

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## OLA GEARS UP FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS CONFERENCE

by HFC Staff

Language access proponents and experts from all across Hawaii and the mainland will spend a full day on August 31, 2011 at the 4th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access in Honolulu. Participants, speakers and panelists convene every year to learn and share knowledge on the practical application of language access plans, policies and best practices.

This conference builds on important issues discussed during the previous three conferences. The overall theme for the 2011 conference is "Kokua: First Responders—Addressing Language Access Needs In Emergencies."

Conference Topics include:

- Use of interpreters during police and fire emergencies
- Language access and medical emergency responder
- Providing language access in hospital emergency room settings

The event is cosponsored by the State's Office of Language Access (OLA) and Office of Community Services (OCS). The conference is free, limited to 300 attendees and open to all—state, county and non-profit agencies, the private sector, students, interpreters and translators and community organizations.

### OLA'S MISSION

The OLA is a little-known state office established under Hawaii's Language Access *(continued on page 4)*



Attendees gather at the East-West Center for the 3rd Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access sponsored by OLA and other state agencies

## Kalihi Community Health Fair: A Tradition for 28 Years

by HFC Staff

Mark your calendars for the 28th edition of the annual Kalihi Community Health Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 1 pm to 5 pm at Sunnahan Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street.



Dr. Erlinda Cachola takes the blood pressure of a patient at a recent Kalihi Community Health Fair

For nearly three decades, volunteer physicians, nurses and other health care professionals have provided free services at the Kalihi health fair to the unemployed, the very poor, homeless, immigrants and others who for obvious reasons cannot afford basic medical

care. Originally held at St. Anthony's School cafeteria, the health fair was later moved to its current location at Sunnahan Wesley as more patients took advantage *(continued on page 4)*

## UP Alumni to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

by HFC Staff

Alumni from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA) will gather in Jacksonville, Florida for their 30th Anniversary celebration. The theme of the event, scheduled for September 2-4, 2011, is "Renewing the UP Spirit of Excellence to Meet Global Challenges."

UPAAA is a national organization committed to upholding the reputation of UP to produce leaders whose achievements and leadership positions in their chosen fields of



The Oblation in U.P. Diliman Campus

expertise are well documented. Several Filipinos with Hawaii ties will be among the guest speakers at the biennial *(continued on page 4)*

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE  
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## EDITORIALS

## Jobs Stimulus Plan Much More Urgent Than Raising Debt Ceiling

Immediately following the controversial passage of raising the nation's debt ceiling, Wall Street took a 500 points dive, the worst drop since October 2008. While a one-day drop in the market is certainly not a tell-all of what lies ahead, economists anticipate two liabilities that could affect the country's financial strength in the long run. First, the acrimonious partisanship in D.C. over the debt ceiling highlights a failure in political leadership between Congress and the White House. Second, the debt ceiling bill limits government spending dramatically. Both of these liabilities combined—gridlock political leadership and reduction of economic activity—may push back whatever financial gains the country has already made inching slowly out of the worst recession in the modern era.

The reality of raising the debt ceiling only addresses one aspect of the country's economic woes—controlling the national deficit. More importantly, what Congress and the President ought to have been focusing on is a comprehensive jobs creation plan. This is what Americans considered the number one issue during the last election. This is not what Americans got. The central problem is not debt but unemployment and low wages.

The national unemployment rate is still hovering at record highs just under double digits at 9 percent. In pockets across the U.S., unemployment is well above 10 percent. A sad but largely underreported fact is that minority communities are experiencing far more difficulties in the jobs market. The Economic Policy Institute conducted a study earlier this year that estimated unemployment for African Americans would hit a whopping 17.2 percent; for Latinos, 14 percent; and Caucasians around 9 percent.

Asians have not gone unscathed. For the first time since 2005, Asians have lost their top ranking to Caucasians in median household wealth, dropping from \$168,103 to \$78,066. Hispanics fared much lower at \$6,325 and Blacks \$5,677. The median household wealth of Caucasians dipped a modest 16 percent from \$134,992 to \$113,149, cushioned in part by investments in stocks. The ratio compared with Caucasians is roughly 20 to 1 for Blacks and 18 to 1 for Hispanics.

The decline in household income for Asians, according to a Pew Research Center study, is a result of the housing crash and place of residence. As with Hispanics, Asians live in areas like California that suffered most from the financial crisis. New Asian immigrants also contributed to the decline. Based on high unemployment and lower income rates, clearly minority communities have the greatest urgency for economic recovery.



Notable Howard University sociologist Roderick Harrison said typically in recessions, minorities are the last hired and first fired.

The fallacy of the debt-ceiling bill with its hands-off approach to governance is that it places unrealistic confidence on the private sector to resurrect the economy. Americans have already witnessed the devastation that eight years of wild-west deregulation caused during the George W. Bush years. Big corporations have acted irresponsibly, disloyal, and until today, are too expedient to ship jobs abroad for greater profits. Should Americans now suddenly believe that corporations would have the will and capability to invest enough capital in communities across the country without the aid of government stimulus?

## JOB CREATION

The government must not let go of its responsibility. As it did during the post World War II era and the Great Depression of the late 1930s, government should employ a Keynesian economic approach working together with the private sector to create jobs. This has proven to be successful in each of the country's worse recessions. The two, government and the private sector, are symbiotic and far less effective when one overpowers the other. The debt-ceiling bill aims to disrupt this balance, leaving a skewed burden of job creation on the private sector. Clearly, government spending should be drastically reduced, but without government support and investments in necessary projects, more jobs will be lost and less money circulated. Local governments have already cut down to bare minimum.

The first order of a jobs stimulus plan should be to support manufacturing in this country. Manufacturing jobs would assist minority communities in particular. There ought to be disincentives in place against big corporations that abuse the role of working Americans. Their increasingly common practice of hiring only part-time, temporary, or contract help is unacceptable. Americans need steady, full-time employment. This is the cornerstone of building healthy communities. If big corporations would rather ship jobs abroad for higher profits, they shouldn't enjoy the tax breaks as companies that invest in our communities at home. Second, tax incentives should favor small to medium sized businesses. Big corporations have swallowed up their smaller competition. Laws should be adjusted to alleviate some of small business' tax burdens to enable them to survive and to once again play the lead role in direct investment in our communities for the long haul. Americans, particularly minority communities, cannot afford the status quo. ■

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## OPINION

# Ominous Signs

A LAW EACH DAY (KEEPS TROUBLE AWAY)

by Jose C. SISON

Never has it occurred in my wildest imagination that there could be such a scurrilous, repulsive and vile work as the "Kulo" exhibit and that there are government officials particularly those in charge of our Cultural Center who could allow it to be displayed as a work of "art". Indeed the very title of the exhibit itself "Kulo" is a vernacular word connoting something that would cause one's blood to boil. And whose blood will not really boil if the person and things one holds so sacred and consecrated, particularly Jesus, the Christ our Lord would be desecrated, profaned and treated with such irreverence?

This kind of work ominously gives us a foresight of things to come if we heed the advice of someone advocating the passage of the RH bill to just follow our conscience. If we do so, time will come when we will have more of this kind of work which is definitely the product of a dirty conscience and a sick mind, the dirtiest and the sickest

perhaps. It is really quite shocking and alarming that we have such kind of person in our midst now. We should not just let this repulsive and illegal act come to pass. This guy (his name is not even worth mentioning as he will just draw more attention which is really what he wants) should be made to answer for his criminal act together with those who abetted and enabled him to perpetrate it.

The Constitution indeed guarantees the freedom of expression. And the expression can be in the form of arts. But like any freedom guaranteed by our Constitution, it is also limited. This constitutional guarantee is just patterned after the US Constitution and the US Supreme Court as early as 1942 has already ruled that libel and obscenity are the classes of expression or speech that should be prevented and punished because "such utterances are no essential part of any exposition of ideas, and are of such slight social value as a step to truth that any benefit that

may be derived from them is clearly outweighed by social interest in order and morality" (Chaplinsky vs. New Hampshire, 315 US 572).

Definitely this "kulo" is obscene from any point of view. Anybody who would see the image of Christ with a wooden replica of the male genital protruding towards its face, or a rosary draped on the male genital replica or a crucifix and cross draped with a pink stretched out condom, will certainly find them disgusting, repulsive, dirty and lewd, as they are sacrilegious and blasphemous. Any average person, applying contemporary standards would find that the work taken as a whole appeals to prurient interest; that it depicts a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and that taken as a whole, it lacks serious, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value (See *Gonzales vs. Katigbak* 137 SCRA 717, citing *Miller vs. California* 37 L.Ed 2nd 419)

Indeed our Revised Penal Code has imposed a penalty of six years and one day to 12 years or a fine from P6,000 to P12,000 "to those who exhibit...obscene literature or indecent or immoral, plays, scenes, acts or shows which...offend any race or religion... and are



The "blasphemous" Kulo art exhibit in the Cultural Center of the Philippines

contrary to law, public order, morals, good customs... as well as those who shall exhibit films prints, engravings, sculptures... which are offensive to morals (Article 201, 2 (b) [3] and [4] and 3).

Clearly therefore, the display of this "Kulo" exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines is not a valid exercise of free expression by Filipino artists. It is a criminal act punishable under the Revised Penal Code for which both its author and

members of the CCP Board who allowed its exhibition could be held liable. Ordering its shutdown is not enough. It does not free them from criminal liability especially because their reason for the closure order is merely the increasing number of threat to persons and property, not that it violates the law and offends religion. A more acceptable move is for all those who allowed the exhibit to immediately resign.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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## HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

Law to perform the vital function of ensuring that Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals have equal access to state programs, services and activities to enable them to become active participants and contributing members of society.

In 2006, Gov. Linda Lingle signed Act 290 which required all state and state-funded agencies to develop language access plans for providing interpretation services and translating documents. This ensured that no Hawaii resident would be denied their right to services because they have difficulty speaking, reading, writing or understanding English. The law applies to 25 state agencies, including the Legislature, the Judiciary, departments of the executive branch and other state organizations and entities that receive state funding and provide services to the public.

Statistics from OLA show that there are over 140,000 LEP individuals in Hawaii. Interestingly enough, Filipinos comprise the largest LEP group in Hawaii. According to OLA executive director Serafin Jun' Colmenares, there are 27,077 Ilokano speakers, 26,418 Tagalog speakers and 2,137 Visayan speakers in Hawaii.

"OLA serves the needs and protects the rights of a marginalized sector of Hawaiian society," he says. "It performs functions that are a priority in the 'New Day' vision for Hawaii—functions that are beneficial and important to the life of this multi-ethnic and multi-lingual state."

#### NO ALOHA FOR IMMIGRANTS?

Mila Kaahanui, president of the



Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, says that all too often, newly-arrived immigrants and LEP individuals are at a disadvantage, discriminated against or denied government services. It is typically a struggle for them to fully access government services.

"In seeking government services, these individuals are often confronted by government staff who seem to think that linguistic barriers can be surmounted by speaking more loudly," Kaahanui says. "They are told to fill out forms that they cannot read. Failure to provide competent interpreter services undermines the ability of the state to provide needed services."

According to Kaahanui, in court-houses across the state, LEP individuals are often denied equal access to the judicial system on the basis of their English language ability. They could be seeking to obtain child support, collect a claim, defend a criminal charge, or contest a ticket.

"Failure to provide interpreters in the judicial arena leads to failure of the court system to determine the facts accurately and to dispense justice fairly. Failure of state agencies to provide language assistance to LEPs is a violation of federal civil

rights laws," she says.

One minority group that is relatively new to Hawaii are immigrants from Micronesia. As with all newly-arrived immigrant groups, there is an adjustment period to life in a new environment.

For many of Micronesian immigrants, gaining meaningful access to government services has been difficult. When they cannot actively participate in State programs and activities, they are less likely to become productive members of society.

A significant challenge facing the state, Colmenares says, is the dearth of qualified interpreters and translators for Micronesians.

"The continued influx of residents from Micronesia, many of them LEP residents, seek to access state services, yet there are very few qualified interpreters to assist the state in providing the services sought," Colmenares says. "The office addresses this and other matters by assisting in the recruitment of, and providing training for, those interested in becoming interpreters. But this process takes time."

#### A REPRIEVE

needs will be referred to the appropriate physicians.

The Kalihi health fair is among a handful of annual health fairs statewide that are sponsored by Filipino doctors and healthcare professionals. Others include the Bayanhan Clinic Without Walls (BWCC) Filipino Fiesta Health Fair and the Waianae Health Fair headed by Dr. Glen Pang. In addition, volunteer physicians regularly participate in BCWW's efforts to hold community health fairs on neighbor islands including Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Maui and the Big Island.

In general, these free community health fairs are held to increase public awareness as preventive measures of diseases as well as to raise awareness of the availability of free health care facilities.

The cost to organize a health fair runs anywhere from \$3,000 to \$4,000. To defray costs, organizers solicit volunteers, sponsors and patrons who are allowed to have display tables to showcase their products and diagnostic facilities like

Despite its brief existence and staffing challenges, OLA has done much and is poised to do even more. Its annual budget is \$312,000 which is used for salaries and other expenditures. In 2009, the five-member office was reduced to one position due to budget cuts. Fortunately, the State Legislature restored funding for two positions—senior legal analyst and clerk. Colmenares hopes to fill the openings.

Recently, OLA survived a proposal that would have drastically cut its funding. For now, the office is

safe, thanks to the support of Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

"The governor has made pronouncements stating his continuing commitment to language access and support for the continued existence of the OLA," Colmenares says.

"OLA supports the New Day in Hawaii vision 'to protect the human and civil rights of all regardless of categories.' In the long run, the community and the State will be better served with the continued existence of OLA." ■

(cont. from page 1; U.P...)

gathering, including Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, Richard Pecson and Dr. Lilia Q. Santiago.

For many years, Aquino served as Director of the Center for Philippine Studies and professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She has been honored on several occasions by international organizations as well as the Hawaii State Legislature for her achievements as an educator and community leader. She was recently honored with the First Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice given by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter.

Not only does she give back in service and leadership, Aquino has endowed a Centennial Professorial Chair at UP named after her late mother, Teresa Ancheta Aquino, whom she honored a second time with a donation to the UP College of Nursing.

In her message to convention delegates, Aquino will exhort the UPAAA to continue the process of growth and craft a truly functioning system for the benefit of alumni and the university.

The convention's luncheon speaker will be Pecson, who earned his M.A. and M.S. in business from UP. He will share his entrepreneurial

experience and advice on "Protecting Investments in the Uncertain Global Economy." He is the owner and managing director of Honolulu-based Pecson & Associates.

A third speaker is Santiago, a well-known author in Ilocano, Filipino/Tagalog and English. She is currently a faculty member of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages at UH-Manoa. She retired from UP as a Professor of Literature, Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature.

Santiago's topic "The Filipino Diaspora: Historical Overview of Filipino Communities in America" complements the overall theme of the convention. She will discuss the development of the Filipino diaspora, or the international migration patterns of Filipinos, with particular reference to Filipino communities in America—their history, cultural and literary achievements, issues of adjustment and other problems in a foreign setting and implications for the home country.

The conference's keynote speaker, Dr. A. Gabriele Esteban, is currently the president of Seton Hall University. He will speak on "The Role of UP Alumni in a Global Environment." Incidentally, Esteban received an M.S. in Japanese Business Studies from Chaminade University. ■

x-ray and blood testing.

#### GIVING BACK

The continued success of the health fair is also due to the involvement of many generous volunteers from all walks of life.

"The past 28 years have taken a lot of time and effort but we've enjoyed every minute," says Dr. Cachola, who along with daughter Dr. Lyla Cachola-Prather, son Earl Cachola and colleagues Dr. Elizabeth Ainsay and RN Evelyn Llamas, are once again co-chairing the event. "This is the Cachola family's and the many volunteers' way of saying 'thank you' for supporting us all of these years."

A big mahalo to the following sponsors for making the 28th Annual Kalihi Community Health Fair a tremendous success: Coun-

cilmember Romy M. Cachola, Advanced Diabetic Solutions, Ace Medical Inc., Chinese General Hospital Nurses, Clinical Labs, COPD Coalition, Hawaii Filipino Healthcare, Hawaii Medical Center BCCP, Hepatitis Coalition, Island Hospice, Kalakaua Lions, Kalihi-Palama Medical Center, National Kidney Foundation, Ohana Health Plan, Ohana Medical Missions, Pacific Imaging, Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, PT Hawaii Inc., Three For Life, St. Anthony's Kalihi Knights of Columbus and the Filipino Catholic clubs of St. Anthony's-Kalihi, Our Lady of the Mount and St. John the Baptist.

For more information on the 28th Annual Kalihi Community Health Fair, please contact Dr. Cachola at 845-9955. ■

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

of the free medical services.

"This is our way of helping those in the community who may be affected by the bad economy," says Dr. Erlinda Cachola. She organized the first Kalihi health fair in 1983 with the assistance of the Filipino Catholic Club of St. Anthony's Church-Kalihi. "During these tough times, it's easy to overlook the importance of basic medical care. The

Kalihi Community Health Fair ensures that even the most vulnerable members of our community are not overlooked."

A variety of free medical services will be available for attendees, including blood tests, height/weight/blood pressure, eye, ear/nose/throat (ENT), thyroid, podiatry, breast, colo-rectal, diabetes, hepatitis, kidney and lung disease, etc. Patients with extensive medical

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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## State, City Kick off Back-to-School Campaign

**THE EASY-FLOWING MORNING TRAFFIC OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS** will soon come to a screeching halt as an estimated 65,000 private school and college students are scheduled to resume classes over the next few weeks.

City and State transportation officials alerted the public about the expected increase in traffic and advise motorists to adjust their commute times to avoid heavy traffic periods.

On August 22, some 40,000 students attending the University of Hawaii-Manoa and four community colleges will head back to class. Pri-

vate schools like Kamehameha Schools and Mid-Pacific Institute, with 3,200 and 1,500 students respectively, resumed classes on August 10.

Transportation officials issued the following tips for commuters:

- Plan your commute earlier or later to avoid peak traffic
- Anticipate longer commutes with the increased traffic
- Keep your vehicle maintained to prevent stalls and breakdowns
- Use alternative modes of commuting like walking or biking
- Encourage ridesharing, such

as carpooling, vanpooling and riding TheBus

City transportation director Wayne Yoshioka says that the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will optimize traffic signals islandwide to improve traffic flow. This optimization effort, anchored by the City's Traffic Management Center (TMC), will help identify and respond to traffic incidents in coordination with HPD, the State Department of Transportation (HDOT) and the traffic reporters who provide information from the management center during rush

hours.

"The planned Joint Traffic Management Center will expand the capabilities of the TMC by eventually housing under one roof the traffic control operations of DTS and HDOT," says Yoshioka. "It will also house the operations of first-responder agencies such as fire, police, and emergency services. Later phases could accommodate the Department of Emergency Management."

Honolulu police officers will also monitor traffic and assist with traffic flow. Chief Louis Kealoha encouraged motorists to leave home early,

pay attention to other drivers and keep their cars in good working condition.

"You don't want to be the driver who causes the stall or collision that creates a traffic jam for everyone behind you," says Chief Kealoha.

Roger Morton, president and general manager of Oahu Transit Services Inc., says that there will offer 34 commuter express bus routes.

"TheBus currently serves riders from various suburban areas of Honolulu to Pearl Harbor, Downtown, Waikiki and the University of Hawaii at Manoa," he says. ■

## FCCH Creates New Council to Facilitate Business Between Hawaii, Philippines

**THE FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII (FCCH)** has established the Hawaii Philippines Business & Economic Council (HPBEC), a non-profit organization to foster economic development, increase trade and facilitate the exchange ideas and information on doing business in Hawaii and the Philippines.

The Council will provide brokering and business consulting services for Hawaii individuals and entities who want to invest and conduct business in the Philippines and vice versa. HPBEC will also develop a database for networking opportunities in Hawaii and the

Philippines.

"No other business group or organization provides direct business linkages between Hawaii and the Philippines," says FCCH President Harry Alonso. "Through this new Council, the Filipino Chamber will provide quality international programs, identify resources within the community and attract entrepreneurs and companies whose primary interest is doing business in the Philippines."

Alonso says that business opportunities that can be facilitated through the new Council include outsourcing intensive work; the establishment of mid- and small-scale

businesses in the Philippines by Filipino-American retirees; and alternatives to long-term care. Philippine-based businesses and high-net worth Filipinos can also receive assistance with investing or doing business in Hawaii.

The Council's first task is preparing of position papers to initiate dialogue with the Philippines' delegation to the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in November 2011, as requested by Philippine Consul

General Leoncio Cardenas. The Council is also assisting the FCCH in planning its next Trade Mission to the Philippines in early 2012.

The Council will also serve as a subsidiary of the FCCH but as a semi-independent entity with its own board of directors who are members of the FCCH. To carry out its mission, goals and objectives, the Council has the autonomy to enable

it to plan, implement and evaluate its programs beyond the annual terms of FCCH administrations.

This autonomy, as well as the ability to be self-sustaining, will make it possible for the Council to collect statistics, develop position papers and establish a reputation as a source of relevant information for business groups on the Philippines, Filipinos and Filipino Americans of Hawaii.

For more information on the HPBEC, please call Rose Churma at 358-2868 or Alonso at 306-3460. ■

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Witness: Arroyo Owns Controversial Choppers

by Jun PASAYLO/  
Thursday, August 11, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines — OFFICIALS OF THE LION AIR COMPANY DISCLOSED** that the true owner of the second hand choppers that were sold as brand new to the Philippine National Police was the company owned by former First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

In the hearing at the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee today, Lion Air general manager Rene Sia said Arroyo's Lourdes T. Arroyo Incorporated (LTA Inc.) made direct payments to Robinsons USA for the purchase of five helicopters on December 11, 2003.

The December 2003 down payment (US\$500,000) was made through a BDO account, while the succeeding payments were made on Feb. 27, 2004 (US\$ 509,056.41) and March 1, 2004 (US \$148,271.53) through Lion Air account.

The used of the account happened after the LTA Inc. instructed Lion Air president Archibald Po to open an account at Union Bank (Richville Branch) in Alabang, where the Arroyo company deposited the succeeding amounts for the purchase of the choppers.

"Well, sila po ang nagbayad therefore

sila po ang beneficiary," Sia said.

For his part, Po cited that they have proofs that will point to the true owners of the choppers.

"(May) nakita po kaming papeles na mapatunayan kung sino po ang may aring ng mga helicopters na ito," said Po.

The former First Gentleman however failed to attend today's hearing, citing his ailing heart condition.

In a letter to Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chairman Sen. Teofisto "TG" Guingona III, Arroyo reiterated the recommendation of his doctors to skip the hearing due to the worsening condition of his heart.

The Senate received the letter at 8:05 a.m. today through Arroyo's lawyer Inocencio Ferrer Jr., who pointed out that his client is willing to be check by the senate doctors.

A medical certificate signed by Arroyo's physician, Loren Carino, was also attached to the letter, saying the tear in the heart of the former First Gentleman can be fatal.

At the start of the hearing past 9 a.m. today, the Senate directed government doctors, Philippine Heart Center director Manuel Chua and the Senate doctors, to check the veracity of Arroyo's condition. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Personal Injury

### Asbestos Mesothelioma

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## BUSINESS FEATURE

# Swimmingly Successful: Lauren Easley's Leialoha Swim

by Linda DELA CRUZ

**B**eing unique is what kicks it up a notch for Lauren Easley's line of bathing suits in her Spring/Summer 2011 collection that she makes by hand for her customers. Her new line features braids, fringe and pearls.

"Inspiration just comes to me," says Easley, a Kaimuki resident who is the owner of Leialoha Swim. "I incorporate things that I like, especially pearls. I love those details."

In December 2010, Easley handmade her first swimsuit. It turned out to be the first step that started her eventual dive into entrepreneurship. ?

"It was something that I wanted that was different and unique," says Easley, who is also a longboard surfer.

She took matters into her own hands when she grew tired of seeing women wearing the same swimsuit and styles.

"I thought I could make something that looks better and that fits me," she says. "That's how I got into designing them. It was fun for me, since I'm a creative and artsy person. It was also a nice outlet."

Easley's Spring/Summer 2011 Look Book features six designs for tops and three designs for bottoms. Customers who want an even more distinct flair, such as different fringe lengths, can simply place a special order. Easley gladly accommodates custom orders and makes the swimsuits herself.

Her target customer is the fashion savvy woman who wants something different. One of her upcoming book showings is on Maui where she will do a trunk show for a local boutique in August. She also plans to participate in other fashion

activities in the Fall. Details will be posted on her Facebook page.

The second step in the eventual launch of her business was when she spent a day at the beach with her gal pals. It was in January on the North Shore. Easley made a swimsuit for a friend who designs Tahitian pearl jewelry. That bathing suit is now the signature top for her line which features the haltered bandeau with fringes on the front and pearls.

Her swimsuit designs could have been inspired in part by the many beach filled summers that Easley spent in Hawaii with her maternal grandparents, uncles and cousins. Or it could have been the line which features the haltered bandeau with fringes on the front and pearls.

"I love being outdoors, going to the beach and surfing. I'm comfortable in swimsuits," Easley says.

Born and raised in San Diego, Easley moved to Hawaii in 2008 to finish school at the University of Hawaii where she majored in political science and minored in dance.

A classical ballet dancer, Easley sewed her own point shoes. She has also worked as a department manager at Nordstrom and at the State Legislature for Representatives Scott Nishimoto and Tom Brower.

The elegant high-dive launch of her swimwear line officially started last May. It would not have happened at all if not for the urging of those who believed in her the most.

"I had the support of friends and family who pushed me in this direction," Easley says. "I think that

I could have probably lived by making one-of-a-kind, unique pieces for myself, but then everyone kept telling me how I should definitely try to make this work out."

She learned the basics of sewing while observing her Filipina mother, Laurinda, who learned it from her mother who originally hails from Bataan. Easley's talent for crafts is from her mom.

Her dad, Stephen, is the owner of G/M Business Interiors, a commercial interior design and office furniture sales business in California. He encouraged her to pursue her own business. ?

"One of the lessons he taught me is that if you have a good foundation and a good understanding of the ins and outs of business, you should be successful," she says. "It's almost like a formula that you can follow."

She also acknowledges the support of her younger brother Stephen, who is studying at University of California-

Riverside as well as her maternal grandparents—Prosefina "Prosy" and Paul Strona—who reside in Hawaii.

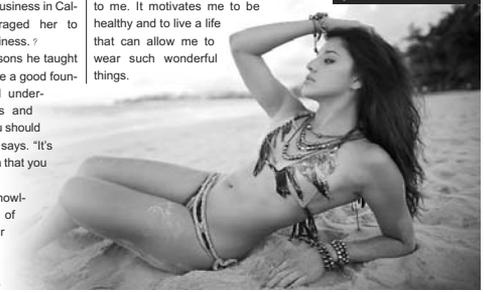
When the Filipina-Italian-Welch-Irish-French-Cherokee beauty is not busy making swimsuits or working, she enjoys long board surfing, boating, golfing, running, hiking, working out to stay in bikini shape and beer tastings.

"You need to be comfortable with what you are wearing," she says. "This is what's so appealing to me. It motivates me to be healthy and to live a life that can allow me to wear such wonderful things."

"What I love most about my business it is that I get to control every creative aspect of the design process. There are a lot of detailed elements to my pieces. I love that they excite people and set me apart from a lot of other bikini designers."

To see Easley's designs, log onto Facebook Leialoha Swim or email her at leialohaswim@gmail.com. ■

*Beach wear designer  
Lauren Easley models one  
of her handmade swimsuits.*



## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Phl Bank Lending in June Grows By Nearly 19 Pct

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) -- **PHILIPPINE BANK LENDING GREW AT ITS FASTEST** in June of 18.8 percent, more than twice the speed of only eight percent posted by money circulating in the system also known as domestic liquidity or M3, the central bank

said Wednesday.

The outstanding loans of commercial banks including so-called reverse repurchases or RRP's having also accelerated at a faster 20.5 percent rate from only 19.3 percent in May, aggregating P2.8 billion.

"Commercial banks' loans have been growing steadily at double-digit growth rates since January 2011. On a month-on-month seasonally-adjusted basis, however, commercial banks' lending in June declined by 2.4 percent for loans net of RRP's and by 0.5 percent for loans inclusive of RRP's," Central Bank Governor Amado Tetangco, Jr. said in a statement.

Production loans during the month, equivalent to about 80 percent of total loans, rose by 20.6 percent on year to P2.36 trillion.

These are bank funds that underwrite plans and programs in the power generation and utilities sector, real estate, renting and business services, manufacturing and financial services.

Consumption loans rose 14.1 percent on year to P206 billion. These are loans used in the purchase of such big-ticket items as houses and lots for first-time home-



buyers, credit card purchases and the purchase of cars as well.

Credit card receivable increased 6.2 percent and auto loans by 25.8 percent.

"The sustained expansion in bank lending during the month supports the view that financial conditions are stable and that the domestic economy is growing within a sustainable economic path," Tetangco said.

He vowed to keep liquidity levels and credit conditions at volumes and pace that supports overall economic activity while remaining consistent with the central bank's price stability objective.

According to the central bank, domestic liquidity growth of eight percent in June translates to money supply aggregating P4.4 trillion during the month.

The accelerated M3 expansion was fueled by the 33.1 percent growth in net foreign assets during the month. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# IMMIGRATION GUIDE

## No Romance in Paradise – What Now, My Love?



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

The aging Lothario from Hawaii put his hand on his young bride's inner thigh. "Not now, my love, we will do it in Hawaii, I heard it is a very romantic place," the bride whispered as he squeezed her husband's hand and pushed it away. Not wanting to appear pushy, he did not insist. He rushed back to the U.S., petitioned for his wife, and it was approved.

Upon arrival, the wife said that she wanted to go to WalMart. The old man readily agreed. At least it was not Macy's or Neiman Marcus. She bought a sleeping bag. "Why, we have a bed?" the husband asked. "You'll see," she replied with a wink. After dinner, she put on a pair of tight jeans, laid down the sleeping bag, went inside, and zipped herself in. The husband was left out of the bag. He asked her to fulfill her promise. She replied that she was tired. This went on for sev-

eral nights. Tired, sleepy, dizzy, jet lag. Frustrated, the old man went to a consultant who advised him "Divorce her. Deport her."

This is not a rare instance. There was a WW II veteran who was induced by a fellow church member to marry her daughter. He did, petitioned for her, and when the daughter arrived in Hawaii, he went to stay in her mother's apartment rather than her husband's. She complained that he had threatened her if she did not have sexual relations. The old man sheepishly told a consultant that he had been had. He filed a pro se divorce.

Elderly men are not the only victims of unscrupulous women. The latest incident that I heard involved a guy in his late 20's. His wife put a pillow between them when they slept. Unlike the ardent lover who bragged "I'll climb the highest mountain to be with you," this guy could not climb the lowest pillow. Like the other folks, the marriage has not been consummated. His wife reportedly objected that he snores. Snores when making love? How boring? How about making love first and then sleep in separate bedrooms?

### CONCOCTING FALSE CHARGES

So, what now? Or as they ask in Ilocandia "Ana ngarun?" The greatest danger from this situation is that the alien woman, in a desperate bid to remain in the U.S., might concoct false charges that the man sexually assaulted her or battered her. She will then get a restraining order and worse file criminal charges. This has happened on a number of occasions. The men were forced to defend themselves. They won, but only after spending thousands of dollars. Thereafter, they spent more money for a divorce.

As for deporting the women, although refusal to have sex may result in deportation, on the theory that there was no real marriage, immigration authorities appear reluctant to deport such women. The victim should first report the matter to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with supporting evidence that the woman committed marriage fraud. The victim will be lucky if they will answer. Thereafter report ICE's failure to act to the Secretary of Homeland Security, copy furnished the U.S. Senator. A minor

official will probably answer, saying that the matter is under investigation but that they cannot tell you anything more because the matter is confidential. Confidential, my you know what? How can they treat it as confidential with respect to you since your testimony will be vital in deporting the woman? It is best to get a lawyer who can present a deportable case.

### PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

As I have always said in my radio program, do not buy a car unless you test drive it first. You have to get the feel of it. The same applies to marriage.

The old adage remains valid and effective: "Marry in haste, repent at leisure." There is no such thing as "Love at first sight." You

must always take a second look, nay a thousand looks. Before marrying, spend at least a year getting to know your intended. Go on dates, travel around the country, and do things that lovers do. Avoid marrying ladies of the evening or women you meet at bars. If you want innocent virgins, go to the remote towns of Ilocoslovakia. OR, for goodness sake, consummate the marriage abroad, even though it may not be as romantic as Hawaii. I have heard men brag that they "consummated" first before marrying. Hooray for them. ■

(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: flmlaw@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.hiko.com.)

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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

Former president Ferdinand Marcos remains preserved in his hometown of Batac, Ilocos Norte.

## Binay Maintains Marcoses Agreed to Ilocos Burial for FM

by Alexis ROMERO  
Thursday, August 11, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **VICE PRESIDENT JEJOMAR BINAY INSISTED** yesterday that the Marcos family had agreed to have the late strongman buried in his hometown in Ilocos Norte, although a final decision would have to come from Malacañang.

Binay, tasked by President Aquino to study the proposal to give the late President Ferdinand Marcos a hero's burial, clarified that Marcos' son and namesake Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was "also correct" when he claimed that nothing had been agreed yet.

"What I stated is, there has been an agreement on the place of burial. Sen. Marcos' statement was also correct, but there was no decision yet (from Malacañang). There's nothing to offer yet," Binay said. "There is no final decision yet."

Binay declined to name the members of the Marcos family he had spoken with, saying the issue might stir further controversy.

"The offer will come when the President issues (a decision)," he said. "Hopefully very soon, a decision would be released."

Binay told reporters in Laoag last Tuesday that the Marcos family had already agreed to bury the late dictator's remains in Ilocos Norte.

The younger Marcos rebuffed Binay's statement but stated his family is open to an interment with full state and military honors.

Earlier, Binay recommended that Marcos be interred in his native Ilocos Norte with full military honors, effectively rejecting an appeal to bury the late dictator at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Proposals to bury Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani were revived after former military chief Angelo Reyes, who killed himself after being grilled by senators for alleged corruption, was allowed a hero's burial at the Libingan.

It was Rep. Salvador Escudero III, who was Marcos' agriculture secretary, who renewed proposals to have Marcos buried at the Libingan.

Marcos supporters insisted the late president deserves a hero's burial because he had

served the country valiantly during World War II and had never been tried for any crimes.

Marcos' remains are encased - and open to public viewing - in a glass coffin in the family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Human rights advocates and martial law victims, however, rejected a hero's burial for Marcos, saying this would send a wrong signal to younger generations.

Marcos claimed to have received around 300 war medals, including the US Congressional Medal of Honor. But the claim was questioned in a series of articles published by the *We Forum* newspaper in 1982.

Marcos was ousted during the 1986 EDSA revolution and was succeeded by Aquino's mother Corason.

The late dictator died of kidney, heart and lung ailments in 1989 while in exile in Honolulu, Hawaii. His remains were returned to the Philippines in 1993.

Marcos' widow Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, for her part, said yesterday that she would not accept burial with military honors for her late husband, to show that "the decision about Ferdinand's burial is not a political decision."

"It cannot and should not depend on surveys, or on any so-called Solomonic approach," she said in a statement. She said President Aquino himself has stated his being biased on the issue, which prompted him to toss the issue to Binay.

She said before Binay could submit his report, the President told a foreign news agency that a hero's burial for the late president would not happen under his watch.

"That made it clear that President Marcos would get the honor he rightfully deserves no matter what Vice President Binay's survey shows," she added.

She claimed that the persecution of the Marcoses, "living and dead, continues, from the time of the first Aquino as the revolutionary president, up to the present."

She added that the Marcos family and supporters would eventually find a "truly honorable and sacred resting place" for him. (www.philstar.com) ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## GMA Placed on BI Watchlist

by Edu PUNAY  
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) YESTERDAY PLACED** former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the watchlist of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in connection with the plunder charges she is facing before the DOJ.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima used her motu proprio power to order the inclusion of Arroyo on the bureau's watchlist.

Arroyo returned to hospital yesterday for a medical checkup after undergoing spine surgery two weeks ago, and was advised by doctors that another operation was necessary.

Doctors at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City said a metal plate in the former president's back had been misaligned and needs to be corrected, reports said last night.

De Lima explained that the



**LAST TRIP**  
Photo taken on July 16 when former President and now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and husband Mike Arroyo, arrived in Manila from Amsterdam.

JES YUSON

order was issued to ensure that Arroyo would face the charges filed against her by Danilo Lihay-Lihay and former solicitor general Francisco Chavez in connection with the fertilizer fund scam and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) fund mess.

"One consideration is the possible flight risk of the subject," the DOJ chief said.

The watchlist order, which will take effect for 60 days, requires Arroyo to secure clearance from the

DOJ every time she leaves the country.

De Lima said she did not immediately issue the watchlist order against the Pampanga congresswoman for humanitarian considerations after she underwent cervical spine surgery.

Chavez accused Arroyo of plunder, qualified theft, graft and corruption and violations of the Revised Penal Code and Omnibus Election Code for allegedly using P550 million in OWWA funds to

boost her presidential bid in 2004. In another complaint, he also alleged that the former leader diverted over P2 billion in fertilizer funds to her campaign kitty when she ran for reelection in 2004.

Lihay-Lihay, on the other hand, filed a plunder complaint against Arroyo over the sale of the P1-billion prime land near the old Iloilo airport to Megaworld Corp. in 2007.

Arroyo had already submitted her affidavit involving the OWWA fund scam.

The DOJ placed the former chief executive on the BI watchlist following reports that she and former first gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo are planning to seek political asylum in Portugal to evade what they described "are cases of political persecution."

"This is why we need precautionary measures so that the people won't blame us in case they leave and evade the charges," De Lima told reporters.

Meanwhile, Isabela Rep. Giorgi Aggabao said that Arroyo and her family are not qualified for political asylum in any foreign country.

"An asylum is for political crimes, and the former president and members of her family are not accused of committing political crimes. What they are facing are criminal charges," he said.

Aggabao is a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, part of the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

He issued the statement in reaction to San Juan Rep. Jose Victor Ejercito's claim that the Arroyos purportedly plan to seek asylum in Portugal, which does not have an extradition treaty with the Philippine government.

Ejercito said he received in-

formation that the Arroyo couple, both fluent in Spanish, bought a villa in Portugal near the Spanish border.

Mrs. Arroyo traveled to Spain last month.

Aggabao said though the Arroyos are not accused of political crimes, they could claim political persecution if they really are planning to seek asylum.

"But the government can oppose an asylum application and challenge any claim of political persecution," he added.

Mrs. Arroyo is facing at least five plunder raps before the DOJ and the Office of the Ombudsman. Her son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo of the party-list group Ang Galing Pinoy and his wife Angela are facing tax evasion charges before the DOJ.

Meanwhile, the immigration bureau alerted its personnel in all international seaports and airports following the inclusion of Arroyo on the BI watchlist.

BI spokesperson Ma. Antonette Mangrobang said that copies of the watchlist order signed by BI Associate Commissioner Abdullah Mangotara against the Pampanga lawmaker have been sent out to BI units at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, (NAIA) Terminals 1, 2, 3 and Cebu Mactan International Airport.

The alert was also raised in all seaports where there are ships bound for foreign destinations.

Arroyo went back to St. Luke's Medical Center yesterday for her scheduled checkup. She arrived at the hospital shortly before noon.

Her husband, lawmakers Mikey and Dato and daughters-in-law Angela and Cacia were also spotted at St. Luke's but they refused to talk to media. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Phl Bank Lending in June Grows by Nearly 19 pct

from [www.philstar.com/](http://www.philstar.com/)  
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According to the central bank, domestic liquidity growth of eight percent in June translates to money supply aggregating P4.4 trillion during the month.

The accelerated M3 expansion was fueled by the 33.1 percent growth in net foreign assets during the month. (www.philstar.com) ■

## 'Be Wary of Job Offers in Guam'

by Mayen JAYMALIN/  
Thursday, August 4, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) yesterday warned** Filipino workers against accepting offers to work in US military facilities in Guam.

POEA chief Carlos Cao Jr. said unscrupulous individuals have been victimizing thousands of prospective overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) by offering them employment in Guam.

Cao said a man identified as Eduardo Monserate Jr., who also claims to be a relative of a POEA official, has been recruiting house-

keepers and laundry workers for the US Naval Base.

He said Monserate is not collecting placement fees from the workers, but is asking them to pay P3,500 for medical examinations at the Bougainville Medical Clinic in Malate. He said they received reports that Monserate has been actively recruiting workers in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Cao said recruitment for employment in Guam has not started, even as he advised applicants to deal with licensed recruitment agencies and not through direct hiring.

The Middle East chapter of

Migrant, meanwhile, cautioned OFWs on a new modus operandi of some licensed recruitment agencies to connive with foreigners, who illegally recruit workers.

John Leonard Monterona reported that they have assisted 10 OFWs who were recruited by a licensed agency to work as fishermen in Saudi Arabia, but ended up jobless. He said similar incidents were recorded in other parts of the Middle East.

"If an OFW was recruited for a particular job and upon arrival to the country of destination there is no such job existing, then he is a victim of illegal recruitment," Monterona said. (www.philstar.com) ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Gov't-MILF Exploratory Talks Set on Aug. 22

by Aurea CALICA  
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF)** peace panels are scheduled to hold formal exploratory talks on Aug. 22 to 24 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia following President Aquino's meeting with MILF chairman Al Haj Murad Ibrahim in Tokyo.

Government peace panel chairman Marvic Leonen said both parties have agreed to fast-track negotiations and implement agreements before the end of Aquino's term in 2016.

Leonen said the government peace panel was confident about reaching a political settlement of the conflict in Mindanao as the MILF was no longer demanding independence.

The MILF proposed the creation of a "Bangsamoro sub-state" in Mindanao to allow the Bangsamoro people to exercise self-governance under the Philippine republic, according to a comprehensive compact submitted by the MILF in February.

"We are not considering the MILF a separatist group. Their agenda is no longer to separate," Leonen declared.

The MILF wanted a national Bangsamoro identity while maintaining Filipino citizenship.

Leonen said the "historic" meeting between Aquino and the MILF chief indicated the administration's sincerity and commitment to achieve a negotiated political settlement with the MILF.

Aquino and several Cabinet officials met unannounced with Murad in Tokyo on Thursday to discuss ways to move the peace talks forward.

Some members of the rebel group negotiating panel and the MILF's Central Committee accompanied Murad.

The meeting in Tokyo lasted for about two hours, according to Leo-

nen who also acted as the note taker for the President.

"There was no secret deal between the two parties," Leonen said.

He said both parties agreed to work on solutions that are "feasible, practical, and politically and economically viable."

### UNLIKE THE ARMM

The MILF gave assurance there is nothing to fear on its demand for a sub-state.

"There is nothing to fear in this proposal because the sub-state, as the name connotes, is still part of the Philippines. It has no army, except police and internal security forces tasked to do policing within the sub-state," the MILF said in the editorial entitled "Let Moros run their affairs" posted in their website.

MILF said under its proposal, the authority over national defense, foreign relations, currency and postal services would still be exercised by the national government.

"This entity is not an independent state. The sub-state has jurisdiction only over other matters, except those jointly exercised by the sub-state and the central government," it said.

The group claimed that its formula to solve the problem in Mindanao is "very simple."

"Let the Moros run their affairs; let them decide their own destiny; let them succeed or self-destruct. Gone were the days when the government in Manila designed everything for them," MILF said.

"The most important element here is self-determination. Let them exercise this right to self-determination, which is enshrined and guaranteed by the charter of the United Nations," it added.

The MILF said it has not openly advocated a federal type of government, pointing out some areas in Mindanao are not in favor.

The group said the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was "a far cry" from what it envisions as a sub-state.

"The ARMM, contrary to its



President Aquino and Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Murad Ebrahim agree to speed up peace talks during a landmark meeting in a hotel near Narita airport in Tokyo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS

name, is not autonomous. A province or city is more powerful than ARMM. The recent postponement of the ARMM elections speaks loudly why this entity is not autonomous. It is controlled, nay dictated, by Manila," MILF said.

The group noted the statement made by Aquino on Monday that the creation of a sub-state in Mindanao might require the approval of Congress.

At the same time, MILF scored some critics including Sen. Francis Escudero for their statements against the proposal.

"For those who said the Moros cannot run themselves including Senator Francis 'Chiz' Escudero, we say to them: Let them show it by giving them what they want. If they go to hell by their own making, so be it," MILF said.

Institute for Political and Electoral Reform executive director Mon Casiple said he is not discounting the possibility that the MILF would still pursue its previous demand to secede from the Philippine government.

"The concept of federalism, it would not totally remove the possibility of independence... it is their right to secede, that is inherent. If this would be granted to the MILF, there is that possibility, later on they could invoke their sovereign power and declare independence," Casiple said.

### A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Sectors hailed the Tokyo meeting between Aquino and Murad as a big step towards attaining final peace in Mindanao.

Vice President Jejomar Binay said the Filipino people should help Aquino succeed in his effort to have a lasting peace and end the bloody secessionist conflict in Mindanao.

Binay said the MILF's move eases one of the big challenges that the country is facing.

"This is a positive development. This is one of our biggest problems. At least the MILF has reiterated the issue on sovereignty is no longer there," he said.

The Mindanao People's Caucus led by secretary-general Mary Ann Amado, Eastern Samar Rep.

Ben Evardone, Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Sidney Jones, regional analyst for International Crisis Group, hailed Aquino's meeting with the MILF leader as a sincere confidence-building move to attain lasting peace in Mindanao.

Arnado said Aquino's move to meet Murad was a grand gesture of sincerity and political will.

Evardone said Aquino's gesture is a "political masterstroke."

"Definitely, the most concrete and sincere confidence-building move of the Aquino administration," Evardone said.

Pangilinan described Aquino's meeting with Murad as "an out-of-the-box solution" to the decades old armed conflict in the South.

Sen. Loren Legarda referred to the Aquino-Murad secret meeting in Tokyo as a "major milestone" in the peace process.

"The meeting is a major step forward simply because it establishes a personal relationship between the two principals," Jones, for her part, said.

Maguindano Rep. Simeon Datumanog said the meeting would greatly boost chances of an understanding with the MILF and help make peace in Mindanao.

Several lawmakers added the Tokyo meeting would eventually lead to the forging of a peace agreement between the government and the MILF.

Political parties in Asia also supported Aquino's efforts to forge peace with the MILF.

"We of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) fully endorse President Aquino's efforts to achieve a final peace with the MILF," the group said in a statement.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and former Pakistani senator Mushaid Hussain signed the statement for ICAPP.

De Venecia, founding chairman of the organization, said ICAPP represents more than 300 ruling and opposition political parties in 52 Asian states.

"We support President Aquino's peace outreach to the MILF - a splendid act of statesmanship - to seek with MILF chairman Murad

Ebrahim 'a peace of the brave' in the 40-year-old insurgency that has devastated the resource-rich southern Philippine mainland," ICAPP said.

Cotabato City Vice Mayor Muslimin Sema, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that had signed a peace accord with the Philippine government in 1996, also hailed the meeting between Aquino and Murad as positive development.

"The MNLF pray that whatever understanding or agreement they may reach could be implemented to the letter and spirit," Sema said.

### FACTIONS

A senior member of the government peace panel, however, said the peace process in Mindanao stands on shaky ground if the MILF fails to stop the infighting among its ranks.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Aguilar, senior military adviser to the government peace panel, said the MILF should deal with the factions in its group, particularly with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) headed by Ameril Umra Kato.

Aguilar said the latest report yesterday revealed eight people were killed in clashes between the MILF and the BIFF in Datu Pang, Maguindano.

"We are calling on the MILF central committee leadership to immediately address this concern and to police and discipline their own ranks to prevent these hostilities from further escalating," Aguilar said.

Aguilar said it is now incumbent on the MILF to ensure that the peace process would not be affected by infighting within their ranks.

A faction in the MILF developed apparently triggered by a "rid" between the group of Commander Adzmie and Commander Abunawas.

Adzmie and Abunawas were reportedly fighting over ownership of a six-hectare agricultural land in Datu Pang.

There were many past attempts by the MILF leadership to resolve the rido between Adzmie and Abunawas but all efforts failed.

Rido is a tradition of settling conflict through the use of force.

Abunawas subsequently bolted from the MILF mainstream and joined Kato under the BIFF.

Regional military spokesman Col. Prudencio Asto said the recurring clashes between the MILF and the BIFF had displaced about a hundred families in Datu Pang.

(www.phstar.com) ■

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LEGAL NOTES

Consequences of Improperly Terminating H-1B Employee



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

tional practical training status under his F1 visa.

In the H-1B petition, the beneficiary was listed as a full-time employee working 40 hours a week. The USCIS approved the petition, but six weeks before the start date, he was terminated from the job. Before his termination, the employee was paid \$25.30 per hour.

A bona fide termination of an H-1B worker requires a showing by the employer of three things. First, the employer must give notice to the worker. Second, it must give notice to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) so that the I-129 petition can be cancelled. Third, it must pay for the worker's transportation back home.

Failure to prove every element of a bona fide termination carries

with it the harsh consequence of making the employer liable to pay the required wage rate for the entire period of authorized employment.

The employer failed to meet the second and third elements. It did not inform the ICE that the H-1B employment would not materialize after all. The H-1B petition was revoked more than two years after the employee was fired when the employer finally reported it to the USCIS in 2010. The employer also did not pay for the worker's return flight to his home country.

The administrative law judge ordered the employer to pay back wages for a period of almost three full years, with pre- and post-judgment interest. It was further ordered to reimburse the worker for the legal fees incurred in the filing of

the H-1B petition, which by law should be borne by the employer.

The decision was careful to note that H-1B employment does not result in an indentured servitude. The employer may terminate the worker's H-1B employment at any time, and the H-1B worker is likewise free to leave his or her employment. Regardless of which party ends the relationship however, there will be consequences to such termination. In this case, to be relieved of its wage and other obligations, the employer must have complied with the legal requirements for a bona fide termination.

Interestingly, the judge even found that the worker's earnings while he worked at another tax firm after he was fired by the employer should not be deducted from what

ever amount is ordered against it. The judge explained that the rule of mitigation of damages did not apply to the action which was based on immigration law and regulations, and that the worker did not earn the income while on a voluntary absence from the employer.

This case is a sharp reminder to any employer that until the immigration authorities are informed of an H-1B termination, it remains liable for the H-1B worker's wages and benefits. The inconvenience of having to mail a notice to the ICE and paying several hundred dollars for a terminated employee's plane fare certainly seems negligible compared to the liability that could very easily be incurred by employers who are unaware of the rule on bona fide termination. ■

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

MAINLAND NEWS

U.S. Credit Downgrade Affects World Economy

by [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
Monday, August 15, 2011

**THE DECISION OF STANDARD & POOR'S (S&P) to strip the United States of its top-notch credit rating has shed light on the structural problems embedded in the U.S. economy and will exert far-reaching effects on world export and finance, said experts.**

S&P's downgrade sounded an alarm to the leftover problems from the real estate bubble, a debt-reliant economic-growth model and structural economic challenges in the world's largest economy, they believed.

Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, former President George W. Bush's tax cut policies, economic stimulus measures taken by current President Barack Obama to tide over the severe economic recession, and ballooning medicare expenses in an aging society all contributed in a major way to the spiking U.S. national debt.

Despite claims by senior U.S. officials that S&P's downgrade decision was based on a 2-trillion-dollar calculation error, economists believed that what the most urgent task facing the nation is to formulate sound policies of bolstering robust economic growth in the near term and to put the nation's fiscal house in order for the long run.

A temporary cease-fire in the bipartisan fiscal war will not address the country's longer run problems, and the rating agencies are justified in reconsidering America's triple-A credit rating, said Carmen Reinhart, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International

Economics, and Vincent Reinhart, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute, earlier this week in a jointly written article.

"Widespread deleveraging is thus still the order of the day. And when so many want to spend less than their incomes, an economy sputters," they wrote, adding that such a subpar performance makes it hard to overcome America's balance sheet problems, while U.S. tax policy is "shambolic" and spending discipline nonexistent.

With the magnitude of the government and household debts, new worries triggered by a slackening economic growth picture with surging debt in the United States has been intensified by a Wall Street plunge and a string of weak economic data.

Economists including Nobel Prize laureate Paul Krugman held that the threat of a double-dip recession has become very real and the U.S. government needs to beef up investment and create jobs but not to trim spending.

Krugman believed that U.S. consumers are still burdened by the debt they ran up during the house bubble period and are not ready to spend more, and businesses see no reason to expand given the lack of consumer demand, while governments spending has been pulling back.

With the U.S. economic growth at a nearly stalling 1-percent pace in the first half of this year, it was difficult for the nation to generate enough revenue to keep its books balanced.

Sun Tao, an economist with the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF), told Xinhua

that the United States has not solved the long-term structural challenges, and it has nearly run out of its policy tool kit facing a complex set of headwinds.

It is the weak economic fundamentals in the United States and the escalating uncertainties in eurozone sovereign debt markets that are dampening investors' confidence, not the rating downgrade, as the downgrade has partly been priced into the market, Sun said.

Some economists held that as U.S. policymakers' maneuvering room for fiscal policies is shrinking and the interest rate is parking at a record low level, the possibility for the Federal Reserve to roll out a new round of quantitative easing policy to jumpstart the sluggish economy has increased, which will have far-reaching global implications.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Sunday that the downgrade will exert short-term pressure on markets, but he does not see any risk in investing in the United States.

However, the downgrade also exposed the flaw of the U.S. dollar-based global currency system. The improvement of this scheme is pressing as many investors are considering diversifying their investments in the long run.

The recent drama over whether the United States would default has weakened confidence in the U.S. economy and underscored the already growing desire of many investors around the world, including many central bankers, for more diversity in their portfolios, said Joseph Gagnon, a senior fellow at

the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Even policymakers in the United States might agree that the U.S. dollar is vastly over-weighted globally, with an estimated 60-percent share of the world's foreign exchange reserves. The euro has about a 25-percent share, which is modestly larger than the euro area's share of world GDP; and most other currencies have shares lower than their countries' shares of world GDP, Gagnon contended.

Shortly after the bipartisan package cleared U.S. Congress earlier this week, China's central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan urged the

White House and Congress to take responsible policy measures to handle its debt issue in light with the interests of the whole world.

Zhou noted that China would continue to seek diversification in the management of its reserve assets, strengthen risk management, and minimize the negative impacts of the fluctuations in the international financial market on the Chinese economy.

The downgrade move might prompt Chinese policymakers to accelerate its exchange rate regime reform and transform its current export-oriented and investment-dependent growth model to avoid the further accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, said Sun of the IMF. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

# Ambassador Jesus I. Yabes, Sinangaili Ken Pinadatawan Ti Nagtipon Nga Annak Ti Sinaiti Iti Hawaii Ken Sinaiti Alumni



### ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

**P**ride of Sinaiti! An Evening with Ambassador Jesus I. Yabes and Achievers Award, intendaran ti nadumaduma a lider ken kameng ti nadumaduma nga organisasion kas suportada iti nagtipon a gunglo ti Annak Ti Sinaiti Iti Hawaii ken Sinaiti National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii nga ipanguluan da Antonio Ipalari ken Davelyn Ancheta Quijano kas general Chairperson iti nasao a pasken.

Naaramid iti pasken iti Hawaii Prince Golf Club, Bird of Paradise Restaurant iti Ewa Beach idi Agosto 8 babaeln ti simpli a programa a pannakasangaili ken pannakapadayaw ni Honorable Jesus Ines Yabes, anak ti nalatak a pamilia iti Sinaiti, daydi nagproprosor iti UP, ken maysa a manurat ken historiador. Agdama a puestonaa iti Islamabad, Pakistan, Afghanistan ken kaparangnata a rehon ti Kyrgyzstan, Kasakhstan, Tajikistan.

Ka "Strive for Excellence" a tema ti programa, napadayawan met dagiti dua a kangrunaan nga annak ti Sinaiti gapu iti dayaw nga inapitda kadagiti prospehon ken trabahoda pakairamanan da Herminia Loreta Gaspar, kas Outstanding

Nurse of the Year babaeln iti Health-care Association of Hawaii ken Hawaii Medical Center, ken Danny F. Agsalog, kas government appointee, Director of Finance, Maui County, kas government appointee ni Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa.

Kas paset ti programa nga iturong dagiti emcee: Jenny Quezon, naidatton ti ababa a kararang, nakanta ti dua a Kanta Nasional, kimmablaaw ni Antonio Ipalari, presidente ti Annak Ti Sinaiti Iti Hawaii, naisaruno ti pangrabii ken dagiti nabaela a kanta, sala.

Kimmablaaw ni Davelyn Ancheta Quijano, presidente ti Sinaiti National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii, Malakisi ti nabara a kablauw ni Deputy Consul General Paul Raymond Cortes, impangngegna pag ti napintas a bosensan iti pangkantana.

Tampok ti programa ti pannasangaili ni Ambassador Yabes babaeln ti pannangyan-ammo ni Augusto "Gus" Concepcion, Event Chairperson ken agdama a bise presidente iti ATSH, SNHSAAH ken SIGN. Simmangpet ni Ambassador Yabes (ken kakaduaan) ditoy Hawaii a sinabat ti pannakabagti ti Philippine Consulate General ken natarusda iti maysa a hotel iti Waikiki.

Talidap ti biag ni Ambassador Yabes:

Nayanak iti Manila idi 1948, anak ti taga Sinaiti. Inleppasna ti Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Public Administration, University of the Philippines.

Nagkameng iti Foreign Service, Dept of Foreign Affairs, 1978; nainarua ti Philippine Bar Exams, 1983, Mairaman dagiti sumaganad a kas Diplomatic Assignmentsna:

- Vice Consul and later Consul General in Hongkong, with concurrent accreditation to Macau, 1984-1989
- Minister Counselor and Consul General, Tokyo, Japan, 1989-1994
- Executive Director, Office of American Affairs, Dept of Foreign Affairs, 1994-1995
- Board Secretary of the Board of Foreign Service Administration, 1995-1996
- Deputy Chief of Mission & Ministers, Philippine Embassy,



Annak Ti Sinaiti with Ambassador Jesus I. Yabes

Tokyo, Japan, 1996-1999

Nagbinnulug dagiti kameng iti Program & Award Committee a nangyawayat kadagiti plake dagiti napadayawan.

Nakatabuno met ni former House Vice Speaker Michael Yadao Magaayo [I-Sinaiti ni inana]; dati a presidente ti UFCH Eddie Agas, Sr.; Danny Bayuga Ines a nangkuvg ken ni Ambassador Yabes a nagpa-Hawaii.

Ti EJ2 Sound & Lighting ti nangisagana iti ababa a slide presentation a kas talidap ti sumaganamo ken maiblang a kangrunaan a gapuanen ken nairringsap a proyekto babaeln iti "binnulug" [partnership, ti pay EJ2 ti mangparungbo iti programa kadagiti toktokar ken musika a kas paset ti entertainment portion. Ili daytoy a pasken, nayalng ni naparabo a wamakan ti Sinaiti: The Sentinel and Guardian nga iturong toy nagsurat. ■

## GLOBAL NEWS

# World's Largest Startup Company Now in Phl

from [www.philstar.com/](http://www.philstar.com/)  
Monday, August 8, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **WIMDU, THE NEW GLOBAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION SITE**, has received a \$90 million funding, prompting media abroad to dub it the world's largest startup.

The German-based Internet company, which offers business travelers and tourists a wide selection of accommodation places around the world, is now in business in the Philippines.

Two European venture capital firms — German-based Rocket Internet and Swedish investor Kinnevik — have ploughed \$90 million into Wimdu for an undisclosed stake.

Behind the company is Rocket Internet GmbH, one of the world's largest startup incubators. Its latest major venture is Wimdu, following in the footsteps of Groupon International (deals, discounts and coupons), Zalando (Europe's largest online shoe retailer), and eBay Europe (buy and sell).

Wimdu is being seen as the future benchmark of international accommodation and lodging intermediation community. It is the fastest growing online destination for booking quality stays at unique destinations worldwide.

In the Philippines, the Internet site lists a variety of accommodation places like condominiums, residences, condotels, and small hotels (less than 20 rooms) which could be rented out by business travelers or tourists at much cheaper rates than

the standard hotels.

The company offers two services, one for the guest or traveller and another for the host or the house or small hotel owner.

Wimdu said every person who has an extra room or house can sign up and list their space in Wimdu for short or long term lease and be a host. To be listed in Wimdu's global online network is free of charge.

Wimdu said in the Philippines, a host can be a new condo buyer, a person who has a house in the province, or a proprietor of a small inn. "We see limitless hosting possibilities here in the Philippines especially since people have no effective way to advertise their places," Wimdu said.

As for the guest, what the company has in mind are those who love to travel, for business or for pleasure, who want something unique — a home away from home, a cultural experience, a real plunge into the host's country.

The company, founded by German brothers Marc and Oliver Samwer, has already been rolled out to 65 countries within a mere 100 days of its launch early this year.

Wimdu's model works by listing properties and rooms which travellers can apply to stay in. The hosts either accept or reject the application, with Wimdu taking three percent of the charge of any stay. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com/)) ■



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**SAN NICOLAS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, 16TH ANNUARY AND INDUCTION OF OFFICERS & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BALL / SATURDAY**  
 August 13, 2011 • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact: Heidi Luanca - 637-7769

**FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HI'S 38TH ANNUAL NURSING EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION & BANQUET / SATURDAY**  
 August 13, 2011, 6pm • Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Nancy Walsch, 778-3832

**CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS, 24TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION &**

**GALA / SATURDAY**  
 August 13, 2011 • Maui Beach Hotel, Maui • For details, call Jun Colmenares @ 510-734-4491

**63RD ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED VISAYAN COMMUNITY OF HAWAII / SATURDAY**  
 August 20, 2011 • Club House @ 94-833 Awani St., Waipahu • Contact: George Carpenter, 554-0495

**LOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, DINNER AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING / SATURDAY**  
 August 27, 2011 • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Danny Vil-

laruz @ 778-0233 or Maria Etrata @ 392-2962

**ANNAN TI BATAK INTERNATIONAL QUEEN OF QUEENS CORONATION BALL / SUNDAY**  
 September 18, 2011, 6pm • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact: Dolores Ortal - 422-1667

**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

## GLOBAL NEWS

### DOLE: No Layoff of Pinoys in US

by **Mayen JAYMALIN**  
 Monday, August 8, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE)** sees no massive layoff of Filipino workers in the United States despite the prevailing economic crisis there.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the prevailing economic condition in the US would only have "minimal" effect on Filipino workers in America.

"Majority of Filipinos in the US are permanent residents... Suffice to say, we can say the economic problems of the US will not affect largely our OFWs," Bal-

doz said.

The labor chief noted that the US economy would have more effect on the Philippines and other countries, but not much on overseas Filipino workers.

Of the more than three million Filipinos in the US, there are only about 20,000 OFWs, according to Baldoz.

A majority of the Filipinos in America are employed as teachers, medical workers and other professionals that they can hardly be affected by the economic plunge.

"If the Middle East is the number one OFW destination, we can say US is number one in having permanent residents that are Filipinos," Baldoz said.

She said the Philippine government is prepared to help Filipino workers who may be forced to come home if things continue its turn for the worst in America.

"We would like to take the opportunity to remind them of shifting their mindsets when they come back here and consider our livelihood and entrepreneurial programs by becoming businessmen instead of being employees," Baldoz said.

She added that DOLE is ready to assist the OFWs if they want to be redeployed to other countries with growing economies such as Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Australia.

(www.philstar.com) ■

### \$1.5-Billion OFW Remittances May Be Lost Due to Saudi Arabia's Nitaqat Program

by **Paolo ROMERO**  
 Monday, August 1, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **SOME \$1.5 BILLION WORTH OF ANNUAL REMITTANCES** from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Saudi Arabia may be lost because of the kingdom's Nitaqat program, which requires more than 300,000 firms there to increase their hiring of locals, and lessen their employment of foreigners, an administration lawmaker said yesterday.

"There's no question Nitaqat is a potential threat to the job security of some Filipinos in Saudi Arabia, particularly those whose skills can be readily replaced by locals there," LPGMA party-list Rep. Arnel Ty said yesterday.

"For example, once Nitaqat becomes effective, Saudi citizens must comprise at least 10 percent of the labor forces of all construction companies, and a minimum of 70 percent of the staff headcount of all financial firms there," he said.

Migrant workers' groups have warned that up to 150,000 OFWs in Saudi Arabia could possibly be displaced by Nitaqat.

Citing Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas statistics, Ty said remittances from Saudi Arabia amounted to \$1.544 billion in 2010, or around 8.2 percent of the cumulative \$18.763 billion in cash sent home by all OFWs from around the world.

From January to May this year, re-

mittances from Saudi Arabia amounted to \$616.19 million, up less than one percent from \$611.03 million in the same five-month period in 2010.

"Saudi Arabia is one of only three countries in the world where more than \$1 billion worth of annual remittances from OFWs come from.

The two others are the United States and Canada," he said.

OFWs in the US and Canada wired home \$7.862 billion and \$2.022 billion, respectively in 2010.

He said remittances from Saudi Arabia accounted for 52 percent of the \$2.964 billion in cash received by the Philippines from all OFWs based in the Middle East in 2010.

The other large sources of remittances from the Middle East in 2010 were: the United Arab Emirates (\$775.24 million); Qatar (\$246.81 million); Bahrain (\$157.23 million); Kuwait (\$106.48 million); Israel (\$57.28 million); and Oman



(\$55.76 million).

Under Nitaqat, Saudi Arabian firms not currently employing enough locals would not be able to renew the work visas of their foreign personnel.

Recruiters in Manila earlier said Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labor had deferred the

Nitaqat's implementation from August this year to March 2012, to allow employers there more time to comply with the mandate to enlarge their number of local staff.

Meanwhile, Ty said some P50 million has been set aside in the proposed 2012 Philippine national budget to support the reintegration of returning OFWs through livelihood and jobs programs.

This is on top of government's P2-billion reintegration fund, recently launched in partnership with the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, to provide returning OFWs sustainable business opportunities, he said. (www.philstar.com) ■

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- Back Pain

**(808)671-5928**  
**VILMA D. FUENTES**  
 Registered Physical Therapist

### ATTENTION: FILIPINO ORGANIZATIONS & NON-PROFITS

Have your Community Event Published in our Calendar!  
**FAX YOUR PRESS RELEASE TO 678-1829**

**E-MAIL YOUR NEWS RELEASES, ORGANIZATION NEWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS TO**  
[filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com)

## RENTAL

### FOR LEASE OFFICE SPACES

- LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WAIKAPU
- NEAR BUS STOP
- EASY ACCESS TO THE FREEWAY

**VARIOUS SIZES AVAILABLE (IN SQ. FT.): 110, 230, 285, 1100 AND OVER 5100**

For more information, please call **RENTAL MASTERS**  
**@ 678-8930 or 753-9434**

McDonald's® New  
Grilled Premium Chicken Sandwich  
**It's a delicious mouthful.**

At talaga namang katakamtakam. Bagong tender, white meat chicken breast filet.

Pinalaman sa bakery-style bun made with 8 grams of whole grain.

Lahat ng iyan, nasa McDonald's Premium Chicken Sandwich.

Ang chicken sandwich na pangalan pa lang, lasap mo na ang sarap.



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