

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

CANADA TO CONTINUE EXPORTING ASBESTOS TO RP, OTHER THIRD WORLD NATIONS

By HFC Staff

Ignoring sharp criticism by leading scientists around the world, Canada has decided to continue mining and exporting asbestos products to the Philippines, India, Indonesia and other Third World nations.

The Canadian government recently blocked attempts to list chrysotile asbestos as a hazardous substance on a United Nations treaty called the Rotterdam Convention—a move that was seen by many in the international community as a defiant gesture. At a U.N. conference held in Geneva from June 20-24, 2011, Canada was the only developed nation to oppose placing chrysotile asbestos on the treaty. It received support from such nations as Ukraine, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan—the kind of international backing one doesn't normally boast about.

DANGERS OF ASBESTOS

Due to its good tensile strength and resistance to damage, asbestos was extremely popular during the early 20th century. It continues to be popular in many less wealthy nations, where it is used to strengthen cement and prolong the life of road surfaces.

When medical science established a clear link between asbestos and lung disease and cancer, wealthier nations began phasing out its use and removing it from public buildings. Despite these efforts, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 125 million

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U.N. delegates at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention, Geneva, Switzerland, held June 20-24, 2011

Lacson Implicates GMA, Husband in Anomalous Purchase of Helicopters

By Christina MENDEZ

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Panfilo Lacson implicated yesterday former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Juan Miguel Arroyo in the anomalous purchase of three helicopters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in 2009.

The senator said he obtained documents indicating that the Arroyos were the former owners of the helicopters "forcibly" sold and priced as brand-new to the PNP for P105 million.

"The First Couple were so powerful at that time that ramming the use of helicopters down the throat of the police was easy and effortless," Lacson said.

Lacson said the couple and other officials who may be involved can be made



Sen. Panfilo Lacson

liable for plunder. "And since the proceeds could exceed the P50-million threshold in a series of acts, those liable are candidate for a plunder case under our existing

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Consulate Accepting Nominees for 2011 Bagong Bayani Awards

By HFC Staff

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, in coordination with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), has announced its search for outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to be recognized during the 2011 Bagong Bayani Awards.

The awards are sponsored by the Bagong Bayani Foundation Inc. and will be

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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
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EDITORIAL

Perpetuate Filipino Culture This Summer

Summer officially began two weeks ago, the most glorious of seasons with the days lasting the longest all year long. Work and responsibilities remain the same, but somehow with those extra few hours of golden daylight, we feel inspired to keep going and going, with ample energy for a late afternoon stroll in the neighborhood, swim at the beach or simply watch in silence the fluttering trees as the warm trades whisper into our ears "You are alive."

For many Filipinos, summer runs deeper than enjoying the great weather. Summer for us is a kind of extended, long lasting Christmas. Children are on break from school. The days, which quickly turn to weeks, then months become one big, joyous family fest. A tradition among Hawaii families is that summer also means reunion. Family members who've moved to the U.S. mainland make their annual return trip back home for the summer.

That sister in Orange County, niece in San Francisco, uncle in New York, daughter in Boston or for some, almost half of their entire family living on the mainland, reunite to celebrate bonds in Hawaii. The entire process is similar to the way our parents living in Manila would return to the province to join their families for summer. Many of us recall listening to all the cherished stories that our parents would share of what went on during those summer vacations in the provinces. They'd begin with those famous four words: "back in the Philippines..." Even though we heard the same stories dozens of times, our parents would always add a twist, something new to the chain of events as if selective memory had just gotten less discriminating, or more humorously, far more fanciful.

PERPETUATING FILIPINO CULTURE THIS SUMMER

In fact, summer time has always been that special time to learn about our unique Filipino customs. For boys, taking up Filipino martial arts *escrima* or *arnis*, in addition to American sports, is a perfect summer fitness program. For girls, maybe learning the art of Filipino dance, alongside ballet or jazz are options. For children of all ages, taking up *Tagalog*, *Ilokano* or *Cebuano* could be courses among other areas of study for the summer.

Or simply in a less structured setting at home, there are abundant ways to learn about our culture during this season like learning how to cook *pinakbet*, *adobo* or whatever favorite Filipino dish usually prepared by the



family. Another great idea if you cannot visit the Philippines is to take an imaginary trip to our home country by immersing in the literary work of Filipino writers. Many of their books such as Francisco Sionil Jose's are also translated in English. At the very least, Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* are two renowned Filipino classics that should top the list of must-reads. How about learning a traditional Filipino game such as *Sungka*. Every *balikbayan* comes back to Hawaii with it at some point. You know, that board game with small plastic sea shells tucked away deep in the closet.

Perhaps the greatest unknown reservoir of "Filipinoseness" to discover this summer is to listen to, of all things, ghost stories. Before casting this idea aside, ask yourself this question: have I ever met a Filipino without a ghost story or superstition to tell? What true Filipino hasn't been visited by some deceased relative?

Any supernatural experience, real or imagined, is of secondary importance. It is how our ghost stories are told, accepted, doubted, listened to and shared like *chismis* that give us a window view of the Filipino mind, our values of life and the afterlife. Having seen a deceased *tata* would not be enough to the average Filipino. That's only half the experience. The other half is to tell everyone of it in the form of a ghost story. It's something we're neither ashamed or embarrassed to share because our cultural mindset is that we are believers of unlimited possibilities. So with wide hand-arm theatrics and at times with odd bursts of laughter forceful enough to cramp our stomachs, we proceed to tell our now not-so-scary story like our ancestors did centuries before in rich oral tradition. And as expected, mention ghost even once in any conversation; forget about everything else earlier discussed. The next hour to entire evening is bound to be dedicated to the mysterious event. Unsurprisingly even, that same story with some variance may come up at the next family gathering as family gather for yet another round of ghost stories. No joke.

So now that summer is here, let's enjoy the extra luxury of time learning more about our culture and customs in their many forms through martial arts, dance, language, food, games, reading, and oral tradition, specifically sharing ghost stories. Learning culture doesn't have to be serious or task-oriented. It's summer, after all. The important thing to remember is to make it a meaningful experience. ■

Influence Peddlers

The chief of the Philippine National Police is correct in warning PNP members that their rules on professional conduct prohibit them from soliciting the endorsement of influential individuals or organizations for purposes of promotion or assignment. Director General Raul Bacalzo warned that cops who violate the rules face sanctions.

It would be good to see the PNP chief carry out his warning, and to see the consequences. Politicians, religious groups and big businessmen who are major contributors to political campaigns endorse police officers for promotion and assignment not only when asked; a number of them actively interfere and demand a say in the system.

This meddling is done not only in the police but also in the military, the prosecution service, the judiciary and almost all agencies of government.

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OPINION

Inexplicable

FIRST PERSON by Alex MAGNO

There is a gaping policy hole revealed here. It should focus the attention of the DOF and the DILG. It will probably require judicial remedy.

Last April 19, very quietly, almost surreptitiously, the Manila city government passed Ordinance No. 8229, Series of 2011. The ordinance permanently exempts Smart Communications from the local franchise tax and real property tax on all equipment directly used for its telecommunications business.

There is no explanation for the exemption provided in the text of the ordinance. There were no public consultations conducted — even if this exemption (and probably others like it that have yet to be documented) will mean a significant diminution of the city revenues direly needed to fix its decrepit public health and flood control systems.

So haphazard was this ordinance, it was not even printed on official stationery. There is no indication of debate within the city council. The mayor's legal counsel earlier issued an opinion that this sort of exemption was illegal and unconstitutional. His signature, however, is found on the ordinance.

Mayor Alfredo Lim was conveniently abroad when this ordinance was passed. But the Secretary to the Mayor, representing him, signed the document. He has neither vetoed the

measure nor moved to postpone its implementation.

While local governments, consistent with laws and national policy, may impose local taxes, they do not, however, have the power to exempt from standard tax measures. There is a constitutional issue here. If all local governments, following the lead of the City of Manila, start exempting favored entities from taxation, that will open a dangerous floodgate which could dramatically deplete state revenues.

The power to exempt is strictly circumscribed. Tax relief may be granted in periods of calamity or civil disturbance — and only for a limited period. On the principle of universal application, such relief or exemption ought to be given equally to all companies in the same line of business. According to our Internal Revenue Code, the exemption may be granted for a maximum of one year, clearly stated in the ordinance.

In our jurisprudence, exemption from taxation is never favored. In this case, the exemption is granted on a tax measure clearly stated in the Manila Revenue Code no less.

There could be other exemptions similarly granted to individual corporate entities rather than to classes or sectors of business activity. This, however, will be the judicial and policy test case because a criminal suit was filed by former Manila mayor Lito



Mayor Alfredo Lim of the City of Manila

Governor L-Ray Villafuerte of Camarines Sur province

Atienza and several barangay officials against the city government.

The exemption has direct bearing on the potential revenue of the smallest political unit. All citizens of the city might be injured by the council giving away tax exemptions. That will diminish the revenues available to fund city services to its constituents.

Last Monday, Atienza et al filed a case with the Ombudsman against the Manila Mayor, the Vice-Mayor and the city council. The case involves grave abuse of authority, ignorance of the law, dishonesty and grave misconduct, violation of RA 6713, violation of RA 3019 and violation of their oath of office. A plea for a restraining order is likewise being contemplated.

The DILG and the DOF might want to look into this case. During the Marcos government, a letter of instruction was issued preventing local governments from issuing tax exemptions precisely because this practice opens a wide door for corruption.

PARADOX

While on the

subject of local governments, we should also take a close look at Camarines Sur. The province represents something of a paradox.

Over the past few years, under the leadership of L-Ray Villafuerte, CamSur has rapidly emerged as a tourist destination. The province now competes head-to-head with other tourist hotspots Boracay, Cebu, Palawan and Bohol. Major investments have been made improving tourist infrastructure, especially in water sports, over the past few years.

Yet, for all its current and potential tourism business, the province remains one of the poorest. In the Good Governance Index (GGI) produced by the National Statistics Coordinating Board, CamSur shares bottom ranking with Maguindanao, that notorious province where poverty reigns and warlords rule.

How could CamSur rank so low in the GGI? Its main city, Naga, has long been touted as a textbook case of good governance.

It turns out that the institutions for governance at the

provincial level leaves much to be desired. Governor Villafuerte now faces 11 cases filed at the Ombudsman for a whole range of questionable transactions from anomalous purchase of construction materials, release of funds to undocumented cooperatives, nondisclosure of project expenditures and failure to seek council authorization for infrastructure projects.

The COA has reported at least 20 questionable financial transactions for 2009 alone. These include: non-turnover of collections by the CamSur Water Sports Complex, the province's cash overdraft amounting to P168 million, overstatement of the province's assets and various unliquidated cash advances. The province is likewise in arrears on its water and power bills as well as large uncollected franchise and amusement taxes.

The auditing agency also found that the provincial government has not released to the constituent municipalities their 40 percent share of real property taxes collected. This hampers the municipal governments from delivering their share of social services.

L-Ray ought to quickly raise the standards of governance for his province. All indications show that observance of proper procedures in his province is nearly as bad as they are in Amputuan country. It will be a pity for the huge economic potentials of CamSur to dissipate in thin air because governance is bad.

(www.philstar.com) ■

EDITORIAL (CONT.)

(cont. from page 2...)

This has been one of the biggest hindrances to the development of a merit-based society, and one of the biggest sources of corruption as debts of gratitude are repaid with dirty deals.

The system is ugly, but PNP officers learned long ago that it works, as appointing powers accommodated power blocs and other influence peddlers. An attempt by defense officials to depoliticize the system of appointment and promotion in the military, by introducing legislation that includes detailed criteria for rising through the ranks, has languished in Congress for several years now.

Bacalzo's warning is laudable, and

it can work best with the cooperation of the politicians, religious groups and other organizations that give the endorsements. But they may not be prepared to give up a system that has been beneficial to them.

Without their cooperation, the system can be stopped if the appointing powers, starting with President Aquino, ignore the endorsements and base appointments and promotions on capability. This reform is long overdue. If the President can institutionalize it before the end of his term, he would have contributed much to the creation of a merit-based society. This goes hand-in-hand with his campaign vow to take the straight path or daang matuwid.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

people worldwide remain exposed to asbestos in the workplace.

According to WHO, at least 90,000 people die each year from asbestos-related lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis resulting from occupational exposures.

Mesothelioma is termed a time-bomb because symptoms often occur several decades after exposure. Asbestos fibers penetrate the lungs and can lead to cancer. Cases of mesothelioma continue to rise in many wealthier countries because most exposure occurred during the 1960s and 1970s before the dangers were evident.

SHOCK AND FRUSTRATION

U.N. Conference observer Madhu Dutta of India says she and other delegates were taken by surprise with Canada's 11th-hour objection to keep the cancer-causing chemical off the list.

"I was so shocked," says Dutta, who works with victims exposed to the cancer-causing chemical. "I feel hopeless now because Russia and Brazil—major asbestos exporters—are planning to be party members at the next conference in 2013."

Members of the Canadian Cancer Society also expressed shock and embarrassment over Canada's opposition to adding chrysotile asbestos to the Rotterdam Convention.

"We are frustrated and deeply concerned about Canada's lack of leadership on this important world health issue," says Paul Lapiere, vice president of public affairs for the Canadian Cancer Society. "It's imperative that the health of people around the world be put ahead of the interests of the asbestos industry. The government is

continuing to ignore the advice of its own health department which recommended in 2008 that Canada support the addition of this substance."

Canada exports roughly \$100 million worth of asbestos a year, mostly from mines in the French-speaking province of Quebec. Almost all of it is exported to developing countries, including the Philippines, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where little or no protection exists for workers or exposed populations. Asbestos-laden products such as piping, roofing, and cement are widely dispersed in developing countries and are cut, sawed, and hammered, with many workers not knowing that they contain asbestos or even what asbestos is.

Chrysotile asbestos is a fire-resistant material often mixed in cement and used in construction. In India it is widely used as roofing. In Geneva, India pushed to have the substance listed as hazardous, as did the European Union and the U.S.

FILIPINOS AT RISK?

A 2004 report commissioned by the Philippine government's Occupational Safety and Health Center says that asbestos has been used in construction projects in the Philippines since 1954, when the first local company began to manufacture materials containing the mineral. Researchers estimate that over the next five decades, some 30,000 workers were directly or indirectly exposed to asbestos. Those in the construction and shipbuilding industries have been at the greatest risk of exposure.

A law passed by the Philippine Congress in 2000 requires companies who use the mineral to register with the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources, but has little power to punish companies that do not comply.

According to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, thousands of Filipino workers and their families are at risk of inhaling asbestos, with as much as 6,000 metric tons of the substance imported to the country each year.

Preliminary data from the Philippines' Bureau of Customs shows Jeffrey Mine and Lab Chrysotile from Canada supplied 90 percent of Philippine asbestos imports from 2007 to 2009.

Asbestos in the Philippines is used in fiber cement boards, packaging materials, gaskets, friction and mechanical parts such as brakes and clutch linings in motor vehicles. It is also found in houses, schools, churches, public buildings, malls and similar structures.

The Associated Labor Unions, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the Building and Wood Workers International (BWWI) called on the government to reduce the exposure of workers to asbestos and asbestos containing materials. The unions marked International Workers' Memorial Day last April 28, 2011 by calling on the Philippine government to inspect public buildings and to reduce exposure of workers and their families to presence of asbestos and asbestos con-

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

laws," he said.

Bolstering Lacson's claims, an independent source told THE STAR that one of the choppers had logged 500 flying hours in 2008 alone or a year before the supposed purchase.

"If it was brand new (in 2009) why would its batteries conk out barely a year while the PNP was using it?" the source said.

The PNP source, however, refused to say who were the supposed first owners of the chopper before it was passed off as brand new to the police force. "The matter is still under investigation," the source said.

The PNP is reportedly trying to negotiate with the supplier to replace the aircraft with brand new ones before Lacson made the anomaly public.

"The PNP was shortchanged, it seems," the source added, but officials were mum on the alleged hand of the Arroyos in the anomalous purchase.

The Bagong Bayani Awards recognizes the Philippines' exemplary OFWs for being major contributors to the nation's economy, fostering goodwill among peoples of the world and enhancing the image of the Filipino as a competent, dedicated and responsible worker. The

first awards ceremony was held in 1984 and is now being held every two years.

Organizers will present awards in five categories, an innovation that was introduced during the 2005 Bagong Bayani Awards to allow the recognition of specific contributions of OFWs in various occupations. The highest honor is the Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging

air. Sophisticated monitoring and ventilation equipment is therefore needed to keep workers safe. The chances of such equipment being available to workers in developing countries are slim, say critics of Canada's position.

Health, trade union, and environmental groups have placed advertisements in newspapers across Canada condemning Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "killer legacy" of asbestos exports.

"Both the Canadian and Quebec governments have instead supported the stance by the Chrysotile Institute that chrysotile can be used safely with all the appropriate safeguards," says Kathleen Ruff, Canadian anti-asbestos campaigner.

"Sadly, this so-called independent organization is part-funded by the asbestos industry, and one of its directors—Bernard Coulombe—is president of the Jeffrey Mine. The Chrysotile Institute pretends to be a non-profit scientific organization, but in fact lobbies for the asbestos industry and puts out false, deceptive, phony science. It reminds me of tobacco-industry backed research saying tobacco is safe."

It's a mantra that dumbfounds Canada's Western allies. Canada is placing lives at risk, critics charge, with an indefensible position: What isn't good for Canada is good for others. ■

oulution 518 to take a closer look at the acquisition of the helicopters from Manila Aerospace Products Trading Corp. (MAPTRA).

On July 9, 2009, the PNP Negotiation Committee recommended the awarding of the contract to MAPTRA for one Robinson R44 Raven II and two Robinson R44 Raven I helicopters.

But it was later learned that MAPTRA had been engaged in the business only in June 2009. Also, it was learned the supposedly new choppers were "pre-owned" as far back as March 2004.

On the other hand, Lacson said that while the PNP officials involved in the deal were complicit partners, they are the least to blame in this anomalous transaction.

Lacson is said to be keen on pinning down the Arroyo couple and a former Cabinet member who lorded over the police force during the past administration in the helicopter procurement anomaly. (www.philstar.com) ■

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

held in December 2011 at Malacañang Palace in Manila.

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Bagong Bayani, which is awarded to the most outstanding and exemplary OFW who satisfies all the requirements of other awards criteria.

The five categories are:

- Bagong Bayani Award for Outstanding Employee
- Bagong Bayani Award for Community and Social Service
- Bagong Bayani Award for Cul-

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OPINION

RP's Version of Cash-for-Clunkers Won't Work

SHOOTING STRAIGHT by Bobit S. AVILA

There is a gaping policy hole revealed here. It should focus the attention of the DOF and the DILG. It will probably require judicial remedy.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has once more showed us that he is a no nonsense mayor. A month ago he gave all the vendors selling pirated video discs in Manila a one month grace period before he would crack down on this illicit business so they could sell whatever stocks that they have left and have a chance to shift into a legal business. Mayor Lim was obviously disturbed by the reports that Manila was one of the most notorious places selling pirated CDs/DvDs, but in fairness to Manila, it is not alone, Metro Cebu too and many other cities are notorious for selling pirated video films.

Exactly a month from that promise, on July 1 Mayor Lim together with Optical Media Board Chairman Ronnie Ricketts including representatives from the US Embassy personally led a Manila Police team and confiscated some P10 million worth of pirated discs in Manila's Quiapo district. Of course, Mayor Lim had to do this because of the intense pressure from the United States where three American industry groups have urged the US Government to keep the Philippines on the watch list of countries notorious for violating patents and copyrights.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance

HEADLINES (CONT.)

- *(cont. from page 4; CONSULATE ...)*
- ture and the Arts
- Capt. Gregorio S. Oca Achievement Award
- Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging Bagong Bayani

To qualify, nominees must have worked overseas for at least two years, have no past or present criminal or derogatory record, be of good moral standing, have been recognized by previous or current employer for outstanding service, and hold an employment contract processed by the POEA.

Nomination forms and other information

(IIPA) reported a loss last year of \$126 million which is up by four percent from the 2008 figures. Legitimate companies lost \$112 million to pirated music records which is also up from previous years. I have always believed that the Philippines should not be taken out of the watch list until we don't see pirated films sold openly in many cities in this country. Let's hope they will raid more cities.

I couldn't help but notice that report on last Sunday's The Philippine STAR where Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago recently filed a bill calling for a phaseout of old and fuel inefficient vehicles by issuing the owners cash vouchers to be used as partial payment for the purchase of new or used fuel-efficient vehicles. If this idiotic law is passed by the Senate, it means that I would have to get rid of my 2006 Honda Civic, which in my book is the most fuel efficient vehicle I have ever owned. If you ask me using the year model as her basis for the phaseout is totally wrong and it would be a huge economic burden to the middle class and even the emerging middle class who were once in the poverty level and is slowly moving up towards the middle class.

I know exactly where Maid Miriam got this idea, from the United States Transportation Department's "Cash for Clunkers" program, which was designed to boost the sales of ailing General Motors (GM) which was



recently bailed out by the US Government. Call it timely that aside from resuscitating the ailing GM at the worse financial woes happening in the United States, it was also then that Americans had to pay top dollar for a gallon of fuel, hence the Cash for Clunkers (C4C) was designed for Americans to rid themselves of those so called gas guzzlers through this incentive program.

The C4C was a \$3 billion plan, which the Obama Administration hailed as a huge success. Those who availed of this program would surrender their gas guzzlers to a nearby auto dealer and avail of a trade-in value of \$4,500 on the purchase for a new vehicle. While I submit it helped those auto dealers a lot during the time of the RECESSION, however it is not really an all-out success as some pundits reported.

First of all, it was an administrative fiasco as too

few government people were assigned to the thousands of participating dealers. Secondly, those who participated in this program caught many car dealers unprepared because Uncle Sam has not yet remitted the money to these dealers. Hence they ended up giving advances to the numerous buyers. Today, many car dealers are still waiting to get their refunds from the US government.

There are certainly realities that our Senators ought to consider before copying this program here in the Philippines. First of all, most car owners in the Philippines change cars at an average of

between six to ten years, while in the US, car owners before the recession hit America would change cars once every three years. In the Philippines, because of our close knit family unit, when a father buys a brand new car and in five years, gets a new one for himself, chances are, one of his kids would get the old car. Why buy a second hand when Daddy is buying a new car?

Then in ten years, when this car is starts to get old, the chance of it being sold to another owner is high because there is a huge market for second or third hand vehicles. Finally, there is the problem of identifying how much would the Philippine government give out to those buyers who are forced to sell their car because it is already over the prescribed age to be phased out? So I suggest that Maid Miriam tread on this like walking on glass! (www.philstar.com)

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are available on POEA's website at: <http://www.poea.gov.ph/bba2011/bba2011.htm>. Nomination forms and supporting documents, may be submitted to:

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The deadline to submit nominations is July 31, 2011.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

APEC Committee Issues Call for Volunteers

THE APEC 2011 HAWAII HOST COMMITTEE is encouraging those who are interested in volunteering for Leaders Week to register online before July 10, 2011. APEC is hoping for at least 1,200 individuals to volunteer as directional guides, transportation escorts and informational assistants.

"This is a wonderful way to showcase our islands' aloha spirit and hospitality to more than 20,000 delegates and media anticipated to attend," says Peter Ho, Hawaii Host Committee chair.

Interested individuals are encouraged to log on to:



www.apec2011hawaii.com/volunteer-opportunities and fill out an application on the "volunteer opportunities" page. The deadline to submit applications is July 10, 2011.

Volunteers will be asked to work a minimum of five days and attend a day-long training session on hospitality, customer service and Hawaiian culture. Additional

training will be provided to those volunteering in the transportation, security and retail industries.

According to Ho, APEC organizers want to show that Hawaii is a world-class meetings destination capable of hosting events of this magnitude.

The APEC 2011 Leaders Week will take place in Honolulu November 7-13, 2011 and is the culmination of a series of events held throughout the year in the U.S. The Leaders' Meeting, scheduled for November 12 and 13, is expected to attract 20,000 attendees—including the leaders of the 21 APEC economies, ministers, business leaders and news media. ■

Mormon Church Digitizes 120,000 Records of Early Filipino Immigrants

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS Church) and a group of students have worked tirelessly since 2007 on a project to digitize some 120,000 labor records that document the arrivals of Filipino immigrants to Hawaii during the early 1900s.

The volunteers spent hundreds of hours scanning, cropping and sorting thousands of the old records. Thanks to their efforts, the public can now access information such as name, age, gender, date of arrival and/or departure, and plantation assignment on workers and their dependents.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Matt Kester, BYUH archivist says that the university obtained the records from the Hawaii Sugar Planter's Association about a decade ago. When he began working for BYUH in 2004, the collection was stored in rusty file cabinets. Kester saw to it that the collection was freeze dried and rehoused in acid-free boxes and folders.

BYU missionary Dale Robertson was surprised at the condition of the documents.

"It's miraculous how well these records have been preserved," Robertson says. Some of them are nearly 100 years old, yet there is no bug, termite or water damage."

In 2007, representatives from the LDS Church Family History Department reviewed the records and decided that it was time to digitize the collection. Kester says that efforts to digitize the collection were stymied by a lack of funding.

"The grant needed to fund this almost five-year project would run into the tens of thousands of dollars, but because of the support of the Church and people willing to serve, we were able to do it," Kester says. "We so appreciate everyone that took the time to serve and the support that the Family History department gave."

The collection is now available online, accessible through the BYU-Hawaii University Archives page or the Brigham Young University Digital Collections page. Having the collection available online will allow people from all over the world to access the records and find their ancestors. It will also assist in preserving the collection by reducing the need for handling the originals.

"Almost every Filipino American



LDS Temple

living in the U.S. had family that came through Hawaii," Kester says. "A lot of these cards will say the village where this individual came from in the Philippines. Then you can go back to records in the villages and see if you can find more information."

John Strang, another senior missionary of the LDS Church from Salt Lake City, Utah, tested the system by taking several different names randomly from ship manifests. He then went online and found those individuals' cards that they had registered with upon arrival in Hawaii.

"When I searched for the card, there was information about their wife and all of their children," Strang says. "I was able to put a whole family together because the names came up together."

In addition to being a significant personal family history resource, the collection also contains information that may be of interest from a social history perspective. Three of the 139 boxes contained names of people who had died during their time in Hawaii and the specific cause of their death.

Other cards identify individuals who were involved in strikes, fights, or work-related accidents. Still others indicate a worker's wage or the amount of money sent home to support family.

For Kester, the project stands as evidence of BYUH's ability to collaborate with multiple organizations and devote resources to completing a major digital project. He anticipates similar projects in the future with more records from around the island.

"Even though it was tedious and repetitive, there is still a spiritual dimension to working on a project like this," says Joan Strang, another senior missionary of the LDS Church from Salt Lake City, Utah. "We were here, not just to finish a project, but to help people find their ancestors." ■

DOH to Hold Flu Vaccination Program in Fall 2011

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) WILL HOLD its annual school-based flu vaccination program "Protect Hawaii's Keiki: Stop Flu at School" during the Fall 2011 school year.

All students in kindergarten through eighth grade who attend participating schools statewide will be able to receive a free flu vaccination at school.

Consent forms and additional information about the Stop Flu at School program will be distributed to parents through participating schools in August 2011. Parents are encouraged to read the information

packet, choose the type of flu vaccine (nasal spray or shot) that they want their child to receive, complete the appropriate consent form, sign, date and return the consent form to their child's teacher by Friday, September 9, 2011.

Flu vaccinations at Stop Flu at School clinics are only available to enrolled students, faculty and staff at the respective participating school on the day of the school's scheduled clinic. There will be no make-up or additional clinic days scheduled and students, faculty and staff cannot go to another school for vaccination.



Students who miss their scheduled clinic should contact their primary care provider for vaccination.

For the 2011 school vaccination schedule, please go online and visit: http://flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS_schedule.html. Parents can also call Kit Uyeda, DOH public health educator, at 586-8349 for further details or clarification. ■

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Immigration Herbolarios –The Evil That They Do Is Often Irreversible



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

"The measure of one's love is what one is willing to give up for it." – Ava Gardner as Pandora in "Pandora and the Flying Dutchman."

"The measure of one's love is what one is willing to spend for it." – Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Thousands who want immigration benefits frequently ask the help of immigration herbolarios (faith healers), aka "notaries," "travel agents," "immigration consultants". The primary motivation for these herbolario seekers is to save money. But if you really love the person you wish to bring to America, or whom you wish to save from deportation from America, why don't you spend money to achieve your goal by hiring a competent

lawyer?

There is a Filipino who worked two jobs whose attractive wife was facing deportation because a "consultant" whose help she had sought bungled her application for adjustment of status. The husband talked to a lawyer who told him that it would cost money to help her. "I love my wife. I don't care how much it costs to save her from deportation. I'll get a third job." How many people have that attitude? The wife was not deported.

Here are examples of the damage caused by herbolarios. A U.S. citizen had petitioned his children in the Philippines. His children in the U.S. went to an herbolario to prepare the affidavit of support. The herbolario did not know what to do and the affidavit was returned. The herbolario tried to correct the problem but the affidavit was returned again for correction. Meanwhile the petitioner died. Efforts to resuscitate the dead petitioner's petition were in vain. The family spent more in their failed efforts than they would have had if they had hired a

lawyer to prepare the affidavit of support.

A father went to a travel agent and asked them to prepare visa petitions for his illegitimate children. USCIS asked for the marriage certificate of the father and the children's mother since their birth certificates showed that the father and the mother were married. The father told the travel agent that he and the children's mother were not married. USCIS denied the visa petitions. The travel agent prepared appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals. The BIA dismissed the appeals because the travel agent who prepared the appeal did not state the reasons for the appeal. Meanwhile, several of the children became 21 years of age, hence they were no longer petitionable as immediate relatives. A lawyer correctly advised the father to file petitions in the Philippines to correct the birth certificates of the children to reflect the fact that he and their mother were not married before filing new visa petitions for them.

A mother went to a tax preparer to draft an affidavit of support for her daughter and granddaughter whom she had petitioned. The tax preparer prepared defective affidavits and the National Visa Center returned them. The tax preparer made another one. In the meantime the granddaughter turned 21 and could no longer come together with the daughter as a derivative. The daughter would have to petition for her when she gets a green card.

Several aliens were in deportation proceedings. They consulted a nonlawyer who told them that they did not have to attend the proceedings. They were ordered deported and hired a person who claimed he was an attorney and who told the alien that he would file a motion to reopen the proceedings. The fake attorney never filed the motion. An alien facing deportation hired a non-attorney who said that he would file an application for suspension of deportation. The non-attorney missed the deadline but lied to the alien

that he had filed the application. When the alien found out that the application was not filed, the non-attorney insisted that the Immigration Judge must have lost the application. A notary deceptively posed as an attorney and told an alien that he would assist him in obtaining a work permit. Instead he filed an asylum application and told the alien that if called for a hearing, he should not go.

The courts have held that an alien who knowingly relies on the advice of a non-attorney cannot claim ineffective assistance of counsel in removal proceedings and violation of due process. ■

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel: (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: flamm-law@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270 AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.tlko.com.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Immigration Defends Tough Screening of Departing Pinoys

by Rudy SANTOS / Thursday, July 4, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) DEFENDED** yesterday the strict screening of Filipinos departing for abroad, saying that it is necessary to prevent the exodus of victims of human trafficking, illegal recruitment and even couriers of illegal drugs.

"They should understand that we are doing this to protect our poor countrymen from being victimized by criminal syndicates who take advantage of their poverty and their

desire for greener pastures abroad," Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. said in a statement.

David said the BI's campaign against human trafficking requires the stricter screening of departing Filipino tourists, especially those bound for countries known to be major destinations of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

He added it is only natural for immigration officers to assess the entire circumstances of all Filipino travelers to determine if the departing passenger is indeed a legitimate tourist traveling for pleasure abroad



or a worker that would try to find work abroad without work-related documents.

David pointed out that human trafficking gangs or illegal recruiters usually tell their victims to pose as tourists since they only have tourist visas to circumvent the ban on the departure of undocumented OFWs.

He said that the intensified drive against human trafficking should not be an excuse for overzealous immigration officers to be arrogant and abusive towards passengers.

The bureau would not condone abusive BI agents and David urged the public to file complaints at his office against arrogant and abusive immigration officers at the airports.

Lawyer Maria Antonette Man-

grobang, BI spokesperson, justified the demand by immigration officers that departing passengers present documents such as income tax return, bank accounts and employment certificates.

Mangrobang added that rigid screening is usually done on those departing for countries that are the usual jump-off points for undocumented OFWs bound for Europe and the Middle East.

Airport sources who asked not to be named said that relatives of departing passengers that were prevented from leaving have complained that the "freedom of Filipinos to travel is over, especially those who belong to the middle class of our society."

"We have no more right to travel abroad, even though we have money to spend, poor Filipinos," they said in Filipino. (www.philstar.com) ■

Roach: We'll Be Ready vs Floyd

by Dino MARAGAY / Wednesday, July 6, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **ALL FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. HAS TO DO IS** get past Victor Ortiz in September, and the biggest fight in boxing history can still happen.

Manny Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, said they have not lost interest in a showdown between two of the sport's biggest stars.

"We want that fight (Pacquiao-Mayweather) badly. We agreed to everything he asked for the last time... and nothing happened. Is it

just talk or is it action?" Roach said in a report on boxingscene.com.

Roach, of course, was referring to Mayweather's demand for the implementation of random blood testing in the weeks leading to the fight, something that played a major role in the collapse of previous negotiations.

Now the multi-titled trainer has put it on record that they have agreed to Mayweather's demand for the tests.

The Grand Rapids, Michigan-born fighter is ending his more than two-year hiatus on Sept. 17 against

Ortiz – a left-hander like Pacquiao. Boxing observers believe Mayweather is using the Ortiz bout as a prelude to a highly anticipated clash with the Filipino icon.

"He is fighting Victor Ortiz and he's a southpaw. He has to beat Ortiz first and that's not going to be an easy task. Last time, we agreed to everything he asked," Roach said.

Pacquiao is booked to face Juan Manuel Marquez for the third time in November, after which a Mayweather fight may be right around the corner. (www.philstar.com) ■

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TRAVEL & TOURISM

Bohol's Bounty

by Julie CABATTI-ALEGRE



Sun lounging chairs on the beach of Henann Resort

Photo by Julie Cabatti-Alegre

Boholanos call it "a gift from God." The *kinampay* is a special variety of ube or purple yam, which is found in abundance in the province of Bohol in the Central Visayas region. According to the old folks, when an ube falls to the ground, one must kiss it after picking it up, "to banish the bad karma," our tour guide, Cecile Visarra-Remolador, a true-blue Boholana, explained.

The *kinampay* is a symbol of Bohol and is mentioned in the provincial anthem. Yes, while the country has its National Anthem, Bohol has its own provincial anthem, where the lyrics praise the beauty of its land, its rich culture and history. "Here's where the early heroes lived...here rise marvelous cone-shaped hills...here sweet *kinampay* grows..."

There are a number of ways to get to Bohol. By land, it takes two days and one night from Manila via the Pan-Philippine Highway, passing through Bicol, Samar and Leyte. By sea, it's a two-hour fast ferry ride from Cebu to Tagbilaran, the capital city of Bohol. It's a one-hour direct flight from Manila to Tagbilaran. We took Zest Air's Airbus 320, which flies daily from Manila to Tagbilaran and back. On our descent, looking out from our window seat, we immediately noticed the verdant hills below. Even if you've been here a number of times before, it never fails: Bohol captivates.

It's a comfortable 40-minute ride from the airport in Tagbilaran to Henann Resort in Panglao Island. The resort is situated on a slightly elevated area along the long stretch of Alona Beach, which was once made popular by a local actress who shot a movie in that location.



If you look hard enough, you can see the image of Padre Pio on the surface of one of the buttresses of Blaycon Church.

Photo by Julie Cabatti-Alegre

With only 12 exclusive villas, separated by a 70-meter-wide coconut palm grove from the beach, guests can expect utmost privacy and comfort during their stay. If you prefer not to get sand and saltwater in your hair, there's always the 450-sqm. fresh-water swimming pool with bar that looks out to the sea.

Once you're checked in, you may not want to leave your villa anymore. You can fall into deep slumber without much difficulty in your cozy king-sized bed. Or you can lounge in your own private veranda and fill your lungs with the fresh

breeze rising from the sea. Still, there's much to see of this bountiful province, and the countryside tour by Travel Village Tour & Travel is worth taking.

The first international "Treaty of friendship" is said to have taken place in Bohol, with the historic Blood Compact or Sandugo between the local chieftain, Datu Sikatuna and the Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. The commemorative shrine, made of bronze by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, based on a painting by celebrated 19th-century Filipino artist Juan Luna, is located in Barangay Boob in Tagbilaran City. The life-size tableau sits on a promontory overlooking the Bohol Sea. In the distance, you can see the outline of Pamilacan Island, where dolphins are known to frolic around its waters. Underneath are rich coral reefs and diverse marine life.

Coral stones were used to build many of the Spanish churches in our islands. Egg whites were used as cement. The centuries-old Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in the town of Blaycon is no exception. It is the first Spanish Jesuit mission and the oldest coral stone church in the region.

An extensive collection of religious icons and liturgical materials is on display in the museum beside the church. Baptismal and marriage records handwritten in Spanish are kept here. Outstanding is "The *Misa Blayconana*," an old musical score believed to date back to the 1800s, which was discovered just a few years ago. Intricately written with red ink made from *achuete* on huge

parclements with carabao hide covers, the hymnals or cantoras have been revived and now form a part of the repertoire of the award-winning Loboc Children's Choir. The Blaycon pipe organ, which was also just recently restored, is said to be the only one of its kind and the third oldest pipe organ in the country.

Blaycon means "walking distance," Cecile explains, referring to the distance of the town from Tagbilaran, about seven kilometers away. To this day, schoolchildren traverse the distance from their homes to school on foot. Tricycles are a popular mode of transportation as well as the *habal-habal*, a converted motorcycle that can carry as many as six back riders on an extended weekend plunk.

You can ride a *habal-habal* from the public market in the town of Corella that will take you to the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary in Cananapan.

The tarsier, the world's smallest primate, is nocturnal, solitary and territorial. A single tarsier needs at least a hectare of space. They do not belong in a cage. They commit suicide in captivity. At the sanctuary where at least 10 tarsiers have been sighted, they are left to thrive in their natural habitat.

Loboc, one of the 47 towns in the island province of Bohol, is well known for its Loboc River Cruise, a popular tourist attraction. The Travel Village premium lunch buffet and leisurely cruise down the river, while being entertained by the smooth and mellow voice of a female vocalist accompanied by a single male guitarist, was a real treat. The first time I took the river cruise some years back, I was delighted to see young boys swinging from the coconut palm trees on the river banks and splashing down into the water with glee just as our boat passed.

This time, I saw a cable car crossing above the river. There's now a zip line there also. That should be a thrilling way to view the passing scene below.

On the border between the towns of Loboc and Bilar is a two-

kilometer stretch of tall mahogany trees that were planted by volunteers including schoolchildren some years ago. It is a perfect model of a successful environmental protection and reforestation effort. The dense canopy provides a cool shade over that segment of the winding road that leads to the famous Chocolate Hills in the town of Carmen.

The most perfect cone-shaped mounds, which are in fact grass-covered limestone, are estimated to number from about 1,268 to 1,776, of varying heights, from 30 to 120 meters high. When they turn brown during the dry season, they appear like "chocolate kisses" scattered on the countryside. It was the start of the rainy season at the time of our visit so the mounds of "chocolate" had turned to mint. It was drizzling as we negotiated the 200 steps up to the viewing deck where we made a wish as we rang the giant bell at the top. Then, it was time to head back to the resort.

Henann Resort at Alona Beach, formerly Alona Palm Beach Resort, is the newest acquisition of Henann Resorts, the same owner and operator of Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Spa, Boracay Garden Resort and Regency Lagoon Resort. From Boracay, they also bring to Bohol their famous restaurant, Christina's, which offers both local and international cuisine. They accept online reservations and presently offer a soft opening promo, at P9,240 net per night inclusive of complimentary Filipino or American breakfast for two. The offer is valid until Sept. 30.

We were back in our villa when it started to pour. It did not matter. The rain was like a gift from the heavens. Feeling pampered by the creature comforts provided in our room, we were content to cocoon, and simply do nothing. (www.philstar.com)

The tarsier, the world's smallest primate



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Philippine Economy to Grow 5% This Year: World Bank

by Paolo ROMERO/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) -- **THE WORLD BANK FORECASTS THAT PHILIPPINE** economy will expand five percent this year, backed by increased investments, rising domestic consumption and stronger services sector.

In its Philippines Quarterly Update (PQU) released Wednesday by its office in Manila, the Washington-based lender said "growth could potentially be higher as the strong aquino and early gains of President Aquino's administration in tackling corruption and improving the invest-

ment climate could boost domestic investment."

Philippine exports are expected to rise on back of recovery in Japan, one of its top export markets. The rising outsourcing industry is also boosting employment levels and will support the country's consumption-based growth.

"Prospects on the supply side remain favorable with manufacturing and construction projected to benefit from the end of the trade disruption linked to Japan's post-disaster reconstruction, as well as the solid growth forecast for the business process outsourcing," said



World Bank HQ in Washington D.C.

World Bank Senior Economist Eric Le Borgne.

The challenge, however, is for the Philippines to pursue a more inclusive development that will allow it to slash its 30 percent poverty incidence level.

The World Bank said the Philippine government needs to enhance the income-earning opportunities for the poor as well. The government also needs to put more resources to education, health, and social protection services.

The World Bank added regional airport development combined with partial "open sky" agreements would enable international travelers to reach tourism hot spots in the Philippines directly, thus generating jobs for the poor as well as business opportunities from micro and small enterprises.

The World Bank's forecast is

lower than the Philippine government's seven to eight percent growth target for 2011.

But according to Benjamin Diokno, economics professor at the University of the Philippines, the country's economic managers need to downscale the country's growth targets to around five to six percent.

For the second quarter alone, Diokno expects the Philippine economy to slow to 4.9 percent. This is because the brunt of the impact of the triple tragedy in Japan and the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa will be reflected in the April to June period. (www.philstar.com) ■

Another Expressway to Rise in Central Luzon

by PUNTO CENTRAL LUZON/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

MALOLOS CITY, Philippines -- **THE CENTRAL LUZON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL** (RDC) has mullied for the construction of the 63.9-kilometers Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) that will connect Tarlac City and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija.

The new expressway, divided into two phases, is estimated to cost at least P29.2 billion. The 28-kilometer first phase, estimated to cost P13 billion, will link the Subic-Clark-

Tarlac Expressway terminus in Tarlac City and the Pan-Philippine Highway (PPH) or the Daang Maharika Highway in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

The 35.9-kilometer second phase, which will link the cities of Cabanatuan and San Jose is estimated to cost at least P13-billion.

Engineer Carmelito Dizon of the Department of Public Works and Highway Project Management Office (DPWH- PMO) said the expressway project will benefit not only Central Luzon but northeastern

Luzon provinces like Cagayan Valley and Isabela.

"It will generally improve access to the food basket of Aurora in Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley region as well as provinces in the eastern part of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)," he said.

Dizon said that with the completion of the CLLEX, travel time between Metro Manila and provinces in the eastern seaboard of Luzon will be faster, safer and more predictable.

"The projects is basically envisioned to provide linkage between SCTEX and the PPH integrating eastern Central and North Luzon provinces with Metro Manila," he said. Documents showed that level of service of the PPH has increasingly deteriorated in the past decades.

Based on a feasibility study financed and conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, a total of at least 16,000 vehicles will use phase I of CLLEX between the cities of Tarlac and Cabanatuan

upon completion in 2016.

The same volume of traffic is expected to be reduced from the PPH that starts in Pinaridel, Bulacan to Cagayan.

"It will also decongest traffic volume in Bulacan because vehicles going to eastern North Luzon will likely use the NLEX then SCTEX and the CLLEX," he said.

After the presentation, the project was endorsed by the RDC Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development (SID) on the motion of its vice chair, Jose Rozaldo Jr., a private sector representative to the council. (www.philstar.com) ■

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■ **PHILIPPINE NEWS**
**'Most OFWs Prefer to Stay
Abroad Than Put Up
Businesses in Phil'**

by Mayen **JAYMALIN**
Monday, July 4, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **MOST FILIPINO WORKERS STILL PREFER TO GO ABROAD** rather than stay in the country and become entrepreneurs, the Overseas Workers Employment Administration (OWWA) reported yesterday.

OWWA chief Carmelito Dimzon said government programs are in place to encourage more Filipino workers abroad to return and stay in the country for good.

"We have a comprehensive reintegration program to give workers from abroad the choice to undergo skills upgrading or facilitate their redeployment abroad.

"We also offer loans which they can use as capital for a business that they intend to put up," Dimzon said.

"But out of the 10 OFWs who have returned to the country, eight would still prefer to go back and work," Dimzon said, even in the midst of hostilities in various countries in the Middle East.

But Dimzon remains optimistic that in the near future, more OFWs would choose to remain in the country as a result of the government's comprehensive reintegration program.

The party-list Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers' Association (LPGMA) also said yesterday enterprising OFWs, cooperatives and non-government organizations (NGOs) may avail of affordable loans to establish a gasoline station business.

LGPMA Rep. Arnel Ty said under the gasoline station lending and financial assistance program of the Department of Energy (DOE), eligible borrowers may obtain loans for the purpose of putting up new gasoline outlets or auto LPG stations.

Established by the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Law, the program is meant to forcefully drive free and fair retail competition in the fuel markets, he said.

"Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras has issued a new department circular improving the program's implementing rules to encourage more qualified borrowers to avail of the loans," he said.

Borrowers may get loans of up to P10 million or 80 percent of the total cost of the business venture, whichever is lower, he said.

MISLEADING OFWS

The recruitment industry, meanwhile, accused the government of misleading the OFWs, particularly those employed in Saudi Arabia, by claiming there is alternative employment available to them.

Recruitment officials said countries like Australia and Canada, as mentioned by Malacañang, cannot accommodate or would not require the skills of workers from Saudi Arabia.

Middle East countries, the biggest employers of OFWs, have banned the hiring of Filipino household workers and would soon require companies to get local workers.

But if there is one sector that is satisfied with President Aquino's one-year presidency, it's the maritime industry.

The Luneta Seafarers Welfare Foundation (LUSWELF) expressed satisfaction with Aquino's performance and vowed to continue supporting his programs.

Anfred Yulo, LUSWELF administrator, said President Aquino served well on his first year and tried his best in improving the working conditions of Filipino workers, including seafarers. (www.philstar.com) ■

**Bidding for NAIA Expressway
Phase II Set for January 2012**

by Ma. Elisa P. **OSORIO**/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **THE BIDDING FOR THE P10.6-BILLION NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) EXPRESSWAY PHASE II** under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) is scheduled for January next year.

The NAIA Expressway Phase II is one of the first PPP projects that is up for bidding because the detailed engineering for the project is nearly completed.

In an interview with reporters, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Francis L. Chua said that during their meeting with the economic cluster they were informed that the publication for the bidding of the NAIA Expressway Phase II will happen this month. The prequalification process is scheduled for August.

Qualified bidders are scheduled to submit their bid in September while the bidding proper will be on January 2012. Awarding is in March. A year after or April 2013 construction for phase II is expected to begin while it should be finished by 2015.

This project, like all the others identified under the PPP, is entitled to tax perks under the 2011 Investments Priorities Plan. All IPP projects are qualified to register in the Board of Investments (BOI) for incentives.

The project is one of the components of the Metro Manila Urban Expressway System and a major infrastructure component of the Manila International Airport Access Improvement Project.

However, a study showed that government subsidies and higher toll rates are needed in order to attract more bidders for the project.

In the Feasibility Study Report made by Ernst & Young, the financial evaluation of the project showed discouraging reports due to the low Financial Internal Rate of Return (FIRR) of only 5.41 percent assuming that a basic toll rate of P6.00 is followed.

The study showed that the level of toll fee would make the project financially viable. For instance, the study showed that at a toll fee of P9.50 per kilometer and with a 36-percent government subsidy, the project will have a 9.8-percent FIRR which would make it attractive to investors. (www.philstar.com) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

PCSO Set to File New Cases vs GMA, Ex-officials

by Perseus ECHIMINADA/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) IS BUILDING UP new cases against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her former officials who dipped into the funds of the agency.

PCSO chair Margarita Juico yesterday said a team is now gathering evidence and preparing a strong case against the former president and her officials.

"We want to have an airtight case," Juico said over d2MM radio. Juico made the statement ahead of today's congressional hearing by the Senate Blue Ribbon committee over the controversy.

Juico earlier revealed the agency's former board approved the grant of sports utility vehicles to several bishops.

The Senate also wanted to investigate the reports that some lawmakers allied with Arroyo received millions from the PCSO funds.

Blue Ribbon committee chairman Sen. Teofisio Guingona III had a meeting with PCSO officials on Monday but no details were made available.

Guingona yesterday said among the officials that will attend today's hearing at the Senate would be Juico, PCSO general manager Jose Ferdinand Rojas II and board members Betty Nantes, Maria Aleta Tolentino, Mabel Mamba, and Francisco Joaquin III, as well as board secretary Eduardo Araullo.

Commission on Audit (COA) chair Ma. Gracia Pulido-Tan would also attend the Senate hearing as resource person.

Guingona said former PCSO officials, including former chairman Manuel Morato, were also invited to



PCSO Chair Margarita Juico

attend the hearing.

While critics said the bishops who received the SUVs should be made accountable, Guingona admitted he was more cautious about inviting the clergy to the hearings.

Juico yesterday revealed that the new cases would evolve on possible violations regarding the separation of Church and State.

Juico claimed that her predecessors left the PCSO saddled in debt amounting to P4 billion.

Juico stressed the previous administration should have been careful in directly allowing such requests.

Juico confirmed that checks were directly issued to some of the clergy representing the parishes and dioceses in various parts of the country.

"The checks should have been issued not directly to the bishops," she said.

Seven Catholic bishops have reportedly received cash or Mitsubishi Pajeros from PCSO during the last years of the Arroyo administration. They have derisively become known as the "Pajero 7."

Aside from the SUV scandal, Juico said the PCSO legal team is also preparing another case on the alleged diversion of the PCSO's P150-million public relations funds into intelligence funds as approved by Arroyo.

The alleged diversion of funds was contained in a memorandum dated Jan. 4, 2010 of former PCSO vice chair and general manager Rosario Uriarte requesting then President Arroyo for intelligence funds to finance the deployment of confidential agents to monitor illegal gambling activities.

The document showed the marginal note "OK" with Arroyo's signature indicating approval of the request.

The memo is so far the only

document that linked Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, to other anomalies in the PCSO.

Other irregularities uncovered by the new PCSO board also included the supposed juggling of prizes, charity, and operational funds for medical assistance.

The PCSO board reported that the three funds of the PCSO - prize, charity and operation - that were supposed to be separate were instead lumped into one big fund.

BIRTHDAY GIFT

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), on the other hand, is expected to tackle the issue concerning the seven bishops who received funds and vehicles from the PCSO.

CBCP president Tandag, Surigao del Sur Bishop Nereu Oldchimar said the prelates involved in the PCSO mess would be personally asked to discuss their position on the issue.

The CBCP would hold this week its 103rd Plenary Assembly and elect a new set of officials.

Butuan City Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos - the CBCP official who asked President Aquino to resign or risk ouster last month - was among the recipients of a Pajero when he celebrated his 66th birthday on March 8, 2009.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Pangasinan Gets Likas Yaman Award

by Eva VISPERAS/
Monday, July 4, 2011

DAGUPAN CITY, Philippines - EFFORTS OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF PANGASINAN and the city government here to clean the rivers won for them the Likas Yaman award for environmental excellence given at the end of the celebration of Environment Month at the Oasis Country Resort in San Fernando City, La Union on Thursday.

Pangasinan was adjudged Best LGU (local government unit) with initiated environmental project in the provincial level in recognition of the province's achievements on environment and natural resources conservation and protection.

The "Ilog Ko Bilayan Tan Aroen Ko (My River, I Will Love It) project was launched by Governor Amado

Espino Jr. with its component programs, successfully passed the comprehensive scrutiny of the project evaluators for the selection.

The component programs include the river clean-up with Task Force Kalkasan formed by the governor to spearhead the clearing of rivers like dredging activities and dismantling of illegal fish structures, mangrove planting, fingerlings dispersal, seedling distribution, reforestation and provision of livelihood to affected stakeholders.

Six out of nine awards went to Pangasinan LGUs that include the Best Partner from Industry for SM Rosales; Best LGU-Initiated Environmental Project for Dagupan City and the municipality of Sta. Maria, Pangasinan; Most Outstanding Individual Initiative in Environmental Protection and Most Outstanding NGO Partner for the Balancing Conservancy in Mabini, Pangasinan for the protection and conservation

of the caves.

The award was conferred to Governor Amado Espino Jr. who was represented by Vice-Governor Jose Ferdinand Calimlim.

Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim together with City Agriculture Officer Emma Molina personally received the award from Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Executive Director Samuel Peñafiel.

Dagupan was awarded for successfully implementing its project "Ilog Ko, Bilayan Ko," Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) and its river cruise project along the Dawel-Watak River that contributed to the rehabilitation of coastal and marine resources and for the promotion of eco-tourism in the city.

Peñafiel said the Likas Yaman award for environmental excellence is a celebration of greatness and excellence in environmental performance. (www.philstar.com) ■

Tourism Sector Lauds Bicol Express Reopening

by Jun PASAYLO/
Tuesday, July 5, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS LAUDED THE "SOFT OPENING" of the Bicol Express despite minor delays of its maiden voyage last week.

Tourism Educators and Movers (TEAM) Philippines chairman Robert Joseph said the return of the Bicol train is a welcome development as it gives travelers another alternative means to reach beautiful tourist spots in the Bicol region.

"Having the Bicol Express as a complementary mode to visit sites in the south would be something of a

new experience for travelers and tourists," he said.

Tourist destinations like Donsol Whale watching, non-stop trip going to Camsur Sports Watersports Complex and reaching sites near Mayon Volcano in Albay will give more interesting and a different perspective for tourists riding on world-class sleeper coaches.

The once fabled "Bicol Express" was earlier a popular byword when it comes to travelling the southern parts of Luzon.



PNR's "Bicol Express"

The Philippine National Railway said the Bicol Express service would offer introductory fares of P440 per passenger for reclining-seated coaches, P760 for four-passenger cabin coaches and P1,120 for single-passenger cabin coach. (www.philstar.com) ■

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MAINLAND NEWS

US: Terrorists Look to Implant Bombs in Humans

by Paolo ROMERO/
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE US GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED domestic and international airlines that some terrorists are considering surgically implanting explosives into humans to carry out attacks, The Associated Press has learned.

There is no intelligence pointing to a specific plot, but the US shared its concerns last week with

executives at domestic and international carriers.

People traveling to the US from overseas may experience additional screening at airports because of the threat, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

"These measures are designed to be unpredictable, so passengers should not expect to see the same activity at every international airport," TSA spokesman

Nick Kimball said. "Measures may include interaction with passengers, in addition to the use of other screening methods such as pat-downs and the use of enhanced tools and technologies."

Placing explosives and explosive components inside humans to hide bombs and evade security measures is not a new idea. But there is new intelligence pointing to a fresh interest in using this tactic, a US security official told the AP. The

official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security information.

When the US government receives information suggesting terrorist tactics that could threaten commercial aviation, the TSA alerts companies domestically and abroad. Last December, the US received intelligence that al-Qaeda's Yemen branch was considering hiding explosives inside insulated beverage containers to carry them

on airplanes. That warning was shared with domestic and foreign airlines so that security could be on the lookout, even though there was no specific plot.

Airport security has increased markedly since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. But terrorists remain interested in attacking aviation and continue to adapt to the new security measures by trying to develop ways to circumvent them. (www.philstar.com)

United We Stand

AS THE ONGOING DISPUTE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE PHILIPPINES on the Spratly row heats up, Filipino-Americans, spearheaded by the US Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG) will hold demonstrations at China's consular offices on July 8 (12nn) in 5 US cities: Washington D.C., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

This is to protest the scheduled oil rig drilling activities in the Philippine-owned territory of Spratly Islands by China this July.

"Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas, a nation owns the oil, mineral and other resources within a two hundred mile radius from its base," says a press release from USP4GG.

"The public demonstrations on July 8 seek to expose China's Association of its pledge to the Abbrogation of South East Asian Nations

(ASEAN) to resolve sovereignty disputes peacefully through negotiations. In March 2010, China unilaterally declared the South China Sea a 'core national interest' similar to its claims to Tibet and Taiwan and therefore 'non-negotiable.' China also has 2.17 million soldiers under its command which is larger than the combined military personnel of all the ASEAN countries. With its superior military forces, China appears determined to begin its billion-dollar oil rig construction activity this July approximately 125 miles from Palawan within the Philippines' 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)," it adds.

The Spratly row issue was DPA Secretary Albert del Rosario's top-of-mind during his visit to Washington D.C. last week. He revealed that there have been "at least nine intrusions in Philippine territory in the last few months after

a Philippine oceanographic research ship was chased out of Philippine waters by Chinese warships."

On June 23, in a meeting at the State Department, Sec. Clinton assured Sec.del Rosario that the US will honor its commitment to the Philippines, under the PH-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

"There are more than 4 million Filipinos in the US who can mobilize to defend the sovereignty of the

Philippines by exposing China's aggressive acts in the Spratlys. What is also at stake is the Philippines ownership of potentially trillions of dollars in revenue from its oil and natural gas resources," said community leader Rod Rodis.

Noted philanthropist, community leader and businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis appeals to kababayans: "We call on Global Filipinos and Philippine organizations throughout the world to stand up to

the China bully and protest its impending intrusion of the Philippines by demonstrating in front of consular offices of China throughout the world."

Undoubtedly, there is strength in numbers. As Filipino-Americans, it is our responsibility to become fully involved and engaged on issues of this magnitude for we possess the voice of Filipinos and the strength of America. It's time to be heard. (www.asianjournal.com)

Julaton Moves Up in Weight, Defeats Foe

LOS ANGELES — FILIPINO AMERICAN BOXER ANA "THE HURRICANE" Julaton sent a message to her future opponents after an impressive, bloody win last Friday - she's not just a pretty face.

Despite her quiet demeanor and good looks outside the ring, Ju-

laton, the WBO and IBA super bantamweight champion, showed her competitive fire and trash-talking skills in a unanimous decision victory against a ganged Angel Gladney at the Dade County Auditorium in Miami, Florida last June 24.

Julaton, who moved up to the featherweight division for this non-title fight, said throughout the bout, Gladney's corner kept yapping

about her lack of boxing skills, to say the least. The comments made by the opposing corner drew the ire of Julaton, who began to trash talk back at them and channeled her anger at Gladney.

"People think I'm a pushover," said Julaton. "I'm trying to let them know right away that one I train hard and two, I'm here to win. People and my opponents have a mis-

(continued on page 13)

WHAT'S COOKING?

Recipe File: Prepare Barbecue Ribs Indoors

from www.philstar.com

Chef Eugene Raymundo shares that to ensure no-mess marinating, use the Glad Freezer Zipper Bag.

"It's very convenient to use since it seals in all the flavors of both marinade and meat, cutting marinating time in half. Just like in baking, wrapping the meat in durable Glad Aluminum Foil also helps prevent dried-out meats because it traps the moisture and the flavors in, just like in a pressure cooker, to hasten the cooking process," the chef adds.

Don't let the rainy season keep you from making barbecue dishes. Stay indoors and discover the joys of baked barbecue.

Chef Eugene shares this lip-smacking barbecue recipe from Glad.

Orange Barbecue Baby Back Ribs

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 slabs baby back ribs, cut into halves
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 pc. orange, juice extracted zest of 1 orange
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup tomato catsup
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce

- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- pinch cinnamon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

PROCEDURE:

- Pre-heat oven to 175F.
- Place ribs in Glad Freezer Zipper Bag and add in salt, pepper, chili powder, and garlic powder. Massage for a few seconds and marinate for at least one hour.
- Wrap each slab in Glad Alu-

minum Foil and bake for three hours.

- To make the barbecue sauce, blend all remaining ingredients (orange juice, zest of orange, honey, brown sugar, tomato catsup, Worcestershire sauce, minced garlic chili powder, cinnamon, salt, and pepper) until smooth.
- Open Glad Aluminum Foil and pour barbecue sauce over ribs and bake at 350F for 30 minutes, or until golden in color. ■



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LEGAL NOTES

Crackdown on Immigration Scams



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

from scammers posing as licensed attorneys, immigration experts or government officials, to individuals who unintentionally provide wrong advice that ends up harming the immigrants they are trying to help.

Victims are mostly immigrants unfamiliar with the immigration system, many of whom do not speak English, and some of whom are even illiterate in their native languages.

Typical cases of scamming include "notarios" who provide legal services but are not authorized to do so. In the United States, there is no requirement to be a licensed attorney in order to become a notary public, while in many Latin American countries and in the Philippines, notaries are usually lawyers. These "notarios" capitalize on the misunderstanding caused by this difference in order to perpetrate fraud on unknowing immigrants.

Another type of scam involves businesses that claim that they can get you a guaranteed visa, green card or employment authorization document, usually for an excessive fee. Also engaged in UPIL are tax preparers who also perform immigration services and travel agents who for a fee give advice on how to remain in the U.S. after one's non-immigrant visa has expired. Sometimes there are attorneys that sell their names and license numbers to paralegals and others who then advertise themselves as attorneys.

Another example of UPIL could be found online such as websites that charge for immigration forms and materials that are available for free from the USCIS website, and emails saying that the recipient "won" the diversity visa lottery even though he or she did not go through the official government application process.

These scammers advertise by word of mouth, on the internet, and through paid advertisements in the radio, newspapers and the phone book, fooling their victims into believing that they are legitimate.

One of those who have been charged is a Filipina from San Jose, California, who ran an immigration consulting business for 18 years. She had advertised in major Filipino-American newspapers. She has been indicted on charges of encouraging illegal immigration, mail fraud, filing false tax returns and money laundering.

The thrust of the national initiative against UPIL is threefold. First, it aims to educate the public on how to recognize and avoid immigration scams and to choose legal advice and representation wisely. Second, it encourages the reporting of scams to authorities and ramps up enforcement actions

at the federal, state and local levels. Third, it fosters collaboration among agencies to support investigation and prosecution efforts and increase the number of legitimate organizations and accredited representatives.

The efforts began early last year when USCIS partnered with seven cities - Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, Fresno, Los Angeles, New York and San Antonio - to learn more about UPIL and its impact on the community. Meetings were held with local agencies and stakeholders to discuss the scope of unauthorized practice of immigration law in each jurisdiction and the mechanisms in place to fight it. ■

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

Youth Leader to Head WW II Vets/Widows' Delegation to US Congress for Equity

NEW YORK, NY - 29 YEAR-OLD YOUTH LEADER CHEVY EVANGELISTA, SPOKESPERSON of the NY-based Ugnayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Linking Children to the Motherland) will lead a delegation of WW II veterans, widows, lawyers, and migrant workers from California, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia on July 12-13 in the US Congress in Washington DC to demand full equity after 65 years of denial.

"Our Filipino WW II vets and widows are in their twilight years and have never been fully recognized as American veterans and survivors, it's time that the young take full responsibility. Equity involves not just compensation but honor and dignity of veterans and people of color in the US," explains Evangelista during a national phone conference last July 2, 2011.

"They were younger my age now when they defended this na-

tion and were discriminated since then. This sets a bad precedence of how the US government treats young people of color."

SUPPORT FOR HR 210 GROWING

Rep. Jackie Speier, CA-12th district introduced last January 2011 HR 210, "The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011," that will provide equal benefits to Filipino WW II veterans and their families equal to their American counterparts. To date, 31 representatives have co-sponsored. Delegates will sit-down separately in two days with 50 representatives that previously co-sponsored similar Filipino equity bill in 2007.

The Rescission Act of 1946 stripped Filipino WW II veterans of their recognition and benefits as full American veterans. Of the 66 allied nationalities who fought for the US, the Filipinos were singled out not to be recognized. In 2008, under the

Enhanced GI Bill, the Filipinos for the second time in history were selectively discriminated not to be fully recognized and thus not eligible for monthly pensions according to all American veterans.

"We have only five years to live, but we want live those remaining years with full honor as American veterans or as survivors of American veterans," said Regalado Baldonado, commissioner of San Francisco Commission on Veterans Affairs, who will come with the delegation.

"We are not simply widows. We are widows of American veterans who fought for the prize of freedom that US Representatives desire enjoy now," said Flor Delos Santos while holding a purple medal of her deceased husband.

LUMP SUM OF 2008

In 2008, the US Congress approved the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund (FVEC) in-

cluded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) signed by Obama. The Filipino veterans were awarded one time \$9,000/\$15,000 lump sum. To date, some 27,000 were denied out of 41,000 total applicants, as most of them were not in the official US Army Personnel List otherwise known as "Missouri List."

"The FVEC was inherently fraudulent, discriminatory, and dubious," said Arnedo Valera, legal counsel and Executive-Director of Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC).

The FVEC denied most of the widows, provided unequal compensation between Filipinos and Americans, and inserted a "quit claim" provision or waiver of future benefits

like lifetime monthly pensions. Recently, Valera in behalf of the veterans and widows filed a petition to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in California after lawsuit was dismissed in a lower court.

Meanwhile, the NY-based DAMAYAN Migrants Workers Association will be sending five delegates to join the lobby in Congress. "The fact that the issue involves racial inequality makes the veterans an issue of immigrant workers as well," said Linda Oalcian, community organizer of DAMAYAN.

For more information, email Ago Pedalzo of Justice for Filipino-American Veterans (JFVA) at unrecognizedvets@yahoo.com or DAMAYAN at (212) 564-6057. (www.asianjournal.com) ■

(cont. from page 12; JULATAN...)

conception of me because I'm always smiling in pictures before a fight. But once I get inside the ring, I let them know right away I'm there to fight."

When asked what Gladney's corner men said to her, Julatan paused before replying, "I'd rather not say."

Using a stiff jab and superior boxing skills, Julatan (9-2-11 KO) dominated Gladney (6-4-15 KOs) for most of the eight round fight. In the sixth round, Julatan landed several right hands that cut Gladney's left eye and require the attention of the referee and ringside doctor. The ringside doctor almost stopped the

fight but Gladney insisted she could continue.

That's when the roughhousing began.

According to Angelo Reyes, Julatan's adviser, Gladney began to use dirty boxing techniques. Reyes said it was evident in the eighth and final round when a desperate Gladney would throw a left jab and rather than tuck it in after throwing it, she would keep her left elbow up and push towards her left.

In the final minute of the eighth round, Julatan ducked into one of Gladney's elbow that resulted in a cut above her right eye. The referee ruled it an accidental head butt but replays from the Telemu-

ndo coverage shows Gladney's elbow caused the cut, according to Reyes. Julatan needed seven stitches to close the cut after the bout.

"It was a veteran mistake," said Reyes, who was in Julatan's corner. "The cut shouldn't have happened. She should have laid back, used her speed and jab and stay away from Gladney but Ana wanted to show the crowd an exciting fight and went for the knockout.

"Overall, it was definitely a dominating performance for Ana and it showed how good she is. This is probably the fight that showed all of her skills." (www.asianjournal.com)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Konseho Dagiti Nagpresidente ti Oahu Filipino Community Council, Naangay



ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

Marka ti historia ti Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) ti Hunio 30, 2011, kas umuna a miting dagiti dati a presidente ti OFCC a naangay ti Burger King/Dillingham, atas sais y media agingga iti alas otso kuarenta y sino.

Kas OFCC IPP, napusgan a Chairman, linuktan ni Danny Villaruz iti nasao a miting, ni Jenny Quezon ti nangidalan ti ababa a kararag.

Sakbayna, napakaammuan, nasuratan ken naiwaragawag ken nawawis kadagiti asino man a nagpaay a presidente ti OFCC, nga itiponda dagiti napatap a padas ken pampunon no kasano ti pagpisaen ti OFCC para kadagiti magsungang nga aldaw ken tawen iti masanguanan dagiti Filipino iti Hawaii aglalo iti dumakdakkel ken dumurud-as a populasion Filipino.

Pito da amin: Danny Villaruz [2009-2010], Jun Abinsay [1994-1996], Franklin Borromeo [2007-2008], Ben Cabreros [1997-1999], Gerry Rojo [1984-1986], Jenny

Quezon [2003-2004] ken Amado Yoro [1982].

Sagudayan ti Resolusion 2011-5A, ad-adda a maawagan iti Council of Past Presidents [COPP] iti Oahu Filipino Community Council iti sakup ti Artikulo VII, komitiba, Seksion 1, Standing Committee, kas naidatag ken naanamongan idi Hunio 12 a panagkombensyon ti OFCC nga inantendaran iti agnayan a 133 a delegada: "Council of Past Presidents shall comprise of all surviving past presidents of the Council and shall act as an advisory to the president and board of directors. The Immediate Past President shall serve as Chairperson"

Babaen iti mosion toy nagmiting iti pannakaikarugi ti umuna a miting ti COPP a sinigundaran ni Gerry Rojo, bukten ti saan a nakurukurang ngem lima a pangrugan ti Council of Past Presidents [COPP]. Mabalin met latta a tumpon dagiti saan a nakadar-agy kadagiti sumaruno a miting a maangay iti kada tallo a bulan, makalawas sakbay nga agmiting ti OFCC board dayta a quarter month.

Babaen iti mosion ni Franklin Borromeo ken sinigundaran ni Jenny Quezon, nga agpaay a Recorder ni Jean Jeremiah para iti COPP, agdama a direktor ti OFCC.

Sinarita tunggal immatendar

dagiti personal a padasda kas nagsaait iti dayta a puesto, no ania dagiti karinda, dagiti paliwida ken ita ken dagiti singsing a mabalin a makatulong iti agdama.

Iti biangmi, kasla panangabaruanan ken panangpabileg ti ayat nga agserbi uray napalabasen ti tallopuul a tawen, naregtakami latta aglalo iti naipakumit a Chair of Membership iti 3% annual goal a mangisubli, mangawis, makidagang kas mangsuporta ti OFCC uray asino a pulana ken pulano ti nakarienda.

Napagkaykaysaan a sisaganaga ti COPP a mangsuporta ti administrasion tapno malaksid la dumur-as ti OFCC ti man membership kas mangpabileg ti panagtintunulong, mapasayaat pay iti pannakaipagna ken pannakaipatungpal dagiti proyekto a pagsayaatan ti OFCC kas nagkaykaysa a grupo Filipino iti Oahu.

Maikkan koma ti importansia kadagiti masnop a proyekto dagiti unit organizations babaen iti insentibo no kasta nga adda dagiti proyekto a makatulong a mangpadur-as iti ili, eskwela, ken komunidad dagiti nagpugguanda nga ili, probinsia weno rehion.

Agbalin koma ti OFCC a patinayon a pagtuladan iti nasayaat a

pannakaipataray iti produktibo a liderato.

Ti liderato a mapagtuladan: dumngem, makiinnadal, nawaya a panagsarita ti kayat nga ibaga a mabalin a mangpasayaat ti aramid. Boluntario ti amin a panagserbi. Pimnarbangan iti respetado a diskusion. Awananan iti "I" ngem "WE". Komitado a panagserbi, ipatungpal nga akem iti aksion.

Dagiti pasado a presidente ti OFCC nanipud nabangon ti OFCC 1959 [pimmusayan dagiti daduma]: Justo Dela Cruz, Adelino Valente, Disodado Avelilla, Jesus Cayaban, Marcelino Avelilla, Gelacio Daogang, Moises Claveria, Pedro Oducayen, Emilio Alcon, Vic-

tor Agmata, Bart Alcaraz, Pol Ragsa, Gene Albano, Pete Racelis, Jr., Mel Europa, Mel Agag, Jr., Ilalo Parolina, Fred Aspre, Matilda Molina, Ricardo Labez, Mario Albado, Amado Yoro, Nunelon Medallon, Victor Guillermo, Gerry Rojo, Don Alvarez, Maggie Domingo, Romualdo Agustin, Marlene Manzano, Jun Abinsay, Ernie Pasqua, Ben Cabreros, Edith Pasqua, Eddie Agas, Sr., Jenny Quezon, Arnold Villafuerte, Lynne Gutierrez, Franklin Borromeo, Cirivalina Lorgeboy, Danny Villaruz.

Maawis a tumpon dagiti dati a presidente ti OFCC ti quarterly meeting, Rebenggen ti Chairperson ti COPP ti agreport iti OFCC board meeting. ■

GLOBAL NEWS

BSP Downplays Saudi Ban on Workers' Remittances

By Lawrence AGCAOILI
Tuesday, July 4, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - THE BANKGO CENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) HAS DOWNPLAYED the impact of Saudi Arabia's decision to stop granting work permits to domestic workers from the Philippines on the total amount of money sent home by Filipinos working abroad.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in an interview with reporters that displacements arising from the decision of Saudi Arabia to stop hiring domestic helpers from the Philippines and Indonesia would only be temporary.

"Initially there will be displacements but it will only be temporary," Guinigundo stressed.

He pointed out that the number of domestic helpers from the Philippines in Saudi Arabia has gone down significantly over the past five to 10 years while more and more skilled Filipino workers are being hired in that country.

"But remember in the last five years to 10 years, the number of Filipino domestic helpers in Saudi Arabia has gone down as more professional and skilled Filipino workers are getting hired," he said.

Furthermore, he added that Filipino domestic helpers who would be displaced would likely be hired in other Middle East destinations such as Bahrain or Abu Dhabi, just like the war in Iran wherein Filipino workers merely transferred to Iraq.

"We had two Gulf wars but there was no dislocation of Filipino

workers," Guinigundo said. There are about 1.3 million Filipinos working in Saudi Arabia. Of the total number, about 120,000 to 150,000 are employed as domestic workers.

The BSP official also cited tensions in strife-torn Libya wherein authorities expected the displacement of at least 10,000 overseas Filipino workers, prompting the central bank to open a currency exchange facility for Libyan dinars.

The central bank expected to book huge losses as it expected to exchange P50 million worth of Libyan dinars to Philippine pesos at the current exchange rate.

However, only 1,575 OFWs availed of the facility as they exchanged P12.31 million worth of Libyan dinar under the facility that was made available last March.

Prior to the launch of the Libyan dinar currency exchange facility, the local currency in the war-torn country was not convertible to Philippine pesos.

The central bank had previously established a currency exchange facility during similar emergency situations in the Middle East. The first was in the 1990s during the Kuwait-Iraq war, the second in 2003 in connection with the US-Iraq conflict, and the third in 2006 over the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

OFW remittances grew 8.2 percent to a record \$18.76 billion last year from \$17.35 billion in 2009 due to the continued demand for skilled Filipino workers abroad, as well as the expansion of remittance centers abroad that gave OFWs

(continues on page 15)

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 July 10, 2011, 9am – 3pm
 • Grand Ballroom, Pacific Beach Hotel • Call Clarita Wickman @ 599-4266 for details

UFCH 53RD ANNIVERSARY & CONVENTION
 July 13-15, 2011, 7:30am – 4pm
 • Hotel California in Las Vegas • Contact: Lynne Gutierrez-728-1700

AMBASSADORS/CONSUL GENERALS AND TOURISM DIRECTORS TOUR (AGDTDT)
 July 16-21, 2011
 • For details, call Sheila Tarrosa @

595-6316 Ext. 105 for details

ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, DINNER AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING / SATURDAY
 August 27, 2011, 6pm
 • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233 or Maria Etrata @ 392-2962

VINTAR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI GLOBAL NETWORK, REUNION & REAFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY
 September 24, 2011, 6pm
 • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • Call Gliceria Agraan @ 676-1567 or 671-7774

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GLOBAL NEWS

EU-Phl Trade up 34% to 9.1 Billion Euro in 2010

by Ma. Elisa P. OSORIO/
 Thursday, June 30, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **TRADE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE PHILIPPINES** posted the highest growth rate in over 10 years as it grew by 34 percent to 9.1 billion euro in 2010.

European Union Ambassador Guy Ledoux made this announcement following the release of the EU-Philippines Trade Facilité of 2010.

Ledoux cited that the increase was attributed to the recovery of the EU and the Philippine economies from the global economic crisis, respectively.

He also said that Philippine exports to the EU rebounded by 40 percent to 5.4 billion euro, while EU exports to the Philippines rebounded by 26 percent to 3.7 billion euro. As a result, the Philippines' trade surplus with the EU nearly

doubled to 1.6 billion euro in 2010.

This growth has once more confirmed the EU as the country's fourth largest trading partner while the Philippines improved its rank among EU trading partners from 47 in 2009 to 42 in 2010. Electronics account for the bulk of the Philippine trade with the EU, but other manufactures and agricultural trade have also been growing in importance. Specifically, both manufactured and agricultural trade enjoyed strong double-digit growth rates of 34 percent and 48 percent respectively.

While EU-Philippines trade in services is more modest, with exports and imports roughly in balance and stable at 2.2 billion euro in 2009, there is potential for further growth. More specifically, the Philippines is being ranked second only to India as a business process off-shoring destination while Europe is considered the world's largest off-shoring market.

In terms of foreign direct investment (FDI), the EU is the largest investor in the Philippines, with a total stock of 6.6 billion

euro or a share of about 38 percent in total FDI stock in the Philippines. EU-FDI flows in the Philippines have remained positive despite the global economic crisis in 2008 and have been standing at 255 million euro in 2009.

The Philippines has also identified investment opportunities in the European Union, which is the world's largest economy and biggest market.

The EU is also the third largest recipient of land-based migrant Filipinos, numbering 660,000 as of 2009. Together with an estimated 120,000 Filipino seafarers who are manning European ships, they have sent 2 billion euro of remittances to the Philippines in 2010, which makes the EU the second largest source of remittances to the Philippines after the United States.

Finally, with 297,000 European visitors, the EU was the country's fifth largest source of tourists (after South Korea, USA, Japan, ASEAN) in 2010. (www.philstar.com) ■

Phl, Other Asian Nations Face Risk of Electoral Violence - UN Report

by Pia LEE-BRAGO/
 Monday, July 4, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **A NEW UNITED NATIONS REPORT HAS WARNED** that the Philippines and other Asian nations are at risk of electoral violence, driven by real and perceived fraud and corruption, as it stressed the need for strong oversight and other measures to strengthen election credibility.

In "Understanding Electoral Violence in Asia," the UN Development Program (UNDP) studies electoral processes in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, drawing lessons and making recommendations to reduce the risk of electoral violence.

"The mere suspicion or allegation of fraud is often enough in democracies where there is a lack of confidence in authorities for people to react violently," the study said.

According to the report, in a number of cases, political parties and political party supporters were the main instigators of physical violence, citing several types of groups and organizations that play key roles in either preventing or perpetuating electoral violence.

The report added that the design of political systems, the mandate and powers of electoral laws and election monitoring

and the role of civic education, media and civil society in informing voters can all help reduce or prevent the likelihood of election-related violence.

The report pointed out that the state itself can also contribute to election disorder.

"In instances where security forces are seen to be partisan or corrupt, there is a higher chance that they will be purveyors of violence rather than protectors of peace."

The report recommended measures to strengthen election credibility, which it says is key to preventing electoral violence. (www.philstar.com) ■



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

more options to send money to their loved ones in the Philippines.

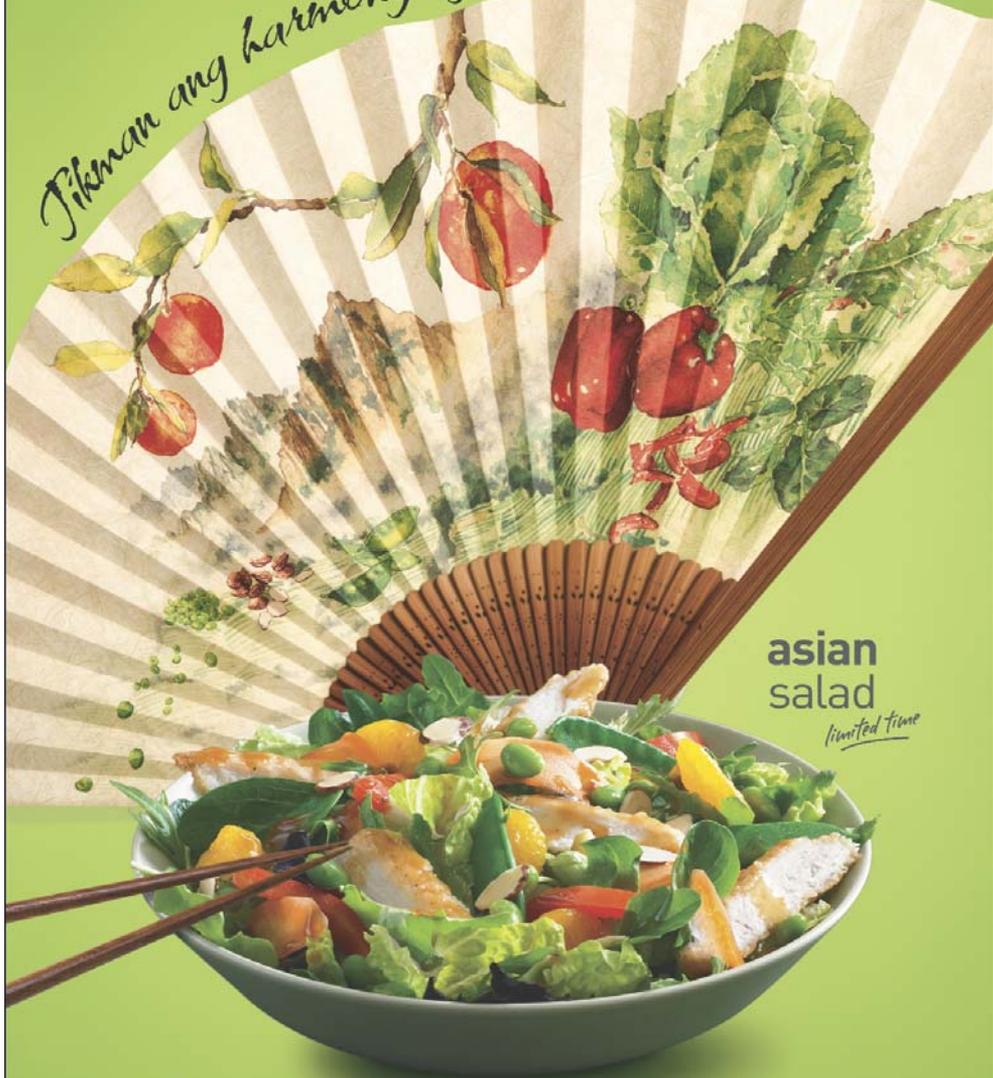
Data showed that the Middle East accounted for about 16 percent of total OFW remittances last year. Remittances from the Middle East posted a double-digit growth of 11.2 percent to \$2.96 bil-

lion last year from \$2.66 billion in 2009.

More than half or \$1,644 billion came from Saudi Arabia, followed by the United Arab Emirates with \$776.3 million, Qatar with \$248.8 million, Bahrain with \$167.28 million, Kuwait with \$106.5 million, Israel with \$67.3 million, Oman with \$66.76 million, and others.

The conflict in the Middle East and North African (MENA) states as well as the disaster in Japan has prompted the BSP to slash the projected growth in OFW remittances to seven percent or \$20.1 billion, instead of eight percent or \$20.2 billion this year, and to five percent or \$21.1 billion next year. (www.philstar.com) ■

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