

HAWAII



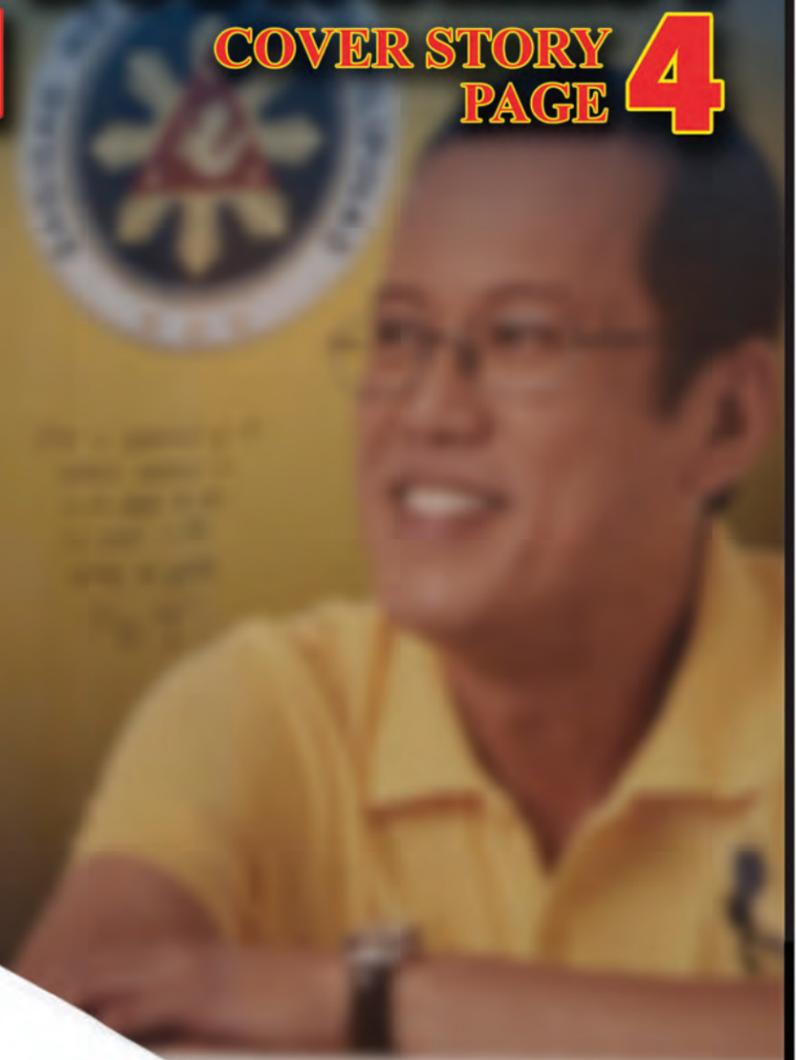
FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ NOVEMBER 3, 2012 ◆

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EDITORIAL

Welcoming a Brilliant Economist

Economics is basically the study of how people deploy resources to meet human needs. Economists are interested in incentives and prices, earnings and employment, investments and trade, among many things. Studying economics is important in the sense that it teaches us how to make rational use of our scarce resources in order to meet our unlimited wants.

As far as the Philippines' economy is concerned, perhaps few people understand it better than Dr. Arsenio "Arsi" Balisacan. In May of this year, Philippine President Benigno "Noy" Aquino III selected him to head the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)—an independent cabinet-level agency of the Philippine government responsible for economic development and planning. At the time, Dr. Balisacan was head of the University of the Philippines School of Economics and vice chair of the Foundation for Economic Freedom.

An expert in the field of rural development, Dr. Balisacan has extensive experience in agricultural planning and policy work—assets that observers say bode well for the Philippines' economy and development. As the head of NEDA, Balisacan has focused on poverty reduction and "inclusive growth"—a sustained growth that creates jobs, draws the majority into the economic and social mainstream, and continuously reduces mass poverty.

Dr. Balisacan is highly-regarded and well-respected by his peers for his work in agricultural and development economics with an interest on poverty incidence. He has taught development economics, agricultural economics, and special topics on poverty, inequality, and institutions at the UP School of Economics. He has also authored and co-edited several books and written over 100 articles, technical journals and book chapters.

Dr. Balisacan has a Hawaii connection, having arrived here in the early 1980s as an East-West Center Fellow and earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. He holds the distinction as only the second UH alumnus and the first with a Ph.D., to be appointed to a cabinet position in the Philippine government in recent years. We are certainly proud of Dr. Balisacan's accomplishments and encourage the Filipino community to welcome him with open arms when he returns for a visit in early December.

OPINION

Wanted: Champion For Rail Project

By Dennis Galolo

Construction of the \$5.3 billion Honolulu rail transit project hit a major roadblock when the Hawaii Supreme Court in late August ordered the City to conduct a full archeological survey before building the entire 20-mile long project. A survey would determine if there are Native Hawaiian burials or other archaeological resources in the path of the rail line, particularly in Downtown Honolulu where most of the burials are likely to be found. In early September, the first human remains within the rail route were uncovered by a crew conducting an archaeological survey in Kakaako.

Taxpayers could pay as much as \$10 million for each month that construction is halted. City officials have accelerated the survey work in hopes of resuming construction as soon as possible and will likely dip into the project's ever-shrinking contingency fund, which currently stands at about \$650 million. The court's ruling could not have come at a worst time as the City is anticipating a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) which would guarantee about \$1.5 billion in federal funds for the project. With the possibility of voters electing a new mayor in November who is fervently anti-rail

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Bottled water and toilet paper. For *kamaaina*, these are two must-have items in the event of any emergency. Warning sirens last October 27 prompted locals to rush to the stores and stock up on the essentials. As usual, bottled water and

toilet paper were in demand. Kudos to State and County civil defense officials who once again did an admirable job in warning the public and evacuating residents out of harm's way. Many people may have been inconvenienced, but thankfully Hawaii was once again spared from widespread damage.

If a tsunami scare wasn't enough excitement for the week, on Halloween night, a truck slammed into a median on the H-1 freeway near Aiea, which snarled traffic for tens of thousands of hapless Leeward-bound commuters. We hope that you were not among the frustrated motorists stuck in traffic and that you and your family enjoyed a safe Halloween. In the wake of this incident, the Legislature should look at whether to penalize those responsible for crashes, especially if a crash could have been prevented by better vehicle maintenance or better training for drivers. Stiff penalties and fines may not only be effective deterrents but also reminders that driving is a privilege, not a right.

In this issue, contributing writer Dr. Belinda Aquino introduces us to Dr. Arsenio "Arsi" Balisacan, a leading economist from the Philippines and a University of Hawaii alumnus. He is to the Philippines as well-known local economist Paul Brewbaker is to Hawaii. Dr. Balisacan is the director-general of the Philippine government's National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). As mandated by the Philippine Constitution, NEDA formulates continuing, coordinated, and integrated social and economic policies, plans, and programs to achieve sustainable economic growth and equitable distribution of income and wealth. Hawaii will be getting a treat when Dr. Balisacan visits in early December. The Filipino community certainly looks forward to meeting and hearing him speak. We encourage you to read more about this extraordinary individual beginning on page 4.

Lastly, we encourage every eligible voter to take part in the November 6th General Election. Your vote can influence the future of our great state as well as our nation. God bless Hawaii and God bless America!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

and with construction expected to resume in April 2013 at the earliest, the project's supporters are understandably nervous, since any sign of wavering public or political support would send a wrong signal to the feds.

What the beleaguered rail project desperately needs is a champion to sustain public support and momentum. Former Mayor Mufi Hannemann has been widely criticized for rushing the project forward. But he at least deserves credit for championing the project. Hannemann shepherded rail through the contentious selection process for the type of technology (steel-on-steel) and route (from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Center), held a number of symposiums that featured prominent rail experts from across the nation, and repeatedly traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby for congressional support. Rail was clearly Mufi's pet project and defining legacy as mayor. Current mayor Peter Carlisle has also supported rail but hasn't been nearly as outspoken or dynamic as Hannemann. Mayoral candidate Kirk Caldwell is a rail supporter but whether he can cast as wide and influential a shadow over the project as his predecessor remains to be seen.

For the moment, rail supporters are left with Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) executive director Daniel Grabauskas to champion the project. The problem is he is considered by some as an outsider and relative newcomer to the project. Help could also come from Gov. Neil Abercrombie or the venerable U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye, but he may be too far away in D.C. Whoever he or she is, a champion needs to step forward, breath life into the project and galvanize public support. And the sooner, the better.



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OPINION

Don't Believe In Misleading Ads Cayetano Is The Best Choice For Mayor

By Edwin Quinabo

Need a pain killer to ease the head ache away from the negativity this election season?

If you're like me, I'm more than eager to get the elections over and done with.

The negative campaign ads popping up every other commercial, or in a long, consecutive string of misleading ads during local news broadcasts, have confirmed two impressions I've had of elections: first that it is sorely in need of reform with money playing too great a role in buying votes; and second, some politicians and interest groups will say anything to attain greater power.

Traditionally, Hawaii elections have been relatively subdued when it comes to blatant personal attacks as seen on some campaigns in the mainland, but 2012 has spawned a new level of ugliness that is unprecedented in local elections.

Shame On PRP

Pacific Resources Partnership (PRP), the pro-rail super PAC, on its own is redefining the boundaries of fairness and truthfulness in election campaigning locally. The barrage of misleading ads PRP has been producing, costing about a \$1 million, do not focus on the merits of rapid rail transit as it ought to be doing and do not represent properly the honorable reputation that most local unions have worked so hard to earn over the years. It's a shame that members of local unions under the umbrella of

PRP have allowed their leadership to be convinced that misleading, negative campaigning is the best course to take to win an election. In the end, even if their candidate Kirk Caldwell wins, Hawaii residents will view local unions in a new light, as being too influential, too powerful, and at times too dangerous.

Unions have always been perceived as the force to even the playing field, bolstering fairness for the "little guys" and "worker-bees" in a power system run by big businesses. PRP has changed this image in this election alone, painting local unions as that "other guy" they've been fighting against, who sports the muscles with the dollars pushing a self-serving agenda at all costs. For PRP, that includes in this election thrashing the reputation of the venerable two-time governor, Ben Cayetano, who has dedicated his entire life to public service.

Cayetano Did Not Break Campaign Financing Laws

The fact is that Cayetano has done nothing illegal.

Bob Watada, the former executive director of the Campaign Spending Commission at the time Cayetano allegedly used illegal donations for personal gain, confirmed this fact.

"We would not have closed his (Cayetano's) account if there were any outstanding liabilities," Watada said during a press conference.

Watada said candidates often don't know that they have received illegal campaign contributions because the person or company donating the money uses different names to get the money to the candidate. After an

investigation of Cayetano by the Campaign Spending Commission and other politicians who have received illegal campaign contributions, Cayetano was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing.

Watada even went as far as calling Cayetano the most honest politician he knows.

As far as "pay to play" goes -- the practice that companies or individuals donate to the political campaigns of candidates to receive future favors in the form of no-bid government contracts or other pecuniary benefit -- voters should be asking themselves: why is this considered "illegal," while a company or union, under a 2010 Supreme Court decision, is "legally" allowed to basically bully an entire elections process with unlimited amounts of money then ultimately gain financial benefit by either new or existing government contracts. In the case of PRP and the unions they represent, while they are within legal means to spend a \$1 million or more to bolster Caldwell's campaign, it's naive not to think that they are not "paying" hundreds of thousands of dollars in ads now to ensure themselves that the rail project gets completed in the future, of which they stand to benefit financially. Who is actually paying to play is debatable; and Cayetano has not been found guilty of such practice. Yet, misleading ads accusing him of pay to play continue.

People Power Can Make A Difference

The inherent beauty of democracy is that ultimately the people are empowered to decide. Voters need to be mindful of

how politics work and be able to see through the lies. Voters must discern reality from cleverly deceptive advertising, and reject the misleading tactics employed by those who choose to fool voters with sideline distractions to keep focus away from real important issues. In the race for mayor, it's obvious that rail transit is shaky in the eyes of the public. The immense cost it will take to complete the project, its effectiveness, and necessary funds to operate rail are only a few major concerns rail supporters would want to divert public attention away from. The latest eye opener is that independent experts say the operating costs for the city's transit system with rail in place would take up to 19.1 percent of the city tax collections in 2021, up from the historic high of 10 percent. Imagine dedicating nearly 20 percent of the city's tax base just to transportation alone -- the obvious next step would be a need to stagger tax raises or do without a lot less in city services. But, of course, focusing on this kind of details requiring more taxpayers money for a project would almost guarantee an election defeat.

While negative ads may catch the attention of residents, and perhaps may be most remembered and talked about before the day of voting, it's hopeful to think that the issues will win out at the precincts in the end. If you happen to be a

voter on the fence who is not passionate on the issues like rail, perhaps there is one last consideration. Ask yourself: "do I really want to support a candidate who allowed deceptive campaigning to represent me?" If such a candidate is elected, it would be almost impossible to determine at what point deception stops, if at all.

It's Not Too Late

At this juncture of the campaign, Cayetano appears to be behind in the most recent Hawaii Poll by a large percentage, 53 to 42 percent. Given who his foes are, those who represent the power establishment of big business and big labor -- this should not come as a surprise. Cayetano himself has always considered his campaign the underdog in this race even while having the lead in earlier polls. But Cayetano supporters can look to very recent history for inspiration where the powerful establishment's candidate of choice eventually lost -- in the last governor's race between Neil Abercrombie and Mufi Hannemann.

History shows that it's not too late for our community to regroup, rally together as we have done in the past to get Cayetano elected as governor, and come out in massive force on the day of election. Let us prove once again that the power of the people is still greater than the power of money.

I encourage my fellow Filipinos to vote for Cayetano this general election.

LETTERS

CAYETANO CARES FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII

Many people are asking why Ben Cayetano is running for mayor. After all, he has already reached the top as governor. The answer is simple. Ben genuinely and deeply cares for the people of Hawaii, especially those who are economically less fortunate and others who are financially struggling.

Ben has not forgotten his Kalihi roots, where each day a meal was a real blessing. Survival, a home and something to eat were daily struggles. He could not stand by and enjoy his retirement while the people were taxed for public projects such as a "rail to nowhere."

Hawaii taxes are among the highest in the country. Taxes to benefit a few contractors and union members at the expense of community members who are already living on the dire edge of poverty is unconscionable.

Robert Watada
Former executive director,
Hawaii Campaign
Spending Commission



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

Top Philippine Economist to Visit Hawaii

By Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Dr. Arsenio "Arsi" Balisacan, Philippine Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), will be visiting Hawaii in early December. He will be officially hosted by Dr. Denise E. Konan, dean of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and professor of economics.

Balisacan, who was director of NEDA prior to his appointment as economic planning secretary recently by Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III, received his Ph.D. in economics from UH in 1985. As the economic secretary, he holds position of NEDA director-general concurrently. He is also chairman of the National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) and the Philippine Center for Economic Development (PCED).

A highly trained world-class academic in the field of economics, Balisacan was dean of the University of the Philippines (U.P.) School of Economics, where he is a tenured professor of economics. He was also previously honored as an "academician," the highest honor given to a

prominent scholar by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the most prestigious institution of science and technology in the Philippines.

Humble Beginnings

Balisacan was born in Solsona, Ilocos Norte, a remote town located at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain range. He grew up in a farm village until his family moved to Laoag City where his father, a farm tenant, was given a janitorial job at a private school run by a religious order.

He spent most of his formative years of basic education under the tutelage of Divine Word College of Laoag and completed the last two years of secondary education in Ablan Memorial Academy of Solsona where he graduated as the valedictorian. Balisacan

credits his mother's aunt, Isidra Rivera, who was mayor of the town of Solsona, as his early inspiration in life.

"She devoted selflessly her life to this town," he says. "She had actually very little physical possessions in life, especially when viewed in today's cadre of local politicians. What she had in abundance was deep respect and love by her people, unblemished credibility and genuine concern for the poor."

Balisacan's interest in science began during high school when he experienced firsthand the hardships and problems of farming. To pay for his schooling, he joined other migrant laborers who worked as rice harvesters in Cagayan province. He found the long hours toiling in the rice fields grueling and the separation from family quite taxing.

"I saw in Cagayan villages the same hard life and dire poverty as in our village. How I wished then that farming could be less physically taxing and more rewarding for farmers and laborers. I told myself repeatedly that I would study hard to contribute to making farming a rewarding activity for farmers," Balisacan says.

He followed through on his pledge and pursued agriculture at Mariano Marcos State University where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1979. Through a graduate fellowship given by the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture



Philippine President Noyonoy Aquino with NEDA Chief Dr. Arsi Balisacan

(SEARCA), Balisacan went to the University of the Philippines-Los Baños for his Master of Science degree in agricultural economics. His work after graduation involved numerous field visits and interviews with farmers all over the country, which acquainted him more closely with the social and economic problems of the rural population, especially farmers and fishermen. It became clear to him that the poverty problem in the countryside was not just about the lack of improved farming technologies.

"I felt that my training in the agriculture sciences was inadequate to enable me to grapple with the issues of poverty, inequality and development. That realization led me to pursue graduate studies in economics to equip myself with the analytical tools of economics for an in-depth understanding of the poverty of nations. After completing the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics degree, it became quite natural for me to return to the old questions and issues on poverty and underdevelopment that had puzzled me in my younger years," he says.

The East-West Center

After graduation, Balisacan worked as a research assistant for a project where he befriended UH Economics

Professor James Roumasset, who was at the time an East-West Center Research Fellow who was serving as a consultant on the very same project. Roumasset encouraged him to pursue a doctoral degree in economics at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Balisacan agreed and arrived in Hawaii in 1982 as an EWC research intern. He completed his degree a few years later in 1985. Balisacan says his experience at the EWC proved to be a critical turning point in his career as an economist.

"The academic training and research collaborations with Professor Roumasset, as well as the exposure and synergies with other research fellows and interns at EWC, have influenced significantly the way I approach and practice economics, especially economics of development," he says.

Balisacan felt at home in Hawaii, especially with the large Ilokano population and a climate that is relatively similar to the Philippines. He has observed that the local Filipino community is very much attuned to events in the Philippines. While it may be difficult for second and third generation Filipinos to trace their roots, he hopes that younger generations will still learn to appreciate their culture and heritage.

(continued on page 5)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, TOP...)

Economic Issues for the Philippines

Balisacan is a leading expert in the Philippines and Southeast Asia on social and economic issues, particularly poverty and rural development. A prolific author and dedicated scholar, he has written or edited seven books and more than 100 academic papers and publications in professional and journals. He is a prodigious scholar in his field.

He has also served as director of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), the regional center of excellence for agriculture and rural development of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). A few years ago, Balisacan returned to UH-Manoa to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEARCA and UH, which led to the publication of a landmark book "Sustainability of Science."

As for the Philippine economy, Balisacan says it continues to grow rapidly amidst global slowdown. He also noted the country's improved credit rating, higher consumer and business confidence levels, and commitment to the principles of good governance that has helped to attract long-term foreign investments.

To address poverty, Balisacan says the government has increased its proposed budget for 2013 by 10.5 percent and priority given to social services and poverty reduction. The government is also doing what it can to cre-

ate more domestic jobs, so Filipinos won't have to go overseas for work.

"We would like to see a situation where Filipinos can find quality jobs at home rather than working abroad because the social cost of working abroad is quite enormous," he says. "The government is aiming for a rapid, sustained and inclusive growth. As investments grow and employment opportunities expand at a faster rate, we expect Filipinos to prefer to stay and work in the country."

Balisacan says the government is making headway on the peace and order front with the recent signing of the Bangsamoro Framework Agreement.

"This is a major development because Mindanao is seen to have a major potential as an economic base and a major growth area for tourism. Furthermore, the external effects for the rest of the country are quite enormous once peace is established in this area," he says.

"Having demonstrated our commitment to address these constraints to investment, we are hoping to create an environment that is quite attractive to investments in order to sustain economic growth."

December Visit

What else has Balisacan not done? An indefatigable "multi-tasker" and "workaholic," he also served as undersecretary of Agriculture from 2000-2001 and 2003. While in that capacity, he was the chief negotiator in the Agriculture Negotiations of

the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in various agriculture negotiations. It's simply amazing what and how much he has accomplished!

Balisacan is only the second UH-Manoa alumnus and the first with a Ph.D. to be appointed to a cabinet position in the Philippine government in recent years. The first UH alumnus with an MBA degree to be appointed to a cabinet post was Senen Bacani, who served in the administration of President Cory Aquino.

Dean Konan, a professor of economics, is proud of Balisacan's achievements.

"Dr. Balisacan is a true leader who moves the research frontier forward and puts his expertise on rural poverty into practice for the betterment of the people of the Philippines," she says.

Konan herself is an expert on economic matters in Africa and the Middle East. She previously served as interim chancellor at UH-Manoa and is coordinating Balisacan's December visit. As of press time,

there are plans for a public lecture on the current Philippine economy to be sponsored by the College of Social Sciences in conjunction with the Center for Philippine Studies, East-West Center and the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu.

Balisacan will also be honored with a reception by UH President M.R.C. Greenwood and if his schedule allows, he will deliver another public lecture in the commu-

nity. For additional details on Dr. Balisacan's visit, please contact Dean Konan at (808) 956-6570.

(HFC STAFF contributed to this article. DR. AQUINO is currently professor emeritus at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at UH-Manoa where she served as professor of political science and Asian studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies before retiring.)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AARP Sponsoring Free Event for Leeward Caregivers

AARP Hawaii is sponsoring a free conference for Leeward-area family caregivers on Saturday, November 10, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12 noon at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

Titled "Caring for Family, Caring for Yourself," the conference will cover a range of issues presented by local experts in geriatric

and health care services. Topics include caring for a loved one in a facility or at home; Medicare and Medicaid; understanding challenging behaviors of people with dementia; diabetes care; relaxation exercise for caregivers and much more.

The event is free but registration is required. Please call toll free 1-877-926-8300 or register online at: www.aarp.cvent.com/leewardcare.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Cayetano Files Libel Suit vs. Union and Others

by Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Mayor candidate Benjamin J. Cayetano has counterattacked against the union and others that have allegedly published "false statements" about him that "they know to be false or about which they harbor serious doubts" by filing a complaint for the civil tort of "defamation" against them. The case, docketed as Civil No. 12-1-2604-10 RAN, was filed on October 22, 2012 in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

of the State of Hawaii.

Named defendants were Hawaii Carpenters Union Market Recovery Fund dba Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP); John D. White, Jr., Executive Director of PRP; Hoakea Communications; the principals of Hoakea; the trustees of PRP; John Does 1-50; Jane Does 1-50; Entities 1-50. The actors in the television ad (a number of whom appear to be Filipinos) do not appear to have been specifically named as defendants.

The suit alleged that the

defendants initiated a plan "to pay for, author and publish, using a PAC, a barrage of advertisements in print media, broadcast media and internet media to spread false statements about Plaintiff (Cayetano) that they know to be false or about which they harbor serious doubts. These statements stated or implied that Plaintiff was and will continue to be a corrupt public official who has in the past, and therefore likely will in the future, knowingly received and kept illegal donations, kept those donations in disobedience of orders requiring him to return them, and illegally and/or criminally, personally solicited and accepted bribes in the form of campaign contributions in quid pro quo exchange for government contracts, including 'no-bid contracts,' under what the defendants label 'an extensive pay-to-play scheme.'"

Push Pull Questionnaire

The complaint also alleged that "PRP arranged for and conducted a "push pull" in which potential voters are asked questions under the guise of a poll, but the questions contain assertions of fact designed or intended to influence voter opinion rather than merely solicit existing opinions. In the push poll questionnaire that was put to a substantial number of voters on Oahu, PRP's agents stated: 'While governor, Cayetano accepted nearly five hundred thousand dollars in illegal campaign contributions. Many of the donors of these illegal contributions later received millions of dollars in no-bid contracts from the state. When authorities discovered this illegal activity, they required Cayetano to pay the money back, but he used a loophole in the law to avoid giving it back.'"

The complaint then alleged that the push pull statements are "(1) defamatory as tending to harm Plaintiff's reputation by lowering his estimation in the eyes of the community and (2) defama-

tory per se because they impute criminal conduct, crimes of dishonesty, and/or unfitness in Plaintiff's chosen profession as a public official (hereinafter "defamatory per se", "libel per se" or slander per se" as the case may be).

The complaint further alleged that "The push pull statements were and are false, and were published by Defendants with knowledge of their falsity or with a high degree of awareness of their probable falsity and without a good faith or honest belief in their truth."

PRPPAC Website

The complaint likewise alleged that PRP set up a website at www.readbensrecord.com that "contained and continues to publish statements that, when read in the whole with their natural and ordinary meaning and innuendo, have the meaning that Plaintiff while serving as a public official (a) accepted half a million dollars in political campaign donations knowing that they were in excess of then-existing contribution limits or made by donors in false names to avoid those limits, (b) was ordered to pay back half a million dollars, (c) disobeyed that order and kept half a million dollars in illegal donations for his own use and (d) personally caused non-bid government contracts to be granted to such donors in quid pro quo exchange for these and other campaign donations."

The complaint alleged that these statements "were and are false, and were and are being published by Defendants with knowledge of their falsity or a high degree of awareness of their probable falsity and without a good faith or honest belief in their truth."

Comments by Public Figures

The complaint alleged that "multiple respected commentators, authors, and public figures or public officials have stated publicly at various times since June 2012 that the advertisement campaign by Defendants is false and with-

out foundation in fact, thereby repeatedly giving Defendants notice and awareness of the falsity of their statements.

The public figures mentioned were Hawaii General Spending Commission General Counsel Gary Kam, journalist Ian Lind, Star Advertiser senior political writer Richard Borreca, Campaign Spending Commissioner Della Au Bellatti (now a state legislator), Midweek writer Dan Boylan, and Director of the Campaign Spending Commission Robert Watada.

According to the complaint, "Watada attended a public press conference where he was quoted as saying that Plaintiff was the most honest politician he knows," and "that the Campaign Spending Commission would not have closed Plaintiff's campaign spending account if he had done anything wrong."

Relief Requested

Cayetano asked for compensatory general and special damages in amounts to be proved at trial, for punitive damages, for pre-and post-judgment interest and costs, and other relief as the court deems just and equitable. The complaint asked for a jury trial.

James J. Bickerton and Michael J. Green are the attorneys for Cayetano. Bickerton was quoted as saying that this case is about whether we are going to allow secret, shady groups with unlimited funds to spread lies.

Cayetano's Reaction

Cayetano has been quoted as saying: "I feel frustrated. I feel humiliated" and "I feel very, very bad for my family. My wife and kids are hurt." He indicated that he has not been attacked like this in his political life.

He observed that the Supreme Court decision in the case of Citizen's United allowing corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose a candidate may have ushered a new era in politics and that the people should decide whether they want this to go on or to stop it.

2012 Honolulu City Lights Festivities Schedule

Wreath exhibits, employee tree displays and holiday lights will be the focus of this Christmas Season as Mayor Peter Carlisle kicks off the 2012 Honolulu City Lights Celebration on Saturday, December 1, 2010 from 4 pm to 10 pm.

The public is invited to the free event, which also includes a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, electric light parade, holiday concert and much more.

The 37th year of Honolulu City Lights will bring a ton of fun activities and events for the family. Opening night on December 1st is packed with festivities and Honolulu City Lights remains one of the most popular Christmas attractions on Oahu. Below is the schedule and information for opening night.

- 4 pm: Live entertainment, food booths, games and activities for children.
- 5 pm: Annual candlelight service at Kawaiahao Church.
- 6 pm: Tree lighting ceremony featuring Mayor Carlisle.
- 6:30 pm: Mayor Carlisle lights up the Downtown corridor as the Public Worker's Electric Light Parade crosses Punchbowl Street. The parade ends at Kawaiahao Street, where children will have an hour to interact with the decorated vehicles and floats. The parade starts at Aala Park and moves up King Street.
- 6:30 pm: Employee Christmas tree display and wreath exhibits inside Honolulu Hale will be open for viewing.
- 7:30 pm: Santa will meet with children on the Diamond Head side of the small red brick building facing King Street.
- 7:30 pm to 10 pm: Holiday concert presented by Tihati Productions.

Parking is available at the Civic Center lot at the corner of Beretania and Alapai, the Kalanimoku Parking Structure next to the Civic Center on Beretania; and the Board of Water Supply Parking Lot.

Make sure to bring the entire family and enjoy the fun and festivities that come along with Honolulu City Lights. Merry Christmas!

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

On Immigration: Obama vs. Romney



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

How can people be so mesmerized by an accent that mimics that of an African goat herder? How can people so disparage a man whom they have never met nor personally seen simply because he is a Republican?

During the second presidential debate, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney asked Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama if he had fulfilled his 2008 campaign promise to enact a comprehensive immigration reform law. Obama did not answer the question but talked of something else. Romney persisted and asked Obama if he had introduced a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Obama responded that Republicans had blocked efforts to enact immigration reform legislation. And Obama's apologists fall for his bola bola and blame the Republicans. How can any one block a bill that was not even filed?

Furthermore, Obama and the Democrats were in full control of the Senate and House of Representatives during the first two years of the Obama administration. They were able to pass Obamacare. Why were they not able to pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Law? Because no bill was ever filed? If Obama's defenders insist that one was filed, when was it filed, what is the bill number, and what is the title of the bill?

Dream Act

Obama's supporters talk about the so-called "Dream Act". That does not involve "comprehensive" immigration reform. That would simply have given amnesty to illegal alien children. The Republicans opposed the law because they do not believe in amnesty. Giving amnesty breeds more illegal aliens, like what happened when amnesty was

given to more than two million illegal aliens in 1986. What happened afterward? Now there are about twelve million illegal aliens. Furthermore, the "Dream Act" would even treat more than 30 year olds as "children" if they came in as "children" (for immigration purposes children are those under 21 years of age).

So what did Obama do? Because Congress did not enact the "Dream Act" he assumed legislative power (ala Marcos issuing presidential decrees and ala Cory issuing a

presidential decree called Family Code) and issued a decree through his subalterns in the Department of Homeland Security calling it DACA (Deferred Action for Children Arrivals). Under this edict, deportation will be deferred for qualified illegal alien children for a period of two years. Meanwhile, they will be given employment authorization and permitted to go to school. The end does not justify the means.

Although a number of these children were innocently brought to this country by

their parents and should be given relief, there are existing provisions in the current immigration law that provides relief such as Section 212(i), 212(k), and 237(a)(1)(H)? We have successfully used these provisions to obtain relief for innocent children who were brought here illegally by their parents. Why is there a need for a "Dream Act" or "DACA"? Pure palabas. Ten immigration officers sued to stop deferred action alleging that immigration policies force them to choose between

enforcing the law and being reprimanded by superiors, or listening to superiors and violating their own oaths of office and a 1996 law that requires them to put those who entered the country illegally into deportation proceedings.

Besides, how many of these children are really "innocent"? Did they not know when they were running across the Arizona desert or climbing the border fence and entering the United States, that they were doing something

(continued on page 10)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Downtown Hilo Holds 'Black & White Night'

The streets of the historic Downtown Hilo district were filled with music, laughter, families and friends at the 12th Annual Black & White Night held November 2, 2012 from 5 pm to 10 pm.

The event celebrated the diversity and the uniqueness of Hilo town in a fun and interesting way. Attendees strolled around Downtown throughout the evening with businesses staying open late for entertainment and special one-night-only sales. The streets of Downtown Hilo were closed from 2 pm until midnight to accommodate a larger crowd and encourage safe dancing to live music, including country, big band, jazz and rock and roll.

"Every year, thousands of people enjoy Downtown from top to bottom and discover all that we have to offer with restaurants, shops, galleries, museums, a

discovery center and, of course, the East Hawaii Cultural Center's art gallery," says Alice Moon, executive director of the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association (DIA).

Those who downloaded a special treasure hunt map and got it stamped from 25 businesses, including six listed with "Stamp Required," were eligible to win prizes and other drawings.

An added attraction was the Black, White & Gold Ball for those wanting to dance the night away. The ball celebrated the Hilo DIA's 50 years of service to the community as the only 501(c)6 non-profit organization to specifically focus on the economic, social and cultural health of the area.

Black & White Night was presented by the Hilo DIA in partnership with area businesses. Over 55 businesses donated prizes for the treasure hunt and prize drawings.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, ON IMMIGRATION...)

wrong? I know someone who was nine years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He knew that the Japanese did something very wrong. When three days later Japanese soldiers were standing guard at every street corner in downtown Laoag City where he lived, he knew that the Japanese had wrongfully invaded our country. If a 9-year old alien cannot distinguish between right and wrong, the child must be suffering from "arrested development."

Is the Obama and his government compassionate?

Obama's supporters praise him for being compassionate. Yet they cannot deny that he has deported more aliens than any of his predecessors. But they claim that he was deporting criminal aliens. They should see an ophthalmologist to determine if they suffer from degenerative astigmatism.

Here are examples of noncriminal aliens who were deported. A Filipino green card holder was ordered deported because when he arrived in Honolulu the CBP found out that he had stayed for over a year in the Philippines and had abandoned his lawful permanent resident status. Another Filipino with a tourist visa went to the immigration office to ask what he could do to legalize his stay. When they found out that his authorized period of stay had expired the day before, they detained him for more than a week before deporting him.

ICE officers in Detroit arrested illegal aliens while they are dropping off their children in school? A 7-year old child was pleading with ICE officers to let his father go. They ignored him.

Compassionate? Did you read the article I wrote on how DHS deported an American citizen with a Hispanic background and abandoned him in the desert? Compassionate?

Obama has announced on more than one occasion that he takes responsibility for his administration's actions.

Romney's position

Romney said that he will enact comprehensive and permanent immigration reform measures rather than resort to piece-meal and temporary measures. His critics complain that he has not given details. Yet they did not complain when Obama made a similar campaign promise in 2008 that he did not fulfill. As for deferred action Romney indicated that he will not deport those who have received benefits under the scheme. And for the estimated 12 million illegal aliens now in the country, Romney believes that they will "self-deport" or "voluntarily depart" that is, that these folks will go home when they cannot find a job that they want in the United States.

(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: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Moody's Upgrades Phl Credit Rating

by Prinz P. Magtulis
Tuesday, October 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Moody's Investors Service raised yesterday the Philippines' sovereign credit rating to one notch below investment grade, citing the country's strong economic prospects and stable financial system.

The international ratings service also said a recent breakthrough in peace talks, aimed at ending a decades-long Muslim separatist rebellion in the south of the country, had improved the country's long-term economic potential.

Moody's raised the Philippines to Ba1 from Ba2, while maintaining the ratings outlook at "stable".

"Despite the headwinds from softening external demand, the Philippines has demonstrated considerable economic strength and fiscal resilience," Moody's said in a statement.

"In contrast to similarly rated countries, the country is poised to record a combination of faster growth, lower inflation, exchange rate apprecia-

tion and an increase in foreign exchange reserves, while maintaining trend debt consolidation," Moody's also said.

Moody's upgrade put it in line with two other major credit rating agencies - Standard & Poor's Ratings Services and Fitch Ratings - in terms of their evaluation of the Philippines.

The Aquino administration, which welcomed Moody's action, said investment grade is now within reach. Such status is seen to further lower debt interest payments and attract more foreign investments. "This marks a milestone. It has been a decade since all three credit ratings agencies rated the Philippines one notch below investment grade status," said Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"This ninth positive ratings action is another affirmation of the President's agenda and our underlying belief that good governance is good economics,"

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement.

At the same time, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. led leaders of the House of Repre-



Trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange

sentatives in hailing the latest upgrade from Moody's.

Belmonte said the upgrade was yet another indication the economy was doing "okay" under the Aquino administration.

Moody's upgraded the Philippines' credit rating to Ba2 in June last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando Tetangco said he was "delighted" by the upgrade. "With the government's concerted efforts and with the support of the private sector, the Philippines should achieve investment grade rating sooner rather than later," he said.

"Our prudent approach to external financial

management has yielded a more manageable and sustainable external debt position," Tetangco said.

Overseas Filipino remittances, which amounted \$13.733 billion as of August, have also been resilient, Moody's said, "sustaining private consumption and maintaining a healthy current account surplus."

Both the government and observers have repeatedly said that the Philippines is in a "sweet spot" characterized by strong growth reaching 5.9 percent in the first semester, slow 3.2 percent inflation as of

September and a third quarter budget gap of P106.062 billion, which was well-below this year's cap.

Moody's said further upgrade would depend on "the passage and effective implementation of revenue reforms" such as "sin" tax and fiscal incentives rationalization bills, seen key to "rapid reduction" of government debt.

A negative action, on the other hand, could be made if "substantial deterioration" in government balance sheets occur, risking "the emergence of macroeconomic stability."

The Philippine economy grew by 6.1 percent in the first half of this year and the government is hopeful of maintaining that expansion pace throughout 2012.

Inflation averaged 3.2 percent in the first nine months of the year, allowing the central bank to cut interest rates four times.

The benchmark overnight borrowing rate now stands at 3.50 percent, with the overnight lending rate at 5.50 percent. (www.philstar.com)

Palace: Lugar's Visit to Phl a Farewell Tour

by Delon Porcalla
Tuesday, October 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Malacañang hinted yesterday that the visit of US Sen. Richard Lugar to the Philippines may be a "farewell tour" because the legislator is on his way out of the US Senate as the representative of the state of Indiana.

"Sen. Richard Lugar is a friend, so he decided to drop by and pay a courtesy call on the President," Secretary Edwin Lacierda said, prior to the lawmaker's meeting with President Aquino.

He said Aquino also visited Lugar when he went to the US.

Lacierda, however, refused to give details on what will be discussed at their meeting, because the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will be in charge of issuing a press statement afterwards.

The most senior senator, Lugar has held his seat for six terms since 1977.

He was instrumental in the exile of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and

the installation of former President Cory Aquino in February 1986.

The US lawmaker is in Manila for a five-day visit, during which he will meet with top-level officials to discuss, reportedly, the reduction of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in Southeast Asia.

He will be here until Oct. 31 and will also meet with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

Lugar headed an official team of foreign election observers for the 1986 presidential elections, during which he called out Marcos for delaying the reporting of votes to manipulate the final count.

A press statement from the US embassy in Manila said that Lugar's visit is aimed to expand the Nunn-Lugar Global Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which focuses on dismantling nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and reducing their stockpiles.

(www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Get Ready for the New Glorietta

by Ruth Sindico
Tuesday, October 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The opening of the renovated Glorietta is probably one of the most anticipated events in retail shopping history in the country and judging by the preview of its new look, the wait is all worth it.

"We wanted to be very methodical in our planning," explained Ayala Land executive vice president Bobby Dy during Monday's briefing with members of the media.

"We wanted to make sure that we provide the right product in the market. We also wanted to integrate new uses like hotels and offices, so it took us some time to be able to put together the right product for our consumers," he said.

Going green

Ayala Land has put sound environmental practices as the foundation for its renovation plan. Lush gardenscapes would greet shoppers from the outside, while a water feature delights inside.

The new Glorietta Activity Center, meanwhile, has a sweeping grand wall made of wood and makes use of natural light.

Shopping and dining haven

Of course, the interiors will be for naught without the lead-

ing retail brands. One need not worry, though, as the new Glorietta will not only house the flagship stores of the country's most popular brands, but will introduce more new foreign brands as well like Bershka, Stradivarius, Vince Camuto and Gant Shirtmakers.

This is not only true for retail shopping, but for dining establishments, too, like Wee Nam Kee, Tong Yang, Watami and Chucky Cheese.

"People look for different experiences. There are days when you want to spend your time outdoors and indoors. I think the diversity of experiences actually provides numerous options to people," Dy said.

More things to come

These new features are part of the first half of the first phase of Ayala Land's Glorietta renovation effort. For this, the company has invested P20 billion.

For the second half of this first phase, three hotels (Fairmont, Holiday Inn and Raffles Hotel), two new offices that cater to BPOs, and residential developments (Park Terraces and Garden Terraces) are set to rise within the 34,000-square meter commercial expanse.

Dy said this integration of business, shopping, dining and entertainment is part of Ayala

Land's aim to offer consumers convenience. Likewise integral to this are the connecting bridgeways from Ayala Center to the Makati Central Business District and the accessibility of public transport (i.e., MRT, taxi hubs, and business terminals).

"(This is) the most ambitious that Ayala Land has taken on," Dy said, and we can't wait for the new Glorietta to finally open its doors **c o m e D e c e m b e r .**

(www.philstar.com)



An artist's rendering of Glorietta facade.

'Ghost Tourism' Drawing Visitors to Former US Base

by Ding Cervantes
Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012

CLARK FREEPORT, Philippines - The old abandoned hospital, the trio of pine trees known as Tres Marias, the Lily Hill and the old cemetery.

These are places in this former US military base that gave rise to what some local folk have described as "ghost tourism."

When talking about scary things in connection with All Saints' Day, residents visiting the departed in cemeteries are likely to bring up the supposed haunting in these places.

The sites are reputed to be among the most haunted in this Freeport, whose history dates back to 1901 when the American cavalry forces first moved in, and through World War II that saw the death of many soldiers, both American and Japanese.

Mabalacat City tourism



Clark Cemetery

chief Guy Hilbero said thrill-seeking tourists include these areas in their itinerary, hoping to experience ghostly sights and sounds, especially during All Saints' Day.

"I am open-minded, and I don't see anything wrong with this so-called ghost tourism," he said.

Retired Benedictine priest Fr. Ed Santos, who now offers requiem masses at the Santo Rosario parish in nearby Angeles City, downplayed claims

that a person searching for haunted places could lead him to demonic possession.

"Demonic possession does not depend on the place but on how intense is one's trust and faith in union with Jesus," Santos said in a text message.

Hilbero said in many parts of the US, ghost tourism has flourished, citing "ghost tours" in Los Angeles and New Orleans. A group called

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

New Guidance for Issuing B-1 in Lieu of H-1B Visa

nesses based outside the U.S. that need a foreign national to perform work in the U.S. for the benefit of the foreign-based business.

Ordinarily, foreign nationals on B-1 can only engage in limited business activities such as attending meetings and negotiating contracts. They may not work, receive payment from a U.S. source or have a business in the U.S. The B-1 in lieu of H-1B visa allows these individuals to engage in a broader range of activities for a limited duration.

The "B1 in lieu of H1" policy has been criticized as a circumvention of the H-1B program. Earlier this year, Republican Senator Chuck Grassley asked the Department of State (DOS) and the

Department of Homeland Security to look into possible improper use of B-1 visas by certain U.S. companies.

The DOS has just issued a cable clarifying the guidelines for the issuance of B-1 in lieu of H-1B visas. This cable supersedes its June 21, 2012 guidance cable.

The guidelines require the B-1 in lieu of H-1B applicant to overcome the presumption of nonimmigrant intent, just as in a standard B-1 visa, by showing strong ties to the home country. In contrast, the H-1B visa allows dual intent and does not require the applicant to maintain residence abroad.

The B-1 in lieu of H-1B visa permits the foreign national to work or engage in an activity that would normally require an H-1B. This means that the activity must meet the

definition of a "specialty occupation" and the foreign national must be qualified, i.e. hold a bachelor's degree or have equivalent experience. If the consular officer is not satisfied that the activities are of H-1B caliber, the applicant will be required to file an H-1B petition with the USCIS.

The foreign national while in the U.S. must be compensated by the foreign employer. The foreign-based business continues to be the employer. The workers may not receive a salary or other remuneration from a U.S. source, except for expense allowance or reimbursement of expenses.

Finally, the B-1 in lieu of H-1B visa can only be issued for activity that is less than six months in duration. It is not intended for long-term placement, unlike the H-1B

which is approved initially for a three-year period with a possibility of renewal.

In many ways, then, the B-1 in lieu of H1B visa is markedly different from the H-1B visa.

The B1 in lieu of H1B visa gives employers the flexibility to fill in short-term gaps in their workforce when they arise. Unlike in an H-1B petition, the application process is faster and there is no need for a labor condition application to be certified by the Department of Labor. Also, unlike the H-1B the B1 in lieu of H1B visas are not subject to an annual cap.

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 (from page 12, 'GHOST...)

Ghoula, a social club for Southern Californian ghost-enthusiasts, has been promoting their local ghosts in known haunted places.

"There are also ghost tours in San Francisco and Chicago, and United Kingdom's London and Edinburgh," he said.

Hilbero dismissed fears that a haunted reputation would drive investors away from the Freeport.

"Places reputed to be haunted here are limited. The haunting is not all over the Freeport, and we can reserve these few reputed areas for the thrill seekers," he added.

He described the former site of an old cemetery within the grounds of the Mimosa Leisure Estate here as among the most haunted.

"The remains buried there were moved to the present American cemetery near Clark's main gate," he said.

Hilbero said a building erected on the exact site of the old cemetery has remained unfinished since construction began in the 1990s or right after the Americans left Clark.

"Employees in the area claimed they frequently see ghosts or hear unusual sounds coming from the unfinished

building. There's no doubt it is haunted," he said.

The official also said the abandoned US military hospital near the commercial area hosting the duty free shops is just as haunted. The three-storey building had already been visited by American ghost hunters who featured the story on a US television show.

The hospital's basement used to serve as a morgue for American soldiers killed during the Vietnam War before they were flown back to the US.

Hilbero also noted the Tres Marias, three pine trees – aguso in Kapampangan – found along the road leading to Clark's exit gate in Mabalacat City.

"I don't know the history of those three pine trees which can't be found elsewhere in Clark, but the road near them has been the site of several accidents. Motorists are prompted to either honk their horns or make the sign of the cross when passing by," he said.

The Lily Hill, also in the area of duty free shops, was the scene of the bloody fire-fight between the Japanese

and Americans during World War II.

"The hill used to be haunted, but the unusual manifestations have since ceased after prayer vigils and other ceremonies have been conducted there yearly," he said.

Santos said "like in cemeteries, in haunted houses, there are also angels and good spirits like saints and even Jesus who said, 'I am with you always'."

He reminded residents that even during the pre-Spanish era when Filipinos still worshipped ancestors, "there is no report on the connection between visiting haunted houses and demonic possession." (www.philstar.com)



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MAINLAND NEWS

460,000 Fil-Ams Scurry to Safety

WASHINGTON — Hurricane "Sandy" slammed the eastern seaboard of the United States on Monday with full force sending tens of millions of people, including some 460,000 Filipino-Americans, scurrying to the safety of their homes.

Peter Enriquez of Lakewood, New Jersey, about 80 miles (128 km) from Cape May where Sandy made landfall, described the howling winds and horizontal rains slamming into his house as terrifying.

He said his main fear was the number of trees in his prop-

erty that could come crashing down.

"It's not yet over but somehow though I don't feel as frightened as I did in 1964 when 'Dading' hit the Philippines probably because I don't see billboards and sheets of steel swirling in the air threatening to decapitate people as I did then in Manila," he said.

Dading killed an estimated 100 people and made more than 500,000 homeless.

Rowena Bobadilla, an agency executive in Manila who immigrated to New Jersey only last year, said the howling

winds and driving rain were scary. "Pero alam mo naman sanay tayo sa bagyo so Pilipinas (We're used to typhoons in the Philippines), so okay lang," she said.

Authorities said it was still too early to know if there were any casualties or to give any damage estimates.

Ambassador Jose Cuisia, in a new reminder to Filipino-Americans, appealed to them particularly those in the New York and New Jersey areas to stay indoors until US authorities declared that the danger posed by Hurricane Sandy was over.

"What is barreling towards us is one of the most powerful storms to strike the US mainland," Cuisia said in a statement issued by the Philippine embassy.

"'Ondoy' is nothing compared to the devastation that Hurricane Sandy is expected to unleash," the envoy said, referring to the powerful typhoon that struck Manila in 2009 and which left more than 700 people dead and billions of pesos in damage.

The embassy has set up a 24-hour hot line manned by experienced staff to render assis-

tance and respond to phone queries from Filipinos, particularly tourists, seamen, businessmen and workers who may find themselves caught in the middle of the storm.

Cuisia said there were no Filipino casualties during the deadly sweep of Sandy across the Caribbean that killed as many as 65 people.

He said Filipino leaders in Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago told him all their members were accounted for. (www.philstar.com)

Oregon Scientists Make Embryos with 2 Women, 1 Man

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have created embryos with genes from one man and two women, using a provocative technique that could someday be used to prevent babies from inheriting certain rare incurable diseases.

The researchers at Oregon Health & Sciences University

said they are not using the embryos to produce children, and it is not clear when or even if this technique will be put to use. But it has already stirred a debate over its risks and ethics in Britain, where scientists did similar work a few years ago.

The British experiments, reported in 2008, led to headlines about the possibility someday of babies with three parents. But that's an over-

statement. The DNA from the second woman amounts to less than 1 percent of the embryo's genes, and it isn't the sort that makes a child look like Mom or Dad. The procedure is simply a way of replacing some defective genes that sabotage the normal workings of cells.

The British government is asking for public comment on the technology before it decides whether to allow its use in the future. One concern it cites is whether such DNA alteration could be an early step down a slippery slope toward

"designer babies" — ordering up, say, a petite, blue-eyed girl or tall, dark-haired boy.

Questions have also arisen about the safety of the technique, not only for the baby who results from the egg, but also for the child's descendants.

In June, an influential British bioethics group concluded that the technology would be ethical to use if proven safe and effective. An expert panel in Britain said in 2011 that there was no evidence the technology was unsafe but urged further study.

Laurie Zoloth, a bioethicist at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, said in an interview that safety problems might not show up for several generations. She said she hopes the United States will follow Britain's lead in having a wide-ranging discussion of the technology.

While the kind of diseases it seeks to fight can be terrible, "this might not be the best way to address it," Zoloth said.

Over the past few years, scientists have reported that such experiments produced healthy monkeys and that tests in human eggs showed encouraging results. The Oregon scientists reported Wednesday that they have produced about a dozen early human embryos and found the technique is highly effective in replacing DNA.

The genes they want to replace aren't the kind most people think of, which are found in the nucleus of cells and influence traits such as eye color and height. Rather, these genes

reside outside the nucleus in energy-producing structures called mitochondria. These genes are passed along only by mothers, not fathers.

About 1 in every 5,000 children inherits a disease caused by defective mitochondrial genes. The defects can cause many rare diseases with a host of symptoms, including strokes, epilepsy, dementia, blindness, deafness, kidney failure and heart disease.

The new technique, if approved someday for routine use, would allow a woman to give birth to a baby who inherits her nucleus DNA but not her mitochondrial DNA. Here's how it would work:

Doctors would need unfertilized eggs from the patient and a healthy donor. They would remove the nucleus DNA from the donor eggs and replace it with nucleus DNA from the patient's eggs. So, they would end up with eggs that have the prospective mother's nucleus DNA, but the donor's healthy mitochondrial DNA.

In a report published online Wednesday by the journal *Nature*, Shoukhrat Mitalipov and others at OHSU report transplanting nucleus DNA into 64 unfertilized eggs from healthy donors. After fertilization, 13 eggs showed normal development and went on to form early embryos.

The researchers also reported that four monkeys born in 2009 from eggs that had DNA transplants remain healthy, giving some assurance on safety.

(continued on page 15)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Tagalog is the Fastest Growing Language in Canada

Canada's fastest growing language is Tagalog, according to Statistics Canada, which released the results of its "2011 Census of Population: Linguistic Characteristics of Canadians."

More than 200 languages were reported in the 2011 Census of Population as a home language or mother tongue. According to Statistics Canada, home languages showing the strongest growth between 2006 and 2011 were primarily Asian, and the population that reported speaking the Philippine-based language Tagalog increased

by 64 percent. Survey results show that nearly 279,000 people reported speaking Tagalog most often in 2011, up from about 170,000 five years earlier.

Tagalog is now the fifth most common non-official language spoken in Canadian households. Vancouver has one of the largest Canadian populations of Tagalog speakers, with 47,600 reporting in 2011 that it was their primary language at home. Tagalog is the most common immigrant home language in Edmonton and the second most common in Calgary.

Leslie Gatan, Philippine Ambassador to Canada, says that Fil-

ipinos who once flocked to the U.S. have discovered there are greener pastures north of the American border. Gatan says that word has spread of economic growth in Western Canada, which has created a wealth of new opportunities for Filipinos and other immigrants who are traveling to Edmonton, Winnipeg and Regina for jobs.

Last summer, the Philippine Embassy held trial Tagalog classes in Ottawa, in response to Filipino parents' concerns that their children will forget how to speak their home language. The Embassy hopes to expand the program to other cities next year. (DFA)

Pinoy Maids in HK Get Pay Hike

MANILA, Philippines - Filipino household service workers (HSWs) in Hong Kong are getting a salary raise and other additional benefits, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported yesterday.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the Hong Kong Labor Department has ordered an increase of 4.8 percent in the monthly minimum allowable wage (MAW) of foreign HSWs.

"From a monthly pay of HK\$3,740 foreign HSWs including



Household service workers' day-off in HK

Filipinos will now be getting HK\$3,920 a month, while the monthly food allowance rose from HK\$775 to HK\$875," Baldoz said.

The labor chief said the HK government came out with the new

wage rate after conducting its annual review of the MAW for foreign HSWs.

The review, she said, took into consideration Hong Kong's general economic and employment situation, relevant income movements, price changes and labor market situation.

Baldoz said HK's standard employment contract in hiring foreign HSWs requires employers to provide domestic helpers with free food or food allowance.

(www.philstar.com)

(from page 14, OREGON...)

Mitalipov said in an interview that the researchers hope to get federal approval to test the procedure in women, but that current restrictions on using federal money on human embryo research stand in the way of such studies.

The research was funded by the university and the Leducq Foundation in Paris.

Dr. Douglass Turnbull of Newcastle University in Britain, whose team has transplanted DNA between eggs using a different technique, called the new research "very important and encouraging" in showing that such transplants could work.

But "clearly, safety is an issue" with either technique if it is applied to humans, he said. (www.philstar.com)

Pinoy Soprano Stars in European Debut

Filipino soprano Ma. Krissan Valencia Manikan starred in her European Debut Concert on October 19 at the Bernard Haitinkzaal of the Amsterdam Conservatory in The Netherlands, the Foreign Affairs Department reported Thursday.

Hosted by the Philippine Embassy in The Hague and the Philippine Consulate General in Amsterdam, Manikan sang with the accompaniment of American pianist Andrew Wright.

She performed, among others, masterpieces from Strauss, Brahms, Hahn, Rachmaninoff, Abelardo and



Espino. Tulpen uit Amsterdam, the famous Dutch folk song, was the finale piece.

"More than 250 guests from the Diplomatic Corps, Dutch business community and Filipino community attended the concert. Also present at the concert were Philippine Ambassador to The Hague Lourdes G. Morales, Consul General ad hon-

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orem in Amsterdam Eppo Horlings and his wife," DFA said.

Paris-based Manikan, who is a scholar of the French government, is working on her graduation recital for her Diplome d'Études Musicales at the Conservatoire à rayonnement régional de Paris. Her most recent work is a recording of Debussy's La Damoiselle élue with French artists Natalie Dessay and Karine Deshayes, DFA said.

The concert was sponsored by Horatio Assurance B.V., owned by Consul General Horlings. (www.philstar.com)

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