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EDITORIALS

New Festival to Celebrate Wonders of *Malunggay*

On two weeks, the beloved *malunggay* plant will be taking center stage in the 1st Annual Great *Malunggay* Festival and Parade on February 21, 2015 at Leeward Community College. The festival is the brainchild of community leader and St. Joseph Parish youth ministry director Al Simbahon who years ago longed for an event that would draw families impacted by the closure of the Ewa and Waipahu sugar plantations closer together. It took a few years, but such an event is now here.

Commonly found in the backyards of many Filipino homes, *malunggay* is a hardy, fast-growing vegetable prized for its taste, health benefits and usefulness as an herbal medicine and other practical uses. The cultural significance of the *malunggay* tree (also known as the Horseradish Tree or by its scientific name *Moringa oleifera*) is unmistakable. In fact, it is second only to the iconic Christmas parol as a symbol of everything Filipino. But for its all of its pervasiveness, not much is known of this “wonder tree” outside of the Filipino community—save for perhaps a few words from local comedian Frank DeLima’s Filipino Christmas song/parody. This is most unfortunate especially when considering how much this “wonder plant” has to offer! Proponents of *malunggay* compare it to spirulina and wheat grass for its high levels of protein, Vitamin C, potassium, iron, Vitamin A and antioxidants. *Malunggay*’s medicinal benefits can be taken via capsule form or as herbal tea.

The *Malunggay* Festival is the latest addition to the growing list of Filipino cultural events that are observed each year. For starters, we have the *Pasko!* Christmas celebration in December, the Filipino Fiesta and Parade in May, the Filipino-American History Month in October and *Araw ng Kalayaan* (Philippine Independence Day) in June. The more such events we have that celebrate and share the rich Filipino culture with others, the merrier—and the better!

Kudos to Manong Al and members of his planning committee for pouring their time and resources into organizing the 1st Annual Great *Malunggay* Festival and Parade. We wish them much success and encourage the Filipino community to support this unique, barrio fiesta-style celebration!

Yes, ObamaCare Needs Reform; But Not Tea Party Reforms

Tea Party Republicans ran in the midterm elections vowing to repeal ObamaCare, or at the very least, defund parts of the new medical social program.

Republicans kept to their word and acted immediately on the first day the new Republican-majority Congress commenced. The first salvo against ObamaCare had been launched with a new proposal by the GOP to change the definition of “full-time” work that qualifies employees to receive mandatory health insurance coverage. ObamaCare says an employee working 30 hours per week for a company must be offered health insurance coverage by that company. The new GOP proposal seeks to change ObamaCare’s 30 hours per week “full-time” status to the traditional 40 hours a week “full time” status. Essentially, the goal is to lessen the burden on businesses of providing health insurance coverage for employees mandated by ObamaCare. But ultimately, this minor tweak does absolutely little to address the bigger problems of the American healthcare system.

The Good and Bad of ObamaCare

ObamaCare is far from perfect in that it doesn’t do enough to change the high cost of healthcare in the U.S., the type of com-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Nearly every day we read horrific stories involving ISIS and its brutal tactics, the latest being the burning alive of a captured Jordanian pilot. Jordan, in response, executed two prisoners linked to the radical terrorist group. These latest killings come on the heels of the beheadings of several foreign journalists and the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre. After awhile, the public becomes de-sensitized to these gruesome deaths, which in turn may force ISIS to resort to even more horrific acts of violence. Where does it end? Unfortunately, such is the world we now live in.

Closer to home, furor is building over the massacre of 44 elite PNP special forces at the hands of Muslim rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. The Philippine government is investigating. For more on this tragic event, turn to page 5.

In other, more positive news, a local non-profit called Faith Action For Community Equity (FACE) is pushing the use of shipping containers roughly 20-feet-by-8-feet as a way of temporarily housing homeless families. A modular sample was put on display on the grounds of Honolulu Hale earlier this week. Although lacking a bathroom and kitchen, these portable dwelling units nevertheless provide a safer and preferable alternative to living in a tent or on the streets. The proposal has generated buzz and certainly deserves consideration as a viable option to addressing Oahu’s homeless problem and affordable housing shortage.

Speaking of generating a buzz, the Filipino community should mark their calendars for the First Annual Great *Malunggay* Festival and Parade, scheduled for February 21, 2015 at Leeward Community College. The festival celebrates the wonders and many uses of the venerable *malunggay* plant, which has long been identified with Hawaii’s Filipino community. Turn to our cover story beginning on page 4 to read more about this celebration, as well as interesting facts about the incredible, edible *malunggay* plant. Hope to see you there!

In other news, the Oahu Medical Mission (OMM) is prepping for a mission to the Philippines from February 14-21, 2015. The team will visit several impoverished areas in Luzon and Bicol where they will provide much-needed medical services to the poor and destitute. Read more on page 11 about how you can donate or provide assistance to OMM.

Lastly, we would like to wish you an early Happy Valentine’s Day! Please take time to plan something extra special for your loved one(s). Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

plete overhaul that will make is sustainable in the long run.

The good news is that it is responsible for enabling select qualified millions of Americans to now purchase more affordable healthcare or for millions of previously uninsured Americans to enroll in government subsidized health insurance.

The bad news is that the cost of healthcare, the cost that insurance companies and customers must pay for actual medical procedures and treatment, is still uncontrollably high.

So what we have is more people covered with health insurance. Goal one accomplished. But what we also have is more people placing a greater burden onto government to pay for health coverage without the healthcare industry making the necessary steps to make healthcare more affordable. Goal two is far from unaccomplished and this is where lawmakers in Congress ought to be focusing their efforts on, not silly tweaks to ObamaCare that only shifts responsibility of coverage from corporations to the government.

The big winners of ObamaCare actually are the hospitals (both not-for-profit and for-profit), the pharmaceutical giants, and the medical equipment makers and suppliers. ObamaCare has provided them millions of new customers without having these giants controlling the healthcare industry to change their prices and profit-margins. Tort reform also failed so questionable pro-

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Did You Celebrate Fred Korematsu Day?

Here's one thing Hawaii can be proud about—it is one of just five states (California, Utah, Illinois and Georgia) to officially honor Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American who means a lot more to you as a Filipino-American than you might realize.

Korematsu would have been 96 on Friday, January 30. If you don't know his story, read on but if you do, I bet you didn't realize the government can still round up people based

on race. And the way, freedoms and civil liberties are regressing in this country.

Korematsu was just one man and not a movement. But you'd be hard pressed to find another person who embodies the fight for democracy, freedom and justice for Asian-Americans more than Korematsu.

In 1942 at the age of 23, Korematsu saw other innocent Japanese-Americans rounded up by the U.S. government and incarcerated in a camp. He simply decided that he would not go. That's the shorthand version. The twists in the Korematsu story show how he is still relevant today.

According to the award-winning documentary *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred*

Korematsu Story, Korematsu was on a date with a Caucasian woman at the time of the Pearl Harbor bombing. He saw himself as an American and didn't think his country would do anything to him.

Wrong. His U.S. government soon regarded him as the enemy because of his race.

Korematsu defied the internment order for a while. His arrest was accompanied with sensationalistic media coverage. The slur "Jap" was used to describe both Asians and Asian-Americans.

The news coverage of Korematsu's jailing caught the eye of the Northern California ACLU executive director Ernest Besig, who decided Korematsu would be the litmus test for the constitutionality of

the internment.

The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, with the government arguing against the 14th Amendment and justifying the internment of Japanese-Americans as a "military necessity." Critics have said the Court seemed unwilling to go against the government and President Roosevelt, which might explain why civil rights stalwarts like William O. Douglas and Hugo Black were part of a 6-3 majority against Korematsu.

To this day, that 1944 decision still stands. Korematsu lost. Ultimately, he would spend time in an internment camp. But he also found that he was not only shunned by society and his country—he was also shunned by fellow Japanese-Americans in camp who believed he should have shut up and cooperated.

It only took 40 years to be vindicated. In 1983, legal historian Professor Peter Irons un-

covered government memos that were kept from the Supreme Court in 1944. The documents revealed an internal struggle within the government on how to present the case. Would it go with the Army's contention that Japanese-Americans were a threat to national security? Or would it present information from the FBI and other military intelligence that contradicted the Army?

The Army's perspective prevailed. But Irons said a statement in one document continued to haunt him and fuel his protest. It read: "We are telling lies to the Supreme Court. We have an obligation to tell the truth."

The suppressed information was enough for a group of attorneys, mostly young Japanese-Americans, to reopen the case and overturn Korematsu's conviction in 1983 in a federal district court in San Francisco.

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EDITORIALS (from page 2, YES....)

cedures of redundancy are still performed that continue to drive up medical costs. Americans must still pay considerably more (either out-of-pocket and/or their insurance providers) for the same medical procedures and prescription drugs than Europeans, Japanese, Canadians, and other citizens from developed countries because in each of those countries, their version of socialized medicine includes regulation of prices by government. In the U.S., the private sector in the healthcare industry still controls prices. Medicare or another government program will simply pay the prices set by the private sector, and oftentimes, in addition, the government provides subsidies to these private sector giants. As an example, hospitals still can charge \$77.00 for a box of gauze pads, which cost will be divided in most cases by the patient and their insurance company, and in some cases, ultimately by the government.

The question we all should be asking is why should the patients, insurance companies, and government pay for absurd prices like \$77.00 for a box of gauze pads, or absurd prices in general, that in many cases, a few days in the hospital could conceivably amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. With ObamaCare, at the very least, that burden of the cost probably will not be placed disproportionately onto the patient, which in the past, would translate to immediate bankruptcy. Remember 60 percent of all bankruptcies used to stem from medical costs. But now, the government steps in along with insurers to pay the bulk of expenses. Realistically, though, is that even the government could not afford to continue picking up

the tab for such exorbitant healthcare in the long run.

So here we are with a Republican-majority Congress. Already, we are seeing attempts to tweak minor changes to ObamaCare, and threats of repeal. The reality is that ObamaCare is actually a truly bipartisan piece of legislation in that big whales in the healthcare industry support it because ObamaCare is good for business. So besides Tea Party radicals, the established GOP really would not like to see ObamaCare dismantled. Democrats support it because ObamaCare has accomplished its first goal of giving millions of new Americans the opportunity to receive healthcare coverage.

The real challenge, the real reform to ObamaCare has yet to come, but only if the political will of both parties is in sync that one: near universal coverage for Americans as ObamaCare provides, is here to stay and must continue; and two: attempts to reform healthcare must include true regulations that require greater control over pricing of healthcare, as in other first-world countries where socialized medicine exists. The latter is perhaps the more difficult of the two to accept.

Public polls still show ObamaCare is supported by a majority of Americans. But it continues to receive negative public relations coverage with many misguided Americans believing that the high cost of healthcare is a result of millions of people added onto the healthcare system. That is not the case. ObamaCare is here for the long-haul and will join the other pillars that Americans hold as sacrosanct, such as Social Security and Medicare.

Americans just need to make it affordable and sustainable through real reforms.

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COVER STORY

The Incredible, Edible Malunggay

By Dennis Galolo

Every July, residents of Gilroy, California celebrate their annual Garlic Festival—one of the largest food festivals in the U.S. Not to be outdone, Richton, Mississippi will host in September the 28th Annual Pecan Festival, which is billed as the South's fastest-growing family festival. Also this September, the 87th Annual Spud Day will be held in Shelley, Idaho and will include a Spud Queen Pageant and Spud Fun Run.

And if Al Simbahon of Waipahu has his way, Honolulu could soon be known for an annual festival in honor of *malunggay*—the ubiquitous plant found in the backyards of many Filipino homes.

A well-known and respected community leader, Simbahon is leading the charge for the 1st Annual Great *Malunggay* Festival and Parade, scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 9 am to 4 pm at Leeward Community College.

The event is being billed as a barrio fiesta-style celebration of *malunggay* and everything good about this incredible, edible backyard plant, known scientifically as *Moringa oleifera*. There will be live bands, a “Jam Like Bruno” sing and dance contest, entertainment, a parade, door prizes, food and crafts, vendor booths and much more. So far, there are about 40 vendors with several more waiting in the wings.

Gracing the stage will be the Fil-Am All Star Band, which includes former members of The Society of Seven, Honolulu The Band and Manila Machine in a reunion.

“We encourage you to come out and enjoy the parade and entertainment,” says Simbahon, who anticipates a good number of attendees at the inaugural event. “This festival is really all about showing the heart and spirit of who we truly are as Filipino-Americans.”

The goal of the event, Simbahon says, is to foster pride and awareness of the rich Filipino culture and heritage. Proceeds will also be used to fund scholarships for Filipino students attending LCC.

For Simbahon, who serves as Youth and Young Adults Ministry Director for St. Joseph's Church in Waipahu, the seeds for a *malunggay* fest were planted years back when the sugar plantations in Ewa and Waipahu were facing clo-

sure. An event was needed, he says, to draw affected families and the Filipino community closer together.

“I envisioned holding just a small parade commemorating our Filipino culture with the *malunggay* tree as the identification of our roots,” Simbahon says. “We’ve all heard the *malunggay* tree called the flag of Filipinos here in Hawaii.”

The *Malunggay* Festival is the latest addition to the growing list of cultural celebrations such as *Pasko!*, the Filipino Fiesta and Parade, Filipino-American History Month, *Araw ng Kalayaan* (Philippine Independence Day) and others.

Simbahon envisions the *Malunggay* Festival becoming a yearly international event.

“The event is open to everyone, not just the Filipino community,” he says. “Our goal is to promote Filipino culture through food, entertainment and activities.”

The Humble Malunggay

Also called the horseradish tree, drumstick tree, clarifier tree and various other names, this humble plant is loved and known simply by Filipinos as *malunggay* (Tagalog).

The history of the *malunggay* tree dates back more than 5,000 years. Ancient Indian writings that date back to 150 B.C. refer to the *Moringa* plant and its uses. Early Romans, Greeks and Egyptians prized the tree for its therapeutic properties and also used it to protect skin, make perfume and purify drinking water.

The plant is native to the sub-Himalayan areas of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. It is also abundant in the Philippines and throughout the tropics.



Moringa oleifera, known by Filipinos as *malunggay*

Filipinos rarely purchase *Malunggay* since it often grows along fences and boundary markers, where passers-by take stems by the handful. Ironically, since most Filipinos do not pay for *malunggay*, it was given very little attention, except by the old folks who touted its health benefits. Scientists today are proving these elders right.

Once commonly referred to as a “poor man’s vegetable,” *malunggay* is prized for its nutritional and medicinal value. According to a March 2000 article in the Los Angeles Times, ounce-for-ounce *malunggay* has the calcium of four glasses of milk, the Vitamin C of seven oranges and the potassium of three bananas.

A 2007 study published in *Phytotherapy Research* showed that all parts of the *malunggay* plant, including its gum, fruits, leaves, bark, roots, seed and seed oil—can be used to treat a variety of diseases, including cardiovascular disorders, gastrointestinal disorders and inflammation.

Other studies have shown that *malunggay* can protect against harmful microorganisms, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, prevent damage to the liver, and help people with bronchial asthma—justifying its reputation as a “miracle tree.”

Ruffalyne Villanueva, one

of the *Malunggay* Festival organizers, is familiar with *malunggay*'s reputation as a “super food.”

“The *malunggay* plant is very nutritious,” she says. “My mom would prepare us chicken *malunggay* soup when we were not feeling well. Drinking it would always make me feel better.”

Villanueva says she regularly feeds her two-year-old daughter chicken *malunggay* soup and rice to help her get over colds.

“*Malunggay* goes best with soup especially on cold or rainy days. My husband and daughter like it. In fact, my entire family loves *malunggay*,” she says.

Simbahon prefers chicken *malunggay* soup or *malunggay* pork with mungo beans—with rice, of course.

“It was a staple food in our diet,” he recalls. “I was raised eating *malunggay* and still eat it at least once a week even until now.”

Simbahon has no less than five *malunggay* trees growing in his backyard, which have been there for over 30 years.

For Marnelli Joy Basilio, the Festival's social media manager, her favorite *malunggay* dish is *malunggay* soup with shrimp and other vegetables. Her family would also often add *malunggay* leaves to

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **THE INCREDIBLE...**)

soups or *balatong* (mungo beans).

“I do believe that *malunggay* is a super food,” she says. “Maybe it’s the reason we Filipinos live long and stay strong.”

In addition to its nutritional and medicinal properties, studies have shown *malunggay* to be an effective water purifier. It is a low-maintenance plant that can grow in nearly any type of soil and thrive in areas where poor diets and diseases are leading killers. Because *malunggay* can be grown cheaply and easily, it has become an important food source in parts of the world like India and Africa where it is used in feeding programs for infants, children, and pregnant and lactating women. The World Health Organization (WHO) has even recommended *malunggay* for use in developing countries

because of its ability to combat malnutrition.

One such country is Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere where 75 percent of its population lives on less than \$2 per day. Haiti’s farmers grow primarily five major crops—corn, beans, rice, plantains (bananas) and cocoa—but have largely forgotten about the *moringa* tree which has grown right under their nose after its introduction to Haiti about a century ago. Government officials are supporting efforts to cultivate the *moringa* tree in hopes of addressing chronic malnutrition among the poor who continue to recover from the 2010 earthquake and 2012 hurricanes.

Making Good on Malunggay

While Filipinos have known all along about the wonders of *malunggay*, its use has



Members of the Malunggay Festival & Parade Planning Committee point to the venerable malunggay tree (from left) : Gwen Carranza, Korey Wong, Marnelli Basilio, Ruffalyne Sunajo Villanueva, Ted Barbosa, Teri Luna, Jan Luna, Al Simbahon, Jon Ulep, Anna Alcain Miyashiro, Jennefer Palaroan, Geri Simbahon, Kyle Kawada, Angela Peralta Simbahon and Nick Magtoto Jr. (Missing): Henry Aquino, Bill Gongob and Ezra Simbahon.

begun to catch on in Japan, the U.S. and Europe, where pills, teas and other herbal products are commonly found on store shelves.

One Philippine senator has introduced a bill to capitalize on *malunggay*. In 2013, Sen. Loren Legarda intro-

duced Senate Bill 104 which seeks to spur the production, marketing and distribution of *malunggay* in suitable areas of the Philippines.

The bill tasks the Philippines’ Department of Agriculture—in consultation with the Department of Trade and In-

dustry, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, farmers groups, local government units and the private sector—to formulate a five-year plan for the production, marketing, processing and distribution of *malunggay* for food, medicinal, health and commercial needs.

The bill also seeks to establish a *Malunggay* Development Fund to provide for the funding requirements for the production, marketing, and processing of *malunggay*, with an initial amount of one billion pesos to be taken from the existing budget of the Department of Agriculture.

“*Malunggay* can be the solution to many of our country’s problems,” Legarda said in a media statement. “*Malunggay* feeds, oils, fertilizes, heals, purifies and can generate income. Let’s take *malunggay* seriously.”

COMMENTARY

Maguindanao Killing Fields and SAF 44

By Federico V. Magdalena, Ph.D.

HONOLULU - January 25, 2015 is a bloody day in the town of Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

This is where 44 members of Special Action Forces (SAF) perished. SAF is the police commando that launched Operation Wolverine to arrest two “high-value” terrorists: Marwan (Jukifli Abdir) and Usman (Abdul Basit Usman). These terrorists are behind the series of bombings in Mindanao, authorities claim. SAF succeeded in taking down Marwan, with photo and cut finger for DNA testing as proof. (The FBI confirmed the DNA signature was indeed Marwan’s, after comparing it with his brother who is under US custody.) Unfamiliar of the terrain, however, they retreated into the lair of the 105th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Outnumbered, the MILF mowed them down mercilessly with the help of rogue rebels, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom

Fighters (BIFF).

Many call the death of SAF a “massacre,” the second to happen in Maguindanao province since 2009 when 57 civilians allegedly died in the hands of a local warlord. While SAF killed Marwan in this operation, they gave away 44 of their kind in exchange with more than a dozen injured. The MILF reported 18 of their members died. Worse, at least 11 of the 44 SAF casualties were mutilated – their heads bashed or missing, their guns and personal belongings stolen. The clash is an “overkill,” so complains PNP Officer-in-Charge General Leonardo Espina, who asked the MILF to at least return their guns to rebuild confidence in the peace process. The government and MILF just signed a peace deal in March 2014, where both parties are supposed to observe a ceasefire.

Marwan is on the list of Washington’s most wanted terrorists with a bounty of \$6M in his head. A Malaysian engineer who trained in the US, he



served as officer of terrorist organization Jemaah Islamiyah from Indonesia. He was part of the plot in the deadly Bali bombing in 2002, where hundreds of tourists died. In 2003 he sought refuge in Mindanao. Usman, his local counterpart and student, has also been accused of masterminding several bombings in Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon, and Iligan. He has a price of \$2M for his capture, dead or alive. Both are protected by BIFF, according to MILF chief Mohagher Iqbal. Ironically, MILF and BIFF co-exist in the same territory. Both were seen fighting together, against the SAF who turned like a fair game in an open corn field in Tukanalipao, a remote village in Mamasapano.

Who is to blame in this carnage? After the initial accounting, SAF is at fault according to those who are themselves at

the center of this botched operation. But the finger pointing has continued – among the military, Malacanang, MILF, priests, and even local officials in the likes of Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. DILG Secretary Mar Roxas, who is kept in the dark, declared it was a “misencounter” between the police and MILF/BIFF. A Board of Inquiry is now probing into the matter.

Is the SAF leadership to blame, or is it the MILF and BIFF who killed the valiant SAF 44? Pity, blaming SAF is like blaming the victim. They failed to coordinate their action with the MILF, military, and their superior officers. Maybe the blame rightly belongs to the president who, as commander-in-chief, knows about the operation but did not alert the AFP when help was urgently needed. Maybe it is PNP chief

Alan Purisima, who has a direct hand in the operation but did it solo. Maybe it is the MILF’s fault, for not informing the government beforehand about the presence of bad elements in their midst. It seems that somehow they all share the responsibility.

For his part, President Benigno Aquino III earned widespread flak: he did not show up when the remains of SAF 44 arrived at Villamor Air Base. He also seemed to have exonerated General Purisima, a longtime friend, who was widely believed to have a direct hand in the botched operation. Purisima was mum since day one, and has been suspended since December 2014 for graft charges. Former president Fidel Ramos accused Aquino for “breaking the chain of command,” knowledgeable as he was of the plan. Aquino was, in fact, in Zamboanga City the day before SAF launched the Mamasapano raid. Some of the commandos are from that city. Other sectors, including religious leaders and militants even call for Aquino’s resignation. Perhaps stung by these criticisms, he ordered Justice Secretary Leila De Lima to

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OPINION

Immigration: Best to File for DACA or DAPA ASAP

By Atty. Ted Laguatan

When general amnesty was granted to millions of undocumented immigrants under the 1986

Immigration and Reform Control Act (IRCA) law, I was among the lawyers who did the most applications. I can verify from experience that those who filed their applications earlier had an easier time than those who filed later. I expect a similar situation for those qualified applicants for immigration relief under President Barack Obama's November 2014 Executive Order.

Common sense practical reasons favor filing sooner than later. Why so? Here's the situation: 1. Thousands of applicants will be filing which by necessity pushes USCIS personnel to efficiently rush the processing of initial applications. Otherwise, backlog and related problems will dog the agency for years to come. 2. When filing later than sooner, the applications filed earlier naturally has priority. 3. More scrutiny will be given to later filings as a matter of reality as the examiners will then have more time to scrutinize.

Delays in filings are a result of: 1. Concerns about the inadequacy or sufficiency of required documents. 2. Hesitations to file because of fear of the effects of a previous negative immigration history. 3. Distrust of government fueled by thoughts that this program might just be a means to en-

snare undocumented immigrants. 4. Fear of one's application being denied and then being subjected to deportation. 5. Related criminal issues. 6. The plain human tendency to procrastinate.

A competent lawyer who does immigration law can provide answers to questions related to 1 to 5 above. As to number 5, perhaps by scheduling a consultation appointment with an immigration lawyer which is easy enough, and spending a little money - one can get the ball rolling on a very important life changing matter.

But please protect yourself from being a potential fraud victim. Whenever there are new immigration laws or measures, scammers proliferate. Heed the warnings of State Bars, the USCIS and various civic organizations: Stay away from non-lawyer notaries and those who style themselves as "Immigration Consultants" who illegally provide immigration law advice and services. Many are victimized as these characters will often give wrong advice, file fraudulent papers, file applications even for those not qualified. All these can lead to serious consequences.

Protect yourselves also from lawyers who unconsciously overcharge clients. Call the State Bar in your state to check if a lawyer is certified as an expert in Immigration Law to verify if he or she is indeed a Bar certified expert. You might be surprised to know that some lawyers who present themselves as experts and

charge enormous legal fees - are not certified experts. To be fair, a licensed lawyer does not have to be a Bar Certified Expert or Specialist in immigration law in order to do immigration cases.

However, the purpose of State Bars in having these Specialist expert lawyer programs - is to serve and protect the interests of the public and clients. By assuring them that if they go to a Bar certified Specialist - they are going to a lawyer who knows his stuff - they feel safe in getting competent and honest service. To be a Bar Certified Specialist, one must have passed rigorous special exams on Immigration Law, must have handled practically every kind of immigration case, demonstrated extensive experience in this field and has no negative integrity record.

A terrible thing to happen to a client is to be charged tons of money by a lawyer who gives the impression that he is an expert in immigration law through clever media and ad campaigns - when in fact he is not. The client could have gone to a real expert and charged less. State Bar personnel will happily confirm if a lawyer is officially certified as an Expert-Specialist or not. Call them.

President Barack Obama's Executive Order which he announced on November 20, 2014 - provides immigration relief to two groups of undocumented immigrants:

For the first group the previous Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is expanded - To qualify, an applicant must have:

1) Arrived in the U.S. before the age of sixteen. 2) Lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. 3) A High School diploma or a GED certificate or currently enrolled. 4) No serious crime conviction.

The filing fee for DACA applications will be \$465. \$380 is for the application for Employment Authorization and \$85 is for biometrics. The USCIS will start to accept DACA applications on February 18, 2015.

For the second group - the program is known as the Deferred Action for Parents of U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). To qualify, the general requirements are: 1) Be the parent of a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident 2) Lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. (It's still unconfirmed but absence from the U.S. for less than three months may be excused.) 4. Must have been in unlawful status on November 20, 2014. 5. Must not have been convicted of a serious crime.

The filing fee for DAPA applications is also \$465. \$380 for the application for Employment Authorization and \$85.00 for biometrics. The USCIS will start to accept applications around May 20, 2015.

The immigration status of both groups will be known as "Deferred Status". They will be allowed to stay and be considered as being here legally, granted a three year renewable employment authorization and under certain circumstances, be allowed to travel abroad.

Technically, the grant of Deferred Status is considered as discretionary on the part of the Department of Homeland Security but there is no reason why it should be denied if an applicant qualifies and applies in the spirit of Obama's Executive Order.

Mainly because of political partisanship reasons, an insensitivity to commendable humanitarian reasons and on what's good for the country, Republicans have filed a lawsuit to nullify Obama's Executive Order. The court will most

likely dismiss this lawsuit. Clearly, it is within the powers of a President to issue Executive Orders that touch on immigration enforcement and implementation of existing laws. Courts also tend to shy away from partisan politics based conflicts between the Executive and Legislative branches.

In addition, Republicans have threatened to withdraw funding from the Department of Homeland Security to stop Obama's Executive Order from being implemented. This is also likely bound to boomerang in their faces. The American public will not support political partisan based legislation that would drastically affect the nation's national security.

For the good of the nation and the GOP, they are better off working with the Administration in passing a rational reasonable comprehensive immigration Bill acceptable to all rather than catering to the dark anti-immigrant racist sentiments of regional constituents.

This will result in a stronger more stable kinder more inclusive America.

When general amnesty for undocumented immigrants was in effect under the 1986 IRCA law, thousands of otherwise qualified applicants failed to file before the deadline in 1988. A sad situation. They missed the opportunity to perfect their immigration status and improve their lives. One of the major reasons for their failure to file is their inability to get expert advice from honest competent affordable lawyers.

To prevent this sad thing from happening again, my law office has pioneered the accessibility of expert immigration law advice through the internet. Through this project we call EMAILGRATION, for less than a fourth of the usual consultation fees of certified expert immigration lawyers, clients can get expert immigration law advice by Email from anywhere and at anytime.

Using this communications

(continued on page 10)

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

DAPA *Nadapa'*: Obama Amnesty Ruled Unconstitutional

DAPA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Parental Accountability, an amnesty program aka “executive action” announced by President Obama on November 20, 2014 allowing parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have been illegally in the country since before January 1, 2010 to request deferred action from deportation. “Nadapa” in Tagalog means “fell flat on its face.”

On December 16, 2014, Judge Arthur J. Schwab, a U.S. district judge in Pennsylvania held that the program was unconstitutional. In his Memorandum Opinion Judge Schwab said: “This Executive Action ‘cross[es] the line,’ constitutes ‘legislation,’ and effectively

changes the United States’ immigration policy. The President may only ‘take care that the laws be faithfully executed . . .’; he may not take any Executive Action that creates laws. U.S. Const., Art. II, Section 3.” United States of America v. Juarez-Escobar, Criminal Case No. 14-0180, DC WD PA Doc. 32, filed 12/16/14. It appears that Judge Schwab not only swabbed the amnesty program, he deep throated it.

As we have been telling our radio listeners and writing in this publication and other publications, and as every alien applying for citizenship knows or ought to know, there are three branches of government, - the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The executive executes the laws, the legislative makes the laws, and the judicial interprets the laws. Granting amnesty is a legislative function. When President Obama granted amnesty, he performed a legislative function. As Judge Schwab said, he

crossed the line.

Judge Schwab acknowledged that presidents and certain members of their administrative agencies may exercise “prosecutorial discretion” over certain criminal matters on a case by case basis and that in the field of immigration it applies to a broad range of discretionary enforcement decisions. President Obama invoked this discretion when he announced his “Executive Action”. However, the Judge said, Obama’s Executive Action goes beyond prosecutorial discretion because: “(a) it provides for a systematic and rigid process by which a broad group of individuals will be treated differently than others based upon arbitrary classifications, rather than case by case examination; and (b) it allows undocumented immigrants, who fall within these broad categories, to obtain substantive rights.”

The Juarez-Escobar case involved an alien who was de-

ported and reentered the U.S. illegally. In determining the sentence, Judge Schwab asked the parties to file supplemental briefing on how DAPA affected the defendant. The parties did not even raise DAPA as an issue.

This is the first judicial decision addressing DAPA. However, twenty four states, half of our country, led by Texas, have filed suit challenging Obama’s immigration “executive actions.” The 24 states are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The Texas-led case was filed in U.S. District Court in Brownsville, Texas. Texas v. United States of America. The court is presided by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, an appointee of President George W. Bush.

The first case challenging Obama’s “executive actions” was filed on the same day Obama announced them by Arizona sheriff Arapaio in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. It will be heard on December 22.

What now? The “execu-

tive actions” have not been stopped by the courts. Consequently aliens who qualify for the amnesty should immediately consult an attorney who has experience and knows what to do in order to file the necessary applications with the Department of Homeland Security.

Even though we have questioned the propriety and legality of amnesty, we have used it for the benefit of our clients. As we said in our previous column, a lawyer must use every weapon in the legal arsenal to fight the government who is deporting the lawyer’s clients, whether the lawyer likes the weapon or not.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.,” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

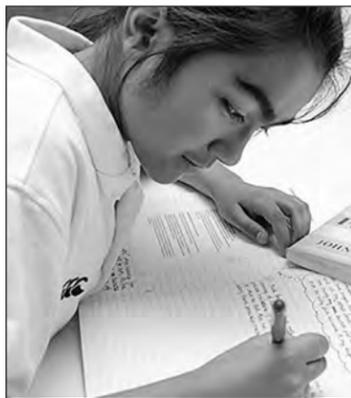
HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Overseas Filipinos Essay Contest Extended to February 8

The deadline to submit essays on the contributions of and challenges facing overseas Filipinos has been extended to February 8, 2015.

Contest organizer Dr. Celia Lamkin, chair of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG) Marianas chapter, postponed the deadline to give college and high school students in the Philippines who helped prepare for Pope Francis’ recent visit an opportunity to submit their entries.

“I encourage Filipino youth who are enrolled in high school and college in the Philippines and other countries to participate in this essay contest,” she says. “Let us show the world how we recognize the greatness and heroism of



Overseas Filipinos and their contributions to our dear motherland.”

The contest is open to all students of Filipino descent in the Philippines or overseas, ages 10 to 25. The contest theme is “Overseas Filipinos and Their Impact on the Philippines.” Essays should focus on the contributions of Overseas Filipinos to the economy of the Philippines; how their participation affects

Philippine elections; the social risks that children and families of Overseas Filipinos face; and why they are referred to as the “New Heroes” of the Philippines.

All entries must be submitted via email to: overseasfilipinosessay@yahoo.com. Essays must be original, written in English, be limited to no more than 1,500 words and saved in the MS Word format.

USP4GG is a New York-based non-profit led by Chairwoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, President Rodel Rodis and legal counsel/spokesman Ted Laguatan. Its mission is to provide a better life for Filipinos and a better Philippines.

For more details on the contest, email Lamkin at: celialamkin@yahoo.com.



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PICTORIALS

PMAH CELEBRATES 37TH ANNIVERSARY

The Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) marked its 37th Anniversary with a gala dinner and installation ceremony for its officers and Board of Governors on January 24, 2015 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Tapa Ballroom.

Officers include Dr. Carolina Davide, president; Dr. Michael Castro, president-elect; Dr. Melvin Paul Palalay, secretary; Dr. Emma Avilla, treasurer; and Dr. Jerald Garcia, immediate past president

Members of the Board of Governors include Dr. Alpha Rivalal, Dr. Milette Oliveros, Dr. Josephine De La Torre Waite, Dr. Christine Jose

Badke, Dr. Christopher Anthony Regala, Dr. Nicanor Joaquin, Dr. Russell Kelly and Dr. Rosalo Paeste.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. was the guest speaker, while Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin administered the oath of office.

Doctors-On-Stage sang "Bui Doi," "Paraiso" and "God Help the Out-cast" to celebrate the theme "Volunteer and Be Happy" as chosen by the president.

A silent auction was also held to raise funds for PMAH's numerous humanitarian projects.



TRAVEL & TOURISM

HOME OF THE SHROUD

By Ana Marie Pamintuan



MANILA, Philippines - The setting of the forum bore this out: the Lingotto Conference Center once housed the Fiat manufacturing plant, with its test driving track left intact on the rooftop of the remodeled building designed by world renowned architect Renzo Piano.

On the ground floor of the conference center sat a gleaming Alfa Romeo, a product first developed in neighboring Milan but acquired by the Fiat automobile group along with other Italian luxury cars Maserati and Lancia.

Fiat - Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino - bade Turin ciao last August after the controlling Agnelli family and other investors approved a merger with Chrysler. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles will be based in the UK. But the Italian city still retains its reputation as Europe's Detroit, and its National Automobile Museum is a popular destination for visitors.

Turin is also the birthplace of Martini & Rossi, founded in the 19th century by Alessandro Martini, producer of the Martini vermouth. Diversifying later, the company would also produce the Asti Martini.

Sports cars and wines aren't the only top-quality goods produced in Italy's Piedmont region. There are also fine chocolates, with Ferrero Rocher (also the maker of Nutella hazelnut paste), Carafel and Venchi among the most famous.

Back in the 18th century, a Turin resident concocted the delectable Gianduja: a blend of sweet chocolate and hazelnut paste. Gianduja flavors many confectionery products in Turin as well as its fine wood-roasted coffee, whose aroma wafting from art deco cafés permeate the city's elegant plazas and boulevards. Gianduja gelato is exquisite. The city is also home to coffee brand Lavazza.

The coffee culture and the city's architecture invite comparisons of Turin with Paris and Vienna. But the Italian city - birthplace of haute couture designer Nina Ricci and former French first lady Carla Bruni Sarkozy - has its own unique appeal. Turin is reputed to be Italy's greenest city, with 25 parks, tree-lined boulevards and promenades around the four rivers that run through the city.

At Eataly, a sprawling foodie destination across the street from the Lingotto complex, you will find a dizzying array of the fine foods that

Turin and much of the country have to offer. The city is also home to the slow food movement.

With the Alps in the distance, the hills of Turin by the River Po are dotted with picturesque homes and casual trattorias. The hills offer panoramic views of the city, with the skyline dominated by numerous churches.

The churches of Turin serve as a magnet for Catholic devotees.

Man of the Shroud

Beyond the food, Catholics - including the hundreds of



The Mole Antonelliana, named after its architect Alessandro Antonelli, is Turin's landmark, shown here with the Alps in the background. Completed in 1889 as a synagogue, it now houses Italy's National Cinema Museum.

thousands of Filipinos staying in Italy - are drawn to Turin by a mysterious shroud bearing the image of a man with the wounds of someone who was

(continued on page 12)

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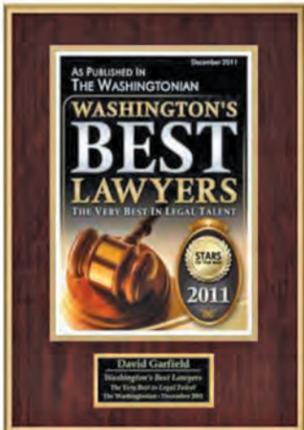
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PERSONAL INSIGHTS

Kyrie Eleison

By Dennis Galolo



Like most motorists, I listen to the radio while driving. I was channel surfing on the way home one afternoon when I stumbled upon a hit song from the 1980s that I haven't heard in years—"Kyrie" by a band called Mr. Mister.

Forty-somethings like me know this song which debuted in late 1985. Caught up in my nostalgia, I googled "Kyrie," curious about its lyrics and what exactly this song was really all about.

I found that "Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." Looking back, I see now why a few of my more intuitive classmates held tightly to this song. You see, we were 17 then—carefree high school seniors, eager to set out on the wide open roads of life but unsure of what the future held.

Most of us would go on to college, while others chose to work. Unbeknownst to us, a handful would end up starting families quite early, including a girl who was rumored to have gotten pregnant during our senior year, which needless to say was rather scandalous at the private Christian school I attended. Fortunately, she was spared further embarrassment since she was not "showing" during the final months of school.

On the down side, a few of my classmates have passed away, while others stumbled into drug abuse. To my knowledge, most of us graduated from college, found our calling in life and eventually

settled down to raise families.

Next year, the Class of 1986 will mark its 30th Anniversary with a reunion. Looking back at the past nearly three decades, I can clearly see the Lord's hand in my life and in the lives of classmates I have kept in contact with.

The journey certainly hasn't been smooth sailing. In fact, there have been many rough spots and heartaches along the way—deaths in the family, divorce and personal tragedies, as well as job, health and relationship issues.

But the common denominator has been the Lord's Sovereign Hand. There were times when His presence was unmistakable, but for the most part, I have had to walk by faith and trust the Lord to lead me through. He did and continues to do so.

I've decided that *Kyrie Eleison* is actually a prayer—a deep, desperate cry for help from one's heart to God. I think of the blind beggar in Luke 18 who sat on the roadside in Jericho. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, he cried out *Kyrie Eleison!*—Jesus, Son of David, have mercy!

And Jesus in his great mercy, reached out and restored his sight.

All too often, I feel just like that blind beggar, in desperate need of God's mercy.

I don't know what 2015 holds but *Kyrie Eleison*. I also don't know what the next 30 years hold, but *Kyrie Eleison*.

Down whatever road we travel on in life, *Kyrie Eleison*.

(OPINION from page 6, IMMIGRATION....)

technology, we can reach out to more people than by simply providing semi pro bono legal consultations in our law office. The much discounted fee charged will be used to sustain the EMAILGRATION program to cover salaries of lawyers and staff, office rent, announcements and other costs - and be able to

help more people. For more information, just google "Ted Laguatan" and go to our website. You may also email laguatan-law@gmail.com or call 650 991-1154.

ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is one of only 29 lawyers continuously officially certified for almost 25 years now by the California State Bar as Immigration Law Expert-Specialists.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

OMM to Send Mission Team to Luzon, Bicol

In its on-going effort to reach out to our poor and needy *kababayans*, the Ohana Medical Missions, Inc. (OMM) will soon be leaving for yet another medical mission, the first scheduled for 2015.

A group of over 50 volunteer physicians, nurses, medical personnel and laypersons are preparing to visit several sites in Luzon, the largest and most populous island in the Philippines, from February 14- 21, 2015. They will be providing free medical and humanitarian services to the poorest of the poor in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City; Gawad Kalinga-Aloha Village in Agudo, Mandaluyong;



Gerona, Tarlac; Naga City, Legaspi City and Bacacay, Albay of the Bicol region.

“We do these missions several times a year because the need is so great,” says Dr. Russell S. Kelly, OMM President. “Many of our volunteers are repeat participants who have discovered the joys and deep personal fulfillment that

come with helping others in need.”

Heading the mission are co-chairs Dr. Kelly and Dr. Romeo Perez, a retired U.S. military OB-Gynecologist specialist. Also joining the group is Dr. Carol Davide, the newly-inaugurated president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii which is

the parent organization of OMM.

OMM members have raised funds for much-needed equipment, medical and dental supplies, most of which are donated and the rest purchased. During the mission, OMM will donate over \$200,000 worth of medications, “in-kind” gifts such as

toiletry items, soap and rice, along with some 5,000 gently-used eyeglasses collected by the Aiea Lions Club.

So far, OMM has received medicines and supplies from AmeriCares and other generous donors. All donations received are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

“We encourage you to open your hearts and give what you can for this mission,” says volunteer physician Dr. Charlie Sonido, a Waipahu-based physician who has been on several missions. “Every dollar that you give will be used to provide health care and health education for those who truly need it the most.”

To make a donation to OMM, mail it to P.O. Box 1294, Pearl City, HI 96782 or contact J.P. Orias at 387-8297.

COMMENTARY (from page 5, **MAGUINDANAO....**)

study the filing of charges against those responsible for the mayhem, to include some MILF commanders.

By now, everyone wants to get to the bottom of this gruesome incident. Congressional hearings on the Bangsamoro Basic Law, the instrument that would give autonomy to the Muslims under the 2014 peace deal, have been tabled. At least eight bodies have been created to conduct investigations to ferret out the truth and pin down those accountable for the massacre. Will they provide the right information, or only add to the growing confusion and endless fingerpointing? Some say a Truth Commission will be more credible.

SAF Commander Getulio

Napeñas, Jr. was sacked shortly after the incident. He was blamed for not coordinating with the military or MILF command. But Napeñas quickly retorted, “we don’t trust the MILF.” He invoked the case of the US Navy Seals who got Osama Bin Laden without the knowledge of Pakistani authorities. True enough, informing the “coddlers” of terrorists might result in the valued targets slipping away. How could the MILF make the public believe that they do not know about Marwan and Usman? Eid Kabalu, former spokesperson of the MILF, has doubts that the MILF command is unaware of their existence – these terrorists have lived with them for years.

But something more is under question as events unfold. Napeñas is reporting to General Purisima, who has no official jurisdiction as he is under 6-month suspension by the Ombudsman. General Espina as OIC has been kept out of the loop, and so has DILG Secretary Mar Roxas, who both learn of Oplan Wolverine when it is already in motion. Napeñas argues that Roxas is not part of the chain of command.

According to the 1997 agreement on cessation of hostilities, both the government and MILF must exercise coordination and restraint in handling cases like this. Government forces must give the MILF prior notice when they apprehend criminals in their territory. But the MILF is

also enjoined to provide information to the government about these notorious elements, and are duty-bound to block their escape. If they are equal partners in promoting peace, the tasks of coordination and cooperation must be mutual, not one-sided.

The massacre of SAF 44 also opened a crack in the presumed non-alliance between MILF and BIFF. The BIFF is a breakaway faction that insists on secession or independence, as the MILF pursues a substate arrangement. On the ground, they are like one “family,” as BIFF spokesman Abu Misri Mama termed it.

At this time, relatives of the victims – both from SAF and MILF – cry for justice and accountability. Will they get it while PNoy is still president? Or will they suffer the same fate of the aggrieved parties in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, now on the verge of becoming a cold case?

FEDERICO V. MAGDALENA, PH.D. is Associate Director and Faculty Specialist at the Center for Philippine Studies. He is project manager of a Mindanao peace-building initiative under a grant from the US Institute of Peace, jointly implemented by the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and Mindanao State University.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, **DID YOU....**)

But it was far from a total victory. Because the government declined to appeal, the 1944 Supreme Court decision remained untouched. Korematsu’s crew of young lawyers could not address the high court.

“We were stuck at the district level,” said lead attorney Dale Minami. “But we did undercut the factual and legal basis for what the Supreme Court did.”

But is that enough? Minami told me it would be ignorant for anyone to use Korematsu as a precedent

today for the wholesale imprisonment of people because of their race.

But then what do you say to all those post-9/11 incarcerations of Muslims at immigration holding cells from New York to Guantanamo? What about the proclivity of the government and law enforcement to use racial profiling?

It’s not far-fetched to see how xenophobic zealots without a knowledge of history could easily misread *Korematsu*, even though the lower court’s conviction was actually vacated.

And so the Supreme Court case remains dangling out there for zealots to abuse. But it forces us to keep Korematsu’s memory alive and make his lifelong fight our perpetual battle for civil rights.

Hawaii is one of the few that has a Korematsu Day. It’s alright if you missed it. You can honor him simply with a deep breath in the name of freedom.

EMIL GUILLERMO served on the editorial board of the *Honolulu Advertiser* and was the first Filipino to host a national news program. He lives in Northern California.



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

SAF Chief: I Reported Directly to Purisima

by Cecille Suerte Felipe
Thursday, February 5, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Over a week after 44 police commandos were killed during a mission to capture high-value terrorists in Maguindanao, their sacked commander has admitted reporting the progress of the operation directly to suspended Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Alan Purisima.

Relieved Special Action Force (SAF) chief Director Getulio Napeñas also revealed that Purisima instructed him to inform PNP officer-in-charge Deputy Director Gen. Leonardo Espina of the mission only after the commandos had reached Mamasapano in Maguindanao on Jan. 25.

"General Purisima told me to inform General Espina about the mission when we got there," Napeñas told a press conference yesterday at Camp Crame.

"I was reporting both to Deputy Director General Espina and Director General Purisima because from the very beginning, about April 2014, it was General Purisima's project. He was the one who approved the operation plan last November," Napeñas said.

Purisima has been serving a six-month suspension by the Office of the Ombudsman since Dec. 4 for plunder.

Napeñas later clarified that he informed Espina about the SAF raid only after his men were already fighting their way out of the remote village where they had killed Marwan.

Espina and Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II had said they were out of the loop during the planning and execution of the operations. President Aquino had admitted knowing about the operations.

The relieved SAF chief said he did not inform Roxas about the SAF operation as doing so would violate the chain of command.

"Up to the level of Sec. Roxas, I do not report to him directly - that will be a violation of our chain of command," said Napeñas.

Napeñas noted that as SAF chief, he was supposed to report directly to the PNP chief or the PNP OIC and not to Roxas.

Napeñas said as early as 2010, the SAF had been monitoring and planning the arrest of Marwan and Usman.

Protect SAF image

He said he decided to break his silence on the matter to protect the image of the SAF, which is being maligned due to misinformation.

He said he first led a special operation against Marwan in December 2010 in Parang,



Relieved PNP-Special Action Force chief Director Getulio Napeñas fields questions on the Mamasapano raid during a press conference at Camp Crame yesterday. STAR/Boy Santos

Sulu but their target escaped.

Another operation was conducted on July 14 to 16, 2012 in Lanao del Sur, where Marwan's hideout was found. Again, Marwan - along with other foreign members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) - dodged the SAF.

On Dec. 17, 2012, another search for Marwan was set into motion in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), particularly the Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC), but the operation was discontinued.

On April 25, 2014, Operation Wolverine began, in coordination with the 6th Infantry Battalion of the AFP, headed by Maj. Gen. Romeo Gapuz.

Joining the operation was the PNP- Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) chief Director Noel delos

Reyes, who also provided the intelligence packet.

Ultimately, the operation was aborted, as the AFP was not able to commit a mechanized brigade to the operation.

On May 30, 2014, another operation was supposed to be launched, but was aborted after a reconnaissance unit alerted them to the presence of many members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) near Marwan's hideout.

In November 2014, Purisima informed Napeñas of the exact location of Marwan and Usman.

Purisima ordered Napeñas to coordinate with the intelligence group.

On Nov. 29, Operation Plan Terminator began but was aborted after the boat to be used by operatives encountered a mishap.

Another operation was made on Dec. 12, 2014, but this too was aborted after operatives ran into a rebel group.

Napeñas said he is ready to resign from the police force if the man they had killed during the Jan. 25 operation would turn out to be somebody other than Marwan.

"I am betting... I will perhaps resign if he was not Marwan," Napeñas, who was near tears, said.

Napeñas said he was banking on the credibility of the source who led the SAF men to Marwan in Pidsandawan, Mamasapano in Maguindanao on Jan. 25.

A GMA News report said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has confirmed after testing that the DNA sample taken from Marwan's severed index finger was indeed his.

A total of 41 SAF men from the 84th Special Action Company (SAC) Seaborne acted as the assault team which pounced on Marwan in Barangay Pidsandawan, while 36 commandos from 55th SAC served as blocking force.

An undetermined number of SAF men from the 45th SAC were supposed to reinforce their embattled comrades but they were stopped by MILF rebels in Barangay Tukanali-pao, also in Mamasapano.

Napeñas has reportedly met with members of the Board of Inquiry to submit his report on the incident. (www.philstar.com)

TRAVEL & TOURISM (from page 9, HOME...)

crucified. The image is believed to be that of Jesus Christ.

Several accounts dismiss the Shroud of Turin as a hoax, with radiocarbon dating indicating it is from the Medieval Ages. A number of official tourism guidebooks for the city list the Museo Egizio, which houses one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities including mummies and sarcophagi, together with Italian attractions such as Valentino Park, with its medieval village and botanical garden around an 18th-century castle. But the Shroud of Turin is not mentioned in these guidebooks. With no official endorsement or rejection by the Vatican of its authenticity, the contro-

versy rages.

I managed to find my way to the shroud only because a recorded voice guide on the hop-on, hop-off double-deck tour bus that I took from Turin's city center mentioned the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, where the shroud is kept.

Hoax or not, the shroud is put on public display in Turin only twice a year, to preserve it from the elements. Even the replica on permanent display is protected from heat and light, kept behind glass in a church alcove. Photographs of the replica can be taken only from afar, without a flash.

When I visited the church there were only a handful of

people around, but I was told that the twice-a-year public display of the original attracts a large crowd.

At the exposition of the shroud in March 2013, Pope Francis would only say that "the Man of the Shroud invites us to contemplate Jesus of Nazareth."

But last year the popular pontiff announced plans for a pilgrimage to Turin this June, to venerate the shroud and honor the bicentenary of the birth of Saint John Bosco.

Fans of Pope Francis can join him in his pilgrimage to Turin later this year, there to contemplate the origin of the mysterious shroud. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Philippines is 2nd in Number of Immigrant Visa Applicants

Ommigrant visa applications in the various preference categories which are subject to numerical limit are registered on the visa waiting list. Approved petitions for applicants applying overseas are forwarded by the United State Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to the Department of State (DOS).

A report from the National Visa Center and submitted to the Department of State shows that the number of family-based applicants on the waiting list for immigrant visa numbers as of November 1, 2014 was 4,331,750, an increase of 120,779 or 2.9% from last year. The number of employment-based visa applicants was 90,910, down by 20,694 or -18.5% from last year.

The Philippines placed second over-all, with 428,765 reg-

istrants. The other countries that round up the top five in terms of number of registrants are: Mexico – 1,323,978; India – 323,089; Vietnam – 259,030; and China – 243,440.

These numbers include the principal applicants or petition beneficiaries as well as their spouses and children entitled to derivative status. However, they do not include immediate relatives who are not subject to the numerical limitations, namely, spouses, unmarried children under 21 years of age, and parents of U.S. citizens.

Applicants for adjustment of status are not included. The figures do not also include those who failed to respond within one year to the visa application instruction letter sent by the National Visa Center notifying them of visa availability. In such case, the petition is considered inactive and not counted. An annual worldwide as well as per country limit of immigrant visa issued is set in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality

Act (INA). There is also a limit on each preference category. During the fiscal year 2014 which ran from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, visas issued were no more than 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and approximately 150,241 in the employment-based preferences. The per country limit was approximately 26,337.

The number of registrants for the family-based preferences (F) are: F1 (unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens) – 314,527; F2A (spouses and children of permanent residents) – 257,355; F2B (adult sons and daughters of permanent residents) – 498,277; F3 (married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens) – 805,627; and F4 (brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens) – 2,455,964.

The Philippines has the second highest number of family preference registrants with 399,061.

Mexico ranked first in all family-based preferences. The

Philippines ranked second in the F3, category; third in the F1 and F2B categories, fourth in the F2A category and fifth in the F4 category. More cases may be added to the F1 waiting list because of the automatic conversion of pending 2B cases into F1 cases upon the naturalization of the petitioner. The automatic conversion may be avoided by availing of opt-out provision under the Child Status Protection Act. Many Filipinos have taken advantage of this law by opting to remain under F-2B in order to avoid the longer wait under F1.

In the employment-based categories, the Philippines ranks first with 29,704 followed by India with 27,832; China with 11,672; South Korea with 3,328 and Mexico with 2,609. The report notes that 86% of all employment-based preference immigrants are currently being processed as adjustment of status cases at the USCIS offices.

The number of registrants

under the employment-based preferences (EB) are broken down as follows: EB1 (workers with extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers, and multinational managers and executives) – 2,733; EB2 (advanced degree professionals and aliens of exceptional ability) – 8,380; EB3 (skilled workers and professionals) – 65,580; EB3 (other workers) 7,484, EB4 (special immigrants and religious workers) – 315; and EB5 (employment creation) 6,418.

The Philippines ranked first in the EB3 (skilled workers) category, and fourth in the EB2 and EB 3 (other workers) categories.

For fiscal year 2015, the annual maximum number of visas to be issued in the family-based category will be no more than 226,000 and approximately 144,000 in the employment-based category. Per country limit will be approximately 25,900.

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

Gabbard Works to Restore America's Wire Act

In an effort to reverse the Department of Justice's (DOJ) 2011 decision expanding online gaming, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is working across the aisle with Republican colleague U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah on legislation to restore America's Wire Act prohibiting all forms of internet gambling.

The legislators co-introduced bipartisan legislation in response to concerns raised by many state Attorneys General about the impact of the DOJ's decision on their respective states. Utah and Hawaii are the only two states in the U.S. to reject all forms of gambling.

"The FBI and state attorneys general from different parts of the country have raised multiple concerns about this new change," says Gabbard.



"This bill restores protections against criminal activity which existed in the pre-2011 interpretation of the law.

In a letter dated February 4, 2014, Attorneys General from 16 states and territories wrote to Congress asking that the decades-long interpretation of the Wire Act be restored to allow Congress and the states to more fully consider the public policy ramifications of the DOJ's reinterpretation of the Wire Act and to give federal and state law enforcement agencies time to fully assess the implications of internet

gambling.

"Congress has the responsibility to debate these regulations openly and should not allow bureaucrats to unilaterally change the law behind closed doors," Gabbard says. "Until that debate takes place, Congress must restore the long-standing interpretation of the Wire Act."

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Piesta Ti Kailokuan Maselebraran Ti Kada Umuna Nga Bulan Ti Tawen

No madanon ti umuna nga bulan ti tawen ti napatag unay a panawen a panglagip ti nagapuan nga ILOKOS. Taliawen ti nalikuddan a kas met ti panangtan-aw ti masanguanan.

Enero 24, 2015 ti aldaw a pannakaipasirpat ti nalikudan a panagpiesta iti pagiliantayo. Malagip tayo pay a no umadani ti piesta, isagsagana tayo ti pakipiasta tayo. Isu ti panagtagatang ti baro a bado ken sapatos a pakipiasta tayo. Ti kaadda tayo ditoy Hawaii, iranatayo ti agbakasion no madanon ti piesta idia ili tayo ta malagip ngamin ti kinaragsak ti piesta.

Ditoy Hawaii selebraran-tayo met ti piesta kada umuna a bulan ti tawen -January 24, 2015, mangrugi ti 5:00 iti malem agingga iti rabii. Maaramid idiaiy August

Ahrens School Cafeteria ta isu ti nalawa a pagpapasan dagiti sumasala. Maidasar amin a sala a kas met laeng idiaiy pagiliantayo. Adda kapetkapet, lajota ken pandanggo ilokano ,music ken kankanta.

Adda met pakilap ti komedia Ilokana nakairuaman a buybuyaen no madanon ti piesta. Pakilap laeng ti komedia ta ababa met ti oras tayo ditoy. Saan a kas idiaiy ilitayo a dua nga aldaw, santo la malpas iti maidadua a rabii. Nupay no ababa laeng ti panakaipakilap ti komedia, umdasen a mangipalagip ti nabuybuya idiaiy Pilipinas. Adu pay met laeng dagiti nataengan a makaipakita ti makuna a Komedia Ilokana. Awan kadagiti ginasut nga organisasion Filipino ditoy Hawaii ti makaipabuya no di laeng ti AKA (Annak ti Kailokuan iti America) babaen ti presidente ti AKA - ni Pacita Saludes, a writer ken direktorna. Adda pay met laeng dagiti nalaing nga agkomedia a kas kada Fely Cristobal, Andrea Mendoza, Albina

Gamponia, Amy Espiritu, Josie Takamoto, Roland Pascua, Joseph Badua, Salvador Obaldo ken dagiti "oldies" ditoy Hawaii.

Adda met koronasion a pakabalangatan dagiti rereyna a napili iti daytoy a rabii. Ti Mrs. Annak ti Kailokuan 2015 - ni Evelyn Luzano Misukami ken Miss AKA 2015 - ni Sherilyn Dariki; ti Mrs. GUMIL 2015 - ni Rita Sagucio, Miss GUMIL Hawaii 2015 - ni Talen Cristobal. Isuda ti agturay ita tawen 2015 kadagitoy dua nga agtintinnulong nga organisasion. Adanto met dagiti pangulo ti UFCH - ni Mrs Maria Etrata, presidente ti OFCC - ni Alex Vergara, ni Dr. Belinda Aquino ken dadduma pay sangsangaili nga umay met makipiasta.

Naurnos ti programa babaen ti panangiwanwan dagiti kanayon a mangiturturong ti programa - da Advisor Roland ken Edith Pascua. Agsapata met iti daytoy a rabii dagiti kappili nga opisiales ti AKA iti tawen 2015. Pagsap-

ataen ida ti Legal Advisor ni Atty Melody Aduja. Naorganisar ti Gumil Hawaii idi January 16, 1971 ket naorganisar

met ti AKA idi July 4,1986. Happy New Year to everyone - manipud kadagiti agpasken - AKA ken GH.

DANIW PARA KADAGITI APAGKASAR

Nagasat nga aldaw a naisangrat Panaglantip dua a puso nga agayan-ayat Masaksian adu a tao a managayat Narungbo a selebrasion a naiwayat

Kenka Dani

Nalikudamon ti kinabalasang Sanguemon biag a naestaduan Agpatanor pamilia a nakaisangratan Aramidem obligasionmo a nailatang

Kenka Ricky

Itan ta maikutam ni Dani Lipatemon napalabas a kinamaymaysam Laglagipem nga adda sungsungbatam Sumsunga kenka kadagiti amin a sardam No adda kinasungit ta asawam Agpalabaska ket an-anusam Ayatna kenka a napalalo Ken lailona dayta no maminsan Galad dayta ti babai a naasawaan Dimonto koma gamden a pagluaen

Maikaited dadagsen ken sakit ti nakem Taginayonem ta sam-it kas idi purosem Kasta ti palimed a natalingenngen

Dani ken Ricky

Dikay koma liplipatan Dagitoy balbalikasko kadakayo nabalitokan Italimengyo koma dita kaunggan Napatpateg ngem iti kuarta nga innak ipaay.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippines Protests Chinese Ramming of 3 Filipino Boats

from www.philstar.com |Wednesday, February 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government says it has protested to Beijing after a Chinese coast guard ship allegedly rammed and damaged three Filipino fishing boats and endangered the lives of fishermen at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs says it also lodged a separate protest with Beijing on Wednesday over what it said was the illegal collection of endangered giant clams by Chinese fishermen, in the process destroying coral outcrops at Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The incidents are the latest in a long-running territorial dispute that has strained relations between the two Asian neighbors.

China took effective control of Scarborough in 2012. Chinese coast guard ships have also surrounded Second Thomas Shoal, where Filipino marines are manning a grounded navy ship.

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FOOD & LEISURE

Valentine's Day Recipe Ideas for You and Your Beau

MANILA, Philippines – They say the best way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Forget lavish restaurants and get your aprons ready. If you want to impress your beau this Valentine's Day, here are some of the delicious recipes you might consider serving:

Bacon-Wrapped Stuffed Mushrooms

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 8 ounce cream cheese
- 20 fresh mushrooms
- 1 lb sliced bacon

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
 2. In a medium bowl, mix together the green onions and cream cheese. Stuff mushroom caps with the cheese mixture. Wrap each mushroom with a half-slice of bacon, and secure with toothpicks. Place on a baking sheet.
 3. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until the bacon is cooked through.
- Adapted from allrecipes.com



Bacon-wrapped Enoki Mushrooms. Photo by Arnold Gatilao CC/BY

Beer-Braised Chops

Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoon(s) olive oil
- 4 center-cut bone-in pork chops
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 2 Anjou pears, peeled, cored, and cut into 3/4-inch-thick wedges
- 1 bottle(s) (12-ounce) beer
- 3/4 teaspoon(s) dried sage



Beer-braised chops. Photo by countryliving

Directions:

1. Preheat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season pork chops with salt and pepper. Add to skillet and sear until lightly browned, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer chops to a plate. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat from pan.
 2. Add pears to skillet and saute over medium-high heat until golden, about 6 minutes. Transfer pears to plate with pork chops.
 3. Add beer and sage into pan. With a wooden spoon, scrape up caramelized bits from bottom. Add pork chops and pears back to pan and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Partially cover skillet with lid, reduce heat to low, and braise until chops are cooked through, 5 to 7 minutes.
 4. Remove chops and pears from pan. Skim away any fat from liquid, increase heat to medium, and cook until sauce is reduced by half, about 10 minutes. Serve pork chops topped with pears and sauce.
- Adapted from countryliving.com

Frozen Banana Bites

Ingredients:

- 2 bananas, cut into 1/2 -inch slices
- 5 ounces chocolate chunks
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened shredded coconut (optional)



Frozen Banana Bites. Photo by Elanas Pantry CC/BY-NC-ND

Directions:

1. Place sliced bananas on a parchment paper lined plate.
2. One by one, using a small heart shaped cookie cutter, cut banana slices into hearts.
3. Melt chocolate over very low heat.
4. Dip sliced banana hearts into chocolate, then sprinkle with coconut.
5. Place on parchment lined plate to set.
6. Freeze for 1 hour.

Adapted from elanaspantry.com (www.philstar.com)

GLOBAL NEWS

UP-Diliman Physicist Discovers How to Slow Light

Dr. Jacqueline Romero, a physicist from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, and her colleagues at the University of Glasgow in Scotland have discovered how to slow down light travel to less than the speed of light without actually touching it.

Romero finished her undergraduate and graduate studies at UP-Diliman and is currently on

a post doctoral fellowship in Scotland. She is a member of a team of scientists whose experiments have proven that light particles can be slowed down in a near-vacuum.

The speed of light at 186,282 miles per second in free space has been regarded as absolute. In common refraction, this speed has been observed to slow down and change direction when passing through glass or

water and going back to its higher velocity as soon as it returns to free space.

Romero's team, however, has proven that the speed of light can remain slowed down even after returning to free space—without interacting with glass or water.

The team placed individual particles of light called photons on a racetrack with one photon left in its normal state and the

other sent through a special mask. The mask changed the photons' shape, slowing them to less than the speed of light. The photon continued to travel at the lower speed at 0.001 percent slower than the (normal) speed of light even after being released to free space.

The ground-breaking experiment will likely change how science views light. The implications may range from

a review of the accurate measure of very short distances using large aperture lenses, to the use of light to make extremely precise measurements in determining how far the moon is from the earth. While there are no immediate practical applications for this scientific feat, the results of the experiment has reignited talk of the possibility of teleportation and suspending sunlight in thin air. (GoodNewsPilipinas.com)

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