to dream above and beyond what she has accomplished. If a Filipina can lead a court system as large and as complex as the state of California, surely it's just a matter of time before America elects its first president of Filipino ancestry. And why not? There are no limitations to what our young people can accomplish, particularly with the groundwork laid down by trailblazers like Cantil-Sakauye and others before her.

So congratulations to Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye on her monumental achievements. Leading California's court system is a daunting task but she is more than up for the challenges that lay ahead.

Big Corporations Must Pay Fair Share in Balancing National and State Budgets

As Hawaii's Neil Abercrombie and other governors across the nation painfully slash government spending to balance state budgets, working- and middle-class Americans are asked to make do with a lot less and possibly pay more in taxes and fees.

Select public schools may be closing. Cuts to Medicaid and essential welfare programs will be hard hit as the new GOP-led House in Congress put a plug on billions of federal dollars from reaching the state level. In times of financial crisis, the most vulnerable sectors of society—the elderly, students and poor—are asked to make the biggest sacrifices. We've seen it during the last recession which resulted in major welfare reform. But how much more weight can the average American be asked to carry while the wealthiest of groups—corporate America—gets a free ride?

Another Option to Balance the Budget

The fact is, there is another major source of income that both the federal and state government can rely on to balance the country's budget. It's an enormous source of revenue that's larger than any newly-imposed tax or monies generated from spending cuts can muster. Yet, tapping this much-needed money has gone largely ignored for political reasons. That is, until recently.

Americans are rising up to the surprise of powerful interest groups and now demanding Corporate Welfare Reform.

Billions annually are extended by the U.S. government to profitable multi-national companies in the form of corporate subsidies

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome and thank you for picking up the newest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the leading Filipino newspaper in the 50th State! In case you missed it, February 25, 2011 marked the 25th Anniversary of the People Power revolution that toppled the regime of former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos. His exile to Hawaii sharply divided the Filipino community and pitted Marcos loyalists against vocal critics of the former dictator. Over time, leaders in the Filipino community put aside their differences and managed to forgive and to forget.

This issue's cover story was written by Danny de Gracia, II, who introduces readers to Tani Cantil-Sakauye—the first ever California Supreme Court Chief Justice of Filipino ancestry. She holds the distinction as the most powerful Filipino in U.S. public service. Cantil-Sakauye oversees some 1,700 judges and manages a \$4 billion budget for California's court system which is one of the largest in the world. We are extremely proud of her not for her Hawaii roots (her father was a former plantation worker here who later settled in California) but because she is an example that anyone, immigrants included, can get ahead in life if they are determined and willing to work hard. We hope you will enjoy reading her inspiring story, which begins on page 4.

In news you can use, please refer to our Social Security Update column for instructions on how to obtain a replacement SSA-1099 form. If you are trying to file your tax returns, Form SSA-1099 is an important tax document to have. Please take time to read page 6, particularly if you receive Social Security benefits. You'll be glad you did.

Lastly, we would like to remind our readers that HPD will be setting up DUI checkpoints starting Friday, March 4 through Saturday, April 30. Nine people have been killed in eight traffic collisions on Oahu so far this year. Speed, alcohol or drugs were a factor in six of the crashes. It would be a good idea to have your registration, safety check and other papers updated and on-hand in case you are asked to pull over by police.

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story suggestions, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii's Filipino community.

Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

and tax benefits. The billions that these corporations receive from tax breaks far surpasses all social welfare aid combined, AFDC, student aid, housing, food and individual public assistance. Corporate welfare costs taxpayers up to \$570.8 billion over a five-year period.

These tax breaks extended to corporations shorthanded government revenues and prompt middle- and working-class Americans to pick up the slack by paying more taxes and fees.

If corporate subsidies weren't enough, the government also hands out billions to corporations, which are written off in many cases as grants or packaged as zero percent or very minimal interest loans.

In one example alone, we see that social welfare pales in comparison to corporate welfare. Take the government's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, a cash assistance project that benefits poor families, which totaled to \$4.5 billion in 2007. On the other hand, the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), a cash assistance program to help failing banks, since September 2008 to the present amounted to \$700 billion.

So one year of TANF spending equals less than 1 percent of TARP. Citibank alone received \$25 billion—five times the cash transferred to mothers and children receiving public assistance. All the while, top executives of these banks received an estimated \$1.6 billion in bonuses. The gross misconception is that poor and working people are divvying the government bankrupt through assistance; yet the reality is corporations are even bigger welfare recipients.

While some may argue subsidies to corporations contribute to the overall economy, the fact is billions are wastefully spent and do not contribute to the general welfare of the country and communities.



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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

People Power: Philippines to Egypt



By Senator Will Espero

Occupation: Housewife." Last office held: valedictorian of her sixth-grade class. The chief and only political strengths of the novice candidate for the highest office in the land were her innocence of politics and the moral symbolism of her name. In Spanish, Corazon means "heart"; to Filipinos, Aquino meant her husband, Benigno Aquino, the chief rival of President Ferdinand Marcos. When the February 7, 1986 snap election cast Marcos as the winner, real life drama unfolded on the international stage to protest. When Marcos called out troops, old women hugged armed militia while little girls offered flowers to the soldiers. Nuns kneeling and praying the rosary placed

themselves between Marcos' tanks and the people. The quiet heroism of Filipinos across the entire country reminded Marcos loyalists that they were all brothers and led to their defections. At the end of February, the peaceful revolution prevailed. Marcos flew to Hawaii in exile. Cory Aquino raised her hand to take her oath of office, and was inaugurated to her rightful place as the duly elected leader of the Philippines.

Corazon Aquino, the shy housewife who was drawn by fate into an arena characterized by macho politics, won her country's hearts with her deep felt sense of humanity, calmness, and grace. Through her soft spoken leading of civil disobedience, she restored the promises of democracy without bloodshed. Her heritage of nobility as a daughter in the prominent Cojuangco family was fortified by her living faith in God. For her determination and courage in leading a democratic revolution that riveted the



world, Time Magazine named Corazon Aquino its "Woman of the Year" for 1986.

No doubt there are a few of us for whom the images last week of Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, Egypt brought memories of those days of February 1986, when another U.S. ally, Ferdinand Marcos, relinquished his presidency. The sight of Egyptians offering flowers to the soldiers paralleled the Filipinos whose offering of a token of national unity softened the hearts of military men. Like the "People Power" revolution in the Philippines,

where General Fidel Ramos and Minister of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile changed over to support Aquino, the decision of the army in Egypt to break away from Mubarak to carry out the will of the people was key to his stepping down. The only seeming counterpart missing from the Egyptian scene was one for Cardinal Jaime Sin, who brought the strong influence of religion to pressure the departure of Ferdinand Marcos.

Mubarak held the reins of power in Egypt for nearly 30 years; Marcos was in office 20 years. Both were regarded as

allies of the U.S. and their stories parallel each other in other ways.

The heavy investment in infrastructure during Marcos' first term (1965-69) made him so popular that he won re-election in 1969. The loans came due right after, however, leaving the country largely in debt and plunging it into desperate economic conditions. It was in his second term that Marcos elevated himself to cult status, requiring his official portrait displayed at all businesses or schools on pain of closure for failure to do so and displacing billboard ads across the nation with his propaganda. The decisions of the Marcos Administration, however, left much of the country in want. Filipino university students took to the streets in massive rallies and demonstrations. After three years of civil unrest, Marcos responded by declaring martial law in 1972. Justifying it to quell the active criticism, he said the times were too tumult-

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California's First Ever Filipina Chief Justice Takes Command of Supreme Court

By Danny de Gracia, II

On January 3, Tani Cantil-Sakauye began a new year and new era of achievement for Asian-Pacific islanders in America when she became the first ever California Supreme Court Chief Justice of Filipino ancestry.

The 51-year-old Filipina was appointed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on July 21, 2010 to replace Chief Justice Ronald M. George who announced his intention to retire at the end of his term on January 2, 2011. Confirmed by plebiscite in the November 2010 elections, Cantil-Sakauye is now the most powerful Filipina in U.S. public service, overseeing some 1,700 judges and managing a \$4 billion budget for a court system that is one of the largest in the world.

Born Tani Gorre Cantil on October 19, 1959 in Sacramento, Tani's father was a former Hawaii Filipino plantation worker who settled down in Cal-

ifornia and married a Filipina from Central Valley. Tani would go on to receive an Associate's degree from Sacramento City College in 1978, a Bachelor's from UC-Davis in 1980 and her law degree 1984 from the UC-Davis Law School.

From the start, Tani's star rose quickly as she became a Deputy California Attorney General fresh out of law school. By 1990, she was already the Judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court and in 1994 she married Mark Sakauye, a police officer.

In 2005 she was appointed by Schwarzenegger to Associate Justice of the California Third District Court of Appeals. Five

years later, Schwarzenegger appointed her again, this time to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, a nomination which was met by unanimous approval by the California Commission on Judicial Appointments, allowing her to go on to the November 2010 elections for her confirming vote by the public.

Described as a Republican with generally moderate views on social issues, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is well-liked by many in California and believed to have strong administrative skills that will lend well to managing the Golden State's court system in a time of financial uncertainty and budget austerity.



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

"I'm very happy to know that California will have a Filipina representing us when it comes to administering justice and interpreting the laws of the land," says Jess Losa, a Filipino from Fairfield, California. "The position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is probably the most powerful position that voters have never heard of before. The Legislature and the Governor may make the laws, but the Supreme Court determines how the laws are interpreted and whether or not they should stand at all, using the state constitution and the U.S. Constitution as the deciding standard.

"There are a lot of us who are counting on newly-elected and appointed leaders to hold the line, and I pray that she will be the one to do it like no one else before her. State government in many ways is much more important and influential than even national government."

In fact, state supreme courts have recently been propelled to the center of national media attention as lawsuits over legislation passed by the 111th U.S. Congress have broke out all across America. Cantil-Sakauye will likely preside over cases of extreme controversy, and her

decisions could set precedents for the rest of the nation's courts to follow.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is also seen by others as a victory for Hawaii Filipinos and a validation of the belief that all immigrants can still make it big in America with hard work and a lot of determination. Lauren Easley, a Filipina who was born and raised in Redlands, California, is a political scientist and former advisor at the Hawaii State Capitol who was likewise impressed with the news of the new California Chief Justice.

"As a California woman of Filipino ancestry, I am so proud, happy and thrilled for Tani Cantil-Sakauye," Easley says. "As a testament to how far Filipinos have come in so short a time, Justice Cantil-Sakauye is one of only three other Asian Americans on the Court. Her confirmation by California voters in the November election is inspiring as it is historic."

Easley believes that Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has an opportunity to leave a mark for future generations of Filipinos with her new position of authority.

"It is important however
(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, CALIFORNIA'S...)

that Filipinos understand that our progress and honor doesn't end with just taking positions of prominence; we must daily prove ourselves to be worthy of our high calling." Easley went on to say, "U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren once remarked that he believed that the preservation of our civil liberties was the most fundamental and important duties of all, because if we ever permit those liberties to be destroyed, there will be nothing left in our system worthy of preservation. I hope that California's new Chief Justice will take those words to heart and recognize that she has been called for such a time as this, the hour of our nation's greatest need and most challenging turmoil."

With a new generation of



◀ Pictured on banc in the Supreme Court Courtroom in San Francisco are the court's seven justices, from left to right: Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno, Associate Justice Joyce L. Kennard, Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakaue, Associate Justice Ming W. Chin, Associate Justice Marvin R. Baxter, and Associate Justice Carol A. Corrigan.

(Photo: William A. Porter, San Francisco, CA)

young Hawaii Filipinos set to graduate from high schools and colleges this May, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakaue's story could be the spark to inspire many more Filipinos to dream big and study hard despite the challenges of dwindling job availability and rising unemployment. With a Filipina holding the rare position of a state Supreme Court Justice, there are some who be-

lieve that it is only a matter of time before America elects a president of Filipino ancestry.

"The young people graduating this year from Hawaii's high schools need to know that our nation's greatest strength is the power of their dreams," says Easley. "Chief Justice Cantil-Sakaue opened the door, but it's up to us to walk through to the future. We can do these

things and far greater if we believe in the beauty of our

dreams. I for one look forward to the day that America will have a Filipino-American president."

EDITORIAL (cont.)

(from page 2, BIG CORPORATIONS...)

According to a study by the Cato Institute, many solid profitable companies have benefitted from U.S. federal government subsidies including Boeing, IBM, Motorola, Dow Chemicals and General Electric. They were among other recipients in 2006 alone that cost taxpayers \$92 billion.

In one corporate welfare program, the U.S. government doled out \$100 million a year for marketing. Companies that have participated in the Market Promotion Program include Dole Corporation, Sunkist and McDonalds. Why should the government be involved in marketing profitable private corporations?

At the state and local government level, it's estimated that \$40 to \$50 billion are spent annually for so called "economic development" incentives which really amount to being corporate welfare.

To rub salt into the wound, as cost-savings measures many giant corporations have resorted to cutting back workers' benefits and salaries just to maintain higher profit margins. Where it gets even more unfair is that the taxes these same workers are paying in turn are used by the government to subsidize these same profitable companies that they work for—conceivably the same multi-nationals that are cutting their pay and benefits.

Be Aware

More Americans need to realize what's really going on with corporate welfare. Congressional bills in the past that aimed at reforming this problem include the Public Resources Deficit Reduction Act and the Corporate Responsibility Act. If subsidies and tax breaks are to be made, the government should be more selective and extend them to benefit family farms, small businesses and consumer health, not to wealthy corporations that have no legitimate reason to receive them.

Americans are being asked to make sacrifices during these rough economic times, but why should it benefit big corporations that operate primarily for-profit and often times contribute very little to the community? Voters should be cautious of politicians who trumpet "public-private partnerships" (buzz word of the 2000s) under the guise of economic development. While it sounds beneficial, such projects just may be public relations spin for corporate welfare.

There is a very telling fact that sums up the entire problem of corporate welfare. According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget: "After World War II, the nation's tax bill was roughly split between corporations and individuals. But after years of changes in the federal tax code, the corporate share of taxes has declined to a fourth the

amount individuals pay." This disparity also parallels the increasingly stark inequities in personal income and political influence in the country.

We can collectively reverse this trend by asking politicians one critical question—"Why isn't corporate welfare reform even on the table for discussion in balancing federal and state budgets?"

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Honolulu Among 100 Best Communities For Young People

Honolulu has been named as one of the America's Promise Alliance "100 Best Communities for Young People."

Presented by ING, the award identifies 100 communities nationwide that are dedicated to ending the high school dropout crisis by helping young people overcome challenges to succeed. This year, more than 350 communities in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., were nominated for the competition. Winners come from 37 states and 30 are first-time recipients

of the honor. They were chosen by a distinguished panel of judges that included some of the nation's most well-known civic, business and nonprofit leaders.

"Our community has worked very hard to assist young people identify and achieve their educational goals, and we must continue this important effort," says Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, who joined leaders of several community groups in announcing Honolulu's designation. "More than 7,000 students drop out every school day across the

United States, totaling 1.3 million young people a year. That's just not acceptable. Fortunately, many good people in Honolulu and other cities are working to address this crisis."

The City Department of Community Services' Youth Services Center applied for the "100 Best Cities" designation in collaboration with several nonprofit groups that assist young people through various programs that provide mentoring, career guidance, and other youth development services—Good Beginnings Alliance,

Family Programs Hawaii, YMCA of Honolulu, Honolulu Community Action Program's Head Start Program, Hawaii Youth Services Network, Hawaii Community Foundation, Hawaii Job Corps and ALU LIKE.

Judges for the competition reviewed applications from across the U.S., looking for innovative or proven programs and initiatives that demonstrate applicant communities are actively working to increase graduation rates. Winning communities demonstrated how

they collaborate across sectors (schools, nonprofits, business and faith communities working together) to help young people overcome challenges and achieve their potential.

Founded in 1997, America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth. The 100 Best Communities for Young People competition is supported by the ING Foundation, which contributes an average of \$3.5 million annual towards education initiatives.

City Marks 40 Years of Bus Service

The City's awarding-winning public bus program has reached a milestone 40 years of service.

TheBus was launched on March 1, 1971 under the administration of then-Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi. It has since

expanded to become the respected Honolulu institution that thousands of commuters rely on every day.

"From its modest first headquarters under a banyan tree that is now the site of a child-care facility, TheBus has grown and ex-

panded to include routes serving the entire island," says City Transportation Director Wayne Y. Yoshioka. "There's no denying that TheBus has developed into a venerable and reliable transportation necessity for Oahu.

"I congratulate our Public Transit Division, led by Division Chief James Burke and the Oahu Transit Services, Inc. led by President and General Manager Roger Morton, for the great job they are doing to serve our transit and para-transit riders.

TheBus now provides more than 75 million rides to residents and visitors each year.

PICTORIAL NEWS



Honored guests (holding o'o sticks) broke ground on February 22, 2011 in East Kapolei for Honolulu's \$5.5 billion fixed rail project. From left: State Sen. Shan Tsutsui, State Rep. Calvin Say, Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, Mayor Peter Carlisle, City Councilmember Nestor Garcia, City Transportation Director Wayne Yoshioka, transit project general manager Toru Hamayasu, former mayor Mufi Hannemann. The rail project is expected to create thousands of jobs and provide a badly needed transportation alternative that will benefit Oahu for decades and generations to come.

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Getting a Replacement SSA-1099 is Easy

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

Millions of taxpayers are busy gathering all the forms and documents they need to file their federal, state and local tax returns. If you receive Social Se-

curity benefits, one of those items may be your SSA-1099 from Social Security.

Some people who receive Social Security may have to pay taxes on a portion of their benefits. If you're one of these individuals, a Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099) is an important tax document for you to have.

Social Security mailed the SSA-1099s for tax year 2010 to all beneficiaries in January 2011. If you receive Social Security and need a replacement SSA-1099 for 2010 in order to file a tax return, you can request it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/1099.

The SSA-1099 shows the total amount of benefits received in the previous year and is used to find out if any Social Security benefits are subject to tax. The

Federal tax laws about Social Security benefits provide that:

- Up to 50 percent of Social Security benefits may be subject to Federal income tax for individuals with a combined income between \$25,000 and \$34,000, or for couples with a combined income between \$32,000 and \$44,000; and
- Up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits may be subject to Federal income tax for individuals with a combined income above \$34,000, or for couples with a combined income above \$44,000. (Note: "Combined income" means adjusted gross income, plus nontaxable interest, plus one-half of Social Security benefits).

For more information on taxation of Social Security benefits, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov. To request a replacement SSA-1099, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/1099.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Pleading Guilty When You Are Not



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



Why should I plead guilty when I am not guilty?
— Imelda Romualdez

Marcos.

Mrs. Marcos fumed when her lawyers advised her to plead guilty to racketeering charges, exclaiming: "Why should I plead guilty when I am not guilty?" It was alleged that she took over \$200 million from the Philippine treasury and secretly bought four New York City skyscrapers in conspiracy with Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi. There were witnesses prepared to say that \$100,000 bundles of cash were delivered from the Philippine National Bank to her Waldorf-Astoria hotel. Her lawyers reportedly terrorized her saying that if she went to trial and lost, she could get 30 years in jail, but if she pleaded guilty, they might get her a one year sentence.

When her friend tobacco

heirress Doris Duke heard about Imelda's determination to fight, she asked a Honolulu attorney to look for a lawyer. He found Gerry Spence who asked for \$5 million and a promise from Imelda that he would do all the talking and that she would not talk unless on cue. Imelda agreed. At last she found a man who could tell her what to do. Alas, Manong Andy was not that man. Perhaps the course of Philippine history might have been different if Manong had displayed some machismo ala Spence.

Spence went to work. He asked for the government's witness list and directed investigators to check their background. He sent word that he would interview government witnesses before the trial and would subject them to rigorous cross-examination. Potential witnesses camped in NYC led by a Harvard graduate who headed the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) aka Palagi Caming Galit at Gutom fled.

Rudy Giuliani, the U.S. Attorney who filed the charges, expecting to make political capital by trying the case himself, turned it over to a deputy when

he heard Spence would defend Imelda. The government's case was so weak that Spence did not even present any evidence. Imelda was acquitted on July 2, 1990, her 61st birthday.

Imelda and this writer reminisced about the case when we visited her in Batac before last May's election. We presented her with a copy of our newspaper, U.S. Philippine Times, published on the day of her acquittal, with the headline "IMELDA INNOCENT" featuring her portrait in a white terno, a picture of innocence.

Fight if innocent

If only Filipinos and others had the guts displayed by Imelda when they face criminal charges. Many fall victims to lazy, incompetent, and uncaring attorneys whose first thought is about losing and whose strategy is to terrorize hapless defendants by advising them to plead guilty and get a light sentence, otherwise they could spend the rest of their lives in jail, even if they claim innocence. Some lawyers have met the defendant for the first time in the corridor of the court house. Others have not even read the police report. Most do not even attempt to interview

the government's witnesses. How about filing pre-trial motions and engaging in discovery? Rarely. We have been telling Filipinos to fight if they are innocent. We talk about it incessantly on radio. Shun the "abogado de plead guilty". Hire the "abogado de campanilla" who will fight for you. No one deserves to stay in jail even for a moment if innocent. It is very difficult to prove an innocent man "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." It is even difficult to prove a guilty man "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." I am not talking about O.J. Simpson.

(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: flamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laog 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 KNXJ at 1270 AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 am. and on KHCB 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.)

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION (cont.)

(From page 3, PHILIPPINES...)

tuous to be left to traditional democracy.

Two years after Ninoy Aquino was assassinated, Marcos called a snap election. Ninoy's widow Corason was catapulted into the campaign by a nomination of one million signatures. She promised to restore democracy to the weary nation. When the election left Marcos in power, Aquino responded by calling for mass civil disobedience. Eighteen days later, on February 25, 1986, the People Power Revolution ousted Marcos and Aquino was installed as President of the Philippines.

Hosni Mubarak became president of Egypt in 1981, after the assassination of President Anwar al Sadat. Unlike Sadat, Mubarak survived six attempts on his life. His tight hold on the presidency was secured by an Egyptian constitution restriction that prohibited anyone from run-

ning against the President, giving that right to parliament. Manipulating this rule, Mubarak would have himself nominated by the largely rubber stamp parliament and confirmed without opposition in a referendum.

On January 25, 2011, a nationwide series of riots, rallies, labor strikes, street demonstrations, marches, and violent clashes began, the largest in Cairo and Alexandria. Their legal, political, and economic grievances were many: high unemployment, low minimum wages, high food prices, uncontrollable corruption, lack of free elections, lack of free speech, police brutality, and oppressive life under "emergency law." On February 1, in the "March of the Millions," protestors demanded the overthrow of the Mubarak regime, an end of its corruption and police repression, and the restoration of democracy. The protests escalated, and in the 18 day episode, more than a 300

people died and over 3000 were injured. Cairo was described as a "war zone," leading foreign governments to try to evacuate their citizens from Egypt. After the Egyptian Army defected to the side of the people and the U.S. expressed its belief that the presidency was at its end, Mubarak resigned on February 11, "Farewell Friday." As Egyptian Mohammed El Baradei said, "Egypt is free."

The dramatic events of both then and now should remind us how privileged we are to live in peace and freedom, in a political structure that openly accepts challengers, peacefully permits the transition of power, and holds our government officials to their role of providing for the general welfare not their own personal gain. Let us with humility give thanks that our nation, even with its flaws, stands as a testament to the world for this precious freedom we enjoy.

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▲ Organized Chaos. BMM 2011 served about 1,800 patients in Taysan, Legaspi City who were very happy to receive vitamins, medicines and gift packages.

◀ Sister City in the Making? Naga City Kgd Seling Tuason with Dr. Linda Cachola and Honolulu Councilman Romy Cachola



Giving Back to the Community. ▶ JP Orias donating 2 boxes of left over medicines to Mayor Delia Simbulan for Nabua Health Center at the end of BMM 2011



◀ Gift Packages for the Indigents. In addition to free vitamins and medicines, the indigents also got tooth brush, toothpaste, canned goods and noodles



Bicolanang Magayon. ▶ Pretty Bicolana nursing students and health office assistants volunteered in all towns. They packed medicines good for 6 months



◀ Titans Medical Brothers. David Reyes, Pierre Nap Niere, Kevin Giller, Inzo Tan, Charlie Aguinaldo, Charlie Sonido, and Marc Joven



All In The Family. ▶ Marianela Jacob, Nurse Practitioner, assisted by daughter Vanessa, gave medical advice to patients. Husband Jose Jacob, RN, MR, was triage master in all towns



▲ Pediatric patients were 42 percent of the total. Dr. Marc Joven seeing a patient with her grandma in Naga City



▲ Naga City Mayor John Bongat with volunteer Tony Tria, Esq.



▲ Retired professionals came to volunteer. BMM 2011 historian Tess Bernales interviewed some of the golden boys of Ateneo De Naga HS '59

FEATURE

Celebrating Filipino Art Films

By Fiedes Doctor

The Filipino Film Festival is back and better than ever, featuring once again the very best and latest Philippine independent films.

Scheduled from March 19-26, 2011 at the Doris Duke Theatre, the festival will showcase the latest blockbuster comedy "Here Comes the Bride" by acclaimed director Chris Martinez. Several award winners from the 2010 Cinemalaya Film Festival complete the roster of art films from romance to black comedy to drama, all of which are a reflection of the Filipino culture and way of life.

For the *hona fide* Filipino, it's a road to nostalgia; for the non-Filipino—who will be relying on subtitles—the festival offers a deeper look into the Filipino psyche.

"Independent films are somewhat more reflective of what is life back home," says Dr. May Ablan, who is the liaison between the Honolulu Academy of Arts and festival sponsor the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) Ohana Medical Missions Inc.—a non-profit

organization that serves less fortunate communities in the Philippines.

"The films focus on social, political, economic, and spiritual concerns that are central to the Filipino culture," says Gina Caruso, Curator of Film at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. "Many of the films have won awards in international film festivals for their originality and surprising story lines."

"We conduct thorough research and focus on the best films from the Philippines and the most highly acclaimed film festivals there, particularly Cinemalaya, which is considered the Sundance Film Festival of the Philippines."

Caruso typically receives 40 films for screening prior to a festival, reads blogs and reviews from film critics and takes note of international acclaim to whittle down the selection to six or seven films.

"The films are entertaining, family friendly and appeal to a sophisticated, well-educated audience," Caruso says. "We chose films that appeal to our regular patrons as well as the Filipino community. Many of the films have redemptive, uplifting end-



Bayani Agbayani and Epi Quizon star in "Pinoy Sunday"

ings with complex, compelling narratives that equal some of the best international films being made today."

Now in its third year at the Doris Duke Theatre, the Filipino Film Festival's opening night will have Filipino-inspired cuisine from Whole Foods with wine and beer at the Pavilion Cafe, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

Guests will include members of PMAH and the Filipino community, UH professors and students, members from the museum and the general public. Tours of the Academy's Philip-

pine Art Gallery will begin March 26, Saturday.

A Sneak Peek

"Here Comes the Bride" is a romantic comedy about five souls switching bodies in a freak collision, allowing them to realize their dreams and chase true love. What transpires is a hilarious riot of mixed identities. "Here Comes the Bride" was an official selection at Cinemalaya and the Pusan International Film Festival and was one of the year's top box office hits in the Philippines. It is scheduled on March 19 and 20.

Other films being shown are "The Mountain Thief," "Pink Halo-Halo," "Mayohan," "Pinoy Sunday" and "Two Funerals."

"The Mountain Thief" shows the fight for survival of Julio, a scavenger in Payatas, to live in extreme poverty, raise a son and prove his innocence in a murder case. An outcast thief who witnessed the event holds the key to his vindication and fate. Winner of the Jury Prize at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, the film will be shown on March 20 and 22.

"Pink Halo-Halo," on March 23, is the first full-length feature shot entirely in the Masbateño language, Tigaonon. It is a poignant film about Natoy, a boy who loves eating halo-halo and who is suddenly thrust into the tragedy of war and conflict when his father is detailed to war-torn Mindanao. It is an honest look into the strength of the human spirit. The film is an official selection at the 2010 Cinemalaya.

"Mayohan" is about youngsters Nino and Lilibeth who start a friendship in search of growth, acceptance and renewal in the midst of Mayohan, the tradi-

tional May celebration dance, and while crossing gender lines, generational differences and class issues. The film won Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography in the New Breed Category at Cinemalaya 2010. Showtime date is March 24.

"Pinoy Sunday" follows the adventures of Manuel and Dado, two Filipino migrant workers living in Taipei, who devote a whole day logging a discarded red leather sofa across the city to their home. The film was officially selected for the Toronto International Film Festival, Pusan International Film Festival, Hawaii International Film Festival and Cinemalaya International Film Festival. Light and humorous, "Pinoy Sunday" touches on discrimination, hardship and injustice. Showtime is March 25.

"Two Funerals" is a black comedy that starts off with two caskets getting switched and going to the wrong grieving family, separated thousands of miles away. Plar, mother of the dead girl, takes a trip to correct the faux pas—during Holy Week and election season—bringing a hilarious mix of holy, irreverent, political and religious satire. The film won Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Special Jury Prize and Audience Choice Award at this year's Cinemalaya Festival. Showing is on March 26.

Proceeds of the Festival benefit the medical and health projects of the PMAH Ohana Medical Mission. For dates and times of film showing, go to www.honoluluacademy.org under "events." Click the link to Doris Duke Theatre and then to Filipino Film Festival. Tickets are \$5 for Academy of Arts members, \$7 for students, seniors and military and \$8 for the general public.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**P-Noy Honors Heroes of Phi
 Democracy**

by Aurea Calica
 Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011



President Noynoy Aquino conferred the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Chief Commander to Fr. James Reuter

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino conferred yesterday the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Supremo on the late Alejandro "Chino" Roces and five Legion of Honor Awards with the rank of Chief Commander to the late STAR columnist Teodoro Benigno and the late United States Rep. Stephen Solarz as well as Fr. James Reuter, Grand Commander to Napoleon Rama and Commander to STAR columnist William Esposo.

The President said the six were the ones who fought during martial law and could attest that the Philippines would not possibly take off under the then dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, whose son-senator, Ferdinand Jr. claimed the country would have become a Singapore if his father was not kicked out of power in 1986.

"You don't even have to take my word for it. Just ask the people who were there: We can ask Fr. James Reuter, who was tried for 12 days in Camp Aguinaldo for editing and publishing The Communicator, a four-page paper on martial law, and who subsequently was put under house arrest for two years," Aquino said.

The President also cited the case of Rama, Manila Bulletin publisher and then vice president of the Constitutional Convention. Rama shared a prison cell with his father, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. for sponsoring the "Ban Marcos" resolution, which would have prevented the Marcoses from running for the top post under a new Constitution.

"Ask our favorite, (William) Billy Esposo, who also put up a Cory (former Pres-

ident Corazon Aquino) media bureau that battled against media monopoly," he said.

The President said Roces, his father's mentor in journalism, was also detained at Fort Bonifacio during martial law for bravely publishing the unsanitized truth about the Marcos regime.

He said Benigno found it necessary, along with other foreign journalists, to establish the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines so that they could help balance the Marcos-controlled media.

"And of course, Stephen Solarz, who helped change US policy towards the Marcos regime from collaboration to eventually 'cut, and cut clean,'" he said.

"Why don't we ask these people if it would have been better? These heroes of ours knew better and, for the sake of the Filipino people, had to act. They, along with millions of Filipinos, acted in 1986 to take back and win back democracy," the President said.

He thanked the awardees and their families for the sacrifices they undertook to restore democracy in the Philippines.

"It is those sacrifices that we honor today. The revolution did not end in 1986, nor will it end after this 25th anniversary," the President said. (www.philstar.com)

**Noy off to Indonesia,
 Singapore in March**

by Aurea Calica
 Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011



President Noynoy Aquino

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino will embark on state visits to Indonesia and Singapore from March 7 to 11, Malacañang said.

Sources, meanwhile, said the President's trip to China has been set for May and that there are no indications that it would be scrapped because of the current issues involving Beijing and Taiwan.

China earlier postponed the execution of three overseas Filipino workers on death row for drug smuggling.

But the Philippines has to deal with Taiwan's fury over its decision to deport 14 Taiwanese nationals accused of large-

scale fraud to Beijing rather than to Taipei.

In December, the President announced his wish to visit China, saying the country was among the first to invite him after his inauguration in June.

But he said his trips to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-countries have to come first because heads of states in the region have been egging him to visit their countries. Also on his priority list are Thailand and Malaysia. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

1st Batch of 7,600 Marcos Rights Victims Get \$1,000 Each

by Rainier Allan Ronda
Tuesday, March 1, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - Twelve of the more than 7,600 human rights victims during the more than 20-year regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos were handed their \$1,000 compensation in an emotional ceremony yesterday morning at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan City.

The victims, who are eligible to get a share of the \$10-million compromise settlement with the heirs of the late Filipino-Chinese businessman Jose Yao Campos in connection with a claim they filed on lands in Texas and Colorado, were both sad about the memories evoked

by their long-awaited compensation for human rights violations they or their loved ones suffered and angry at the resurgence of the Marcoses in public office.

Retired Air Force colonel Nilo Olegario Sr., whose son Nilo Jr. was among the thousands who disappeared during martial law, said, "I feel bad that they (Marcoses) have returned to power, considering what they have done to us and the countless victims of human rights violations during that period. But what can I do? This is a free country."

Olegario's son was only 27 when he disappeared.

"I would gladly exchange this money for my son. Up to now, we still feel the pain, especially my wife," Olegario said, adding that they still hold cele-



Hilda Narciso (centre), a human rights victim under the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, becomes emotional as she receives a compensation cheque from lawyers.

brations every Feb. 14 for his son's birthday.

Another martial law victim, Fe Mangahas was teary-eyed as she recounted the torture she endured in the hands of security forces.

A professor at the Far Eastern University (FEU) during martial rule, Mangahas said she suffered a miscarriage of her first baby as a result of the torture inflicted on her during her detention.

She said the amount they

received yesterday symbolized the suffering that they have endured in their difficult battle to get justice.

Veteran film director Joel Lamangan, meantime, said the Marcoses should be prosecuted for the crimes that they have committed.

"This is a victory but the fight has to go on. Yes, I want the Marcoses to be prosecuted but the problem is the justice system here in the country is defective," said Lamangan, who was 17 years old and a student activist when he was detained and tortured.

Cecilia Lagman accepted the compensation on behalf of her son, lawyer Hermon Lagman, who like several others, disappeared during martial law. (www.philstar.com)

Del Rosario Wants Fewer Political Appointees

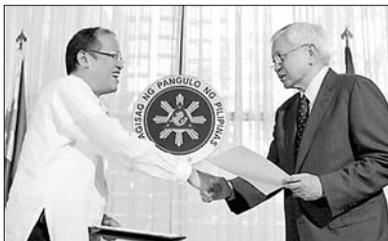
by Pia Lee-Brago
Monday, Feb. 28, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario has declared his policy direction and advocacy of hiring only a "few" political appointees while recruiting the "best and the brightest" under his leadership.

"I have thought about what policy directions in some areas I may like to take. I think I'd like to make a declaration that I'm an advocate of recruiting the best and brightest especially since this is a reform-oriented government," Del Rosario said at his first press conference on Friday at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Del Rosario was a political appointee of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when he served as Philippine ambassador to Washington from 2001 to 2006.

He was recalled for opposing Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency in 2006 after an alleged coup plot was foiled and for objecting to the government contract with Washington-



Pres. Noynoy Aquino shakes hands of newly-appointed Acting Foreign Affairs secretary Albert Del Rosario

based lobby firm Venable LLP, which the Arroyo government hired to secure support from the US Congress on the proposed Charter change.

The Arroyo administration acknowledged Del Rosario's accomplishments, including his contributions to the overall improvement of relations between the Philippines and the US.

Del Rosario promoted security cooperation involving defense, counterterrorism and law enforcement.

He also exerted efforts in getting US financial aid for Mindanao and support for the peace process between the

Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

His economic diplomacy and his success in convincing the California Public Employees Retirement System to keep the Philippines in its list of investment destinations were also acknowledged.

"My advocacy is to appoint as few political appointees as possible," he said, but made it clear that the replacement and appointments to key positions at the DFA might not immediately come.

Del Rosario assumed office as the country's top diplomat when the DFA was under fire

for the slow repatriation efforts in Libya.

Only on his second day in office, he flew to Tunisia Friday night to look personally after the welfare of the overseas Filipino workers and lead efforts to bring them out of that country as quickly as possible.

He will be assuming the DFA post in an "acting capacity" while Congress is in session but will have his "ad interim appointment" once the legislature goes on recess in late March.

Del Rosario admitted that President Aquino has given

"full" powers on the assignment, transfer, recall and promotion of officers in the Foreign Service.

However, he kept mum if he would recommend to the President the appointment of former Foreign Affairs secretary Alberto Romulo as next Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

"I don't know just yet," he said.

Career diplomats protested the practice of appointing political ambassadors. Appointing a substantial number of political ambassadors disrupt the regular rotation in the Foreign Service, they said. (www.philstar.com)

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FAMILY CORNER



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

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten

Schools benefit, too. Just as children need preparation to be ready for school, schools need to prepare for their students. When parents register their children well before the start of the school year, schools are able to anticipate an accurate count of incoming students and hire a sufficient number of qualified kindergarten teachers. This reduces the likelihood of having over-crowded classrooms—too many children and not enough teachers.

At the start of each school year, teachers usually spend a lot of time with their kindergarten developers routines, clarifying expectations in the classroom, and building relationships with and among students. They also spend time assessing the unique developmental and educational needs of the children in their class so that they can provide appropriate instruction. When a child starts school after the school year has begun, she misses this critical orientation period, and everyone in the class is affected as the teacher takes time to integrate the new student into the class. Registering early helps schools

to create the most effective learning environment for all children and to have the right number of teachers from the first day of school.

How to Register

Parents or legal guardians of children born on or before August 1, 2006 can begin registering them now for kindergarten at Hawai'i's public schools. Once registered, children can start school on the first day of the school year, August 1, 2011, even if they haven't reached their fifth birthday yet.

If parents are not sure which school their child should attend, they can call or visit an elementary school in their area. Office staff can help parents determine if their street address falls in the school's geographic area. Once parents know which school their child should attend, they will need to take several documents to the school to register their child. These include:

- Health records (Form 14)—children must have a physical examination, written documentation of required immunizations, and tuberculosis clearance to enter school on the first day.
- Birth certificate—an original or certified copy is re-

quired to verify the child's age.

- Legal documents—if there were changes to the child's name, custody arrangement, or guardianship, the legal documents that verify the changes are needed.
- Proof of current local address—a document such as an electric, telephone, or cable bill, or a housing or rental agreement that shows the address of the child's home.

Having all of the necessary documents at the time of registration is essential. Since children need a physical exam and must be up-to-date on all necessary immunizations before registering, early planning helps parents avoid the last minute rush at the doctor's office or any delays in starting school. For more information about registering children for kindergarten or for options for children born after August 1, call your nearest elementary school, or check the Department of Education website at <http://doe.k12.hi.us/parents/>.

GRACE FONG is the *Interim Director of the Center on the Family*, and SYLVIA YUEN is the *Interim Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa*.

Children born in 2006 are turning 5-years-old this year. If you have a 5-year-old, take the time now to register your child for kindergarten. Or, if you know someone who has a 5-year-old, remind them to register their child for kindergarten. Why register a child now instead of waiting until just before school starts on August 1? By registering early, families can access important resources they can use to begin their child's formal education on a positive note, and it helps their children's schools as well.

When families register their children early, schools are able to inform them about transition/orientation programs for children. These programs provide an opportunity for children and their families to get acquainted with their new school and help them ease into the school experience by addressing any apprehensions children or parents may have about "going to kindergarten." They provide parents with a chance to meet with teachers and other school staff to discuss expectations, school routines, and ways

parents can support their children's learning. Many schools also provide families with home learning packets that give suggestions for summer activities to help prepare children academically and behaviorally for the kindergarten classroom.

Families can use kindergarten registration as a starting point to begin preparing their child for the new experience of attending kindergarten so that the start of school can be a smooth, enjoyable experience for everyone. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk with your child about going to school, reassuring her that it is okay to go to school; talk about her feelings about going to school.
- Practice separating—spending time apart—especially if she has little or no experience being apart from you; reassure her that you will return.
- Practice school-day routines, e.g., going to bed early, getting up at a specific time, and having breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do things independently, e.g., toileting, putting away toys, or pouring her own cereal into a bowl.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Recipe File: So Cheesy, So Yummy

MANILA, Philippines - Pizza munchers are in for a treat as Kraft Eden Melt Sarap and Cook Sarap share this pizza-licious recipe.

Cheesy Bagnet Pizza

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 tsp. active yeast | |
| 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour | |
| 1 cup warm water | 4 1/2 tps. sugar |
| 1 1/4 tbsps. oil | 3/4 tps. salt |



Procedure:

1. Heat water in microwave oven until temperature reaches 105-115°F.
2. Sprinkle the yeast and stir until dissolved.
3. Add sugar and stir in a teaspoon of flour; set aside for five minutes. The mixture should begin to bubble.
4. After the yeast begins to bubble, add it to the remaining ingredients in the bowl of an electric mixer.
5. Knead on low speed for 15 minutes. When the

dough is smooth and elastic it is ready to begin the rising phase. Place a few drops of oil at the bottom of a large heavy bowl.

6. Place the rounded dough ball in the bowl and turn to coat the mass lightly with oil. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Allow the dough to rise, undisturbed until it has nearly doubled in bulk. At this point, the dough may be punched down (deflated — the air bubbles pressed out) and stretched to form a pizza crust. Allow to rise in the refrigerator for two to four hours before pressing/stretching out into a pizza crust shape.
7. When ready to bake, set the baking rack in the oven to the lower or lower-middle rack and set the oven temperature to 475 or 500°F. Allow oven to preheat for at least 20 minutes. While the oven preheats, stretch (don't roll) the dough out to a 14-inch diameter circle. The dough may be pressed out on a work surface and transferred to an ungreased pan.

Top pizza dough with tomato sauce, small bagnet pieces, sliced green peppers and one cup grated Eden Melt Sarap. Bake until done. (www.philstar.com)



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LEGAL NOTES

Single Card for Employment and Travel of Adjustment Applicants



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The USCIS announced recently that it will issue employment and travel authorization to adjustment of status applicants on a single card. Previously, only the employment authorization document (EAD) was issued in the form of a plastic card and the advance parole document was an actual paper document. A single EAD card with advance parole endorsement is more durable, secure and convenient.

According to a Policy Memorandum dated December 21, 2010, the USCIS found that it is cost-effective to adjudicate

Forms I-765 and I-131 simultaneously and issue a single document if both benefits are granted. The USCIS makes separate adjudications of applications for these ancillary benefits, although the information required from the applicant and the processes followed by the adjudicator are similar.

Approximately 15% of EAD applicants with pending adjustment applications file a Form 131 concurrently with or shortly after filing the I-485, and approximately 93% of those applications are approved.

Also referred to as Form I-766, this new dual-purpose card is available to eligible individuals with pending family- or employment-based I-485 applications who have concurrently filed an application for em-

ployment authorization (I-765) and an application for travel document (I-131). Separate EAD and advance parole documents will continue to be issued if only one ancillary benefit is requested, or if they were concurrently filed but the I-131 is denied.

For adjustment applications filed under the new fee structure (on or after July 30, 2007 for family-based cases, and on or after August 18, 2007 for employment-based cases) there are no separate fees for Form I-765 and I-131, and the applicant need only pay the I-485 fee of \$1,070 fee, inclusive of the biometrics fee.

On the other hand, if the adjustment application was filed under the old fee structure, the card will cost \$740 which is equal to the combined costs for Forms I-131 and I-765.

An advance parole document enables an adjustment of status applicant to travel abroad and re-enter the United States. Without advance parole, an alien who leaves the U.S. is considered to have abandoned his/her adjustment application. The alien will not be permitted to re-enter the U.S. without first obtaining some kind of visa, but in such a case the adjustment application will be considered abandoned except in the case of holders of certain types of visas, such as H and L visas.

The alien must request parole at the port of entry by presenting the advance parole document. The determination to grant parole is also made at the port of entry. Once in, the alien is considered a parolee and not someone who has been "admit-

ted" for immigration purposes.

Advance parole does not cure inadmissibility due to unlawful presence accrued prior to the filing of the adjustment application. Therefore, individuals who are subject to the 3 or 10-year bar should carefully consider whether they need to file Form I-131.

The new dual purpose card looks similar to the current EAD but has the endorsement "Serves as I-512 Advance Parole". The USCIS may issue a card validity of one or two years depending on the availability of immigrant visas, but it may in its discretion issue the card for a longer or shorter period. The new card may be used for employment eligibility verification (I-9) by employers as a List A document.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

US Senator Refiles Save Act

MANILA. Philippines - US Senator John Ensign from Nevada has refiled the Save the Industries Act before the US Senate in a bid to help revive the local Philippine textile industry.

The Philippine government has been asking the US to pass the Save Act because it will revive the local garments industry by allowing tariff free export of garments to the US.

In an interview, Board of

Investments (BOI) managing head Cristino L. Panlilio said that the country needs to get more support for the bill because currently it only has one sponsor in the Senate as opposed to the last time it was filed when it had more sponsors.

"We don't know if the Save Act will piggy back on some other trade bill," Panlilio said. He noted that there is new direction for the Save Act given that

there is a new BOI Executive Director who is leading the lobbying for the bill.

On the side of the House of Representatives, Panlilio said Representative James Mc Dermott has refiled the bill.

Should the Save Act be approved, Panlilio said that the local garments industry will be able to regain lost ground. He said that for four decades until the 90's, garment was one of the leading exports of the country.

He said that in the 70's garments exported P3 billion worth of goods and employed 600,000 people.

Unfortunately, free trade agreements and the World Trade Organization (WTO) has dulled the local garments industry as the Philippines lost out its competitiveness in garments to Vietnam, Bangladesh, Honduras and Costa Rica.

Under the 809 component of the program, US made fabrics and yarns cut and wholly assembled in the Philippines

would qualify to re-enter the United States free of duty. In addition, garments made of US spun yarn or extruded yarn formed in the Philippines, may re-enter the United States at 50 percent of the most favored nation (MFN) duty.

The Philippine garments export industry, during its peak, employed around 600,000 workers but was whittled down to 150,000 as cheaper garments are being manufactured from neighboring countries. (www.philstar.com)

Cebuana Lhuillier Visits MoneyGram in Dallas

Representatives from Cebuana Lhuillier, a pawn shop giant with stores throughout the Philippines, met with MoneyGram International, a Dallas-based global money transfer company, to discuss current and future business plans and promotions for the year.

During the meeting, Cebuana Lhuillier officials discussed plans to introduce more locations in the Philippines in 2011 and the promotion of its Philippines peso payout at all locations, and U.S. dollar payout at select locations. The company is pursuing strong marketing endeavors to increase brand awareness such as promoting its send partners such as MoneyGram.

Another success has been Cebuana Lhuillier's partnering

with the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in reaching Overseas Filipino Workers en route to work destinations around the world in such places as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Canada, Australia, Denmark and South Korea.

"Our commitment is to bring MoneyGram and Cebuana Lhuillier closer to the families of the overseas Filipino workers through our branch expansion program and provide them the kind of service that they rightfully deserve," says Cebuana Lhuillier Financial Services Chairman Philippe J. Lhuillier.

Cebuana has been a major MoneyGram sub-agent and in November, Cebuana became a

direct MoneyGram agent. The company has continuously helped drive transaction growth in the Philippines and been recognized several times with

awards from MoneyGram.

"With more than 1,200 locations throughout the Philippines, Cebuana is a major MoneyGram partner," says Ivy

Wisco, senior marketing manager for MoneyGram. "MoneyGram has had a great business relationship with Cebuana. Whenever we get opportunities to meet with our global partners we always try to do so."

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ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

SINIMPA ni Lakay Torcuato Day-oan iti panagtugawanna iti pagurayan ti lugan. Mapan idiaay Aala Park nga ayuyang dagiti padana nga oldtimer. Dandani itan ti THE BUS iti eskediulna nga inoras. Nagtengngaag idi mapasungadanna ti babai a nakaisputing. Kiniddayak ti lakay, Immisem.

Nagtilmon ni Lakay Torcuato. Timmakder idi makaasigdig ti babai. Nasay-opna ti makasalibukag a sapsapo. Pinallilitanna. Arimbetaken ti isem nupay namednadan met laeng. Damoda ngamin ti agkita ket!

Dimteng ti bus. Pinauna ni Lakay Torcuato ti babai a limmugan. Insarang la ti lakay ti Senior BusPassna iti dryber. Mayat man ti takderma iti nangato a palukbot. Atiddog ti manggas ti badona a Hawaiiian print. Nasaranta pay la dagiti askawna. Nupay bangking ti

Dagiti Agkamkamat Iti Biahe

nangisit a sapatosna, nasileng ketdi. Iggem ni Lakay Torcuato ti bassit a transistor radio. Programa Ilokana ti maipatpatangatang. Pasarayna idennes ti radio iti lapayagna tapno maawatanna a nalaining ti ngiwngiwaten ti tanawtaw a tanawtanaw nga anausser. Naballaetan iti ababa a komersial maipapan iti itlog ti pugo a pagpapigsa ti tumeng. Naisarunon pay ti sabali a komersial a maipapan iti balikbayan a programa ti turay.

Nakutagawen ni Lakay Torcuato idi mapanak agtugaw iti likudan. Kasla nailansa dagiti mata ti lakay iti babai. Nagsig-am daytoy. Insemanna ti babai. Napukray ti pallilit ngem insubalit ti babai.

Naipatayab ti kanta a "Balasang a Nabaketan" iti transistor. Simmugpet ti rupa ti babai. Idi aggibus ti kanta, limmukay met la ti rupa ti babai.

Kasla nagagara a naisaruno ti sonata a "Baro a Baak". Kasta unay ti kumpas dagiti saka ti lakay. Dangdanggayanna ti baho ti sonata. Mayat la unay iti pannakaigdig ti katekna ket uray nga a gangkangang ti datar ti lugan. Saloner. Inkapkasputna ti uni ti transistor. Nadlaw ti lakay a kasla naipana amin a mata kenkuana iti panangilaglag-

oyna iti makumkumpasan a tokar.

Simmurano manen ti sabali a komersial ti balikbayan: "Siasion man a mayat a sumurot itoy naisangsangayan a biahe para Filipinas intono Setiembre, umawag koma a dagus itoy a numero." Naibasa ti numero a maawagan. "Daytoy ti espesial a biahe para kadagiti nataengan ken agbirbikok iti kapungnan!" Naballaetan ti nalangpaw ken kasla mangsustulit nga alak-ak ti disc jockey. "Awan danag a panagbaniga: Las Vegas style, nalaka pay! Alisto ti kasar!"

Kasla nasigkatan ti mata ti lakay. Nabennat ti lapayagna iti uray la nga. Nagisem pay iti bangbangir. Ur-urayenna a pasaranunon ti disc jockey ti ipus ti alak-akna iti nayon ti pagpapigsa ti tumeng malaksid ti itlog ti pugo. Pudno a kumapsuten. Uray no manon a sandia ken abokado ipanegna a kas yang-angaw a kanayan dagiti am-ammona, talaga a mapukawanon ti namnamana. Pindadna payen ti kunada a marunggay.

Pakaptanna met ti tirem ngem naalas met no kua ta mapan idiaay Maunakea.

Baro a lakay ni Lakay Torcuato Day-oan. Sakada a pulpol. Naggapu iti away iti

Nagkuyakoyan. Nagtrabaho iti plantasion ti unas. Nagtrabaho pay kadagiti kapiniaan. Iti adu a rigat ken kinababa ti sueldo, dandani dina nasuratan dagiti kabagianna idiaay awaya. Saan ketdi a nakalipat a kas kadagiti dadduma nga OT. Pasaray pay met la agipaw-iti idi ngem ita nga agpempensionen, a ket, manmano metten pimanen ta limitado metten, ken manmano a makuawat ti surat — nia garud ket dina met mapagustuan dagiti agsursurat kenkuana idin. Tsssskk.

ITA A BIGAT, uray saanan a patuloyen ti mapan idiaay Aala Park. Surontena laengen daytoy a babai. Ania ngata ti naganna? Perfidia? Arcadia? Tiborsia? Timotea? Ania ti palayawna ngata? Idianga? Arkad? Kadianga? Akkad? Wenko Bursia? Timoting?

Ngem Hawaii ditoyen amagan no pinasam-itna metten iti Perf! Arcade! Tim! Timmy! Ti Torcuato ngay? Torc! Toring! Ti ellek ti unegna.

Dinno ngata ti maturonnga? Marakulibet ti imbansagna a palludip. Napilipit met a sinip-pay ti babai. Uray lakayen no isut' gasat, kasla kasta ti kunkuna dagiti itaktakawna a panangkita iti pensionado.

Bumak metten ti babai. Amagan no nalabesen ti last tripna.

"Papanam kadi adikko?" impasparak ni Lakay Torcuato. Kasla napaluknayan ti riknana. Agassidgeda iti nagtugawan. Agkabatogda.

"Nak koma idiaay imigrasion, Tal...Nong," pinasam-itna.

"Ipaismo kadi ti asawaman?" impasparak ti lakay.

"Innak koma man makidumamang no mabalinko nga ibennat ti kaaddak ditoy, 'nong'."

"Apay a benmatem?" Rummur manen ti natural ti lakay. Adda met sense of humor.

"Dandani ngamin agpaspon ti bisak!"

"Bisak! Dandani ngamin agpaspon?"

Ti bisana ti kayat a sawen ti babai. Madanagan ta visitor visa la nga immay. Di met ngarud makastrek iti trabaho tapno pakaigawidanna koma. Apay ngamin aya a saan a working visa ti inaplikaranna para abrod. Di met ngarud nasayaat no agTNT.

Nagplastar ni Lakay Torc. Inmurnosna ti kuelio ti polo a

Hawaiiian print. Nagsig-am.

"Balasangkayo pay?"

"Wen!, kayatko koma pay ti agbayag ditoy. Magustuaq ditoy Hawaii. Ngem madagananak ta mapagawidak metten iti di unay mabayagan."

"Ania ngarud ti pampannuon nga aramidna a pakaigawidana ita?"

"Uray anian. No adda pakaigawidak, uray makiasawaak koman no adda mailaw-an kadatoo."

Dandani naipukan ni Lakay Torcuato. Unegam ammanen. Baamman, nakuna ti unegna.

"Saan met ngata a nagrat dayta, adikko. Ti la ngata met ad-adiyo met. Amagan no mangpalipikayo uneg."

"Saan met nang, ngem tagalaga nga awan san ti makadulid a mailaw-an kadatoo."

"Nagpintaska pay met! Mano kadi ti tawenmon?"

"Kuarenta y singko" nababa ti timek ti babai.

"Ne, ket sweet uppat a dies pay met gayam a nasurok! Kaim-imasanna!" Nalangepa ti ellek ti lakay a baak. "Sikisti nainko metten. Ket ammom, agbirbikokak met ket ti kua..."

pinallilitanna ti babai.

Kas itay damo, napilipit manen ti isem ti babai.

"Awan danagmon, adikko!" nagkatek ti lakay a baak. "Uray materminon ti bisam. Siglatam laengen. Kuumang daytoy a pensionado! Sitisin ket pensionado payen. Pensionadokanto metten no kua..."

Dayta!

Umis-isem a napadumog ti babai. Ala, adu la ketdi ti mapampanuotna. Wen, suratananto dagiti kakabagianna a dida pay segseggaan ti sublina.

Namako kad' pay a rambak ti kallsayda. Kasla dengdengenna dagiti kablawa dagiti am-ammoda. "Good luck kadakay a dua! Bay-am man ta edad. Kitaen la ti gasat no kumagat!"

Alla! Agarapaap ti baak. Torcuato a pimanaw idiaay Nagkuyakoyan. Torcuato pay la ita. Ket no maigasatanna daytoy a bisita, aya! Ikuoyngan nga agbalikbayan. Ituloyna ti agsida ti marunggay ken manggan ti sandia. Makapagbiahe pay met ketdi ngaya idiaay awaya. Sipti kano metten ti dalan. Sabtendanto ida idiaay Nagsapalan. Kablaawandanto ida.

"Tira, Pari Day-oan! Ikkam! Agawaam ta ganaygay! Subbotem anin nga aldaw ken

(continues on page 15)

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TRAVELOGUE (cont.)

(from page 16, ROMANCING...)

Thankfully, at the end of our long walk back to town, there was the Lemon Pie House to give us comfort. Although I didn't care much for their lemon pie because it tasted like Fruitella candies with the texture of bad pudding, the vegetables they served us were as fresh as Sagada veggies could be, and they were absolutely delicious.

High cuisine and high on the roof

On our last night, we traipsed off to our buffet dinner at Log Cabin, still somewhat dead beat from splunking earlier in the afternoon. The well-appointed resto is by far my most favorite eating place in Sagada. There, you can enjoy a great dining experience, buffet style, for as little as Php350 (US\$8). The place's crown jewel is a French chef known only by his Igorot name, Aklay. Every weekend, he puts together a menu made from fresh ingredients: items like Sagada greens salad with strawberries, Ethiopian berbere made from native chicken, and Filipino tableya chocolate and walnut brownies for dessert. The restaurant successfully interweaves global haute cuisine with

Filipino gastronomic culture, so make sure not to miss out on this one.

My friends were not too impressed with the food, however, and they said it tasted "too Western." Maybe they were right, because the place was packed with Europeans and Americans who chattered off inexorably and nonchalantly ignored the blackout that occurred in the middle of our dinner. Nonetheless, I enjoyed my food immensely and even helped myself to four servings; one could never have too much of the good stuff, you know.

The following morning, it was pack-up time. After fixing my stuff, I took a little stroll among the hotel's orange trees, past the campfire circles where bottles of expensive Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were discarded by the wealthier guests, putting our cheap vodka and soda bottles from the night before to shame. I took deep breaths and tried to take in as much of the carefree spirit of Sagada as I could. I wished I could stay just a little bit longer.

But then it was time to go. Gao, ever a trustworthy hotelier-cum-driver, dropped us off in downtown. By that time, sights of minibuses and

vans careening off roads with 10 or more people on their roofs have become normal. And since many among the townsfolk believe you've never really been to Sagada if you haven't experienced riding on the roof, what else was left for us to do? All six of us climbed on the roof of the Fierra along with a handful of locals, our daypacks, and all the courage we could muster.

The hour-long trip back to Bontoc was exhilarating. From our vantage point, the whole of the Cordilleras seemed to breathe and pulsate with life. And the inhabitants – the women carrying bags of vegetables and fruits on their heads, the children playing with their pet dogs, and the men in cowboy hats standing dangerously near the cliffs but never actually falling off – they were all part of her, the great, omnipotent mountain range.

Now the part where I return to Manila? I'll gladly pass over it. Yes, it's probably most un-Tolkiennesque of me to leave the story hanging, but I really prefer not talking about return journeys, and especially not about the prolonged ones that last half a day. After all, every adventure is just a little stopover before the next one.

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE (cont.)

(from page 14, DAGITI...)

rabiim a nalibatawan!"
 Naguta ni maladaga nga ubba ti maysa nga ina iti akinsango a tugaw.
 Pinereng ni Lakay Torcuato ti babai. Napigpigket itan ti perreng ti babai.
 Idi agsarendng ti Bus iti downtown, nagsaronunda a bimmaba. Impigpiga manen ni Lakay Torc ti uni ti transistor. Nagalang-ang manen ti disc jockey. Naulit ni komersial maipapan iti ilog ti pugo. Daytoy a Bernie ket!
 Nagkaabay da Lakay Torc ken ti babai a nangsurot ti sidewalk. Ket, ne, dida pay gayam nagam-ammo, ay!
 "Siak ni Toring adikko, portipaib kunam itay ti tawenmo?"
 "Wen, nong, furtipayb ken siak met ni Timotea".
 "Ay siak met Timoting, sikisti nain pal furtipayb ekuals Wanhandred fur yrs no agtipon ti tawenta!" Nagsinnikilda bayat ti pannagnada.

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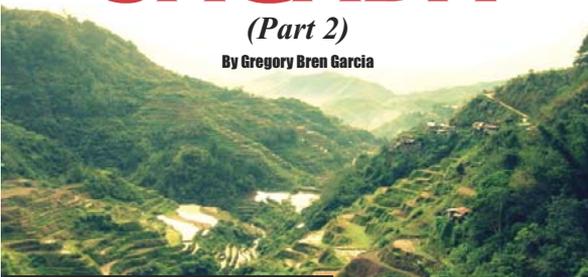
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Romancing SAGADA

(Part 2)

By Gregory Bren Garcia



The Banauwe Rice Terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Nature and traditions

We went to the municipal hall early next morning to meet our guide for the trekking and spelunking tour. We chose a Php1000 (US\$23) tour package and were lucky enough to get a very clever guide. In Sagada, most locals speak English, not Tagalog, as their second tongue; our guide, in particular, spoke the language very well.

He was about our age in his mid-20s and looked very unassuming in his worn-out clothes and flip-flops. But when he talked about the town's natural wonders and their tribal traditions, he did it with such fervor that even other groups of tourists followed us around and listened in on his lectures.

We passed by the Church of St. Mary the Virgin (the local Christian population is mainly Anglican not Roman Catholic) and the Echo Valley, where far off in the surrounding limestone outcrops, visitors can see the hanging coffins of the deceased members of indigenous tribesmen. Our guide talked about the elaborate funeral ritual which

ended in the hanging of the coffin on a carved mountainside to bring the dead's spirit closer to heaven.

After visiting similar burial sites located at the mouth of the nearby Lumiang Cave, we headed off to the famous Sumaguig Cave to explore its beautiful stone formations. Our 150-foot descent into the cave was a precarious one because we had to tread on stones which were slippery from the presence

of water and bat guano. Fearing I might contract fungal histoplasmosis from the guano, I also donned a face mask, just in case.

I'll admit I became a bit apprehensive upon seeing the dark chasm into which we were supposed to go, but my fears were allayed when I saw that many other explorers were also going into the cave. The speed by which those five-year-old kids and their portly mothers traversed the guano-strewn boulders

put everyone in our group to shame. But their valiant spirits also inspired and emboldened us, and in no time, we too were deep into the belly of Sumaguig.

Our guides illuminated our path with petrol lamps so we could see our way better. Nevertheless, we still struggled on our way down. We grasped every nook, cranny, and jutting rock, and crouched low to the ground to avoid slipping. On

the contrary, our guides were very surefooted and had nary a trouble negotiating the slippery rocks.

I was amazed by the cave's beautiful rock formations, which resembled everything from chocolate candies to human genitalia. And the fact that it took millions of years for them to take shape made them even more remarkable. Our guides brought us to different spots inside the cave, and we spent a good amount of time having our pictures taken or resting our feet in the pools of cool water that were all around the cave.

If struggling down Sumaguig Cave was tiring, the ascent back to the top was downright murderous. And because we didn't book for any pickup service, we also had to walk back to town; by the time we go there, our legs and lungs were just about ready to fall off. Trust me on this one: if pickup service is available, make sure to arrange for your hotel to collect you after caving. I'm sure that by the time you're done with your spelunking adventure, the last thing you will want to do is walk some more!

(continued on page 15)

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