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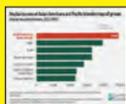
## THE YEAR IN REVIEW: HITS AND MISSES OF 2016

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## EDITORIALS

## New Year Brings Fresh Start

**Q**ittle do we realize that perhaps the best Christmas gift we receive arrives on January 1st, signaling the start of a brand new year and a fresh start. The failures, disappointments and bad habits of the previous year are wiped clean and we are all presented with a blank canvas on which to start all over again. For most of us, the new year means making resolutions that involve doing more of this or less of that. Spend less. Save more. Eat healthier. Such resolutions are commendable but the vast majority fail within a few weeks or so. For the most part, real change requires a brand new way of thinking.

Psychologists say that the way we think will often determine the way we feel, and the way we feel will determine the way we act. So in order to change the way we act, we need to start by changing the way we think. Additionally, to change the way we feel, we also need to change the way we think. For example, we can resolve to spend more time with family in the weeks and months to come but determining it in our heart probably isn't going to last very long or make any lasting difference. Think back to the number of times we tried to convince ourselves into feeling a particular way—and eventually failed not long after. Instead, we need to change the way we think about our kids and our spouse, which will change the way we feel and then the way we act.

The battle to keep a resolution or to deal with the defects in your life starts in your mind—not in your behavior. If you want to change any behavior or anything in your emotions, you need to start with your thoughts and attitude. We are now several days into the New Year. To make the glow of a fresh start continue to last, let's remember to change the way we think which in turn will affect our emotions and the way we act—for the better.

So here's to a happy and prosperous 2017! May the new year bring you a brand new way of thinking that will make this year your best ever.

## Saving Manufacturing Jobs Will Be a Steep Hill to Climb

**Q**an president-elect Donald Trump deliver on his campaign promise to stop manufacturing jobs from leaving?

Trump successfully managed to stop a Carrier plant in Indianapolis from moving to Mexico, saving 730 jobs. But many other companies are already ready to close shop and exit before any new policy can be adopted. Manitowoc Foodservice, a beverage dispenser and ice machine maker, is in the final stages of closing, laying off 84 workers, and headed to Mexico. Rexnord Corporation, is also headed south of the border, leaving 300 workers unemployed. Rexnord is looking to save \$15 million a year by moving, even though the company is far from being in the red. Rexnord profited \$24.6 million in just its fiscal second quarter, up from \$22.6 million a year earlier. Other companies in Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and many other states are in the same position as Rexnord, already sound and profitable, but on their way to Mexico or China to reduce operational costs.

Now that the election dust is settled, the real challenge of saving manufacturing jobs begins, specifically the dilemma of balancing the right amount of government intervention in a free market, and putting it into policy. It is a quandary no different from what Democrats have been attempting in the health care industry. Without a uniformed policy in place -- which will be a

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**H**appy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed a very joyous Christmas season with your loved ones. We don't know what 2017 holds in store for us but we pray that the good Lord will grant us the strength and courage to face whatever challenges come our way these next 12 months. As always, the Chronicle will be here to provide you with the latest news and updates affecting Hawaii's Filipino community.



It is customary for the Chronicle to begin the first issue of the new year with a review of the previous year. For the most part, 2016 was a good year for Filipinos with several positive outcomes as you will read in this issue's cover story. To really no one's surprise, Rodrigo Duterte was our top newsmaker of 2016, winning the presidency and launching a nationwide effort to crack down on drugs and crime in the Philippines. Turn to page 9 for other top stories of 2016 that impacted the Filipino community.

In other news, the state's new minimum wage rate of \$9.25 per hour took effect on January 1st. Also, with the Trump presidential inauguration just days away, minorities and immigrant rights groups are bracing for what could be significant cuts and changes in government programs and policies. On page 8, columnist Emil Guillermo discusses the impacts these cuts could have on Asian-Americans and particularly Filipino-Americans who could lose out if we don't fight for our fair share.

Locally, the State Legislature will also be convening. Much of the focus will be on efforts to extend the general excise tax to pay for the \$8 billion rail project. The City Council and administration will float various "give and take" proposals to state lawmakers who hopefully will see the wisdom in approving the GET extension.

That's all for now. We are grateful for your support and wish you the best for a safe and prosperous 2017.

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

tough pass in Congress --Trump can negotiate to save a Carrier plant in Indianapolis as he has done, but many other companies like Manitowoc Foodservice, Rexnord Corporation, will continue to flee.

Trump already has been criticized by the far right and the likes of Sarah Pain for intervening in the Carrier deal and forcing a strong hand onto the free market. Trump represents a break from the GOP in this vein, as a meddler in the market. But he owes it to his voters, yes Republican voters, to do almost the impossible - reverse the tide of globalism and save the U.S. manufacturing industry, which would entail, at minimum, government intervention.

What's suspect is the flip-flop game the GOP plays. How is it that government intervention is acceptable in one industry (manufacturing) and completely anathema in others like health-care? It's time the GOP stop playing both sides of the fence and be consistent in what they believe in when it comes to government intervention in the free market. The GOP knows very well that pure capitalism is dysfunctional, and in this day, just doesn't exist.

That said, though, it's undeniable that the influence of government is far less potent than it used to be while the muscle of globalism and market forces strengthen. Government is no longer the real driver of our country; multi-nationals and the free market

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OPINION

# Ridiculous But Damaging

**A LAW EACH DAY (Keeps Trouble Away) By Jose C. Sison**

**A**s we start the New Year, the feelings of uncertainty and trepidation still appear to be prevalent among our people. This is obviously because our newspaper headlines are still about the numerous killings happening all over the country which are not only in connection with the on-going war against dangerous drugs but also about the alleged killings that happened in the past. Incredible as it is, one cannot help but be disturbed and

upset by the latest statement of self-confessed killer Edgar Matobato, an erstwhile member of the defunct Davao Death Squad. Once more he dared to say without hesitation that he personally saw our own President Duterte kill 8 people when he was still the City Mayor of Davao.

Even if the Palace spokesman and most of us do not believe that Duterte could do such horrible deeds and that Matobato's latest revelations are "incredulous" and were just a repeat of his previous statement in the Senate,

and that he may have perjured himself, this matter cannot just be ignored and dismissed by merely attacking Matobato's credibility in the media. Nor is it enough that the Senate through Richard Gordon, the chairman of the justice committee which conducted a previous investigation on extrajudicial killings, already found that "Matobato cannot even prove the same statements he made in the Senate when he was given the chance to do so." In fact Senators Gordon and Lacson even cited the inconsistencies and "holes" in Matobato's previous testimony before the Sen-

ate panel.

Doubts and fears still persist among many of our countrymen simply because these inconsistencies alone do not mean that Matobato is indeed lying. As held by the Supreme Court in a number of cases, "Trivial inconsistencies do not rock the pedestal upon which the credibility of the witnesses rests but enhances credibility as they manifest spontaneity and lack of scheming." (People vs. Camat, 677 SCRA, 640). "Slight variations in the testimony of a witness as to minor details or collateral matters do not affect his or her credibility as those variations are in fact indicative of truth and show that the witness was not coached to fabricate or dis-

semble" (People vs. Nelimida, 680 SCRA 386).

To put a final closure and erase all doubts about this issue, the same must be resolved through due process of law. And due process of law here does not involve the Senate or the Executive Department through its spokesperson. Nor could it be settled through publicity in media. Only our courts of justice have the power to settle this controversy; to determine whether not the inconsistencies are trivial or on minor details and collateral matters as to affect or not affect Matobato's credibility.

In this connection, the Senate justice committee has

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## EDITORIALS

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are -- that makes it that much more challenging to save the U.S. manufacturing industry.

### Dying industries

We just need to look at the dying industries of the past decade as a classic example of the dominance of market forces. Government was not to blame for their demise, neither Democrats, Republicans, or unions. It was the free market that was responsible for tens of thousands of jobs lost and crumbling industries.

A 24/7 Wall St. report that analyzed employment figures from 2006-2015 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the top 25 dying industries are in peril due to two major causes: one, cost reduction via outsourcing of jobs to cheaper markets of labor; and two, new technologies.

The first factor outsourcing -- when a country like China continues to pay workers in the garment industry less than \$150 a month, it's a no-brainer that big corporations will go there to make clothing. To save on cheap labor via outsourcing, the garment industry in the U.S. has been shrinking each year to where the bulk of all clothing Americans import is made from China. The fabric mills industry in the U.S. has gone down by 65 percent from 2006-2015. The dying garment and apparel industry mirrors the trend of other

manufacturing in the U.S. The cost-savings to do business overseas is just too dramatic a difference that market forces will dictate a company to make the move abroad.

The second jobs killer, technology, once again, has less to do with government policy than market forces. Robotics and automation has axed thousands of jobs in manufacturing and service industries. Fiber optics, the cell phone and the internet are responsible for the dramatic drop by over 40 to 90 percent in the satellite, libraries and archives, telephone apparatus manufacturing (home phones), photofinishing, video tape and disk rental, books and music retail, printing, and publishing industries. In an example of how rapid high technology is replacing other high tech jobs, take the example of the Magnetic media manufacturing industry that entails the production of computer hard drives and DVDS, and other data storage technology like floppy disks and video cassettes. These once popular forms of magnetic media are near obsolete and now being replaced by cloud storage. Jobs in this industry went from 40,000 to 2006 to only 16,000 last year.

### Balance

The U.S. economy is valued at \$20 trillion and remains number one in the world. Its success is largely due in part to

allowing the free market to flow unobstructed; but Americans must also recognize the hand of government continues to play a significant role in this formula of success. The latter cannot be underestimated. What Americans do not want is to concede to all the demands of manufacturing companies such as paying workers dirt cheap wages just to keep jobs from going overseas. But we need to extend tax breaks and other creative incentives to remain competitive in the global market. We must adopt a political will of balance.

A new more moral, ethical culture must flourish in the world of business in which companies ought to be loyal to the communities they serve. Politicians must have the backbone and loyalty to their people to stand up to the corporate lobby that puts profits only first. Perhaps, then, companies can begin to act in kind and see the ethical and moral value of keeping their business in the U.S. Our country offers unsurpassed infrastructure, safety, and regulatory security to keep companies here and make healthy profits. If making those extra millions abroad exploiting foreigners is the course these companies make, it's time for the U.S. to play hard ball and exact heavy penalties to ensure their products are not sold here at the prices they

want. Companies cannot have it both ways -- profit at the backs of foreign cheap labor then profit from the relatively wealthier U.S. consumers.

Americans demand accountability of their government; it's time that Americans demand accountability from the big corporations that take our money.

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## COVER STORY

# Top Stories of 2016—A Year of Tragedies and Triumphs

By Dennis Galolo

**W**ith 2016 now in our rear view mirror, it's time to turn our attention to 2017—the Year of the Rooster, according to the Chinese zodiac. But before doing so, perhaps a look back at 2016 is in order. After all, the beginning of the new year is an ideal time to review the previous 12 months for any lessons learned and to look for ways to make things better.

In 2016, we learned about the mosquito-borne Zika virus, which spread throughout the Americas and has been linked to neurological ailments such as paralysis and devastating birth defects. The Centers For Disease Control (CDC) issued its highest alert level for Zika, while the World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency. Additionally, Hawaii health officials wrestled with a lingering Hepatitis A epidemic. An investigative team from the CDC traced the source to tainted products from a Philippine-based seafood supplier.

In local politics, incumbent Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell won re-election to a second term. He emerged from the Pri-

mary as the top vote getter and went on to beat former councilmember and congressman Charles Djou in the General. Also, leadership positions were shaken up at the Honolulu Authority For Rapid Transportation (HART), the agency tasked with overseeing the multi-billion dollar rail project. Board chair Don Horner resigned, followed by CEO and executive director Dan Grabauskas.

Nationally, the past year was tumultuous, as we learned about the Black Lives Matter movement, shootings of unarmed black men by police officers and resulting widespread protests in several major cities. Then there was the horrific shooting at an Orlando nightclub that left 49 victims dead

and the gay community reeling. We also saw the passing of several icons, including pop megastar Prince (who is half Filipino), boxing legend Muhammad Ali and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

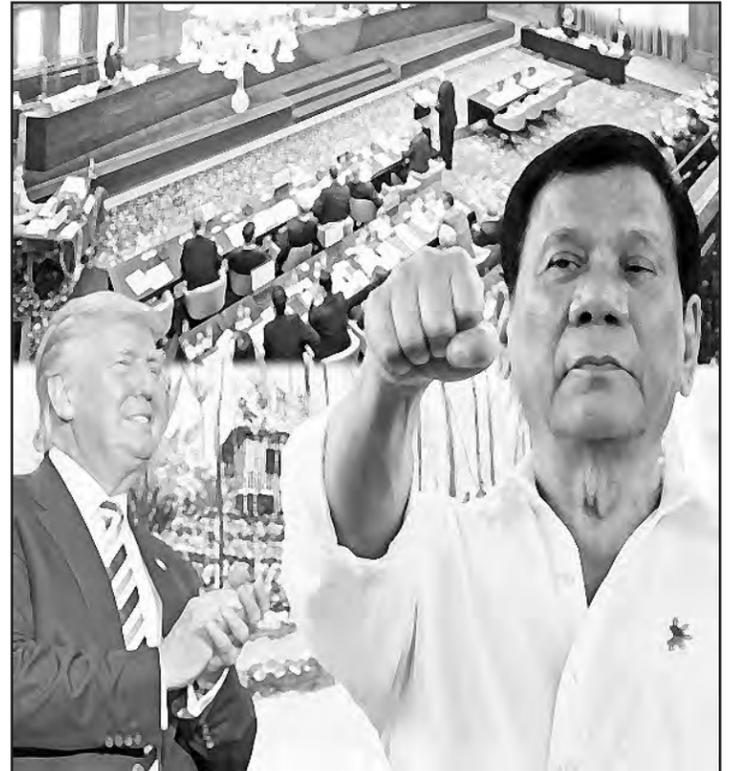
As far as Filipinos are concerned, 2016 proved to be a far better year than most, with several positive developments as seen in the following list of the Chronicle's Top 10 News stories affecting Hawaii's Filipino community in 2016. Enjoy!

## 1. Duterte Wins Philippine Presidency

Former Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte emerged from a crowded field of candidates to win a landslide election as the 16th president of the Philippines. Coming in second by some six million votes was former Senator Manuel "Mar" Roxas who was endorsed by former president Benigno Aquino.

The tough-talking, foul-mouthed Duterte captured the hearts and minds of the common people who were long fed-up with drugs, crime and corruption that have plagued the Philippines. Since assuming the presidency, Duterte has made good on his campaign promise to kill suspected drug dealers and other criminals—earning the support of the masses as well as condemnation from the United Nations, Barack Obama and human rights groups.

Duterte's crackdown on crime has led to severely over-



crowded conditions in the nation's jails and prisons. He has also been soundly criticized for approving the burial of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos at a national heroes cemetery. Nevertheless, he continues to enjoy the support of the people as evidenced in an October 2016 poll that showed him with an 86 percent approval rating.

In related news, Duterte named his long-time friend and Hawaii resident Perfecto Yasay, Jr. as secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. An attorney by training who has practiced law in the U.S. and in the Philippines, Yasay is a former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines. In early December, he made a special appearance at a town hall meeting hosted by the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu. He cordially answered a number of wide-ranging questions from the audience, which included nearly 150 community leaders, politicians, government officials and invited guests attended the event.

## 2. Trump Wins U.S. Presidency, Angers Filipinos and Filipino-Americans

Coming in a close second for the top story of 2016 is business mogul Donald Trump

who shockingly beat Democrat opponent Hillary Clinton for president of the U.S. in one of the most bitterly contested elections in recent memory. Tens of thousands took to the streets in protest and called for election reforms.

Trump unleashed a tidal wave of scorn from Filipinos and Filipino-Americans for his comments that linked the Philippines to terrorism. Specifically, he named the Philippines among a list of countries with ties to terrorist groups and alleged that terrorists are sneaking into the U.S. as immigrants and therefore should be banned from entering. His comments angered the Filipino community and pushed the few pro-Trump Filipino supporters to think twice about voting for him. His campaign rhetoric also targeted Muslims, Latinos, immigrants, women, veterans and anyone and everyone imaginable.

To his credit, Trump appealed for healing and extended an olive branch to critics. Critics, however, will continue to keep a close eye on his cabinet appointments and proposed changes and what they will mean for taxpayers, small businesses, homeowners, immigrants, minorities, in-

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, TOP STORIES ...)

vestors and others in the new year.

**3. Philippines Wins International Court Ruling on West Philippine Sea**

Last July, an international tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines in a contentious case stemming over territorial control of disputed waters in the West Philippine Sea. The Hague-based international tribunal rejected China's claims over the West Philippine Sea, a vast expanse of ocean encompassing 3 million square kilometers and teeming with marine life and natural resources like oil, natural gas and other minerals. The tribunal ruled that China's "Nine-Dash Line" claim over the disputed waters is invalid. In a press release, the tribunal concluded that there is no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources in areas falling within its controversial "Nine-Dash Line" policy.

It also upheld the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covering some disputed islands and ruled that China violated the Philippines' sovereign rights by constructing artificial islands in these areas. The court added China's massive reclamation activities inflicted irreparable harm on the marine environment. Filipinos worldwide hailed the ruling, but Philippine President Duterte took a more cautious approach. The dispute is far from over and bilateral discussions with China are needed to pursue a peaceful settlement, rather than direct confrontation. Duterte has asked former President Fidel Ramos to serve as the Philippines' point man in bilateral talks with China. Whether China complies with the tribunal's ruling remains to be seen.

**4. Filipino Veterans Receive Congressional Gold Medals**

After months of intense lobbying, Filipino veterans of World War II in late 2016 were finally awarded with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award that Congress can bestow. The move was made possible via S.1555, a bill authored by U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono that was

passed unanimously by the U.S. Senate in July. U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard authored a companion measure in the U.S. House, which her colleagues and President Obama also approved.

It took a long time coming but Filipino veterans are the final racial/ ethnic group to be recognized by the U.S. government for their service in World War II. Over 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers responded to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call-to-duty and fought under the American flag during World War II.

In a related victory for Filipino veterans, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in early June began allowing certain Filipino World War II veteran family members who are beneficiaries of approved family-based immigrant visa petitions an opportunity to seek a discretionary grant of parole, on a case-by-case basis, to come to the U.S. before their visa becomes available. Between 2,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American World War II veterans are estimated to be living in the U.S. The new policy allows certain Filipino-American family members awaiting immigrant-visa issuance to come to the U.S. and be with their loved ones.

**5. Kauai's Filipinos Break Ground For Cultural Center**

In late March 2016, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the long awaited and much-anticipated Kauai Philippine Cultural Center (KPCC) in Lihue. Hundreds attended the event for the Center, which has been envisioned as a gathering place for cross-cultural exchanges to promote and enhance culture, education, and provide social platforms for Kauai's multi-ethnic community.

Although initial discussions and planning have encompassed several decades, efforts began in earnest in 2010, led by Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce President Lester Calipjo, Filipino organizations, business groups and non-profits that banded together to hold fundraisers and gather community support.

The Center would be for use by Filipinos and other ethnic groups and members from all walks of life. It would offer a variety of programs for both youth and senior citizens to assist them in their transition to life in the U.S. KPCC would be the state's third Filipino cultural center, following Oahu's Filipino Community Center (FilCom), which opened in June 2002, and Maui's Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center, which opened in January 2005.

**6. Center for Philippine Studies Director Shares Vision for Future**

Patricio Abinales, PhD., the new director of the Center for Philippine Studies (CPS) at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, completed his first year at the helm of the leading institution in North America for the study of Philippine society and culture. Abinales is well-qualified to lead the Center to greater heights. He has extensive experience as an academic and activist while at the University of the Philippines, as well as numerous contacts throughout Mindanao, Manila, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

His initiatives include introducing more undergraduate courses on the Philippines, specifically, a course on Ilocano history and politics, as well as a course focusing on the Visayas region. The rationale is that more locality-focused courses will attract more students, particularly those who wish to discover more about the regions in the Philippines where their families hail from.

Abinales also plans to launch an oral history project documenting the experiences of those Filipinos who moved from the Philippines to Hawaii during the politically tumultuous decades of 1960s and 1970s. His other priorities are to fund more collaborative research by CPS faculty and their counterparts in the Philippines and for graduate student research to the Philippines, and to expand the Philippine collection at the university's Hamilton Library. Ultimately, he hopes to one day have a separate Center for Philippine

Studies building which would serve as a gathering place for visiting researchers and the community.

**7. St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi Celebrates Centennial**

St. Anthony celebrated its 100th anniversary with several events throughout the year, foremost of which was a special anniversary mass and banquet held in June. Themed "100 Years Growing in Faith, Hope, and Love," the celebration included a community fair in January and a choral music festival in November.

Located at 640 Puuhale Road in the residential and commercial/industrial district of Kalihi, St. Anthony is perfectly positioned to reach some 62,000 residents in the area, most of whom come from immigrant families. St. Anthony's doors are open to residents of all ethnicities throughout lower Kalihi. Parishioners are predominantly Filipinos. However, there are other ethnicities represented including Samoans, Hawaiians, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and lately Micronesians. The parish campus includes a school serving students from pre-school to Grade 8, a convent and a rectory.

**8. Maui Volunteers Restoring Valley Isle's Bahay Kubo**

A grassroots effort was launched on the Valley Isle during 2016 to restore what's

known as a *bahay kubo*, or nipa hut—an indigenous housing structure found throughout the Philippines, particularly in rural areas. The iconic *bahay kubo* is quintessentially representative of the Filipino people—simple, resilient and adaptable.

Sadly, the humble, earth-friendly and climate-adaptable *bahay kubo*, which has withstood the test of time and the elements, is slowly becoming an endangered species as modern day life and 21st century concrete homes stretch into rural areas in the Philippines. Filipino leaders fear that future generations will be unable to experience a *bahay kubo*. Thankfully, a small but dedicated group of volunteers on Maui are toiling anonymously to restore the *bahay kubo* at the Maui Heritage Gardens located in lush Iao Valley. Their dedicated efforts will preserve Filipino architectural heritage and ensure that this ancestral Filipino home does not fade away into the pages of history.

**9. Filipina Administrator Takes Over Reigns of Hawaii Community College**

Philippine-born and educated Rachel Solemsaas was appointed in 2016 as chancellor of Hawaii Community College. Solemsaas is a rare breed, especially when considering the paucity of upper level administrators of Filipino ances-

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# New Year's Revolution

By Renelaine Bontol Pfister

**M**y New Year's resolution is to not beat myself up if I don't keep my resolutions.

Sometimes we don't even intend to break our resolutions. We simply forget that we've made them. Do you know when you remember? A year later, when it's time to make those resolutions again. As a result, you make the same resolutions over and over. It's like Fifty First Dates, and you're Drew Barrymore.

We all have different res-

olutions. Last year, one of my resolutions was to remember the room numbers of my patients. (I work in a nursing home.) It's a simple resolution, right? How can I cram five years of Physical Therapy lessons in my brain, and not remember the room numbers in which my patients are staying? Most of them are there for weeks, and it's not even a huge facility. I should be able to remember. But I don't. Most days I'm wandering down the hall like a zombie, scratching my head and willing my neurons to fire. Finally, in the interest of time, I give up and scan each room number, where the patients' names are printed, as I walk



down the hallway. At least I can still read.

Here are some of the more common New Year's resolutions that we agonize over, year after year.

**I will lose ten pounds. I will not eat a donut for breakfast (and for mid morning and afternoon snacks.) I will**

baseless and he may really have some evidence to prove his charges. And more importantly, it is also a welcome move as it will enable the courts of justice to assume jurisdiction and authoritatively settle this pestering issue once and for all. For the best interest of the country and especially for the best interest Duterte and all of us who refuse to believe Matobato's charges, the Ombudsman should immediately investigate these charges and act accordingly. In fact Duterte himself should welcome these charges and take steps to expedite the proceedings especially if the charges are really ridiculous.

For a brighter new year 2017, Duterte should heed these suggestions and immediately act on them. Most of us still hope to see him succeed as President of this country.

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pack carrots and celery instead. I will stop eating carbs and become a vegetarian. Meanwhile, I'm Filipino. I'm not haole. Rice and lechon are pretty much my food groups.

**I will exercise daily.** Exercise is undoubtedly a good thing: it raises your endorphin levels, boosts your energy, make you healthy, look good, fit into your jeans and not have to unbutton them every time you sit down. My roommate, an avid fitness girl, is happy when she exercises and inspires others to do the same. But there are days when you want nothing more than to lie on the couch, watch Netflix and eat a warm brownie covered with sea salt caramel gelato.

**I will be kinder.** I think majority of us are not failing at this. I think most of us do want to be considerate, thoughtful, caring, etc. But sometimes there's an idiot who cuts in front of you, almost hits your car and speeds off without bothering to lift his hand for a wave or a shaka. You appear calm to onlookers, but on your lap, out of sight, you're giving him the finger and cursing him with all the profanities in your

vocabulary.

**I will not go shopping anymore.** Ha. Ha. Ha.

Whether it's failure to lose weight or exercise or save money or remember to match a person to a room number, we tend to punish ourselves for it. But maybe we're too hard on ourselves. Maybe we shouldn't self-flagellate or starve ourselves if we don't stick to our resolutions. (Although, starving will bring us closer to achieving our weight loss goal).

Let us make a reVolution. A revolution is defined as an upheaval of a current system of government to create one desired by the people. Let us make a new system in our lives. One that's more forgiving. Forgiving toward ourselves. Let's not make a resolution. Instead, let's make a revolution.

Isn't life hard enough, without us putting excessive burden on ourselves? Goals are good. Without them, we'd never improve. But it's okay too, if we can't achieve them just yet. The key is to try. And to keep trying.

That is, if you remember.

## OPINION (from page 3, RIDICULOUS...)

even recommended in its report to charge Matobato with the crimes of Perjury and Murder which are respectively punishable under Articles 180-183 and Article 248 of the Revised Penal Code. Based on the Senate Panel report, the recommended charges seem to be strong and airtight especially the murder charge because Matobato himself openly admitted that he participated in some of the killings. But despite the lapse of time, no charges have been filed in court by our Department of Justice (DOJ).

Such inaction on the part of the DOJ can only mean either of two things: first, the Senate findings are not strong enough as to establish probable cause on the guilt of Matobato for perjury or murder; or second, the DOJ does not want our courts of justice to conduct

a more thorough and deeper inquiry into these issues as it will just incriminate Duterte because there may be evidence backing up Matobato's allegations that he personally saw Duterte kill 8 people including National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Agent Amisola. These observations acquire more validity in the light of Duterte's own admissions in the past (although subsequently claimed as a joke only) that he is a "killer"; that he has killed criminals.

Because of this delay and inaction, Matobato was able to jump the gun against the Administration by filing charges of murder, kidnapping, torture and crimes against humanity versus Duterte and 27 others before the Office of the Ombudsman. Such move shows that Matobato's allegations are not entirely unfounded and

## COVER STORY (from page 5, TOP STORIES...)

try in the field of education, particularly at the secondary and postsecondary levels. With 12 years of experience as a community college administrator, Solemsaas is well-qualified for the position and ready to lead Hawaii Community College forward and into the future.

Hawaii CC is a two-year community college based in Hilo with a new branch campus in Kona. For the past 75 years, Hawaii CC has provided access to higher education opportunities, trained a skilled workforce and supported the island's economic development. Under Solemsaas' leadership, the Hawaii CC will continue to provide opportunities for Big Island residents to achieve a college education. Its relevant programs and offerings formed by industry and business partners will provide a strong workforce, produce innovative entrepreneurs and play a pivotal role in promoting a sustainable local economy.

## 10. Ohana Medical Mission Holds 10th Mission to Philippines

(OMM) returned to the Philippines yet again in late 2016, this time for its landmark tenth mission of mercy. The overall goal of the mission was to provide free medical services, medicines and other equipment to the poor and needy people of select barangays and provinces in the Philippines. Led by overall chair Dr. Romeo Perez, the mission spread Christmas cheer and goodwill to those who otherwise would have very little to celebrate during the Yuletide Season.

OMM officials estimate that they reached about 10,000 people during the two-week long mission. A big mahalo to OMM and the volunteer medical professionals for their "can-do" attitude and willingness to help the poor and needy people of the Philippines!

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OPEN FORUM

# What College You Attend Will NOT Determine Your "Success"

By Matthew Mettias

It is a common misconception among high school seniors, teachers and parents that what college a student attends after high school is the "make it or break it" factor of that student's success in the job market.

I cannot keep track of how many high school students have their minds set on attending Harvard, Yale, Stanford and countless other so-called "elite" colleges. Attending one

of these prestigious colleges is definitely great and impressive but it is important to realize that a young adult can get a quality education at countless other universities for only a fraction of the cost.

I recently read a book and an article regarding this subject: "Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be" by the New York Times' Frank Bruni and "The Trouble with College Rankings" by the New Yorkers' Malcolm Gladwell. Both these pieces of writing highlight important studies and outcomes of students who at-

tended various American Universities.

The findings and conclusions reached by both of these revered authors were surprising, to say the least. They determined that whether or not a student attends the Ivy League or the University of Kansas (for example) has little impact on that student's overall success and well-being. In fact, attending a "name-brand" college simply to gain prestige can be a disappointing route for many students to take. Many of these students don't realize that they are able to cultivate their interests in a public university for a much cheaper cost.

Again, if you would like to attend a prestigious college, that's great; however, setting your goals for nothing less than the elite institutions is often a surefire way for students to set themselves up for failure. Numerous students who choose to attend reputable colleges and universities let down their guard as they study at popular universities because in their minds, they already reached success and they can simply "cruise" their way to a well-paying job.

This is the wrong mindset. In fact, in Frank Bruni's book, he recounts stories of numerous people (CEOs, scholars,

Nobel Peace Prize winners, etc.) whose applications were rejected by prestigious universities and settled for lesser known public universities where they received a quality education and developed the skills that were necessary for their success in the "real world."

If I could leave you with one thought, it is this—set your goals high, but always remember that Plan A is not your only pathway to success. Plan B works just as well as Plan A if you remain determined to reach your goals.

MATTHEW METTIAS is a junior at Punahou School.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

## 42 Escapees from N. Cotabato Jail Recaptured

by Cecille Suerte Felipe  
Friday, January 6, 2017

MANILA, Philippines – At least 42 escapees from the North Cotabato District Jail were recaptured a day after armed men stormed the jail facilities, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said yesterday.

BJMP director Serafin Barretto Jr. said the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have joined jail operatives in pursuing the remaining fugitives.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said a joint pursuit operation was launched after some escapees were monitored in the nearby Kabacan and Matalam towns.

It led to the capture of 18 escapees yesterday.

Tan said troops in nearby towns were also alerted and ordered to conduct blocking operations to catch the rest of the prisoners who joined the escape when about 100 rebels stormed the provincial jail in Kidapawan and rescued a dozen of their detained comrades.

Chief Insp. Joyce Birrey, North Cotabato police

spokesman, said wounded inmates Peter John Ararao and John Meir Selgas were sent to a hospital for treatment.

Although authorities have yet to officially confirm which group was behind the raid, some officials said it was led by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) Commander Derby, who was previously detained at the facility for illegal possession of firearms and possession of illegal drugs.

Derby bolted jail in the last quarter of 2016.

Von Al-Haq, spokesman for the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), denied yesterday that their group had anything to do with the attack.

The outlawed BIFF, which boasts loyalty to the Islamic State, also denied any involvement.

Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno said he immediately talked to MILF vice chairman Ghazali Jaafar and BIAF chief Commander Sammy Almanzor to check on reports that the MILF had a hand in the attack.

He said he believes their denial.

"We have a very good partnership with the MILF. I'd like to inform you that we had a meeting with the MILF last

Dec. 24 with the Army, PNP and NICA in Davao... the council of the MILF, their chief of staff, they are really sincere in helping us in dealing with the drug problem," Sueno added.

He also defended the BJMP from criticisms that they failed to act on a tip regarding the jailbreak.

Sueno explained that the local BJMP alerted the Provincial Public Safety Battalion and the Philippine Army about their initial information.

The BJMP, although outnumbered, were able to resist the armed rebels who stormed the facility, he added.

Senior Insp. Xavier Solda, BJMP spokesman, said the escapees took the opportunity to bolt through the back portion of the facility when the jail guards were busy retaliating, holding their ground and protecting other inmates.

"The firefight lasted for almost two hours, hindi po biro (it was no joke). Jail personnel were able to hold their ground and protect the 1,400-plus of the 1,511 jail population," Solda said.

At least five inmates, one jail guard and one barangay officer were killed in the attack, officials said.

Of the 158 escapees, officials said 58 were charged with

various illegal drug violations. Others are being prosecuted for heinous crimes and involvement in deadly bombings.

Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista said life in the provincial capitol complex, where the jail is located, is returning to normal, with several schools setting the dates for the resumption of classes.

He earlier suspended classes in at least five public schools for security reasons.

The gunmen, armed with M-16 and M-14 assault rifles and shoulder-fire launchers for 40 millimeter projectiles, attacked from an open field be-

hind the jail.

The attack was the third in about a decade. Moro guerrillas previously attacked the jail twice and set free dozens of inmates, some of them members of secessionist groups.

Birrey said they are ready to simply return to jail any escapee who may decide to surrender peacefully.

"They can approach barangay leaders or local officials in any municipality and request assistance to link them to us so we can facilitate their return to the provincial jail," Birrey told reporters. (www.philstar.com)



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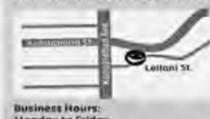
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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Making Us Count—Looking for the Filipinos in the Numbers

**D**espair looms ahead. A Trump government means everything will be a little harder for those of us in the 99 percent.

In the spirit of solidarity, I feel compelled to offer you the gift of perspective. Look at it this way. What's before us won't be all that bad. Not all at once.

It will hurt. But not forever. Reassuring, right?

Still, whatever happens

come January 20 or thereafter should give us something real to take action against. It's not just the impending boogeyman. He will finally arrive and we're going to have to stick together as Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, with all our friends and allies, if we're going to pull through as the nation we want to be.

So here's a New Year's gift that you should use and refer back to whenever necessary. Whenever someone says something stupid about Asian-Americans, like, we're all rich, or Asians have a higher median income than whites, you can

acknowledge that yes, that may seem to be the case.

But the numbers show that a lot more Asian-Americans are making less than everyone thinks.

Now before you say, I'm a Filipino in Hawaii. Why should I care about Asian-American numbers? Well, as you can see, we need the numbers to get noticed at the top of our nation's earners.

But we need to unpack the numbers to see what the specific impacts are on Filipinos and all other Asian-American Pacific Islander groups. When we do, we see that a far larger number of Asian-Americans makes under the U.S. median of \$60,000 a year than anyone thinks. We just don't see them.

Additionally, when it comes to the Filipino numbers,

no one ever takes into account the number of earners per household that make up for that income. I know of one Filipino American home with seven earners, making on average \$50,000 a year. Why, that's \$350,000. But 7 earners doesn't qualify you as rich in America these days.

Unpacking the numbers is also helpful when it comes to educational attainment, another Asian-American stereotype.

"You're so smart, you wreck the curve!"

How many times have we all heard that? It's true that 51 percent of Asian-Americans have bachelor's degrees or better—much higher than the overall national population at 30.6 percent. But unpack the numbers and voila! There are more Asian-Americans than

you think who don't have even a high school degree. And look at where the Filipino numbers are relative to the group—about 47 percent.

As we move into a new Trump era where government gets cut while corporations swell, public services are likely to dwindle.

We can't let stereotypical thinking about Asian-American numbers and statistics dictate policies. There are real needs in the Asian-American community that policymakers need to understand when they consider Asian America.

These are numbers taken from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, which make the case visually for the disaggregation of the stats so that policy folks won't overly generalize and give us a lump of coal when budgets are carved up and distributed.

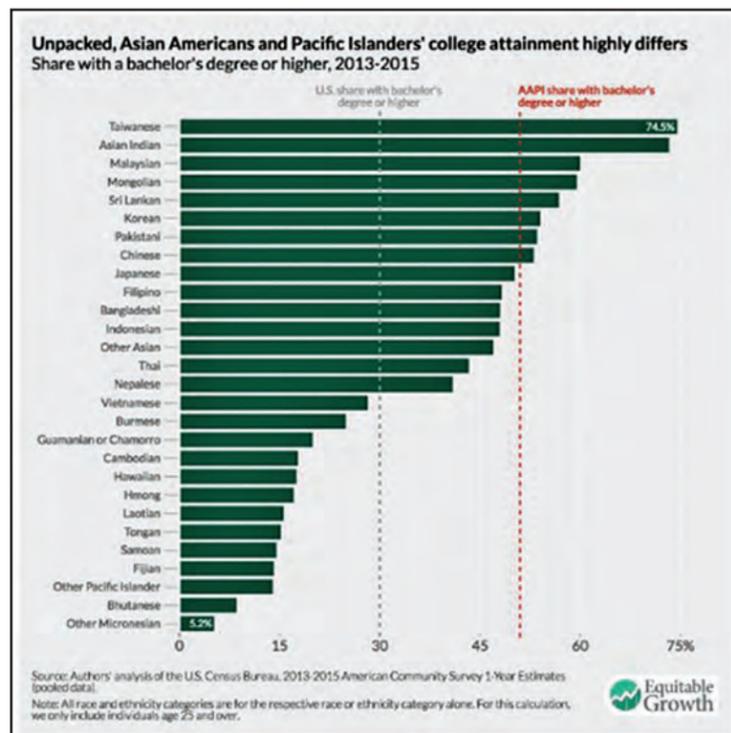
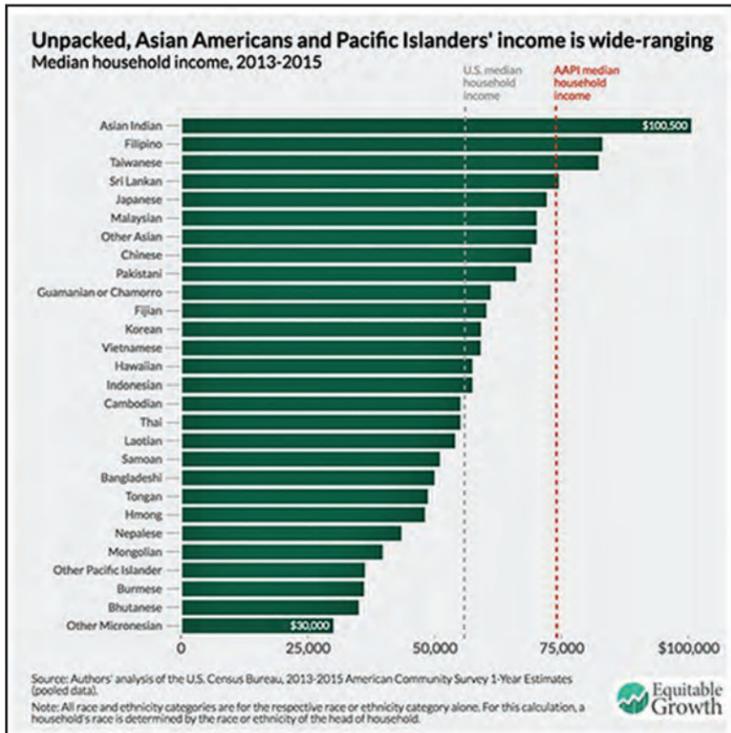
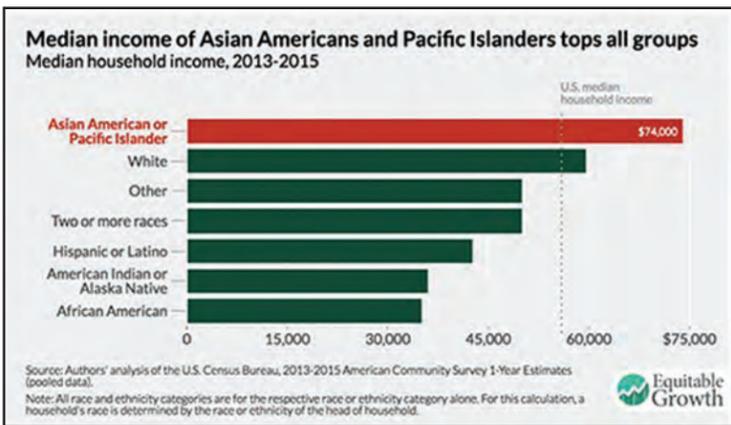
Right now, it's too easy to ignore Asian-Americans. Or when they recognize us, we're overpraised and told we're doing just fine. Not if we unpack the numbers. Without going deeper into the numbers, we're subject to all sorts of chicanery.

Privatization folks will say just put our money outside of government for schools and services. That seems to be where Trump is going. But there are many of us in the Asian-American community who still have tremendous needs.

As we go into 2017 and Trump surprises us by being pro-Putin and pro-WikiLeaks, expect more of the same when it comes to government services.

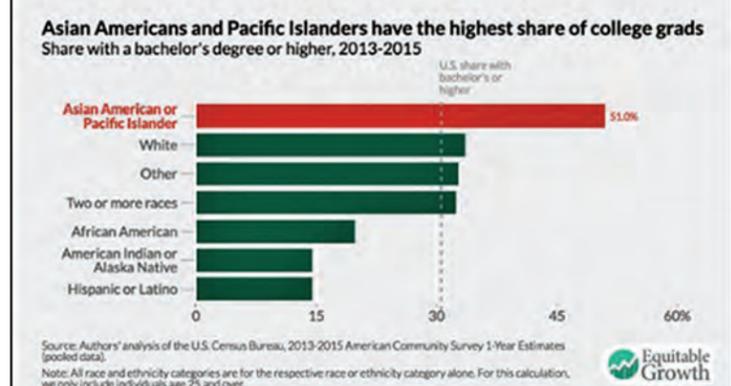
Filipinos will get left out if federal budget makers can't find us in the stats. Disaggregating the numbers gives us the evidence we'll need to fight for our fair share.

**EMIL GUILLERMO** is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California.



**Aggregated Asian American and Pacific Islander provides a skewed story about educational attainment**

Varying levels of educational attainment can in part explain varied household incomes and employment rates among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Nationally, about 30.6 percent of the U.S. population has a bachelor's degree or more. In contrast, 51.0 percent of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders hold a bachelor's degree or higher.



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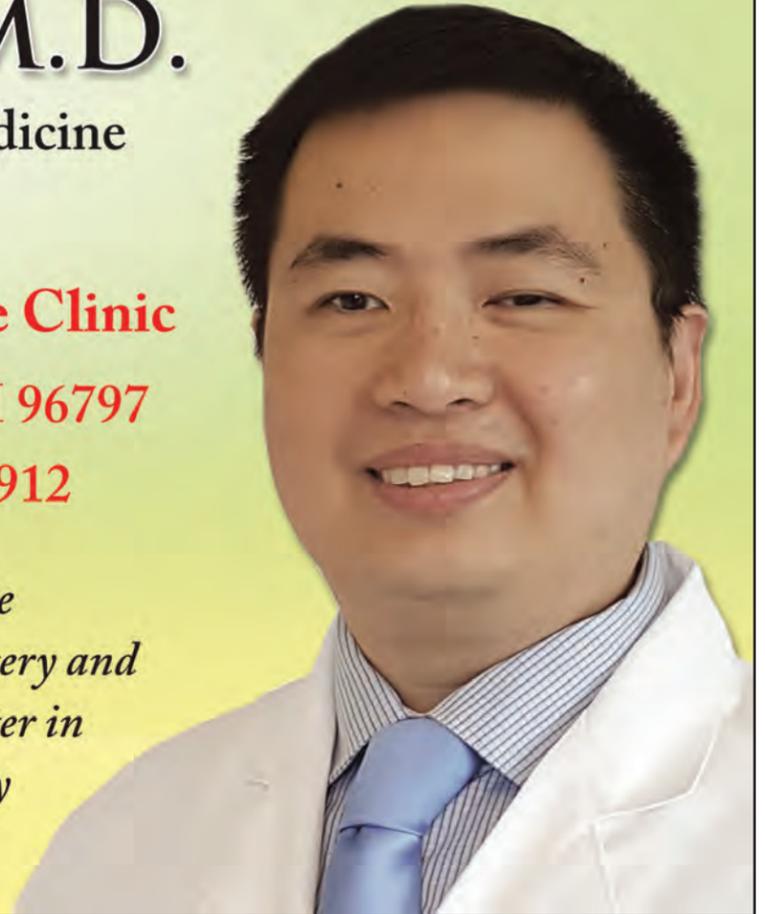
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*Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, RI which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.*



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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### City Exceeds 2016 Repaving Goal

It took a collective effort but City officials announced that they have surpassed their repaving goal for 2016 by completing 332 lane miles across Oahu—thanks to the combined efforts of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM).

Under Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s aggressive repaving plan announced back in January 2013, the City has repaved 1,309 lane miles of roads that were rated in less than fair condition. The City is on track to achieve Caldwell’s goal of 1,500 lane miles within the five year time-frame he set four years ago.

“This unprecedented repaving effort has improved the daily commute of tens of thousands of Honolulu residents, while also ensuring roads that are deemed in good to satisfactory condition remain that way for years to come,” says Caldwell. “The City will continue its comprehensive repaving effort in 2017, with the goal of completing another 300 lane miles or more over the

next 12 months.”

Upcoming projects this year include the repaving of North King Street and Kalakaua and Nuuanu avenues in town. Roads are also scheduled for repaving throughout Makaha, Makakilo, Kapolei, Waialua and St. Louis Heights.

In addition to long-term road reconstruction, the City has patched more than 162,000 pot holes, crack-sealed more than 835,000 linear feet of roadway, slurry-sealed nearly 99 lane miles and applied seal coat to more than 55 lane miles over the past four years. Through the use of a Pavement Condition Index that has been in place since 2013, the City has the ability to track the condition of City roads to determine which ones are in the most need of rehabilitation.

In 2015, DDC and DFM workers repaved 271 lane miles across Oahu. In 2014, the City repaved 310 lanes miles, and in 2013, the City repaved 396 lane miles, for an average of 327 lane miles per year when the 2016 totals are included.

The City & County of Honolulu has a total of 3,517 lane miles of roads under its jurisdiction.

### Minimum Wage Increases to \$9.25

It has been a happy New Year indeed for thousands of Hawaii’s lowest-paid workers as the state’s minimum wage rate increased to \$9.25 per hour, effective January 1, 2017. The increase was mandated by Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii (2014).

This is third increase in Hawaii’s minimum wage since 2015—from \$7.25 to \$7.75 on January 1, 2015 and to \$8.50 on January 1, 2016. The next scheduled raise is January 1, 2018 when it will increase to \$10.10 per hour. Previously,

the minimum wage had stayed the same for eight years at \$7.25 from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2015.

Hawaii joins 20 other states which have raised their minimum wages in 2017, affecting some 4.4 million low-wage workers across the country. The single largest increase occurred in Republican-controlled Arizona, where the wage rose by a whopping 25 percent, from \$8.95 to \$10 per hour.

Currently, the states of Massachusetts and Washington have the highest new minimum wages in the country at \$11 per hour.

### Public Meetings to Review Important Agricultural Lands Maps

The City’s Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) will hold two community meetings this month to present the draft Oahu Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) maps.

Meetings will be held on January 10 at Kapolei Middle School cafeteria, located at 91-5335 Kapolei Parkway, and January 17 at Haleiwa Elementary School cafeteria, at 66-505 Haleiwa Road. The meetings will run from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. The public, particularly landowners who received a notice from

the DPP that their property is proposed for IAL designation, is encouraged to attend. DPP sent notices to 2,000 landowners that their land is being recommended for IAL.

Each county is required by the state Constitution to identify and map lands that have the potential for designation as IAL according to standards, criteria and procedures established under state law. The intent of IAL is to ensure that the best of Oahu’s high-quality farm land is protected and preserved for long-term agricultural use.

(continued on page 11)

TRAVEL & TOURISM

# ANILAO'S NEWEST TREASURE

RENDEZVOUS By Christine S. Dayrit

**B**ack in the '70s and '80s, Anilao was a sleepy barrio known only to scuba divers. They were the first ones to brave what were then rutty roads in order to immerse themselves in an underwater wonderland filled with technicolor corals and a myriad of tropical fishes.

Those days, in Anilao, a barangay in the municipality of Mabini in Batangas, choices of places to stay were limited to establishments that rented out the most basic of rooms. The better ones had a fan. Almost all had communal bathrooms.

Thus it was an eye-opener for me to visit the present Sea's Springs Resort. Two hours over the SLEX and the Star Tollway brought me to this expansive resort, boasting of 65 rooms ranging from twin, king, triple as well as dormitory-sized rooms that can accommodate eight people comfortably. The resort has several pools and waterslides and — what I consider the gem of the resort — two natural hot water pools and a bamboo sauna.

At the resort, my friends and I met Michael An, whose parents own the resort. He is an avid technical diver as well as an instructor. He maintains a well-equipped dive shop staffed by dive pros who can take a newbie on a discovery dive or conduct training up to dive master status.

After settling my bags in one of the triple rooms, I opened a door and found my private seaside veranda. It overlooked a quiet cove with the island of Maricaban across the bay. Below me were the pools and picnic areas. Since it was the Amihan season, I welcomed the cool, fresh sea breeze into my bedroom.



The inviting view from my room. Photos by Yvette Lee and Sea's Spring Resort

The resort is located on Sitio Mainit, with the famous Anilao dive site called Secret Bay at its doorstep. The otherwise empty, sandy bottom is actually home to macro critters dear to an underwater photographer's heart. Sea horses, ghost pipefish as well as several species of cephalopods such as the blur-ringed octopus can be seen by eagle-eyed guides.

But to an intro-diver like me with several younger family members in tow, I was overjoyed to see why this lovely resort is also now gaining fame with the non-diving market. Aside from the pools and waterslides, the resort offers island hopping with a barbecue lunch on a white-sand beach and I got into the banca with snorkeling equipment.

As we motored along the coast, I could see other well-built establishments, and my companion, underwater photographer Yvette Lee, pointed out the other well-known scuba diving resorts such as Pier Uno, Eagle Point, Solana, Balai and Planet Dive. We crossed the channel, which is incidentally part of the Verde Passage. This body of water has made it to the front pages of several dailies, the Philippine Star included, by virtue of it being

recognized by Dr. Kent Carpenter and Dr. Victor Springer as the "center of the center of the center of the world's most bio-diverse marine community." It was the culmination of a 10-year study participated by more than a hundred of the planet's most eminent marine scientists.

We stopped briefly at Sombrero Island, so named because it's shaped like a hat. I had a chance to snorkel at Layag-layag and enjoyed the intact branching type of hard corals. In the meantime, Yvette went deeper to a spot she called "Kanto" or "Corner" and came back with photos of basket sponges and luscious corals covered by orange fish called anthias.

I asked Yvette if the corals and marine life in Anilao were as good as the other marine sanctuaries we had both visited recently. She thought over my question carefully before giving me an answer. Having been a visitor of the area since the mid '70s, Yvette felt certain areas in Anilao were over-exploited. However, she claimed that as the community prospered from the diving and other marine related tourism, the inhabitants realized the need to protect their livelihood. With the help of several NGOs such

as Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation and World Wildlife Fund, the local government of Mabini has organized a coastal resource management board. The board is now the one responsible for overseeing the conservation of the marine resources, levying users' fees that in turn fund the Bantay Dagat Patrols. There have been more reported sightings of big animals in the area, such as mantas, devil rays and even a whale shark in the last few months — an encouraging sign of the regeneration of the underwater habitats.

Yvette, who is my favorite above and underwater photographer, said that there is a unique sort of camaraderie that exists between dive buddies. Like kindred souls they share the delicious, sacred secret of being visitors to a realm or a place that is known only to a special few. She even has a theory that the ones who have been badly bitten by the diving bug are actually citizens of Atlantis several hundred lifetimes ago, thus explaining their unexplainable passion for the sea.

After a long day in the sun

(continued on page 14)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 10, PUBLIC ....)**

An IAL designation provides landowners access to incentives that assist farmers in their agricultural activity. IAL also makes it more difficult to develop agricultural land for non-agricultural uses because a

change in the IAL designation requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the State Land Use Commission (LUC).

Once the maps are finalized, DPP will forward its recommendation to the

City Council for action. Final approval for lands to be designated as IAL is under the jurisdiction of the LUC. For further details on the meetings, go online to: [www.mapoahuagland.com](http://www.mapoahuagland.com).

# HOW ABOUT LECHON WITH A TWIST THIS YEAR?

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

**M**

ANILA, Philippines – A Christmas or New Year reunion isn't complete with-

out lechon. It's even considered as the star of the occasion. That's Filipino culture.

But over the years, lechon makers have become innovative, creating different interesting variants of the traditional roasted whole pig.

For one, there's Leonardo's Lechon that's based not in Cebu or Negros Occidental, where the best lechon is said to be found, but in San Juan, Metro Manila. Leonardo's Le-

chon has been making its own versions of the sinfully flavorful lechon for nearly 70 years.

Here's a couple of their lechon variants that you might want to dig in this season:

## Carnivore Lechon

As if the lechon's crispy roasted skin and juicy meat are not sinful enough, the Carnivore Lechon of Leonardo's Lechon is stuffed with more meat like sausages (Kielbasa, Hungarian and Chorizo) and bacon, and roasted garlic potatoes.

## Drunken Lechon

From the name itself, you could already guess that this le-



▲ **Drunken Lechon** Leonardo's Lechon/Released

◀ **Carnivore Lechon** Leonardo's Lechon/Released

chon might have some alcohol content in it. Leonardo's Lechon collaborated with Pedro Craftbrewers for this unique invention. Drunken Lechon is marinated in Pedro Craft Beer, giving anyone who dares to try

a slight sweet taste with every bite of the tender, moist meat.

Other must-try variants are Lechon Tagalog, Lechon Cebu, Hot and Spicy Lechon, Gourmet Herb Lechon and Lechon Galena. All lechons are avail-

able in four sizes: de leche (P5,800), small (P6,300 to P6,800), medium (P7,800 to P9,800) and large (P10,800 to P11,800). Each order comes with free Dinuguan.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# DOF: Pension Hike, Freeze on Land Conversion Could Derail Pro-Poor Programs

by Prinz Magtulis  
Friday, January 6, 2017

MANILA, Philippines -- The Department of Finance warned on Friday of "disastrous" consequences if populist measures on a two-year land conversion moratorium and Social Security System pension increase without contribution hike are pursued.

"We need to invest big in (infrastructure), human capital and social protection...Hence

the need to generate a lot more funds to bankroll these pro-poor and pro-growth programs," Finance spokesperson Paola Alvarez said in a statement.

"The government certainly cannot do so if the president's economic team were to support populist proposals willy-nilly just to earn political pogi points for the Duterte administration," Alvarez, PDP-Laban spokesperson during the 2016 election campaign, added.

Revenues, in particular,

will take a hit as taxpayers may be forced to fund the proposed P2,000 increase in SSS pensions without corresponding adjustment in members' contributions.

Meanwhile, Alvarez said, preventing the development of farm lands for better use, "would undermine the growth momentum."

The statement came after activist group Bayan Muna criticized the economic managers for allegedly feeding President Duterte wrong information on the SSS plan, which was part of Duterte's campaign promise.

They remarked these were the same officials that opposed the proposed land conversion moratorium for two years by the Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano, himself a leftist leader prior to entering the Cabinet.

The government's economic team includes the DOF, the Department of Budget and Management and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Alvarez said all policy recommendations to Malacañang are studied carefully.

"(These) are anchored on sustaining high growth and enabling all sectors across all regions to benefit from it in the form of more jobs, higher incomes and better living standards," she said.

Citing the government's 10-point socioeconomic agenda, Alvarez said big-ticket projects nationwide would need "more, not less, funds" which will not be attained with the two proposed measures.

Without more revenues, the Duterte administration

could end up doing a "disservice" to the public, she said.

The contentious SSS pension increase was vetoed by President Benigno Aquino III, who suffered a political fallout for asking for a contribution increase in exchange.

Duterte, during his campaign, promised to pursue the measure, only to backtrack later on upon the advice of his economic managers. Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno explained that candidate Duterte is "different" from President Duterte.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who was head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council for a few months, earlier also opposed the moratorium on land conversion as this could hamper the government's housing program.

"To pander to short-term populist initiatives will be a disservice to the president and the overwhelming majority of Filipinos who have given him the electoral mandate to effect real change," Alvarez said.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Conviction For Elderly Abuse is Bar to Deportation Relief

**F**or noncitizens residing here in the US, the commission of certain crimes has immigration consequences. It may render them inadmissible and/or deportable. There are also certain crimes known as CIMT or crimes involving moral turpitude which may preclude eligibility for deportation relief including cancellation of removal. A CIMT has been defined by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) as a crime that is “inherently base, vile, or depraved, and contrary to accepted rules of morality and the duties owed between persons or to society in general.”

In one case, an alien entered the US without inspection and without any legal documents. He was later convicted of abuse of an elderly. When he tried to take advantage of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS), his request was denied because of his conviction. On the very same day, he was issued a Notice to Appear by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), charging him with removability because he was an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and he was an alien convicted of a CIMT.

The immigration judge ordered him removed. He appealed to the BIA contending that he qualified for relief from removal. The BIA determined that he did not qualify for relief because of his conviction for

CIMT. He filed a petition for review with the US Court of Appeals but his petition was dismissed.

It is worth noting that in Florida, a criminal conviction for abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult is considered a CIMT and will hold an alien ineligible for relief from removal proceedings based on this criminal conviction.

Under Florida laws, a person who knowingly or willfully abuse an elderly person or disabled adult without causing great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to the elderly person or disabled adult commits a felony of the third degree. For the willful act to be considered an “abuse”, it has to be one of the following three alternative ways: (a) intentional infliction of physical or psychological injury upon an elderly person or disabled adult;

(b) an intentional act that could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to an elderly person or disabled adult; or (3) active encouragement of any person to commit an act that results or could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to an elderly person or disabled adult.

It is very important for foreign nationals to seek the help of accredited immigration lawyers because CIMTs can affect the immigration status or application for immigration relief. Even those who were initially admitted to the US and travelled to other countries may have difficulty reentering the US because of a CIMT. Those who want to adjust status or become lawful permanent residents may likewise find it challenging if they have

a CIMT especially if this happened within five years from admission. Same goes to those who want to apply as US citizens.

Different states have different penal laws as well. Thus, a CIMT in one state may not be a CIMT in another state.

Last year, we successfully represented a Filipino caregiver in her immigration case. She had been convicted of violating the California Penal Code Section 368 (c) for committing the crime of abuse of elder or dependent adult by caretaker. In that case, there was a finding that said caretaker “willfully caused and permitted his ward’s person and health to be injured and willfully caused and permitted the elder victim to be placed in a situation where his person and health have been endangered.”

**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)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# CHED Exec Axed from Service Over Diploma Mill Case

by Elizabeth Marcelo  
Friday, January 9, 2017

**M**ANILA, Philippines – The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered the dismissal and filing of criminal charges against Commission on Higher Education (CHED) executive director Julito Vitriolo over his alleged failure to stop a state university from issuing diplomas and transcript of records despite the suspension of an education program.

In a resolution signed by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, Vitriolo was found guilty of the administrative offenses including grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, incompetence and inefficiency.

Vitriolo was also charged before the Sandiganbayan with violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and RA 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Offi-

cials and Employees.

The ombudsman said Vitriolo “acted with gross negligence” when it failed to investigate and to stop the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) from issuing transcripts of record and diplomas based on a suspended education program.

Based on the ombudsman’s record, it was in 1996 when PLM entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National College of Physical Education (NCPE).

The MOA supposedly states that “NCPE would use the facility of PLM without compensation but the PLM would select the faculty members for the agreed program and issue diplomas to the graduates.”

The ombudsman said PLM president Adel Tamano in 2008 suspended the MOA in view of the 2007 Commission on Audit finding that the agreement was

prejudicial to the interest of the university.

The ombudsman said that despite the MOA’s suspension, Vitriolo, in 2010, “asserted that the transcript of records could be issued by PLM to the graduates... based on vested rights.”

The ombudsman further noted that the private complainant, Oliver Felix, a former PLM faculty, testified that as early as 2011, he had requested Vitriolo to investigate allegations that the PLM was engaged in diploma mill operations and yet the latter allegedly did nothing.

“Vitriolo failed to realize that such omission would result in adverse consequences to public funds spent in the implementation of the suspended PLM-NCPE MOA, and to 703 students under the MOA who had to suffer financial reverses for spending time and money for an education that was worthless in the eyes of the law,” Morales said in the resolution.

Morales said Vitriolo’s failure to reply within the 15-day period on the letters of requests for information on the PLM-NCPE MOA and to order investigation on the alleged diploma mill was a violation of RA 6713.

“By sheer inattention to communications addressed to

him, the respondent showed not even the slightest care about requests from the public,” Morales said.

“Any public official who transgresses the standards for good public service or causes such transgression must bear the consequences,” Morales added. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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**DAYASADAS**  
By Pacita Saludes

## Ania Dagiti Plano Nga Aramiden Iti Baro A Tawen

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Dagiti Ilokano (ANNAK TI KAILOKUAN ITI AMERICA) isagsaganada met ti tinawen a PIESTA TI KAILOKUAN kada umuna a bulan ti tawen. Enero 28, 2017 isu ti maisagsagana manen a pannakabuya ti PIESTA a pak-abuyaan kadagiti sagana ti AKA. Kas kadagiti ini-ilkano a sala ken kankanta. Kas iti kanayon a maar-aramid iti fiesta adda met dagiti mabalangatan a rereyna, a pakaa-gayan met dagiti naisangsangayan a sangsangaili a mangorona. Maaramid daytoy idiyay SUNSET LANAI iti CAMP SMITH. Dita ti pakaaramidan ti maysa a pangrabii sakbay ti koronasyon dagiti reyna.

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napalabas tapno maiparangda ket mapadayawanda met a nagserserbi ti organisasion kadagiti a adun a tawen a naglabas.

Nagasat daytoy a rabii a pakaummongan dagiti naanep a nangtultulong ti grupo ta dagiti agatendar mairamandanto iti sumaruno a libro a managanan iti RANGTAY. Dagiti ngamin nagkakauna ti nagbalin a nalagda a rangtay a nakadanonan ti agdama.

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Sika ti bagnosko:

A mangipalagip kadagiti kalkalikagumko a maitungpal Tapno dagiti nasged a tarigagay pumudnoda a maparnuay

Ket kadagiti ar-arapaapko sidadarisay a maitungpal A bunga dagiti nasged a tartarigagay iti biag

Sika ti bagnosko:

A mangraat kadagiti nasamek ken nasiit a dalan Tapno dagiti sumarsaruno natarus inda panagaddang Nawada ti sirmata ken parparmatada saanda mapulkokan A mangsukdal ballaigi lakaenda a magaw-at

Sika ti Bagnosko:

A manglukip ken mangsarabo ti baro ken naraniag nga agsapa

Mangted maris kadagiti naraniag a rayos ti anaraar Tapno maawis dagiti maladaga ken naganus a rikna Rinibu a parsua, naganus nga agtutubo matukayda

Sika ti bagnosko:

A mangkalbit kadagiti rikna a masmasnaayan ken naidukem

Mangriing isip a nalupoy saan a makawanwanawan Tapno rumegta agpaypayapay inggat labes dagiti ulep Natakngeng a gandat sidadalus, sireregget a mangpatalged

Sika ti bagnosko:

A mangtantannawag kadagiti nadalus ken nalawa a tanap Kabaybayko a mangasak ken mangdalus nalawa a tay-ak Gapu kenka, natalged ken naragsak nga aglayag Ditoy rabaw ti daga ken idiyay masanguanan a pagtaengak

**K**as iti pagsasao idiyay Ilokos a no madanon ti BARO a T A W E N , BARO A PLANO, BARO A NAKEM, BARO A KAMPAMPANUNOTAN, baro a panawen a panangirugi kadagiti pagsasaritaan iti makatawen. Adu dagiti nadumaduma a mangmangngeng manipud kadagiti nataengan idiyay pagilian a nagasat kano dagiti makaitungpal kadagiti ar-arapaapen a nasayaat iti daytoy umuna nga aldaw ti tawen. Masapul a naragsak ti tao iti daytoy nga aldaw ta no saan ad-adu dagiti naliday ken nariribuk a sagabaen iti makatawen. Patien daytoy wenno saan, ti gasat ti mangngeddeng.

Ngarud masapul a naragsak tayo ken naalibtak tayo iti umuna nga aldaw ti

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### TRAVEL & TOURISM (from page 11, ANILAO'S....)

and the cool water, I was glad to return to my habitat. Chilled to the bone from the water and the cold wind, it was heaven to walk into the salt water hot spring. The gate valve of the hot spring pool is opened from time to time to let the 40-degree water in. The sides of the pool have ledges for the guests of the resort to sit comfortably with water up to their chests. If the water gets too hot, one can literally jump into the cold seawater pool that is just two steps away.

Other guests joined us and said they had just come back from a 30-minute sunset hike to Mount Gulugod Baboy, which, at 525 meters, gave them an incomparable view of

the surrounding sea and mountains. The hot sulfuric is said effective to soothe the lactic acid out of the aching thighs.

After doing all of the day's activities, we were left famished and we retreated to the resort's restaurant, which had an expansive menu of both local, continental and Korean favorites. We ate heartily of the spicy Korean chicken stew, sam gyup sal while the teenagers dug in to their pastas and burgers.

I don't know if it was the soft lighting and music, the wine, or the fresh sea air that made us all talk in gentle whispers, but it was a perfect ending to a perfect day at Sea's Spring Resort. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**FNOH (FILIPINO NURSE ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII) SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDANCE FUNDRAISING** | January 8 & 30, 2016 | 6:00 pm- 11:00 pm | Rumours Ala Moana Hotel | Contact: Amy Delacruz (808) 841-056 for further information

**KAUAI COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR SPEARHEADED BY BAYANIHAN CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS** | January 15, 2016 | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | Kauai Veterans Center, | Admission is free. For more information, call 888-674-7624 or 808-671-3911 or email pmahinfo@gmail.com.

**PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII'S 39TH ANNIVERSARY & GALA DINNER INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS** | January 28, 2016 | 5:00 pm | Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village | For reservations, call 888-674-7624 or email pmahinfo@gmail.com

**LIVING HISTORY DAY AT THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL** | January 28, 2016 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Battleship Missouri Memorial, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii | For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://ussmissouri.org/>

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**NAFCON Appeals For Aid For Typhoon Victims**

This past Christmas, Typhoon Nina slammed into the central eastern Philippines, affecting over 400,000 families or 2 million people. The typhoon left three dead, 21 missing and over 240,000 homes damaged. Losses to agricultural crops and public infrastructure were estimated at \$2.4 million and \$20.6 million, respectively.

In response, the National Alliance For Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) is appealing to the Filipino-American community for support for victims. Officials are collecting cash contributions since it is the fastest and most efficient way to provide assistance. A donation of \$62 will provide a relief pack for one family, which includes 25 kg of rice, 1 kg mung beans, 1.5 kg of dried fish, 12 tins of sardines, 2 liters cooking oil, 1 sleeping mat, 1 blanket,

1 hygiene kit, 1 water container and 5 meters of plastic sheet.

Throughout the month of January, NAFCON's Bayanihan Disaster Relief funds will be earmarked for Nina victims. Monetary donations can be made online or by sending a check. For details on how to make a donation, go online to: <http://nafconusa.org/typhoon-relief-info/> or send an email to: [info@nafconusa.org](mailto:info@nafconusa.org).

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Pulse Asia: Duterte Maintains Majority Trust Rating**

by Patricia Lourdes Viray  
Friday, January 9, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — After six months in office, President Rodrigo Duterte continues to enjoy majority approval and trust ratings, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

The president's approval and trust ratings were both at 83 percent during the last quarter of 2016.

Duterte's trust rating slightly dropped from his 86-percent rating for the third quarter last year.

The survey was conducted from December 6 to 11 among 1,200 respondents nationwide with a ± 3 percent margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

In December, Social Weather Stations released survey results that showed 81 percent of Filipinos had "much trust" in Duterte.

This meant a net trust rating of +72, above the +70 threshold that SWS uses to consider a rating "excellent."

The fourth quarter survey's results were slightly lower than the +76 trust rating that Duterte received in

September and the +79 that respondents gave him days before he took his oath of office on June 30.

The survey found that Duterte had the most trust from respondents in Mindanao, where he got an "excellent" +85 score. The score was down seven points from +92 in September.

Duterte got a "very good" trust rating of +69 in "Balance Luzon" and in the Visayas. This was the same score that Duterte got in Balance Luzon in September, but down four points from his previous rating in the Visayas. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**Aquino, 6 Others Face Complaints Over Supposed Gold Shipment**

by Patricia Lourdes Viray  
Friday, January 9, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — Graft and plunder complaints have been filed against former President Benigno "Noy" Aquino III and six other officials during his administration for the alleged shipment of \$141 billion in gold to Thailand.

Also facing the charges are former Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, former Interior Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando

Tetangco Jr., former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Treasury Department chief dealer Lorelei Fernandez and Sen. Franklin Drilon.

The complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman was based on a purported BSP circular that was first seen on social media.

According to the supposed BSP circular, about 3,500 metric tons of gold was shipped and deposited at the Bank of Thailand.

The complainants, Rogelio Cantoria and lawyer Fernando Perito, said that the gold bars could be re-

trieved and returned to the BSP if those were properly and legally processed.

According to the purported circular, the gold bars weighed 12.5 kg/bar and had a purity of 99.999 percent.

Aquino, De Lima, Roxas, Tetangco, Drilon and Purisima allegedly approved the certification of the shipping in December 2014.

Thailand's Centennial Energy Company and the Philippine government under the Aquino administration agreed to produce funds in exchange of the gold bars for humanitarian projects. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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