

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIALS

Global Summit Essential for Progress of Filipinos Everywhere

Any eyes will be observing the Second Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora when it convenes in late February 2013. Some 400 Filipino migrants from the world over are expected to converge in Manila for the global summit. Organized by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and several partner organizations, the summit aims to promote networking among overseas Filipinos in the different regions of the world, and accelerate participation of second and third generation overseas Filipinos in the country's development. The CFO is the government agency mandated to promote and uphold the interests of overseas Filipinos and to preserve and strengthen ties with Filipino communities overseas.

Organizers hope to harness overseas Filipinos' resources and skills for the Philippines' social, cultural and economic development. The summit is part of the larger "Diaspora to Development" initiative, which seeks to provide the dialogue, framework and strategies for mobilizing the Philippine diaspora in several areas of action.

The Filipino Diaspora—the voluntary and involuntary dispersion and immigration of Filipinos worldwide—is among the world's important contemporary human movements. Currently, there are over 9 million Filipinos worldwide—and counting. They are part of a global Filipino community living and working in 200 countries but sending billions of dollars annually to support family and friends back in the Philippines.

The CFO hopes to maximize overseas Filipino involvement in the socio-cultural and economic development of the Philippines through 10 major areas of interventions including skills and technology transfer, arts and culture exchange, educational exchange, business linkaging, diaspora investments, global legal assistance, advocacy, diaspora philanthropy, medical mission coordination, tourism initiatives, and return and reintegration. For 2013, the rallying cry will be *Balibayanihan para sa inang bayan*—tapping into the "bayani" or hero innate in every Filipino abroad and espousing the concept of "pagbabalik," or returning home.

Kudos to the Philippine government for spearheading the global summit but it alone cannot single-handedly turn around the fortunes of the Philippines. It will take a continued effort by OFWs, the private sector and government agencies to start making a difference. Thankfully, progress is being made. It's about time that Filipinos here and abroad use that power to create a collective future which will benefit the country, their communities and families.

Spending Cuts Should Not Hurt Economic Growth in Round 2 of Fiscal Policy Talks

Just when the forces of partisan politics were on the verge of pushing the country off the fiscal cliff, President Barack Obama and Congress struck a deal to save America from reeling into another recession. The deal forged on the first day of this year perhaps thwarted harsh consequences from taking place, but fiscal policy talks are far from over and round two of the budgetary tug-of-war may be even tougher.

The first round of fiscal policy discussions almost entirely dealt with revenue streams for the government, specifically how much to tax Americans. The good news is the expired Bush tax cuts were made permanent in the signing of the American Tax-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

S

o here we are, now in the second month of 2013. How fast time flies! It wasn't so long ago that we were wishing our friends and family a Happy New Year. Many of us made resolutions but within a week or two some just dumped their plans. How have you done? Congratulations if you've been able to maintain your New Year's resolution. Keep it going!

Speaking of going, members of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) and about 40 business executives are in the Philippines for the Chamber's 23rd Trade Mission. Leading the mission is Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui. The overall goal of the trip is to stimulate trade and investment in Hawaii and the Philippines. The delegation will travel to major cities in the Philippines with successful economies that have capitalized on environmental sustainability, and to the Ilocos region since many of Hawaii's Filipinos trace their roots back to the area. We send our best wishes to FCCH for a successful trade mission and safe return.

Our cover story for this issue was submitted by contributing writer Gregory Garcia who reports on the upcoming Second Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora, which will be held from February 25-27 in Manila. In case you didn't know, a diaspora refers to the movement or migration of people away from their countries of origin, heritage or interest, while maintaining links with their homeland. Filipinos from around the world are expected to attend the event, which is being organized and sponsored by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and several government and private sector organizations. To find out more on this very important summit, please read "Overseas Filipinos to Convene for 2nd Global Diaspora Summit."

In other news, if you are or know of someone who would benefit from obtaining U.S. citizenship, the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) will be holding a citizenship course on five consecutive Saturdays from February 2, 2013 to March 2, 2013 from 10 am to 12 noon. The cost is \$25. The course is sponsored by FilCom and the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Please turn to page 10 for more information on how to enroll in this course.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you *Kung Hee Fat Choy* and for much happiness and prosperity ahead in the Year of the Snake. We are indeed truly blessed to live in a place like Hawaii where diversity abounds.

If you would like to share a story idea, suggestion or concern, please send it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Until next time... *aloha and mabuhay!*"

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



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payer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA 2012), keeping the tax rate for a majority of Americans the same while allowing taxes for individuals making over \$400,000 annually (\$450,000 for married couples on joint returns) to revert to higher levels set prior to the Bush tax cuts. The ATRA 2012 also puts caps on certain tax deductions and credits for that income bracket.

Where the majority of Americans will take a hit is the expiration of the payroll tax cut. For the last two years, the Feds took out 4.2 percent in Social Security payroll tax from most Americans' paychecks. The fiscal cliff agreement did not include a renewal of the SS payroll tax cut so it will revert to the higher level of 6.2 percent. The Wall Street Journal estimates that this could cost the average American as much as \$2,202 more in payroll taxes this year than last year.

Worse yet, this 2 percent increase is expected to slow down an already sputtering economy. Gross Domestic Product is expected to lower by 0.5 percent to 1.75 percent, not to mention the "multiplier" effects it could have on weakening consumer spending. In terms of jobs, economists predict the fiscal cliff deal could lead to 600,000 fewer jobs being created this year due to tax increases.

(continued on page 5)

OPINION

Did Drugs Nearly Kill Pacquiao?

NO LIMITATION By Ted Laguatan

Recently, in the Oprah Winfrey Show, Lance Armstrong, the incredible seven-time winner of the Tour de France cycling tournament, the most grueling competition in the sports world - shocked millions by confessing publicly that he used an array of Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) in winning all seven events. Previously, he had repeatedly denied doping allegations.

What does Armstrong's confession about his use of PEDs mean to the entire sports world?

Among other things, it confirms the effectiveness of PEDs in significantly pushing to extremes the capabilities of athletes. It also means that passing stringent tests does not mean an athlete is clean as in Armstrong's case. Certain kinds of PEDs are unde-

tectable with the current standard testing protocols. The number of athletes willing to use them are likely to increase because of the fabulous fortune, fame and other rewards that usually come with being top dog in major sports.

In 2005, a case involving the sale of PEDs to elite athletes by a small laboratory in Burlingame, California - made the headlines. Known as Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative or BALCO - it's Chairman and founder Victor Conte - pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute steroids and other PEDs.

Conte referred to specific drugs as "the clear", "THG" and "the cream" which were either taken orally, injected or rubbed into the skin. While these can be detected if specialized detailed testing is done, they are practically undetectable when usual standard testing procedures are done on athletes. Years later, Conte also revealed that there are certain



ways to beat different testing systems for PEDs in sports events.

Some 30 elite athletes were listed as among the secret customers of BALCO which included the great Barry Bonds, holder of baseball's all time home run record and seven time MVP; Marion Jones, dubbed the "fastest woman alive" and the biggest track and field star in the 2000 Olympics in Australia and former boxing champion Shane Mosley, winner of world titles in three divi

Bonds pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of obstruction of justice in connection with

PEDs investigations but a dark cloud remains over his outstanding record denying him what would have been certain entry into baseball's Hall of Fame.

In 2007, Jones admitted in court her use of PEDs and lying about it. She was sentenced to six months in prison, stripped of her five Olympic medals and lost all her endorsement deals.

As for Mosley, the World Boxing Council indicated that they would investigate his admitted drug use but probably lost interest as Mosley's career had come to an end. However,

his boxing record will forever be tainted by his drug use.

Users of PEDs display certain observable signs: a new physique with ripped bulked up muscles, markedly increased power and strength, speed and remarkable stamina.

It was not only these visual indicators that Juan Manuel Marquez showed in his last fight with Manny Pacquiao which caused many in the press box to suspect that he was using PEDs but also the presence in his corner of a shadowy figure named Angel Hernandez. Angel is officially designated as Marquez' conditioning trainer.

Just before Marquez' spectacular dead to the world knockout of Manny Pacquiao last December 8, 2012, while watching HBO's reality show "24/7 Pacquiao - Marquez" on TV, convicted BALCO Chairman and PEDs supplier Victor Conte recognized Angel Hernandez and came out with the bombshell public revelation that "Hernandez" was an assumed name and that the man

(continued on page 6)

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COVER STORY

Overseas Filipinos to Convene for 2nd Global Diaspora Summit

By Gregory Garcia

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and several partner organizations are gearing up for the Second Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora, which will be held February 25-27, 2013 in Manila, Philippines.

For this year's summit, the CFO has adopted the theme "Two Years Thereafter: The Best of the Philippine Diaspora" which is in line with its goal to highlight the best practices in diaspora engagement and to track the progress of various institutional projects since the launch of the Diaspora to Development (D2D) initiative.

Introduced during the First Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora in September 2011, the D2D initiative seeks to institutionalize and maximize overseas Filipinos' involvement in the socio-cultural and economic development of the Philippines through 10 major areas of intervention, namely skills and technology transfer (*Alay Dunong*), arts and culture exchange, educational exchange (*Balik-Turo*), business linkaging and mentoring, diaspora investments, global legal assistance, diaspora philan-

thropy (*Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*), medical mission coordination, tourism initiatives, and return and reintegration. The CFO and its partners also hope to promote networking among overseas Filipinos in the different regions of the world and accelerate participation of second and third generation overseas Filipinos in the country's development.

Expected to attend the summit are members and regional partners of the Global Filipino Diaspora Council (GFDC), recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, and officers and members of overseas Filipino associations, including those from the US Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG). Philippine-based speakers, resource persons and participants from government, multi-lateral agencies, academe and civil society are also attending the event.

Organizers of the event have lined up a number of activities, including participation in the 27th anniversary celebration of the EDSA People Power Revolution at the People Power Monument in Quezon City, as well as several workshops

The Philippines has emerged as one of the biggest migrant-sending countries in the world, thanks to the sustained and extensive migration of Filipinos to foreign countries over the last four decades. According to December 2010 data from the CFO, there are 9.45 million overseas Filipinos worldwide. Nearly half of them, 47 percent, are permanent migrants or those who sought permanent residency in their host countries; around 45 percent are temporary migrants or those who are most commonly referred to as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs); and the remaining 8 percent are classified as irregular migrants or those who have left the country without going through official processes, without proper documents or those whose travel documents have already expired.

The top 10 destination countries of these overseas Filipinos are the U.S. (33 percent), Saudi Arabia (16 percent), Canada (7 percent), UAE (7 percent), Australia (4 percent), Malaysia (3 percent), Japan (3 percent), the United Kingdom (2 percent), Hong Kong (2 percent) and Kuwait (2 percent).

This large-scale migration



Attendees at Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora pose for a group photo. The first summit was held in September 2011 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City

also resulted in the Philippines becoming one of the top remittance-receiving countries in the world. In its most recent Migration and Development Brief, the World Bank projected the Philippines to become the world's third largest recipient of remittances for 2012. The report noted that India would rank first with remittances seen hitting \$70 billion this year, followed by China with \$66 billion, and then by the Philippines and Mexico with inflows estimated to reach \$24 billion each. This forecast is higher than the \$21.5 billion estimate by Bankgo Sentral ng Pilipinas for the same year.

Weighing Benefits, Costs of Migration

Speaking during the Second International Forum on Migration and Development, held in November 2012 in Guadalajara, Mexico, CFO Chairperson Imelda Nicolas said that "remittances represent the most direct, immediate and far-reaching impact of migration" because "they are a more constant sources of income for developing countries, including the Philippines."

These remittances, which account for 10 percent of the Philippine economy, have aided consumer spending and helped the Philippine economy to grow by 7.1 percent in the third quarter of 2012,

ahead of other economies in Southeast Asia.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has likewise enumerated the many benefits of remittances. These include bolstering private consumption, increasing people's savings, increasing investment in human capital, especially in the education and health of the beneficiaries, and expansion of the middle class.

Nicolas, however, also noted that the social and economic costs of migration to some families and children left behind continue to be a challenge.

"On one hand, the 2003 Children and Families Study in the Philippines found that the children of migrants are doing well or are even better off than the children of non-migrants in terms of school performance and health indicators. Children of migrants tend to attend private schools, and they are more active in extra-curricular activities," she said.

"On the other hand, other studies suggest that children and adolescents left behind are at greater risk for drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, psychosocial dysfunction and criminal behaviour," she added, referring to the findings of a 2010 paper published by the European Union. The study explained that extended separation of families, parental

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, OVERSEAS...)

absence and increased household burdens, can all have detrimental effects on family life.

Nicolas also noted that the exodus of Filipinos out of the country has resulted in a “brain drain” problem. This is in addition to the problem of deskilling, which overseas Filipinos experience due to the fact that many of them are overqualified for the jobs they take abroad.

According to a 2009 report by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), 53 percent of employed Filipino emigrants have tertiary education but only 14.5 percent are managers and professionals. Technicians and clerks account for 26.6 percent of overseas Filipinos, while around 60 percent are employed as service workers, agricultural workers, crafts workers, plant operators and sales personnel.

Lastly, citing a 2003 working paper published by the International Monetary Fund, Nicolas said that the compensatory nature of remittances present a moral hazard or dependency syndrome that could prove detrimental to the country’s economic growth as some recipients tend to reduce their participation in productive endeavors.

This mirrors the findings of a study by the Scalibrini Migration Center, which said that “left-behind family members are seen to develop a high



A. Speakers at the 2011 Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora included Harry K. Thomas Jr., U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines (top left); Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis (bottom left); and CFO Chairperson Imelda Nicolas (bottom right)

B. Other speakers at the First Global Summit included (left to right): Ms. Eileen Aparis, Atty. Rodel Rodis, Atty. Lewis, Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, CFO Chairperson Nicolas, Ms. Aurora Cudal and Atty. Ted Laguatan

degree of dependence on their remittance allocation to the point that they no longer see the need to be gainfully employed or they also imbibe the same goal of going abroad,” thereby creating a culture of migration among our people.

Making Migration a Choice Not a Necessity

It is in such context that the CFO is now encouraging overseas Filipinos to become involved in the socio-cultural and economic development of the Philippines.”

One of the ways overseas Filipinos can help is by ensuring the productive use of remittances through business investments to reduce the dependency of those left behind on the income of those abroad. Nicolas noted that this is important because, “while it is good from a macro-economic standpoint to have families spend their remittance on conspicuous consumption — like the purchase of electronics or repairing a house — these expenditures have yet to be sig-

nificant from a sustainable and strategic development standpoint and from an overall poverty alleviation perspective.”

This is why the CFO promotes initiatives like diaspora investments, which is one of D2D’s key areas of intervention. Part of the objectives of this sub-program is the promotion of remittance savings and the use of these remittances in economic and social investments, from the micro-scale of home businesses and short-term savings to the large-scale of remittance securitization by banks for big-ticket public-private partnership financing.

The CFO has also established a project called Balinkbayan (Business Advisory Link para sa Bayan), which aims to synergize government programs that encourage investments from Filipinos abroad, especially those intended for the agricultural sector.

Overall, the D2D initiative was created to achieve

such goals. It was designed to maximize the potential developmental contributions of migrants to the home country beyond giving those left behind with remittances to spend. Aside from opening up investment opportunities in the home country, the CFO has laid down a comprehensive menu of engagements, including arts and culture exchange, science and technology transfer, diaspora philanthropy, legal assistance, medical missions, tourism initiatives, and return and reintegration programs. Nicolas emphasized the importance of concentrating on such opportunities presented by the migration phenomenon instead of just looking at its negative aspects.

“While migration of highly skilled workers is often viewed as brain drain or a drain of talents and humans resources, we at the government would like to turn this problem around to a ‘brain gain’ or

‘brain circulation.’ We have established programs to entice and encourage Filipinos abroad to go back to the Philippines and share the skills, knowledge and resources they have acquired for several development initiatives,” she said.

According to Nicolas, her agency has adopted Philippine President Benigno Aquino III’s articulation of the transformational framework of his migration-related policy as a mantra in their endeavors. As part of the his 16-point Social Contract with the Filipino People, President Aquino previously expressed his desire to transform the Philippine government from one that treats its people as an export commodity and as a means to earn foreign exchange to one that creates jobs at home. The president said this is necessary so that working abroad will be a choice for Filipinos rather than a necessity.

EDITORIAL (from page 2, SPENDING)

Round 2

The big question now in the second round (sequestration phase) of fiscal policy is finding out how much to pare back in federal spending in a way that will reduce the deficit but not hurt economic growth further.

Unemployment rates for all workers at all education levels have not recovered to pre-recession levels in 2007. Modest improvements have been steady but severe cuts across the board may reverse gains. Congress and the president must choose wisely areas to trim and to continue funding. The renewal of unemployment insurance was necessary

to maintain consumer confidence and the flow of money. Congress and the president were wise to recognize this. Other essential areas of funding should include education, research and infrastructure. Some areas exempt from sequestration cuts include Social Security, Medicaid, early childhood nutrition and veterans’ benefits. These areas must also be protected. Where the federal budget could be reduced is military spending. The two major wars are over. High technology allows for less heavy infantry. U.S. bases in stabilized areas around the world, particularly in Europe, are no longer necessary. They were established

during the Cold War which has long passed.

Ultimately, a good rule of thumb to follow is that debt reduction cannot be done without the nation’s economy and jobs in mind. It’s dangerous for the future of our country to insist on austere measures too fast even before the country’s economy is back in order. The best path is a balanced approach of revenue increases and spending cuts that make good common sense. It took decades to get the country into a debt crisis, and to suddenly expect unrealistic levels of recovery by massive spending cuts would be asking too much of the American people.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Consul General Torres, Lt. Gov. Tsutsui to Lead Trade Mission to Philippines

Philippine Consul General Julius D. Torres and Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui will lead the 23rd Trade Mission of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) to the Philippines from February 1-11, 2013.

To date, 48 individuals from business, banking and government sectors and leaders from major Filipino communities in Hawaii have confirmed their participation.

This year's theme—"Fostering Sustainable Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region"—aims to recognize the emerging challenge of developing human systems, technologies and

lifestyles that can provide high quality and environmentally-conscious ways of life for current and future generations. Particular emphasis will be on developing relationships to foster the positive exchange of ideas around these principles.

The goals of trade mission are to:

- Increase business activity by promoting Hawaii and the Philippines as investment and tourism destinations
- Encourage trade and economic activities across the Pacific region
- Develop renewable and green technology.



Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui

In addition, the Philippines as a retirement destination will also be explored. To achieve these goals, the Trade Mission will be visiting major cities in the Philippines that are experiencing tremendous economic activities and emphasizing renewal and green technology such as Manila, Makati and the Ilocos region,

where more than 80 percent of Filipinos in Hawaii trace their roots to.

This year's delegation will pay courtesy calls on government and business officials, including President Benigno S. Aquino III, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos and officials from the cities of Candon, Caoayan, Laoag and Vigan.

The delegation is also expected to meet with U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas, Jr., officials from the Philippine Chamber

of Commerce and Industry, the Makati Business Club and the Consuelo Alger Foundation. A welcome dinner reception is scheduled for February 4, 2013 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

Since 1954, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has been the voice of Filipino businesses in Hawaii. The organization has broadened opportunities for Filipino entrepreneurs and member businesses, strengthened business links between the Philippines and Hawaii, assisted in the professional growth of its members and supported the well-being of the community.

OPINION (from page 3, DID DRUGS...)

was formerly known as "Angel 'Memo' Heredia" - a user and supplier of PEDs to elite athletes.

In 2008, in the US government's case against Olympics track coach Trevor Howard, in order to avoid prosecution, Angel agreed to testify for federal prosecutors. He revealed that he supplied PEDs to Marion Jones and other star athletes in various sports.

During the trial, a New York Times article profiled him:

"Mr. Heredia, a former Mexican national discus champion, is a secretive figure on the track circuit who describes himself as a chemist, scientist and nutritionist...He said he used family connections to pharmacies and labs in Mexico to help his business. For years, Mr. Heredia said, he helped clients flout the rules and eas-

ily avoided detection. Substances like the human growth hormone and the blood booster erythropoietin or EPO, are still virtually impossible to detect, and its still easy to use testosterone with fast acting creams, he said. 'You combine all these things - boom! - you get amazing results.' Mr. Heredia said."

One report also indicated that he had created about 20 different PEDs which he claimed are undetectable.

A 2009 German documentary downloadable in YouTube shows Angel injecting himself with a PED and telling the viewers how easy it is to get these drugs in Mexico.

Even the famed Freddie Roach, iconic trainer of Manny Pacquiao, doubted that the new bulked up chiseled body the 39 year old Marquez brought to the ring - was the re-

sult of natural training. Roach's comment: "I'll kiss his ass if it is." Marquez so far has kept his pants up.

In their three previous fights, Pacquiao took Marquez' best punches and not once did Marquez knock him down. In this last fight, Marquez showed unusual power first knocking down Pacquiao in the third round with a powerful hard right on the face and then in the sixth, knocked Pacquiao cold with a frightful monster right on the jaw. The Pacman crushed to the canvas face down unconscious for a scary two to three minutes. A lesser conditioned fighter could very well have died from that Hulk punch.

Was Marquez fueled by PEDs in his last fight with Pacquiao?

Maybe yes. Maybe no. Visual indicators certainly point to that direction. Various articles in the electronic and printed media suggest that this may be the case especially with PEDs expert Angel in Marquez' corner. According to TV boxing commentator Jim Lampley, after the Pacquiao-Marquez fight, Mexican boxing great Erik Morales tweeted the comment: "The Mexican pharmacy was better." - and then deleted this, probably concerned about being criticized by his coun-

trymen.

Or course, Marquez and his camp understandably deny these doping allegations. However, he and his trainer should welcome investigations to clear the air of these accusations of cheating.

Not only is it obvious cheating to use PEDs in any sport, but in boxing and other martial arts sports, it's deadly dangerous and criminal to do so. It can result in death, brain damage, blindness or other serious injuries to boxers.

But PEDs testing in boxing is among the most lax in sporting events. Standard uniform testing for PEDs are not even required for major boxing events. Strict testing for PEDs has to be included in the contract between two fighters to make it happen. In the case of Pacquiao-Marquez 4, no pre-fight testing was even done for both fighters.

One would think that the gods of boxing such as the managers, trainers, promoters, state boxing commissioners, federal officials and the boxers themselves - ought to recognize that they bear a heavy moral responsibility in preventing death or permanent brain and other serious damages to boxers by establishing uniform stricter testing protocols for PEDs - but they don't.

"As long as the money is very good, why rock the

boat?" seems to be the attitude.

Bovine dung! Greed should not be the primary polestar and mantra of the movers and shakers in the sweet science world. They owe it to the fans, the boxers and the sport to at least have fair fights and reasonable protection of life and limb for the gladiators who are engaged in an already dangerous sport.

In the case of cycling, the situation was similar. Despite heightened suspicions of PEDs use by Armstrong and other cyclists, the governing International Cycling Union appeared not to be taking affirmative action to correct the situation. In fact they were party to constant general denials that PEDs were involved in their sport. Too much money was involved from sponsors, advertisers and other sources to risk changes.

It took the US Anti Doping Agency (USADA) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to seriously investigate drug use by cyclists that helped lead to Armstrong's shocking confession of his use of PEDs to win an unprecedented seven Tour de France titles.

In the case of the U.S. boxing world, it is high time for state and federal officials to step in and seriously inves-

(continued on page 7)

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Is Jean Valjean of Les Miserables Inadmissible or Deportable?

During the miserable days of World War II, whenever my father was home in the evening, he would read several pages of Les Miserables which was written in French (which he had learned when he was a student at De Paul University in Chicago) and then narrate to us what he had read. It was a fascinating story. When Les Miserables was shown in Hawaii during the Christmas holidays, I invited my beloved and my two children to see the movie with me.

Hugh Jackman playing the Frenchman Jean Valjean in Les Miserables might win the Academy Award but would Jean Valjean be admissible if he were seeking entry to the U.S. or deportable if he was living in the U.S., considering that he stole a loaf of bread?

That depends on the totality of the circumstances and the skill of the lawyer representing him. Theft is a crime

involving moral turpitude (CIMT) under the immigration laws and is a ground for inadmissibility under Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(1) or deportability under Section 237(a)(2)(A)(i).

Inspector Javert who had hounded Valjean for the rest of his life after he had committed the offense said: The law does not permit me to be merciful. That is not necessarily true under the immigration laws because there are certain exceptions and there is some relief available allowing the judge to exercise his discretion.

For instance, there was a foreign student (not Filipino) who went to a grocery store, took a sandwich, went to a corner and ate it. This was recorded on closed circuit television. When he stepped out of the store, he was arrested and charged with theft. His lawyer who is skilled in criminal law and immigration law knew that the student would be deportable if convicted. He talked to the owner and agreed to pay the value of the sandwich. He negotiated a plea deal with the prosecutor whereby the student was

charged with a lesser offense that was not a ground for deportation. The student was given probation and not deported. His lawyer was my son, Noel Tipon.

We read about a Filipino who worked as a cashier at a department store in Las Vegas. He stole about \$200 worth of merchandise and pleaded guilty. Why his lawyer did not negotiate a plea deal for a lesser offense in the criminal case was not explained. At his deportation hearing, his defense was that he was an American citizen because his parents were born in the Philippines before America granted independence on July 4, 1946. The court rejected his defense and ordered him deported. Why did not his lawyer ask for relief like cancellation of removal under Section 240A?

We heard about a Filipina from Kauai who worked as a cashier at one of the biggest retailers in the country. She took money from the cash

register. She was charged with theft. Why did not her lawyer negotiate a plea deal for a lesser offense that was not deportable? At her subsequent deportation hearing, her lawyer reportedly told her that she had no chance. She asked for a recess to go to the restroom. She never returned. The Judge ordered her deportation in absentia. Years later she was found, jailed, and deported. Why did not the lawyer invoke one of the reliefs available like cancellation of removal or Section 212(h)? If there was no relief available, why did not the lawyer tell her immediately so that she would not have had to spend money to hire the lawyer?

There was a Filipina who took money from the cash register of the store where she worked. She pleaded guilty to theft. She traveled to the Philippines and when she re-

turned she was stopped at the airport and placed in removal proceedings for having been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. We were asked to represent her. We asked for relief under Section 212(h). We established that she and her USC child would suffer extreme hardship if she was deported, whether she took the child with her or left the child in the U.S. The Immigration Judge granted relief and she was not deported.

(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.ImmigrationServiceUSA.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.

OPINION (from page 6, DID DRUGS...)

tigate the use of PEDs by boxers - starting with the last Pacquiao-Marquez fight. Preventing cheating as well as unnecessary deaths and serious injuries to athletes is a very legitimate moral concern for everyone.

The USADA should also be involved in urging uniform strict testing for PEDs in boxing. Even if this organization's main mandate is control over the anti-doping programs for U.S. Olympics, Paralympics, Pan American and Parapan American sporting events, it can use its influence to change the doping landscape for the good of all.

Angel who describes himself as a chemist is also the conditioning coach for Jamaican track and field star Usain Bolt who broke speed records and won all kinds of medals in the last Olympics. Why would an athlete get a chemist as his conditioning coach?

The phone number of USADA within the U.S. is 800-233-0393. From outside the U.S., call 001-719-785

2020. Their email is: drugreference@usantidoping.org

Please join the call to have a uniform strict drug testing protocol for the sport of boxing. It will prevent cheating, save lives and prevent brain damage and other serious injuries to boxers.

Email this article to the USADA or call urging them to investigate the Pacquiao-Marquez fight and for them to push for a mandatory standard strict series of testing procedures before and after boxing events. Thank you for your concern.

Note: **ATTY. TED LAGUATAN** is a San Francisco Bay Area based human rights lawyer. The California State Bar also honors him as one of the top immigration lawyers in the country being one of only 29 lawyers officially certified continuously as an Expert-Specialist in this field for almost 25 years now. Email laguatanlaw@gmail.com Tel 650 991-1154 Fax 650-991-1186 Address: 455 Hickey Blvd., Daly City, Ca 94015

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Chef Louis Eguaras: From Manila to the US White House

JOYFUL HARVEST by Joy Angelica Subido

M arunong akong managalog (I can understand Tagalog), so don't talk about me," says former White House chef Louis Eguaras. He recounts how, early in his career as a chef in the United States Navy, he overheard a group of Filipino Navy chefs criticizing him. "Tignan mo yang puting yan. Tatamad-tamad (Look at how lazy that white guy is)," they scoffed. So he walked up to them and protested in unaccented Filipino, "Hindi po ako tamad, pagod lang (I'm not lazy, just tired)." That he speaks fluent Filipino is not surprising. His mother is Filipino after all. She was once executive housekeeper of Intercontinental Hotel Manila and the family lived in the Philippines until Louis was 13. But the chefs must have been pleasantly surprised that the young man with markedly Caucasian features was a compatriot. And from then on, he was assigned extra tasks.

"They frequently said, 'Hoy Tisoy, halika dito!' (Come here, Mestizo!) In the Navy, the kitchen is controlled by the Filipino chefs," chef Louis recalls. He muses that his superiors called on him constantly

not only because he spoke Filipino, but also because he was willing to work harder than usual and cheerfully take on the extra tasks assigned to him.

"My viewpoint is that if the opportunity is there, you have to take it. You have to absorb everything you can," he declares. "A good attitude towards work coupled with pleasant persistence is always important. I always volunteer. I always smile." Conscious of the fact that the Navy, among all the military branches, offered the best culinary training (with civilian instructors from Le Cordon Bleu in its cooking school), Louis Eguaras persisted, paid rapt attention and learned all he could. "There was a constant striving to achieve excellence and efficiency," he says. "You know from the start that in the Navy you're expected to cook for thousands of people."

That extra effort and discipline paid off. In a field of 250 aspirants, chef Louis was one of only two chefs who were picked to cook for then United States president George Bush Sr. "After graduating in 1992, military recruiters came and asked if a n y

of us were interested in working at Camp David. I saw it as an opportunity so I applied," chef Louis relates. He appreciates that he was highly recommended by his instructors.

But it wasn't easy. "The background check was very thorough and in my case there were red flags." He explains that his Filipino parentage and the fact that he travelled extensively could have been a disadvantage since the position usually went to US-born Americans who, more likely than not, lived in the United States all their lives. "But I was always very honest with my recruiters and in the end they chose me." Chef Louis was stationed at Camp David Presidential Retreat from 1992-1993, working under the White House Military Office, before he found his way to the White House to serve United States presidents George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton.

What was it like cooking for two presidents of the United States? "I had top-secret clearance," shares chef Louis. Apart from cooking for top US officials, visiting foreign political dignitaries (Russian president Boris Yeltsin, the Emperor of Japan, among others) and Hollywood celebrities (like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, etc.), he tells us that part of the job was to be part of the advance team of Secret Service agents during presidential trips abroad.

His job was to



Chef Louis Eguaras was recently at the Center for Culinary Arts-Manila for a cooking demonstration and book signing. In photo are Pilar Herbolario (CCA registrar), chef Melissa Sison (CCA programs director), chef Louis Eguaras, Susana Guerrero (CCA president), Anne Certeza-Palmares (CCA public relations manager), Dr. Veritas Luna (CCA & ASHA chancellor for Higher Education)

make sure that the kitchens were secure. "We plated the food, switched the plates around so no one knows which one goes to the president, and brought the glasses of water to the podium." But on ordinary days at home, he recalls that President Bush was partial to grilled meats or fish and Texas-style cooking; while it was simply hamburgers and fries for Chelsea Clinton who was a teenager at the time.

The chef singles out the meal he cooked for Nelson Mandela as the most memorable. "That was right after he was released from prison and his modest demeanor was very striking. For me, it was surreal that he went to the kitchen to exchange pleasantries and shake everybody's hand. Other White House guests rarely did the same."

Humility is one trait that chef Louis values greatly, especially in his profession, "It is true that you can say that in our line of work the most important ingredient is the chef because he is the ingredient that changes things just a little bit. But in this industry it is important that you remain humble regardless of your stature." He encourages other

chefs, "Be that mentor. Be that leader. Look at yourself and understand why you do what you do. Skill is important but attitude will also help determine success."

From his stint in the White House, chef Louis Eguaras has moved on to put up an enterprise called Presidential Culinary Services that provides culinary classes, gourmet catering and business consulting services for food-related ventures. He has written a book called 101 Things I Learned in Culinary School, and lent his expertise in building up culinary programs of various schools in the United States.

"Did you know that Filipinos were in the White House from as far back as Nixon's presidency?" he asks us as we end our interview. "Just like the Americans have played roles in Philippine history, Filipinos are part of US history." With a bucket list that includes writing a book about Filipinos in the White House, chef Louis Eguaras has truly come a long way from the kid who first learned how to cook Filipino-style sweet spaghetti in the kitchen of his family's Mandaluyong home. (www.philstar.com)



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Marcos: HR Funds Not Our Concern

by Paolo Romero
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - As far as the Marcoses are concerned, they are no longer interested in the funds confiscated from them by the government, which can now use the money for whatever purpose it sees fit.

This was the reaction of Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to the ratification by Congress of the bill that would compensate human rights victims during the regime of his father and namesake.

"As I keep explaining, this is an issue between the human rights claimants and the government. It involved the Marcos family and my father's estate but it is no longer the case," Marcos told Senate reporters Senate yesterday.

"It has nothing to do with us at this point anymore because the judgments have been made against us and our position has been very clear: the government has confiscated the assets so it's up to the government to now dispose of them as they see fit," he added.

The Senate and the House of Representatives ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the human rights compensation bill on Monday, paving the way for President Aquino's signing it into law.

A total of P10 billion, excluding interest earned, which was part of the \$625 million recovered by the government from the Swiss bank accounts of the Marcoses in 2004, was set aside for the compensation of victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

The balance of the recovered funds would be used for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) as mandated by law.

Under the bill, a Human Rights Claim Board would be created to go over the claims of the various human rights victims.

The bill provides all claimants in the class suit and direct action plaintiffs in Hawaii, and all victims recog-

nized by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation on the same conclusive presumption that they are all human rights victims.

Marcos said he has inhibited himself from the issue a long time ago, saying he could never be objective about it.

Marcos said he has no idea if the money would be put to good use and he would leave it up to the government and the claimants to settle.

For Vice President Jejomar Binay, the compensation for human rights victims is long overdue.

"It was about time that they were given justice. It is long overdue and I'm glad that it was passed under the administration of President Aquino," said Binay, a human rights lawyer who was detained shortly after the late strongman Marcos declared martial law in September 1972.

Binay said the bills' passage showed the common commitment of the government to uphold human rights.

"For those of us who were jailed during martial law, and for those who were tortured and subjected to indignities, it's not about the actual compensation but the recognition that the rights of an individual were violated by a regime," he said.

Half A Million Each

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said thousands of human rights victims will receive as much as P500,000 each once the bill is signed into law.

"It is beyond compensation but reparation and recognition for the human rights victims during martial law. It is not a big sum of money now but this will be a big help to the victims who are now old," Colmenares told dzMM radio.

Colmenares noted the bill seeks to grant reparation and/or recognition to the victims during the regime of Marcos covering the period from Sept. 21, 1972 to Feb. 25, 1986.

The claimants who suc-



Sen. Bongbong Marcos

cessfully secured a final and executory judgment in the US Federal District Court of Honolulu are accorded conclusive presumption as victims claimants even as the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board has the inherent power to determine the extent of the human rights violations and the amount of reparation which may be granted to each claimant.

The victims recognized by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation are also entitled to conclusive presumption.

Principal funding shall come from the P10 billion, plus accrued interests, which is part of the funds transferred to the government of the

Philippines on Dec. 10, 1997 by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court and forfeited in favor of the Philippine government as Marcos ill-gotten wealth by the Philippine Supreme Court on July 15, 2003.

Colmenares said there will be two groups of claimants for compensation: first, the group composed of 9,539 victims who won in the Hawaii class action suit against the Marcoses, and second, the individuals not included in the suit.

Colmenares said claimants will be screened using a point system to determine the amount that each victim or their kin will receive, with those tortured or killed getting a higher compensation than those harassed or economically disadvantaged.

The board will have only two years to finish the compensation process, he said.

Would Still Claim

The human rights group Selda (Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto) said they would still pursue the settlement of their claim even if they get com-

pensated under the compensation bill.

Selda chairman Marie Hilao-Enriquez said members of the class of almost 10,000 human rights victims that were awarded \$2 billion in compensatory damages by a US Hawaii district court in 1992 would still seek compensation under the new law.

Enriquez criticized Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) chairman Andres Bautista for saying the members of the class should give up their claim under the \$2-billion award if they get compensation under the new law.

"We are exasperated, disappointed and angry at such malicious and irresponsible statements made by PCGG chair Andres Bautista. Why should we give up the claims when the award is based on the judgment that the Marcos dictatorship is guilty of crimes against humanity, and therefore the Marcoses are accountable for the human rights violations committed under their reign?" Enriquez said.

Enriquez pointed out the Hawaii court judgment was final and executory. (www.philstar.com)

Phil on Red Alert for SKorea's Rocket Launch

from www.philstar.com
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - Officials are on red alert starting today for the possible launch of South Korea's rocket that will put a satellite into orbit.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has enforced a ban on sailing, flying and fishing in several eastern Philippine areas where the rocket may pass over.

NDRRMC Executive Di-



rector Benito Ramos said they are going to enforce a no sail, no fly and no fishing zone policy on areas about 540 kilometers east of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern

Samar, all the way up to Caraga region.

South Korea will launch Wednesday the Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1) also known as Naro. This is the third time that the country will attempt a rocket launch and secure its place in elite club of global space powers that includes China, Japan and India.

Ramos said the same precautions were done when Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched a rocket into the orbit last December. No untoward incident happened during that launch.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**State Reaches Settlement
 with HECO**

Gov. Neil Abercrombie recently announced a settlement between the State and Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) that will result in the withdrawal of a rate increase request for Hawaii Island and a significant reduction in taxpayer dollars requested to cover project costs.



Gov. Neil Abercrombie

was shared by Gov. Abercrombie.

“With high oil prices driving up electricity and other costs, we have to take action to help Hawaii’s families and businesses who are struggling to make ends meet,” Abercrombie says. “While this settlement will help in the short-term, we remain committed to pursuing long-term solutions toward clean energy alternatives.”

The formal settlement is subject to approval by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Filed with the PUC on January 28, 2013, the deal outlines an agreement between the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs’ Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA) and HECO, including its subsidiaries, Maui Electric Co., Ltd. (MECO) and Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (HELCO), which serve Maui County and Hawaii Island, respectively.

As part of the settlement, HELCO will withdraw its request for a 4.2 percent or \$19.8 million rate increase in 2013. HECO and its subsidiaries will also reduce by \$40 million the amount being sought for improvements to two major projects—the 110-megawatt bio-fuel generating station at Campbell Industrial Park and a new customer information system.

DCA Executive Director Jeffrey Ono says the settlement will benefit consumers and help reduce the ever-increasing cost of electricity—a sentiment that

HECO will also delay filing a 2014 rate case that was originally scheduled to be filed this year under the current regulatory framework for reviewing its rates.

FilCom to Host Citizenship Course

The Filipino Community Center (FilCom) will host “Citizenship Course: How to Become a U.S. Citizen” from February 2, 2013 to March 2, 2013 from 10 am to 12 noon.

held on consecutive Saturdays and costs \$25. Those who complete the course will be awarded a certificate of completion.

The citizenship course is sponsored by FilCom and the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. It consists of five classes to be

Prior to the workshop from 9 am to 10 am, staff from U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) will be present to assist attendees with immigration or passport questions.

To register or for more details, please call FilCom680-0451 or send an email to: filcom@filcom.org.

PICTORIAL NEWS



Honolulu Councilmembers Ron Menor and Kymberly Marcos Pine present an honorary certificate to HFD’s Capt. Glenn Kuwamura at the grand-opening ceremony held January 29th for the City’s new Ewa Beach fire station. Located at 91-995 Kaileolea Drive in Ocean Pointe, the ultra-modern, \$6.1 million, 1-story station has 12,300 square feet and will house one engine company with an assigned crew of five firefighters.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

CBCP Supports People's Initiative to Pass Anti-Dynasty Bill

by Evelyn Macairan
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013

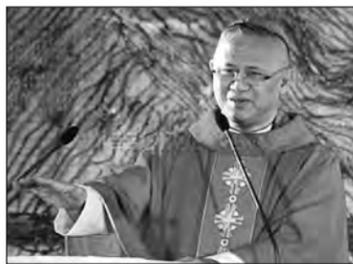
MANILA, Philippines - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) supports efforts for a people's initiative to put an end to political dynasties.

In a four-page pastoral statement issued after its 106th Plenary Assembly, the CBCP listed "the widening practice of political dynasties" as

among the problems the country is facing.

CBCP president Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma said they denounce the continued existence of political dynasties and the delay in the passage of a law that prohibits them.

"As monopolies in business, monopolies in politics limit the entry that can bring in new ideas and offer better services. Political dynasties breed corruption and inepti-



Archbishop Jose Palma

tude. We are aggrieved that lawmakers themselves defy the supreme law of the land by not following the mandate of our Constitution given 26 years ago to make an enabling law to ban political dynasties," said the CBCP.

It added that the Catholic Church believes that "political authority exists for the common good" and "should not be exercised for the sake of private and family interests."

Political dynasties breed corruption and inhibit general access to political power, which is a fundamental mark of democracy, it added.

"If Congress is unwilling to act on this, we support initiatives by the lay faithful to pass an enabling law against political dynasties through the

people's initiative which the Constitution provides," the CBCP said.

Palma said lack of time during the plenary assembly prevented them from finalizing their plans for a people's initiative.

"We just raised the issue and let the people think about it," he said.

On the latest Social Weather Stations survey, which showed that senatorial candidates from political dynasties are leading the race, Palma said surveys sometimes merely set a trend. (www.philstar.com)

US Lawmakers Back Phl Action to Bring Sea Row Before UN

by Airea Calica
Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - American lawmakers have expressed support for the Philippine action to bring the West Philippine Sea dispute with China before the United Nations for arbitration.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the delegation from the US Congress led by Representatives Ed Royce of California, Tom Marino of Pennsylvania, Vernon Buchanan of Florida, Matt Salmon of Arizona and Eliot Engel of the 16th District of New York met with President Aquino yesterday.

"No details. No particular discussion on what (Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario) briefed the congressional delegation on. It was merely a statement of support on the Philippines' approach to refer the whole matter to the arbitral tribunal," he said.

Asked what the President told the congressional delegation, Lacierda said Aquino primarily explained the reasons "why we are going through the arbitral tribunal and also the discussions on what steps we have taken, in fact, the policy of de-escalation." "The President enumerated how we tried to deescalate the tension in our dispute with China but it did not seem to be reciprocated by our Chinese friends," Lacierda said.

"A strong support from a country like the US and also from any nation which has an interest in the freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea or in the South China Sea, to a larger extent, is certainly welcome to the Philippines," he added.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the decision to bring the country's territorial row with China for arbitration before the UN only proved before the world that as a nation, the Philippines can stand on its own against a bigger adversary.

As reported by Japanese media, the Philippines has reportedly deployed more troops on five islets, two sand bars and two reefs that it claims in the disputed Spratly islands to bolster its military presence in the region.

But an official of the military's Western Command (Wescom), however, said the deployment of additional troops was simply a routine troop rotation.

"What we did was the usual case of troop rotation. Those who were assigned there were pulled out after their tour and were replaced by another group of soldiers," the official said.

Bullish

Aquino, on the other hand, discussed the Philippine economy and mentioned to the visiting American lawmakers that

on Tuesday, the country experienced a 72nd index high at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"That's the 72nd in our administration, in the administration of President Aquino, and I think the 11th in 2013 PSEI," Lacierda said.

"So they're very bullish about the economy. Congressman Buchanan of Florida was, in fact, mentioning that we should have more opportunities to explore - business opportunities, investments that we can look into - and he was very gung-ho, bullish about having more extensive business relations with the Philippines," Lacierda said.

"They were talking about business opportunities... to strengthen their economic ties with the Philippines and to explore more opportunities here, that's been the emphasis of our discussion. After the meeting with the President, this particular congressional delegation was to have lunch with the economic cluster team," Lacierda said. Lacierda said the visit was a good development as the American congressmen were Philippine enthusiasts.

"As you know, Congressman Ed Royce co-sponsored the Save Our Industries Act or the SAVE Act. During the courtesy call, a number of them expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality that we Filipinos extended to their visit," Lacierda said.

On the part of the President, Lacierda said Aquino thanked the congressional delegation and Royce in particular for co-sponsoring the SAVE Act.

Lacierda said there was a commitment to push the SAVE Act, which would "grant duty-free treatment, subject to specified conditions, to certain apparel wholly assembled in the United States or the Philippines, or both" to revive the country's ailing garments industry.

"(There were) no specifics at all but, as usual, there is a legislative process that has to be performed. So they are in the thick of sponsoring, they're in the thick of defending the SAVE Act. We hope to hear good news on that front," Lacierda said.

He said a courtesy call would normally not go into details.

"It's more of a discussion on certain things and primarily this is a congressional delegation on trade so they're discussing business opportunities with the Philippines," Lacierda said.

Daly City Mayor Raymond Buenaventura also paid a courtesy call and Aquino shared the reforms being undertaken by government.

"So it was a very fruitful discussion. The President also received the key of Daly City. Overall, we had a very good courtesy call by these two delegations," Lacierda said.

Aquino also received World Maritime University president Bjrn Kjerfve at Malacañang. (www.philstar.com)



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NEWS FEATURE

Revisiting the World's Oldest CHINATOWN

by Jovan Cerda
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - It's considered the oldest Chinatown in the world, established in 1594 by the Spanish colonizers to control Chinese immigrants in the Philippines. But more than 400 years later, Binondo still stands as an indelible symbol of Chinese influence in the country.

Known as a commercial district at the heart of Manila, Binondo typifies a small Chinese community, complete with business centers, restaurants, apothecaries, food stalls and local feng shui shops, among others.

Binondo is a witness to the Philippines' colorful past, which includes the Chinese uprising, the brief British invasion, the Philippine Revolution and World War II.

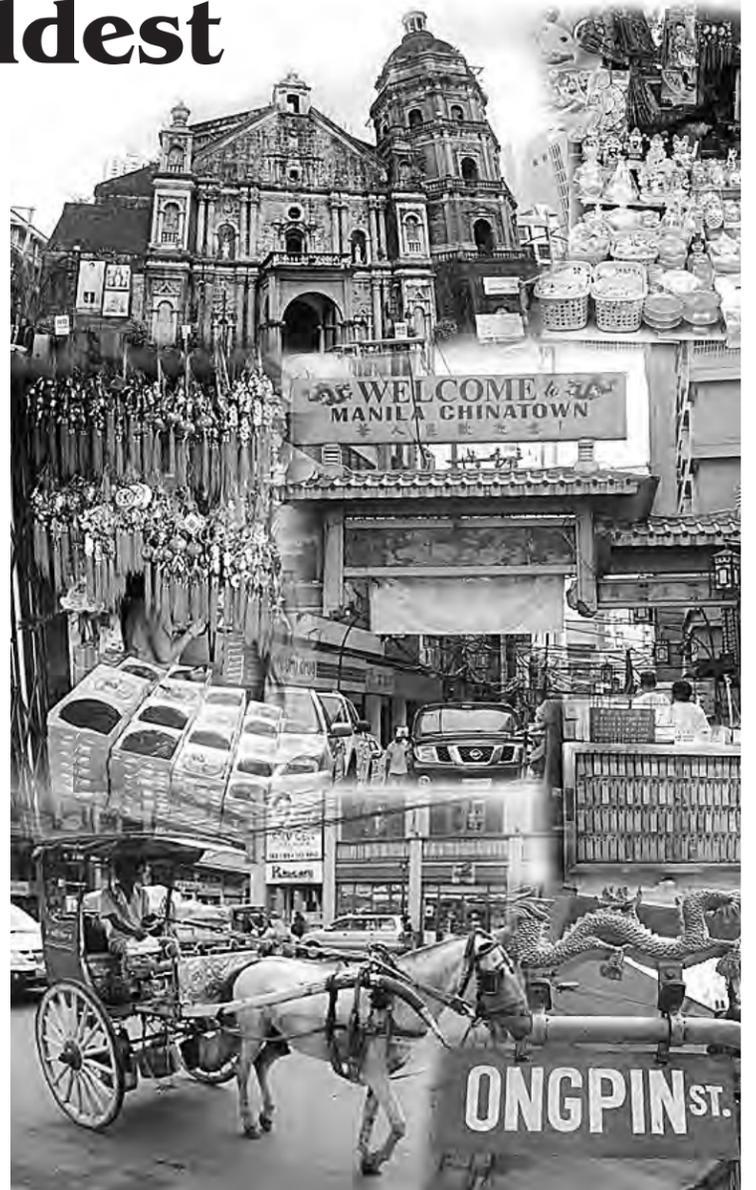
It also served as home to famous Filipino-Chinese figures, like philanthropist Roman Ongpin, who supported the Philippine Revolution, and San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint.

Today, Binondo is a bustling community of Filipino-Chinese businessmen, immigrants, and local and foreign tourists. Umbrella-covered movable stalls decorate the streets with fruits, delicacies and feng shui items on display. The wafting aroma of cooked noodles fills

some of the street corners, leading people into restaurants that offer affordable yet satisfying meals. Some shops play traditional Chinese music, while some seek attention with actual drum beats.

In 2012, Cable News Network's CNNGo website (CNN Travel) included Binondo in its list of the world's best Chinatowns, alongside those in Havana, Kolkata, Bangkok, Johannesburg, Melbourne, Vancouver, San Francisco and London.

In time for the Chinese New Year, philstar.com tours world-famous Binondo and takes you to some of this Chinatown's must-go and must-see places. (www.philstar.com)



PHILIPPINE NEWS

LP to Field Mar for President in 2016 – Drilon

by Marvin Sy
Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Three years before the country elects a new president, the ruling Liberal Party (LP) is fielding Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II as its standard bearer.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said this was the consensus in the LP but admitted that Roxas has not yet decided if he would ac-

cept an official nomination.

"I do not know exactly what is on his mind but he said he has not yet decided and I assume he has not yet decided because he wants to concentrate on his job as DILG (secretary) and doesn't want his decisions to be influenced by 2016 at this point," said Drilon, vice chairman of the LP.

"Insofar as the LP is concerned, insofar as I am concerned, we believe that he is best qualified for 2016," he

added.

In a text message to The STAR, Roxas expressed surprise at Drilon's revelation and said he is at the moment focused on his job as DILG chief.

"I was surprised. Maybe it's his plan or projection. But I'm busy with my job fighting criminality so it's not on my mind," Roxas said in Filipino.

It was the second time that Roxas had been declared LP bet for president. The first was

at the start of the campaign period for the 2010 elections. He eventually gave way to then senator Benigno Aquino III following widespread clamor for the latter to run for president after the death of his mother, former President Cory Aquino.

Roxas ended up running for vice president alongside Aquino but lost to then Makati City mayor Jejomar Binay. He is likely to face off with Binay in 2016 if he accepts the LP nomination.

"We are preparing by means of following the matuwid na daan (straight path). That is our preparation because it is all about good governance. That is the advocacy of LP, of which the President is the chairman," Drilon said.

Since Aquino assumed the presidency in 2010, Roxas has held key posts in his administration, the first being secretary of transportation and communications.

Drilon argued that it was not too early to prepare for the 2016 polls, considering that UNA has started its own preparations, starting with this year's elections.

Drilon said there's no way UNA can hide the fact that it's an opposition party intent on making the President a "lame duck" in his last three years in office. He cited the statement issued by the President that those in the LP coalition for 2013, dubbed as Team Pinoy, are his allies and that the people should be wary of pretenders.

During an interview over ANC, UNA secretary-general and Navotas Rep. Tobias Tiangco took a swipe at the straight path policy of the administration. He said that UNA is offering a magandang daan (beautiful path) as against the tuwid na daan of the administration, which he said could still be crooked or full of potholes.

Such statement, Drilon said, only bolsters his argument that UNA should be con-

(continued on page 15)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Waiver of Joint Filing Requirement When Divorce Is Pending

A marriage that is less than two years old when the alien spouse receives a green card results in conditional permanent residence for that spouse for a period of two years. Conditional residents and permanent residents have the same rights and restrictions under the law, except that conditional residents must have the conditions on their residence removed.

This is done through an I-751 petition jointly filed by the

spouses with the USCIS, along with evidence of their valid marriage, within 90 days of the second anniversary of the alien spouse's green card.

If the marriage does not last even for a period of two years and the I-751 is not signed by both spouses, the law allows the alien spouse to file a waiver of the joint filing requirement, which is also made on the I-751. The spouse can seek a waiver if the marriage was entered into in good faith but has been terminated through a final divorce or annulment.

But what if the divorce is not yet final, the 90-day window is running out, and the pe-

tioning spouse refuses to sign the joint petition? The USCIS has clarified how it adjudicates I-751 petitions if the marriage has not been terminated but the spouses are legally separated or have initiated divorce or annulment proceedings.

If the divorce or annulment proceeding is still pending, the alien spouse can file the I-751 and request a waiver of the joint filing requirement. The adjudicator will issue a Request for Evidence (RFE) and give the alien spouse 87 days to give proof of the termination of the marriage. Usually the divorce will take place during this almost three-month period, which will allow the alien

spouse to submit a copy of the final divorce decree.

Note that the alien spouse must still establish eligibility for the waiver by submitting evidence of a good faith marriage. This includes proof of joint ownership of property, such as a deed with both spouses' names; joint tenancy, such as a lease agreement naming the spouses as tenants; and commingling of finances, such as income tax returns, bank statements, credit card bills and utility bills with the names of both spouses.

Birth certificates of children born to the marriage are a good evidence of the bona fides of the marriage. Affidavits of third parties, family pictures, documentation of vacations, communications addressed to the spouses may also be submitted.

If the alien spouse is eligible for a waiver and the divorce is already final, the I-751 petition will be approved and the conditions on permanent residence will be removed.

If the alien spouse cannot submit the divorce decree, or otherwise fails to respond to the RFE or to establish eligibility for the waiver, the I-751 will be denied and the alien's conditional LPR status will be terminated.

The case will then be processed for issuance of a Notice to Appear in removal proceedings. At that stage, however, the alien spouse will have another chance to establish eligibility for a waiver before the immigration judge.

The alien spouse can present a divorce decree, if already available at that time, or ask for continuance from the judge until the divorce is final.

On the other hand, if the petitioning spouse consents to sign the I-751 petition but a divorce or annulment proceeding is already pending, the alien spouse will receive an RFE giving him/her 87 days to submit the divorce decree and to request that the joint petition be treated as a waiver petition. This allows the alien spouse to request a waiver without having to re-file the I-751 after the divorce.

If the alien spouse submits a divorce decree and establishes eligibility for the waiver, the USCIS will grant the waiver and remove the conditions on the permanent residence.

But if the decree is not produced, the petition will be treated just like a joint petition. The adjudicator will look for sufficient evidence that the marriage was entered in good faith and determine if an in-person interview is needed.

If the adjudicator is satisfied that the marriage was bona fide, he/she will approve the I-751 petition and remove the conditions. Otherwise, the petition would be denied, the alien spouse's conditional LPR status terminated, and the case is processed for issuance of a notice to appear in removal proceedings.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Key U.S. House Chair Meets with Foreign Affairs Sec. Del Rosario

Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and the Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., recently met with U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Rep. Royce reiterated his commitment to a strong alliance between the two countries. Both sides also noted the large population of Filipino-Americans in the U.S., particularly in Royce's congressional district, and the common ideals of democracy that the two countries uphold.

"I don't believe any sequestration or budget reduction would have any marked impact on U.S. engagement in Asia, particularly in bolstering security and military alliances," says Rep. Royce. "Asia represents half of the global economy. We need to keep the peace and keep the shipping lines open. The supremacy of international law must be respected." Both officials agreed that the U.S. presence is a stabilizing force in Asia.

Secretary del Rosario and



U.S. Rep. Ed Royce

Ambassador Cuisia also thanked Royce for supporting the Save Our Industries Act (SAVE Act), a trade initiative that aims to create jobs in the Philippine apparel and U.S. textile industries.

"We have to keep pushing it (the SAVE Act)," says Rep. Royce. "The U.S. pivot to Asia should lean towards the Philippines, the oldest and one of the closest allies of the U.S. in the region. The SAVE Act is tangible evidence in trade policy of this pivot."

Rep. Royce promised to help reinvigorate the Philippine-U.S. Friendship Caucus—a bipartisan network of U.S. congressmen that works for a robust bilateral partnership for democracy and regional security, and recognizes

the dynamic presence of Filipino-Americans in the U.S.

Royce is a long-time proponent of closer defense cooperation between the Philippines and the U.S. He has pushed for bilateral efforts against terrorism and has been a staunch supporter of the rules-based approach to the West Philippine Sea issue and the peaceful resolution of disputes within the framework of international law. As chair of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-proliferation and Trade, he convened a congressional hearing last year that focused on strengthening the Philippine-U.S. alliance. (DFA)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS



ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Tallo a Misis ti Agsasalip Para iti Mrs. ISAH 2013

pakidangyanan iti sibubukel nga steering committee ti dakkel a suporta ti komunidad daytoy a pasken, ti programa ken pangrabii.

Tema: Cultural Tradition for Homeland Mission

Kinuna ni Danny Villaruz, presidente ti ISAH: Iti uppat a daras ti Ilocos Homecoming and Medical Mission a nangrugi idi Disiembre 2005, ken simmaruno a Disiembre iti 2007, 2009 ken 2011, nakatulongen ti ISAH iti aganay a 45,000 indigent's patients. Iti Disiembre 2009 ken 2011, a nakidangyanan ti Titans USA Foundation, The Etrata Sr. & Maria Etrata Foundation, the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, the Friends of the Filipino Community ken dadduma nga esponsor; kadagiti sumurok a limapulo a kameng ti medical team, bin-ig a volunteers nga impanguluan ni Dr. Charlie Sonido ken dati a representante Jun Abinsay.

Napalabas a Mrs. Ilocos Surians: Nancy Clemente Luat, Cabugao (2003); Elena Puesta, Santa (2006); Davelyn Qui-

jano, Sinait (2008-agdama).

Paset ti mission ti free medical consultation, minor surgery promotion of education or the Educational Olympiad, arts, and culture, pannakaangay ti Ilocos Sur Idol; GILAS, educational extravaganza, spelling bee contests, sports, ken dadduma.

Saan la a ti probinsia ti Ilocos Sur kadagiti masnop nga ili kas ti Sinait, Cabugao, Magsingal, Vigan, Candon, Santiago, Banayoyo ti nagserbiandan ngem nagpaayda pay iti Bacarra, Pasuquin iti Norte, Payatas ken Quezon City.

Maysa ti ISAH kadagiti kaaktibuan iti sakup ti OFCC/UFCH, ken iti sakup ti komunidad. Slogan: Working Together To Rebuild Our Communities Our Homeland

Dagiti opisial ken mamagbaga:

- Danny Villaruz, *presidente*
- Maria Etrata, *umuna a bise*
- Estrella Pada Taong, *maikadua a bise*
- Loida Alimboyoguen Yamamoto, *recording secretary*

- Davelyn Ancheta Quijano, *corresponding secretary*
- Rose Sabangan, *tesorera*
- Tessie F. Aganon, *katulongan a tesorera*
- Alice Castaneda, *assistant auditor*
- PRO: Bernadette Fajardo, Antonio Ipalari
- Sergeants-at-arms: Art Abinsay, Augusto "Gus" Concepcion, Cesar Fajardo, Al Sabangan, Paul Taong
- Mamagbaga: Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr., Ben Cabrerros, Romy Cachola, Pio Enrico, Louie Funtanilla, Al Sabangan, Charlie Y. Sonido, MD, Carlito Soria, Ignacio Torres, MD, Amado I. Yoro

4. San Juan Lapog Assn of Hawaii (Alice Castaneda)
5. Magsingal Assn of Hawaii (Armi Farinas)
6. Vigan Association of Hawaii (Tessie Aganon)
7. Santanians of Hawaii (Roger Ojerio)
8. Santiagenians of Hawaii (Maria White)
9. Candonians of Hawaii (Dr. Ignacio Torres)
10. Annak Ti Caoayan 2002 (Jenny Quezon)
11. Narvacaneos of Hawaii (Louie Funtanilla)
12. Sta. Marians of Hawaii (Iluminada Directo)
13. Hawaii-Tagudinians Association (Edgar Fernandez)

Dagiti napalabas ken agdama nga estudianta a tulongan ti ISAH babaen iti Scholarship program: Joe Dar, Emeline Bacani, Kristen Butac, Ashton Queja, Marie Pineda, Gerald Rojo II, Nathan Serdenia, Yvette Butac, John Carl Ipalari, Jake Sumibcay, Ryan Sumibcay, Michael Paeste, Raquel Rich Raquel, Rodjhane Navarrete, Margaret Jeanne Mangrubang, Kendrick Go, Kriezl Mae Urban, Michael Alexander Sonson.

Agpapadada nga annak ti Ilocos Sur dagiti mangibagi iti bukodda nga ili a nagpapuan. Venus I. Mangrubang, Sinait; Marylou Natividad, Vigan; ken Evangeline Burcena, Santa. Kayatda ti makitinnulong iti pannakaurnos ti pondo a maipaay iti sumaruno a Homecoming and Medical Mission, ti kada dua a tawen nga isayangkat ti Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii [ISAH].

Maangay ti Mrs. ISAH 2013 popularity contest iti Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Avenue, Waikiki Beach, HI 96815, Prince Kuhio Ballroom intono Marso 9, 2013.

Yawis kadakayo da Davelyn Ancheta Quijano ti Event Chair, General Chair ni Danny Villaruz, ISAH President,

Dagiti Unit organizations a kameng ti ISAH ken presidente tunggal gunglo:

1. Annak ti Sinait Iti Hawaii (Antonio Ipalari)
2. Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii (Davelyn Quijano)
3. Cabugao Sons & Daughters Association of Hawaii (Mercedes Sonico)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 23RD TRADE MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES • February 1-12, 2013, • Contact Paul Alimbuyao @ 754-8691 for details

ZAMBALEAN CLUB OF HAWAII, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS • February 16, 2013, • Pearl Country Club • 6:00 pm • For more information, contact Dina Dagdag @ 685-5044

HAWAII FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL TERNO BALL • March 2, 2013, • Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom • Contact: Davelyn Quijano, Event Chair 489-8782

MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII • March 9, 2013, • Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, Kuhio Avenue • Contact Davelyn 489-8782 or Danny 778-0233

UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII (UFCH) MISS TEEN HAWAII FILIPINA 2013 • March 9, 2013, • Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom • Contact # 292-8105 (Jenny); Carmen 358-3845

GLOBAL NEWS

Moody's: Philippine Banks Immune to Global Economic Shocks

Philippine banks are immune to global economic shocks, according to a major international credit rating agency.

Moody's Investors Service said in its Asia-Pacific Banking Outlook 2013 report that the Philippines' banking system would continue to be resilient and remain unaffected by negative events overseas.

Moody's report stated "With the positive outlook for the Philippines... its banking system will remain relatively immune to global shocks and continue to benefit from steady credit growth."

According to Moody's, the broad credit outlook for banks in the Asia-Pacific region in 2013 was stable on the expectation that they would remain largely insulated from the negative credit pressures affecting their peers in many Western economies.

"We consider that this stable outlook is driven mainly by the region's economic resilience; its relatively accommodative monetary policy; and the banks' own strong liquidity when compared to global norms, as well as their relatively robust capital buffers," says Stephen Long, managing director for

Moody's Financial Institutions Group in Asia-Pacific.

Moody's examines the trends for 14 banking systems in the region, with only the Philippines exhibiting a positive outlook and 11 countries with stable outlooks. India and Vietnam had negative outlooks.

"For the region, in terms of specifics, we consider that the economic recovery from the troughs reached in mid-2012 will continue in much of the region in 2013. At the same time, interest rates will remain low, making an asset quality shock unlikely during this year in most Asian countries," Long says. *(Good News Pilipinas)*

PHILIPPINE NEWS *(from page 12, LP TO FIELD...)*

sidered an opposition party.

"We are conscious of that. The President is conscious of that and we draw the line. We will not be a lame duck. We will have the majority of the people with us because we still have reforms to do," Drilon said in the same television interview.

"Let's call a spade a spade. You want to make a lame duck administration so when the time comes that the endorsement of the President is not given to you, it would mean nothing to you. But that's a challenge for us. We will show that for the next three years, we will do things correctly; we will do things in a manner that a decent right-thinking (person) will do regardless of politics," he added.

No more playing safe

For Malacañang, battle lines have been drawn between the administration's slate and that of UNA and there is no room for playing safe now that the campaign is near.

"I think the first salvo of the LP advertisement would show what kind of a campaign the LP is going to mount," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said when asked if they expect mudslinging.

"It is to clearly show you these are my candidates, these are their

candidates. These are the people I trust to forge ahead with my reforms, so these are the people that I ask you to vote for. That's very clear, that's Team Pinoy," Lacierda said.

"The opposition, if you notice, has been trying to say that they put a qualifier. It's called constructive opposition but we've heard anything but constructive from them," he said.

Lacierda said UNA's style was "confusing" because its camp was hitting the government but not directly the President.

"So they would like to make sure that they don't want to be identified as against the President. But the President has already made it clear in Team Pinoy, in the advertisement: 'These are my senatorial (candidates). These are my people. This is the one that will push for my reforms.' So it is clear what kind of campaign we will employ and what UNA will do," Lacierda said.

"That's why Sen. Frank Drilon yesterday was saying: 'Let's call a spade a spade. This is the LP coalition. These are the people from UNA'. Very clear we need to have the set of people who will forge ahead and push for my reforms in government, and that's what we're

looking at. We've passed three years wherein reforms have been instituted," he said.

Lacierda could not say who shouldered the ads for the LP bets, but clarified that no government funds would be spent.

"I can categorically tell you that we are not using government funds for this political campaign," he said.

Lacierda lamented that UNA had been hitting administration programs like the conditional cash transfer and even the President's recent trip to Davos for the World Economic Forum.

"Well, the only thing that they have said positively is that they support the Philippine approach to arbitral tribunal. Of course, it's a no-brainer if you're going to go against that policy. Who's going to go against that policy?" Lacierda said.

On the line

For his colleagues in the LP, President Aquino is putting his political capital and performance at stake in the May 13 midterm polls.

"The coming May 13 vote is a midterm election, in which the President is putting on the line his performance for the first three years of his term and his programs for the next three years," Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo, one of LP's

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spokespersons, told reporters.

He said Aquino would go all-out for members of his Team Pinoy senatorial ticket on the campaign trail.

"They are the people he has assembled, the people he can trust and rely on up to the end of his term in 2016," he said.

Asked whether the President could trust candidates of UNA who, according to its leaders, are the "constructive opposition," Quimbo said, "We are not sure of that." *(www.philstar.com)*

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