

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## LAUGHTER TO LEGACY, "CORKY" FUND ESTABLISHED AT UH MANOA

By Jeannie PINPIN

**H**ONOLULU - Local cartoonist "Corky" was fondly remembered during a recent gift signing ceremony that marked the establishment of the Corky Trinidad Endowment Fund in the Center for Philippine Studies. This fund was established as a collaborative effort by the Friends of Corky, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Society of Professional Journalists of Honolulu, Pamana Dancers, and the Filipino Community Center, which together raised \$42,916. The group plans to keep fundraising to build this endowment further.

The purpose of this fund is to provide assistance to students, scholars and researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in the fields of journalism, mass communications, fine arts, performing arts, ethnic minorities, international studies, media studies and human rights who have an academic focus or interest in Philippine studies, society and culture.

"The endowment marks another accomplishment for Corky's legacy, but this is one that will help students' pursuits in journalism or other interests," said Corky's

son, Lorenzo Trinidad. "It's good to know that Corky will still be around in this way, still helping out the next generation."

### LAUGHTER TO LEGACY, "CORKY" FUND ESTABLISHED

Francisco "Corky" Flores Trinidad Jr., was born May 26, 1939 in Manila, Philippines. He was the first Asian editorial cartoonist to be syndicated in the United States, appearing in publications as di-

(continued on page 4)



(L-R) Adrienne LaFrance, Board Secretary, Society of Professional Journalists; Belinda Aquino, retired Director, Center for Philippine Studies; Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor, UH Manoa; Hana Trinidad, president of Pamana Dancers and widow of Corky; and Donna Yuchintch, President & CEO, UH Foundation

## Poll Spending Expected to Boost Economic Growth



By Lawrence AGCAOILI

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Investment bank Barclays Capital said election spending is expected to boost economic growth in the Philippines during the quarters before and after the May 10 elections.

In a research note on the Philippines entitled "Elections to Boost Growth," Barclays Capital economist Prakriti Sofat said

the May 10 presidential and congressional elections would boost gross domestic product (GDP) growth particularly in the first quarter of the year.

"Based on the experience of previous ballots, these elections are likely to provide a lift to the economy," Sofat stressed.

The investment bank pointed out that

(continued on page 4)

## OFWs Get Closer to Home

By Paolo ROMERO

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), regional migrants and their families now have more opportunities to call their loved ones for free. Thanks to the latest Abot Tanaw hub at the recently launched Global Pinoy Center (GPC) at the SM City Fairview. Abot Tanaw is a social network media provider that offers free video conferencing and voice call services to OFWs, regional migrants and their families through service hubs across the Philippines and one hub in Hong Kong. It is also the provider of communication services for the newly-opened GPC at the SM City Fairview. Using these service hubs, relatives of OFWs and regional migrants can avail of



Arnel Pineda and Abot Tanaw's Doris Jimenez, at SM City Fairview

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# EDITORIAL

## Long Journey

Democracy, said to be the best among imperfect systems, is governance of, for, and by the people. In a functioning democracy, elections manifest the power of the people. When democratic institutions break down and even the electoral system is undermined, the power of the people can be manifested in other ways. Filipinos showed how, during four days of dramatic events that stunned the world in February 1986.

The nation once again relives those four days that inspired similar movements for freedom around the world. The glory of people power, in the eyes of some Filipinos, has been diminished by the events of the past 24 years. Participants in the 1986 revolt now grouse that the country has too much freedom without responsibility. EDSA II aggravated the disappointment, as its principal beneficiary failed to live up to expectations.

But it is better to see the 1986 uprising as just the start of a tortuous journey to a better Philippines. The journey is long, and the destination



cannot be reached without all sectors pitching in, as the people did in February 1986. Today democratic institutions remain fragile and need strengthening. Economic growth cannot be sustained at levels sufficient enough to make a dent in poverty. Political instability is chronic.

In the past two decades, the nation has fallen way behind its Asian neighbors in most human development indicators. But the trend is not irreversible. With effective national leadership, and with citizens who refuse to wallow in despair and are willing to contribute to nation-building, the promise of the original people power revolt can still be realized. Making the right choices in the May elections is crucial. So is guarding the vote.

Twenty-four years ago today, Filipinos launched a revolution to achieve what seemed to be an impossible goal: the end of despotic rule. Filipinos must make the fruit of that revolution, the restoration of democracy, work to create a better nation. Making the elections in

May reflect the true will of the people, quickly and peacefully, will be a significant step in attaining that goal. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## Hanging On

If appointive officials seeking elective posts in May have any delicadeza, they would not even need a court ruling deeming them resigned after filing their certificates of candidacy. Instead appointive officials, including Cabinet members, have said they intend to appeal the latest Supreme Court ruling, which said the officials concerned are deemed resigned upon filing their COCs.

By the time the SC hands down its final ruling on this case, the officials concerned would have managed to hang on to their posts until the last second, before the official start of the campaign period for local races.

The officials can always toss the blame to the Supreme Court, which originally overturned last year a long-standing rule of the Commission on Elections. Before the SC stepped in, the Comelec had wanted to enforce its rule, which deemed all appointive officials resigned from government positions after filing their COCs. That was a reasonable requirement, meant to prevent appointive officials from using their positions in government — especially in the Cabinet and in revenue-generating agencies — in their campaign. Local government executives and lawmakers are not covered by the rule, but then they are elected and must serve for a particular period, and are entitled to enjoy the equity of the incumbent. Why should government officials appointed by the pres-

ident enjoy a similar privilege? But the SC decided to step in, and scrapped the Comelec rule.

The other day, the SC reversed its own ruling, but affected officials still have reason to hope. Late last year the SC did the unprecedented and reversed its own “final and executory” ruling, recorded in its entry of judgment, in the case of the creation of 16 cities. The reversal raised the prospect of perpetual litigation in this country, without hope of ever closing any case.

Appointive officials can avoid aggravating what some quarters have described as judicial instability by abiding by the latest SC ruling on their resignations instead of appealing the decision. But that is probably too much to expect of public officials in this administration. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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OPINION

# A Failure of Democracy

ROSES & THORNS

by Alejandro ROCES



In the opening chapter of his book, *The Philippine Revolution*, Apolinario Mabini wrote: "By political revolution I understand a people's movement aimed at producing a violent change in the organization of the three public powers: the executive, the legislative and the judicial. If the movement is slow, gradual or progressive, it is called evolution. I say people's movement because I consider it essential that the proposed change answer a need felt by the citizens in general. Any agitation promoted by a particular class for the benefit of its special interest does not deserve the name (of political revolution or evolution)."

People Power was a movement that had the general acclaim and participation of the nation; it represented the will of the Filipinos. And it succeeded in breaking the power of the oligarchs; but only for four days. In the end, a conjugal dictatorship was removed, but the cronies remained. This is what the EDSA celebrations have become: Commemorating not the triumph of People Power, but the perpetuation of the existing oligarchy after the EDSA Revolution.

We have more to learn from

Philippines?

Rizal believed that the destiny of the Filipino people was in the hands of the Filipinos. His words at the end of the 19th century remain relevant: "Our misfortunes are our own fault, let us blame nobody else for them...as long as the Filipino people do not have sufficient vigor to proclaim head held high and chest bared, their right to a life of their own in human society, and to guarantee it with their sacrifices, with their very blood...why give them independence? With or without Spain they would be the same, and perhaps, perhaps worse. What is the use of independence if the slaves of today will be the tyrants of tomorrow? And no doubt they will, because whoever submits to tyranny loves it!"

The tragedy of EDSA was that we needed one in the first place. It meant that our social and government structures had fallen apart. Elections during Martial Law were either suspended or subverted: They were a sham. People Power was at its core when the Filipinos peacefully came together to retake the power of guiding the future of the nation. They demanded the return of democracy — of their right to vote.

This year is an election year, a time when Filipinos are supposed to be heard and understood. And

yet, we continue to see issues surrounding the upcoming elections and, sadly, even past elections. Martial Law elections are best described as mock elections. They were a mockery of the democratic process. A failure of elections or subversion of the election process reminds us of that era. The first step in proving we are no longer a carnote republic is holding fair, honest

and transparent elections. There can be no better commemoration of EDSA I than this.

We can learn from the heroes of the past who struggled for independence and freedom, not only from men like Mabini and Rizal, but also from the heroes and patriots of EDSA I, the Filipino people. What would the heroes of the past think of today? ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Filipino Program Offers More \$6000 Scholarships

WITH THE ADDITIONAL \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP DONATION offered by Dr. Aida Ramiscal-Martin to the BA in Philippine Language and Literature with concentration in Filipino last year, the UH Filipino Program will be offering five \$1000 scholarships and two \$500 Teresita V. Ramos scholarships for students minoring in Filipino language and culture for Fall 2010. All scholarships will total \$6000.

The scholarship offerings include three \$1000 scholarships

from the Igarata Arts Center, one \$1000 from Aida Ramiscal-Martin and one \$1000 scholarship from the UH Filipino and Philippine Literature Program. The Igarata scholarships require applicants be Filipino Americans who have been born and raised in Hawaii or migrated to the US at age 7 or less (proof required); have declared Philippine language and literature with concentration in Filipino as major or second major course, and had a grade point average of 3 or higher. The same requirements

are exacted in the Aida Ramiscal-Martin and Filipino Program scholarship, however, in these two, applicants need not be born and raised in Hawaii or have come to the islands before age seven.

Since the BA scholarship has begun in 2003, there were already seven recipients most of whom are duly employed now. The others are still continuing with their second majors or graduating this semester.

The BA in Philippine Language and Literature (with concen-

tration in Filipino) is the only undergraduate degree of this kind in the United States and the only one existing outside of the Philippines. Increasingly, there is a need to develop more teachers of Filipino in the United States, since Filipino is considered a world language and is being taught at more than 70 high schools in California. Also there are more than 40 universities and colleges offering Filipino in the US Mainland. Apart from this, language is also being taught in the Defense Language Institute and

the Foreign Service Institute. For this reason, the Program is seeking partnership for teacher certification in the Filipino language and is continuously seeking donations for its scholarship fund to encourage students to major or minor in Filipino, the national language of the Philippines. Donations to the fund are tax deductible. For information on how to donate, you may call or email Dr. Ruth Mabanglo, coordinator of the UH Filipino Program at 956-6970 or at mabanglo@hawaii.edu ■

## Hawaii's BBC Offers Tips to Avoid Online Scams

Honolulu (February 22, 2010) — WHILE THE THREAT OF PERSONAL IDENTITY THEFT gets a lot of attention, identity thieves pursue even bigger payoffs by preying on businesses, too. With the recent news of local law firms becoming victims of e-mail scams, Hawaii's BBB offers tips to avoid business ID theft online and advice for small business owners whose identity has been compromised.

### AVOIDING SCAMS AND BUSINESS ID THEFT ONLINE

When it comes to protecting your identity, an ounce of prevention is worth far more than the amount of money, energy, and

agony that goes into getting things back to normal after your— or your clients'—financial and personal information has been stolen.

Don't get hooked by phishing. Phishing uses e-mail in order to coerce sensitive information from victims and may be disguised as messages from potential clients to gain trust, sympathy or details used to set up a scam.

Reduce the chance of ID theft through phishing e-mails by not posting your full e-mail address online. Turn your name or the words "E-mail me" into a clickable e-mail link or direct people to your Web site instead.

Always delete unsolicited e-mails from banks, credit unions, in-

vestment firms and government agencies with which you do not have an established relationship.

Use anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-spam, and firewall protection. Most computers come with pre-installed firewall protection, so make sure this protection is enabled. Once installed, be sure to keep the security software updated and schedule regular system scans.

### RESPONDING TO BUSINESS ID THEFT AND FRAUD

The most important thing to do when you discover identity fraud is to take action right away.

• Notify online authorities. Contact your ISP or web-based e-

mail provider to report spam, phishing attempts or a spoofed e-mail address. If scammers are using your business name on phishing e-mails or phony Web sites, also contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

• Report it to the bank, credit card companies and police. Immediately notify the financial institutions if your ID is lost or stolen. If someone is accessing accounts, forging checks or opening up new lines of credit, file a report with the local police and get a copy of the report to include when notifying your creditors and credit reporting agencies of the fraudulent activity.

• Alert the public. If your identity is being used to rip off customers, warning the public is a can prevent additional victims. An easy

first step is to post a warning on your Web site home page briefly. Contact Hawaii's BBB for help in getting information out to consumers quickly. Depending on the scope of the scam, business owners might also want to consider alerting media or making direct contact with customers via phone or e-mail.

• Review your credit report. If you are an independent agent, contractor or in a sole proprietorship, the same consumer protections apply as if an individual's ID were stolen—such as access to free credit reports and the ability to place a fraud alert on the report. For most businesses however, those credit reports don't typically include the information necessary for detecting fraud. ■

### CORRECTION

Photo caption for this photo was incorrectly placed.

Corrected caption:

(L-R) Board of Governors Dr. Arnold Villafuerte, Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay, Dr. Gabino Baloy, Dr. Cielo Guillermo, Dr. Anthony Guerrero during the PMAH dinner installation



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## FOOD AND LEISURE

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- 1 1/4 cups - whipping cream
- 1/2cup - kiwi
- 1/2 cup - strawberries
- 1/2 cup - blueberries

#### Procedure:

1. Whip egg whites until soft peaks. Gradually add the 125g caster sugar and continue whipping until stiff

- peaks form.
2. Mix the white wine vinegar with cornstarch and 50g caster sugar. Fold into the egg white mixture.
3. Shape into a nest of about 5cm in a sheet tray lined with Glad Cook 'n' Bake paper.
4. Bake at 150°C/300°F for 1 hour. Turn the oven off and leave the meringue to dry out and cool.
5. Whip cream until stiff peak form.
6. Fill shell with whipped cream no earlier than one hour before service. Garnish with fresh fruits. ■

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# Fondling a Young Woman's Breast -- Is It Sexual Abuse?



**A**re you telling us that fondling the breasts of an 11-year old woman is not sexual abuse?" exclaimed the agitated lady judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

"Yes, your honor. It may be sexual assault but it is not sexual abuse," responded the lawyer (not Filipino, not American). He was representing a Filipino charged with fondling the breasts of an 11-year old girl and then preventing her from escaping when he was working as a convenience store clerk in Waikiki Beach in Hawaii in 1992. The Filipino's story is all over the papers in Hawaii. See Honolulu Advertiser, 02/07/2010. He is said to be a church leader in Honolulu's Kalihi district. He has a family and children. He has reportedly been in the Federal Detention Center since 2007.

Was the lawyer making a distinction without a difference?

## SEXUAL ABUSE VS SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Filipino was charged, in addition to kidnapping for preventing the girl from escaping, with sexual assault in the third degree in violation of Hawaii Revised Statutes § 707-732(1)(b) which provides: (1) A person commits the offense of sexual assault in the third degree if: . . . (b) The person knowingly subjects to sexual contact another person who is less than fourteen years old or causes such a person to have sexual contact with the other person." He pleaded nolo contendere (no contest).

Immigration law provides that conviction for an "aggravated felony" which includes "sexual abuse of a minor" is a deportable offense. INA § 101(a)(43)(A). The Filipino was ordered deported under this provision and is appealing his deportation. Because the 1996 amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act eliminated all discretion as to deportation of non-citizens convicted of aggravated felonies, an alien's plea of guilty to an aggravated felony means virtually automatic, unavoidable deportation. U.S. v. Kwan, 407 F.3d 1005 (9th Cir. 2005).

Hawaii law uses the term "sexual assault". Immigration law uses the term "sexual abuse". The lawyer argued that "sexual assault" is not the same as "sexual abuse".

Unfortunately, immigration law does not define "sexual abuse". Consequently, the various Circuits Court of Appeals have provided their own definition which are not binding on the other circuits. The First Circuit has held that the term "abuse" means "to use wrongly or improperly" and that "sexual abuse" includes "sexual assault." U.S. v. Londono-Quintero, 289 F.3d 147 (1st Cir. 2002). But the Ninth Circuit which covers Hawaii and most of the Western States has not said so. It said that in determining what is "sexual abuse" one must employ "the ordinary, contemporary and common meaning of the words that Congress used. U.S. v. Baron-Medina, 187 F.3d 1144 (9th Cir. 1999). The court defined "abuse" as "misuse;" to treat so as to injure, hurt, or damage;" to commit indecent assault." U.S. v. Pallares-Galan, 359 F.3d 1088 (9th Cir. 2004).

If you were the judge, would you treat as "sexual assault" the fondling a young woman's breast?

## WAS THE ACCUSED SLEEPING?

The lawyer also contended that the accused did not commit the act "knowingly," which is an element of sexual assault.

"Was he sleeping when he touched the woman's breast?" asked the second judge sarcastically.

"No, but there was no evidence that he acted "knowingly," replied the lawyer.

"But did he not plead nolo contendere (no contest)?" asked the judge. "Yes," replied the lawyer.

"By pleading nolo contendere, did he not admit all the elements of the offense which were alleged in the complaint -- "knowingly and unlawfully fondled the breasts of an 11-year old woman?"

"No," insisted the lawyer, arguing that there should have been some evidence.

When a person pleads nolo contendere, most judges generally take it as equivalent to pleading

guilty and will impose a sentence. However, other judges will question the accused to determine the underlying facts and whether the accused understands the consequences of his plea.

"Qui tacet consentire videtur" is an old Latin legal maxim meaning "He who does not speak when he ought to admits the allegation."

For instance, a husband arrives late at night walking tipsily, and the wife asks if he has been drinking. He shrugs his shoulders and speaks in a slurred and understandable manner. Is that not the equivalent of pleading nolo contendere?

## STATUTE TOO BROAD

The lawyer argued that the Hawaii statute was too broad. When a statute is too broad, it might be unconstitutional as violative of due process on the theory that people must know specifically the prohibited conduct before they can be held liable for violating it. The lady judge read aloud the statute (see above). "What is broad about that?" she asked.

"If your honor will read the statute," the lawyer said.

"She just read it," quipped the third judge.

"Why did he plead nolo contendere, if the statute was too broad? Why did he not raise it during the trial?," asked another judge.

"I don't know," replied the lawyer who was not the lawyer during the criminal trial.

## INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL

"Are you claiming ineffective assistance of counsel?" asked the judge.

"No," replied the lawyer.

That should have been the cue for the lawyer to raise the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel during the criminal trial.

Was the Filipino warned that if he pleaded "nolo contendere" to the sexual assault, and it is treated as an "aggravated felony" he "will" be deported?

A lawyer must warn an alien client before pleading guilty or

nolo contendere to an aggravated felony that the alien "will" be deported if convicted based on the plea. An attorney's advice that the client "could" or "might" be deported would be inaccurate and misleading and thus deficient. Misleading a client about the immigration consequences of a conviction renders counsel's performance "objectively unreasonable under contemporary standards for attorney competence." U.S. v. Kwan, 407 F.3d 1005 (9th Cir. 2005). If the client suffers prejudice as a result of the misleading advice, then counsel is ineffective. Post conviction relief ought to be sought by the client that suffered.

There is a general reluctance among lawyers, especially in Hawaii which has a small legal community, to raise ineffective assistance of counsel because of fear that the lawyer accused of ineffectiveness will go after you. But they will only go after you if you are also ineffective. A lawyer has an obligation to use every available legal means to defend a client. There is only a handful of lawyers I know of in Hawaii and California who have the guts to charge other attorneys with being ineffective. I know some of these courageous souls.

## GUBERNATORIAL PARDON

The Filipino should consider asking for a pardon from the gov-

ernor. I have a colleague who obtained a pardon for another Filipino in deportation proceedings for a firearms violation and saved him. The question is whether the governor, a woman, will be sympathetic to sexual abusers of minors? Governors are apprehensive that if they pardon a convict, he or she might commit another offense. The governor will be blamed. She would lose her bid to become U.S. senator. Remember Willie Horton who was serving a life sentence for murder and was furloughed under a law passed by Governor Michael Dukakis and he later committed assault and rape? Dukakis lost the presidency to George H.W. Bush who hampered Dukakis on television over this issue. ■

*(Atty. Tipon has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is based in Hawaii where he specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City and Magaling, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most interesting and humorous Hawaii radio program on KNOI AM 1270 every Tuesday and Friday at 7:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)*



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# SOCIETY PAGE



by Shalimar **LEYBAG-PAGULAYAN**

▶ *The Lagat family during a breakfast reception in Waikiki: (L-R) Ben, Ojelia, Christian and Christopher*



▲ *Members of the UST Titans Fraternity get together at a dinner reception in Kaneohe: (L-R) Drs. Marco Valencia, Charlemagne Aguinaldo, Richard Kua, Nestor Herana, Ray Romero, Gavino Vinzon and Charlie Sonido*

▶ (L-R) Tina Aglibot and Rica Radona at a dinner reception in Waikiki



▶ Leo Gonzales, visiting from San Diego is having fun dancing to the music with Anastacia Sonido during a dinner reception in Kaneohe



▲ (L-R) Nicole Fajardo, Elvie Gabriel and Carlota Fajardo taking a rest from a Waikiki stroll

▶ *The Yadao Family: (L-R) Ian James, Kathleen May, Jay-Anne, Jaime and Gloria during a family get-together in Waikiki during the holidays*



▶ *Cousins having fun together at a breakfast reception in Waikiki: (Standing L-R) Christa Lei Sonido and Maia Mendigorin (Seated L-R) Nikka Sonido and Gezelle Sirano*



◀ (L-R) Larry Acera visiting from the Philippines with Nellie and Andy Somera during a dinner event in Waikiki



▶ *Buddy Aquino, Lauren Chance and Aida Aquino during a dinner reception in Waikiki*



◀ *The Sirano Family: (L-R) Frelyn, Gemma and Gerrick at a breakfast party during the holidays*





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WAIPAHU

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Crop Damage Due to Drought Hits P3.7 Billion

by Marianne GO /  
Thursday, February 25, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines** - CROP DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CONTINUING EL NIÑO phenomenon has reached P3.77 billion as of Feb. 17, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

DA Undersecretary Joel Rudinas said corn damage has reached P2 billion, while paddy (paddy rice) damage has reached P1.7 billion. Damage to high-value commercial crops (HVCC), on the other hand, reached P1.3 million.

Data from the DA showed that as of the first half of the month, Luzon and the Visayas have borne the brunt of El Niño.

Rudinas said, however, that some areas are still experiencing good farming conditions even as other areas are badly affected.

Corn damage affects the production of animal feeds. Most hog and poultry raisers use corn as a major component in mixing animal feed. Higher corn price raises the cost of feed.

Lower paddy production this year, on the other hand, would force the government to import more rice.

Intense heat is drying up farmlands, reservoirs and waterways all over the country.

The province of Isabela, the hardest hit by drought, was recently placed under a state of calamity after suffering more than P1 billion in agricultural losses.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagsasa) said the onset of the rainy season will be a month late because of the ongoing drought.

The rainy season usually begins in the second half of May.

Pagasa administrator Prisco Nilo said the El Niño already reached its peak in December 2009 to early January this year. However, most climate models show the drought will continue until June.

"A gradual decrease in sea surface temperature in the central eastern equatorial Pacific is expected during the months of April-May-June, but still within the El Niño threshold. With this condition, a delayed onset of the rainy season associated with the southwest monsoon is likely and may only commence in the second half of June," Nilo said.

### RICE AND CORN PRODUCTION IN LA UNION DOWN

The provincial agriculture office of La Union said the El Niño phenomenon has started to affect the production of rice and corn in the province.

Provincial agriculturist Avelino Lomboy said around 1,500 hectares of land intended for rice and corn have not been used this season because of the dry spell.

He also said the drought has already destroyed hectares of rice and corn in the towns of Bangar, Balaoan and portions of southern La Union.

"We recently visited farms in the northern towns of La Union particularly near the Amburayan River. With no rainfall for the next two weeks, damage to rice and corn is unimaginable," Lomboy said.

Farmers in irrigated areas concentrate on vegetable farming at the moment because vegetables do not need as much water as rice or corn. Around 4,700 hectares of agricultural

lands in La Union are cultivated for vegetable production.

Some lands also have tobacco plants, which are now ready for harvest.

"Out of those areas planted with vegetables, 20 percent is expected to be damaged. The flow of water is slowing although those who have luckily planted earlier are about to harvest," Lomboy said.

Fishponds are also affected by the drought.

"If water level is low, there is a lack of oxygen and water temperature becomes hotter, and that would kill the fish," Lomboy said.

Fish breeders are also alerted for a possible occurrence of red tide.

### POULTRY INDUSTRY AMONG HARDEST HIT

A joint study by the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Embassy of Israel showed that the poultry industry is expected to be one of the hardest hit by the drought.

Fowl may suffer from excessive heat stress during the dry season because, lacking sweat glands, they do not perspire.

Fowl convulse and die when exposed to extreme heat.

"The most obvious sign of heat stress is panting. Severe panting takes a lot of energy and ultimately results in death because of heat exhaustion," the study said.

Temperatures above 18 to 24 degrees Celsius will also affect the growth and feeding habits of fowl, as well as their egg production. The size of the egg and the shell quality will also suffer. Moreover, the hatching rate of chicks will also be affected.

The report advises the adoption of heat management practices such as providing adequate drinking water, avoiding overcrowding of poultry houses, and keeping the ground below poultry houses manure-free.

"Manure will restrict the airflow and produce additional heat through the natural decaying process... More water is consumed by birds during hot weather in order to prevent dehydration. Cool drinking water stimulates both feed and water intake," the study said.

Also, painting the poultry house roof with reflective paint, particularly non-insulated houses, will reduce radiation.

Hanging shade nets and curtains on the sides of the poultry house will also reduce heat. Planting shade trees like acacia, mahogany, and gmelina will also reduce radiated heat.

Sprinklers and fans may also be installed in poultry houses. Ceilings may also be lined with insulators such as urethan foam and expanded polystyrene.

### DRYLAND FARMING

Former agriculture secretary William Dar is proposing the creation of a Philippine Dryland Research Institute (PhiDRI), an organization that will help mitigate the effects of El Niño in the agricultural sector.

"PhiDRI will be the country's first line of defense against drought and climate change. Likewise, PhiDRI will substantially contribute to poverty alleviation by generating and mobilizing science and technology to improve the livelihoods of poor communities in the drylands," Dar said in a statement.

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



## GMA Wants RP Restored to Category 1 Status Under US FAA

by Marvin SY /  
Thursday, February 25, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT ARROYO HAS ORDERED** the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) to immediately find ways to bring the Philippines back to Category 1 status with the United States Federal Aviation Authority (FAA).

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said that the President made it clear during last Tuesday's Cabinet meeting in Palawan that the CAAP should resolve the FAA downgrade of the Philippines aviation safety rating immediately in order to maximize the opportunities coming from North America.

It has been more than two

years since the FAA downgraded the Philippines from Category 1 to Category 2 because the country "either lacks laws or regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, or that its civil aviation authority - equivalent to the FAA - is deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping or inspection procedures."

In order to achieve Category 1 status, the civil aviation authority must comply with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Durano noted that the ICAO has also classified the Philippines as having significant security risks.

Both issues have far reaches as far as the country's tourism sector is concerned, particularly the

opportunity losses from countries such as the US, South Korea and Japan.

In the case of the FAA downgrade, Durano noted that Philippine Airlines was one of the most affected because it has brought in two Boeing 777-300ER aircrafts and cannot use them for the North American routes.

As for the ICAO's rating, Durano said that Japan and Korea have used this to deny Philippine carriers additional frequencies, which they have been requesting.

The rebound in the economies of the US, Japan and Korea from the global financial crisis is expected to result in more traveling by its residents to destinations such as the Philippines, which offers warm weather all year round. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## GMA Signs Law Giving Free Legal Assistance to Poor Clients

by Paolo ROMERO /  
Thursday, February 25, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT ARROYO HAS SIGNED INTO LAW** the Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010, which grants lawyers tax deductions for giving legal services to poor clients.

Mrs. Arroyo signed last Tuesday Republic Act 9999, authored by Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

The law grants lawyers up to 10 percent deduction from their annual taxable income to encourage them to render free legal services.

"Provided that the actual free legal services herein contemplated shall be exclusive of the minimum 60-hour mandatory legal aid services rendered to indigent litigants as required under the Rule on Mandatory Legal Aid Service for Practicing Lawyers, under BAR Matter No. 2012, issued by the Supreme Court," the law states.

Lawyers and firms availing of the tax deductions may apply for certification from the Supreme Court, Department of Justice (DOJ) and Public Attorney's Office (PAO) that the free services to be rendered are within the legal services as defined by the SC, and that the DOJ and PAO could not give the services to be provided by the private counsel.



Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid

Lapid thanked Mrs. Arroyo for enacting his proposal into law, and said the law would preclude the wrongful conviction of suspects just because they are poor and cannot afford the services of lawyers.

He said as a politician in Pampanga, he had witnessed the wrongful conviction of a poor litigant who became his inspiration to push for the passage of the Free Legal Assistance Act.

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

## High Domestic Liquidity to Keep Interest Rates Low

by Lawrence AGCAOILI /  
Thursday, February 25, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines - NEW YORK-BASED GLOBAL SOURCE PARTNERS** said the country's high domestic liquidity would help keep interest rates low.

Global Source said interest rates would remain low as the central bank's Monetary Board (MB) is likely to keep its policy rates unchanged until after the May 10 national and local elections.

"High domestic liquidity will also help keep interest rates low, considering as well that further monetary tightening is not expected until after the elections," it pointed out.

The BSP slashed its key policy rates by 200 basis points between December 2008 and July of 2009. It has kept its overnight borrowing rate at a record low of four percent and its overnight lending rate at six percent to help support economic growth.

Monetary authorities believe there is no urgency or pressure for monetary authorities to raise its policy rates amid the global economic rebound. However, it has started unwinding its liquidity enhancing measures as part of the implementation of an exit strategy.

Latest data released by the central bank showed that domestic liquidity or M3 rose at a slower pace of 8.3 percent to P3.971 trillion as of end-December from P3.668 trillion as of end-December 2008

due to the decline in the net foreign assets of the BSP.

M3 is the amount of money circulating in the domestic economy. At a time when the economy is booming and money supply is expanding rapidly, the central bank would normally step in to mop-up the excess liquidity in the financial system to ensure that inflation would not surge.

The easing in the expansion of liquidity was traced to the deceleration in the growth of the net foreign assets (NFA) to 26.5 percent in December from 32 percent in November. The NFA reached P2.44 trillion in December 2009 or P512 billion more than the end-December 2008 level of P1.93 trillion.

The BSP also reported that net domestic assets (NDA) retreated by 4.5 percent to P2.614 trillion from P2.738 trillion due largely to the improvement in credits extended to the private sector with the continued recovery in banks' lending activity.

Liquidity growth is one of the important vehicles considered in determining the central bank's monetary policy. The BSP's Monetary Board has kept its key policy rates steady at record lows after reducing overnight borrowing and lending rates by 200 basis points since December 2008 until July last year.

Global Source added that the government's strong cash position would help fend off any attempt by banks to raise key interest rates. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## 'Cheaper Medicine Act Reduced Drug Prices'

by Aureo CALICA /  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **LIBERAL PARTY VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE** Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II insisted yesterday that the Cheaper Medicine Law made the reduction of drug prices mandatory and provided measures against corruption of the regulatory process.

Roxas said Congress' decision to reject the lobbying by Iloilo Rep. Ferjanel Biron for a new Drug Price Regulatory Board removed a layer of bureaucracy that, like other agencies involved in market and price regulation, would have been exposed to corruption and political pressure.

He said giving the Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of the President the responsibility to determine what essential drugs must be subjected

to price ceilings gave little space, if any, for lobbying from multinational drug firms.

He pointed out that sufficient price regulation safeguards were written into the law to ensure that the DOH and the President do not abuse the powers vested on them.

"The Senate and the House stood firm against the lobbying of Biron for the drug regulatory board because we saw it would make it easier to manipulate drug prices in the name of regulation," he explained in Filipino.

Roxas said Biron's concern about bringing down the prices of expensive medicine could all be a show since the congressman's interest is to put in place a new agency to regulate the drug industry that could be influenced by politicians.

He said that Philippine Pharmawalth Inc., which is owned by



Sen. Mar Roxas

Biron and his family, was engaged in supplying cheap but standard medicine to government agencies as shown by records of the DOH.

Pharmawalth was suspended by the DOH from getting supply contracts with government hospitals after the firm was found guilty of selling 500 ampules of

methylethergometrine maleate to the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City, Bohol that when used led to the death of a patient and forced doctors to make four others undergo emergency surgery.

Roxas said that while he was pushing hard for President Arroyo to use her powers to pressure pharmaceutical companies to lower their prices through a list of essential medicine to be placed under the maximum retail price (MRP) provision of the Cheaper Medicine Law, his critics like Biron and his fellow members of the pharmaceutical industry subjected him to an intense black propaganda campaign.

"Under an Aquino-Roxas administration, my first and most important task is to do something to further lower prices of essential medicine," Roxas said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Loren Legarda, vice presidential bet of the Nacionalista Party, said Roxas is misleading the public about his claims on having principally authored the Cheaper Medicine Law.

Legarda, who arrived yesterday in Davao City, chided Roxas for credit-grabbing when in fact it was Roxas who "proposed amendments in the Senate committee report in such a way that its original intention to ease consumers of the rising cost of medicine was not fulfilled."

Roxas countered that his rival in the May 10 vice presidential race was only spreading lies about his legislative track record to prop up her sagging pre-election survey ratings.

"My rival started with a lie about me allegedly watering down the cheaper medicine law when in fact it was my rival who wanted the big pharmaceutical companies to be given a role in determining prices of essential medicine," Roxas said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## Spain Donates P20 Million to Sorsogon

by Jose Rodel CLAPANO /  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS DONATED** P20 million to the Philippines to support its pilot project dubbed the Sorsogon Initiative aimed at eradicating insurgency.

The "Sorsogon Initiative" will allow the people in the community to implement by themselves infrastructure projects as part of the

government's peace-building effort to achieve peace in the region.

Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Luis Arias-Romero said Spain is fully committed to the peaceful resolution of the long-drawn armed conflict in the Philippines.

"You can count on Spain," Romero said after signing the memorandum of agreement for the Sorsogon Initiative with the

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), the primary government agency tasked to coordinate the national peace agenda of the government, and the Local Government Academy (LGA), the training arm of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) held at Oakwood Premier in Ortigas, Pasig City.

He said the implementation of the project was a "result of hard

work this past few months through frank and open dialogue between OPAPP, the local government academy and the embassy of Spain."

"In this way, a comprehensive intervention is achieved of importance to both the Philippine and Spanish governments which is none other than the resolution of conflicts and the peace-building in the Philippines," Romero said.

Romero stressed the importance of peace, saying that "without peace and stability there are no possibilities for development in any region."

Aside from Romero, those who signed the MOA includes Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Annabelle Abaya and DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who was represented by DILF Undersecretary Melchor Rosales, former Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor, chairperson of the government peace panel negotiating with the communist rebels; Marivel Sacendonillo, LGA executive director; Sorsogon Gov. Sally Lee; Loida Nicolas-Lewis, of the Sorsogon Alliance for Peace and Development; Sorsogon Archbishop Arturo Bastes; Jesus Molina, coordinator general of the La Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); and Danilo Encinas, head, technical committee of the GRP negotiating panel for talks with the communist rebels.

Pilot areas for the project are Barangay Sta. Ana in the municipality of Gubat and in the whole town of Barcelona, all in Sorsogon.

Abaya said the "Sorsogon Initiative" is part of the national peace agenda of the government,

specifically in moving forward the peace process with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF).

The project was funded by the Spanish government through its Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) under the third phase of its Program on Strengthening the Local Governments in the Philippines with the Local Government Academy (LGA)-DILG.

Under the MOA, the OPAPP was tasked to supervise the implementation of "Sorsogon Initiative."

The OPAPP will also monitor and evaluate the project as well as provide administrative support for its successful and efficient implementation.

But the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on Sunday assailed the "brute force" and "cheap psy-war tactics" that the Philippine government is allegedly employing to supposedly cover up the Arroyo administration's continuing human rights violations in its counter-insurgency efforts against the communists.

Fidel Agcaoili, chairman of the NDFP Human Rights Committee, scored the OPAPP and Armed Forces of the Philippines Civil Relations Office for issuing statements on the alleged successes of the GRP in its counter-insurgency program purportedly named, Oplan Bantay Laya, saying such posting "serious" peace talks with the revolutionary movement impossible.

Agcaoili specifically criticized the OPAPP for continuously "harping" about its pseudo-peace talks on the community level as part of its so-called Social Integration Program (SIP). ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# LEGAL NOTES

## New Report Shows A Very Long Wait for Green Card



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

According to a recent report released by the U.S. Department of State, the number of family-based applicants on the waiting list for immigrant visa numbers as of November 2009 was 3,369,455 while the number of employment-based applicants was 130,509.

These figures include the principal applicants or petition beneficiaries as well as their spouses and children entitled to derivative status. They do not in-

clude immediate relatives (spouse, minor unmarried children and parents of U.S. citizens) who are exempted from the numerical limitation.

Not included in the figures are applicants for adjustment of status. They also do not include those who failed to respond within a year to the visa application letter of the National Visa Center notifying them of the availability of visa numbers within a reasonable time. These cases are considered inactive.

The above figures indicate that the wait for obtaining permanent resident status is going to be long in most of the visa preferences. In some categories, the wait for applicants from the Philippines, India, China and Mexico will be decades.

U.S. immigration laws set an annual worldwide limit as well as

a per county limit of immigrant visas issued. There is also a limit on each preference category. During the fiscal year 2010 which runs from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, visas issued are no more than 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and approximately 150,000 in the employment-based preferences. The per country limit is approximately 26,260.

The top five countries with the highest number of waiting list registrants are as follows: Mexico - 1,178,761; Philippines - 482,694; China - 197,559; India - 194,954; and Vietnam - 184,692.

The number of registrants under the family-based preferences (F) are broken down as follows: F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens) - 245,516; F2A (spouses and children of permanent residents) -

324,864; F2B (adult sons and daughters of permanent residents) - 517,898; F3 (married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens) - 553,280; and F4 (brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens) 1,727,897.

The numbers of registrants under the employment-based preferences (EB) are: EB1 (priority workers) - 3,601; EB2 (advanced degree professionals/persons of exceptional ability) - 6,296; EB3 (skilled workers) - 103,448; EB3 (other workers) 16,311; EB4 (special immigrants) 529 and EB5 (employment creation) - 325.

Of the F1 registrants, Mexico ranks first with 63,628 followed by the Philippines with 35,789. The numbers may increase because of the automatic conversion of pending F2B into F1 upon the naturalization of the petitioner. The automatic conversion may be avoided by availing of opt-out pro-

vision under the Child Status Protection Act. Many Filipinos have taken advantage of this law by opting to remain under F-2B in order to avoid the longer wait under F1.

Mexico also ranks first in the F2A, F2B and F4 while the Philippines ranks first in the F-3 preference.

In the employment-based categories, the Philippines ranks first with 47,470 followed by India - 24,365; China - 13,649; South Korea - 7,725 and Mexico - 4,728. As mentioned above, these figures do not include the number of adjustment of status applicants.

The report notes that 90% of all employment-based preference immigrants are currently being processed as adjustment of status cases at the USCIS offices.

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

# MAINLAND NEWS

## Immigration Reform: The \$4 Trillion Opportunity Comprehensive Immigration Reform Would Grow the U.S. Economy

Washington, DC - AS POLICY-MAKERS WRESTLE WITH PRESIDENT'S BUDGET, there is a \$4.1 trillion choice in Washington that some in Congress want to keep under wraps:

**Comprehensive Immigration Reform = \$1.5 trillion increase in GDP over 10 years**

**Mass Deportation = \$2.6 trillion loss in GDP over 10 years**

Comprehensive immigration reform would grow the economy by ensuring that all workers and employers pay their fair share of taxes and play by the same rules. Reform would raise the wage floor for all workers and end the underground economy where unscrupulous employers take advantage of their workers and undercut honest employers who do the right thing.

The anti-immigrant lobby's unrealistic agenda of mass deportation would decimate the

economic health of our nation and push the underground economy deeper into the shadows.

A new report called "Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform," by the Immigration Policy Center and the Center for American Progress shows that a policy of comprehensive immigration reform would grow U.S. GDP by 0.84 percent over 10 years, or a cumulative \$1.5 trillion. The report also finds that deporting 4 million workers and their dependents—just over half of the undocumented workforce—

would have a catastrophic impact on the economy, shrinking GDP by \$2.6 trillion over 10 years.

The conservative CATO Institute also found that a comprehensive approach would benefit the economy, while policies to tighten "enforcement" alone would harm the economy. In fact, CATO found that the difference between what U.S. households would gain or lose due to the best and worst immigration policies they analyzed would be \$260 billion each year.

Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice, said:

"In good economic times and bad, the hard-line anti-immigrant lobby has worked to stop progress on bipartisan immigration reform and lash out at immigrants no matter the price tag. Polls show that independents, Republicans and Democrats support comprehensive immigration reform and are frustrated that Congress still hasn't solved the problem. Congress has a \$4 trillion choice to make: pass comprehensive immigration reform and grow the economy by \$1.5 trillion—or enact the anti-immigrant lobby's impractical mass deportation agenda at any cost." ■

## Pinay to Compete in McDonald's Singing Tilt

by Evelyn MACAIRAN / Wednesday, February 24, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **BESTING OVER 1.6 MILLION MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES FROM 51 COUNTRIES**, the Philippines' Chenee Capuyan from Davao del Sur made it to the finals in the third Voice of McDonald's singing competition. To be held at the McDonald's Convention in April, Chenee will be joined by 11 other hopefuls competing to become the 2010 Voice of McDonald's grand prize winner. Voice of McDonald's is a worldwide contest to discover, recognize and reward the most talented singers in the McDonald's family.

After several rounds of tough competition and on-line-povolt-



Chenee Capuyan

ing, Chenee, along with 11 other hopefuls from China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Costa Rica, Peru and the US have been awarded a trip to Orlando, Florida and will perform in two rounds of final competition on a massive concert stage complete with a live orchestra before an audience of over 15,000. Experts will assist each on hair and makeup, chore-

ography, stage presence and vocal technique. The final competition will be judged by a professional panel of international judges from the vocal and music industry, including co-president of Sony/ATV Music Jody Gerson and entertainment attorney and agent Ken Hertz of Goldring Hertz and Lichtenstein LLP.

The grand prize winner will take home \$25,000 while the second and third prize winners will receive \$10,000 and \$5,000 accordingly. All other finalists will receive \$1,500 and as an added bonus to all 12 finalists, will also receive \$500 for their restaurant and a \$1,000 donation in their names for their local Ronald McDonald House Charities.

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**DAYASADAS**  
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# Ania Dagiti Garit Ti Ayat a Nakaisagmakam

gapu ti warnawanawanda a saan a natunos a panagkadua ken panaglanlip.

**SABLI A GARIT TI AYAT**

Ii sabali a bangir saan laeng a ti ayat nga agtaud iti puso nga ipaay ti lalaki wenno babai. Ti ayat kadagiti paggugusto nga aramid, ti ayat a marikna a pakikadua kadagiti pada a laltao. Panagayat kadagiti kaaruba ken amin a kalanglangan a panyuay met laeng ti nasimbeng a rikna tapno matungpal tay bilin ti Apo nga ayatem ti padam a tao a kas ti panagayatom ti bagim. Pudno dayatom a no ta lae bagim ti ayat na nasayaat awan met ti pananglilala ken panangipateg dagiti sabali.

No naayatka ti padam a tao, sumubli met ti ayat nga ipaayom. No managtulmunga, namnamaem nga adu met ti tumulong kenka. Kas tay kunada a no nauyawa, adu met ti nanguyaw kenka. No kano no addaanka, saan kano a pagkarit a impabulod ta kenka. Adu dagiti pagsaaso a kadaanan a pudno a maiyaplikar ti

biag dagiti naparsua. Ti kano man-agimngangato alisto kano a man-abluog.

**DANIW NI AYAT**

Naiyanak ti tao nga agayat Tawid dayta a naikanatad Ditoy lubong agkarayam rikna Kasta ti amin a nabig

An-annuen ti agkedked no kadapil  
No inted ti Dios naikudi a barsak Awiten, anusan, arakupen a di ag-taktak  
Aturen, palangpawen, balkuten kararang  
Kinatngsiti, kinaparammag di ipakat  
Pagkarkarit a sanikua impasublat ni gasat  
Naited laeng a pangsubok ti Nailangitan  
No pagkaritmo saplitan inka maablitan  
Dika agumsi wenno mangtagtag-libaba  
Di agingngangato ta naiyanak ti parusa agpapada  
Ti langit ammona ti maikanatad a pangsgatna.

**NABALANGATAN DAGITI MUSA TI BULAN DAGITI PUSO**

Naragsak ti rabli a pannakabalangad dagiti MUSA wenno reyna dagiti Ilokano iti daytoy a tawen a naaramid iti OHANA HONOLULU HAWAII.

Ni Josie D. Takamoto, Ni Dolores Tabion ken ti Miss Teen Valentines AKA a ni Lindsey Nicole Ramolette.

Dagitoy ti mangted garbo ti palapig ken Dagiti ti tawen 2010. Naiipatabay met ayat kankanta ken daniw ni Ayat. Naiiparang met ti ababa a Drama a napauluan ti "GAPU KEN AYAT" nga inwards ken inumos ti dati nga agl-parparang ti Komedia ken Drama a mangrayray-aw ti pabyua ti GUMIL HAWAII ken Annak ti Kailokuan. Dagitoy dagiti nag-gakem. Treilly Paulino, Fely Cristobal, Gloria Raquedan, Andrea Mendoza, Rosendo Raquedan, Lilia Tabion, Lilia del Rosario, Carolina Jacobo, Roland Pascua ken Bernard Collo.

Nasayaat unay a lagipen ti ALDAW DAGITI PUSO nupay kunada iti dadduma a ti Ayat.

nangpasipnget ti lubongda ta imbilangna a nauplit ti AYAT. Adu met dagiti agragsak gapu ta ti ayat ti namaglagaw ti lubongda ken nangpasaranita biagda.

GUMIL HAWAII

Nupay saan unay a nadlaw ti GH kadagiti lima a napalabas a tawen lii komunidad kes reklamo dagiti mangob-oberbar ti kada tig-may dagiti mangiturruay wenno kangatuan nga opisyalas a mang-urmos kadagiti organisasion ti Filipino a saan a mapapaty dayta ta maatluluyog babalen ti panangiyar-das ti dati a masursurot a paggan-nurutan ti GH. Saan a keddeng dagiti agbatbatay ken sumalsali-urmo ti lagaw ti GH lapno agbal-taigda kadagiti sabsabali a rusat.

Agbiagi ti GH a mangtutuloy ti nagkaysa a rusatna nga agsurat, agdad ken mangkadat kadagiti kamkameng, mangumos kadagiti gapuapan dagiti kamkameng babalen ti pannakalibiro dagiti aramid ken gapuananda kasta met ti pannakalaginoyon ti kultura, arte, managtagtag gapuapan iti kada sangapulo a tawen.

Manarimaan a maur-urmos dagiti nasararamidan ken pas-pasamak ti GH kabayatan ti uppat a pulo a tawenna. Masaramid dang-toy lii disso a napapasakanna, dagiti laltao a a nakaimatang, ken adu nga ulo ken ramramay a nang-gaganoyon ti nauroms ken natalulo ganitan-ayna a saan a mayna

maynsa laeng ti mantantan-ok wenno mangiantan-ok ti nabukar a pakasarinan. Padaan dagiti nasam-sam-it, nalinalinis a pan- nakaabel dagiti aramidin ti GH a segegsegan ti komunidad, "HAPPY VALENTINE'S" ken malkatalapulo ket siam nga anbersario ti GUMIL HAWAII". ■

## GLOBAL NEWS

### Immigration Bans Entry of 3 Foreigners for Rape of OFW

by Evelyn MACAIRAN /  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION HAS BARRED THREE ARAB NATIONALS from entering the country for the rape of an overseas Filipino worker in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year.

In a statement, BI Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Ibrahim Dahi Khaddour, his Syrian wife, Thanaa; and UAE national Mohamed Ba Shuaiba have been included in the agency's blacklist in response to a request made by the Philippine embassy in Abu Dhabi.

According to reports, the Filipina was hired by Shuaiba's



BI Commissioner Marcelino Libanan agency to work as a household helper in Khaddour's home.

BI spokesman Floro Balato Jr. said Khaddour was convicted last Jan. 3 by a criminal court in Abu Dhabi that reportedly found him guilty of raping the Filipina.

"The court also ordered both Khaddour and Shuaiba to pay a

fine of 50,000 dinars for violating the Emirate's employment and labor laws," Balato added, quoting an embassy report.

The victim claimed that Khaddour raped her last Oct. 22 while his wife was at work. When he fell asleep, the victim managed to escape and sought the help of the police.

The Abu Dhabi police then assisted the victim in filing her complaint with the public prosecutor, then turned her over to the Philippine embassy.

The victim testified at a court hearing last Dec. 27 and six days later, the court convicted Khaddour and sentenced him to a year in prison. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### Fil-Am Wins Bronze in Vancouver Winter Olympics

J.R. CELSKI, A YOUNG FILIPINO-AMERICAN WON his first-ever Olympic medal, a bronze in 1500 meter speed skating event in the ongoing Vancouver Winter Olympics in Canada.

Celski born in Monterey, California is the youngest of three brothers. His father is Robert Celski served in the U.S. Army and his mom is a Filipina named Sue.

J.R. when he was young was an ace at in-line skating. His speed and tactics earned him many plaques in the youth in-line circuit. But it was in 2002 that he watched his idol Apolo Ohno compete at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

As Celski watched Apolo grace the turns, salvage a silver in the 1,000 and skate to gold in the 1,500 meters, it was clear to J.R. that his future lay in short track.

Even though he missed the minimum-age requirement for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin by just over a fortnight, a bronze medal in the 500 meters at the 2006 World Junior Championships in Romania was a sign of



things to come.

At the 2009 World Championships in Vienna, Celski skated to gold in the 3,000 meters and also earned another a member of the 5,000 meter relay team. He also cruised to bronze medals in the 1,000 and 1,500 meters.

At the 2009 World Junior

Championships in Quebec, J.R. Celski was at it again, earning a gold in the 500 meters and another with the 3,000 meter relay team.

That set things up for the 2010 Winter Olympics Trials in Marquette, Mich. While Celski qualified for the 1,000 meters and 1,500 meters, he was injured in a crash during the semifinals of the 500 meters. A right skate slashed into his left leg.

Could J.R. Celski be the next great short track hero from the USA? With the foundation set, and renewed sense of confidence, you'd better believe that when he hits the ice, his rising star with a lion-sized heart is on the prowl and will be hungry for more. ([www.asianjournalusa.com](http://www.asianjournalusa.com))

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