

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## HIGHLY-RESPECTED PHILIPPINE PROFESSOR RETIRES FROM UH

By Chona MONTESINES-SONIDO

All good things, they say, must come to an end, and for Belinda Aquino, professor and director of the Center For Philippine Studies, the time has come to call it quits after an illustrious 35 years at the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

For Aquino, the timing was simply right. Retirement affords her opportunities to face new challenges in life and allows the next generation to continue with the basic mission of the university in the fields of teaching, research and community service.

Aquino is an internationally-recognized authority on contemporary Philippine politics and society. Her research interests have focused on Philippine politics with particular emphasis on presidential leadership, U.S.-Philippine relations, development and local autonomy, women and cultural minorities and the politics of corruption during the Marcos dictatorship. She has also been engaged in an interdisciplinary research project to understand the roots of the Mindanao crisis and the various political forces

involved in the continuing conflict.

Her other major research interests also include the continuing search for the Marcos "hidden wealth," human rights issues, the development of the Philippine middle class and Filipino issues in America.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg for this remarkable woman. Her career has extended beyond academia to include community development, journalism, institution-building, public administration, engagement with social, cultural and political issues, travel and a host of other fields.

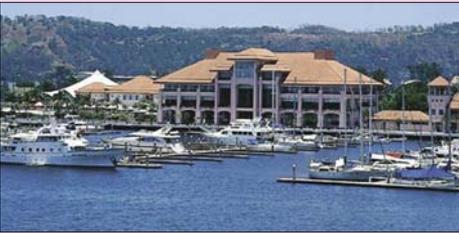
"Being an academic means so many different things," she says. "It's not just being a teacher, scholar, researcher or community advocate. It's all of these and more."

(continued on page 4)



State Sen. Will Espero presents Dr. Belinda Aquino a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding achievements and service to the community

## Subic, Clark Investors May Now Enter RP Visa-free



By Helen FLORES

MANILA, Philippines - Foreign investors visiting the freeport zones in Clark, Pampanga and Subic, Zambales may now avail of the government's "visa-free" program, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) reported yesterday.

BI Commissioner Marcelino Libanan recently signed an agreement with Subic

Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator Armand Arreza and Clark Development Corp. (CDC) president Benigno Ricafort for the issuance of visa-free entry privileges to foreign investors visiting the two freeports.

Under the agreement, officers and personnel of a foreign locator in the two

(continued on page 6)

## Palace Set to Declare State of Calamity in Mindanao

By Paolo ROMERO

MANILA, Philippines - President Arroyo is set to sign a proclamation declaring a state of calamity in Mindanao where a long dry spell brought about by the El Niño phenomenon has already severely damaged agriculture and triggered power outages.

Mindanao Development Authority chairman Jesus Duraza said a draft proclamation is already on Mrs. Arroyo's desk.

The Palace has decided to issue a proclamation to address the power crisis after the two chambers of Congress failed to

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## EDITORIAL

## Rod Tam Should be Lesson to All

Honolulu Councilmember Rod Tam made headlines the other week when the Ethics Commission disclosed that he spent thousands of dollars from his Council allowance on meals for himself, friends, family and personal business associates. According to the Commission, Tam racked up a \$22,000 tab at various restaurants over a three-year period and submitted false receipts for meals he claimed were City related. An investigation uncovered discrepancies in the amounts he billed to the City. A beleaguered Tam blamed it on sloppy accounting and math errors and agreed to pay back some of the money.

Tam's actions constitute a serious breach of ethics and could in fact be outright theft. The last time we checked, those who steal from the government and lie about it get lengthy jail sentences. Sadly, however, there may be a little bit of Rod Tam in all of us. *Wait a minute, you may be thinking. I've never stolen from the govern-*



ment. But what about those extra long lunch hours and breaks that a few of you may have been taking? Or that unused stash of pens or other "surplus" office supplies that you decided to "rescue" for home use?

Still think that it doesn't apply to you? Well, consider that we all have a "slush fund" of sorts at our disposal. It may simply be a bundle of golden opportunities that are afforded to us daily—opportunities to focus on the truly important things in life or to make a difference in the lives of others. If someone were to ask you for a receipt of how you spent these golden opportunities, would you be able to? Or would you, like Rod Tam, be tempted to falsify your claims?

It may sound a bit harsh, but the truth is that the same standard we tend to use on others should also be applied to ourselves. Have we ever lied or falsified any documents? If so, we may be just as guilty. The point isn't to cast blame or to excuse Tam's actions, but to use his case as an example of what NOT to do in certain

areas of our lives that may need better accounting. It's a painful lesson to learn and one that the councilmember no doubt regrets. ■

## Still Globetrotting

The top contenders in the presidential race are promising to save precious public funds by limiting their foreign travels, in case they win, to only the most necessary, such as leaders' summits. That means an average of three foreign trips every year: two summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the annual leaders' costume party of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Whoever wins will be held to his promise, at least until the country's financial situation improves. It will be a marked contrast to the attitude of the incumbent, who in her nine and a half years has indulged her travel bug at every opportunity, at a cost of billions.

For what taxpayers can only hope would be the final phase of her globetrotting, Malacañang announced the other day that President Arroyo would go to Hanoi on April 18 for the first of two ASEAN leaders' summits this year. She would also attend the Nuclear Security Summit on April 12 to 13 in Washington. Palace officials said about 40 heads of state are expected to attend the gathering, which would give the President a chance to "pull aside" the host, US President Barack Obama, for chit-chat and a possible photo op. The Philippines heads the review conference, upcoming in May, of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It was not clear if President Arroyo would proceed to Hanoi from Washington or return to Manila first.

At the end of April, the President intended to visit Spain again, for reasons that were not specified by Palace officials.

In this global village, foreign trips are unavoidable for world leaders. Despite advances in information and communications technology, there is still no substitute for face-to-face meetings particularly with counterparts.

But it is possible to exercise prudence in spending public funds for such trips. The President is notorious for her large retinue of hangers-on, mostly congressional allies who like to travel and dine first class using public funds. The retinue is always largest in her pilgrimages to Washington, even if there is little chance for them to have a photo with the American president. Will the forthcoming visit be any different?

President Arroyo has also been criticized by that other world traveler, Fidel Ramos, for badly planned and therefore more expensive flight itineraries. It's too late to urge the President to use precious public funds judiciously. It will be up to her successor to lead by example in the prudent utilization of taxpayers' money. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

## Taking Care of Our Kupuna



by Senator Will  
**ESPERO**

Several years ago when my mother and father came to live with me, people commented, "Oh, you're going to take care of your parents?" I replied, "No, they're going to take care of me."

Hawaii has long been at the top of the list in sociologic and gerontologic research for best places to be a senior citizen. Our Native Hawaiian culture reveres kupuna, placing value on the wisdom acquired by them, and according them high esteem in society. The Pacific Rim and Asian immigrants brought with them their cultural values of filial piety for the elderly, displayed through their practices of revering parents and grandparents. Unlike the predominant nuclear families on the mainland, many Hawaii families live in extended families, where the three generations care for, educate, support, and nurture each other.

Nearly one out of five resi-

dents of Hawaii is over 60 years old. With the growing population of aged citizens, there is, thankfully, broad responsiveness to the common needs of this section of our community. The City and County's Elderly Affairs Division has a comprehensive resources guide entitled, "Senior Information & Assistance Handbook." You can call the Elderly Affairs Division Senior Helpline at 768-7700 or visit its website at [www.elderlyaffairs.com](http://www.elderlyaffairs.com). Kokua Kaihi Valley's Comprehensive Family Services also publishes a helpful resource guide entitled, "Housing Options For Seniors on Oahu."

### HOUSING

To move or not to move, that is the question. Does a person's current home provide the best environment for his physical needs? Is or will his home be in disrepair due to inability to maintain it? Does the home have adequate security? Does the person need help for basic daily activities? Those seniors who choose to stay where they are may find that the home modifications they require may be expensive. Non-slip floor covering, grab bars in the shower and tub area, lever type handles, or increasing doorway width, among others, may also be needed. Those seniors who choose to



move have a variety of choices. They can have a live-in health aide, or go to senior centers during the day, live in-home care, or group homes.

### CAREGIVING

The Department of Veterans Affairs, [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) publishes a helpful series of caregiver pamphlets. Among the topics: "Caring for the Caregiver"; "50 Things Every Caregiver Should Know"; "A Checklist for New Caregivers"; "Rewards of Caregiving"; "Balancing Caregiving, Family and Work"; and "5 Tips to Avoid Caregiver Burnout."

The level of home care assistance differs based on the condition and abilities of the person. A Health Companion can provide accompaniment during outings, housekeeping, stand-by assistance with bathing or dressing, meal

preparation, and the like. A Home Health Aide-Basic renders personal assistance such as wheelchair transfers, turning and positioning, dressing, feeding, vital sign monitoring, toileting, and exercise to maintain range of motion. Seniors who need medical monitoring may require a Home Health Aide - Advanced. For example, these could include care for bedbound persons, those with catheters or enemas, or who need blood glucose or blood pressure monitoring, and similar functions. For seniors requiring more stringent nursing care, a Licensed Nurse may be needed, for example, patients who need nasopharyngeal suctioning, NG tube feedings, IV tubes, or ventilators.

### TRANSPORTATION

Disabled persons can obtain a Parking Permit at any satellite city hall. Seniors can ride TheBus at a discount. The Senior Annual Pass costs \$30 and can be purchased at TheBus's main office at 811 Middle Street. The Handi-Van provides curb-to-curb service for those who may not be able to walk as far. A number of transportation companies operate to furnish either door-to-door or curb-to-curb services at various prices depending on the distance of the trip.

### DOES MY PARENT HAVE

### ALZHEIMER'S?

The Alzheimer's Association, in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, has a hand-sized booklet "10 Signs Every Hawaiian Should Know - Is It Alzheimer's or just signs of aging?" that explains in an easy-to-understand way, what is normal and what is Alzheimer's. They can help you find the right doctor, provide information and support (591-2771 for Oahu or 242-8639 for Maui). It's normal to occasionally forget names or appointments, why you came into a room and what you planned to say, or where you were going or what day of the week it was, and to misplace your keys or wallet, or have a hard time balancing your check-book.

In contrast, an Alzheimer's patient may forget what numbers are, where they are, how they got there or how to get back home. He may find it hard to plan or complete everyday tasks, such as preparing a meal, place a phone call, or play a game. He may dress inappropriately, wearing several layers of clothing on a warm day or too little clothing in cold weather. He may put things in unusual places, such as placing an iron in the freezer or wristwatch in the sugar bowl.

As our citizens age, all of us will be affected. Whether you are a caregiver or an elderly person, you are not alone. There are many resources available to help if you need assistance and guidance. ■

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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS



## State Receives Construction Industry Grant For Women, Minorities

**THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** will receive \$36,715 for on-the-job training and support services for women and minorities interested in careers in the construction industry. The money comes via a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

"Historically women are underrepresented in the construction industry and it is important that we encourage them to explore the

field," says U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. "A diverse work force enhances the industry. We must show women and all minorities that a career in every trade is available to them."

The funds will be used to expose minority and female students to employment opportunities in the construction industry and to assist them with career planning. The goal is to increase the enrollment of women and minorities at Honolulu Community College's Apprenticeship Program by 10 percent. ■

## Magician to Perform at Waipahu Library

**LOCAL MAGICIAN BRADLEY CHOY** will perform a special Magic and Comedy Show at Waipahu Public Library on March 17, 2010 at 6 p.m. The free program will be held in the C.O.

Andy Anderson Room. In addition to magic and comedy, the show will feature "live" rabbits.

The Friends of Waipahu Public Library is sponsoring this one-hour program which is suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.

Contact the library as soon as possible if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is needed.

Waipahu Library is located at 94-275 Mokuola Street, next to the Waipahu Civic Center. Please call 675-0358 for more information on this and other events. ■

## BBB Warns Public About Online Payday Lenders

**THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB)** is warning cash-strapped families to beware of unscrupulous online payday lenders that claim they are not required to follow state or federal laws regarding licensing requirements, debt collection practices or caps on interest rates.

According to Dwight Kealoha, CEO of BBB Hawaii, more people are applying online for payday loans due to the bad economy. But unlike a payday loan from a local financial institution, an online pay-

day loan requires one's bank account number. As a result, the borrower is at the mercy of the lender as more money than expected is withdrawn from the account.

"Many are falling into debt after getting tangled up with a lender who has zero regard for the law," Kealoha says.

Hundreds of people have complained to BBB officials after signing up for a payday loan on sites such as OncoClickCash.com, 500FastCash.com, rbtloans.com and Ameriloan.com. Complainants

agreed to a one-time payday loan of several hundred dollars to be paid off in two weeks. However, subsequent payments were used to pay finance charges but never the principal. As a result, they ended up paying two and three times the amount of the original loan but still have the same amount of principal to pay off.

"The bottom line here is that if you are handing over your bank account information online to get a payday loan without doing your research, you are setting yourself up to pay much more than you bargained for," Kealoha says. ■

## HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1; Palace...)

muster a quorum for an emergency session.

Dureza said he was expecting the proclamation to be signed yesterday afternoon.

but some officials said the President was still considering the ramifications of such a declaration.

"Let's wait for the President's action on this," presidential spokesman Ricardo Saludo told a news briefing.

Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales, who chairs the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), presided over a

meeting at the NDCC at Camp Aguinaldo, to fine-tune the draft proclamation.

"The Department of Energy is hereby directed and authorized to take necessary measures to address and resolve the crisis expeditiously. All departments and government agencies concerned are directed to implement and execute appropriate programs in accordance with the existing operational plans, directives and orders issued in connection with the occurrence of this calamity," the draft proclamation read.

Gonzales said such a declaration would allow concerned local governments to immediately tap

five percent of their respective budgets, which is allocated as calamity funds, to address the crisis.

"After listening to the DOE (Department of Energy) and our Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), I think it's really necessary that we declare a state of calamity in Mindanao," Gonzales said.

"The entire Mindanao (will be covered). Our problem in Mindanao is it is more dependent on hydropower and the supply of water has really been dangerously low. So we hope that there will be rain or typhoons by July then we can normalize the water supply," the NDCC chairman said.

"As per Pagasa prediction, we may not have rains until June. We're hoping that by the beginning of July we will have rains already," he said.

Saludo cited precedents in the case of the onslaught of storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" in Luzon that forced Mrs. Arroyo to make such a declaration for the region to control prices of basic commodities.

"The other thing that may be important, we are entering the period of election ban soon, some projects or actions are prohibited to the national and local governments. Now, if there will be a declaration of a state of calamity then it may allow certain activities that are urgently needed to be exempted from the ban," Saludo said.

The meeting at the NDCC office was the second in as many days that tackled the Mindanao power crisis.

Energy Secretary Angelo

Reyes presented to the Cabinet four options and solutions that would allow the government to address the power crisis in the region.

The measures include shifting operating hours of factories during nighttime when power demand is relatively low; a load-sharing program where firms with excess power would share with companies in need; a government and private sector partnership to lease generator sets; and the transfer of a power barge to Davao to generate additional 200 megawatts.

Dureza said the power situation in the region is worsening with generation deficiency reaching 700 megawatts and with the water in the Agus and Pulangi hydroelectric plants reaching critical level.

### DEFICIENCY WORSENS

The generation deficiency in Mindanao has widened further to 748 megawatts (MW) as hy-

dropower facilities owned by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) continue to produce less and less power.

In a report by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), capacity was at 749 MW as against peak demand of 1,497 MW.

The Visayas grid, on the other hand, registered a power deficiency of 30 MW while the Luzon posted reserves of 223 MW.

Industry sources, meanwhile, said the plan of the government to deploy power barges as stopgap measure may not be advisable.

They said it would take at least three months to construct a mooring facility for these barges and it would already be rainy season by the time the power barges were ready to dock.

They said the government may not have a choice but to allow the use of generators which could cost P15 per kWh. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

(cont. from page 1; Subic...)

freeports may now enter and stay in the country without a visa for a period of 14 days, the BI said.

However, the agency said that the privilege will only be extended to those arriving through the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) or the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA).

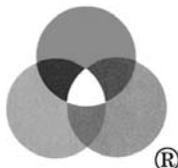
"The agreement provides that the foreign locator shall vouch for their officers and personnel coming here and shall notify the SBMA chair or CDC president who shall approve the grant of the visa-free entry privilege," the Bureau of Immigration said.

The agreement also said that these officers and personnel of

foreign locators may apply with the BI for a landed visa so they can travel to other areas of the Philippines for the purpose of exploring investment opportunities outside the two freeports.

Libanan said the visa-free entry privilege for foreign locators in Subic and Clark is part of the BI's ongoing thrust to attract more tourists and investors to the Philippines.

Arreza said the agreement will help attract more foreign investors to do business in Subic and Clark as well as send a signal to other foreign investors that the government is serious in courting more foreign investments that will create more jobs and improve the economy. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



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by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

**“Consummation est.”** (It is consummated) – Jesus Christ’s last words during his crucifixion.

An elderly Ilocano gentleman and his young wife appeared for a visa interview in San Francisco.

“Sir, was your marriage consummated?” the officer inquired.

“*Anya ti cayal na nga saoen ti consummated?*” (What does she mean by consummated), the man asked his lawyer.

“*Ag yal ala kayo ken ni baket mo?*” (Do you have sex with your

wife), the lawyer whispered.

“Oh, yes, we consummate every night,” the man gleefully replied.

“Sir, you can only consummate a marriage once,” interjected the immigration officer.

“I don’t know about you ma’am, but we do it every night,” he bragged.

The lawyer elbowed the man to stop.

There is “nuptial imagery” in the Biblical word “consummation” which is the act by which a couple seals their marriage. “The death on the Cross is the act by which our Divine Bridegroom sealed His marriage covenant with His Bride, the Church.” Pi Lamba Uspalar

**SEX ORIENTED CONSULAR PERSONNEL**

If you are dealing with sex-ori-

ented Filipinos working at the Fraud Prevention Unit of the U.S. Consulate in Manila, you cannot get a visa if they suspect that you and your elderly spouse cannot have sexual relations. They will laugh at you if you insist your husband can still do it. They generally tell their American masters to deny visas to elderly men who are married to much younger women. If mere suspicion of inability to have sex results in visa denial, how much more if you admit it?

**NON-CONSUMMATION AGREEMENT**

A 60-year old U.S.C. married a 53-year old Iranian woman. He retired due to poor health and lived on social security and welfare. He married her because he needed a housekeeper. He regarded her as his wife. He did not marry her to

assist her in obtaining adjustment of status. The woman was not in love with him, but they liked each other. He had nobody, he was sick, and she fell sorry for him. She also needed a place to live. She married him to take care of him for as long as she lived. He was too sick to engage in normal marital relations. It was understood that there would be no consummation and that they would remain in separate rooms.

The BIA ordered the visa approved holding that where a marriage has been duly solemnized, the marriage comes into existence at that moment regardless of whether it is followed by sexual intercourse. The fact that they slept in separate rooms and had not had sexual intercourse was insignificant since evidence showed that a valid and lasting marital re-

lationship was intended which had continued for over two years. Where a marriage is bona fide, the motive or purpose in entering into the marriage is not a primary concern. Matter of Peterson, Interim Decision # 1845, 03/08/68. ■

(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 Lanang City and Maggiling, 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 KN2I 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.)

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**  
**Manila Mayoral Bets Sign Peace Accord**

by Sandy ARANETA/  
Thursday, March 11, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **INCUMBENT MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM**, former Environment Secretary Lito Atienza and former Philippine National Police chief Avelino Razon Jr. yesterday signed a peace covenant for clean and honest elections during the May 2010 polls.

The signing of the peace covenant was done at 2 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the Manila Police District headquarters along United Nations Avenue.

The event, called “Covenant Signing for HOPE 2010,” was initiated by National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Roberto Rosales in all Metro Manila cities to ensure honest, orderly and peace-

ful elections.

MPD director Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Magtibay saw to it that the seating arrangement for the three mayoral bets would not put Atienza and Lim seating side by side, with the two seated between Magtibay and Rosales. Razon was seated between Lim and Rosales.

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting coordinator for National Capital Region Monsignor Hernando Coronel and NCR regional election director lawyer Michael Dionea who led in the oath of peace covenant among Manila candidates.

Meanwhile, a staff of Atienza distributed letters to the media after the signing which called on MPD officers “to be impartial and not to

take sides during the entire campaign period.”

According to Atienza, his camp has been receiving reports the MPD mobile units have been escorting the personnel of the City Hall’s Department of Public Services, specifically along Road 10 Boulevard in Tondo, in the dismantling and removing materials of Atienza’s Buhayin ang Maynila team.

Manila policemen have also been harassing vendors in the Blumentritt area who openly expressed support for Atienza team, to the point of forcing them to use yellow tents identified with Lim, Atienza claimed.

He also said pedicab drivers were promised by some policemen that they would not be appe-

hended for traffic violations if they show their support for Lim.

“Many of our supporters were harassed and threatened by goons identified with Lim, and this will definitely not lead to a peaceful and orderly election,” Atienza said.

Razon echoed the same sentiments, but said the harassment stopped when he reported it to the media.

For his part, Lim said the accusations were all political propa-



Manila mayoral candidates Lito Atienza, Alfredo Lim and Avelino Razon Jr. raise their right hands as they recite the oath of covenant for a peaceful election

ganda. “Let the matter be investigated and let charges be filed if there is a violation of the Omnibus Election Code,” he told reporters. (www.philstar.com) ■

**GMA to Visit US, Hanoi; Eyes Spain**

by Ma. Elisa P. OSORIO/  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **PRESIDENT ARROYO WILL VISIT WASHINGTON AND HANOI NEXT MONTH** in what could be her last foreign trips, as her term ends on June 30.

Arrangements are also being made for a possible visit to Spain towards the end of April, officials said.

Mrs. Arroyo will visit Washington to attend the Nuclear Security Summit on April 12 to 13. Some 40 heads of state are expected to attend the summit to be hosted by US President Barack Obama.

“The purpose of the summit is

to discuss steps we can collectively take to secure vulnerable nuclear materials and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said last month.

Obama, during his first State of the Union Address, stressed the importance of the summit, saying nuclear weapons are “perhaps the greatest danger to the American people.”

Officials said there is no word yet on whether Mrs. Arroyo would hold bilateral talks with Obama but did not discount the possibility of “pull-aside meetings” at the sidelines of the summit.

Mrs. Arroyo would attend the summit to represent the upcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May

where the Philippines was elected president, with Ambassador Li-Bran Cabaculan as country representative.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo urged nuclear experts and negotiators last month to achieve significant progress to rid the world of nuclear weapons in an NPT workshop in Manila.

Before the visit to Washington, Mrs. Arroyo is scheduled to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders’ Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam on April 18.

It was not yet clear whether the President would proceed straight to Hanoi from Washington or return to Manila first. It was also possible that she would visit Filipino communities in the US en route to Hanoi. (www.philstar.com)



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## NEWS FEATURE

# 'Never Lost in Texas' - Roach Warns

by Abac CORDERO /  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

**DALLAS - AS THE CHARACTERIZED BOEING 737 WAS COMING TO A COMPLETE STOP** at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport late Monday evening, fond memories of Texas must have suddenly crossed Freddie Roach's mind.

"Never lost in Texas," said Roach, still seated near the front row of the narrow-bodied aircraft that flew Manny Pacquiao and 140 others, his family and friends, some members of the media from Los Angeles.

Roach was unmindful of all the fun and noise inside the plane during its two-hour 20-minute flight, unmindful that in one section a card game was being played, and "Pacman," the boxer's Jack Russell Terrier, was running along the aisle.

He had his mind focused on boxing.

Roach, of course, had guided Pacquiao to two victories at the Alamodome in San Antonio, the first being a very big one, a stunning 11th round knockout of Marco Antonio Barrera in 2003, followed by an eighth-round KO of Jorge Solis in 2007.

Roach said he also steered lightweight Juan Lazzano to five victories in El Paso over the last few years, and also remembered that in March 21, 1984, more than 25 years ago, he fought Delio Palacios at the Rodeo Arena in Pasadena, Texas.

The four-time Trainer of the Year

said he was a 4-1 underdog when he beat Palacios via a unanimous decision. The noise made it quite difficult to understand Roach as saying like he knocked his fancied opponent down once during the contest.

Roach said he plans to keep his perfect record intact when Pacquiao, unbeaten in nearly five years, stakes his WBO welterweight crown against the big, strong and hungry fighter from Ghana, Joshua Clottey.

"Yeah, we want to do that," said Roach, who got off the plane just carrying a black back-pack and his three-inch body armor which he puts on whenever he works the mitts with his hard-hitting fighter in training.

Pacquiao wrapped up his sparring Monday noon at the Wild Card Gym in LA, and before 6 p.m. he boarded the plane to Dallas. He sparred four rounds with Ray Beltran and closed the book with a total of 142 rounds in over seven weeks.

Pacquiao, the overwhelming favorite in his fight with Clottey, stepped out of the plane with his wife Jinkee, and was met at the tarmac by Top Rank executives Ricardo Jimenez and Lee Samuels, publicist Fred Sternburg and a -12-degree weather.

They were led to a couple of black Lincoln Navigators that brought them straight to the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, close to 30 minutes away from the airport and located "in the middle of nowhere," according to the bus driver.

Those who joined Pacquiao on the plane, all of them, filled three buses that also took them to the same hotel where Pacquiao will stay for the rest of the week.

It was not clear, however, if Pacquiao would pay for all their accommodation.

"Who are these people?" said Jimenez, who looked so amused that so many people had joined Pacquiao in the trip. "How did you get all these people inside

the plane?" was the comment made by Top Rank photographer, Cris Farina.

But again, it was Pacquiao's wish for all these people to join him in the trip.

At the hotel, Pacquiao was welcomed by Top Rank big boss Bob Arum who did not keep the boxer up. He went straight to his suite and was ready to tuck himself in, at around midnight, when scribes tried to get a hold of him.

Pacquiao will hold another media workout Tuesday afternoon at the specially built training facility at the basement of the hotel. Clottey held his Monday afternoon, and Top Rank will make sure they don't bump into each other when they train until Thursday. (www.philstar.com) ■



Filipino champ Manny Pacquiao, wife, Jinkee and adviser Michael Konz arrive in cold Dallas Monday.



Future Hall of Fame boxing trainer Freddie Roach

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Tourist Inflows Seen to Swell 15%

by Ted TORRES /  
Sunday, March 7, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines - TOURIST INFLOWS TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS** in the Philippines is forecast to expand 15 percent this year, to finally break the 10-million mark, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said.

"The Department of Tourism (DOT) foresees the coordinated and integrated efforts of the government and the private sector to expand current capacity, increase tourist demand, enhance tourism revenues, and create more employment opportunities in tourist destinations," Durano said in his year-end report.

Last year, Cebu remained the top destination with tourist traffic increasing 1.2 percent to 1.61 million. South Korea remained the top tourist market in the area, accounting for a 29 percent share of total foreign tourists.

Notably, Chinese tourists to Cebu grew a substantial 70 percent as more charter flights were launched between Cebu and Shanghai, as well as Guangzhou. A hefty group of students from Kuwait was also recorded as tourists from the Middle East market streamed to Cebu for short educational programs.

New investments worth P36.3 billion were likewise initiated involving 28 new tourism-related projects, with a potential of employing at least 15,600 individuals.

Aside from Cebu, the other leading tourism destinations last year were Camarines Sur, Metro Manila, Baguio City, Davao City, Boracay Island, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboales, Bohol, Puerto Princesa City, Camiguin, Cagayan Valley, Negros Oriental and Ilocos Norte. Camarines registered a remarkable growth rate of 117.25 percent, rising to become the second leading tourist destination in 2009

from fourth in 2008.

Durano's report said international and local events such as the First Aqua Fest Celebrity Challenge, Ironman 70.3 Triathlon, International Dragon Boat Competition and Bagasbas Summer Surf, boosted domestic visitors to Camarines Sur by 140 percent to 1.3 million, while foreign tourists went up by 56 percent.

Other top tourist market were Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Meanwhile, the bulk of new investments were in the tourism economic zones amounting to P29 billion. These include the Eagle Entertainment City, Bagong Nayong Pilipino Entertainment City, Embarcadero de Legaspi, Akean Resorts and Ilwado Estate Tourism Economic Zone.

Additional investment in the hotel and accommodation sector with a total cost of P5.4 billion is projected to employ 2,722 people. These include the Remington Hotel (1,000 rooms) and Microtel Inns and Suites (150 rooms) in Manila, Sheridan Beach Resort (96 rooms) in Puerto Princesa City, Highlander Hotel (76 rooms) in Nueva Vizcaya and Green Canyon EcoPark (75 rooms) in Tarlac.

The airline sector responded to the growth in the tourism sector as Cebu Pacific, Zest Airways and Seair poured investments to acquire new aircraft to cope with the demand for increased air travel. Total investments of these airlines were valued at P15.9 billion.

In addition, 20 cruise ships docked in Manila for 2009. Arrivals from these cruise ships posted a 2.24-percent increase from 17,516 passenger-tourists in 2008 to 17,908 passenger-arrivals with most visitors taking the tours in Intramuros, Manila and Tagaytay.

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

## Albay Under State of Calamity

by Cet DEMATERA /  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

**LEGAZPI CITY, Albay, Philippines - THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF ALBAY** was placed under a state of calamity yesterday after the drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon damaged P178-million worth of crops in 5,581 hectares of agricultural land within the first two months of the year.

The provincial board yesterday passed a resolution placing Albay's 14 towns and three cities under a state of calamity for the duration of the dry spell upon the recommendation of local agriculture and disaster management officials.

The resolution sponsored by provincial board member Ramon Alsua, chair of the committee on agriculture, will allow the local government units to use their calamity funds to mitigate the adverse effects of the drought.

Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apsemo) chief Cedric Daep said the most affected areas are the towns of Libon, Polangui, Oas, Jovellar, and Daraga; the entire Legazpi City; and a portion of Legazpi City.

The Provincial Agricultural Services (PAS) of Albay reported that as of March 5, 14,832 metric tons of palay, corn, and vegetables, equivalent to 17 percent of the provincial semi-annual output, were damaged.

Daep said farmers who fail to harvest because of the dry spell will receive relief assistance.



*Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest peak at 2,922 meters above sea level, at the boundary of Ifugao, Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya provinces.*

"Under the state of calamity, the concerned local government units could now utilize their calamity funds to assist the affected farmers and rehabilitate the damaged farms," Daep told The STAR.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said he has instructed concerned officials to distribute water pumps and seeds to affected farmers. Cloud seeding is also planned.

"We need to act now before the effect of El Niño could inflict so much damage to our agricultural plantations that would directly hurt our farmers," Salceda said in an interview.

Banaue town in Ifugao province, where the famous rice terraces are located, has also been placed under a state of calamity after drought damage to palay, vegetables, fruits, and livestock reached P65 million.

Last week, Pagasa said temperatures in Northern Luzon may rise to 40 degrees Celsius in the coming months. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

# FOOD & LEISURE

## So Hot, So Delicious, So Batchoy

by Lai S. REYES /  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines - A steaming bowl of meke noodles soaked in a tasty broth and topped with generous servings of pork meat, liver and sinful bits of chicharon never fails to entice the palate of foreign and local tourists whenever they go to the La Paz public market in Iloilo City.

Popularly known as La Paz batchoy, this Ilonggo comfort food has captured the taste buds of foodies in search of a hot, delicious and filling meal that can be enjoyed any time of the day — in Iloilo.

While a few eateries in the metro also serve this delectable dish, some say that nothing beats Deco's Original La Paz Batchoy, the inventor of this now-famous meat soup.

I haven't tried Deco's so I was delighted to learn that I don't have to fly to Iloilo to partake of this mouthwatering treat because there's now a Deco's Original La Paz Batchoy Since 1938 branch right outside the Magallanes MRT station in Makati.

Here, special batchoy can be savored for as little as P67 and can be paired with the so-called prewar pan de sal for P3.50 or the Manapla puto for P6.50 per piece.

Well, who could resist this

tempting treat, especially if you can have unlimited servings of kaldo (soup), chicharon bits and crunchy garlic as toppings for free?

### A TASTE OF ILONGGO HISTORY

The history of batchoy dates back to the years before World War II.

Federico "Deco" Guillergan Sr., a butcher who worked at the La Paz market at that time, is the man behind what is now known as the La Paz batchoy.

As a cook, Deco experimented with different ingredients to come up with a kaldo (broth) that was meaty and tasty, a dish he could serve market vendors to ease their hunger.

The aroma of the soup percolated through the large Chinese population of the city who would later troop to his makeshift carinderia for a bowl of the hot soup. Soon, noodles were added to satisfy the cravings of his Chinese customers.

Whenever customers would ask Deco what the name of his noodle dish was, he would hastily reply "batchoy," which simply means meat soup in Chinese.



The people of La Paz enjoyed the original Ilonggo soup for only 10 to 20 centavos per bowl. From then on, they got hooked.

Realizing the need to pass on the legacy to his

sons and daughter, Deco has taught his children to love the business that helped them through school and earn their degrees.

"I started helping my father when I was 12 years old. It was more like play than work. I enjoyed talking to our customers. I would help him chop the meat and veggies in the kitchen. After school, I would volunteer to wash the dishes in exchange for a hot bowl of batchoy," relates Federico "Nonoy" Guillergan Jr., the son of Deco, who is now managing Deco's La Paz Batchoy, the oldest batchoy chain in the country.

### PERFECT COMBINATION

Today, Deco's legacy of great-tasting La Paz batchoy lives on as the company expands outside of Iloilo.

With the help of another

Ilonggo company, Mang Inasal, Deco's brings its batchoy to key cities of the country.

Joel Adrias, vice president for operations of Deco's, said the company has recently put up five stores in Iloilo, all with modern facilities that aim to give diners a cozy atmosphere as they enjoy the taste of the original batchoy.

"Upon learning that Mang Inasal is an Ilonggo brand, most of our customers here in Manila would inquire if we serve La Paz Batchoy. Well, that's how the partnership started," Joel explains.

Under the new management, Deco's eldest son Nonoy is tasked to ensure that every bowl of Deco's La Paz batchoy must be authentically prepared.

"I'll prepare everything so the quality of the dish won't suffer. We will also have a commissary based in Iloilo so all the ingredients needed for our branches here in Manila will come from the province," explains Mang Nonoy.

For Lent, Deco's is planning to serve a vegetarian batchoy topped with tuna chicharon.

"Of course, we also want to reach out to vegetarian diners. I'm sure they'll love the healthier version," says Mang Nonoy.

Now in its 71st year, Deco's still perks up the appetite of even the most discriminate diners.

### NOTHING BEATS THE ORIGINAL

Mang Nonoy says not all batchoy are created equal. Here's a list of the things you should look for in a bowl:

- Lots of toppings. A bowl of batchoy should overflow with toppings.
- Unlimited kaldo (broth). At Deco's, diners can enjoy unlimited servings of kaldo for free. Just go to the condiments counter where a steaming container of kaldo, garlic and onions is waiting.
- No sebo (lard). One mark of a bowl of Deco's batchoy is the absence of sebo even when the broth gets cold.
- Crispy chicharon. The crispy pork skin remains crispy after it is submerged in the broth. It stays that way up to the last bite, making your batchoy a gastronomic treat.
- Affordable. A large bowl (Special) of Deco's batchoy only costs P67, and a bigger bowl (Super) is available at only P75. The bigger bowl with added toppings (Extra) goes for only P77.

In Manila, Deco's Original La Paz Batchoy is at Alphaland Southgate, the building at the corner of Edsa and Pasong Tamo, right next to the northbound portion of the Magallanes interchange.

For franchise inquiries, call Meryl Aninon at 0922-852111 or SMS 0917-8006364. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## PHILIPPINE NEWS Guingona: DA, NFA Executives Making Millions

by Helen FLORES /  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

**MANILA, Philippines - OPPOSITION REP. TEOFISTO GUINGONA** III claimed yesterday that so-called "crocodiles" or corrupt government officials are raking in millions of dollars in commissions on rice importations.

Guingona, a congressman of Bukidnon and a senatorial candidate of the Liberal Party, said these officials, whom he did not identify, are apparently behind the government's decision to increase rice imports even before experts could ascertain the extent of damage to farming caused by the El Niño dry spell.

"Total imports this year will hit a record high of 2.45 million metric tons (49 million 50-kilo bags)," he said.

He said it is common knowledge in the rice industry that there is big money to be made from rice importation.

A rice importer interviewed by ABS-CBN Channel 2's Anthony Taberna claimed that there used to be a commission of \$25 to \$30 per metric ton of imported rice.

"That is no longer the case. The commission has increased to \$80-\$100 per metric ton," he said.

The importer, who was not identified for security reasons, claimed that an "influential personality and corrupt officials from the Department of Agriculture and National Food Authority (NFA)" are among those

who share the huge commissions.

He said there are commissions to be made even from rice imports arranged on a government-to-government basis.

Taberna also reported that the findings of the Commission on Audit showed that between 2004 and 2007, the Arroyo administration had authorized the importation of rice even when there were no clear indications of a supply shortage.

Auditors also discovered that imported rice that arrived in the country were less in volume than what was ordered.

Guingona said the next administration should review the continued existence of NFA and its role in rice importation.

He said rice importation could be left to private rice traders and farmers' cooperatives, while NFA's role could be limited to "logistics provider."

He said taxpayers should not continue paying for the financial losses of NFA.

This year alone, the agency's losses could reach P194 billion, he added.

He pointed out that another option is to sell NFA to pay part of its liabilities.

Two weeks ago, some rice traders accused the NFA of changing its importation rules apparently to favor certain importers.

Agency officials, however, dismissed the complainants as sore losers who were not given permits to avail of the tax free importation of rice. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Pinoy Wins Google Map Maker Tilt

by Paolo ROMERO  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **GOOGLE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT FILIPINO WAYNE DELL MANUEL** has won the company's first Google Map Maker Global Competition, which encouraged users around the world to map universities, schools and hospitals in their home countries to help humanitarian organizations do their jobs better.

Manuel bested more than 700 other contestants from around the world to win a \$50,000 donation from UNICEF for the Philippines. The donation will benefit projects that empower the Filipino youth through technology.

The Google Map Maker Global Competition was launched to encourage the use of technology for community development by asking users to map universities, schools, hospitals and medical clinics in their home countries.

The goal was to help humanitarian organizations better deliver

services, respond to crises, and adapt to change in the countries they operate by enabling access to accurate digital maps.

The entries were judged based on the quality and quantity of map edits and moderations.

Manuel added more than 1,500 qualifying map features and made hundreds of moderations in Google Map Maker to win the competition.

His edits, which were primarily of local public schools, were judged to be the most numerous and accurate entries in the contest.

Manuel hoped that mapping these schools, many of which also serve as evacuation centers during natural disasters, could help relief organizations centralize and distribute aid to displaced persons during calamities.

"I'm so excited to have won this global competition because it represents a win not just for me, but also for the Philippines," he said.

"To be frank, I entered the



Software developer Wayne Dell Manuel has been recognized globally as one of the top 10 all-time 'mappers' with nearly 35,000 map edits under his belt

competition to win the \$50,000 for our country, and I hope that my win encourages more Filipinos to contribute to making the online map of our country even better," he said.

"We Filipinos are known for our spirit of bayanihan, and this is a great way for us to come together in the Internet era to make life better for our fellow kababayans by lit-

erally putting their communities on the digital map," he added.

"We heartily congratulate Wayne Manuel for winning the first Map Maker Global Competition," said Jennifer Mazzon, community organizer for Google Maps.

"His contributions to the Philippines' online map are invaluable to everyone who relies on it for geographic information, from tourists and everyday commuters, to rescue and relief organizations who respond to natural disasters, as we saw in the aftermath of typhoon 'Ondoy' last year," Mazzon said.

"Even though the contest period is over, the mapping effort for the Philippines is only beginning. There are still many places that are in need of accurate details and we hope that even more Filipinos will use Google Map Maker to share their knowledge about their hometowns with the world," she added.

"We are delighted that Google is supporting UNICEF's efforts to help build a future fit for children," said Gerrit Beger, leader of

UNICEF's innovation drive focusing on youth.

Manuel will receive a VIP tour from UNICEF officials of the projects that will benefit from the \$50,000 donation.

Manuel, who turns 24 this March, is a software developer at the National Telehealth Center of the University of the Philippines. He started using Google Map Maker in 2008 and initially edited streets, establishments, and municipalities in his home cities of Tuguegarao and Baguio. Later, he added most of the roads in the cities of Tarlac, Angeles (Pampanga) and Tacloban (Leyte).

He has been recognized globally as one of the top 10 all-time 'mappers' with nearly 35,000 map edits under his belt.

"We know that mapping is a proven method to enhance community development. Google Map Maker is a powerful tool to create better situational awareness for both young people and communities at large. It will enable organizations like ours to better deliver services, respond to crises and adapt to change," Manuel said. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Middle East Buyers Eye RP Dried Fruits, Tropical Juices

by Ma. Elisa P. OSORIO  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **LOCAL FOOD EXPORTERS CAN NOW GET** a part of the billion dollar Halal food industry as Middle East buyers expressed interest for Philippine made dried fruit and tropical juices, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported recently.

According to the DTI, the Middle East food market is a gem opportunity for the Philippine food exporters. The growing number of Filipinos working and permanently residing in the Middle East is a ready market. Aside from the ready Filipino market in the Middle East, the Philippines also targets niche markets including Halal-certified products.

The Middle East which imports 90 percent of its food from overseas has long been a market for Philippine food and beverage companies, the agency added.

The country's participation in a recent food fair held in Dubai generated \$12.9 million in sales for local food exporters.

The Philippine participation in Gulfood is part of the interna-

tional promotion activities for Philippine food exports led by the DTI. The activity is also meant to attract food buyers to ILEX Philippines, a government-led trade fair for quality and delectable food for exports scheduled this May.

Industry reports said that there are more than 300 Halal-certified companies covering more than 5,000 products in the

Philippines. To date, the total value of the global Halal food market is worth about \$632 billion.

Dubai offers the best starting point for marketing Philippine foods to the Middle East. It is the transshipment zone to other parts of the Middle East and it offers almost zero tariff rate to exporters. (www.philstar.com) ■

## MAINLAND NEWS - Philippine Game Developers Participate at S.F. Conference

**IN AN EFFORT TO CONTINUOUSLY POSITION** the Philippines as Asia's creative hub and preferred ICT outsourcing destination in the Asia-Pacific region, Philippine game developers were among the thousands of attendees at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco March 9-13, 2010.

The conference is the world's largest professionals-only game industry event. Held every spring in San Francisco, it is the essential forum for the creators of computer, console, handheld, mobile and online games. The conference attracts over 17,000 attendees, including programmers, artists, producers, game designers, audio professionals, business decision-makers and others involved in the development of interactive games.

Game development in the Philippines is relatively young. However, with Filipinos' innate cre-

ativity and passion for excellence, pinoy game developers have risen to the demands of the global market, serving global clients for many years now.

In 2003, local company Anino Games released the first Filipino-made computer game "Anito: Defend a Land Enraged" and received the Best Connectivity Award at the International Mobile Gaming Awards held in 2006 in Barcelona, Spain.

To date, several industry players have also developed different games and applications for PC, Nintendo DS and DSi, Wii, iPhone/iPod Touch and mobile phone.

Organizing the Philippines' participation in the GDC is the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, which is an agency attached to the Philippine government's Department of Trade and Industry. ■

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# LEGAL NOTES

## Using A False Identity To Enter the U.S.



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

Obtaining a U.S. visa can be a challenging experience. Due to stringent requirements, not every visa applicant is approved. In fact, the percentage of denial is high.

Some previously denied applicants have resorted to desperate measures in order to enter the U.S. They apply again using a false name, or assuming the name of another person. Some use fake visas and passports.

Examples of these desperate measures are using a B-2 visa stamped on a photo substituted passport and using the green card of another such as a brother or sister who looks like them.

If these persons succeed in getting admitted to the U.S. and they later apply for a green card on the basis of a family-based petition or an employment-based petition, they will be considered as inadmissible because of their fraudulent entry.

The Immigration and Nationality Act states that any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation or admission into the U.S. or other immigration benefit, is inadmissible.

This means that they cannot obtain their green card and may

be subject to removal. Is there a remedy?

A discretionary waiver is available to them but this requires a qualifying relative and proof that the removal of the alien will cause extreme hardship to the relative if the waiver is denied. A qualifying relative may be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse or parent. A child of said alien is not a qualifying relative.

There is no exact definition of extreme hardship. Immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals determine the presence of extreme hardship on a case by case basis after a consideration of many factors.

These factors include ties of the qualifying family member to the U.S. and outside the U.S.; conditions in the country to which the qualifying family member will be relocated; financial impact of

his/her departure from this country; and health conditions of the family member and the alien applicant and the availability of suitable medical care in the country of relocation.

In a leading case, extreme hardship was not established because the alien and his wife did not have strong financial ties to the U.S.; the U.S. citizen knew that her husband was in deportation proceedings when she married him, and she had many relatives in the country where they would be forced to relocate and would not have difficulty making the adjustment there.

But in another case, waiver was granted upon a finding of extreme hardship. In that case, the alien's wife suffered from severe depression and could not stay alone in their house. She was also concerned about the health

of her son who suffered from asthma and required frequent medical attention. Moreover, the country where they would be forced to relocate was in dire economic condition.

An applicant for waiver of inadmissibility due to fraud or misrepresentation should submit Form I-601 and supporting documents. The documents should include an affidavit from the qualifying relative describing in detail the hardship that he/she would face in the U.S. in the event the applicant is removed from the U.S. and also the hardship that he/she will encounter if he/she were to relocate to the country where his/her spouse will return. ■

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

## S.F. Film Fest to Air Documentary on Late Fil-Am Activist, Poet

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE LATE FILIPINO-AMERICAN POET and activist Al Robles will be among the featured films at the 28th Annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival scheduled for March 11-21, 2010.

Entitled "Manilatown is in the Heart—Time Travel with Al Robles," the film follows Robles growing up with the jazz of his youth in the Fillmore neighborhood of San Francisco with Zen monks and jazz musicians, to his life as an activist and poet. Robles documented the lives of Filipino immigrants, weaving their histories into his poetic and community work.

"Al Robles was the heart and

spirit of the Manilatown & Filipino communities," says S.F. District Supervisor Eric Mar. "San Francisco will never forget his tireless work supporting seniors and housing justice, fighting displacement & gentrification and nurturing youth in our communities."

As a community activist, he was instrumental in the political fight against the city to stop the demolition of the I-Hotel, or International Hotel on Kearny Street in the Manilatown section of San Francisco. Built in 1907, the I-Hotel



was home to many Asian Americans, including a large Filipino-American population.

In his writing, Robles combined heritage with experience. His verses about traditional Filipino foods and community personalities in San Francisco resulted in countless poems, many of which were written on napkins, around the edges of newspapers and on scraps of paper.

According to the Robles family, Manong Al's words, ideas and spirit continue to inspire students, activists, writers, artists and others to give their hearts and minds to their communities.

Robles passed away in May 2009 but left behind a legacy of activism and community involvement that has inspired elders and youth alike. He dedicated his life to social justice and bringing voice to silenced communities through po-

etry, resisting the intentional exclusion of the voices of elders, youth and the poor.

Robles is recognized as a son of the Fillmore district and is memorialized with a plaque in the Fillmore Plaza. ■

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## Filipino Physician Among Top Doctors in Cincinnati

FILIPINO PHYSICIAN DR. MANUEL VILLAREAL was listed among the top doctors in the January 2010 issue of Cincinnati Magazine.

A graduate of De La Salle Health Sciences Institute's College of Medicine in Dasmariñas City, the Philippines, Villareal was included in the annual guide for most respected physicians in the Greater Cincinnati area. He has practiced in the U.S. for the past 15 years.

The magazine conducted a survey among 5,297 doctors in several counties of the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Each doctor was asked whom he or she would turn to if a family member or a friend needed medical attention. The final tally



consisted of 571 physicians representing 42 specialties.

Being included in the list yields positive benefits for Villareal's patients and medical team.

"Having the trust and respect of our peers gives our patients the assurance that they are getting excellent care," he says. "It also has a positive impact on my staff,

knowing that they are part of a team that has the respect of the medical community."

Villareal is currently a practitioner and clinical researcher at the Frange Allergy and Asthma Clinics and Abraham Research in Kentucky. He also works as volunteer associate professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati and as a volunteer faculty of the Family Practice Residency Program of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Kentucky. A Fellow of the Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, he is a recognized and published researcher in his field of specialty.

Another Filipino doctor, Dr. Sabino Baluyot, an ENT practitioner with the Cincinnati Nose and Sinus Center, was also included in the list. (Good News Philippines) ■

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# PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

## Dagiti Kangrunaan A Proyekto Ken Aktibidad Ti UFCH Iti Agdama A Liderato



**ILOKO**

by Amado I. YORO

**A**dda saggampamin agsalud-sod kadakami no ania met san ti durdur-asan wenna ipangruna nga isaysyangkat ti United Filipino Council of Hawaii [UFCH].

Simple ti maisungbatmi nupay saanmi nga ingiwanan ti pangulo wenna interamente a liderato, ngem sungbatmi laeng kas mayas kadagiti kameng ti Hunta del Gobernador, ken mayas kadagiti mangdaulo kadagiti sumagmano a komite iti sangingang ti UFCH.

Kas nadakamatmin ti napa-balas a bilang, maisagsagana ti Golden Book, wenna ti "Dawn-break: Commemorating commitment, celebrating with the Community" ti maisagsagana a

pakatipon dagiti taldipag biag ken gapuanan dagiti aganay a tal-lolupo a presidente a nagpaay manipud pay idi Hunio 1959, a pannakabangonna. No agballigi daytoy a publikasion, namangnama a mayalag [launching] idagiy Maui iti umay a UFCH Annual Convention intaw Hulo 23, ti umuna nga aldaw a panaglukat ti kombensyon. Ti kombensyon ket imatanon ken sangalian [host] ti Maui Filipino Community Council nga ipangulan ni Atty. Herman Andaya, ni Ryan Piroos ken kakaduaa.

Mainayonto pay itoy a libro, nga agpuskol iti aganay a duagsut a panid, 6x9 ti dakkel, dagiti kangrunaan a tay-ak ti pagisirangan wenna nakalipanganan a nakipaggamulan ni Filipino, kas iti labor, construction, union, edukasion, politika, gobierno, siensia, arte, kultura, literatura, medisina, engineering, salun-at, aglutubo ken dadduma pay.

Maisurat dagiti babaen iti natangan, nasesded [summarization] tapno mairamada a mapagtagnayon iti lagit ti gimong.

Mayas pay a maisagpangruna ita a maisagsagana ti newsletter ita a "TUNOS" a maijabaak ti mamansin iti kada dua a bulan. Aglaon dagitoy a war-nakan kadagiti ddamdagay ti gimong. Ni Miss Fe Edita Magayo Velasco ti mangturongon iti salnong ti Newsletter/Publicity Committee, nga ipangulan toy nagsurat.

Maisagsagana ti Miss Hawaii Filipino Scholarship Pageant an maangay no Mayo 23, 2010 idagiy Hawaii Prince Hotel. Ania aya daytoy a proyekto? "Pamuonan ti pondoy para kadagiti nasarrit nga estudianteng nga agkolohet." Nairugi daytoy idi panawen ni Bert Ugallino [1986-1988], kas kinunana: "Nalatakta ken nasal-salun-at a pamastrekan tapno adda laita umdas a kuarta a mangsuporta iti scholarship si kasin ketdi a no dadduma ket bassit, agkuring wenno agkarkarawatayo no kasano nga

ipatungpal ti proyekto".

Dua a liider a babai ti biang da Maggie Domingo ken Annie Corpuz, kinaadua dagiti sumagmano a lallaki iti biang da appo Joe Lazo, Romualdo Agustín ken adu pay, dita a nagballigi ti umuna a busat ket napili ni Mrs. Acela Garcia, tubo iti Sarat, Ilocos Norte, a kasimpungalan ni Sam Garcia kas immuna a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina a sinaruno dagiti adu pay a managayag nga inna ken mimisid kadagiti bukodda a tiempo, iti masnop nga administrasion. Ni Jema Geronimo, tubo iti Bacarra-Vintar, Ilocos Norte, ti agdama a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina 2009-2010, ken asawa ni Mel Geronimo.

Siempre, saan pay met a nupusgat ti pannakaisayangkat ti Miss Hawaii Filipina a kas mayas kadagiti kangrunaan a panggep ti UFCH: to work vigorously for the advancement of the Filipinos, to preserve Filipino culture and enrich tradition and appreciate Filipino beauty, ket kas naisigud a programana manipud idi Hunio 1959- ni Ms Leticia Quintal ti immuna a Miss Hawaii Filipina 1959.

Sinaruno met dagiti naayat ken nasiritin ken napintas nga annak a Filipina. Ni Miss Celina Macadangang Hayashi ti agdama a Miss Hawaii Filipina.

Kas community service wenna outreach, iti Social Action Committee, ngem ad-adda a pinanapananmi ti Mission Day Service, nagballin ti UFCH/OFC/DW-CLCAAH ken dadduma a unit organizations ti pangboluntario iti Feeding the Homeless iti Institute for Human Services, Blood Bank of Hawaii blood donation, Hawaii Food Bank donation, Adopt-a-Hwy, FilComCenter Fiesta parade, ken adu pay.

Adda pay Miss Teen Hawaii Filipina, no saankami nga agriro ni Miss Lisa Castaneda ti immuna a Miss Teen Hawaii Filipina. Ni Alyssa Reyes ti agdama a Miss Teen Hawaii Filipina.

Dakkel pay ti akem ti UFCH kadagiti Philippine Relief Fund Drive for the Typhoon Ondoy ken Peeping Victim dagiti nagsasaruno a didgira iti Filipinas. Partipante kadagiti dadduma pay nga aktibidad kas iti Taste of Kaliti, FilComCenter Pasko 2009, PCCCCH, ken dadduma.

Iti bukodmi a pangpalitip ken kapadanan itoy nga administrasion, saan a nakadalkikepkep dagiti im-ita ti UFCH a mangdaulo, makitinnulong, makitinnulong. Ketdi, nabatay ti UFCH addaan iti silulukat a puso, takgah a makinarakup iti negan ti panagsertbi. ■

## GLOBAL NEWS

### DOLE Asks Overstaying OFWs to Leave Oman

by Helen FLORES/  
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) appealed yesterday to overstaying Filipino workers in Oman to avail themselves of the amnesty program being offered by the Omani government for foreigners with expired work permit.

Labor Attache Romeo Young reported to Labor Secretary Mari-anito Roque that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman sent a note verbale to the Philippine Embassy requesting diplomats to inform overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) about the amnesty.

Young said the overstaying OFWs might leave the country before March 31 without paying fines.

Young said the embassy was tasked to enumerate and register the names of those who are leaving the country and to submit the documentary requirements of those who will avail of the amnesty.

Young said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) has set up a "one-stop-shop" center for the registration and processing of overstaying workers who want to avail of the amnesty.

He said that after the initial announcement, 16 OFWs registered at the POLO-OWWA office and more workers are expected to avail of the amnesty as the deadline draws closer.

Young said Filipinos are likely to avail of more job opportunities in

Oman after its Ministry of Manpower lifted the temporary ban on issuing work visas for 10 professions.

He said that based on reports from the Ministry of Manpower has allowed companies again to apply work visas for the following professions: shoe repair, real estate valuers, bicycle mechanic, electrician, upholstery workers, car mechanics, plumbers and painters, screen printing technicians, health club trainers, restaurants and coffee shop workers.

Young said Omani employers have shown great interest in hiring more Filipino workers because of their good work habits, pleasing personality, and good disposition, which employers value most in the service-oriented establishments like hotels, parlors, restaurants, shopping centers and coffee shops. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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### NARVACAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET AND FUN DANCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP / FRIDAY

April 20, 2010 • Pacific Beach Hotel, Grand Ballroom • 6 - 11:30 pm • For more information call Aida Anchetta- 677-4610, Carmen Cabreross- 358-3545, Louie Fun-tanilla 375-6449, Eliza Cachola 847-5149

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### Filipina Scientist Receives UNESCO Award for Science

**MARINE BIOCHEMIST LOURDES CRUZ** was one of five women scientists to receive a prestigious international science award in Paris, France.

Cruz was the only scientist from the Asia-Pacific region honored in the 12th Annual L'Oreal United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) award for women in science. She was recognized for developing and converting toxins from marine snails and seashells into drugs used as painkillers for cancer, epilepsy and brain disorder patients.

The recently-retired Cruz had worked at the University of the Philippines Marine Institute. She

earned her master's and doctorate degrees in biochemistry from the University of Iowa.

Cruz will use her \$100,000 award to buy a piece of land to serve as a new base for her rural livelihood laboratory for the Aetas, an indigenous tribe in the Bataan Province, in an effort to preserve

and tap into their vast knowledge of traditional medicine.

She believes that more Filipinos would excel in science if the Philippine government would focus more on science and technology. She laments that the government's allocation for science and technology is less than 1 percent of the entire budget. *(Good News Philippines)* ■

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