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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 21, 2017 ◆

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## EDITORIALS

## Yasay Should Stay

**P**hilippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Perfecto Yasay, Jr. might be as good as it gets when it comes to being a foreign diplomat. An attorney by training who specializes in corporate law and securities regulation, Yasay brings a wealth of experience and years of service in government as the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission and in the private sector where he litigated numerous corporate, civil, criminal and immigration cases.

Yasay, who lives part-time in Hawaii, was instrumental in the impeachment trial of former president Joseph Estrada. In 2001, he received the EDSA People Power Freedom Award for his advocacy for transparency and the fight against corruption in government. Yasay is smart, eloquent, well-respected and dedicated to improving the Philippines' standing in the international community and furthering its interests.

Yasay accepted the DFA's top post last June from President Rodrigo Duterte, a close friend and former college roommate, with the understanding that it would be for a year at the most, or until an appropriate successor could be found. A benefit of Yasay being a close friend of Duterte is that he can and has helped to smooth the political waters that the tough-talking, foul-mouthed Duterte has stirred—unintentionally or not. Yasay's familiarity with the president also means that he can clarify statements that the media has at times misconstrued or found ambiguous. In Star Wars jargon, Yasay brings much needed balance to the Force.

We hope Yasay will continue on in his capacities and have the "Acting" removed from his official title. Chances are that Yasay will concede his post to former vice presidential candidate Alan Peter Cayetano who is prohibited by law from taking a government post one year from election day. Stranger things have happened in politics and Cayetano may well decide to serve out his remaining three year term as a senator.

The fact of the matter is that the Philippines is entering a crucial period in its history, with major challenges to overcome, particularly the West Philippine Sea dispute with China, on-going peace talks in Mindanao, frayed relations with the U.S., eliminating corruption in government and cracking down on drugs and crime. Duterte needs him and more importantly, the Philippines needs him. Let's hope Yasay stays.

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

**G**an president-elect Donald Trump deliver on his campaign promise to stop manufacturing jobs from leaving? Trump managed to stop a Carrier plant in Indianapolis from moving to Mexico, saving 730 jobs. But many other companies are 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 heading 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 its fiscal second quarter, up from \$22.6 million a year earlier. Other companies in Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and other states are in the same po-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**A**

nd they're off! Wednesday, January 18th marked the start of the 2017 Hawaii State Legislature. In the coming weeks and months, lawmakers will be tackling key issues

like the general excise tax surcharge extension to pay for rail, public worker payraises, unfunded liability, prison overcrowding and homelessness, to name just a few. With so much at stake, let's keep our legislators in prayer as they think long and hard on the best decisions to make for the people of Hawaii.

Our cover story for this issue introduces readers to Perfecto Yasay, Jr., the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary. Yasay speaks candidly on what the first six months in office has been like and provides updates on the challenges facing the Duterte administration. Read more in our exclusive interview with Yasay in its entirety beginning on page 4.

If you're a moped owner, a state law that took effect on January 1st requires annual safety inspections and registration of your moped. The new law, which is long overdue, will help to curb the number of unregulated noisy mopeds and also reduce fatalities involving mopeds on our streets. Find out more about this new requirement on page 7.

In closing, we hope that you will continue in 2017 to make the Chronicle your source of information for news affecting Hawaii's vibrant Filipino community.

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

sition—fiscally sound 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 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 healthcare? 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 are -- that makes it that much more challenging to save the U.S. manufacturing industry.



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The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# “Buffalo’ed” at Kumu Kahua Theatre; Plus Obama’s Farewell

Honolulu presents “Buffalo’ed,” a dramatic play specifically about the aforementioned Philippine-American War in a month long run starting January 26.

Filipino-American playwright Jeannie Barroga tells the story of the so-called “Buffalo Soldiers,” former slaves who were enlisted to fight the Plains states’ battle against Native Americans. When that fight ended, they were sent to the Philippines to fight yet another war against people of color.

Barroga’s play focuses on Donald Fagen, an African-American soldier who made the front page of the New York Times for asking this question: When people of color are enlisted to fight people of color, whose side can you really be on?

From the Filipino side, Barroga presents a composite character Dona Luisa as representative of how women were instrumental in the rebels’ fight for freedom. I saw the premiere in 2012 and was impressed by the staging. Barroga stayed in touch with Harry Wong, the artistic director of the Kumu Kahua, who greenlighted the production mid-2016.

Barroga was excited to bring the play to Hawaii and tap into the richness of the local theatre talent. I’d see it if I were in Honolulu.

“These actors rock,” Bar-

roga told me. “As you know, the more evident melding of cultures is visible in Hawaii. So the casting shows even more that of rainbow effect among the Black-American and the Filipino-American characters. They love the play, my words and regard its message very seriously, especially director Reb Allen. Our production talks go for hours with a very supportive and respectful collaboration much like the 2012 world premiere.”

### Obama’s Farewell

The play might even remind you of another half-African American, half-white Hawaii native who found his calling in the Midwest and spent the last eight years of his life serving as commander-in-chief.

He didn’t fight have to fight Emilio Aguinaldo. His biggest battles were against Republicans. It was a bittersweet goodbye for Barrack Obama last week. If you heard his speech it was somewhat of a civics lesson in how democracy works.

“Our progress has been uneven,” the president said. “The work of democracy has always been hard, contentious and sometimes bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward mo-

tion, a constant widening of our founding creed to embrace all and not just some.”

It is the main feature of the Obama legacy. In eight years, the president turned the Great Recession into what he called the “longest stretch of job creation in history.” He also won marriage equality for all and the right to health insurance for more than 20 million people.

Great. But we know how Republicans notably battled him tooth and nail on everything. It’s the reason why there’s more work to do.

As the president said, “If every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hard-working white middle class and underserving minorities, then workers of all shades will be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into their private enclaves. If we decline to invest in the children of immigrants, just because they don’t look like us, we diminish the prospects of our own children—because those brown kids will represent a larger share of America’s workforce. And our economy doesn’t have to be a zero-sum game.”

It’s a new challenge for all of us. The president said it “means tying our own strug-

gles for justice to the challenges that a lot of people in this country face—the refugee, the immigrant, the rural poor, the transgender American and also the middle aged white man, who from the outside may seem like he’s got all the advantages, but who’s seen his world upended by economic, cultural and technological change.”

It’s a world that requires empathy and getting involved in the work called democracy. Ultimately, the farewell address was a hopeful speech on how to deal with the next four years. Things don’t have to seem like they’re going backward if we get to work and keep moving forward.

“I am asking you to believe,” Obama said. “Not in my ability to bring about change but in yours.”

When the hope-and-change guy leaves office, there’s no other option. Now it’s up to us. As it’s always been.

.....  
**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.

**T**he importance of the transition between local hero Obama and reality TV star-elect Trump has been quite clear in recent weeks. Pick the wrong policy maker and you wind up living with the impact of bad policies for a long time.

History provides numerous examples. What if the U.S. had elected a president other than McKinley who advocated annexation of Hawaii in 1898? There was opposition, notably former president Grover Cleveland, who said Kinley’s idea was a “perversion of our national destiny.”

But McKinley’s vision prevailed and was carried out formidably, beyond Hawaii to the Philippines. As a result, the Philippine-American War ended up claiming lives that range anywhere from an estimated 200,000 to genocide levels in excess of 1.4 million Filipinos. It all depends on which historian you believe.

Was it worth it? Some would say we’re still living with the consequences of colonization all these years later. That is, if we take the time to remember the past. Fortunately, the Kumu Kahua Theatre in

## EDITORIALS

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### 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 2006-20015 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

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## COVER STORY

# Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay Discusses Philippines' Future

By Carlota Ader

**I**t is perhaps one of the more demanding and unenviable positions in Philippine government but Perfecto Yasay, Jr. is more than up for the task. The past six months has been a whirlwind for Yasay who has engaged in numerous high level meetings with heads of state throughout Asia—to name just a few of the tasks he has been involved in.

Yasay is the ideal candidate for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, whose main responsibilities include enhancing national security, protecting the Philippines' territorial integrity and national sovereignty, enhancing the Philippines' competitive edge in the international arena, protecting the rights of Filipinos overseas, projecting a positive image of the Philippines and increasing international understanding of Philippine culture for mutually-beneficial relations with other countries.

President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Yasay to the post in May 2016, calling him "competent and honest." Yasay is a North Cotabato native and long-time friend of the president. The two were former law

school students and college roommates—Yasay at the University of the Philippines and Duterte at San Beda College. Both men also have roots in Mindanao. Yasay was born in Kidapawan, Cotabato and completed his secondary education at Davao City High School.

The former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman is an outstanding lawyer with experience in both the Philippines and the U.S. Other than serving as chair of the SEC from 1995 to 2000, Yasay is perhaps best known for testifying against an associate of former President Joseph Estrada in a stock price-fixing scandal in 1999. The allegations eventually led to Estrada's ouster. Yasay later re-

ceived the EDSA People Power Freedom Award, for unflinching courage in proclaiming the truth as a key witness in the impeachment trial.

Yasay is an outstanding lawyer who has practiced both in the Philippines and the U.S. He litigated numerous corporate, civil and criminal and immigration cases under the Philippine and American legal and judicial systems and in various quasi-judicial and administrative bodies. He also authored numerous articles and commentaries on various fields of law published in U.S.-based Philippine newspaper and magazines.

Yasay, who turns 70 in January, has a home and roots in Hawaii. He was a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa's School of Law where he taught "Introduction to Philippine Law," while his wife worked as a legislative aide for a state senator.

It remains to be seen whether Yasay will continue as secretary of foreign affairs, having accepted the position on a one year term. Nevertheless, he took time to answer several wide-ranging questions from the Chronicle about his position and key issues facing the Philippines. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

**Q: What has the past six months been like for you?**

A: The first order of business was to make the country's policies and positions known and clear to our foreign coun-



DFA Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. with Chronicle columnist Carlota Ader.

terparts to avoid misunderstanding. We demonstrated our preparedness to engage constructively with all countries and entities no matter how contentious the issues may be. Finally, we created an environment conducive to dialogue and cooperation even among parties to a dispute. We successfully accomplished these during the past four months of the Duterte administration, providing us with a stable platform from which to conduct further discussions and negotiations with our neighbors and international partners on issues and concerns of mutual interest.

The Philippines has effectively communicated to the world the policies and positions of the Duterte administration during a series of multilateral meetings beginning with the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Ulan Bator, Mongolia in June 2016, followed by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in June and the ASEAN Summit in September, both in Vientiane, Laos. Finally, we participated in the UN General Assembly in New York last September where I was privileged to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly. This was followed by our participation in the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in Lima, Peru in November.

The president recently visited Brunei, China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Singapore. All these international engagements have served as venues for frank articulation of our policies, avoiding misinterpretation of our intentions which are consistently aimed at pursuing Philippine interests.

**Q: What are your thoughts on U.S. president-elect Donald Trump?**

A: President Duterte had a phone conversation with president-elect Trump and they established good rapport during the exchange. We are confident that Philippine-U.S. relations will improve under the Trump presidency.

**Q: Are Filipinos still upset with Trump for calling the Philippines a terrorist nation?**

A: It is best that we do not comment on statements made by president-elect Trump when he was still a candidate. We take it as part of campaign rhetoric. The Philippines and the Filipino people stand in solidarity with other peace-loving countries and individuals in

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COVER STORY

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fighting and opposing terrorism in all its forms.

**Q: What is the general feeling of the Filipino people towards Trump?**

A: The Philippines and the U.S. are allies with a long history of cooperation and friendship based on shared values, mutual trust and mutual respect. Philippine-U.S. relations are wide-ranging and do not only include military and economic cooperation but also encompass people-to-people exchanges, education and many others. This sentiment will surely spill over into the Trump administration. Filipinos look forward to strengthening ties with the U.S. under president-elect Trump.

**Q: What does a Trump presidency mean for Philippine-U.S. relations?**

A: It is an opportunity for a reset or restart in the Philippines' relations with the U.S. President Duterte's pronouncements regarding pursuing an independent foreign policy means re-orienting or recalibrating the focus towards such more immediate issues and threats such as drugs, climate change and violent extremism.

We will continue to find new and better ways to strengthen Philippine-U.S. relations in various areas of cooperation, from enhancing defense capabilities to supporting sustainable development goals. Our diplomacy is geared towards reaching out to all countries. We are keen in strengthening our engagement with neighbors and partners in the region, without necessarily relying on only one or two countries.

On defense and security, President-elect Trump and his foreign policy team have committed to pursuing a strategy of "peace through strength." This will likely mean bigger military and stronger alliances, which is typical under a Republican administration. In terms of the economy, President Trump has signaled the need to bring back more manufacturing jobs to the U.S. and has spoken out against what they viewed as unfair trade practices—cur-

rency devaluation, violations of intellectual property rights, etc.

**Q: Will President Duterte make good on his threats to cut ties with the U.S.?**

A: The president's statements have to be taken in proper context—which is a policy of weaning away from the mindset of dependence and moving towards an independent foreign policy that prioritizes the Philippines' national interests and maintains respectful partnerships with all nations.

The DFA and other agencies continue to engage our U.S. counterparts in productive collaboration in a wide range of areas. The DFA has continued to affirm that the Philippines' alliance with the U.S. will continue to be strong and relevant.

Having high-level discussions is one modality. In my visit to Washington, D.C. last September, I had frank discussions with State Department officials and U.S. legislators. In October, I met with U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary Daniel Russel and Department of Defense Assistant Secretary Kelly Magsamen, who visited the Philippines. A few American congressional staff delegations have also recently been in Manila.

These exchanges have provided opportunities for frank and honest discourse about the president's vision of an independent foreign policy. The DFA underscored to U.S. officials the value of understanding the context of the president's statements. Contrary to what is being portrayed in the press, both Philippine and U.S. officials have remained positive about the future of Philippine-U.S. and are committed to continuing cooperation.

**Q: When will the president start pursuing the recommendations made by the international tribunal's ruling on the South China Sea?**

A: We have been consistent in advocating the rule of law in all international engagements and that includes up-

holding the ruling. Our initiatives will be properly calibrated, especially that the Philippines is in the process of building mutual trust and confidence with China. Currently, we are moving forward with issues and themes that are non-confrontational.

As to the South China Sea case, a bilateral consultation mechanism between the Philippines and China can be agreed on, and it shall then be a good step that both sides can take in the direction of resolving issues amicably.

**Q: Where does this dispute rank on his list of priorities?**

A: The Scarborough Shoal is the traditional fishing ground of Filipino fishermen. Maintaining their unimpeded access to the Scarborough Shoal remains a national priority.

**Q: Are China's troops and infrastructure already too far entrenched in the area to be forcibly removed? If so, what recourse does the Philippines have?**

A: Philippine relations with China are multi-faceted. The dispute in the South China Sea is not the sum total of the Philippines' bilateral relations with China. The Philippine government pursues friendly relations with China based on the rule of law, mutual respect, sincerity and equality. As indicated in the Arbitral Award on the South China Sea issued in July 2016, the Scarborough Shoal is a traditional fishing ground for Filipino fishermen. The government works to ensure that Filipino fishermen will have unimpeded access to the area.

**Q: How long will**

**the president continue his tough stance against drug addicts and drug dealers?**

A: The fight against illegal drugs is something that we should have done a long time ago. We are doing this to protect our citizens and future generations. We cannot allow criminals to operate with impunity. The fight against illegal drugs will continue to ensure every citizen's right to live in a drug-free country.

**Q: What is Duterte's plan to address the severe lack of drug treatment programs and rehabilitation centers?**

A: The president is working with the private sector and government agencies to build and administer drug treatment and rehabilitation centers. Just recently, he led the inauguration of the mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (DATRC) at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, as part of the administration's efforts to solve the drug menace in the country.

**Q: What's the latest on the**

**president's efforts to broker a deal with the Muslim insurgency?**

A: In line with the Duterte administration's campaign for an all-inclusive peace process in Mindanao, the president recently signed an Executive Order that will create a new and expanded Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC)—a body which is tasked to draft a new enabling law that will serve as the legal foundation of the future Bangsamoro autonomous government in Mindanao.

The president's guidance is clear that no one should be left behind in this entire peace-seeking process—that is to have an all-inclusive process. Unity among Moro leaders is key to advancing the common interest of the Bangsamoro people and ultimately bring lasting peace in Mindanao.

The government is working on a two-pronged approach—to settle the Moro rebellion problem politically and to infuse socio-economic development projects in con-

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# Role Models for Civility

COMMONSENSE By Marichu A. Villanueva

**A** self-confessed fatalist, President Rodrigo Duterte repeatedly declares in all his extemporaneous speeches and public pronouncements about his readiness to meet His Maker. The 72-year-old President nonchalantly talks about his possible death while in office due to his existing medical problems. Or, not being able to finish his six-year term in office amid persistent coup rumors and alleged ouster plots against him.

In both scenarios, President Duterte would always assuage the public there is nothing to worry about because the coun-

try's 1987 Constitution provides the Vice President to succeed in office in case of vacancy. In which case, Vice President Leni Robredo assumes if ever President Duterte gets impeached, or incapacitated, or dies before his term ends on June 30, 2022.

While they were still in good speaking terms, President Duterte would banter about the Vice President just waiting from the wings in case his helicopter or airplane crashes. The Vice President would often retort she is not one praying for such situation. Adding, the President's joke on plane crash is rather hurting her because it brings back sad memories

when she lost her late husband to a plane crash, former Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Lately, however, President Duterte no longer jokes about the Vice President after he "fired" her from his Cabinet as head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). Through a text message by Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco on Dec. 4 (Sunday) last year, the Vice President was told to stop attending the Cabinet meeting which is usually conducted every Mondays either at the Palace, or in Davao City.

The gap between the two leaders further widened when Malacanang Palace at the last minute dis-invited the Vice President from attending the

traditional New Year *vin d'* honneur for the diplomatic community held at the Palace six days ago. According to the camp of the Vice President, they received the Palace invite via email last Dec. 28. But on Jan. 4, or on the eve of the affair, the staff of Mrs. Robredo purportedly got a phone call from an undisclosed person and informed them the Vice President need not attend due to "limited space" at the Palace.

The Palace kept quiet all throughout after the media reported the "dis-invite" as announced by the camp of the Vice President. Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanan later admitted it was simply because it would be "awkward" for the both the President and the Vice President to appear together when, in fact, the two of them are

feuding publicly over policies and on other national issues.

Incidentally, the Vice President was not also invited at the state banquet last week in honor of the state visit in Manila by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his wife and their delegation and hosted by President Duterte at Malacanang. Following protocol, the Vice President should be the one to welcome the state visitor at the airport. But this role was given to someone else.

But there is a time for everything, as the favorite bible verses Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 say that no less than President Duterte himself often invokes in all his speeches.

The Chief Executive could no longer avoid the time he has to sit down and talk with his estranged Vice President to talk

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## COVER STORY (from page 5, FOREIGN...)

flict-prone and affected areas throughout Mindanao.

**Q: How prepared is the government in dealing with ISIS fighters who may be in the Philippines?**

A: The Philippine government recognizes the fact that ISIS may be operating in Southeast Asia. Some self-proclaimed groups in Southern

Philippines have publicly expressed support for and affiliation with ISIS. It is also important to bear in mind that the threats of terrorism and violent extremism are not new to the Philippines. The Abu Sayaff Group (ASG) has been in existence for some time, particularly in the Basilan and Sulu areas. The Philippine government has developed mecha-

nisms to effectively respond to and mitigate the threat posed by ASG. As such, the likely emergence of ISIS in Southeast Asia and the Philippines will be met with our unbending political resolve to keep our country and people safe. ISIS will be met by appropriate and robust government response.

**Q: Is it safe for foreigners and tourists to visit the Philippines?**

A: The Philippine government places great importance on ensuring the safety and protection of all foreign nationals in the Philippines and will continue to improve measures to ensure the safety of foreign nationals. We have so far been successful in securing the safety of Philippine-bound tourists.

**Q: Will you resign as Foreign**

**Affairs Secretary after one year?**

A: I serve at the pleasure of the president.

**Q: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?**

A: I hope I will still be able to serve our country and people in whatever capacity.

Associate editor Dennis Galolo contributed to this story.

## EDITORIALS (from page 3, SAVING...)

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 unob-

structed; 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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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?

# Obama's Immigration Legacy



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

**T**he time to talk about a legacy is when a person is gone. By the time you read this, Obama will be gone – from the White House.

On Christmas Day, I was driving to Kailua from the airport where I met my son Noel who arrived from the Mainland. We passed by Buzz's restaurant, Obama's favorite in Hawaii, across Kailua Beach Park which is adjacent to the ocean. "Obama had dinner here Wednesday, let's stop here and find out what he had," I told him. "I'll pass, I want to check my house," he replied. Noel lives a dog walk away from Buzz's.

That night I dreamt that I went to dinner at Buzz's. In my dream I saw President Obama. I approached him, saying "Mr. President, I was with Senator Inouye at your fundraiser at Kahala eight years ago." "I'm glad to see you again," he replied. Mr. President, may I

ask you a few questions for my newspaper column?" I asked. "Of course," Obama answered. "Why didn't you enact a comprehensive immigration reform law? That would be your legacy," I asked. "The Republicans were against it," Obama replied. "But you were able to enact the Affordable Care Act. The Republicans were against it too," I persisted. "Oh, here comes my ride. Glad talking with you." Obama cut me off. My dream ended.

Obama, indeed, could have had a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act enacted at the same time as the Affordable Care Act when Congress was still controlled by the Democrats. Why didn't he? Did he really care about immigrants? Or palabas lang? No legacy on that.

"Putin knows everything that is going on in Russia," Obama said, implying that Putin knew about the alleged hacking by Russians of the emails of Hillary's campaign manager which was leaked to the press. Hillary's campaign manager was said to be a victim of phishing (a scam by which an e-mail user is duped into revealing information). The Democrats blame Hillary's defeat on those embarrassing leaks. Sore losers. If the Rus-

sians wanted to manipulate the result of the elections, they should have hacked the results in California and New York so that Trump would win there.

Following the same argument, "Obama must know everything that is going on in America." Therefore, he knows what is going on in the immigration agencies.

### Increased Immigration Fees

One Obama legacy that will affect thousands of immigrants is the increase in the filing fees of most petitions and applications for immigration benefits. USCIS started imposing the fee increase on December 23, 2016. What a "Christmas gift" for immigrants.

The following are the fee increases for some of the most popular forms:

I-90 Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card \$365 to \$455; I-129F Application for Alien Fiancee \$340 to \$535; I-130 Petition for Alien Relative \$420 to \$535; N 400 Application for Naturalization \$595 to \$640. For complete list go to [www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees](http://www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees)

### More Complicated Forms

On the same date that im-

migration fees were increased, more complicated forms were also released.

On the N-400, USCIS wants to know all about the applicant's prior spouses, including date of birth and date of marriage – things that he may no longer remember or chose not to remember. USCIS also wants to know about the applicant's current spouse's former spouses. USCIS wants to know with whom the applicant's current spouse has been sleeping. He/she might be a terrorist or an enemy. So you could be

sleeping with someone who slept with a terrorist or the enemy.

Susmariosep. Shouldn't USCIS be asking these questions when you petition for an alien relative and before the alien arrives in the U.S.? As I have always preached, it is best to marry a virgin so you won't have to worry answering questions about your current spouse's prior spouses.

On the I-129, there is no trick question but a trick location of a question. Buried on

(continued on page 14)

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# New Law Requires Annual Moped Inspection and Registration

**T**he City's Department of Customer Services (CSD) is reminding moped owners on Oahu that a new state law, Act 200 of the Hawaii Session Laws of 2016, requires annual safety inspections and registration of mopeds beginning January 1, 2017.

Registered owners of mopeds will need to safety inspect and register mopeds initially this year and annually thereafter. Owners will receive a registration notice 45 days prior to the registration deadline. The deadline to inspect and register the moped will be the month in which it was orig-

inally licensed. The moped must still be inspected and registered if the notice is not received.

Mopeds will need to be safety inspected before a registration can be completed. The initial safety inspection will indicate the lack of registration and a failed safety inspection certificate will be issued. Safety inspection deficiencies must be corrected and the moped re-inspected. The safety inspection fee is \$13.24 plus tax.

For a list of moped inspection stations, go to <http://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/library/motor-vehicle-safety-office/>.

The moped owner must bring the failed inspection certificate to a satellite city hall to register the moped and pay the \$32.50 fee. A license plate and registration emblem will be issued. The registration is valid for one year and the subsequent annual registration fee will be \$27.50. The license plate must be affixed to the rear of the moped.

The moped owner must return to the safety inspection station with the new registration to obtain a safety inspection certificate and decal.

For information on the requirement, go online to: [www.honolulu.gov/csd](http://www.honolulu.gov/csd).



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# DR. WAITE-ANSDELL TO ASSUME REINS OF PMAH

by Dennis Galolo

**D**r. Josephine De La Torre Waite-Ansdell will be sworn in as the next president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). She and PMAH's slate of officers will be inducted at a gala scheduled for January 28, 2017 at 5 pm at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballroom.

PMAH is the premiere organization representing Filipino doctors in Hawaii. PMAH and its affiliate organizations—the Ohana Medical Mission (OMM), the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls and the PMAH Foundation—have a long history and proud tradition of reaching out to the less fortunate throughout Hawaii and beyond. It's a tradition that Dr. Waite-Ansdell intends to carry on as president.

In the following exclusive interview, Dr. Waite-Ansdell shares her vision for PMAH—now and into the future. The responses were edited for space and clarity.

**Q: How does it feel to be leading the premier professional organization for Filipino doctors in Hawaii?**

A: I am deeply honored and excited to be elected as president of this prestigious organization. The truth is I am a bit apprehensive because we doctors currently face all kinds of challenges. There is a great need among physicians to work harder and do better than our best. Healthcare has changed a lot and we are caught in the tide. As PMAH president, I would like to improve our situation. What can I contribute to this great organization and to the community? I ask the question "What we as PMAH members can do?" It is indeed a big task. It is exciting

because this is a great opportunity to leverage change and I believe we can do it.

**Q: What are your roles and responsibilities as president of PMAH?**

A: I will be wearing several hats with managerial, judiciary and supervisory roles, overseeing various programs and projects in coordination with our PMAH affiliates. It will be my responsibility to maintain the integrity of PMAH and to ensure cohesion. As an ambassador of goodwill, I will be the face of PMAH to the community.

**Q: What will be your top priorities during your term?**

A: I would like to focus on physician well-being. The question is—how can we physicians render the best care to our patients without feeling burnt out and still have quality time for ourselves and our families? This entails maintaining competence and keeping abreast with progress.

There's a saying, Happy patient, which translates to better outcomes of care.

**Q: How would you describe your leadership style?**

A: I lead by example. I like to inspire and motivate. I am blessed to have a lot of doers in the organization who are highly competent and eager to help.

**Q: What is the top challenge facing PMAH? How do you plan on addressing this challenge?**

A: A lot of our members are close to retirement. Some have already retired and some are no longer with us. Maintaining membership and active participa-

tion and recruiting younger members are our challenges.

**Q: PMAH has undertaken numerous philanthropic activities. Why is giving back to the less fortunate so important for the PMAH?**

A: It is the nature of this organization to share and give back to the community. It is on this tenet that I believe this organization was founded. We are all blessed to be living and practicing medicine in the U.S. In the Philippines, there is so much suffering and lack amongst our not-so-fortunate brothers and sisters. As members of PMAH, we need to remember our humble beginnings and always look to help alleviate the suffering of our compatriots. This gift of giving is both fulfilling and surprising in the sense that in the end, we as givers are gifted back with an intangible priceless joy.

**Q: Tell us about your background.**

A: My father was an engineer and my mother was a teacher. Both are very humble and religious. I am the youngest of eight children and was born in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. I earned my Bachelor of Science in psychology and graduated from medical school at the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. I had residency training in internal medicine at Makati Medical Center and later did my post graduate and internal medicine residency training at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Q: Who was one of your early role models in life? How did that person impact you?**

A: The truth is, I finished medical school for my parents. It was my gift back to them. They deserved recognition for all of their hard work and love. Practicing medicine, however, is a hard task. It is God's will that I become a physician and it is His grace that sustains me. The doctor-patient relationship is sacred. I am just an instrument of God's love and care.

**Q: Why did you choose to be-**



Josephine De la Torre Waite-Ansdell, M.D. Tim Llena Photography

**come a doctor?**

A: I am very sensitive to the needs of others. In high school, my aptitude test showed high scores for both science and human services. Hence, I pursued psychology and toyed with the idea of becoming a doctor. It was at first for the challenge and prestige, evolved into a work of love for my parents and transformed into my life's calling.

**Q: If you were not a physician what would you be doing instead?**

A: I may be practicing as a psychologist. Who knows? Maybe a fashion designer, an interior decorator, an artist or a motivational speaker.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

A: I love both active and quiet moments. I like to swim, read books (and someday write one), do some gardening, go for hikes and do adventurous things. I love to end my day with soothing music and enjoy moments of tranquility and reflection. I love the outdoors as much as I love the indoors.

**Q: When your term is done, what legacy do you want to leave behind?**

A: I want to be remembered as a strong, healthy, highly-competent, efficient and joyful physician.

**Q: What message do you have for fellow doctors who will one day assume leadership positions at PMAH?**

A: That we are all one and share a common vision and mission. PMAH's doctors are well positioned in the community and united in their endeavors to heal, empower and ensure better health for all. Together we can accomplish great things.

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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, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.*

**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**State Announces Increase in Shelter Beds Via New Contracts**

The State Department of Human Services has awarded contracts to 33 homeless shelters worth \$13 million for 12 months. The new contracts require shelters to focus on outcome measures such as the number of people they will permanently house over the coming year.

The results of the competitive bids show a net increase in state-funded homeless shelter beds, with 3,761 for the next year vs. 3,577 for last year. Additionally, the shelters are proposing to double the number of people they place in permanent housing from approximately 3,000 to 6,200.

“This is about more than increasing shelter beds,” says Gov. David Ige. “It’s about increasing results. For the same taxpayer investment as last year, we’re

doubling the number of people getting housed. We are finding better solutions, getting better efficiency and creating better cooperation.”

The Request For Proposals (RFPs) bidding process was open to all shelters statewide and by law requires shelters to increase accountability, privacy and safety for residents while moving people more quickly into permanent housing. In accordance with the state procurement process, shelters were encouraged to ask questions about the RFP and received written answers. Revisions were made to the RFP based on their feedback.

Contracts take effect February 1, 2017. All state-funded shelters will receive training by the department’s Homeless Programs Office.

**Schatz Named Top Democrat For Military, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee**

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz has been appointed to serve as the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA). Last year, the subcommittee funding programs and projects nationwide that totaled more than \$80 billion.

The MilCon-VA subcommittee is responsible for appropriating funding for military construction, training ranges, family housing and other facilities that support military readiness. The Subcommittee also funds the VA to improve the delivery of care to veterans and their families; process benefits and disability claims; speed up appeals processing; sustain national cemeteries; and administers transition assistance programs, VA home loans and educational benefits.

“As the lead Democrat on this

subcommittee, I look forward to continuing the bipartisan tradition the Appropriations Committee has created to honor those that have served,” Sen. Schatz says.

With more than 120,000 veterans and 78,000 active duty and reserve personnel, the military has a significant relationship with Hawaii. Last Congress, Schatz steered more than \$640 million for military construction projects across the state, including: \$74 million to upgrade the electric grid at Kauai’s Pacific Missile Range Facility; \$123.8 million for a new behavioral health/dental clinic at Schofield Barracks; \$122.1 million to replace a medical/dental clinic at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay; \$68.1 million for a new bachelor enlisted quarters at Kaneohe Bay; \$57 million to improve the readiness of the F-22 squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and \$31 million for a new Army National Guard maintenance shop in Hilo.

**Philippine Consulate Announces New ASEAN Website**

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is reminding Filipino social media users of the launch of the new ASEAN 2017 website (link: asean2017.ph) by the Philippine Presidential Communications Office.

On January 1, the Philippines officially assumed the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), coinciding with the

50th anniversary of the association. As one of the five founding members, the Philippines will continue to push for what’s best for the region and its peoples.

ASEAN priorities for 2017 include people-oriented and people-centered initiatives, peace and stability, maritime security and cooperation, inclusive and innovative-led growth, ASEAN

*(continued on page 11)*

HEALTH & FAMILY

# HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH IN 2017!

**SAVOIR FAIRE** By Mayenne Carmona

**M**any people couldn't wait for 2016 to be over. There were so many catastrophes, broken relationships, accidents and deaths, many caused by heart failure. Mother and daughter Debbie Reynolds/Carrie Fisher were the most recent celebrities who succumbed to heart failure.



Heart failure could be congenital, but a lot of cases are also attributed to lifestyle. People who are overweight, those who went through years of decadent indulgence (smoking, drinking, drugs), people who work hard, are subjected to a lot of stress, and who do not exercise are almost sure candidates of having some kind of heart disease.

At the advent of this new year, a good part of your New Year's resolutions should be about health and lifestyle. It may be difficult to stick to these resolutions, but let's face it: A healthy mind and body require some kind of sacrifice. Health will elude those who don't try to live healthy. No pain, no gain. Here are some resolutions for a healthy you:

**1. Every year, losing weight is perennially on most everyone's list.** For those who are overweight, on the border of obesity, suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, or have high cholesterol levels, don't be in denial and consult a doctor and/or nutritionist.

Chances are, you have to change your diet and lifestyle. Don't expect instant success, you will encounter a lot of bumps on the road, but if you strive to reach your goal, which is the weight you would like to

go down to, success is just around the corner. A healthy diet and a desire to lose weight go hand in hand.

**2. Quit smoking if you are still smoking.** The warning on the pack says it all. Smoking causes heart attack, lung cancer, throat cancer, etc., leading to death. An incentive is to think about the money you will save when you stop buying packs and packs of cigarettes.

**3. Avoid stress.** Since stress is unavoidable every so often, chronic stress can increase the risk of heart disease, depression, obesity, insomnia, and many more. An integrative medicine specialist Dr. Roberta Lee says that long work hours, little sleep, no exercise, poor diet, and not spending time with family and friends can contribute to stress. "Stress is an inevitable part of life. Relax, sleep, socialize, and take vacations," she suggests.

**4. Cut back on alcohol if you love to drink.** Drinking in excess affects the brain's neurotransmitters and can increase the risk of depression, memory loss or even seizures.

Chronic heavy drinking boosts your risks of liver and heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental deterioration, and even cancers of the mouth, throat, liver, and breast.

**5. Sleep.** A good night's rest can do wonders for your mood and appearance. Lack of sleep has been linked to obesity, type 2 diabetes, memory loss, and looking older than your years. So, sleep, take a nap and don't feel guilty about it.

**6. Stay socially connected.** Research shows that people with strong social ties are happy people. In fact, a lack of social activities can damage your health as much as alcohol abuse and smoking.

With social media and smart phones, it is so easy to revive lost relationships. In this advance age of technology, do not be a recluse.

**7. Do social work.** Happiness increases when you help others in need and happiness is good for the health. Research suggests that helping the less fortunate gives positive emotions, which result in making people more resilient and resourceful. Peter Kamaris, PhD, coordinator of public education for the NY State Psychological Association, says that someone who makes the resolution to be a volunteer and help the poor is likely to obtain a "tremendous personal benefit in the happiness department."

**8. Learn a new skill, go back to school and boost that**

**brainpower.** A 2007 study found that middle-age adults who had gone back to school had stronger mental power and verbal skills than those who did not. Several studies have linked higher educational attainment to a decreased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

**9. Make exercise a plan of your life.** Whether it be as simple as walking, learning a sport, going to the gym, move that body! Research shows exercise is great for the heart and for the health! View fitness as a permanent lifestyle change, not an

activity that you will stop once you reach a number on the scale.

**10. Be mindful of the environment.** Read up on what is toxic for the environment and let us not put out stuff that is bad for all kinds of life. (human, animal or plant life). Remember, we are all connected and somehow, every chemical we put out into the environment will come right back to us in some way, shape or form. — Source: [www.health.com](http://www.health.com) ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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

resiliency and ASEAN as model of regionalism.

The issue of the South China Sea will also be on the ASEAN 2017 agenda, says Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Enrique Manalo.

"One of our main goals this

year, in cooperation with China, is to try and arrive at a framework for the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea by the end of the year," he says.

In the Philippines, the website was officially launched in Davao on January 15, 2017.

To follow ASEAN's progress throughout the year, go to the following social media sites:

- Facebook ([facebook.com/asean2017](http://facebook.com/asean2017))
- Twitter ([twitter.com/asean2017](http://twitter.com/asean2017))
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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Pangilinan Wants Facebook Penalized Over Fake News

by Kristian Javier

Thursday, January 19, 2017

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Wednesday filed Philippine Senate Resolution 271, which seeks to conduct inquiries into social media platforms that allow the spread of fake news.

Pangilinan filed PSR 271 to hold hearings on the rise of fake news and misinformation on social media platforms, especially on Facebook, and penalize them for failing "to provide an environment that enables the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country."

Pangilinan told Philstar.com that they are still researching the appropriate penalties but said that the amount "will have to 'hurt' the giant social media company" for it to act on the sudden increase of fake news on the internet.

Citing a Statista Report, the senator said the Philippines has 59.2 million internet users as of 2016 and that 22



million Facebook users were engaged in conversations about the 2016 Philippine elections last May out of 47 million active users in the Philippines reported by Facebook.

"The propagation of fake news stories has become an effective weapon of several political operatives to influence public opinion and national discourse," Pangilinan said in the resolution, adding that social media platforms should be held responsible and accountable for allowing fake news to proliferate. An independent organization will screen the flagged items

Pangilinan also noted the criticisms that Facebook and

other social media platforms received after the Philippine presidential elections due to the increase of misinformation and of fake news sites.

Facebook has already rolled out -- in the US and in Germany -- a tool that will allow users to flag supposed fake news, the UK-based Telegraph reported in its Technology section this week. Those found to have misinformation will be flagged as disputed and users will be warned that they are about to share a disputed article. Disputed articles will not affect Facebook's algorithm, which determines what users see on their individual feeds.

"The conversion of false stories into major news topics

in this era of post-truth politics has become problematic not only in the Philippines, but also in other parts of the world," Pangilinan said, adding that fake news had a wider reach than actual news during the US presidential elections.

Pangilinan said that the constitution should protect the freedom of the Filipinos, especially after a surge of abuse through the spread of "falseness, defamation, character assassination and national security threats" on social media.

"It is therefore in the interest of the State to protect the integrity of cyberspace so that it will become a tool for development, and not a tool for sowing dissent and virulent tribalism," Pangilinan added.

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV also filed Senate Resolution 259 on Wednesday, urging the Senate Committee on Public Information to investigate so-called "social media trolls" responsible for creating and spreading misleading

news and information.

The resolution also calls for the Senate to investigate the sudden surge of "false, erroneous, distorted, fabricated and/or misleading" news and information on social media.

Pangilinan's PSR 271, which has yet to be referred to a Senate committee, does not specify monetary penalties, but the hearings will look into how social media companies can be held accountable for the spread of fake news.

Facebook opened their office in the Philippines in April 2016, naming Digs Dimagiba, former head of the information technology and mobile division of Samsung Philippines, as country manager. Twitter does not have a Philippine office but has one in nearby Singapore.

The resolutions come on the heels of orders that the National Telecommunications Commission sent to Internet Service Providers to block adult websites for allegedly violating the law against child pornography. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## OPINION (from page 6, ROLE MODELS....)

and discuss policy and other national issues across the table whether they agree or not with each other on these matters of state.

President Duterte will soon convene the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) to discuss the common legislative agenda with the leaders of the 17th Congress along with key Cabinet members. Under the law that created the LEDAC, the President chairs and presides the meeting, with the Vice

President as among its members.

The LEDAC composition also includes the Senate president; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; seven Cabinet members; three Senators and three House members; three sectoral representatives (local government unit, youth, and private sector) to be appointed by the President.

President Duterte earlier designated the following Cabinet officials to attend the LEDAC meeting, namely: Na-

tional Economic and Development Authority Director-General Ernesto Pernia; Finance Sec. Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez; Budget and Management Sec. Benjamin Diokno; Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana; Public Works and Highways Sec. Mark Villar; Transportation Sec. Arturo Tugade; and Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Sec. Jesus Dureza.

A chief ally of President Duterte, Senate president Aquilino Pimentel III earlier disclosed the LEDAC meeting

will be convened at the Palace tentatively scheduled before the end of this month. Before the first LEDAC meeting, Pimentel will sit down with House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez to draw up a common list of priority and most urgent bills that need to be passed in the next few months that will be tabled at the LEDAC.

The first regular sessions of the 17th Congress resumed starting last Monday after their one-month Christmas break. The Senate president and the Speaker, along with their respective panel members, have yet to meet and agree on the common legislative agenda that would be lined up for passage into law for the remaining months before Congress adjourns sine die in June.

Among the bills that the Senators agreed to prioritize include the proposed bills to provide free tuition in state universities and colleges; free irrigation for farmers; universal health insurance coverage; and, nutritious meals for stu-

dents in public primary schools.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the goal is to pass as many of the pet bills within the next two months as they could. According to Sotto, there was also an agreement among Senators to facilitate approval of the proposed amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, the creation of a trust fund for the coconut levy funds; and the expansion of the coverage of the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

But the Senators themselves are bickering with each other like the near fisticuffs between two of them yesterday at the session hall. And they talk about agreement on pet bills?

And how about the feud between our country's top two leaders dished out in public, too? President Duterte and Vice President Robredo should be role models for civility and set aside personal hurt in favor of national interest. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# New Bipartisan Bill To Protect DREAMers from Deportation

**D**REAMers may have found hope against possible deportation in the coming months as a new bipartisan bill that will protect them is underway.

Called the “Bar Removal of Immigrants who Dream and Grow the Economy” or BRIDGE Act, the new bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) would provide DACA-eligible individuals temporary protection from deportation. They will be placed under “provisional protected presence” similar to the one provided by the DACA or the Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrivals. They will also be granted work permits and will be allowed to con-

tinue their schooling after paying the required fees and undergoing background checks.

DACA protected the children of immigrants brought here to the US before turning 16 years old and have remained here, gone to school or worked and maintained no criminal records. But because DACA was merely an executive action, that could be repealed by President-elect Donald Trump, having a bill that would safeguard 740,000 young people from deportation is a glimmer of hope.

Although the text of the actual bill is not yet available as this will be reintroduced in January 2017, the provisional protected presence will be for three years. The proponents of the bill are hopeful that within those three years, they would have been able to pass a more comprehensive immigration reform act that would not only stop deportation for these young people but provide a path to citizenship as well.

The Bridge Act will also be made available not only to those who have already been granted DACA but also to those who will apply for the protection for the first time. It will also ensure that any information obtained by the government under DACA or the new provisional protected presence will not be used for immigration enforcement purposes, with exceptions for national security or non-immigration felony investigations.

Despite Republicans questioning DACA because this was done through executive rather than legislative action and the GOP’s immigration platform being anchored in securing the rule of law, both at the borders and at ports of entry, it is interesting to know that there are some Republican lawmakers that are just as willing to protect the young immigrants just as much as their Democrat counterparts. Aside from Senators Graham

and Murkowski, Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) also expressed their support. However Sen. Durbin wants to add people in pairs- one Republican and one Democrat.

The senator is also hopeful that more Republicans will sign on because “most of them feel it’s only fair to take care of these young people.” He is also hopeful that with Trump slowly softening his immigration stance, they would get a more favorable response. Trump recently told Time magazine that these young people “got brought here at a very young age, they’ve worked here, they’ve gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they’re in never-never land because they don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Meanwhile, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) welcomed the new bipartisan bill. William A. Stock, AILA President, said

“since DACA’s inception, we’ve seen three-quarters of a million DREAMers come forward in order to have a chance to pursue higher education and careers, in the process becoming productive taxpaying members of society. Senators Graham and Durbin recognize that these young adults are a vital part of our communities and an innovative and creative force that should not be stifled.”

AILA’s Executive Director Benjamin Johnson also said that “the bill is illustrative of the widespread bipartisan support for DREAMers and for reform that recognizes the valuable contributions that they and millions other immigrants have made to this country. Keeping DACA going is not only the right thing to do, it is smart business. Studies have shown that revoking DACA for the hundreds of thousands of current grantees would cost America more than \$430 billion over ten years.”

**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

## Leni Camp to Marcos: Withdraw Protest If SD Cards Prove Nothing

by Kristian Javier  
Thursday, January 19, 2017

**M**ANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Leni Robredo on Thursday challenged Sen. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to withdraw his election protest if SD cards that allegedly prove election fraud fail to do so.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal said Marcos should withdraw if the alleged data from 13 SD cards being decrypted by the Commission on Elections does not bolster the former senator’s claim.

Macalintal also challenged lawyer Victor Rodriguez, spokesperson for the Marcos camp, to surrender his license to practice law to the Supreme Court for making “such irresponsible statements.”

“It is highly ridiculous, if not outright frivolous, for Marcos and his camp to express excitement over the alleged ‘data contained in the 13 SD cards’, as if they had already won the election because no one knows, not even the Supreme Court justices nor the Comelec officials, what said ‘data’ are all about,” Macalintal said.

A total of 13 out of the 26 decrypted SD cards found from unused vote counting machines (VCMs) were found to have data.

Macalintal, however, said that the data are “mere coded statements” not yet converted into their regular form to be understood by anyone.

In a statement, Rodriguez said that the “fact that data were found in supposedly untouched SD cards is proof that

fraud had been committed in the May elections.”

Macalintal, meanwhile, said that he is willing to surrender his license to practice law to the Supreme Court if the verification and examination of the 13 cards being decrypted proved the “massive fraud” the Marcos camp claims caused his loss to Robredo last May.

He added that he, Marcos and Rodriguez could file a Joint Manifestation before the Comelec. He also said that the Comelec should suspend the verification of the SD cards until an agreement has been signed.

“I believe this is the best and most suitable way to put an end to this controversy and for the entire electorate and the Filipino people to find out who is telling the truth- Marcos or Ro-

brede- regarding the alleged data found on these 13 SD cards,” Macalintal said.

Marcos ran for vice president in the May 2016 elections but lost to Robredo by a slim

margin. He filed an election protest before the Supreme Court, as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, questioning his loss. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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**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/>

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Peace Panel, NDF Resume Peace Talks in Rome**

by Jim Gomez  
Thursday, January 19, 2017

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Philippine negotiators and communist guerrillas are set to resume peace talks in Rome on Thursday, with the Maoist insurgents warning that alleged government violations of an accord on human rights may prompt them to end a monthslong ceasefire.

The presidential adviser to the talks, Jesus Dureza, said the government is optimistic "with managed expectations" about the resumption of the Norway-brokered negotiations in the Italian capital.

"These issues, although difficult, are surmountable with both sides sharing common aspirations for peace," Dureza said in a statement.

Rebel chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili was less optimistic, saying the guerrillas have raised a number of complaints, including alleged gov-

ernment breaches of a 1998 accord on respecting human rights and another pact on the safety of guerrilla consultants.

Agcaoili said the complaints, including the failure to release nearly 400 detainees the rebels consider political prisoners, made extending a five-month cease-fire "untenable."

The guerrillas also expressed concern over President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs, which have left thousands of drug suspects dead, and his decision to allow the burial of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery in November, Agcaoili said.

Innocent people have been killed in Duterte's crackdown "due to brutal, reckless and indiscriminate methods employed by the police in its anti-drug operations," Agcaoili said. Duterte must shift his priority to solving the larger problem of poverty through social and economic reforms, which are the main focus of this week's round of talks, he said.

The guerrillas have accused government troops of violating a cease-fire by occupying schools, village halls and other civilian areas and conducting illegal searches, questionings and surveillance of suspected rebel supporters. The military has denied the allegations.

Founded in 1968, the rebels' Communist Party has held peace talks with six Philippine presidents, including Duterte, whose rise to power in June sparked rebel optimism due to his searing anti-U.S. rhetoric and populist pro-poor stance.

A confidential Philippine government assessment obtained by The Associated Press says the number of guerrillas declined to 3,800 with more than 4,500 firearms in the first half of 2016, with about 700 of the country's 42,000 villages affected by the insurgency.

Sporadic fighting has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead since the rural-based insurgency erupted. [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

**WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY? (from page 7, OBAMA'S....)**

granting relief to children who were brought by their parents illegally to this country, Obama took it upon himself to enact his own law, saying in effect if you don't do it, I will. Actually he did not issue an executive order. He simply indicated that he wanted a DACA program and his minions enacted one. So, if President Trump wants to repeal it, he will not find the signature of Obama on any paper. Hence he can simply ask the immigration authorities not to enforce it.

Another problem is that DACA is contrary to the immigration policy that "the sins of the father are visited upon the child" This means that if the father, for example, committed fraud or an illegal act in coming to America and brought his child, the fraud or illegal act committed by the father is imputed to the child. There are a number of cases where children, innocent though they might be, were deported along with the father. However, we won all the cases we handled involving children brought illegally – without using DACA.

**DAPA**

Deferred Action for Parental Accountability aka Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) is an even more controversial program under the Obama administration. Under this program illegal alien parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents were allowed to remain in the country if they had lived here since January 1, 2010, and given work authorization. Here is the link to DAPA. <https://www.uscis.gov/immigration-action> It is also an amnesty program that would benefit several million illegal aliens. Like DACA, you do not find Obama's fingerprints on any document authorizing the program. He simply indicated that he wanted a DAPA program and his other minions enacted one. A Federal Court of Appeals declared this "executive action" illegal and issued a temporary injunction. See our article "DAPA Nadapa".

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws de-

gree from Yale Law School where he specialized in Constitutional Law. He has also a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He placed third in the Philippine Bar Examination in 1956. His current practice focuses on immigration law and criminal defense. He writes law books for the world's largest law book publishing company and writes legal articles for newspapers. He has a radio show in Honolulu, Hawaii with his son Noel, senior partner of the Bilecki & Tipon law firm, where they discuss legal and political issues. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Website: [www.bileckilawgroup.com](http://www.bileckilawgroup.com). He was born in Laoag City, Philippines. He served as a U.S. Immigration Officer. He is co-author with former Judge Artemio S. Tipon of the best-seller "Winning by Knowing Your Election Laws" and co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Atty. Tipon has personally experienced the entire immigration cycle by entering the United States on a non-immigrant working visa to write law books, adjusting his status to that of a lawful permanent resident, and becoming a naturalized United States citizen

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