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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 ◆

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## EDITORIALS

## Alfredo Galvez: Rising Star in the Scientific Community

**F**ilipinos love stars, whether it be in the movies, sports or other entertainment industry. As far as the scientific world is concerned, there is perhaps no bigger name at present than Dr. Alfredo Galvez.

Galvez is an award-winning scientific researcher who discovered the natural peptide Lunasin that blocks cancer cells. Lunasin has the ability to essentially turn “off” the bad genes and turn “on” the good genes in the body. This impressive natural peptide, found in miniscule quantities in soybeans, blocks cell division and effectively turns down the dimmer switch in our genetic material. In other words, it makes cells less receptive to disease. Further studies on the effects of Lunasin showed that the soy peptide had a powerful mechanism of action—lowering cholesterol levels and improving general cellular health. LunaRich was developed as the first soy powder to fully harness the power of Galvez’s amazing discovery—with more than five times the amount of Lunasin found in ordinary soy powders.

Galvez is considered the pioneer in the field of epigenetics, a rapidly growing research field that investigates heritable alterations in gene expression caused by mechanisms other than changes in DNA sequence. Epigenetics is a very new field of science, having been accepted into the mainstream by the scientific establishment in late 2012.

Galvez’s finding is a game changer in the areas of disease control and nutritional health. To date, over 50 published papers from more than 25 research institutions have documented Lunasin’s multiple health benefits. Its enormous potential has opened the door to a broad range of dramatic health benefits.

We congratulate Galvez on his accomplishments and take great pride knowing that one of our very own has made such a remarkable breakthrough in our health and well-being. It’s good news such as this that make Filipino-Americans everywhere stand up and take great pride in being *pinoy*.

## Pork Barrel Scam Shames Philippine Politicians

**J**ust when it seemed that the Philippines had seemingly turned the corner on corruption and graft, news of the latest scam involving government officials left many Filipinos shaking their heads.

At issue are congressional “pork barrel” funds amounting to 10 billion pesos (roughly \$226 million) which ended up in bogus non-government organizations, with lawmakers’ blessings. The funds are essentially discretionary annual lump sums of \$4.5 million and \$1.6 million provided to each of the country’s 24 senators and 289 congressional members to pay for local infrastructure and development projects. In reality, the money is a slush fund to ensure political patronage and successful re-election campaigns.

The alleged mastermind behind the pork barrel scam is businesswoman Janet Lim Napoles, who reportedly took a cut of 30 percent and delivered the bulk of the money back to politicians. She is suspected of owning some 28 houses, dozens of vehicles and 400 different accounts at 17 banks. Napoles has since turned herself in to the authorities.

The Aquino administration has vowed a full investigation into the scam which is threatening to overshadow the positive economic gains enjoyed by the Philippines, due to its booming economy. Observers say that the way that President Aquino handles the pork barrel issue will test his commitment to good governance. The pres-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**G**an you believe we’ve already reached the ‘Ber months? In the Philippines, the four “Ber” months (September, October, November and December) can mean only one thing—Christmas is just around the corner!

This latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle contains our special 16-page supplement on Women’s Health. The thought-provoking and informative stories in this special supplement were written by physicians and are sure to enlighten and encourage you to take better care of yourself. If you’re inspired to take ownership of your health, we encourage you to start by reading “Undetected Diabetes in Hawaii” by Dr. Michael Bennett on page S-8 in our special supplement. According to statistics from the State Department of Health, diabetes affects about 100,000 people in Hawaii, many of whom are Filipinos. Please also take some time to read the other articles of interest that our staff and participating physicians have worked hard to write and compile. You’ll be glad you did!

Our cover story on world-renowned Filipino scientific researcher Dr. Alfredo Galvez complements our special Women’s Health supplement. His groundbreaking research on a soy peptide called Lunasin has been shown to enhance innate immunity—the ability of the body to resist damaging effects from chemical, bacterial and viral toxins, and promote optimal health. Studies have shown that Lunasin can also reduce the production of bad cholesterol in the liver, prevent cancer and other serious diseases, and has anti-inflammatory effects as well as antioxidant benefits. In case you didn’t know, Dr. Galvez held a free seminar for the public at the FilCom Center on September 21st. For more information on Lunasin, call 1-800-933-3817. As an interesting sidenote, the Chronicle’s contributing writer Dr. Belinda Aquino is a distant relative of Dr. Galvez. Both grew up in the small town of San Fernando, La Union, in the Ilocos region. On page 5, Dr. Aquino provides a brief, albeit interesting, glimpse into how she is related to the renowned researcher.

In other news, you may have heard that the City has restarted construction on the rail transit project, which has sat idle for the last 13 months or so, costing taxpayers some \$200,000 for each day of delay. Now that construction is once again ramping up, a portion of Farrington Highway between Kualakai Parkway and Old Fort Weaver Road Loop will be closed through March 2014 for work related to the rail project.

Lastly, we have received many positive comments on our last issue, which we dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Jorge Camara. Mahalo to all of you who have kept his surviving family members in your thoughts and prayers and for helping them through this very difficult period.

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com) if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii’s dynamic and vibrant Filipino community.

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*



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ident has repeatedly stated for the record that “good governance equals good economics.” He believes that good governance directly correlates to economic growth, attracting foreign investments and alleviating the crushing burden of poverty.

Meanwhile, public support continues to mount for the abolishment of the pork barrel, which is officially referred to as the Priority Development Assistance Fund. Several rallies have already been held that drew tens of thousands of protestors, many wearing pig masks. The largest rally, held at historic Rizal Park in Manila on August 26, was dubbed the Million People March.

(continued on page 3)

OPINION

# Filipinos Slaves Have a Chance for Freedom

**NO LIMITATION**  
By Ted Laguatan

**A**ll Filipinos are slaves including the well to do. We are slaves to the all-pervading institutionalized corruption in the Philippine government that permeates all facets of our lives. Even Filipinos working and living abroad are slaves. They bear the burden and shame of coming from a country with a reputation of being poor, weak and corrupt.

And like the hard earned money of their fellow Filipinos in the homeland, a significant amount of the billions of dollars they send to their relatives back home – will find their way to the pockets of corrupt dishonest officials and other personnel in all branches and all levels of the Philippine government: bureaucracy clerks; traffic policemen; palengke kubradores; tax collectors; customs people; restaurant inspectors; immigration officials; court personnel; authorities involved in the licensing or registration of vehicles, businesses, land titles, etc ; and super greedy Senators, Congressmen and judges.

Filipinos have continually been slaves to government corruption for so long now. The terrible resultant effects of this slavery are seen everywhere in the Philippines: Children digging into smelly garbage cans for scraps of

pagpag food; One third of our people going to bed hungry at night; Sick people dying because of not having medicines; Children with educations stopping at grade six because of limited funds; Millions living in subhuman squalid slums; Substandard eroding roads, dangerous bridges and other infrastructures; Inferior government services...

Thousands of our people are separated from their children and spouses, going to distant extremely cold or hot lands with strange cultures – braving loneliness and all kinds of unknown dangers – to work in difficult jobs in order to support their families. Widespread government corruption indirectly causes this phenomenon.

Like many, I cry when I see so many of these terrible sufferings. I cry especially for those innocent talented children condemned to lives without decent futures who could have contributed so much to humanity in the arts, sciences, philosophy and the humanities. Those thieving politicians and officials cannot escape from their responsibility in contributing to these sufferings and wastage of human potential. Woe unto you. May God have mercy on your dark souls.

If we have an honest efficient government, we could develop various industries that would provide good paying jobs so that our people do not have to leave. A progressive economically vibrant Philip-



pinos will result from the elimination of widespread cultural institutionalized government corruption.

A recent series of Inquirer articles exposed prominent Senators and other elected and appointed officials who were engaged in a systematic scheme of massively stealing billions of public tax money funds allocated to them under the so called Pork Barrel system. These funds were meant to benefit people.

The senators and other officials funneled these moneys back to their pockets using straw non-government organizations (NGOs) with bogus projects. The scheme was designed by a Janet Lim Napoles who structured the fake NGOs. She is now in custody and detained in jail awaiting prosecution.

The Senators named in the report have reputations of already being very rich: Juan Ponce Enrile, Bong Revilla, Bongbong Marcos, Vic Sotto, Gringo Honasan, Lito Lapid. Revilla alone reportedly as-

signed one billion pesos (25 million dollars) to these fake NGOs. Marcos and Enrile each assigned over five hundred million. The others also assigned enormous sums.

Commission on Audit Chairperson Grace Pulido Tan indicated that other Senators and numerous Congressmen, mayors and other elected and appointed officials – were involved in the massive Pork Barrel scam engineered by Napoles. Tan outlined and gave details on how the scam worked. Conceivably, there might also be similar scams involving bogus NGOs formed by other Napoles-like scammers.

Understandably, Filipinos all over the world are furiously angry with these massive thefts of the people's money. They held mass demonstrations in Manila and other

places in the world demanding for the abolition of the Pork Barrel system.

President Benigno Simeon Aquino first declared that he did not support the call for abolition, citing the good intention behind the Pork Barrel system. He recanted when he perceived that the fast escalating intense anger of millions of Filipinos could translate to irreversible anger against him. Just before the massive rally in Luneta Park calling for the abolition of the Pork Barrel system, Aquino announced that he would accede to the people's demands.

Understandably, people are asking: How did this happen under the watch of a President whose platform is based on anti-corruption?

I don't think that neither Aquino nor his Budget Secretary Butch Abad is corrupt. But I believe that since both are intelligent and have extensive experience in Congress and wide exposure to government matters, they and others in the Aquino Administration had a sense or even knew exactly about the mechanics of the massive Pork Barrel corruption that was happening.

But I think that like so many, they also must have felt trapped in this culture of mass

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**EDITORIALS** (from page 2, A COLLEGE...)

This was followed by the EDSA Tayo prayer vigil on September 11 and the mobilization of several groups in Luneta on September 13. Another demonstration is planned for October 25.

The way we see it, there are two options for the president with respect to pork barrel funds. First, abolish the practice, which would likely face opposition from certain branches of government. The Office of the President itself would not be exempted, since

it has a sizable discretionary budget for calamity relief and other measures. Second, ensure greater transparency on behalf of the people by requiring politicians to disclose in detail where their discretionary funds are being spent on.

The bottom line is that such corruption can no longer be tolerated in a nation like the Philippines, where 80 percent of the people suffer from abject poverty. We call on the president to take action by pursuing legal cases against the congressmen,

which will in all likelihood prove troublesome and take years to reach the courtroom. Nevertheless, prosecuting and punishing those involved in the pork barrel scam would earn Aquino even greater public trust and admiration. If he wants to finish his term on a good note and further cement his legacy, he should do something to appease the scores of angry citizens. We hope these citizens' collective anger will ultimately help to redefine Philippine politics and end the cycle of vote buying and corruption.



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## COVER STORY

# Filipino Scientist Reaps Rewards of Accidental Discovery

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

**“O** *chance favors the prepared mind.*”—Louis Pasteur, French chemist and microbiologist

Many of the great scientific discoveries of the past were found through sheer luck.

Take for instance, the discovery of penicillin, one of the most famous and fortunate accidents of the 20th century. As the story goes, Scottish researcher Sir Alexander Fleming forgot to clean up his workstation before leaving for vacation back in 1928. When he returned, he noticed that a mold in a discarded petri dish (which he identified as *Penicillium notatum*) was growing in such a way that it dissolved all the bacteria around it. Penicillin was introduced a few years later, opening up the era of antibiotics.

In another case of a “happy accident,” Charles Goodyear discovered vulcanized rubber when he spilled a mixture of rubber, sulfur and lead onto a hot stove. The mixture charred and hardened, but

the rubber was malleable enough to be usable. Goodyear patented his vulcanization process in 1844, long before the age of automobiles. Years later, in 1898, the founders of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company named it after the man who made their business possible.

Such “happy accidents” are continuing and will likely continue into the future. A more recent discovery occurred in 1996 when Filipino research geneticist Dr. Alfredo Galvez discovered an extraordinary plant peptide as an accidental by-product of the cloning work conducted in a gene cloning laboratory at the University of California-Berkeley. He named the by-product Lunasin—Tagalog for “heal” or “remedy”—which was shown to disrupt cancer cell division and prevent tumor formation.

Galvez conducted further

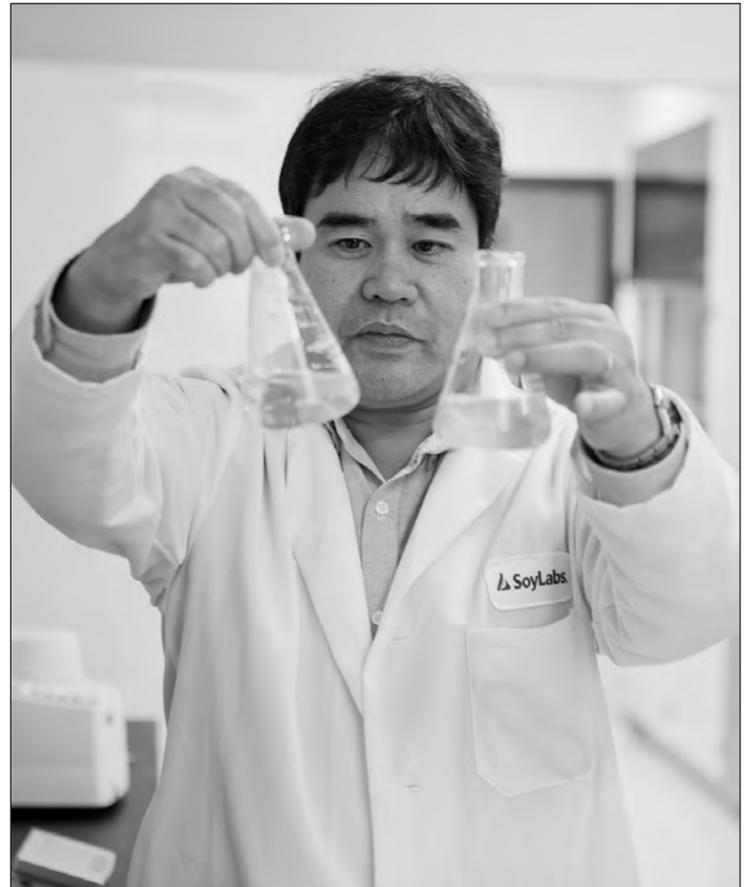
research on the cancer inhibiting peptide and found that Lunasin in its bioactive form had the ability to essentially turn “off” the bad genes and turn on the “good” genes in our bodies. In other words, Lunasin, which is found in minuscule quantities in soybeans, makes cells less receptive to disease.

Galvez’s findings were published in the *Journal of Cancer Research* and other prestigious journals. A recent analysis in *Cancer Metastasis Reviews* noted that Lunasin is active against human breast cancer, colon cancer and leukemia cells in the laboratory. In a mouse study, injection of Lunasin into mice implanted with human breast cancer cells reduced tumor incidence by 33 percent to 49 percent.

Galvez discovered that for Lunasin to work, it must be bioactive. He developed a means of protecting the peptide by using a shepherd molecule that guides Lunasin through the body, allowing it to be absorbed along the way.

Galvez sees new applications for Lunasin as studies are being done on an on-going basis. His work has opened the door to a broad range of dramatic health benefits which he hopes to share with others. He conducted a free seminar for the public on September 21, 2013 at the FilCom Center, where he discussed the life-altering effects of Lunasin and its impact on serious health issues.

To find out more about his ground-breaking research, the Chronicle requested an exclusive interview with Galvez, which he graciously granted. The following interview was



Filipino research geneticist Dr. Alfredo Galvez

edited for space and clarity.

**Q: Do you come from a family of scientists? What jobs did your parents hold?**

A: I grew up and went to school (elementary and high school) in San Fernando, La Union. My father was a sugarcane and rice breeder and has a Master's degree in Plant Breeding from the University of the Philippines-Los Banos (UPLB). My mother was a housewife.

**Q: Who did you look up to when you were growing up?**

A: I was fascinated by the life and novels of the Philippines' national hero, Jose Rizal.

**Q: How did you become interested in the field of genetics?**

A: I was around 10 years old when my father attended UPLB for his Master's degree in plant breeding. The most difficult class for him was genetics. He had several books on this subject. When I ran out of my own books to read, I began reading his genetics textbooks and was fascinated with Gregor Mendel and how he discovered the principles of genetics from observing peas in his garden.

**Q: Where did you receive your degrees?**

A: I received my B.S. in plant physiology and genetics from UPLB; my M.S. in genetics and plant breeding from UPLB, and my PhD in plant physiology and genetics from the University of California-Davis.

**Q: How did you arrive in the U.S.?**

A: While working as a plant breeder at UPLB, a U.S. agri-tech company offered me a scholarship where I got my PhD in genetics and molecular biology.

**Q: Explain the significance of your discovery of anti-cancer properties in soy.**

A: I discovered the anti-cancer properties of Lunasin from soybean seeds by serendipity, or by fortunate mistake. From observing Lunasin in the microscope, I was able to determine the mechanism of how it blocked cancer pathways and how it could provide a broad array of health benefits. In addition to cancer, it also has effects against heart disease, and recently against diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome.

**Q: Was the Philippines**

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Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **FILIPINO** ...)

**selected for clinical trials or were they conducted in the U.S.?**

A: The trials so far have all been conducted in the U.S. We have plans to conduct clinical trials also in the Philippines. In fact, I will be meeting with groups of Filipino medical professionals during my next visit to the Philippines to discuss potential clinical testing using Lunasin supplements.

**Q: What has been the response to LunaRich?**

LunaRich is an exclusive ingredient that optimizes bioactive Lunasin. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The field of epigenetics and, therefore, LunaRich, is emerging so in many ways but it is still a well-kept secret. We are growing at mach speed as people are realizing its effects on the prevention of serious disease and its ability to block cancer pathways.

**Q: What inspires or moti-**

**vates you to be a great genetic researcher?**

A: It's the knowledge that I can make an impact in changing the face of health care through nutrition as an alternative to drugs. I have seen firsthand how cancer and cancer medicines can ravage the human body when I first conceptualized the anti-cancer properties of Lunasin in 1996. This experience put into perspective the work I was doing, and has ever since motivated me to develop the Lunasin technology so it can provide health benefits to the people who need them most.

**Q: For young Filipinos who aspire to enter the field of epigenetics, what advice would you give them?**

A: Epigenetics is a very new field of science, having been accepted into the mainstream by the scientific establishment in September 2012. I came up with the epigenetic mechanism of action of Lunasin in 1998 after I deter-



mined that Lunasin is able to attach itself to the packaging material of DNA and affect how genes are expressed. It took more than 10 years for this mechanism of genetic control to be accepted and recognized. Even now, more than 90 percent of research still emphasizes the genetic causes of chronic diseases instead of epigenetics. In science and in life, it is often very difficult to take the road less traveled, but sometimes it is this arduous

road that leads to the truth and to the ultimate reward and satisfaction.

**Q: What position do you currently hold? Please also talk about your family.**

A: I am presently a research scientist at the Center of Excellence for Nutritional Genomics at UC-Davis. I am also the director of research for the Missouri Plant Science Center. I am married and live in Northern California with my wife Winnie, my son William and

my daughter Katelyn.

**Q: What are your future plans?**

A: We are going to continue conducting multiple clinical trials to determine the effect of Lunasin by itself and in combination with other bioactive agents on chronic diseases. I am working with a U.S.-based company to get Lunasin to as many people as possible. We are making the products available and affordable to all. I am going to continue my work on developing therapeutic peptides and formulaic compound combinations. I also plan to write a book on the discovery and health benefits of Lunasin. As for the Philippines, I plan to establish a feeding center to nourish impoverished children in my hometown through the Reliv Kalogris Foundation and to introduce soybean production to manufacture Lunasin-enriched ingredients for the functional foods and dietary supplement industries.

# Dr. Alfredo Galvez—the Pride of UP and the Ilocos Region

by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

**M**ention the name “Dr. Alfredo Galvez” and it may not ring a bell. But after knowing more about him and what he has accomplished as a research scientist at this early stage of his outstanding career, bells should be ringing loud and clear.

This talented son of San Fernando, La Union in the Ilocos region brings honor and pride not only to the region, but to his alma mater the University of the Philippines (UP) and the entire country by extension.

A graduate of UP-Los Banos, Alfredo’s scientific expertise is so rare that you are bound to have it repeated if you are hearing it for the first time. His field is called “Epigenetics,” which is explained in this issue’s cover story. He is considered a pioneer and the father of this unusual expertise, which has to do with the properties

of lunasin peptide, which may have possibilities in preventing certain diseases, including cancer.

My involvement with Alfredo’s career is as a fellow UP product and as a relative some degrees removed. He is the 2013 Distinguished Awardee for Molecular Biology at the upcoming General Convention and Assembly of the UP Alumni Association of America in Las Vegas. The UPAAA Convention is held every two years and its major activity is giving individual awards to UP alumni who have distinguished themselves in their respective professions over the years.

As UPAAA immediate past president, it will be my great honor to see Alfredo receive this prestigious award. The more important consideration for me, however, is that he probably does not know that he is my long lost relative twice over.

Back in San Fernando, which was a small town at the time, all the Aquinos, Laudencias, Floreses,



Galvezes and Nisperoses were relatives in varying degrees. My father always reminded me about that.

Alfredo, from the vantage point of my parents Modesto Aquino and Teresa Ancheta, is third generation down the line. His grandfather Francisco Galvez, who was our church registrar, was a relative of my father, who was a town official. So technically, Alfredo is my nephew—not a direct one but a relative nonetheless.

In turn Alfredo’s father Artemio Galvez and I went to the same high school in San Fernando but he graduated ahead of me. I later heard

that he married Emeline Flores, another relative of my father who lived in our village neighborhood. Emeline’s mother and my mother used to go to the town market together just about everyday to shop for the day’s food and supplies.

The Galvez family was a big clan as I recall with about five brothers and two sisters. I always referred to them as “Artemio’s brothers and sisters,” not exactly knowing what their names were.

Then one of Artemio’s older brothers, Gerry Galvez, uncle to Alfredo, married my first cousin Soledad Aquino, which made the extended family even bigger. Gerry and Soledad owned the only sari-sari store in the village where everybody hung out to share mostly gossip. I never saw Artemio and Emeline again because I left for Hawaii for graduate studies in the early 1960s. And I wasn’t there when Alfredo was born.

That’s the way with small towns back then and probably even now. People leave in search of opportunities away from home. More often than not, they never go back.

But you don’t forget your relatives because family ties remain alive over time—even from a distance.

So when we were going over the list of awardees for this year’s UPAAA convention, I was curious with one of the nominees, Dr. Alfredo Galvez, a pioneering expert on lunasin peptide and a UP graduate. I remembered my father’s repetitious remarks about how we were all related in our small hometown one way or the other.

When I saw that Alfredo’s father’s name was Artemio Galvez, my contemporary in high school, that was it—another long lost relative who would be fun to meet with for the first time!

This was the first time that I’ve learned of a top-notch scientist in my extended family whose research may yet lead to a major breakthrough in disease prevention. Most of my relatives went into law, teaching, agriculture, nursing, business administration and accounting. Some of the women went to the nunnery, while others became merchants.

(continued on page 10)

## OPINION

*(from page 3, FILIPINOS...)*

corruption – and thought that there was little or nothing that they could do about it. Institutionalized corruption in the Philippines is like being caught in powerful rotating swirling waters and no matter how hard one swims and tries to be free, it's almost impossible to escape.

The culture of institutionalized corruption is well established in Philippine society and has been there for a relatively long time. The late greedy and oppressive dictator Ferdinand Marcos perfected the technology of government corruption and the model he established continues on and maybe even improved. Many frustrated Filipinos feel helpless about it and in their frustration have taken the attitude of "That's just the way it is and no one can do anything about it, so we'll just have to live with it."

Can we ever escape from this prison of institutionalized corruption which enslaves all of us?

Here's my take on this: God often does work in strange ways. Because of the extensive media revelations of the massive stealing of public funds by government officials, Filipinos all over the world now have a more intense awareness of the scale of wrongdoing involved. They are livid - furiously angry against these unconscionable

elected and appointed officials who are clearly screwing them.

We can positively channel the intense people power energy generated by this public awareness and justifiable outrage – towards forging a determined national will to now rid the Philippines of this terrible evil once and for all. I believe that with these recent developments, we now have a good opportunity to win our freedom and remove the enslaving shackles of institutionalized corruption from our people.

It's time for us to aggressively end our slavery. More than ever, President Aquino must now prove to the Filipino people that he is sincere is his promise to fight against corruption and has the determination and courage to carry through. The Filipino people unquestionably will give him full support. Right now, he can have these greedy dishonest officials lined up and have them shot or hanged on the nearest tree – and I have no doubt that the people will cheer.

He need not do that. As President, he has in his control all the weapons for the mass destruction of widespread government corruption. He can push the Department of Justice and the Ombudsman's Office to aggressively move towards the successful prosecution of corrupt government

officials on all levels including and especially those in the judiciary. Without honest judges, we can't have an effective fair justice system. He can intimidate and put in line crooked judges or cause their removal from office.

Aquino also has the NBI and the police forces under him. He is Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. He can form teams of competent and honest investigators and prosecutors. What more does he need?

The people are virtually crying out to him: "Hang those thieves."; "Arrest and jail the bastards."

Some of these thieves and bastards are very wealthy and powerful. They were colleagues and some were even friends of the President when he was a Congressman and then a Senator.

Abraham Lincoln had the same problem when he was pushing for the very difficult task of getting legislation done that would free slaves. He had friends and colleagues who were opposed. But he knew that ultimately, he had to be true to his deepest sacred self and do what was morally right. In revealing his thoughts, he said:

"I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he is wrong."

President Benigno Simeon Aquino, as a citizen and as your proclaimed supposed boss, I am respectfully addressing the following statements to you. I believe that what I say here is what millions of well-meaning Filipinos around the world would like to tell you.

I understand the gravity of the challenge and the monumental task that it is – for you to provide the leadership to rid our country of the institutionalized culture of corruption permanently. But you and all of us together – now have that rare opportunity – that once in a lifetime chance to be able to effect real changes that would surely lead to a better life for our people.

Mr. President, the national

interest and the future of generations of Filipinos compel you to be a strong moral leader. Weak leaders accomplish little or even cause harm. As such, under the present facts, immediately arrest and jail all of these wrongdoers if you must. Include your friends and allies who may also be wrongdoers to prove your sincerity.

Unlike the bastard dictator Marcos who imprisoned his political enemies to retain his illegitimate power – your motive is pure. You will be doing this to truly serve your people. You have enough evidence and probable cause to legally justify your actions. Sequester their assets and properties. Force them to return their loot to the people. Assemble a team of idealistic brilliant lawyers to help you.

The Filipino people will be together with you in this sacred effort. We will be with you to the end as long as you do not betray us and crush our hopes to have a better life for our people and a better Philippines – by abandoning us and surrendering to the powerful evil forces of corruption.

Mr. President, you are a child of destiny whom fate destined to be President. Events before and after your birth over which you had no control mixed and combined which aligned your stars - and all of these forces channeled the path that led Benigno Simeon Aquino to be President of the Philippines.

Look back at some of the events that shaped your destiny: Your father Ninoy becoming a young popular reporter; marrying your mother Cory; becoming Mayor, governor and then Senator; Unjustly imprisoned and isolated by Marcos for eight years for his opposition to the dictatorship; Exiled and then assassinated and becoming a martyr; Cory your mother becomes president as a result; Cory dying just before the last elections where millions expressed their sympathy triggering the call for her neophyte Senator son Noynoy to run for President. You, Mr. President then became President.

Heaven destined you to be President. I hope you understand the significance and depth of your destiny. You were meant to be a blessing to the Filipino people and to make a difference in their lives. That time is now. You will not have another chance to fulfill your destiny. Your time as President is almost over. Throw caution to the wind, fear not, do what's right – and leave the results to God.

Together with millions of Filipinos, I hope and pray, that like Abraham Lincoln who freed slaves in America, you will free our people from the terrible slavery of institutionalized corruption. You will need unwavering commitment, courage, inner strength and spirituality – to successfully carry out this mission.

You can have all of these qualities if you will it and pray hard. If you fail, you will only have yourself to blame. And instead of your star burning brighter and forever – it will burn out and you will be remembered as a weak leader who had all the chances to do good for his people but failed. So take courage, fight evil with everything you have and do good. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose if you do this – except maybe your own life.

I had the privilege of being with your father a few days before he returned to the Philippines and to martyrdom. I sensed from listening to him that he was a man who had become very deeply spiritual – a man completely committed to doing what is good and right. He could no longer be bought, intimidated or coerced in any way, manner or form. And so, like Lincoln, Jesus Christ and other martyrs – his enemies killed him.

Like other martyrs, your father's sacrifices bore much fruit and blessings in the lives of others. You and us all honor him by being true to the ideals that he died for.

He truly believed that the Filipino is worth dying for.

*San Francisco based ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is a human rights lawyer and is also officially certified by the State Bar of California as an expert on Immigration Law. Email laguatan-law@gmail.com Tel 650 991-1154.*



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



*airy tales can come true  
It can happen to you.*

—Frank Sinatra in *Young at Heart*

Are gays being persecuted in the Philippines? Are the Philippine police rounding up gays? Are gays unable to find jobs in the Philippines? Is the Philippine government unwilling or unable to protect gays?

If you answered “No” to these questions, then you should be shocked by this case of a Filipino gay who escaped deportation because an Immigration Judge (IJ) determined that the answer is “Yes” to all these questions.

Filipinos cheer at court decisions when kababayans emerge victorious. But we should jeer when it is achieved by distorting the Philippines’ image

Dennis is a Filipino gay. He came to the United States in 1999. He overstayed his visa and started working. He became addicted to methamphetamine. He was arrested several times for drug possession. He was sentenced to one year in prison. He served 8 months. He was handed a Notice to Appear in immigration court, charged with being removable because he overstayed and was convicted of a controlled substance.

He admitted the charges and applied for asylum, withholding of removal and Convention Against Torture (CAT) relief because of his sexual orientation and HIV positive status. He claimed he was beaten and robbed 5 times in Manila after being targeted as a homosexual, he was harassed by police officers while waiting for a bus because of his sexual orientation and threatened with arrest for loitering if he did not give them

# Pssst: Escape Deportation, Say “I’m Gay”

money, he was unable to find a job in the Philippines on account of his sexual orientation, the police will not do anything to help gay men who report abuse, the government has failed or refused to protect gay men.

He was teased and bullied by his classmates for “being a sissy”. When he was 8 he was sexually abused by a man hired by his grandparents to take him to school. At 16, he moved to Manila. He unsuccessfully tried to find a job. At 17 he was drugged and raped

by a man he met at a gay bar. He never reported the attacks to the police because he feared the police would ridicule him.

The government lawyer did not present any evidence to rebut the testimony. The lawyer could have called any Philippine consul or any Filipino to portray the true state of affairs in the Philippines. Or it could have submitted the Philippine country conditions report published by the State Department which does not support these unfavorable stories.

The immigration judge bought his story “hook, line, and sinker,” holding that he

was persecuted on account of his membership in the social group of homosexual Filipino men, and would more likely than not suffer persecution if he was removed to the Philippines. The IJ granted him withholding of removal, a relief from deportation for aliens who would be persecuted on account of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group if they returned to their native country. Homosexuals are a “particular social group.”

The government appealed to the Board of Immigration

Appeals (BIA) which reversed the IJ, holding that Dennis failed to prove that the attacks rose to the level of past persecution, the rape was a “crime of opportunity,” the record did not support the conclusion that the government would be unable or unwilling to protect him, and there was no evidence that he would face torture if he returned to the Philippines.

Dennis appealed to the Court of Appeals which reversed the BIA, holding that the BIA cannot engage in de novo review of findings of fact

*(continued on page 9)*

## MAHALO



**Jorge Vicente G. Camara**  
May 21, 1950 – August 28, 2013

Binky Valdes Camara and the family of Dr. Jorge Camara express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for all your intentions, prayers, and generous donations on behalf of Jorge to the University of Hawaii Law School Augusto Camara Scholarship Fund / Aloha Medical Mission.

We are comforted by your love.  
May Jorge rest eternally in peace.

## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

## More on Miss America 2013: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?

Since the pageant began in 1921 Miss America, has long had an anti-diversity definition of beauty.

The prevailing American sense of beauty was too often limited to the blonde, blue-eyed girl next door.

Maybe a brunette.

But that's never really ever been true in Hawaii, and now, thanks to immigration, intermarriage, and a broader sense of beauty, it's not even true on the mainland.

But it's taken a while.

Consider that, since the pageant began, the first Black Miss America only came about in 1984, when Vanessa Williams and Suzette Charles finished first and second.

But Williams' reign was cut short when photos of her and another woman appeared in Penthouse Magazine. It gave Charles the opportunity to be the second African-American Miss America, all in one year.

That's two more Miss

Americas than there's ever been for Hispanic Americans.

There has never been a Latina winner --ever.

That makes 2013 quite a diversity milestone — to see three Asian-Americans in the top five.

There was the eventual winner, Miss New York, Nina Davuluri, a 24-year-old Indian America; the first runner-up Crystal Lee from San Francisco; and Minnesota's Rebecca Yeh, fourth runner-up

It came down to Davuluri and Lee in the all-important question segment.

Lee got a question on Syria, somewhat easier since war has been delayed and averted—for now.

Davuluri's question was more interesting. She was asked what she thought of CBS personality Julie Chen's choice to use plastic surgery to make her eyes look less Asian.

Davuluri said she was against plastic surgery, a strong

vote for natural beauty. And yet she said, she understood its use. She finished off her answer saying: "I wouldn't want to change someone's looks. Be confident in who you are."

The feel good answer. And most political. In a room full of cosmetic manipulators, she walked a fine line in heels.

However, the Chen question gets to the real problem when one considers the search for beauty and what makes us do the things we do?

What did Chen do after all? When you hear her tell the story, she had been told by a news director that her eyes made her look "bored" and "disinterested." They were two qualities that would never put her on the anchor desk, he said.

Chen's sought advice from a big-time agent who represents major Asian American female news stars. His suggestion? Plastic surgery.

She thought about it. And then she got it done.

I doubt Martin Luther King would have responded to racial discrimination by getting his skin lightened.

Where are the radical feminists when you need one?

Chen was blocked in her career by a Western sense of beauty, and decided to go under the knife.

Davuluri's win became a diversity milestone, but in a venue as sexist as a beauty pageant.

In the end, what do we have?

The pageant is just more institutional sexism on parade.

We've diversified a negative and super-served a portion of the audience with Asian fetishes.

Sounds like one step forward, two steps back to me.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist who writes for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Twitter@emilamok. Visit www.amok.com

**W**hen I think of beauty pageants, it's hard not recall Filipino American beauty queen Angela

Baraquo.

In 2001 Baraquo made a big breakthrough for all Asian Americans. The Miss Hawaii was the first Asian American to be crowned Miss America.

One appreciates Baraquo for breaking cultural barriers even more this year, as the pageant can now consider Asian American sub-groups.

At the recent pageant, there were three Asian Americans in the top 5--an Indian American and two Chinese Americans.

In the name of diversity, it's a bigger deal than you think.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## City Council Honors Waipahu Aloha Clubhouse

City Councilmembers Ron Menor and Breene Harimoto presented an honorary certificate to the Waipahu Aloha Clubhouse for its on-going efforts to help adults with mental illness to rebuild their lives. The presentation was made at the Council's September 11, 2013 meeting.

Founded in December 1997, the Waipahu Aloha

Clubhouse is 1 of 10 state-funded facilities that offers members a multitude of services to promote self growth, enhance self-esteem, increase self-confidence, develop meaningful relationships and improve their quality of life. Located behind Waipahu High School on a 1 acre parcel of land, the Clubhouse welcomes an average of 78 members each day.

Because getting a job is crucial to restoring mental health, the Waipahu Aloha Clubhouse has formed partnerships with several local companies to find jobs for its members. A growing number of local employers are giving such people a chance—employers like Times Supermarket, T.J. Maxx, Hagadone Printing, Mililani Agricultural Park and the Kauai Marriott Resort & Beach Club.

"The results so far have been overwhelmingly positive, with many employers noting the tremendous pride that Clubhouse members take in doing their work," says Councilmember Harimoto.

To date, the program has helped a total of 663 people with mental illnesses. Of its current active membership of 190 people, 52 of them are gainfully employed.



Councilmembers Ron Menor (front row, 3rd from left) and Breene Harimoto (front row, 2nd from right) with members from the Waipahu Aloha Clubhouse.

Councilmember Menor commended the Waipahu Aloha Clubhouse for successfully re-integrating its members back into society and debunking the negative stereotypes often associated with mental illnesses.

"The Clubhouse has proven that with the proper

medication and supportive environment, adults with mental illness can go back to work or attend school, raise a family and maintain a network of close friends," he says. "The Council extends its best wishes to Director Kim Golis and her staff for continued success."

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Rail Construction to Close Old Farrington Highway in Ewa

Old Farrington Highway between Kualakai Parkway (North-South Road) and Old Fort Weaver Road Loop will be closed September 16, 2013 through March 2014 as part of construction work for Honolulu's rail transit project.

The road closure will allow work crews to relocate a major water line along Old Farrington Highway just west of the Kahi Mohala Behavioral Center.

Following the utility relocation work, project contractor Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. will conduct shaft and column work as part of the planned rail guideway near that section of highway.

Traffic in both directions of Old Farrington Highway will be detoured to either the H-1 Freeway or other nearby roadways. Those travelling between East Kapolei and the Ewa/Waipahu region will still



be able to access either end by using either Kapolei Parkway or Geiger Road on the south end of Kualakai Parkway, or the H-1 Freeway on the north end.

Motorists will be able to access the Kahi Mohala facility in Ewa during the detour. Roadside electronic message boards have been posted to notify drivers about the upcoming road closure. Contractor Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. is coordinating with TheBus officials to relocate bus stops along the affected section of Old Farrington Highway to ensure access to the area. Motorists who routinely use Old

Farrington Highway are advised to allow for extra time for their commute.

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation has been allowed to resume construction for the rail project following the completion and state approval of archaeological work along the rail alignment. For updates on the project, log on to: [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org) or call 566-2299.

## First Filipino-American Meetup Set for Oct. 12 in Las Vegas



The U.S. House Republican Conference and the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee are co-organizing the 1st Filipino-American Meetup scheduled for October 12, 2013 from 1 pm to 5 pm at the M Resort Spa & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Meetup will provide a unique opportunity for leaders of Filipino-American communities across the country to discuss legislative and policy priorities, both on the domestic as

well as foreign policy fronts. The program will include remarks from congressional leadership and members of key committees, as well as breakout sessions in which participants can discuss topics of interest with members of Congress.

Leaders in the Filipino-American community urge their fellow Fil-Ams to attend this momentous event. For more details or to register, contact the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu at 595-6316.

## 'Kababayan Today' to Debut at Philippine Consulate Oct. 3

Kababayan Today, America's first and only locally-produced talk show for and about Filipinos, will make its Hawaii debut on October 3, 2013 at the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu.

Organizers have planned a reception for the popular talk show at the Consulate at 6 pm. Kababayan Today began broadcasting in May on KIKU-TV on channel 20 and on Oceanic Cable channel 9. The show celebrated its 7th anniversary in April and is seen

by over 6.3 million households in Southern California.

Host Janelle So will be in town to meet and establish relationships with Oahu's Filipino community, business groups and other organizations. She will film special interest stories around Hawaii and accept suggestions on what kababayans want to see on the program.

To confirm your attendance, call Vice Consul Joyleen Santos at 595-6316.

### IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, PSSST: ESCAPE...)

of an IJ but can only determine whether the findings are "clearly erroneous". [Our comment: "The Board may review questions of law, discretion, and judgment and all other issues in appeals from decisions of immigration judges de novo." 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(d)(3)(ii). "De novo" means the court tries the case anew as if no prior trial had been held.]

Assuming that the BIA failed to apply the "clear error" standard of review, courts typically remand the case to the BIA so that the BIA may apply the correct standard of review. The Court acknowledged that this is true, but said that it would not do so in this case because substantial evidence did not support the BIA's denial of withholding of removal. [Our comment: Pursuant to INA § 242(a)(2)(D), a court's jurisdiction in appeals from BIA decisions is limited to deciding

constitutional claims and questions of law, not determining facts and their sufficiency.] Vitug v. Holder, 07-74754 (9th Cir. 07/24/13).

**OBSERVATION:** The Court of Appeals has opened the floodgates for Filipino gays to escape deportation or for Filipinos abroad to come to the U.S. by claiming they are gay and avoid the regular visa processing procedures.

(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](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com), and [www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://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., re-broadcast at [www.iluko.com](http://www.iluko.com).

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Hawaii to Get \$17 Million for  
 Airport, New Buses**

The State of Hawaii will receive more than \$17 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for airport improvement projects statewide, as well as funding to replace buses for Hawaii, Maui and Kauai counties.

The USDOT is providing Hawaii with:

- \$10.5 million for Phase II of the runway rehabilitation project at Honolulu International Airport.
- \$904,500 for a study to evaluate the existing airport system and identify airport development needs.
- \$2.5 million to update the pavement management program for the seven primary and one reliever airports within the state to re-establish the current condition of the airfields.
- \$3.4 million for the State of Good Repair Program, which will purchase replacement buses for Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties. The new

buses will also have improved access for mobility passengers and patrons with bicycles.

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa says that the funds will ensure that Honolulu Airport's runways are rehabilitated and safe for the high volume of use they receive.

"Our visitor industry is critical to Hawaii's economy, and the proper maintenance and renovation of our transportation infrastructure is critical to supporting that market," she says.

According to U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, providing more buses will encourage locals and visitors to drive less—an important step in reducing the state's consumption of imported fossil fuels.

"Overall, this funding will ensure that our visitors, as well as our residents visiting family and friends on another island, can continue to have a pleasant and dependable traveling experience," she says.

**Filipino Films to Highlight  
 Hawaii Intl Film Fest**



The annual Hawaii International Film Festival is celebrating its 33rd year with showings scheduled for October 10-20, 2013 in Honolulu and October 24-27, 2013 for the Big Island and Kauai.

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of cultural exchange and media awareness in the Pacific Rim.

This year's event will showcase international films from different countries including the Philippines.

Philippine films like "Thy Womb" (Sinapupunan) starring Nora Aunor, "If Only (Sana Dati)" and "The Spider's Lair" (Babagwa) will be featured.

For screening dates, times and venues, go online to: [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

**COVER STORY (from page 5, DR. ALFREDO...)**

The small town of San Fernando, the one that I and Alfredo knew, is no more. It has become a crowded, bustling city with more than 120,000 people. I no longer recognize much of it when I go home occasionally.

But the concept of family in our society is eternal as in most other cultures. As the famous anthropologist and author Margaret Mead once said, "No matter how many communes anybody invents, the family always creeps back."

And no matter how family is defined—whether it is the family of hu-

mans and nations or the family of loved ones and friends—it always comes to the fundamental reality in our lives that it is the family that constitutes our unique roots and essential cultural heritage.

*(DR. AQUINO is currently professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, where she served as professor of political science and Asian studies and as founding director of the Center for Philippine Studies for 35 years. She was UP vice president for public affairs from 1989-91, UPAA Lifetime Achievement Awardee in 2008 and UPAAA's Most Distinguished Alumna at the 2003 General Convention and Assembly in Houston, Texas.)*

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Philippines Files Graft Cases Against Lawmakers

by Teresa Cerojano  
Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**M**ANILA - The Philippine Justice Department filed the first major corruption complaints against three powerful senators, former lawmakers and a wealthy businesswoman yesterday following a public outcry over the alleged plunder of millions of dollars intended for anti-poverty projects.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said the complaints against the lawmakers, including veteran Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, alleged that they conspired with dummy aid organizations to steal millions of dollars in government funds that should have been used for agriculture and livelihood projects that the lawmakers had designated as recipients for the funds.

The alleged kickbacks were part of \$141 million

transferred from 2007 to 2009 to dozens of questionable non-government organizations, including those put up by businesswoman Janet Lim Napoles, according to a government audit that was part of the evidence used against the lawmakers.

Thirty-eight people were named as respondents in yesterday's complaints, including staffers of the lawmakers, but de Lima said more people will be charged. The recommended charges range from plunder — a non-bailable crime — to misuse of public funds, bribery and graft.

There was so much documentary evidence that justice officials used a truck to haul the papers to the Office of the Ombudsman, or the anti-graft prosecutor, in a convoy of vehicles that was trailed by the media and beamed live on nationwide TV.

The prosecutor will evalu-



Justice Secretary Leila de Lima

ate the evidence before forwarding the case to an anti-graft court, which will decide whether to issue arrest warrants.

The scandal caused such an uproar in the impoverished nation that hundreds of thousands of people turned up at a huge protest in Manila last month.

At the center of it is Napoles, who is accused of acting as a conduit for the money and a mastermind of the scam. She surrendered to

President Benigno Aquino III in August after she was charged with illegal detention of a whistle-blower.

"This is a cleansing process," said Senate President Franklin Drilon.

One of the respondents, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who is a son of an ousted president, told his colleagues yesterday that he was innocent. He said that Enrile, at 89 the oldest senator, was taken to a hospital over the weekend for high blood pressure but that he would challenge the charges in court.

The complaint has recommended the plunder charges be laid against Enrile, Estrada, Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and two former members of the House of Representatives for allegedly pocketing more than 50 million pesos (\$1.4 million) each.

Enrile said in a statement that the complaint was filed after an incomplete investiga-

tion. "Let me make clear that I am innocent of the charges filed against me," he said.

Three other former House members are being accused of misuse of public funds, bribery and other corrupt practices for receiving less than 50 million pesos each. Napoles is named co-conspirator for both the plunder and the misuse of public funds charges.

A summary of the complaint said the scam starts with an agreement between a lawmaker and Napoles to designate her NGOs as recipients of special development funds that each member can allocate. The lawmaker allegedly then got 40 to 60 percent of the project's cash value as a kickback, while Napoles gave 10 percent to the head of the government agency implementing the project and pocketed the rest after deducting the cost of overpriced supplies. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# The Pork 'Modus Operandi,' According to NBI

by Camille Diola  
Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The National Bureau of Investigation already has an idea of how businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles, the lawmakers and other players chop up millions of pesos worth of pork barrel funds.

"The scheme starts with an agreement between Napoles and the lawmaker where the latter promises to designate Napoles' (non-government organizations) as the recipient of his PDAF..." the NBI said in its executive summary of the complaints of plunder and malversation of public funds against the businesswoman and the lawmakers.

It said, under the executive summary's "modus operandi" topic, that there is already an agreement that the senator or congressman would get 40 to 60 percent of the cash value of the project as "kickback."

The scheme starts with the lawmaker submitting a list of projects to the Department of Budget and Management



'Honorable accused': Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla and Juan Ponce-Enrile

(DBM), which will release the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) and send it to the lawmaker.

The NBI said the lawmaker would then endorse a selected NGO of Napoles to the implementing agency, whose officials would immediately accept the project and the NGO without public bidding. The implementing agency would then enter into a memorandum of agreement with the fake NGO for the project's implementation.

The projects are authorized as eligible under the DBM's menu for pork barrel allocation.

"After all the documentation is completed, the DBM issues a Notice of Cash

Allocation to the implementing agency," the NBI said. "Upon receipt of the NCA, the implementing agency issues a check to the Napoles NGO which is deposited by JLN employees and the cash withdrawn and delivered to Napoles."

**Paid in advance**

The NBI said that the share of the senators and congressmen are paid in advance in two tranches: first upon the submission of the project list to the DBM and second, upon the release of the SARO.

The bureau also found during its investigation that the staff of the senators and congressmen, particularly their chiefs of staff and repre-

sentatives, also got their share from the plundered public fund.

"The chief-of-staff of the lawmaker or his representative who facilitates documents and follow ups with agencies for the lawmaker and Napoles also get 1 to 5 percent of the project cost, also as kickback," the NBI noted.

For playing their part in the modus operandi, the heads of the implementing agencies get 10 percent of the total cost of the project.

"The rest is pocketed by Napoles after deducting the cost of overpriced supplies such as agricultural kits and training materials procured from a supplier enterprise also owned by her," it added.

Napoles would also get the full remaining amount if there is no delivery made at all.

**Janet Inc.**

Napoles allegedly has 10 active NGOs that were used as conduits for the scam. The NBI said Napoles incorporated the organizations through JLN employees, relatives, house helpers and drivers.

"These NGOs have interlocking incorporators, common auditors, and notaries public in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) documents," the bureau said.

The NBI filed the first batch of complaints on Tuesday recommending plunder charges against Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada and Bong Revilla and former Masbate representative Riza-lina Seachon-Lanete and former APEC party-list representative Edgar Valdez.

Related: Plunder raps filed vs Napoles, 3 'pork' senators | Summary of plunder, malversation complaints

(continued on page 15)

## Phi Bananas Hit Stores in LA

by Ding Cervantes  
Monday, September 16, 2013

**C**LARK FREEPORT, Pampanga, Philippines – The Philippines has become the first Asian country to export bananas to the US.

The Philippine embassy in Washington announced yesterday that the first shipment of the country's bananas harvested in Bukidnon will be sold in Los Angeles markets next week.

"The bananas, which arrived in the US last Sept. 9, have been transferred to a ripening warehouse and will be available in local stores in LA next week," said an email sent to The STAR by Philippine embassy spokesman



Consul Elmer Cato.

Agriculture attaché Josyline Javelosa said the arrival of the shipment, the first of an estimated 3,000 metric tons that the US hopes to import from the Philippines this year, came almost eight years after the Philippines first requested market access for its bananas.

Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia said that "with arrival of the maiden shipment of 7.047 metric tons of highland bananas at the Port of Long Beach near Los Angeles, the Philippines has earned the distinction of being the first Asian country to export bananas to the US."

(www.philstar.com)

## Miriam to Colleagues in 'Pork' Mess: Die

by Christina Mendez  
Thursday, September 5, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Die.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had this suggestion to her colleagues tagged in the multibillion-peso pork barrel scam, adding that those who spared from the controversy should commit "hara-kiri."

"Eat, blank and die," the senator said when asked at a press briefing yesterday how lawmakers linked to the scam should deal with the issue.

And to the rest of the lawmakers who were not implicated, Santiago said, "Abolish the Congress. Commit hara-



Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

kiri. You owe it to the Filipino people. We should all wear our Filipino robes and bow in front of TV and hara-kiri ourselves."

She said she would just ask her household helper to buy her "a vial of poison, pre-

pare a necktie for her or a piece of rope."

Sidelined by chronic fatigue syndrome, it was the first time in a long while that Santiago showed up at the Senate. She also presided over a hearing of the foreign affairs com-

## War Declared vs 'Gloria Fish'

**A**NGELES CITY, Philippines – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has been urged to curb the growing population of a smelly fish known as "Gloria Arroyo," described by fisherfolk as "invasive and predatory."



Fisherfolk named the fish after former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo because of its size and a dark pigmentation, which looks like a mole, under its jaw.

However, the BFAR clarified that the fish has not been officially named after the detained former leader.

A fisher's group said the fish, which looks like tilapia (St. Peter's fish), is bland and has an unpleasant smell.

Fisherfolk leader Salvador France said they have been preying on bangus (milkfish) fingerlings and shrimps in fishponds, creeks and rivers in Bulacan.

"The Arroyo fish grows fast and matures in one month, compared to bangus and other aquatic species raised in fishponds. It poses extreme danger to milkfish, crab and shrimps," France said.

Vendors sell the Arroyo fish for P15 to P20 per kilo, he said.

"Bulacan fishponds have become hosts to a number of predatory and alien fish species," he added. (www.philstar.com)

mittee of the Commission on Appointments.

"The whole system is just so bad, that's why people get sick. I think this is the country with the most sick people in the whole world, that we continue to go to office as if nothing happens," she said.

"We are really, really sick or morally sick, mentally sick. The higher the positions, the higher their mental sickness," she added.

### Most expensive handbag

Santiago said she is raring to attend the Senate Blue Ribbon committee hearing on the pork barrel scam to grill both the whistleblowers and suspected pork barrel scam operator Janet Lim-Napoles.

Asked what she wanted to ask Napoles, the senator said, "What's the most expensive handbag?"

Napoles and her family have been criticized for their high profile lifestyle, highlighted by partying and a collection of expensive handbags and accessories.

"I cannot grasp how much her money is, which is

so galactic," Santiago said.

### Plunder

Santiago said concerned lawmakers could be charged with plunder along with Napoles.

She said plunder charges could be filed against the senators based on witnesses' accounts and the special audit report from 2007 to 2009.

Santiago said Napoles could not be made state witness, noting that it does not appear that she is the least guilty, unless she pins down higher officials in government.

"If she will do that, I will agree that she will be the least guilty... So far in the hands of the DOJ (Department of Justice), particularly the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation), we have no evidence," she said.

"The Penal Code is very strict on the rule of making an individual a state witness, because she would be absolved of wrongdoings... (which) will mean the dropping of charges against her," she said.

(www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Adjustment of Status Granted Despite Gap In Lawful Status

**A** foreign national with an approved employment-based immigrant petition whose priority date is current may apply for an immigrant visa through consular processing abroad or apply for adjustment of status if applicant is already in the U.S. Adjustment of status is the more preferred route because the applicant is eligible for work authorization and permission to travel while the application is pending.

To be eligible to adjust status, the applicant must

meet the basic requirements, namely, physical presence in the U.S. at the time of filing, having lawfully entered the U.S. through inspection by a U.S. immigration officer or paroled into the U.S., and not being subject to any of the inadmissibility grounds.

Foreign nationals who have incurred "unlawful status" are generally not eligible to adjust status. However, certain employment-based adjustment applicants may still obtain approval of their I-485 adjustment of status applications despite gaps in lawful status. Under Section 245(k), they may adjust status if the total period of their unlawful status is not more than 180 days.

A recent case appealed to

the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) involved Lorna Maynigo, a Filipino citizen, who entered the United States on June 24, 2001. She changed her status to H-1B which was valid until August 29, 2006. She timely filed a request for extension of her H-1B status on August 28, 2006.

The Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) denied Maynigo's request for extension on March 7, 2007. She subsequently filed an application for adjustment of status on June 29, 2007 based on an approved I-140 employment-based visa petition. The priority date for the visa petition was current. The CIS denied her adjustment of status application and she was

placed in removal proceedings before an immigration judge.

The immigration judge (IJ) disagreed with the CIS and found Maynigo to be eligible for adjustment of status under Section 245(k). The IJ clarified that under Section 245(k), an employment-based immigrant may adjust status if (1) the applicant is in the U.S. pursuant to a lawful admission and (2) after being admitted pursuant to a lawful admission, the applicant cannot have exceeded more than 180 days in the aggregate of any of these violations: (a) "failed to maintain continuously" a lawful status; (b) engaged in unauthorized employment; or (c) otherwise violated the terms and conditions of admission.

According to the CIS, Maynigo was "out of status" since the expiration of her H-1B on June 29, 2006. The IJ disagreed, saying that because Maynigo filed a timely application for extension of her H-1B status, she maintained lawful status under the terms of Section 245(k) while that extension application was pending. The IJ further stressed that the only period that Maynigo "failed to maintain" her status was the pe-

riod between March 2007 when CIS denied the request for extension of her H-1B and June 2007, when she filed for adjustment of status. The period was approximately three-and-a-half months which was less than the 180 days allowed under Section 245(k).

The IJ also noted that if the court denies Maynigo's adjustment application, she would be forced to apply for immigrant visa through consulate process. She would then be subject to the three or possibly ten-year bar for unlawful presence and would not qualify for waiver of that ground for inadmissibility.

The IJ found the consequences of a denial too harsh for an individual who has done everything in her power to maintain lawful status since coming to the U.S. and would unduly penalize her for the brief period she failed to maintain lawful status. For this reason, the IJ found that she deserved the court's favorable exercise of discretion and granted her application for adjustment of status.

.....  
**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](http://www.seguritan.com)

## MAINLAND NEWS

# Obama Warns GOP Against Creating 'Economic Chaos'

by Jim Kuhnhehn | AP  
Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**W**ASHINGTON — In a blistering warning to congressional Republicans, President Barack Obama said it would be the "height of irresponsibility" for lawmakers to cause another economic crisis just five years after the collapse of the nation's financial system.



Pres. Barack Obama

"I cannot remember a time when one faction of one party promises economic chaos if it can't get 100 percent of what it wants," Obama said yesterday. "That's never happened before."

The president spoke at a White House event pegged to the fifth anniversary of the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers. The White House used the anniversary to lay out the president's markers for upcoming fiscal fights with Congress over funding the government and raising the nation's debt limit.

Obama reiterated his refusal to negotiate with Repub-

licans over the debt ceiling. Others say the scheduled spending cuts should stay in place to reduce the deficit.

Obama has flatly rejected. Others say the scheduled spending cuts should stay in place to reduce the deficit. The president was flanked by Americans the White House says have benefitted from his administration's economic and banking policies. Those policies, he said, have laid a "new foundation" for economic growth, though he acknowledged that the recovery is not being felt by many middle class Americans.

And he called on Congress to "pass a budget without drama."

Some conservative Republicans say they will only extend current spending levels or increase the debt ceiling if Obama delays putting in place his health care law, a condition

Polling show the public is not convinced that the economy is on the mend. Only one-third say the economic system is more secure now than in 2008, and 52 percent say they disapprove of Obama's handling of the economy, according to a Pew Research Center poll. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro

## Maikapat a Paset

(Umuna a gunggona iti Salip Ti Sarita 1981- pename: Oram Odil)

**K**A M A L - M A N N A. Rinugianen ni Pastor Bagnos ti nagpasiar ken nakisarita kadagiti mabalinna nga asitgan a gunglo. Inasitganna pay dagiti gunglo nga agit-ited iti saranay. Nakisarita met kadagiti ahensia ti gobierno. No adda dagiti mangayon adda met dagiti sumupiat. Ngem saan a napukaw ti namnamana. Ammona a makaurnongto. Dito nga ipakitana ti maysa nga akemna a kas ima ti Dios. Saan a nalaka a maupay. Adu dagiti mabalinna a saurngkaran.

Sinarungkaranna manen

dagiti agina. Nakadalukappit ni Rosario iti sulit. Sab-okna ti rinnaay ti nalaylay a sabong. Idi tumakder daytoy, nagkalang-giking dagiti sensilio iti sab-okna. Ad-adda manen a simnek ti kaasi ti pastor. Kullapit unayen ti babai. Bakbaketen nga amang ngem ti pudno a tawenna. Nadlaw ti pastor a nalukayen ti rimatsi ti bagina.

“Kastoykami lattan, pastor,” naikuyog ti uyek ni Rosario. “Abusta leblebnakamin ti nadungrit a barong-barong ken kaeskuateran, lingkankami pay ti daga.” Nagsaninglot. “Inoras, inaldaw nga ur-urayenmi ti panakarpugweno pananglamut ti apuy ditoy. Awanen ti sabali a pagkaman-ganmi,” makilumlumba ti angesna iti panagsaona.

“Mamatika kadi nga adda pay la kaasi ti Dios, Rosario? Kayatko a sawen no patiem nga adda milagro nga aramiden ti Dios?” dinamag ti pastor.

“Iti kastoy a kasasaadko,

diak mangnamnama nga agbalaliwak pay. No pudno nga adda ayat ti tao wenno ti Dios, saankami koma a kastoy. Apay nga ibaindakami ti tao. Apay a saktandakami ti tao? Apay nga adda kinarawet? Apay a managinkukuna ti gimong? Apay? Apay a kastoy, pastor,” kinuna ni Rosario.

**K A S T A U N A Y T I K A R I B U S O D A G I T I A M B U L A N S I A** ken Fire Department iti dayta a malem. Maur-uram ti Chinatown. Iti panangkita ni Pastor Bagnos, iti asideg ti Puerto ti yan ti agas-asimbuyok nga apuy. Sumsumgiab ti dila ken gil-ayab ti apuy. Lamlamotenna ti dakkell a bodega. Pattapatta ni Pastor Bagnos a dita ti yan da Rosario ken Anton.

Nagdardaras ni Pastor Bagnos a simmurot iti ugoy dagiti fire department tankers. Nagtibnok ti arimbangaw ken ikkis dagiti agpapaaray. Inal-istuan ti pastor a tinurong ti karenderia a yan dagiti agina.

“A r a y a t e n d a k a m i . . .

..Mataykamin...!!!!. Simleng dagiti ikkis. Winagisan ti bombero a saan a sumrek dita ngem inalistuanna ketdi ti simrek latta. Nalaus ti danag ken bessag ti ubing. Intaray nga inruar ti pastor. Kasla kimat, nagsubli met laeng. Sinakruyna ni Rosario. Iti apagdarikmat, sinppayot ti alipaga ti pasdek a yan dagiti agina. Simmaruno ti napigsa nga angin. Sa manen ti kanablaag; nanarpaaken ti pasdek. Pinaturongan dagiti bombero Ngem nadaleb ti medio agrakrakayan a pasdek iti karenderia.

“Baro a biag,” nalaus ti yaman ni Rosario. “Apay nga ar-aramidem dagitoy kadakami, pastor?” manartarigid ti lua ni Rosario. “Apay a dimo latta koman impalubos a mataykami lattan iti kasta a pannakaitanem.”

“Saan a masebseban ti apuy iti gura iti gura. Maysa a pagrebbengan ti mangsalaknib ti pada a tao. Maysaak la nga adipen ti Dios. Ket no daytoy man ti maysa a kita ti misionko

nga agserbi, maragsakanak ta sibibiagkayo pay nga agina.”

“Burburtia met ti biagmi, Pastor. Sungani kadagiti amammok. Adda dita dagiti kakabagian ken amammomi. Ngem saandakami nga amammo. Linaksidak gapu iti napagtengko. Ngem ammo ti Dios, saanko a nagay-ayatan ti pannakaramesko. Ibagada pay ketdi idi nga ibellengko ni Anton, kunada a bunga kano ti pammilit. Ngem diak mabalin nga aramiden ti ibagbagada. Pinalubosak nga agbiag ni Anton nupay ammok a bunga ti pannakaidadanesko. Uray no bunga ti kinarawet ti tao iti lasag ken derrep. Kunak ngamin, a bareng no isunto ti makaamiris ti pudno a panagna ken kaipapanan ti biag. Dandanikamin natay gapu itoy dakkell nga apuy ti uram. Ket iti daytoy nga inaramidmo, pastor, madlawko nga agsubli ti dakkell a panagtalekko iti pada a tao ken ti gimong a nangibelleng kadakami nga agina.” (Maituloyto)

## MAINLAND NEWS

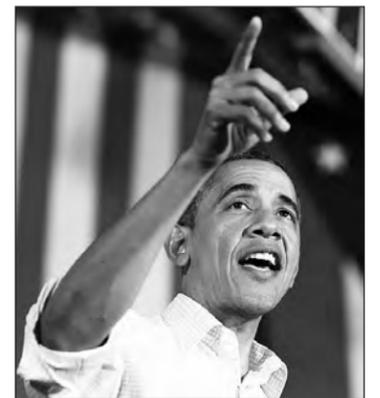
### Obama to Visit Manila Next Month

**U**.S. President Barack Obama has accepted the invitation of Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III and will travel to Manila for a two-day visit October 11-12, 2013.

“President Obama will meet with President Aquino to discuss ways to further strengthen the enduring Philippines-U.S. alliance, including the expansion of our security, economic and people-to-people ties,” says Philippine Press Secretary Edwin Lacierda.

News of President Obama’s visit was welcomed by Jose L. Cuisia Jr., the Philippines’ ambassador to the U.S.

“The visit to Manila is an opportunity for President Obama to personally witness the economic transformation in



the Philippines that was engendered by President Aquino’s good governance agenda,” Cuisia says. “We are optimistic that in their discussions, President Aquino and President Obama will identify new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of defense and security, trade and investment and broader people to people ties.”

This will be the first visit of President Obama to the Philippines.

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**UFCH MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT • SUNDAY • October 13, 2013, \$60 Donation • Ala Moana Hotel • For details email pr.ufch@gmail.com**

**GLOBAL NAGUILIANDERS ALLIANCE NETWORK REUNION & DINNER DANCE • SATURDAY • October 26, 2013, 6 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Eddie Baladad @ 341-5047**

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**50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7, 2013, 6 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149**

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Phil, US Eye New Pact on 'Rotational Presence' in Time for Obama Visit

by Paolo Romero  
Thursday, September 19, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The Philippines and the United States aim to forge a new pact allowing the deployment of more American troops and military hardware in the country in time for the visit of US President Barack Obama, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

Del Rosario said negotiations between the Philippines and the US are in its final stages after three rounds of talks in Manila and Washington, and agreement could be signed before Obama's visit on Oct. 11.

The Philippines will host the fourth round of negotiations in Manila on Oct. 1-2.

Del Rosario said Obama's two-day visit is "quite important because it endorses the value of our relationship."

"We're hoping to get the framework agreement by that time, but we'll see what happens," Del Rosario said during a break in the plenary deliberations of the proposed 2014 budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

DFA Assistant Secretary Carlos Sorreta said both sides have made "quite a lot of progress" and the concerns of the Philippine government have been addressed.

"We have on record agreed minutes, from there you can see respect for the Philippine Constitution... we have clear language on the



The Philippine-US Amphibious Landing Exercises kicked off at the naval base facing turbulent waters claimed by China, as the allies sought to highlight their expanding military alliance | ERNIE PEÑAREDONDO

protection of the environment," he said.

He stressed that both sides do not intend to have permanent US military facilities in the country, adding "there's nothing in the agreement that will allow it."

Sorreta said the draft of the accord clearly defines the authorization process on allowing the entry of US troops,

aircraft, and warships into the country.

"If we do sign the agreement, it does not constitute blanket authority for the US to access, there is a process, each activity will have to be approved by the Philippines," the official said.

He said the proposed agreement merely provides the

parameters for possible US military activities in the country.

Sorreta noted that joint military exercises between the Philippines and the US, including the large-scale Balikatan, are mostly tactics, and designed for internal defense, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes.

He said the framework agreement would enhance these joint exercises to focus on external defense. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(from page 11, THE PORK...)

The five lawmakers were charged with plunder because their supposed kickbacks were more than P50 million.

- Juan Ponce Enrile - P172,834,500
- Ramon Revilla Jr. - P224,512,500
- Jinggoy Estrada - P183,793,750
- Rizalina Seachon-Lanete - P108,405,000
- Edgar Valdez - P56,087,500

Former representatives Rodolfo Plaza (Agusan del Sur Rep), Samuel Dangwa (Benguet) and Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro City) were charged with the lesser offense of malversation of

public funds because their alleged kickbacks were below P50 million.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said another batch of individuals involved in the pork barrel scam will be charged with similar complaints next week.

### Where did the NBI get the information?

The NBI said the investigation team gathered documents from the Commission on Audit (COA), DBM, Securities and Exchange Commission and implementing agencies of the questionable PDAF projects.

The bureau also followed

the scam through paper trails including the SAROs, DBM notices, the lawmakers' endorsement letters, project proposals, activity reports, project profiles, inspection and acceptance reports, disbursement reports and vouchers among others.

De Lima said that the COA special report on the PDAF released last month was not used as evidence, but as basis to point to leads in the probe.

The testimonies of the whistle-blowers, led by Benhur Luy, were used to corroborate the documentary evidence gathered by the bureau. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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