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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 6, 2012 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Romney Wins First Presidential Debate

Republican Mitt Romney was declared the winner in the first presidential debate of Election 2012. In a CNN poll of 430 adult Americans who watched the debate, 67 percent said the former Massachusetts governor was the winner, compared to 25 percent for Obama.

The debate focused largely on domestic issues like taxes, government spending, jobs, Medicare and healthcare reform. Romney was effectively aggressive throughout, while Obama was unduly defensive and showed a seeming lack of energy. For some reason, the president failed to bring his “A” game. Romney, on the other hand, came across as well-informed, experienced and reasonable. He appeared aggressive without being too combative, hitting Obama on his economic record and continually stressing that a Romney administration would create more jobs and stimulate economic growth faster than the current presidency.

As expected, the debate featured a plethora of numbers thrown around by the candidates, along with claims and counter claims to convince the voting public that his way was better when it comes to fixing the economy. Overall, the president spoke longer than Gov. Romney but it was Romney who landed more blows. One of Romney’s direct hits came when he characterized Obama’s economic policies of bigger government and more spending, taxes and regulations as “trickle-down government.” He also called the decline in household incomes under the Obama administration as the “economy tax.”

Romney’s strong performance in the first of three scheduled debates has recharged his campaign and proved that he’s passionate, hungry and ready to lead the nation forward. With the November 6 election a month away, Romney could very well have won over some undecided voters or at least convinced them to give him a second look. Prior to the debate, a poll from from NBC and the Wall Street Journal showed Romney trailing 49-46 but lagging even further behind in key swing states. While Romney will likely gain ground in the newest polls, the real scoreboard and the final tally that matters, won’t be revealed until Election Day.

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Fundraiser Worth Supporting

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

The initial response was heart-warming as over 30 physicians of Filipino ancestry, many of them members of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, answered the call and formed Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW). Now some 13 years later, the organization is still going strong. BCWW’s volunteer physicians, nurses and support staff actively participate in free community health fairs statewide, including on the islands of Lanai, Molokai, the Big Island, Maui, Kauai and Oahu. And it’s not just Filipinos who benefit from the free health screenings, physical exams, dental examinations and health education. Other ethnic groups are Samoans, Chinese, Mexican, Micronesians—you name it, BCWW has helped them and the underserved without expectation of reward or payment. It is the profession of

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Last week, Honolulu City councilmembers bid a fond *adieu* to their colleague Romy Cachola who participated in his last full Council meeting on October 3, 2012. The veteran councilmember, who has represented the communities of Kalihi, Salt Lake and Aliamanu for the past 12 years, will begin a new term at the State House of Representatives. We thank *Manong* Romy for his many accomplishments and contributions while at the Council and wish him all the very best and continued success at the Legislature!

Also in recent headlines was mayoral candidate Ben Cayetano, who formally unveiled his mass transit plan, which he touts as a cheaper, better and more flexible alternative to the City’s \$5.4 billion rail project. Cayetano developed his proposal (dubbed “FAST” or Flexible Affordable Smart Transportation) with the assistance of University of Hawaii-Manoa civil engineering professor Panos Prevedouros, who is a regular contributor to the Chronicle (see page 3 for Dr. Prevedouros’ latest article). If you want to find out more about Cayetano’s plan, please visit: www.voteben2012.com/category/press-releases/.

This issue’s cover story continues our coverage of the 2012 election with in-depth interviews of Charles Djou and Colleen Hanabusa. In the August 11th Primary Election, both candidates handily beat their lesser-known opponents, with Hanabusa winning with 92,136 votes and Djou with 25,984. November 6 will be the rubber match for the familiar foes, who have faced off twice before—with Djou winning in 2010 and Hanabusa scoring a victory six short months later. If you are a registered voter in Congressional District 1 (urban Honolulu), we encourage you to familiarize yourself with both of these candidates and their respective stances on crucial issues by reading our question-and-answer session beginning on page 4. And in case you’ve forgotten, the last day for new voters to register to vote in the General Election is Monday, October 8, 2012. To qualify to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Hawaii and at least 18 years old. For information on where to obtain a voter registration form, please turn to page 3.

There are other news and tidbits in this issue that I have not mentioned but hope that you will also take time to read, particularly the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Fest on October 13 (page 6) and assistance for victims of domestic violence (page 11).

In closing, thank you once again for your continued support. As always, please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have ideas, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii’s vibrant Filipino community.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

medicine being practiced in its purest sense.

To raise funds for its outreach projects, BCWW routinely co-sponsors Broadway musical productions with Doctors-On-Stage, the latest entitled “BELIEVE, In Praise of Faith and Freedom,” which will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the Kroc Center. Doctors-on-Stage has performed previous Broadway musicals to sold-out audiences at the Fil-Com Center, Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall, Hilton Hawaiian Village and Farrington High School’s auditorium—and this performance promises to be just as good, if not better. We encourage you to make plans to attend what promises to be a very entertaining and worthwhile event.

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



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OP-ED

A Train Has the Capacity of Five Buses. So What?

By Panos D. Prevedouros, Ph.D.

When it comes to the rail, Kirk Caldwell and other politicians suffer from Wind Mill Deficiency. Their Wind Mill deficiency is real and its effects on society are serious. What I mean is this.

Wind mills or wind turbines are rated at a high capacity such as 100 MW for a medium size wind farm, but they come with a capacity factor. The capacity factor for wind mills is 0.3 and some argue that it should be as low as 0.2. (For reference, a coal or geothermal plant has a factor of over 0.9.) So a wind farm of 100 MW has an actual electricity production between 20 MW and 30 MW.

Similarly for rail, a single elevated rail can in theory carry more than 100,000 riders if a city buys enough trains and operates them very frequently, which means high acquisition, operation and maintenance costs. The real question is this: After billions are spent to build rail, will the

riders come? The sunny cities of Miami and San Juan have the answer: No way Jose!

Same as the wind mills, only about a quarter of the stated capacity of rail is usually utilized. This means that 75% of the investment does no good for the city that paid for it. Worse yet, most of the rail riders are forced on the rail by bus route closures, as is the plan for TheBus. In other words, rail is a lose-lose proposition: Rail itself is unproductive, and it downgrades the bus as well.

The advantage of buses and Bus Rapid Transit is that you only route as many buses meet the demand and no more. BRT is a far more flexible, demand-responsive and economical way to provide public transit, particularly for cities with modest populations.

Senator Inouye stated that: "Governor Cayetano does not understand that the precious \$1.55 billion for Honolulu rail is not transferable but will go back to the federal government." While I don't speak for Ben, I have been in many pub-



lic meetings with him. He hasn't stated that this amount will automatically revert to his transit proposal, but he mentions the President's, Congress' and FTA's strong commitment and additional special funds in MAP-21 for Bus Rapid Transit.

The plan for the federal \$1.55 Billion of the senator-supported rail is predictable: If the check ever arrives, it will be endorsed and mailed to Ansaldo in Italy and New York state were they design and build trains, respectively. Instead of the \$5.2 billion rail, Ben proposes a \$1.1 billion traffic and transit program called FAST. The Flexible, Affordable, Smart Transportation plan which is much more in tune with Honolulu's needs and budget. Take a look at it at his website (voteben2012.com).

If Kirk Caldwell and Senator Inouye are really interested in improving transit in the county of Honolulu, they may begin their education on the history of elevated rail in sunshine cities by simply reading about Miami's Metrorail, and San Juan's Tren Urbano. Here are a few highlights for Metrorail and Tren Urbano.

Miami's Elevated Heavy Rail

1. They got 80% Federal funds but still they ran out of money due to cost overruns. (Honolulu gets only 30%)
2. Ridership forecast was about 200,000 riders (Honolulu's is about 120,000 riders)
3. When the first segment of the single line opened ridership was only 10,000.
4. In 1990, six years after opening, it reached only

25% of its forecast ridership or about 50,000!

5. They too ordered trains from Ansaldo.

San Juan, Elevated Heavy Rail

1. They got 50% Federal funds but still there was a 74% escalation of construction costs (+74% over budget!)
2. There was a huge escalation of combined bus and rail operation and maintenance cost after the line was opened. Combined costs shot up by +250%!
3. There was a downgrade of Puerto Rico's bond ratings and new taxes were enacted to pay the debt.
4. There was a dramatic decline of total transit ridership (bus and rail) because the train dismantled their bus.
5. It is now more than six years since its opening in 2006 and the train has not reached 50% of its opening year forecast ridership!

PANOS D. PREVEDOUROS, PH.D., Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa, pdp@hawaii.edu.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Voter Registration Deadline is October 8, 2012

The Office of Elections is reminding the public that the last day for new voters to register to vote in the November General Election is Monday, October 8, 2012.

Completed voter registration forms must be submitted to the appropriate City & County Clerk by 4:30 pm. Applicants who choose to mail their voter registration form are urged to have it post-marked by Saturday, October 6, 2012.

Wikiwiki Voter Registration Forms are available at U.S. post offices, public libraries, Yellow Pages, City & County Clerk's Offices and most State agencies. Forms



may also be downloaded online at: www.hawaii.gov/elections.

To qualify to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Hawaii and at least 18 years old. Current registered voters who have changed their name or moved since the last election should re-register before the voter registration deadline. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

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COVER STORY

Djou vs. Hanabusa: Familiar Foes Face Off for U.S. House District 1

By HFC Staff



For the third time in about 30 months, Colleen Hanabusa and Charles Djou will square off for the right to represent Hawaii's 1st Congressional District. In 2010, Djou won Round 1 in a three-way special election but was defeated by Hanabusa six months later in a one-on-one rematch. The winner come November will help to determine control of the U.S. House. Most political analysts believe that the House will likely remain in Republican hands, but in the topsy-turvy world of politics, anything can, and has, happened.

To familiarize our readers with the candidates, the Chronicle sent a list of questions to their respective campaigns. Both spoke candidly about their backgrounds, priorities if elected and plans to improve Hawaii. The following responses were edited for space and clarity.

CHARLES DJOU

Q: Why have you decided to run for Congress?

A: People are struggling to make ends meet. Through my decade of service in public office, I recognize that what happens in Washington directly affects the lives of families in Hawaii. Congress is again proposing to increase the national debt by over a trillion dollars and for the first time in our country's history, its credit rating has been downgraded. We need someone who will oppose higher taxes and wasteful government spending. If I am fortunate enough to earn your support, I will never forget that every dollar the government spends comes from a

family like yours.

Q: What makes you the best-qualified candidate to represent Hawaii in Washington, DC?

A: I believe in the America where hard work and determination create unlimited opportunity. While a city councilmember, state representative and congressman, I woke up every morning determined to make life better for the people of Hawaii.

I supported the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Act. As a veteran, I understand the need to take care of those who answered our nation's call to serve and placed themselves in harm's way to protect all of us. I also co-sponsored the Filipino World War II Veterans Family Reunification Act in Congress and supported granting exchange and commissary privileges to World War II Filipino veterans, who were granted disability compensation/benefits that are service-related.

I am a strong believer in free trade. The Philippines should have "Most Favored Nation Status" and I support a negotiated free trade compact between the U.S. and the Philippines. I support the Filipino Community Center. It is important to have input from the Filipino community. While in Congress, I had a Filipino advisory group comprised of

COLLEEN HANABUSA

Q: Why have you decided to run for Congress?

A: To continue the work I've been doing on behalf of the First Congressional District and the state of Hawaii. My 12 years in the State Senate, including four years as senate president, gave me a solid background on the issues facing our state and allowed me to develop effective legislative skills.

Our community needs a strong voice to stand up for values that make Hawaii special—respect for our seniors, educational opportunities for our children, job security and adequate social services for those need them most. We must also grow our economy, protect the environment, promote health awareness and support our host culture. All of these issues and my commitment to work for the people of Hawaii have motivated me to serve in Congress.

Q: What makes you the best-qualified candidate to represent Hawaii in Washington, DC?

A: I have been your representative in Washington, DC for nearly two years. I have the ability, relationships and skills needed to continue serving. I am proud of my service on the House Armed Services Committee, Natural Resources Committee and the Panel on Business Challenges With the Defense Industry.

Second, my years in the State Senate gave me a solid foundation for effective legislative leadership. I have the ability to work with others who bring differing opinions to the table. Third, I was raised on Oahu's leeward coast where life was hard, but our community pulled together to solve whatever burdens we faced. I understand and appreciate the importance of homespun values, valuing every dollar, helping the underprivileged and respecting differences. I bring these values to my work in Washington, DC every day.

Q: What are the major issues currently facing Hawaii on the national level?

Strengthening our economy, providing educational opportunities for our children, saving the environment, protecting our seniors and respecting cultural diversity. We also need to preserve our host culture, provide native Hawaiians with adequate political representation and economic stability, address immigration problems and minority issues and more.

Hawaii is dependent on its natural environment as its main economic asset. As the state most dependent on imported oil, we have to develop alternative sources of energy and new technologies. Finally, Hawaii is in a unique position as America's most forward position in the Pacific. We will continue to play a critical role in terms of our nation's defense, which will also enhance our state's economic base.

Q: If elected, what will be your priorities?

A: To watch out for our seniors, children, working families and middle class. They are the foundation of our community. At the same time, it is my priority to ensure that Hawaii has a voice in our nation's defense and protecting our environment. My service on the House Armed Services and the Natural Resources committees has allowed me to address those priorities.

Q: What is your stance on protecting/preserving Medicare and Social Security?

A: Social Security provides economic security to retired and disabled workers and their family members, while Medicare provides important healthcare benefits to assist seniors and the disabled with the rising costs of healthcare services. Together, these programs ensure that everyone is cared for. We cannot abandon or neglect

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



Board-certified ophthalmologist
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COVER STORY

(from page 4, DJOU...)

members from the Filipino community, such as Eddie Flores, Sam Sonson, Gene Dumaran, Vanessa Kop and Aldrin Villahermosa, who kept me apprised on issues facing the Filipino community.

Q: What are the major issues currently facing Hawaii on the national level?

A: We need to get our economy back on track. We are spending money we don't have, on programs that don't work. Worse yet, we have no plan to pay it back—other than to hand the bill to our children.

We need the following—a balanced budget amendment; to put the brakes on wasteful spending; earmark reform to change the culture of spending in Congress; to stop a \$1 trillion takeover of our healthcare system by the federal government; comprehensive reform to expand legal and reduce illegal immigration; and bipartisan representation in Congress. With a Republican majority in the U.S. House, we need a Republican representative with a record of putting Hawaii's interests first and who will ensure that Hawaii's interests are protected.

Q: If elected, what will be your priorities?

A: My number one priority will be to get our economy back on track. We need more job creation. We need to restrain wasteful spending. I will work to reduce our marginal tax rates to put more money in the hands of American families; expand free trade to open more markets to American business, including trade with the Philippines; and immediately reduce our federal budget deficit and national debt.

Q: What is your stance on protecting/preserving Medicare and Social Security?

A: The government has an obligation to honor its commitment to those who have paid into Social Security their whole lives and are nearing retirement. Social Security, Medicare and other entitlement programs need to be protected. Frequent borrowing from Social Security to pay for today's "priorities" has bankrupted the program. With unemployment at record high levels and the cost of healthcare rising, the last thing our country needs is a tax hike or a cut to entitlements earned by senior citizens.

We cannot let Social Security go bankrupt. We need strong leadership that will promote fiscal responsibility

to ensure that these programs will be viable for future generations. Social Security and Medicare are sound for today's seniors and for those nearing retirement, but they need to be fixed for our children and grandchildren. We must act soon, because every year that we wait to fix this problem we will burden future generations with billions of dollars in debt.

Q: What should be done to improve the nation's healthcare system?

A: The Obama health care plan has failed to find broad consensus among the American people. We should reform our healthcare system the right way. I support market-based healthcare reforms. What is needed is tort reform. I have long supported a limit on non-economic damages for medical malpractice. Tort reform is long overdue and I will fight for a \$250,000 cap or three times economic damages for medical malpractice awards to help reduce the need for "defensive" medicine and bring down the cost of malpractice insurance. I also support allowing the sale of interstate health insurance. Just two carriers provide over 90 percent of all health insurance in Hawaii, which reduces competition.

Finally, we need to rethink the way we tax health insurance. The current structure of health insurance in the U.S. dates back to World War II. Rather than have corporations as the sole providers of health insurance, we should instead allow for an individual tax deduction for health insurance and make the health insurance market a more "normal" individual choice. Rather than place employers and companies at the center of the health insurance decision-making process, it is better to leave it to individuals, as we do with auto, home and life insurance. Health care is personal and patients will always make better personal choices for themselves than could their employers.

*(continued on page 8)**(from page 4, HANABUSA...)*

lect our commitment to the millions who depend on these programs. Because Social Security does not contribute to the federal deficit, I believe that every American who has contributed to the Social Security fund is entitled to continue receiving the benefits they have earned.

Prolonged debates in Congress over the federal deficit have included numerous proposals to reduce or eliminate Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, I have stood by my commitment to keep these programs intact so they may continue to serve as a lifeline to millions of Americans. I have co-sponsored a number of bills and resolutions to prevent cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. I have also signed letters to the president and House and Senate leadership urging them to keep the needs of seniors in mind as they work to restore economic growth to our country.

Q: What should be done to improve the nation's healthcare system?

A: I believe the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) passed by Congress will produce long overdue improvements to the nation's healthcare system. The law protects Hawaii's families from unreasonable insurance premium increases and allows residents to receive proper care when they need it the most. It also ensures that states can build health in-

urance exchanges that provide lower cost and more information to consumers. Finally, the law safeguards against increases in the price of drugs for seniors and closes the "donut hole" for seniors with very high prescription drug costs. The PPACA already eliminated the power of insurance companies to deny protection to children with pre-existing conditions and will extend those protections to all Americans by 2014.

Focusing on cost-saving prevention rather than treatment, the PPACA is estimated to reduce the federal deficit by \$143 billion over the first 10 years of enactment. This law was designed to curb the rising cost of health care and provide coverage to 94 percent of the population, while proactively combating the deficit. On January 19, 2011 the U.S. House voted to repeal this law, passing H.R. 2 by a vote of 245-189. I voted against this measure and will continue to support efforts to enact healthcare reforms as outlined in the PPACA.

Q: What is your stance on immigration reform? What is your suggestion to fix the system? Would you support legislation to allow some illegal residents to stay in the U.S. if they were on a path to citizenship?

A: Illegal immigration presents great challenges. We must continue to enforce our nation's current immigra-

(continued on page 9)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Cayetano Unveils Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Honolulu mayoral candidate Ben Cayetano last week rolled out his transportation plan that he says will provide economical and effective solutions to Oahu's traffic congestion and mobility challenges.

Dubbed Flexible Affordable Smart Transportation (FAST), the plan includes a mix of bus rapid transit (BRT), highway improvements, signal synchronization, telework and other modern technological advances aimed at reducing commute time on Oahu from the current average of 292 minutes to 20 minutes.

Cayetano's proposal will employ:

- Express bus rapid transit (BRT) for Leeward and Central Oahu as well as a college express BRT connecting the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu Community College and everything in between.
- Added traffic lanes on King Street and Nimitz Highway.
- Contraflow lanes on King and Dillingham Boulevard to accommodate rush-hour traffic and dedicated BRT Lanes.
- Short underpasses to reduce in-town congestion.
- A two-mile elevated reversible Nimitz Flyover for express travel from the airport viaduct to Iwilei and Downtown Honolulu.
- Islandwide traffic signal optimization and 21st century traffic management systems

The entire plan is estimated to cost \$1.1 billion, or roughly one-fifth of the proposed elevated heavy rail system. BRT systems have been effective forms of mass transit in the Twin Cities, Minnesota; Los Angeles, California; and cities in China, India, Indonesia, Britain, Brazil, Canada and Mexico. Cayetano noted that a pilot BRT could be operational within six months—unlike the heavy rail system, which would not be ready to serve UH-Manoa for decades.

"Unlike heavy rail which will take 10 or more years to complete, Honolulu commuters will see traffic congestion reduced by our FAST program within six months," says Cayetano.

In addition to introducing advanced traffic management systems to Oahu, the FAST program will include common sense policies that will both decongest the highways and, be rapidly implemented. These include deploying telework programs, staggered hours and flex time work schedules. Cayetano also cited contraflow lanes, express buses and flex time schedules as solutions that can start working in a few months.

"Honolulu-wide signal optimization will greatly improve traffic flow and will take a couple years to set up," says Cayetano. "The result will be savings of millions of gallons of fuel and thousands of hours needlessly sitting at traffic lights."

Cayetano says that FAST program will reinvigorate Honolulu's former world-class bus system and will not require people to change their lifestyle. He also noted that his proposal would not incur a crushing debt, aesthetic blight nor entail an increase in property taxes for Oahu residents.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation to Host Maui Fil-Am Heritage Fest on October 13

by HFC Staff

There's a saying on Maui—"you can have it all at the Maui Mall." And that will be no different when the Master P-Noy Chef Cook Off, Speedy Balut Eating Contest, Filipino Fashionista and the P-Noy Artist Contest will all converge at the Maui Mall on October 13, 2012 from 10 am to 3 pm.

There will also be back-to-back entertainment and of course, fantastic Filipino food. And if that's not enough, there will be business booths, an art display, a historical display, a martial arts demonstration and a drawing for airline tickets to the Philippines, courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines and Philippine Airlines.

Celebrating Filipino-American History Month

The Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival will be

presented by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation—the charitable and educational arm of the Maui Filipino Chamber. In 2008, Hawaii law (Act 15) designated October as Filipino-American History Month to commemorate the contributions of Fil-Ams to the history and heritage of Hawaii and the U.S.

"The Maui Filipino Chamber decided to sponsor a festival to share our heritage but more importantly to promote Filipino businesses," says Sharon Zalsos, president of the Maui Filipino Chamber. "After all, the Chamber is here to promote business."

Promoting Filipino Businesses

To fulfill the goal of promoting business, eight restaurants will sell Filipino food, says Teresita Noble, who is in charge of the Food Vendors committee. The

following restaurants will participate—Café Central Catering; Four Sisters Kitchen; TJ's Oriental Foodmart; Randy's Catering & Fast Food; CAA Market Place; Paradise Supermart Fastfood & Catering; Bentos & Banquets by Bernard; R.M. MiniMart and Fast Food & Catering Services LLC.

"They will be providing such staples as *pansit*, pork and peas, *adobo* as well as desserts like *lumpia* and *halo halo*. There will be enough food for you to buy and take home," says Noble.

All Day Entertainment

And after you eat, there will be back-to-back entertainment. According to Madelyne Pascua, program chairperson, the following groups will perform—Dance International Production, Sharon Zalsos, La Galeria, Reynaldo Ramos, Good Shepherd Church Dance



Troupe, Bailes de Pilipinas, Timpuyog Cultural Group, and Paris Sensano. The Maui Filipino Martial Arts Academy under the direction of Brian Aganos will also provide a demonstration on the Filipino martial arts of *escrima*.

Master P-Noy Chef Cook Off

The program will also feature a cooking competition featuring a few of Maui's talented and award-winning chefs of Filipino ancestry.

"We hope this exposure will also encourage folks to consider a career in the culinary arts through the Maui Culinary Academy at the University of Hawaii Maui

College," says Gilbert Keith-Agaran, chairperson of the cooking contest. "Chef Jake Belmonte at the Academy has again been instrumental in providing the technical assistance to present the Cook Off."

Returning to defend his title will be Executive Chef Sheldon Simeon of Star Noodle. A Big Island native, Simeon began his education at the Leeward Community College (LCC) Culinary program and graduated from the Maui Culinary Academy. He is a current competitor on the TV show "Top Chef" and was voted Chef of the Year by

(continued on page 10)

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OPINION



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

Meeting Mitt Romney: What I Told Him and What I Will Ask Him When He Wins

“Don’t you think he gave a rousing speech; there was ‘fire in the belly’?” I remarked to former California Governor Pete Wilson, whom I saw after the dinner. “Yes, indeed,” he concurred.

What will I ask President Romney

We have been told that by making a significant contribution to a presidential candidate, a contributor’s name will be recognized and that person’s communications will not be thrashed. I did that with Bush I and Clinton and I got a reply.

Here are the three things I would ask a President Romney none of which will personally benefit me but which will benefit other Filipinos:

(1) Have the Rescission Act rescinded in order to restore equal benefits to Filipino World War II veterans that American veterans receive.

(2) Have a provision added to the Immigration and Nationality Act allowing relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents with approved visa petitions to come to the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa to await the availability of their immigrant visas here rather than in their native country. I call this the “X visa”. (Read my article on X visa in a previous issue of this publication).

(3) Visit the Philippines and other nations whose territories are threatened by China’s aggressive actions in the South China Sea and assure them that America will help them defend their nation.

Can Romney win?

If you read or listen to the noisy liberal pro Democratic media and the well paid SOBs (sycophants of Barack or sipsip of Barack), Romney will not win. However, they have not reckoned with the following:

(1) Republicans are solid and passionate for Romney, but the Democrats are not solid and are tepid for Obama. The Clinton Democrats will not vote for Obama because they want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016 and win. Hillary cannot win if Obama is reelected because after 8 years of Obama, people will be so fed up with the

Democrats that any Republican will win. So why did President Clinton introduce Obama at the Democratic convention and even bowed as he approached. That’s what sets the Clintons apart from others. They are Yale-educated folks who are taught to be gracious. Compare them with Harvard-educated Obama viciously throwing mud at Romney, a fellow Harvardian.

(2) Most white people will go back to another white like the chickens come home to roost. They will tell themselves “Okay, so we tried this black guy to show we are not racists. But the SOB (Son of Barack, Sr.) is a down-right failure. Hillary was right during the Democratic primary. Obama is inexperienced to be President. Why give him another four years. What will he do that he has not done or failed to do?”

(3) Most Christians will vote for Romney. They don’t like gay marriage and are fed up with abortion on demand at government expense.

(4) Obamacare is despised by a majority of the people because it penalizes them for not buying health insurance, and it is immaterial whether it is called a tax or a penalty. Business people resent Obamacare because it increases the cost of doing business by forcing them to pay more health insurance premiums for employees, hence they will not employ more people.

(5) Most unemployed folks yearn to go back to work. They are tired of listen-

ing to Obama’s promise to create jobs. People would rather be given a fishing pole to catch fish (the Republican approach) than be given fish, which might even rot (the Democratic approach).

(6) The unfortunate people who lost their homes through foreclosure are angry at Obama for giving aid to the big banks that foreclosed their homes instead of giving aid directly to them so they could have saved their homes.

(7) Our brave men and women in the military are very concerned about the deep cuts to the military budget under the Obama administration that will adversely affect their benefits and America’s ability to defend itself.

(8) The “hope and change” rhetoric of Obama turned out to be bola bola. Many people have lost hope. Many have only loose change in their pocket.

How about the polls showing Obama ahead?

If you believe in polls, then you must believe in the tooth fairy. I know how they are manufactured or concocted. The most famous or infamous poll was the one that predicted Dewey would beat Truman. Have you ever seen the picture of Truman laughing while holding the Chicago Tribune with the headline “Dewey Wins”? The most recent false poll was the one in Hawaii which predicted that congressional candidate Tulsi Gabbard (formerly Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo) a virtual unknown was behind former Mayor Hannemann by more than 10 points. She clobbered him with a 20 point margin and a 23,700 vote difference in the Democratic primary.

(ATTY. TIPON may be reached by email at: filam-law@yahoo.com)

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COVER STORY

(from page 5, DJOU...)

Q: What is your stance on immigration reform? What is your suggestion to fix the system? Would you support legislation to allow some illegal residents to stay in the U.S. if they were on a path to citizenship?

A: I support reform that will expand legal immigration and reduce illegal immigration. While I believe America's borders need to be secured, I also believe the U.S. should further expand legal immigration visas, including visas from the Philippines. It is important to accommodate or expedite the processing of visas for Filipinos who are coming to the U.S. to attend college, work in fields such as health care and care for family members who need assistance in their daily living.

The process of obtaining a visa is too cumbersome. I support including the Philippines in the list of countries with a visa waiver program to the U.S. I also support changing current visa policies to allow

for a reasonable accommodation for those with expired visas.

Q: Addressing the nation's \$15 trillion national debt will require sacrifices from everyone. What specific examples of federal spending or tax provisions would you support eliminating or reducing?

A: With our debt soaring past \$15 trillion, we need a budget that sets out how our nation plans to spend your tax dollars. This is the third year in a row that Congress has failed to pass a budget. Without that plan, government spending has been reckless and disproportionate to the revenues it received, resulting in a dramatic increase in our national debt.

As far as reductions in federal spending, our elected officials should put their money where their mouths are. Millions of Americans have had to take pay cuts; members of Congress should take a pay cut. Likewise, millions of Americans have re-

duced their spending in light of the economic downturn. Congress should do the same by reducing the amounts they spend for their congressional office budgets. As a state representative, I succeeded in opening the State's budget worksheets to the public. The time has come to open the Washington earmark process to public scrutiny as well.

Q: Do you have a plan when it comes to balancing the nation's budget? What is it?

A: We must start with a balanced budget amendment. Until Congress is forced to balance its books annually, we will never get the reckless spending in Washington under control. I also support a line-item veto to eliminate wasteful pork barrel spending and congressional earmarks that needlessly boost spending. I also support the bipartisan deficit commission's recommendations. These are all sensible policies applauded by both Republicans and Democrats.

Q: What will you do to prevent fraud and waste in government and make sure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely?

A: Reducing spending and cutting government waste has always been a priority of mine. As a congressman, I sponsored the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2009, which would require each executive agency to establish and maintain specified safeguards and internal controls for official purchase cards and convenience checks. I also sponsored the Truth in Spending Act with former Arizona Democrat Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to force the federal government to regularly audit its spending practices for waste and over-spending.

Q: Do character and morality matter in politics?

A: Absolutely. When people trust their elected officials, they trust their government. I believe that the personal integrity of elected officials is fundamental to our democ-

racy. All major public policy goals start with an open and honest government.

Strong families raise successful children and keep communities together. I am candid about my own faith and my belief that we need a deeper, more substantive appreciation of the role that faith plays in American life. As a husband and father of three, I know that strong families and a diverse community form the bedrock of a strong Hawaii and strong America.

Q: Any last words for our readers?

A: Filipinos should be given every opportunity to succeed. But government with its high taxes and over-regulation needs to get out of the way. I have a record of voting against all tax increases and against wasteful spending. Like you, I want a better future for my children and share the Filipino community's deep commitment to faith and family.



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COVER STORY

(from page 5, HANABUSA...)

tion laws but at the same time, we must recognize that the U.S. has always drawn its major strength for creativity and economic growth from its cultural diversity and pluralism. It is in our best interest to continue to accept people from around the world and to enable them to succeed.

I fully support the Dream Act, which offers citizenship to people who entered the country illegally before their 15th birthday should they show good moral character and fulfill certain obligations. For children brought to the U.S. and raised and educated here, I find it difficult to punish them for their parents' choices. This bill would require enrollment in college towards a bachelor's degree or military service for a chance to qualify for citizenship.

The immigration process in America needs to be streamlined and improved, and the enforcement efforts of current laws need to be strategically focused on individuals who pose a risk to society, rather

than on breaking up families or punishing those who are making positive contributions to our nation.

Q: Addressing the nation's \$15 trillion national debt will require sacrifices from everyone. What specific examples of federal spending or tax provisions would you support eliminating or reducing?

A: We need to begin by closing the tax loopholes for corporations in the oil and gas industry. These corporations are making record profits partly by exploiting loopholes in the tax code. We must also end the tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. Tax breaks should be used as an incentive for companies to innovate and create jobs domestically—not to make bigger profits by sending American jobs overseas.

Q: Do you have a plan when it comes to balancing the nation's budget?

A: We must start by being extremely conscious of how we evaluate the funding of

federal programs. These projects need to provide a return on our investment, be it through education such as job training, infrastructure development or research. We must also address the tax code. This includes closing corporate loopholes that are currently being exploited by countless corporations and making sure that the most fortunate among us are paying their fair share.

Q: What will you do to prevent fraud and waste in government and make sure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely?

A: I believe there is waste, fraud and abuse in every agency. I support efforts to streamline duplicative programs so that funds are spent in the most efficient way possible. Although there are many well-intentioned federal programs, fragmented efforts often lead to a focus on compliance with detailed requirements rather than on furthering the original mission.

Earlier this year Congress

passed the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act, which would ensure that lawmakers and employees of Congress do not benefit from financial trading based on non-public information and would bring transparency to government by requiring lawmakers, executive officials and certain employees to make their financial investments available online. Passing the STOCK Act was necessary to reassure the American people that we must abide by standards of financial and ethical responsibility. I am proud to co-sponsor the original STOCK Act bill, H.R. 1148.

Q: Do character and morality matter in politics?

A: Absolutely. Voters should feel comfortable and reassured that the officials they elect will act in a manner that is ethical, moral, transparent, accountable, respectable and effective, and without any trace of corruption whatsoever.

Q: Any last words for our

readers?

A: I have a deep sense of service to the community and for the people of Hawaii even before I became a public official. I have carried this to the U.S. Congress where I now serve as your representative. I have a special respect and aloha for the Filipino community, which has contributed tremendously to the history and development of Hawaii for more than 100 years. The Filipino community will also be pleased to know that I co-sponsored House Bill H.R. 2387, which provides duty-free treatment for imports of certain apparel or garment items from the Philippines that use U.S. fabrics. This will help sustain an export market for our textile industry and create new jobs.

Filipinos have helped to make Hawaii one of the most productive and vibrant multicultural states in America. I am deeply grateful for your continued support and will be honored if you send me to Congress again. *Mabuhay and maraming salamat!*

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS



From the movie 'Harana'

Phil Consulate General to Promote Pinoy Films'

The Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu will host a public event and press conference on October 14, 2012 at 11 am to promote the seven Philippine documentary and independent films slated for showing at the upcoming 32nd Annual Hawaii International Film Festival.

The films will be screened at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX and Hawaii Theatre from October 11-21, 2012. The films are: "Harana," "Apparition," "Bwakaw," "Diablo," "Graceland," "Remington and the Curse of the Zombadings," and "Don't Stop Believin': Every Man's

Journey."

The executive producers and director of "Harana" will be in town for the screening on October 14. The film documents Florante Aguilar, a Fil-Am classically-trained guitarist who journeys home to the Philippines to find surviving harana singers and players. "Harana" has received critical acclaim and was invited to participate in several international film festivals.

For more information on the Filipino film entries, please go online and visit www.hiff.org, call 447-0577, or contact the Consulate at 595-6316 ext. 105.

(from page 6, MAUI FILIPINO...)

his fellow chefs.

Attempting to overthrow the reigning Master P-Noy Chef will be Executive Chef Geno Sarmiento and Executive Chef Joey Macadangdang. Sarmiento also studied at LCC and started in the kitchen pantry of Nicholas Nickolas. In 1998, he moved to Maui and opened Nick's Fishmarket Maui and became executive chef on the opening crew of Sarento's on the Beach. Sarmiento then opened Son'z at the Hyatt Regency in Kaanapali, which is known for its award-winning menus.

Macadangdang moved to Maui when he was 13 and became an executive chef of Blue Tropix Restaurant & Night Club in Lahaina in his mid-20s. His next stop was at the Rusty Harpoon and in 1992, he joined the Yamaguchi Restaurant team and became a corporate executive chef at Roy's and is currently at Roy's Kahana.

Business Booths, History, Art, and the P-Noy Artist Contest

Attendees can also go shopping at the various business booths offering Philippine handicrafts, clothing, t-shirts, Christmas décor and a variety of services. The historical display is hoping to feature the camp registry from the

Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum where folks can identify where they lived in Puunene.

The Art Display will have a new feature—the P-Noy Artist Contest. Competition for youth will be in two dimensional, three dimensional and digital artwork, while adults will compete in digital artwork and photography. Local artist Phil Sabado is spearheading the contest and more details can be obtained by calling him at 249-0980 or 205-2809. To enter, the artwork must be delivered by October 9 to the Sabado Art Studio at 49 North Market Street in Wailuku.

The Speedy Balut Eating Contest

The Speedy Balut Eating Contest will be held after lunch for the adventurous. It will be restricted to experienced balut eaters and limited to the first 10 contestants in each age category (18-25; 26-50; and over 50). The winner will be the fastest one to eat a balut!

The Filipino Fashionista

To be a Filipino Fashionista, you obviously have to have more than grace and personality—you need to be dressed to the max or close to it! The

(continued on page 11)

FEATURE

Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence

by Philip Dureza, Esq.

Louisa met Jose through Louisa's family living in Hawaii. They courted over the phone during the first few months of their relationship as Louisa was still in the Philippines. Jose eventually went to the Philippines to court Louisa in person and proposed to her there. Swept into believing in the promise of a loving husband and of working together towards a better life, Louisa agreed to marry Jose and waited eagerly for her immigration papers to be processed so she could join him in the U.S.

On the first night of Louisa's arrival, Jose forced her to have sex all night. He was aggressive and violent and despite her pleas to stop, Jose insisted it had to be this way. Jose repeated this behavior almost every night, ignoring Louisa's cries and objections.

The more Louisa resisted having sex with him, the more Jose got angry. He would accuse her of seeing another man, call her derogatory names and threaten to have her deported. Eventually, Jose's behavior escalated into pushing, grabbing and punching Louisa in her back, arms and legs.

Louisa was overwhelmed

with conflicting and ambivalent feelings. She wanted to escape her daily misery but was also afraid of being deported. She was ashamed and embarrassed that her marriage was having problems and felt responsible to make it work. It was not until Jose assaulted her again and police got involved when she finally separated from him.

Sadly, situations like Louisa's are not uncommon with immigrant women, including within the Filipino community. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Filipinos were the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii, next to whites. About one quarter of Hawaii residents are either full Filipino or half-Filipino. Filipinos also continue to be the largest immigrant group in Hawaii, making up about 43 percent of the state's approximate 224,000 residents who are foreign born.

Immigrating to the U.S. through marriage occurs through a two step process. The first step requires that the U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident spouse petition the U.S. government for his or her immigrant spouse to receive legal permanent residence, which is commonly referred to as receiving a "green card." However, the green card that the immigrant spouse initially receives is only valid for two



years and typically, the petitioning spouse and the immigrant spouse will need to file a "joint" petition in order for the immigrant spouse to receive his or her "permanent" green card. This is considered the "second" step and this joint petition cannot be filed until 90 days before the temporary green card expires.

In cases of domestic violence, however, the petitioning spouse will often use the immigration process to control and coerce the immigrant spouse and keep her in an abusive relationship. Abusive spouses usually do this by refusing to petition for their immigrant spouse to receive their green card or threatening them with deportation.

To address this problem, the U.S. government passed several immigration laws that allow abused immigrant spouses and/or their abused children to receive their green card without having their abusive spouses petition for them. In immigration lingo, this process is called self-petition-

ing, and it is available to abused immigrant spouses at both the "first" and "second" steps of the immigration process discussed above.

Among the requirements of self-petitioning, the immigrant spouse will need to prove that she has been abused by her spouse and that her marriage to her spouse is genuine. Those individuals who are interested in the self-petitioning process should contact an immigration attorney or the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at 536-8826 for more information.

As Filipinos and Filipino-Americans continue to thrive and shape Hawaii society and

history, it is imperative that we do what we can to prevent domestic violence and protecting domestic violence survivors.

For more information regarding domestic violence prevention, education, advocacy and legal representation for victims and survivors, please contact the Domestic Violence Action Center Helpline at 531-3771.

(PHILIP DUREZA is a family law attorney at the Domestic Violence Action Center. He attended Cornell University and the Iowa College of Law and has done immigration work for the Iowa College of Law Legal Clinic, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Connecticut Legal Services and Legal Services New York City).

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

winner of the Filipino attire contest (the female contest will be at 10:30 am and the male contest at 1 pm) will win free airfare to Las Vegas, courtesy of Noble Travel. So if you win, you will be all dressed up and ready to go to Las Vegas!

If an airline ticket to Las Vegas does not meet your fancy, how about airfare to the Philippines? You may be lucky if your name is drawn for one of the three airfares to the Philippines, courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines and Philippine Airlines. There are certain restrictions (must be 18 years of age, only one entry per person and must be present to win) and the drawings will be held throughout the day, so come early and stay the whole day.

The festival promises something for everyone—delicious food, appealing gifts for family and friends, challenging contests with prizes, interesting displays, continuous and multi-talented entertainment—a terrific way to celebrate Filipino-American History Month and to support Filipino businesses.

"We're overwhelmed by the outpouring of

financial support from our corporate sponsors" says event chair Alfredo Evangelista. "An event like this cannot happen without their continuing support as well as the support of many other volunteers."

Major sponsors of the Festival include the County of Maui, Alexander & Baldwin Foundation, the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation, ILWU, First Hawaiian Bank, Johnstone Supply Maui, Noble Travel, Hawaiian Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Maui Mall, Pacific Radio Group, Maui Culinary Academy, Grand Wailea and Ben Franklin Crafts.

For more information, please visit the Chamber's website at www.mauiFilipinoChamber.com, visit the Chamber's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MauiFilipinoChamber, follow the Chamber on twitter at <http://twitter.com/@MauiFilipinoCoC> or contact Evangelista at 242-8100 or 294-5510 or agesq@hawaii.rr.com or info@mauiFilipinoChamber.com.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Erap Files Bid for Manila's Top Post

by Jose Rodel Clapano
Wednesday, October 3, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Former President Joseph Estrada was mobbed by fans yesterday as he applied to run for mayor of Manila, nearly 12 years after a military-backed revolution ousted him.

The 75-year-old actor-turned politician vowed he had the energy to return to politics, and was ready to turn around the fortunes of the country's rundown capital.

"I am still strong, and I will not stop serving the people until the end," Estrada told AFP shortly after registering his candidacy with the Commission on Elections office in Arrocero to run for mayor of Manila in midterm elections next year.

"Manila needs a change.

There is urban decay, people are without jobs, the government is in deficit," he said.

Estrada said that, if he won, he would continue his programs for the poor that were halted when an uprising forced him to step down as president in 2001, only halfway through his six-year term.

Estrada was convicted in 2007 of corruption for plunder and taking kickbacks worth tens of millions of dollars while president. But his successor, Gloria Arroyo, quickly pardoned him.

Estrada, whose enduring popularity derives from an acting career in which he typically played heroes of the poor, finished second in the 2010 presidential race won by now President Aquino.

Estrada has said repeatedly that result vindicated his stance

that powerful political and business figures had conspired to oust him from power unfairly.

Some of the roughly 500 supporters who crowded around Estrada as he registered at the election office yesterday also said he had been framed for corruption.

Estrada's main opponent will be former ally Alfredo Lim, 82, the incumbent mayor who is also very popular with the masses.

Lim, a former policeman, earned the nickname of "Dirty Harry" in the 1990s during an initial stint as mayor for closing down

Manila's strip bars and marking the homes of suspected drug pushers with spray paint.

Estrada and his running mate, Vice Mayor Isko Moreno, left the former president's house in Sta. Mesa. Estrada drove his "Jeep ni



Erap and Manila Vice-Mayor Isko Moreno

Erap" from his house up to Liwasang Bonifacio, where he and Moreno disembarked.

He, Moreno, and 29 out of 36 incumbent city councilors are running under the banner of the United Nationalist Alliance. (www.philstar.com)

Phl Won't Pay China yet for North Rail

by Jess Diaz
Wednesday, October 3, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The government is not about to pay even a portion of the \$500-million loan from China, which the Arroyo administration obtained for the aborted scandal-ridden North Rail project.

Chinese officials have informed Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II when President Aquino sent him to China two weeks ago that the loan has come due and demandable.

In a text message to The STAR yesterday, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said the government, before making any payment, would have to determine what has been accomplished.

"We will follow the principle of equity and quantum merit and pay for what has been done or delivered," he said.

He said it is the Department of Transportation and

Communications (DOTC) that would quantify what the Chinese contractor chosen by the Chinese government for the project has accomplished.

To determine the extent of the job done and the legitimate expenses incurred by the Chinese contractor, incoming Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said the government would go to an international arbitration court.

He said that the arbitration court could establish the exact amount the government should pay for the aborted railway project.

"We expect that we'll be going on arbitration, it's a legal procedure on how to settle and compromise. We are allotting funds for the arbitration process. We expect it to wind down. We pay our obligations

and start anew," he said.

He added that DOTC officials have briefed him on the North Rail controversy.

"I am not sure of the (arbitration) venue, it should specifically state in the contract. At least, we are doing away with it, it's a bit difficult because if you hear all the stories, the irregularities and the inconsistencies in policies, I think we are better off winding down and planning anew," Abaya said.

He pointed out that though the Chinese-funded North Rail has been discontinued, there is still a need to build a high-speed rail system to Clark if plans to transfer the international airport to the former American airbase in Angeles City push through. (www.philstar.com)

FPJ's Daughter Files COC

by Jess Diaz
Wednesday,
October 3, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The daughter of the late action king Fernando Poe Jr. on Tuesday went to the Commission on Elections in Manila to file her certificate of candidacy for the senatorial race next year.

Chairperson Grace Poe-Llamanzares of the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board was with her mother, veteran actress Susan Rocas, and arrived at the



Grace Poe Llamanzares files for senatorial candidacy

Comelec main office in Intramuros before 2 p.m.

Wearing a white long-sleeve shirt, Llamanzares will be running under the Liberal Party. She has also been adopted by the United Nationalist Alliance of Vice President Jejomar Binay. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The USCIS began accepting applications for deferred action on August 15 after making the forms available on its website the day before. Meanwhile, DREAMers are turning out in large numbers, participating in community workshops and seeking legal assistance, in anticipation of submitting their requests for consideration of deferred action.

Since the USCIS is expected to be deluged with these requests in the coming weeks and months, some individuals may think that it is better to get ahead of the pack by filing their applications early.

But perhaps it is more important to get one's application right than to just simply

No Need to File for Deferred Action in Haste

get it filed. Making sure that an application is complete will help prevent unnecessary delays. A carefully prepared application will also prevent denials in cases that would otherwise merit a grant of deferred action.

Another reason why an applicant should not hastily submit a request is the fact that the new process would not allow him to appeal a denial or to file a motion to reopen or reconsider the denial.

The deferred action applicant must make sure to submit evidence that he meets the key guidelines under the new process. Examples of documents to demonstrate eligibility were provided in the guidelines issued by the DHS a few weeks ago.

To prove identity, the applicant may submit a passport, birth certificate with photo identification, a school ID with photo, or a U.S. govern-

ment immigration or other document with the applicant's name and photo. To show that he came to the U.S. before age 16, the applicant can submit a passport with an admission stamp, Form I-94, an INS or DHS document stating the date of entry, U.S. school records, travel records and hospital records.

To prove physical presence as of June 15, 2012 and continuous residence since June 15, 2007, applicants may submit rent receipts, utility bills, pay stubs, school records, religious records, money order receipts, passport entries, birth certificate for children born in the U.S., dated bank transactions, Social Security cards, car license receipts or registration, rental agreement contracts, tax receipts and insurance policies.

A final order of exclusion, deportation or removal and an I-94 with an expired date of authorized stay may be used to demonstrate that the applicant

lacked lawful status as of June 15, 2012. School transcripts, report cards, high school diploma or GED certificate will prove the applicant's student status as of the time of the request.

It is still unknown how long USCIS will take to process each application. If an applicant's submitted documentation is insufficient, the USCIS may send him a request for evidence or ask him to appear at a USCIS office. The adjudication process also involves biographic and biometric background checks as well as supervisory review.

After deferred action is granted, the applicant may apply for advance parole if he wants to travel outside the U.S. He must file Form I-131 Application for Travel Document and pay the \$360 filing fee. Generally, advance parole will be granted if the travel is for humanitarian, educational or employment purposes. Form I-131 cannot be filed

concurrently with the deferred action request.

Those whose cases have been deferred under this process but already have a final order of removal may also request advance parole. However, if advance parole is granted the applicant must first reopen the case and obtain an administrative closure or termination before traveling outside the U.S.

The guidelines provide that it will be possible to apply for the extension of the period of deferred action. The applicant would also have to request an extension of his employment authorization. Even individuals who have turned 31 years old can request an extension as long as they were not above age 30 on June 15, 2012.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Padaca Named Comelec Member

by Delon Porcalla
Wednesday, October 3, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino has appointed former Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca as commissioner of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), replacing Augusto Lagman who was not reappointed by Malacañang.

"I confirm that the appointment papers of Grace Padaca as Comelec commissioner have been transmitted to the Comelec," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said after checking the information from the office of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes welcomed yesterday the appointment of Padaca to the poll body.

"I was requesting the President for a woman to be the next commissioner and apparently, they listened to me. I can always say that we've known her already. There's no

problem with her integrity and she will be a big help to us. We welcome her," Brillantes said.

The appointment papers of Padaca, a former journalist, were dated Sept. 28. Her real name is Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca, and she served as governor of Isabela from 2004 to 2010.

Padaca will have a seven-year term until Feb. 2, 2018 and her tenure will outlive Aquino's presidency that will end in June 2016.

The Comelec chairman said Padaca would be a big asset to the independent constitutional body tasked to oversee the May 2013 senatorial polls.

Brillantes yesterday claimed that Padaca could act as "referee" when there are disagreements in the male-dominated Comelec.

Brillantes noted Padaca's appointment is ad interim "so she has to assume immediately before Congress resumes session."

He, however, claimed that

Padaca might face a legal problem because of a provision in the Constitution that could disqualify her from the Comelec post.

Brillantes was referring to Article IX C of the 1987 Constitution which states that "there shall be a Commission on Elections composed of a Chairman and six Commissioners who... must not have been candidates for any elective position in the immediately preceding elections."

"But which is the immediate and preceding elections? They say it is the barangay polls, which is immediately preceding elections. But should the immediately preceding election be of the same nature, which is national and local, which is May 2010 instead of October 2010 (barangay)?" Brillantes asked.

Sen. Loren Legarda also welcomed Padaca's appointment to the poll body.

"As far as I know, she is a woman of integrity. More than a woman, she deserves it be-

cause she has wide experience not only in media and in politics," she said.

Dy unchallenged in Isabela

The appointment of Padaca to the Comelec would mean that incumbent Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III would have no serious rival in his re-election bid.

Dy's Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III said that Padaca's appointment made Dy's re-election bid "a walk in the park." (www.philstar.com)

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ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Kumakanta A Deputy Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes: The Singing Diplomat

Ditoy Honolulu, Hawaii, aglalo iti Konsulada Heneral, adun ti nagserserbi, talentadoda amin iti bukodda a paglaingan kas iti panagpiano, panagsala, serbisio iti komunidad ket maysa kadagitoy ti naan-ammomi kabayatan a kaaddana ditoy, mabalin a kaubingan a Deputy Consul General, malaksid a naparagsit ken nadayaw, kasta met ti kinalaingna iti tay-ak iti foreign service kas diplomat, nalaing la ngaruden a makilangen, nalaing pay a kumanta daytoy naisem nga Ilokano.

Ni Deputy Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes daytoy nabuniagan a "Singing Diplomat"

Kaaduan a pasken dagiti Filipino a maipaset iti programa. Natalawitwit la ngaruden ti dilana no isu ti maysa kadagitoy emcee. Mangipatayab

latta ti nasam-it a kantana no adda dagiti koronasion a pakaibilangan ti salip ti Miss Hawaii Filipina, Mrs Hawaii Filipina, Miss Oahu Filipina ken dadduma pay a parambak ken koronasion.

Iti paset ti serenading the royal court, iti programa, namnamaem latta ti panagkantana.

Natibong latta ti palpalakpak, maidawat iti encore, no dadduma, makiduetto kadagitoy dadduma a nalatak a kumakanta.

Nangrugi a naam-ammomi idi sangsangpetna ditoy Honolulu idi agtatarimuyosen ti selebrasion ti maikasangagasut a tawen dagiti Filipino. Kas maysakami kadagitoy komisionado iti Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, Act 159, ket dakami ti pangulo ti Media Publicity & Communication Committee, sagpaminsan nga adda dagiti panagrararami iti miting mainaig iti selebrasion kas isu ti mangibagi ti Philippine Consulate no kasdiay a saan a

makadar-ay ti Consul Heneral Ariel Y. Abadilla.

Naulit-ulit dagiti panagpupulapol gapu kadagitoy adu a pasken, proyekto ken programa a pakairamanan dagiti adu a gunglo Filipino ken ti United Filipino Council of Hawaii kas maysakami met a nagpaay iti Board of Governors, Oahu Filipino Community Council, kas nagpaaykami met kadagitoy nadumaduma a komite, kas iti Annual Convention, Election Committee, ti Membership committee, ti Social Action and Mission Day Service Committee in partnership kadagitoy nadumaduma a gunglo: Feeding the Homeless, Hawaii Food Bank, Adopt a Hwy, Fundraising Projects for the Typhoon Victims, ti Filipino Community Center, ken adu pay.

Dita a nariknami a maysa a 'gayyem ti masa' ken nasinged a makilangen.

Kaaduan pay nga akem ni Cortes ti agpaay nga installing officer kadagitoy gunglo Filipino.

Aktibo kadagitoy fundraising a pannakaur-or dagiti pundo wenno donasion para kadagitoy biktima iti bagyo, layus ken didigra.

Maysa ni Cortes kadagitoy dadaulo ti Philippine Consulate Coordinating Council, mangidaulo ken mangsangaili kadagitoy dignitario nga aggapu iti Filipinas a pakairamanan ti kaadda ni Presidente Noynoy Aquino kabayatan a nagatendar iti Asian Pacific Economic Conference [APEC] idi Nobiembre 2011. Ti pannakapadayaw dagiti beterano ti gubat, ken dagiti selebrasion iti Aldaw ng Kagitingan, Aldaw ti Independensia, Aldaw ni Dr. Jose P. Rizal, adu pay a nadumaduma a seremonia mainaig iti gobierno iti Filipinas ken iti komunidad Filipino iti Hawaii.

Ni DCG Cortes ti ayudante ni Consul General Julius Torres ia simmangpet idi Disiembre 2011.

TALDIAP TI BIAG NI CORTES

Nayanak idia Baguio City idi Oktubre 29, 1967, ngem bigbigenna nga adda ramutna iti Laoag City.

Ama ti dua a lallaki, da Ralph Justin ken Nathan Andre. Ni Dr. Yasmin L. Balajadia, O.D., ti kapisi ti puso toy agkabannuag a diplomat.

Sakbay a naital-o iti agdama a rangkona a kas Deputy Consul General, tinneneb dagiti adu a padas ken trabahona a Foreign Service Officer Class IV manipud idi simrek iti Departamento ti Foreign Affairs idi Agosto 1, 1996 kalpasan a nagturpos iti kolehio.

NagDirektor of Ceremonials Office of Protocol idi Abril 15, 1997 aginggana iti Marso 30, 1998.

Naibaon idia Philippine Embassy, Budapest, Hungary

idi Marso 31, 1998 ket nagpaay nga addan iti naan-anay nga akredetision kadagitoy sakupenna iti Slovak Republic, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro ken Bosnia-Herzegovina aginggana iti Mayo 30, 2004. Nagdirektor iti Office of European Affairs manipud iti Mayo 31, 2004 aginggana iti Setiembre 27, 2006.

Setiembre 28, 2006 a timmugaw ditoy Honolulu a kas Consul. Isu metten a naisangal kadagitoy adu a pasken a Filipino.

Naigasatanna a nairuar ti eligibility for Career Minister Deputy Consul General idi Oktubre 2008 ket dayta ti agdama a puestona ita.

Nalpasna ti sekundaria idi 1984 manipud iti Ateneo de Manila High School, Quezon City, Philippines; Bachelor of Science in Computer idi Oktubre 1988 manipud iti Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

Adda naileppasna a units para iti Master in Information Systems ken para iti Master in Public Management, University of the Philippines.

Nairuarna iti eksamen para iti Foreign Service Officers, Manila, DFA, 1996; nairuarna ti eksamen para iti Career Ministers, DFA, 2008, Manila, ket naikkan iti karbengan iti rangko a Minister Counselor.

Iti pannakaital-ona a Deputy Consul General, isun ti maikadua iti rangkona iti Philippine Consulate General ditoy.

Masarakan ti pasdek ti Philippine Consulate General iti 2433 Pali Hwy iti puon ti nakaberberde a bantay. Manglukat ti opisina iti alas nuebe iti bigat aginggana iti alas kuarto iti malem, Lunes aginggana iti Biernes malaksid iti holidays.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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MAINLAND NEWS

BAYAN USA Urges Vigilance Over Cybercrime Law in the Philippines

The Philippine government has enacted the Cybercrime Prevention Law, a piece of legislation aimed at regulating unlawful internet use.

Nicknamed the E-Martial Law by human rights advocates, this law has been deemed a broad instrument for violating people's rights to free speech, press and due process as it gives the government expanded power to survey people's activity on the internet and specifically charge political dissenters with criminal activity, simply for expressing opinions against the government.

Bernadette Ellorin, chairperson of BAYAN USA, compares that the E-Martial Law to martial law in the 1970s in the Philippines, where the ruling elite sought to quell people's protest on the streets through censorship, police brutality, mass incarceration, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and other unmitigated human rights violations.

"E-Martial Law seeks the same in a digital age," says Ellorin. "But just as martial law culminated in a people's organized overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos, E-Martial Law is

being met with widespread and worldwide protests on the internet as well as in the streets."

Filipino-Americans understand the struggle, especially in a country that prides itself in valuing its First Amendment rights and freedoms. A year ago, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) were halted in Congress by people who mobilized and rallied in the streets against the potential threat against freedom of speech and due process.

"The internet has served as a vast platform for creative protest," says Ellorin. "Activists have sought social networking websites as an innovative space to increase public knowledge about economic, social and political injustices. The internet has allowed them to gain broad support all over the world in fights against oppressive regimes."

Internet rights continues to be a relevant issue as the U.S. engages in secret trade negotiations known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). Critics of the TPPA warn that the neo-liberal free trade agreement will trample on people's access to basic rights, such as food,

water, medicine and even the internet. Private corporations will be granted unbridled rights to patent and own otherwise public resources for their profitable gain.

"Laws drafted by the ruling class to prevent internet crimes benefit a privileged few—big corporations and ruling regimes who want to maintain power and control over ideas and facts," Ellorin says.

In addition to protests on social media sites, "offline" street protest actions have also been held in front of the Supreme Court in the Philippines by human rights advocates, journalists, bloggers, netizens and activists. These groups have vowed to express their dissent against the Cybercrime Prevention Law until it is junked and have filed official petitions challenging the law's constitutionality.

BAYAN USA officials are offering their support against internet tyranny and human rights abuses in the Philippines. It is an alliance of 18 Filipino organizations in the U.S. representing youth, students, women, workers, artists and human rights advocates. For additional information, please go online to: <http://www.change.org/petitions/junk-the-cybercrime-prevention-law>.

GLOBAL NEWS

Philippines, Croatia Hold Second Consultation

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippines and Croatia today conducted their second political consultation in Manila to enhance their cooperation, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced today.

The second Philippines-Croatia Political Consultation was held at the sub-ministerial level under the terms of the Protocol on Cooperation between the DFA and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia signed in 2005, the department said on Tuesday.

"The delegations discussed re-

cent developments in the Philippines and Croatia and the current state of bilateral relations between the two countries. They identified ways to further enhance cooperation at the political level and also in defense, trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchange as well as to implement activities under the terms of existing bilateral agreements in the field of science and technology, culture and sports," the DFA said.

One possible area of cooperation identified during the consultation was shipbuilding where both countries can explore investments and exchange of technology, it added.

The Philippine delegation was headed by DFA Undersecretary for Policy Erlinda F. Basilio. She was joined by DFA officials as well as representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Board of Investments (BOI).

Deputy Foreign and European Affairs Minister Josko Klisovic led the Croatian delegation.

Diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Croatia was established on February 25, 1993. As of end June this year, trade between the two countries was estimated at around \$4 million only.

(www.philstar.com)

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