

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 ◆

FILIPINO DIASPORA SUMMIT TO OPEN NEW DOORS FOR RP

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DIASPORA TO DEVELOPMENT:
GLOBAL SUMMIT
OF FILIPINOS IN THE DIASPORA
27-29 SEPTEMBER 2011 - MANILA, PHILIPPINES



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EDITORIAL

Manila Conference to Highlight Impact of OFWs

On 2010, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sent a record-breaking \$18.76 billion worth of remittances to loved ones in the Philippines. Remittances that year accounted for about 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

It is clear that Filipinos working overseas contribute greatly to the economy of the Philippines. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) points out that diaspora communities provide economic and social development potentials for both their home and host countries. The IOM states: "[Diaspora communities]... have contacts with potential business partners in countries of destination and can facilitate the establishment of trade and production links that promote the market access of export goods from developing countries. Diaspora communities can also influence the economic and political processes of host countries in favor of their home countries."

Recognizing the potential of contributions from the Filipino diaspora, the Philippine government established the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) in 1980. Since then, the organization has been at the forefront of involving Filipinos based overseas in development efforts for the home country. It has institutionalized programs that have channeled around US\$ 58 million worth of development assistance into the country.

In September this year, the CFO, in cooperation with the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) and the U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG), is organizing the "Diaspora to Development: Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora" in Manila. It will be the largest ever gathering of overseas Filipino professionals and community leaders, with 700 participants from 40 countries expected to convene at the Philippine International Convention Center. The conference will highlight the achievements of overseas Filipinos and discuss how their resources and skills could be harnessed for the country's social, cultural and economic development. It is also a part of the larger "Diaspora to Development" initiative, which seeks to provide the framework and strategies for mobilizing the Philippine diaspora in several areas of action.

We commend this initiative and feel that it is long overdue. The people behind it believe in the Filipino "can-do" spirit and value the ties that bind the homeland and its people. They should serve as examples to overseas Filipinos who constantly overlook the country's achievements and only see the homeland as a nation in a perpetual moribund state. Best wishes to them as well as the handful of Hawaii participants for a successful conference!

Let's Look Into New Technology for Sewage Treatment and Disposal

On a recent memo to the City administration, Council leaders have requested that all planning and design work for a second biosolids digester at Sand Island be suspended until alternative sewage treatment and disposal technologies are given a chance to demonstrate their capabilities.

According to council leadership, preliminary indications show that some of the proposed new biosolids disposal technologies could possibly be tested at minimal or no cost to the City. Floor leader Romy Nachola has repeatedly called for a pilot project to test these new technologies, which he says could temporarily address the reported excess of sludge currently plaguing the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and also eliminate the need to haul truckloads of sludge through select communities.

Earlier this year, the Council deleted \$26 million in the FY 2012 budget for a second digester and adopted a resolution urging the

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

elcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Before anything, we'd like to wish you a very Happy Labor Day. Filipinos are hard workers, juggling two or even three jobs to make ends meet and provide for their families. You've earned an extra day of rest, so go ahead and enjoy!

Have you noticed the number of natural calamities that have recently impacted the Atlantic seaboard? A 5.8 magnitude quake jolted the East coast and shook buildings as far north as Maine. Just a few days ago, Hurricane Irene—the first major hurricane of the 2011 season—pummeled the East coast and left extensive flood and wind damage. Hawaii has had its share of unusual weather lately, albeit minor in comparison. A powerful storm from New Zealand generated 15-foot high waves much to the delight of surfers. Such monstrous surf is rarely seen on our south shores. Let's hope and pray that we make it through unscathed for the rest of 2011.

For this issue, contributing writer Gregory Bren Garcia submitted an article on an upcoming conference aimed at galvanizing the large numbers of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) into a contributing and productive force for the Philippines. While Hawaii may not have many OFWs, Filipinos here regularly send money to relatives in the Philippines which also helps to boost the nation's economy. The government alone cannot single-handedly turn around the fortunes of the Philippines. It will take a concerted effort by OFWs, the private sector and government agencies to start making a difference. Please read more in Gregory's article entitled "Filipino Diaspora Summit to Open New Doors for RP" which begins on page 12.

Congratulations are in order to former State Senate president Bobby Bunda, who has been nominated to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART). Bunda is the only Filipino who will sit on the 10-member board which oversees the City's \$5.3 billion transit system. He is well-qualified for the position and with his legislative experience, he will be able to bring people together and find solutions to even the toughest problems relating to transit. We wish him all the very best!

On page 8 is a brief story on the upcoming 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy that impacted our nation. Filipino groups on the mainland are commemorating the victims, including a handful of our *kabayans* who were killed that eventful day. We mourn for them, as well as for the thousands of others who lost their lives.

In closing, there are other columns of interest that we hope you will enjoy reading—columns like "Immigration Guide" (page 7), "Travel & Tourism" (page 9), "Family Corner" (page 12), "Legal Notes" (page 13) and Philippine Language (page 14). Thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

City to investigate alternative technologies for the beneficial reuse of sewage sludge. Councilmembers Stanley Chang and Ann Kobayashi, who are chair and vice chair of the Public Works Committee, say these technologies could prove to be cost-effective, environmentally friendly and have the potential to generate revenue through energy production. Furthermore, they say that some of these technologies have already been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Health. Chang and Kobayashi have urged the City's consultant tasked with coordinating the study of these technologies to send an advisory and request for information to the entire sewage treatment industry.

The City has been relatively unenthusiastic when it comes to embracing new technology, particularly those with no or little performance record. We understand their reluctance, particularly with public health and safety and tens of millions of dollars at stake. However, it makes perfect sense to at least test some of these technologies in a pilot program, particularly since the City has nothing to lose.

Addressing Honolulu's sewage treatment problems may require a totally different approach or even a combination of technologies—who knows? But let's at least take the first step and test them in a pilot program. Honolulu has little to lose and much to gain.



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OPINION

Rivals, But Not Enemies

FROM A DISTANCE By Carmen N. Pedrosa

By the time this column comes out President Aquino will have come back from China. As expected, there will be the usual euphoria of having "brought home the bacon" that chief executives like to boast about such visits.

Personally, I think any renewal of trade and development relations is a beginning and as a people we would be taken more seriously if we were more restrained. Development agreements need time and plenty of good sense to succeed.

Moreover the onus on making development succeed does not lie on the Philippines alone.

It will also depend very much on the two superpowers vying for the favor of our country.

We are not a big country but we are strategically located at the heart of the Asian maritime heartland. That makes us attractive to both suitors. Ironically the Philippines can only take advantage of the economic opportunities on offer if China and the US cooperate with each other. Relations between China and the United States as far as the Spratly problem concerned is touch and go. It calls for caution because rivals can be very easily turn into enemies. There is a thin line between the two.

The metaphor of courtship between two rivals for a lady's love is a good one. One suitor promises to defend the lady's honor bringing gifts of arms and battleships. The other offers a better life with funding and trade for its development. Which one will the fountain bless? If our officials play it smart they can play the rivals' game and win concessions from both.

* * *

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao in his letter to President Aquino before he left for China played the history card. Continuing the courtship metaphor, Ambassador Liu says the Philippines and China are family, having known each other even before Ferdinand Magellan landed in Cebu.

"Well known as it has been

for ages, our two countries and cultures are intertwined by blood and history." The ambassador was in Bohol where it is believed a blood compact was drawn between Magellan and the Filipino sultan. When a friend suggested to the ambassador to make a blood compact he was quick on the draw and replied: "I don't really believe it is at all necessary for us to do this because the blood of the Chinese and Philippine people have been mixed for centuries, but I would not hesitate to do so if the Governor says yes. As Your Excellency put it in your interview with the Chinese media several days ago, 'The strength of the relationship is always inherent within the countries that are very close neighbors.'"

He added what many have been sure to many Filipino businessmen. "I've said before that while the Philippine economy is taking off, China is ready to add strength to its wings. I hope that your visit would be another magic feather making the wings more powerful."

And finally, like a true Oriental, he plucks the sentimental string and appeals to emotion recalling the visit of the President's late mother, Cory Aquino.

"Mr. President, you will follow your mother's footsteps imprinted 23 years ago, tracing your Chinese roots and meeting with your town fellows in Hongjian Village near Xiamen. The village was where Her Excellency stroke a chord with the villagers by saying, "I am not only the President of the Philippines, but also the daughter of Hongjian." That's powerful stuff."

* * *

It may be fortuitous that while the courtship of the Philippines is taking place the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) between the Philippines and the US is marking its 60th anniversary. The West ever pragmatic conducts its court with this defense treaty. No emotions there just a reminder from the Department of State that "it is the cornerstone of the two countries' relations and a

source of stability in the region."

There is blood flowing in this friendship, too. A spokesperson of the Washington, DC-based agency said the two nations "share a deep and abiding friendship forged in a history of common sacrifice." The blood she talks of is about the many Filipinos who died beside American servicemen and women during World War II and the veterans buried at the Manila American Cemetery that bear testament to our shared past.

The US courtship calls on the strong security relationship between Manila and Washington because of this treaty. It is pragmatic consideration but among Orientals such a relationship despite the shed blood in battle is not as strong or deep enough as a blood relation and the closeness of a neighbor.

Moreover, that offered defense is premised on a speculation. It is useful only if an attack on the Philippines were to happen. Many China watchers have said and I agree it can hardly happen because it is not in the interest of China. It will continue brandishing its growing wealth and power but not for war or conquest. The American courtship based on such speculation is hardly seductive.

Having said that, the Philippines should play a clever game with the cards it possesses - China for aid and development and the US for the security it offers. These need not be exclusive but our leaders must be shrewd enough not to be misled.

* * *

So what did President Aquino's visit do for the country? The problem of the Spratlys remains. President Hu Jintao asked Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to set it aside. He says rightly that it is not the only issue that matters between the two countries.

Because they met personally, President Hu Jintao and President Aquino according to reports were able to fulfill their promise before the visit to "agree to disagree" about disputes on the Spratly. Acrimonious remarks were being made for them in media. The two countries resolved to continue



Pres. Noyonoy Aquino and Chinese Pres. Hu Jintao

working and trading with each other as they have for hundreds of years.

We will know in the coming days the results of the friendly meetings, contracts

signed and implemented and just how much of the promises of aid and development will come from China.

More importantly China will respect the regional framework and work with Asian countries to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

"China is ready to work with the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including the Philippines, to actively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," Hu said.

Spratlys has acquired a new name as "a sea of friendship." (www.phlstar.com)

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Filipino Diaspora Summit to Open New Doors for RP

By Gregory Bren Garcia

Organizers of the largest gathering of overseas Filipino professionals and community leaders are gearing up for the arrival of over 700 participants from at least 40 different countries for the “Diaspora to Development: Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora” which is scheduled for September 27-29, 2011 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

Spearheaded by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and co-organized by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFAA) and the U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG), the conference aims to involve overseas Filipinos in priority development projects in the Philippines by encouraging them to share the expertise and experience they have gained while they were employed or domiciled abroad. The conference theme, “Diaspora to De-

velopment (D2D),” gives emphasis on the significant role that overseas Filipinos play in the country’s socio-cultural life and in its economic development.

The D2D initiative consists of a panoply of integrated and comprehensive programs, which build on best practices already developed by other countries, including China’s trade-focused initiatives, India’s brain drain reversal schemes and Venezuela’s expert exchange visits. D2D lays



Officers and members of U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG)

down the many different models that overseas Filipinos can abide by in order to participate and remain engaged in the development of the country—from diaspora philanthropy to diaspora investment and entrepreneurship; from eco-tourism to health and wellness tourism programs; from retirement options to medical and dental missions; and from legal assistance to overseas Filipinos in distress to *Alay Dunong sa Bayan* initiatives (transfer and sharing of competencies, skills, knowledge, science, technology, and arts and culture).

For the Good of the Motherland

According to Atty. Golda Roma, CFO Program Director, their organization has always had the belief that “Filipinos, wherever they go, will always return home for love of country.” This is the underpinning principle and mantra behind the D2D project and the overseas Filipino summit.

“The CFO wants to bring Filipinos together to reinvigorate further the nationalist spirit through development assistance to the motherland. They can be a good influence in terms of the economy, because they can bring in new ideas, business models, innovative skills and new technologies that can help perk up industries in the Philippines,” she says.

Furthermore, overseas Filipinos can also have a hand in

the political processes in the homeland. Roma shares that at the time when the CFO was still lobbying for the passage of the Overseas Absentee Voting Act, they already thought of overseas Filipinos as swing voters in the sense that they can help alter the nature and schemes in Philippine politics, thanks to their experiences working and living in more developed and more politically-stable countries.

“[Having observed] the working social democracies and the new breed of leadership overseas, [Filipinos abroad can now choose better] leaders through the absentee voting law. While the law has its flaws and limitations, it is a big step towards a better participatory and more intelligent electorate,” Roma says.

Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG convener and member, also believes that with nationalism still in their hearts, Filipinos can work together for the preservation of Philippine culture and the betterment of the country’s economic and political environment.

“In times [when] there is an urgent need to influence the economic and political processes in the Philippines, overseas Filipinos can easily unite to move and act for a good cause for our *kababayans* and our motherland,” she says.

During the summit, participants will enjoy the benefit of meeting other Filipinos who have afforded respective con-

tributions to the motherland. Lamkin hopes that the attendees see the event as an opportunity to tap into one another’s vast repository of skills and knowledge.

Past Successes and Future Opportunities

Developing a successful national strategy for engaging the Filipino diaspora requires time, adequate preparation and good execution. It is a good thing that the Philippine government had long prognosticated the need to strengthen the ties between overseas Filipinos and their home country, thus founding the CFO in 1980.

And perhaps the significance of the Philippines’ ties with its diaspora community is most apparent in the material and financial donations that have been channeled into the country through CFO’s *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL) program. Since its inception in 1989, more than Pnp2.47 billion or US\$58 million worth of educational scholarships, educational materials, medicines, health services, livelihood programs and small infrastructure development projects have already been sourced through the CFO LINKAPIL program.

In addition, Roma says that non-government organizations (NGOs), including the Ayala Foundation, Atikha, Unlad Kabayan and others, have also done their share in involving

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, FILIPINO...)

overseas Filipinos.

“What they managed to do over the past years was to provide avenues by which this assistance can redound to the needs of the communities, have a monitoring procedure, partially assess the impact of the assistance to the improvement of the community beneficiaries and facilitate further the delivery of the assistance from overseas to the Philippines,” she says.

But in which areas does the CFO think Filipinos can do better in the years ahead so that they can create a more sophisticated, targeted and harmonized strategy for engagement of the Filipino diaspora? One way, according to Roma, is to address the issue of matching the assistance to the real needs of the community.

“[It is necessary so] that such support will sustainably and efficiently address the needs of the poor; so that the needs will be distributed to other areas, and not just focused in the hometown or alumni of the donor; and so that the needs will have longer effects and not just address the immediate needs. In the global summit, we will show how these can be done through community-based monitoring systems [and other projects],” she says.

Another way is “counterparting” with stakeholders from the Philippine side.

“To make it sustainable, there should also be contributions from the LGUs (local government units) or community beneficiaries, not necessarily in the form of money, but in terms of labor, supplies or venue,” Roma says.

Contribution from the LGUs will also help address issues about accountability and sustainability.

“If we are able to engage LGUs, they will be forced to be



Organizers of the Filipino Diaspora Summit painstakingly plan for the three-day event

accountable to the projects and ensure that they will last beyond their terms [of office] because these are included in their local development plans.”

Moreover, by taking advantage of present-day opportunities like social networking and social media marketing, CFO also expects to be able to tackle other challenges.

“One major problem CFO has with its LINKAPIL program is the monitoring of projects to ensure that they are still existing, are still working, and are still assisting the needy. But to monitor nationwide is expensive,” says Roma. “The other problem is marketing. There are many good projects that need funding, but to market these overseas entails huge resources. [By utilizing] Facebook and other social networking sites, there will be less need for physical monitoring or marketing; ‘uploads,’ ‘postings,’ and ‘likes’ can be alternates.”

Dealing With Anti-Filipinos and Involving Youth

Social pundits in the Philippines have long discussed the existence of anti-Filipinos—people who believe that good things in the Philippines are thin on the ground. The sad thing about this is that many anti-Filipinos are Filipinos themselves and many of them move overseas and bring their negative attitudes along

with them.

According to Roma, one of the ways the upcoming diaspora summit can help change such attitudes is by highlighting how the financial, material and other forms of assistance from overseas Filipinos have transformed needy communities in the Philippines.

In fact, Roma says there are numerous examples of how a desire to do good deeds has translated into concrete achievements. For instance, she talks about how one barrio was able to have potable water because of the support of a Filipino organization in Virginia; how one elementary school class holding lessons under the shade of a tree was able to move into a real classroom because of the financial assistance of Filipinos from Australia; and how many indigenous children were able to receive deworming medicines and a f f o r e d proper nutrition through

feeding programs.

“[To make non-believing Filipinos] see these other Filipinos—who are determined to work towards the good of the country without force and desire for returns—is one good way to eradicate the negativism,” says Roma.

“If some people can do a lot of goodness, why can’t others? Perhaps because they have not yet seen the real effects of diaspora [involvement to the country’s] development. Perhaps because they just read newspapers, with all their bad news. Perhaps they have not talked to a child who is so thankful for the gift of a scholarship; or to a teacher who has been spared from teaching under the sun because of a new classroom; or to a flood victim who has lost his belongings but was given new clothing; or to a blind person who was able to see because of a medical mission. These are the real positive effects that will be emphasized during the summit, which hopefully will alter the mindsets of some people.”

Furthermore, the CFO be-

lieves that the youth play an important part in preparing the ground for a bright future for the country. As a matter of fact, the CFO has also organized a nine-day event called “Overseas Filipinos Youth Leadership Summit 2011,” which will coincide with the larger diaspora summit in September.

Roma notes that young people can help the government and the public by taking charge of areas that are usually not given priority by mainstream developmental programs in the Philippines.

“[The youth are] more dynamic, innovative, results-driven, fast and aggressive. They can work in areas where they excel—arts, volunteerism, sports, technology, media and so on. The young people can also be our best spokespeople to eradicate negativism among some Filipinos,” she says.

The CFO believes that these synergies between overseas and local Filipinos, between youth and policymakers, are important forces that will aid in the transformation of the nation.

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State Launches Flu Prevention Program

Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz and State Department of Health officials have recently kicked off the 5th Annual Protect Hawaii's Keiki: Stop Flu at School program.

The program offers free flu vaccines to elementary and middle school children at 336 public, private and charter schools statewide. Parents were sent information packets and consent forms, which must be returned no later than September 9, 2011. Vaccination clinics will begin in October and continue into December.

"Vaccinating our children will help protect them and their

families against the flu and reduce the spread of influenza in our communities," says state epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Y. Park.

State DOH director Loretta Fuddy urges parents to take advantage of the free program.

"This program reduces barriers to immunization by eliminating costs to families and the need for parents to take time off from work for a trip to the doctor or clinic," she says.

To date, the nationally-recognized program has administered more than 300,000 flu vaccinations to children, faculty and staff at participating schools



over the past four flu seasons.

"Hawaii has the only statewide flu vaccination program of its kind. It's safe, easy and it works. But we need the community to participate, including parents, teachers and healthcare providers. Working together, we can keep our kids healthy," says Lt. Gov. Schatz.

More information on the Stop Flu at School program and consent forms are available online at: www.flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS.html or by calling Aloha United Way's information and referral service at 211.

Bunda Nominated to Transit Board

Former State Sen. Bobby Bunda has been nominated as the 10th member of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) board of directors.

The full board will hear public testimony and vote whether to approve Bunda at its September 16, 2011 meeting. All indications are that he will be approved.

"Mr. Bunda's long career in public service, his understanding of the budgetary and legislative process, and his work in shaping public land use policy for the state will be invaluable assets to the HART board," says HART Vice Chairman Ivan Lui-Kwan. "We



Former State Sen. Bobby Bunda

fielded a strong group of 16 applicants, with each bringing unique qualities to the table. In the end, we felt that at this stage in our process, Mr. Bunda's qualities would best serve the Board in helping us oversee and move this historic

project forward."

Filipino community leaders hailed the nomination. In particular, Councilmember Romy Cachola lobbied hard for a Filipino to be named to the post.

"With such a highly-visible board that would oversee the construction of the \$5.3 billion transit system, it was crucial that Filipinos be involved," Cachola says.

Cachola cited state data showing that Filipinos are the third largest ethnic group in Hawaii and comprise 20 percent of the state's population.

"Furthermore, Filipinos will be among the thousands of unionized workers who will be hired during the construction of this massive project. When completed, many Filipinos living along the transit corridor will ride the rail. As gas prices continue to rise, many Filipinos, especially those with two or even three jobs, will utilize public transportation."

Bunda's Background

In the political arena, Bunda was a senator for State Senate District 22 (Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Mokuiea, North Shore) and Senate president from 2001-2006. He also served in the State House of Representatives from 1983-1994.

He lost a bid for lieutenant governor in the 2010 Democratic Primary. Asked to describe his leadership style in a candidate questionnaire sent by

Farrington Students Receives Journalism Scholarship

Thanh Vy Vu, a senior at Farrington High School, has been selected as the first scholarship recipient of the Emme Tomimbang Education Fund.

Established in late 2010, the fund was meant to financially support graduating seniors from Hawaii public schools with a desire to study broadcast journalism and/or other programs in media-related fields.

Vu will be studying digital arts at Leeward Community College in the Fall. She was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. At the height of the Vietnam War, her grandfather was a general helping Americans fight the Viet Cong. This allowed her parents future passage to America.

In 2005, Vu followed her parents and came to Hawaii at the age of 12 with her sister who is now 7-years-old. At first she did not know much English, but with determination and fortitude, she learned to command not only her second language but also to adapt to the local lifestyle of the islands.

Although it has been a difficult transition, she managed to succeed academically throughout her high school career, tak-



Emme Tomimbang

ing honor classes and maintaining a 3.5 GPA average.

"I really appreciate and am thankful to Emme for giving me this scholarship. It was such a big help for my college tuition. With the scholarship, I hope to learn more about this field. I want to be able to make my own videos and most of all, I want to prove to my family that art is a career, not a hobby," she says.

Tomimbang says Vu has a bright future ahead.

"Congratulations to Thanh Vy Vu for her many accomplishments," she says. "We wish her much success. This was an exciting moment to be able to support a future digital arts media scholar."

Donations to the Emme Tomimbang Education Fund can be made through the Hawaii Community Foundation at: 827 Fort St. Mall, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, replied: "I look at all sides of complex issues and consider both the immediate and long term benefits. I have a proven ability to bring people together and find solutions to even the toughest problems."

Bunda graduated from Leilehua High School and Texas Wesleyan College. He also served in the U.S. Air Force, Texas Army National Guard and Hawaii National Guard. He has worked as a banking executive, local insurance broker and private sector businessman.

If approved, Bunda would be the final voting member of the HART Board. Others include William "Buzz" Hong, Don Horner, Keslie Hui, Damien Kim, Lui-Kwan and Carrie Okinaga, who all serve with no compensation. Ex-Officio or non-voting members are State Department of Trans-

portation Director Glenn Okimoto, City Department of Transportation Services Director Wayne Yoshioka; and City Department of Planning and Permitting Director David Tanoue, who serves as a non-voting member.

HART is tasked with overseeing the planning, construction, operation, maintenance and expansion of the City's \$5.5 billion transit system connecting East Kapolei with Ala Moana Center.

HART's meeting on September 16 begins at 8 am at the Mission Memorial Annex conference room, 550 S. King Street. Those wishing to testify may do so in person or by faxing comments at 768-5510 or via email at: tdossantos@honolulu.gov. Testimony can also mailed to: HART Board of Directors, 1099 Alakea Street, 17th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

What is This Thing Called "Prosecutorial Discretion"?

exercising prosecutorial discretion. Why is the Obama administration talking about it only now? Is it because elections are just around the corner?

Generally, "the term 'prosecutorial discretion' refers to the fact that under American law, government prosecuting attorneys have nearly absolute and unreviewable power to choose whether or not to bring criminal charges, and what charges to bring, in cases where the evidence would justify charges." Gerard E. Lynch.

This is sometimes referred to as "selective enforcement" or "selective prosecution". Wikipedia says that "selective enforcement is recognized as a sign of tyranny, and an abuse of power, because it violates the rule of law, allowing those in authority to apply justice only when they choose. Aside from this being inherently unjust, this almost inevitably leads to favoritism and extortion, with those empowered to choose being able to help their friends, take bribes, and threaten those from whom

they desire favors." In a Tulane Law Review article "Why have you singled me out? The Use of Prosecutorial Discretion for Selective Prosecution," the writer points out that "it is not what a man has done but who he is that determines criminal accountability today." He said that "discretion allows conscious and unconscious biases to influence a prosecutor's decision whether to prosecute a particular individual."

Failure to proceed against offenders because of the exercise of reasonable selectivity in enforcement does not deny equal protection to persons who are prosecuted, where there is no allegation that failure to prosecute others was due to any other reason, according to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Oyler v. Boles*, 368 U.S. 448.

Prosecutorial discretion in immigration law

What "prosecutorial discretion" means in the immigration context was described by Director John Morton of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

in a memo dated June 17, 2011. He said it applies to a broad range of discretionary enforcement decisions, including but not limited to, (1) deciding to issue or cancel a notice of detainer, (2) deciding to issue, reissue, serve, file, or cancel a Notice to Appear, (3) focusing enforcement resources on particular administrative violations or conduct, (4) whom to stop, question, or arrest for administrative violations, (5) whom to detain or release, (6) seeking expedited removal or other forms of removal other than formal removal proceedings in immigration court, (7) granting deferred action, parole, or staying a final order of removal, (8) agreeing to voluntary departure, withdrawal of an application for admission, or other action in lieu of a formal order of removal, (9) pursuing an appeal, (10) executing a removal order; and (11) responding to or joining in a motion to reopen removal proceedings and to consider joining in a motion to grant relief or benefit.

Factors in exercising prosecutorial discretion

The Morton memo enumerates 19 factors to be considered in exercising prosecutorial discretion. He says this list is not exclusive and no one factor is determinative, and that the decision should be based on the "totality of the circumstances, with the goal of conforming to ICE's enforcement priorities."

ICE may exercise prosecutorial discretion at any stage of the enforcement proceeding, although it is preferable to exercise it early. The Memo said that it is preferable for ICE offi-

cers to consider prosecutorial discretion without waiting for an alien or the alien's counsel to request it. However, affirmative requests by the alien or the alien's representative may prompt an evaluation of whether a favorable exercise of discretion is appropriate. Additional information may be requested from the alien.

No right to prosecutorial discretion

The Morton memo emphasized that there is no right to the favorable exercise of discretion, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter. The memo further said that nothing in it should be construed to prohibit the apprehension, detention, or removal of any alien unlawfully in the United States or to limit the legal authority of ICE to enforce federal immigration law.

DHS retains prosecutorial discretion to prosecute or decline to institute proceedings. *Reno v. Arab American Committee*, 525 U.S. 471. Neither an Immigration Judge nor the Board of Immigration Appeals may review the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. *Matter of Bahta*, 22 I&N Dec. 1381.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: fil-amtlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, www.IndwimmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDD at 1270 AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.730.com

received a number of inquiries about the Obama administration's announcement on August 18, 2011 that it will implement "prosecutorial discretion" to review cases of individuals currently or who might be placed in removal proceedings, especially in light of a Honolulu Star Advertiser article on August 28, 2011, that even after the Obama administration's policy shift to focus on criminals or security risks, immigrants with no criminal records have been arrested and incarcerated. Is this "prosecutorial discretion" announcement palabas (merely for show) or have the ICE people, especially in Hawaii, never heard of it?

As early as 1976, INS had already outlined a policy for ex-

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Consulate Observes 28th Ninoy Aquino Day

On August 18, 2011, Gov. Neil Abercrombie and Mayor Peter Carlisle joined the Philippine Consulate General Honolulu and the Filipino community in commemorating the 28th anniversary of the death of the late Philippine Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr.

Consul General Cardenas thanked the Filipino community for its warm support for a simple yet solemn ceremony that grew into an event of momentous outpouring of affection for Ninoy and his legacy of freedom and democracy.

Visiting AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban, Jr. delivered the keynote address and said that after 28 years, Aquino still unites Filipinos everywhere. Oban described Ninoy as a "martyr and modern day hero" who sacrificed his life for his country. He also highlighted Aquino's legacy which echoes the values of hope, patriotism, love and faith.



Consul General Leoncio "Jun" Cardenas welcomes Ninoy Aquino Day attendees

Gov. Abercrombie thanked the consulate for inviting him to the celebration. He described Aquino as "a vehicle and a bridge to manifest hope for the Filipino people."

"His name rings out across the world in the same sentiment as that of Nelson Mandela," Abercrombie says.

For the governor, Aquino embodies the aspirations of individuals, communities and nations to be treated with respect and dignity. While the memory of Ninoy's death brings tears, Abercrombie reminded Filipinos to take great pride in knowing that Aquino set standards that

they all should strive for.

Mayor Carlisle delivered a poignant message and spoke about Ninoy's legacy of love for country that is inherent in every Filipino in Honolulu.

The event was also co-sponsored by the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH), the Bicol Group of Hawaii, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii and various community organizations and leaders.

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PICTORIALS

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August 27, 2011, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii



▲ State Rep. Henry Aquino, City Councilmember Romy Cachola, Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, former State Rep. Jun Abinsay, Danny Villaruz, Maria Etrata, Cabugao Mayor Edgardo Cobangbang Jr., State Sen. Clarence Nishihara and State Sen. Will Espero gather for a group photo



▲ Danny Villaruz, Dr. Charlie Sonido, former State Rep. Jun Abinsay and Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay enjoy a light-hearted moment



▲ (from left): Loida Yamamoto, Zenaida Sumibcay and Davelyn Quijano show off their dance moves



▲ Amado Yoro, Ben Cabreros and Bobby Agpao



▲ Larry Ordenez takes a breather from emceeing the evening's festivities



▲ Representatives from unit organizations under ISAH show off their certificates. (Top row, from left): Dr. Ignacio Torres, Candon; Lynne Gutierrez, Magsingal; Louie Funtamilia, Narvacan; Jenny Quezon, Annac Ti Cacoayan; Davelyn Quijano, Sinait Alumn; Tessie Aganon, Vigan; Alice Castaneda, San Juan Lapog; and Roger Ojerio, Santa. (bottom): Emi Etrata, Santiago; Antonio Ipalar, Annac Ti Sinait; Daisy Ipalar, Cabugao

MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am Community Gathers to Commemorate 9/11 Victims

Ten Filipino American community organizations have come together to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11. There were 18 victims of Filipino descent who died in the "Twin Towers" of the World Trade Center, and 2 Filipinos who were on two of the planes that crashed into the towers on that tragic day.

One of those who passed on that day was Hector Tamayo, a project engineer who worked in the South Tower of the World Trade Center. He was survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his two children, Ian, and Pamela,



Friends and relatives of those who lost loved ones during the 9/11 attack at the World Trade Center touch a Flag of Honor commemorating them. (AJPress photo by Miko Santos)

who were 19 and 16 at the time. Ten years later, Ian is currently a student completing a degree in Journalism at New York University, while Pamela is a graphic

designer for a major corporation. his family and, of course, to sing."

According to his New York Times biography, Hector was remembered by his family as "a happy person who loved jokes,

ers Workshop (110-112 West 27th Street, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10001). The event is expected to include performances from local Filipino American community artists and personal tributes from families of 9/11 victims. It is

(continued on page 13)

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Flying High in Squaw Valley

RENDEZVOUZ by Christine S. Dayrit

Love cures people, both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it," Dr. Karl Menninger once said.

This thought reverberated in my mind as I boarded Philippine Airlines flight PR104 from Manila to San Francisco recently. I was tired, over-fatigued, the flu seemed to be imminent.

"I hope you feel better before the flight ends, ma'am," lovingly whispered flight attendant Mary Anne Cabrera, while handing me two Paracetamols and a piping hot bowl of flavorful arroz caldo. Her colleagues Vina Reyes, Josant Cervantes and Chester Sevilla were equally caring and gracious.

The experience of being on a plane is somewhat of a sacred retreat for me. Feeling so close to the ethereal heavens, I feel most secure in close proximity to God. The silvery clouds illuminated by the sun's glorious rays provide me with hope, renewed vigor and inspiration knowing

that just beyond the next cloud, my dream destination awaits to be explored, appreciated and shared with the world. Reclined comfortably in my luxurious seat, I prayed and reflected. Reading my inspiring book *Your Best Life Now* by Pastor Joel Osteen allowed me a very intimate connection with all that matters.

The cuisine onboard prepared by the Pinoy chef brigade was simply excellent. The dinner started with steamytinolang manok (ginger flavored chicken soup) with vitamin-rich mango guava leaves, topped with wonton crisps, followed by a perfectly grilled and delicately flavored sea bass accompanied by a spicy shrimp sauce and served with steamed rice garnished with toasted coconut. At the helm of this brilliant culinary endeavor that harnesses the Filipino's inherent creativity and epicurean talent is PAL's executive chef Ian Mckenzie.

As for sweet endings, I recall visiting the newly opened Pastry Shop and Commissary of



The magnificent view of the rocky promontory inspired Walt Disney to create Thunder Mountain in his theme parks. Walt Disney was the head of the pageantry of the 8th Winter Olympic games held here in 1960.

my dear friend and owner of Park Avenue Desserts, chef Buddy Trinidad, where from the viewing window, I caught a glimpse of his highly trained and experienced staff skillfully preparing creamy mango pannacotta and petite mango crunch cakes for PAL. It is worthy to note that Buddy is the president of the multi-awarded Pastry Alliance of the Philippines and was trained at the Valrhona E'cole du Grand Chocolat in France.

My beloved father Papa Ting often quipped: "It's not just the destination that matters but

the cuisine on the journey that makes the difference." Upon reaching my final flight destination, I was rested, invigorated and raring to satisfy my wanderlust.

On this particular trip for a business endeavor, I felt blessed to also have joined the annual family gathering of my childhood friend, Tony Rodriguez, whose family from all over the US planned this special time to explore Reno, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley and San Francisco. The last time I saw them was 30 years ago

when we were kids growing up in Manila. It was a celebration of life, love and family bonding.

A visit to Lake Tahoe seems like a journey to the center of the earth. Scenic highways commanding awesome views of the rocky Nevada promontories and the verdant alpine forests of California and a breathtaking cable car ride to the 10,000-foot site of the 1960 winter Olympics was ethereal. The gigantic rock formations that can be viewed from the pinnacle of Squaw Valley actually inspired Walt Disney's thunder mountain ride, famous in Disney parks throughout the world. The eco-luxuriant vistas of the mountain allows the privilege of the wafting fragrances of pine, the crisp crunch of freshly fallen snow or stacking of pine cones and heaps of needles beneath your feet. The intoxicating panorama of this pristine landscape certainly inspired the intrepid traveler Mark Twain to say: "It must surely be the fairest picture the whole earth affords."

It seemed like a scene straight out of *The Sound of Music* as the Snow-capped

(continued on page 10)



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mountains complemented by the crystal clear turquoise waters of the Emerald Lake scintillated as the glorious rays of the sun illuminated its path. God's omniscient presence prevails in such divine creation that is enhanced by man's genius in modern technology. Imagine the herculean task involved in manufacturing a cable car of this magnitude and proportions. Like a gentle roller coaster, the motion of the cable car as it climbs and descends each mountain peak is a remarkable accomplishment worthy of emulation.

At the foot of the Camp Squaw Valley, a quaint village that captures the influence of Innsbruck in Bavaria offers shopping, casual dining and a kids' park where the precocious youth can play on the trampoline and the high pole acrobats that perhaps can propel their interest to be future Cirque du Soleil performers. We were famished when we arrived here and thoroughly enjoyed the unique pizza and pasta flavors at the Fireside Pizza restaurant. We ordered Red Curry Pizza, inspired by the Thai flavors of sweet and spicy synergy, pepperoni with fiery chilies and a savory cheese and macaroni with spices and herbs. We planned our next destination in the itinerary and proceeded to our next equally exhilarating stop.

The itinerary included various activities from swimming and kayaking in Lake Tahoe, visits to the Jelly Bean factory near Napa, food tripping at Max and Barrio Fiesta in Vallejo as well as in the home of gracious Uncle Norm and Aunt Nilda Turley, a tour of Virginia City in Nevada which is reputed to be haunted, watching the well-crafted horror film Dalaw during pajama

parties in the Cao residence in Reno and, of course, the gregarious cookouts and roasting all in the name of love, laughter and camaraderie.

Many thanks to Tony's gracious mom, Tita Lita de Leon Rodriguez and his gregarious sisters Anna Rodriguez Young and her husband, Jake Young, Angela Rodriguez Cao and husband Phong Cao, Brother Jof Rodriguez and his girlfriend, Mai Aler, nephews Stevie and Sammy and Tony's lovely daughter, Ellie Rodriguez, for this eventful sojourn. Tony's elder daughter Kay could not make the trip since she was busy getting ready to start college at Rice University in Houston. They are the great grandkids of Don Filomeno Rodriguez, founder of PHINMA.

On board the PAL flight en route to Manila, I said prayers of gratitude for life's many blessings and countless kindnesses through the years. I remember how my loving siblings Jaqui, Michelle, Mark, Yvonne and I would accompany our late parents Ting and Mida Dayrit to Stanford Hospital for their medical treatments way back in 1996. They passed away 15 years ago, 20 days apart from each other. I can never forget how the PAL crew took such good care of them, making sure they were as comfortable as possible while they battled their illness. The convenience of PAL's direct flights to San Francisco then and now continues to provide great relief and comfort to us.

Looking back, it is true that love cures people, both the ones who give it and receive it. All we need to do is pass this gift forward. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**State AG Targets Website for Prostitution, Human Trafficking**

State Attorney General David Louie and 45 other attorneys general have called for information about how Backpage.com presumably attempts to remove advertising for sex trafficking, especially ads that could involve minors.

In a letter to the online classified site's lawyers, the attorneys general say that Backpage.com claims it has strict policies to prevent illegal activity. Yet the chief legal officers of Washington state, Missouri and Connecticut have found hundreds of ads on Backpage.com's regional sites that are clearly for illegal services.

"It does not require forensic training to understand that these advertisements are for prostitution," the attorneys general wrote.

The letter says the hub for illegal sex ads is a magnet for those seeking to exploit minors and points to more than 50 cases in 22 states over three years that involve the trafficking or attempted trafficking of minors through Backpage.com.

"These are only the stories that made it into the news. Many more instances likely exist," the attorneys general wrote. They also reminded Backpage.com of a 2010 request from nearly two dozen attorneys general asking that the adult services site be



taken down.

Hawaii AG David Louie says that Backpage.com's adult service advertisements are a beacon for human traffickers and easy for them to exploit.

"It is simply too easy for child sex trafficking to occur on Backpage.com's site," he says. "If it's going to be part of the solution, it must take down these advertisements and aggressively monitor the rest of its site."

In many cases involving human trafficking on Backpage.com, law enforcement finds that minors are often coerced. Prosecutors in Benton County, Wash., are

(continued on page 11)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Advertising Exec Named New Tourism Chief

by Aurea Calica
Friday, Sept. 2, 2011

BEIJING (via PLDT) – President Aquino has confirmed that marketing and advertising bigwig Ramon Jimenez will take the place of Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim, whose resignation took effect on Wednesday.

The President said Jimenez accepted the position and had been studying the things he would need to do for the past two weeks.

“He’s a marketing, advertising guy and tourism is primarily a marketing effort because the product is already there. (We must be) enhancing the product that we have in the Philippines and at the end of the day, he will be informing a lot of the citizens of the world that there are such and such sites, accessible, it should be visited,” Aquino said over coffee with the media here Wednesday night on the sidelines of his state visit.

Prior to his new assignment, Jimenez was chief executive officer and senior consultant of Woo Consultants Inc., executive chairman of Jimenez Basic Advertising and vice president and executive creative director of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertis-

ing, an award-winning advertising firm.

He is a graduate of the University of the Philippines’ College of Fine Arts.

In a press conference a few hours after his appointment was announced, Jimenez said, “In accepting this role I’m keenly aware that I will succeed only if I begin by rallying the DOT (Department of Tourism) staff, the team, tourism practitioners, and the government bureaucracy and the general public around one very simple idea: Tourism is the people’s business,” he said.

The President said he would be meeting with Jimenez next week to discuss the issues involving the tourism department.

Jimenez is said to be a personal friend of Aquino who helped him in the presidential campaign.

“I assume there will be things that he has discovered, things he wants done. The last communication I had with him was basically when he was assessing those that he would be working with and to a large extent I think he would be, for the meantime, maintaining the bureaucracy at the DOT,” Aquino said.

Lim announced his resignation last Aug. 12, saying he



DOT Sec. Ramon Jimenez

wanted to return to private life and spend more time with his family.

Aquino denied he offered Lim to be a member of the Monetary Board. He said there were too many economic problems now that Lim might not want to take a job with the same demands after resigning due to lack of time for his family.

Everybody’s business

Jimenez said he believes the key to success in any tourism endeavor of any country is to make it everybody’s business, where tourists and foreigners would always feel welcome.

The benchmark the former advertising executive had in mind is Spain, where citizens actively participate in promoting

their country as a tourist destination.

“Offhand, I think any of the significant tourism countries in Europe would be a good example. Tourism there is the people’s business. They cook for tourists. Cooking there is business,” he said.

“We have no business ending in this industry if it’s not going to benefit our people. So we’ve got to build an entire industry that is focused on generating income and employment,” he said.

“This is the most beautiful country in the world. Or let’s just say we are one of the top 10 most beautiful countries in the world. There is no reason we won’t succeed,” he said.

“My marching orders are really very simple: Tourism is the people’s business. I will do my best to make tourism a hallmark of his administration’s drive to bring the people to the road to a richer and prouder future,” he added.

No worries

Jimenez would rather not delve into the possibility of him being removed from office by Aquino, since he, like any other member of the Cabinet, serves at the pleasure of the appointing

authority.

“If you accept an appointment or apply for a job, your only focus is to do well. The possibility that I will be subject to removal in the future, that’s not my problem, that’s the President’s problem,” he said.

“That’s his decision, he’s going to agonize over that, not me. My job is to do it,” Jimenez said.

He assuaged the fears of DOT personnel that a revamp may be in the offing, and urged them to cooperate in promoting the country as another tourist destination that has the edge over the rest.

The new tourism secretary is also aware of the problems that beset his predecessor who had been opposed by several quarters, which is why he intends to “deal with them as friends.”

Jobs for Pinoyos

Jimenez said perhaps one of the reasons why he was chosen by the President is because he is a marketing guy, although he would not want it to be the only reason because he is also a business manager as well.

“I have much to contribute in terms of bringing strategic discipline to the challenge of promoting and developing the Philippines as one of the world’s most exciting destination brands,” he said. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 10, FLYING...)

handling a case in which teen girls were threatened and extorted by two adults who marketed them on Backpage.com. One of the adults rented a hotel room and forced the girls to have sex with men who answered the online ads.

Owned by Village Voice Media LLC, Backpage.com is the top provider of “adult services” advertisements. The multimedia company, which owns 13 weekly newspapers in the U.S., admits its involvement in advertising illegal services.

In a meeting at the Washington State Attorney General’s Office, Village Voice board member Don Moon acknowledged prostitution ads do appear on its website. And in a June 29 article published nationally by the Village Voice, the corporation criticized those concerned about child sex trafficking as “prohibitionists bent on ending the world’s oldest profession” and acknowledged that, as a seller of adults services ads,

“Village Voice has a stake in this story.” Industry analysts suggest that Village Voice’s stake in adult services is worth about \$22.7 million in annual revenue.

Many state attorneys general believe that Backpage.com is attempting to minimize the impact of child sex trafficking because they fear it will turn attention to the company’s robust prostitution advertising business. While Backpage.com has ramped up efforts to screen some ads for minors, the attorneys general involved in the letter believe that “Backpage.com sets a minimal bar for content review in an effort to temper public condemnation, while ensuring that the revenue spigot provided by prostitution advertising remains intact.”

The letter from the attorneys general makes a series of requests to Backpage.com, asking that the company willingly provide information in lieu of a subpoena. For example, in order to substantiate the claim that the

company enforces policies to prevent illegal activity, the attorneys general ask Backpage.com to describe its understanding of what constitutes “illegal activity” and whether advertisements for prostitution fall into that category. The attorneys general also ask how many advertisements in its adult section and subsections have been submitted since September 1, 2010, how many of those advertisements were individually screened, how many were rejected and how many were removed after being discovered to be for illegal services.

In 2008, 42 attorneys general reached an agreement with Craigslist to crack down on similar listings in an effort to reduce crimes like human trafficking. Craigslist ultimately removed its “erotic services” section in May 2009. In September 2010, 21 attorneys general wrote Backpage.com to request that the adult services section be closed.

The states signing on to the letter are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Col-

orado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New

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FAMILY CORNER



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

Essential Language Skills: Speaking

As adults, we sometimes take language skills—speaking, reading, and writing—for granted, but it's important to remember that these skills are learned. Young children's early experiences with language have a tremendous impact on how well they acquire these skills over time. Let's take a look at how speaking skills develop.

During the preschool years (between ages 3 and 5), children make the most rapid progress in developing their language skills. Young children learn to talk and use words (spoken language) first by listening to others, then trying it out for themselves. They start off making sounds and eventually say some words. Later they learn to use words to express their needs and thoughts, communicate with others, and increase their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. A 3-year old generally can talk in 4 or 5 word sentences and understands more words than he uses. He may have trouble saying certain sounds like 's', 'r', and 'th' ("spoon" may be pronounced "poon", and "thick" may be "tick"). He may use simple sen-

tences that are not always grammatically correct ("me going doctor"). As he gets older, he may speak in longer, more complex sentences with correct grammar ("I am not going to school tomorrow because I have to go to the doctor"). He may still have trouble saying certain sounds like 'th', 'x', and 'z' ("thank you" may be pronounced "tank you", and "zebra" may be pronounced "gebra").

Some children seem to talk or ask questions all the time. This can be tiring for their parents, but children need many opportunities to talk and listen. They need to have experiences they want to talk about. It takes a lot of talking and listening to learn language. As you make time to listen to and talk with your children, you help them learn to value language. For example, you can have a conversation with your child while eating a snack; as you talk about the peanuts you're eating, your child can learn new words like "nut," "shell," and "peanut butter." By answering questions like "where do peanuts come from?" you can help him learn about how plants grow. By asking questions such as "why do you think the peanut has a shell?" you encourage his

curiosity about things around him. These are all important parts of learning. Here are some other ways you can help your child learn to use spoken language:

- Ask him simple questions and listen to his answers
- Play games with sounds and words, such as making up rhymes
- Include him in conversations to help him to learn new words
- Let him talk on the telephone once in a while, acknowledging him when he talks.

Parents might wonder what to do or how to react when young children speak incorrectly, which is a very common occurrence. All children go through a stage of making language mistakes, such as saying "runned" instead of "ran." They will outgrow these mistakes. Learning to talk takes time. If your child makes a mistake, avoid correcting him. Don't have him repeat words he's mispronounced. His tongue and

mouth muscles are still developing. He's still learning how to put words and meanings together. Rather than pointing out errors, speak correctly when replying. Your child may say, "I runned fast," and you could reply, "Yes, you ran fast." Children learn correct language by listening to it. As they take part in more complex conversations, they will sort out their mistakes.

Many families in Hawaii often speak a language other than English at home. Some may be concerned about their children's ability to learn more than one language. The language spoken at home is the one children learn first. This language is important to children's feelings about themselves and their culture. Formal English is important to their success in school. Both languages will be useful in different settings. Preschool-aged children can learn a second language fairly easily. Set aside certain times of the day for using different languages. For example, dinner-time may be formal English time, and bedtime may be first-

language time. When children have opportunities to speak and hear both languages, they learn and respect both.

And what about TV, is it helpful? TV influences your child's language learning only a little. Learning language requires interaction with people. If your child does watch some TV, it's a good idea to talk with him about what he sees. This helps him to understand what is real and what is make-believe. You can also read to him about something he saw on TV or take him to some place that's real. For example, if your child watches a TV show about chickens, read a book about chickens or take him to see a real chicken and talk about things like what sounds they make or what color they are. These activities will help him learn language skills more than watching TV alone.

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.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Erap Twits Ex-US Envoy on WikiLeaks Report

by Jose Rodel Clapano
Friday, Sept. 2, 2011

MANILA, Philippines — Former President Joseph Estrada yesterday criticized former US ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney over her statement in a WikiLeaks report that the late former President Corason Aquino was only a "partial icon of morality."

A 2009 US Embassy cable from online whistle-blower WikiLeaks that was published in various newspapers quoted Kenney as saying Aquino's credibility as a moral crusader was tarnished because she associated herself with Estrada in protest movements against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This report shows that in her (Kenney) efforts to defend GMA, she deliberately misled the American government from seeing that former President Cory



Former Presidents Erap Estrada, Gloria Arroyo and former US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney

Aquino and our people were fighting for a real democracy for our country," Estrada said.

He said Kenney is "an embarrassment to the American government as she forgot the American ideals of democracy."

"Remember that this woman (Kenney) not only favored but joined GMA's efforts to push for the dismemberment of our country. She was very visible in the grand conspiracy under the Arroyo administration to dismember Mindanao and hand it on a silver platter to the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front)," Estrada added, referring to the

memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain, which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, which Kenney supported.

Estrada also lauded Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario for his statement that Kenney was "a dismal failure in helping the Filipinos defend our democracy."

"Kristie Kenney's criticism of our champion of democracy was most unfortunate," Del Rosario said in a text message from Beijing, where he was accompanying Aquino on a state visit to China. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

Domestic Workers and Human Trafficking



By Reuben S. Seguritan

worker abuse tell us that slavery is alive even here in the United States.

Last week a Filipino couple from Bellingham, Washington was sentenced to prison for hiring and harboring an illegal alien. The husband and wife were accused of recruiting a Filipina to be their live-in servant, making her work seven days a week, subjecting her to verbal abuse and threats and paying her only \$200 to \$240 per month. This went on for three years until she escaped the household in September 2009.

The court papers showed that after arriving in the U.S., the victim's passport and travel documents were confiscated by the couple, and that she worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week. The case began as a deportation proceeding

against the domestic worker until the authorities found out that she was a victim of human trafficking.

The couple pleaded guilty to charges of harboring an alien for financial gain and unlawful employment of an alien. The husband was sentenced to 6 months of home detention with electronic monitoring, while the wife was sentenced to four months in prison and 100 hours of community service during 2 years of supervised release. They were also made to pay the victim \$57,000 in restitution.

Another recent incident of domestic worker abuse involved live-in caregivers in Southern California. The Filipino husband-and-wife team recruited workers in the Philippines to work at their elder care facility in Paso Robles, California. Some of the aliens worked

24-hour shifts for less than the minimum wage and lived in substandard conditions, with some of them being forced to sleep in sofas and closets. They were threatened with arrest and deportation if they ever tried to escape.

The couple pleaded guilty to conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and they were made to pay at least \$500,000 to the ten victims.

And who could forget the leading forced labor case of U.S. v. Calimlim, which told us of the Filipino maid who for almost twenty years was kept in the basement and hidden by the family from everyone's view? The defendant couple was recently ordered to pay the victim \$1 Million in damages on top of \$960,000 in restitution.

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act

was enacted by Congress in 2000. This law enhanced the protection of trafficking victims by establishing T and U nonimmigrant visa categories for eligible victims who assist in the investigation and prosecution of the criminal activity. Both types of visas can lead to permanent resident status.

The benefits given under the VTVPA are meant to restore the victims' dignity by meeting their humanitarian needs. By taking away their vulnerability to deportation, the law empowers these victims who in turn help bring traffickers to justice and ensure that civil and human rights are upheld.

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

Every now and then, tales of horrific abuse suffered by domestic servants make the news. These stories involve people who had come to the United States in search of a better life, at the very least a decent job, but instead found themselves exploited and enslaved, oftentimes by their own kind.

It is difficult to accept that human trafficking still occurs in this day and age but the reality is that it is quite prevalent. Only a few cases get reported, much less prosecuted in court. Two recent reports of domestic

MAINLAND NEWS

Court of Appeals Junks US Bid to Extradite Trader

by Edu Punay
Friday, August 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - The Court of Appeals (CA) affirmed a Manila court's ruling junking the bid of the United States government to extradite a Filipino-American businessman wanted in California for the killing of his wife.

In a 21-page decision released yesterday, the eighth division of the appeals court held that the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 41 was correct in dismissing the extradition petition of the US government filed through the Philippine

Department of Justice (DOJ) against Abelardo Tasa in 2007.

It is not known if it is the first time an extradition bid by the US government was denied in the Philippines.

The CA upheld the RTC's finding that the US failed to present evidence to prove that Tasa conspired with Timothy Shawn Victor and Jose Daniel Flores in killing his wife, Rebecca, in their house in Lakeside, California purportedly to collect \$300,000 in life insurance and reporting to authorities that she was killed by burglars on June 22, 1992. Rebecca's neck had been slashed and she was stabbed three times.

Authorities found that Tasa, who owned and operated a Taco Time restaurant in California, allegedly hired Flores and Victor - both his employees in the restaurant - to kill his wife in order to collect insurance policy.

Victor was convicted on June 10, 1998 and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

On Sept. 12, 2005, Flores pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to imprisonment for 26 years to life.

The CA ruling, penned by Associate Justice Apolinario Brnseles Jr., said ample evidence to establish probable cause in a crime is neces-

sary before an extradition could be approved by either of the signatories to an extradition treaty. Associate Justices Mario Guariña III and Manuel Barrios concurred in the decision.

The CA said the US government "failed to submit any statement from either of the two convicts or from any other person with personal knowledge of Tasa's participation in the crime." The US government offered transcripts of the testimonies of two witnesses, which the RTC held to be hearsay,

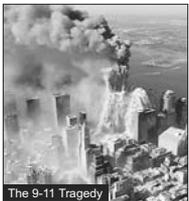
according to the appellate court.

Records show that Tasa is supposed to stand trial for first-degree murder. Tasa fled to the Philippines, but was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol Division operatives in Barangay Tigayon, Kalibo, Aklan based an arrest warrant issued by the Manila RTC. He was released from the custody of the NBI after the Manila RTC denied the US government's extradition request in 2007. (www.philstar.com)

(from page 8, FIL-AM COMMUNITY...)
open to the public.

Dr. Kevin Nadal, one of the organizers of the event, says that he hopes that vigil will help to bring the Filipino American community together and to bring peace to families who lost their loved ones on that day.

"By coming together as a community, it is important for us to remember the lives that were lost on that day and to pay tribute to them," Nadal writes in an invitation letter to the families of 9/11 victims. "We must also remember and honor the 17 Filipino and Filipino Americans who we lost. Many of them immigrated to this country in search



The 9-11 Tragedy

of a better life. Many of them were young professionals who were just getting their lives started. All of them left friends and family behind."

The event is being sponsored by 10 Filipino American community organizations, including Filipino American Na-

tional Historical Society (FANHSS) Metro New York Chapter, Filipino American Human Services, Inc. (FAHSI), Kalusugan Coalition, Inc., Damayan Migrant Workers Association, Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment (CORE), Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment (FiRE), UniPro, BaranGAY, NYU International Filipino Association (IFA), and The Outstanding Filipino Americans (TOFA) in New York Committee.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kevin Nadal at (646) 924-5978 or knadal@gmail.com. (AJ Press)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Aggapu Iti Puso: Ayat, Pannangted, Rimat Ken Dayaw

Ni Larry Ordonez, tubo iti San Esteban ti nangitrong ti programa ken iti direksyon ni Leo Gozar, iti tema "Aggapu Iti Puso"

Kimmablaaw da Maria Etrata, Event Chair, Consul General Leoncio Cardenas, Jr., Cabugao Mayor Edgardo Cobangbang, Jr., a kaykaynatna ti maawagan iti 'public servant' ngem iti politiko.

Maranao Dance medley ti imparang ni Miss Oahu Filipina Leonovi Mabigo, iti met makaabubukay a panagkanta da Amber Abinsay ti 'singing Deputy Consul General' Paul Cortes, Hahanapin Ko and Mula sa Puso, kas pangasaruanoada.

Kas pammigbig kadagiti unot organizations iti ISAH, naikkanda iti sertipiko iti panagkameng ken pammadayaw nga impronta ni presidente Danny Villaruz.

Nagayaman met ni Event chair and secretary Loida Alimboyoguen Yamamoto kadagiti amin a dimmar-ay ken nagsuporta iti pasken.

Makapabiter-nakem dagiti komentario kas pammatalget ti baligi ti programa

Kinuna ni EDDIE AGAS:

Congratulations Apo Jun Abin-

say, I'm so proud of you I've learned a lot from you, you are so humble, they well deserved. I really respect and look up to your accomplishments and thank you for your friendship, advice and guidance to me. You are my hero my friend.

Congratulations to Dr. Sonido Danny congratulations for job well done and super organized awards and banquet. My kudos to all the committee involved and the members of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii. Continue on, Soon Nagbukel International Association (NIA) will join.

RIC AGNES

"First of its kind in Hawaii daytoy rinugianyo a project. Uray ni Larry Ramirez ket impiksana iti apalna iti kinasayaat ti panagakammayeto a taga- Ilocos Sur-banag a makaagap a nabunga dagiti ganuato. Saan a kadaywan a pasamak ditoy Hawaii. DAKKEL ken naisangsangayan nga event daytoy! Pakaragsak met iti mainaig kadakayo babaen ti panakaisurat iti Kapid...."

JENNY QUEZON:

Congratulations for a great banquet last night!!! The set up was

fabulous especially for the ballroom dancers.

"Nagsayaaten ti napanunot ti ISAH iti kastoy a proyekto," kinuna ni Jerry Ilar, iti Jerry Ilar Realty. "Rumbeng unay nga itandadudotayo met ti bukod a pataonor ti probinsia ken ti ili a nagappuan. Daratayo ti darana nga agtatarayayti uratna. Ket kadagiti mapadayawan, rebhengna unay gapu kadagiti ammotayo nga aramid ken serbisioda iti komunidad," innayon ni Jerry.

"Nadagagsen latta ti dara iti pada nga Ilokano," suportak dagitoy a programa," kinuna ni Lito Alcontra iti Group Builders. "Dayaw

ni Ilokano, dayawtayo amin.", innayon toy negosiante a tubo ti San Vicente, Ilocos Sur.

Kas yaandang ti dur-as ken mangidalan ti aramid, pasungadentayo ti Pebrero 27, 2012 a kasangay ti ISAH iti maiktallopulo ket lima nga anbersariona kas nagtitinnulongan a binuangay dagiti dauapulo ket dua a lider a naggapu iti nadumaduma nga ili ti probinsia ti Ilocos Sur idi Pebrero 27, 1977. Mabalin a daytano manen a maipatugaw dagiti baro nga opisial. Ita pay, panggep nga iluoy ti ISAH dagitoy a proyekto iti tinawan kas pammigbig kadagiti naindaklan a liderna.

MAINLAND NEWS



Ambassador Jose Cuisia, left, makes a presentation on the Philippine Government's position on the West Philippine Sea issue. (Photo courtesy of Mr. ERIC LUCHICA)

Ambassador Cuisia Delivers Keynote Address at Prayer Forum

August 22, 2011.
Washington DC.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. delivered the keynote address at the Prayer Forum for Peace in the Spratlys, which was held yesterday at the National Philippine Multicultural Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The prayer forum was organized by the U.S. Pinoyos for Good Governance in support of a peaceful and just resolution of issues in the Spratlys conflict. The date was also chosen to commemorate the 28th death anniversary of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino.

In his remarks, Ambassador Cuisia acknowledged the efforts of community leaders for "mobilizing behind the causes that impact our country and our people." He added that by choosing the way of peace, we are honoring the memory and legacy of Ninoy Aquino.

The program also involved presentations on the Spratlys issue, a tribute to the late Senator Aquino, and a question-and-answer session, whose panelists included Ambassador Cuisia, Professor Sonny Busa, and Dr. Jun Rasul.

According to the organizers, the prayer forum involved the participation of 171 sites all over the world. (info@philippinesusa.org)

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ALPASEN!

Wen, mayasa manen nga addang ti balligi ti napalabas a President Elpidio Quirino Award iti umuna a gundaway. Sipapakumbaba ken sipapakurang ti ISAH a mangipeksa ti panagayaman kadagiti amin a dimmar-ay iti insagana ti gunglo kas naited a pammadayaw kadagiti agpada nga aktibo a lider iti komunidad da Dr. Charlie Y. Sonido ken dati a representante Jun Abinsay.

"An award of distinction, prestigious and eminent, ought to be thought of to recognize the extraordinary work of those who come from Ilocos Sur, and who have called Hawaii their home," kinuna ni Danny Villaruz, presidente ti ISAH.

Dakayo appo a nakasaksi iti manghusga. Akuenmi: saankarni a perpekto, ket adda latta kamit ken lugar ti panangpaysayaat iti masak-bayan,

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ILOCOS SURIAN HOMECOMING MISSION
 December 18-22, 2011 • For details, contact Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233

GLOBAL NEWS

Sikat II to Compete in World Solar Challenge 2011

Sikat II, the Philippines' newest solar car designed and constructed by Filipino students, will compete in the 2011 World Solar Challenge in Australia from October 16-23, 2011.

Following a recent test run on the North Luzon Expressway, its creators say Sikat II will show the world that the Philippines is a major player in sustainable energy technology. Sikat II will race against 20 other countries in the 3,000 km (1,864.5 miles) World Solar Challenge that runs from Darwin to Adelaide.

At a recent public launch held at the NLEX compound in Calocan City, the car's designers were confident that Sikat II would make the cut.

"The team is honored to be representing the country and very proud to have been able to design and create a solar car within seven months and race it in the World Solar Car Challenge," says team leader Jack Catalan.

The team's goal is to finish the race and improve on their 12th place in 2007.

Behind the Team

Sikat II was designed and constructed by the Philippine Solar Car Society



The Sikat 2 and the people behind. Photo courtesy of Sikat 2 media team

(PSCS) and 23 students and three professors from the Mechanical Engineering and Electronics and Communications Engineering Departments at De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU).

The project is headed by DLSU Dean Dr. Pag-Asa Gaspolio, with assistance from team co-leaders Martin Kalaw, Isidro Marfori III, Catalan, faculty, advisers and students.

"Sikat II is a testament to Filipino ingenuity, talent and technological capability in tapping clean and natural sources of energy such as solar power," says Federico Lopez, PSCS Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of First Gen, one of Sikat II's major sponsors. "Sikat II is beaming with promise as it not only shows the world

what solar energy can do but what Filipinos can do. We are very optimistic that Sikat II will shine."

The car was featured in exhibitions at SM Cagayan de Oro, MSU-IIT in Iligan, University of Mindanao, La Salle Bacolod and University of San Carlos in Cebu.

World-class features

A successor of Sinag and Sikat I, Sikat II boasts many improvements to its design, electronic and mechanical features. Its sleek and aerodynamic body is made of a lightweight carbon fiber-honeycomb composite.

Sikat II can reach a top speed of 110 kph (68.35 mph) with its 2-kilowatt motor and weighs less than 180kg (397 lbs). When running on its 4,000 watt-hour Lithium-ion battery and solar array power at a speed of 85 kph (53 mph), Sikat II can travel more than 800 kms (497 miles).

Sikat II is fueled by solar energy harvested and converted into electricity by photovoltaic cells. The car is equipped with solar cells from Sunpower Philippines, a leading manufacturer of high-efficiency solar cells in the world. These solar cells are made in the Philippines and manufactured by Sunpower at its Batangas and Laguna plants. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

Syria OFWs More Afraid of Lack of Jobs in Phil

by Angelo L. Gutierrez
 Thursday, August 18, 2011,

MANILA, Philippines - Some Filipino workers in Syria are terrified of the hostilities, but they chose to stay because of the lack of job opportunity in the Philippines, a Filipino community leader said today.

"*Iyong iba natakot sila. Gusto na nila talagang umawit. Iyong iba gusto nang magiging trabaho sila sa trabaho nila* (They are frightened. They want to go home. Some of them want to go home, but they are thinking of their jobs here)," Jackie Casawat, president of the Filipino community in Syria, said in an interview with radio dzMM.

Casawat, meanwhile, assured that all Filipinos working in Syria, particularly those based in Latakia and other critical areas, are safe.

She said that as of now, no Filipinos have come forward to avail of the repatriation offer of the Philippine government.

"*Kapag umawit sila sa Pilipinas, ano pa ang magiging trabaho namin?*" (If we

return to the Philippines, are there jobs waiting for us?)" Casawat added.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has raised Alert Level 3 in Syria. Under the alert level, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are advised to seek repatriation that will be funded by the Philippine government.

Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said yesterday that only four OFWs have asked to be repatriated from the violence-stricken country.

In a separate radio dzMM interview, Ambassador Wilfredo Cuyugan said that at least 20 OFWs have "inquired" about the repatriation process.

"We answered them. We are just waiting for their final decision," Cuyugan said.

He said the embassy's advance team in Aleppo have talked to about nine to 10 OFWs. He said the team is still convincing them to leave Syria.

Yesterday, Cuyugan said that at least 40 Filipinos are already in the embassy, but clarified that the OFWs are mostly "runaways" and their cases are not related to the current security situation in Syria.

He, however, said the embassy will also opt to send the 40 Filipinos back

to the Philippines.

The Philippine government said there are at least 17,000 Filipinos in Syria, most of them are engaged in domestic services.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) chief Carmelita Dimzon had said that majority of OFWs in Syria, including the undocumented ones, work for rich employers and are mostly in areas considered safe.

Authorities said that hostilities in Syria are almost concentrated in Latakia, Homs and Daraa. (www.philstar.com)

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Fruit 'n Yogurt
Parfait

Tamang-tama ang simula ng araw kapag nagising kang may McDonald's freshly prepared breakfast. With fruity options na 300 calories or less each, gaye ng 100% natural whole grain oats in Fruit & Maple Oatmeal o low fat yogurt in McCafé® Real Fruit Smoothies at Fruit 'n Yogurt Parfait, bawat malinamnam na pagpipilian, tiyak na maghahatid ng araw na kay ganda. It's the simple joy of a wholesome head start.


i'm lovin' it®