

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## FILIPINOS BUILD NEW WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE MUSEUM

by Gregory Bren GARCIA

**M**etro Manila residents are eagerly waiting for the moment when their city's newest world-class science museum opens its doors to the public. The Mind Museum, a project initiated by the Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc., is quickly rising on J.Y. Campos Park, a site located at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. The facility is being built on a space just right across the location of another future Manila landmark, the "6-star" Shangri-La at the Fort Hotel. The museum is now 80 percent complete and is scheduled to open in December this year.

The Mind Museum boasts a space-age architectural design, a brainchild of architects from the prominent Filipino architectural firm, Lor Calma & Partners. The team of architects is led by Ed Calma, one of the country's most renowned architects.

The design team aimed to create "a futuristic, yet organic look" and took inspiration from cellular and molecular structures found

in nature. The building design is innovative and sustainable, incorporating a curved roof for more efficient rain collection, slanted exterior walls to minimize the entry of sunlight, and strategic orientation to utilize the shadows of adjacent buildings—elements that contribute to greater energy efficiency. The edifice also creates an interesting contrast

(continued on page 4)



The Mind Museum is the Philippines's newest world-class science museum.

## Spratlys Row: China, Phl Agree to Disagree

by Aureo CALICA

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The West Philippine Sea issue will likely be discussed during President Aquino's state visit to China next week, but officials said the Philippines and China had "agreed to disagree" on the matter and would not allow it to affect bilateral relations.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific Cristina Ortega, in a press briefing at Malacañang yesterday, said Aquino and Chinese President Hu Jintao would discuss the matter but not extensively.

"This will be a meeting between the



Philippine President Benigno Simeon "Noy" Aquino and (inset) Chinese President Hu Jintao

two heads of state... Being a state visit, I don't think that we will be there discussing the West Philippine Sea, saying to the other president this is ours and then, the other president would also say, no, this is

(continued on page 4)

## The President Elpidio R. Quirino Award: History, History-Making and Salute to Our Leaders

by Amado I. YORO

**G**od said, "Let there be light." And there was light. Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream." And his dream came true.

This reality of light and the memory of the heroic act of dreaming are the ingredi-

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The 2011 Pres. Elpidio R. Quirino Awardees, Charle Y. Sonido, M.D., and Felipe "Jun" Abinsay

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## EDITORIALS

# Hawaii the Happy, Aloha State... Let's Keep It That Way

The old saying "Lucky you live Hawaii" still holds true for many local residents. In the latest Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Hawaii ranked number one in the nation with an index score of 70.2. Hawaii ranked at the top in life evaluation, emotional health and physical health.

Life evaluation measured how residents assessed their "present" life situation and "anticipated" life situation five years from now. The emotional health category considered frequency of smiling, laughing, learning something interesting, being treated with respect, as well as enjoyment, happiness, sadness, anger, stress and depression. The physical health section measured sick days in the past month, disease burden, health problems that get in the way of normal activities, obesity, feeling well-rested, daily energy, colds, flu and headaches. Other categories included how residents feel about their work environment; the kinds of healthy behaviors they do including exercise and diet, and the activities they don't do such as smoking and drinking; and lastly, the accessibility of basic necessities such as healthcare, health insurance, shelter and safety.

The latest scores are based on daily polls conducted from January through June 2011, in which more than 177,000 American adults were surveyed. For the entire year of 2010, the survey sampled 352,840 adults ages 18 and older living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii also came in at number one in that survey.

To some people this happiness survey may appear insignificant and more "pop" science than social science, but it actually is very telling about a community, its values and where its people are headed. The fact that Hawaii annually finishes at or near the top of this survey measuring serious life factors confirms that our state is as special as the world sees us. Central to our sense of happiness is

the concept of aloha. Aloha is not just a commercial word for our tourist industry. Aloha, and all it stands for—kindness, respect, generosity—has genuine meaning in the way

we live, conduct business, make laws, even maintain health. There are numerous areas that our state can make improvements, namely business and the overall economy, but what aloha can also mean is balance, the kind of balance that doesn't skew money-generating opportunities over people and fairness, the kind of balance that fosters real communities, the kind of balance that influences exactly what the survey purports to measure, happiness.

A great deal of why many Hawaii residents are relatively happier than other communities in the U.S. may stem from our unique immigrant heritage and willingness to keep alive those old values. The rest of the country also began with immigrant populations, but immigrant values of very strong family and community bonds have been replaced in many communities.

For Filipinos, the bayanihan spirit, or the idea that we can rely on each other during life's most difficult moments, translates to a greater sense of general well-being and security. This is a strong value not only for Filipinos but among other Asian and Pacific-Islander communities, that ultimately promotes less stress and increased happiness.

For many Hawaii residents, the survey can also be a reminder that we should put ourselves on the back. We've been continuing to make right decisions in caring for our community, environment, each other and ourselves. Often times, locals talk extensively about what's wrong with Hawaii. But those who've lived abroad for extended periods always remind us of how lucky we are to live in the aloha state. Let's not just focus on the negative news we hear all around us. We can take pride in our state, protect our ways of life and forge ahead cultivating what's really important at the end of the day—our sense of community and happiness. ■



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## OPINION

# Bookkeeper's Admission Unmasked Mike Arroyo

**GOTCHA** by Jarius BONDOC

Ex-journalist Alan Davis began the Philippine Public Transparency Reporting Project 18 months ago partly as a reaction to political signage. Married to a Filipino, the Brit was irked that everywhere they traveled in the islands they'd see billboards proclaiming this bridge, park or city hall to have been built from the generosity of that governor or mayor. "Pera natin to (It's our money)," he kept hearing the politically aware remark against the politicos' empty boasts. So he used it as slogan for the project of the US Agency for International Development.

The PPTPR trained community leaders and journalists in public finance and budget, set up local transparency watchdog groups and blogs, and conducted surveys on local government accountability.

Yesterday the project came to a close with four allies sharing their views. Senator Teofisto Guingona III said that as head of the Blue Ribbon Committee he sees more than ever the need for a Freedom of Information Act. Such law would force state

officials to divulge what they are up to, like the Ombudsman's secret plea-bargaining in 2010 with plunderer Gen. Carlos Garcia. Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo cited the importance of websites of local and national agency purchases and projects. Upon putting up one last year, a firearms dealer immediately noticed that the police was buying M-16 rifles at P140,000 apiece, when another agency had bought the same from him for only P93,000.

ZTE scam whistleblower Jun Lozada recounted the difficulties and dangers that truth-tellers face: lost income, disrupted family life, death threats. If as they say in Africa it takes a village to raise a child, it also needs a community to care for citizens who dare to expose sleaze. Gracia Pulido-Tan, Commission on Audit chairwoman, told of a Citizens Participatory Audit in partnership with civil society. No only COA auditors but also ordinary citizens can report financial shenanigans through e-mail [citizensdesk@coa.gov.ph](mailto:citizensdesk@coa.gov.ph) or mobile (0915) 5391957.



Rowena del Rosario

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As with Al Capone's mob, the weakest link was the bookkeeper. Rowena del Rosario, former first gentleman Mike Arroyo's personal accountant, wanted to exculpate him in the Senate hearing Monday. But in the end she admitted having wired \$500,000 to Robinson Helicopter Company in December 2003, in behalf of Mike's LTA Inc.

That settled it. The \$500,000, as two witnesses earlier swore, was down payment for five helicopters from the California factory. There's no more doubt that Mike secretly bought the aircraft. They arrived in

the Philippines in three batches in 2004. Two of them fraudulently were sold to the Philippine National Police as brand new in 2009. No PNP general would have accepted the units and paid more than the price for brand-new had they not been so ordered from on high.

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee will now decide what charge to recommend against Mike: simple graft or non-bailable plunder. By evading the hearing, he defaulted on his chance to refute incriminating testimonies and evidence. Numerous scams had marred the nine-and-a-half-year reign of President Gloria Arroyo. For the first time Mike would be charged in court for one of them.

Rowena had put up a brave front. She claimed from the start to work not for Mike but congressman-brother Iggy Arroyo. Allegedly it was Iggy who gave her cash every month from 2004 to 2011 to pay the chopper lease from, not maintenance and hangarage by, LionAir Inc. She didn't flinch when asked what her beloved decade-long boss' birthday is and she couldn't say. Unmindful was she of stating on national television that, contrary to accepted accounting principles, she never scrutinized the billings from LionAir nor booked the payments of Iggy. It didn't matter that the monthly billings mostly were for a few tens of thousands of pesos that at times ballooned to several hundreds of thousands. Iggy's order was simply to be told of the amount, which he would turn over to her for remittance to LionAir.

But when confronted with a bank document — the \$500,000-wire transfer by LTA Inc. to Robin-

son in December 2003 — the accountant in Rowena had to give. Yes, it was authentic, she said — but quickly added that it was an advance payment for the lease. She stuck to her story, although Robinson only manufacturers and never leases helicopters. The senators knew she was lying, and ciled and detained her for contempt. Aside from conspiracy with Mike, she would be charged with perjury.

In detention Rowena might be able to reflect on her future. Would she take the rap and be imprisoned for Mike? Or would she break free, stand state witness, tell all she knows, and come home to her growing children? Her relatives and friends would do well to advise her, perhaps even help raise funds to hire an attorney all her own.

The PNP generals and auditors are in the same boat. Their lips are sealed about having been forced to implement the chopper switcheroo. But their own ex-spurrier, former interior secretary Ronaldo Puno, is washing his hands of the scam. In Monday's hearing Puno swore that he would have indicted them had he known in 2009 that they were buying second-hand for more than the price of brand-new. Compared to the generals he was probably closer to Mike. But he denied any participation in the scam at his level, although his office had approved the revision of specs tailor-fit for Robinson, the negotiated contract, and swift payments. In effect, he further incriminated the generals and auditors for misleading him about the nature of the aircraft. Their families had better warn them of the dire consequences of Mafia-style omerta. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## EDITORIALS

### No Place Like Home

The country's economic fundamentals may be strong amid the US recession and Europe's debt woes. But that strength is heavily dependent on the billions of dollars remitted annually by millions of overseas Filipino workers. Global economic problems could reduce those remittances and render many OFWs unemployed. Worse, economic problems are fueling resentment directed at migrant workers and opening them to harassment and discrimination. Governments, trying to calm public unrest, are more open to policies that are unfavorable to migrant workers.

OFW organizations have raised concern over such trends in the Middle East and Hong Kong, and even in Britain. Compounding the problem is continuing unrest in the Middle East and North Africa. Thousands of OFWs have been urged to return home from Syria, where the path to regime change could trigger more violence before order is restored. So far the majority of OFWs in Syria have refused to leave, mainly for fear of losing their jobs and facing unemployment back home.

Erasing that fear must be one of the priority goals of President Aquino. In Hong Kong, OFWs said foreign maids have been the targets of hate messages online, calling them cockroaches and parasites that cause

social chaos and should return home. OFW leaders urged the Aquino administration to create decent jobs in the Philippines so there will be no need for Filipinos to seek employment overseas.

The booming business process outsourcing sector is starting to meet this need, but most returning OFWs will need retraining to qualify for BPO jobs. Thousands of BPO job openings cannot be filled for lack of qualified workers. Returning workers can also be retrained for jobs in the tourism industry, which the government should promote as a major livelihood and revenue source.

The government must also fast-track measures that will improve the environment for the types of investments that can create the decent jobs that OFWs want. The country has a unique resource that its neighbors cannot offer: the quality of the Filipino workforce. But more incentives are needed and a better business environment created to make the Philippines more competitive. Through better education and training, the government must also prevent the deterioration of the quality of the workforce.

There is no place like home. Filipinos should not have to choose discrimination and security risks abroad over life in their own land. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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## HEADLINES (CONT.)

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against the sea of box buildings that surround it.

As the country's first international standard science museum, The Mind Museum will house five modern galleries and over 250 interactive hands-on and "minds-on" activities that will present science as fun, entertaining, and engaging.

## PASSION AND SCIENCE

The Philippines has never had a publicly-funded science museum as big as The Mind Museum. Thus, Filipinos can only be grateful that the private sector, composed of a number of companies and individuals, has taken it upon itself to initiate the building of the facility.

But according to the museum's curator Maribel Garcia, even though a number of other prominent science museums in the world have been around for decades, even centuries, there is actually an advantage to building a science museum at present.

"We can learn from their mistakes and take advantage of the [especially] golden age of breakthroughs, going into neuroscience. We can incorporate what we have learned when we make our own exhibits," Garcia says. "Also, many museums are housed in heritage buildings that were built for an earlier purpose and were just converted later into science museums. At this time, there is enough reason and evidence [to support the idea] that having a purpose-built science museum building is an integral part of taking the whole enterprise of the public understanding of science seriously.

It was in 2006 when the board of trustees of the Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc. decided to build a sci-



The *Story of the Atom* gallery will present the counterintuitive quantum world, which is invisible in our ordinary, everyday experience, yet serves as the basis of most of our current technology: computers, mobile phones, lasers, and many medical technologies.

ence museum in Bonifacio Global City as evidence of their commitment to developing a home for passionate minds in the country.

"A team was built first thing in 2007, and the work has never stopped until it reached this point," shares Garcia.

## FROM THE VERY SMALL TO THE VERY BIG

But how does one begin to understand the essence of The Mind Museum? It begins with appreciating its concept. The core idea behind the museum is "nature in scale"—from the littles to the largest, from the beginning to the infinite beyond. Thus, the organizers have conceptualized four main science galleries: *The Story of the Atom*, *The Story of Life*, *The Story of the Earth*, and *The Story of the Universe*. On top of these science galleries is a fifth one called *The Story of Technology*.

"The science galleries—Atom, Life, Earth and Universe galleries—are on the ground floor, while the Technology gallery is a loop like a donut on top of these galleries. This is our architectural translation that it is the sciences that support technology," Garcia says.

Furthermore, she says that The

Mind Museum is different from many other museums in that it stems from a core narrative strewn across the exhibits that science is not a cold discipline, but a wondrous way of knowing where understanding is realized as a source of profound human pleasure.

It is also special in that the organizers commissioned local artists to translate scientific principles into aesthetically pleasing forms without sacrificing the science. This conversation between scientists and artists, Garcia says, has allowed them to create exhibits that make up a well of stories to be told.

The organizers are also very clear on their mission to inspire and to understand.

"We will not give you a comprehensive treatise on each scientific principle but bring you at the cusp of understanding so that you would be inspired to explore more on your own in school and in your other personal explorations," Garcia says.

## STAR ATTRACTIONS

The museum will house a wealth of spectacular state-of-the-art exhibits. *The Story of the Universe gallery*, for instance, will house the *Spaceshell*, a planetar-

ium where people can lounge on memory foam and stare at the simulated night sky. It will also feature films that talk about other planets, the stars, and scientific debates, such as the existence of extraterrestrial life.

*The Story of the Universe* will also have the *What is on Mars* exhibit, where visitors can maneuver a NASA rover on simulated Martian landscape. People will also be able to visit the *Giant Orrery*, a beautiful sculptural heliocentric model of the solar system showing the eight planets revolving around the Sun.

*The Story of the Earth gallery*, on the other hand, will house the T-Rex exhibit, the first permanent Tyrannosaurus Rex display in the Philippines, as well as the *Floating Globe* exhibit, a giant model of the Earth where visitors can watch a live feed that displays the current state of the planet Earth—from active volcanoes to typhoons, from wind currents to earthquakes. The *Floating Globe* will also inform people about the effects that climate change has on the planet.

*The Story of the Earth gallery* will also house the *Nature's Hourglass* amphitheatre, a virtual time machine that will feature movies produced by Filipino filmmakers, which will walk audiences through the Earth's 4.5 billion years of natural history.

For *The Story of Technology gallery*, the organizers will set up a centerpiece attraction called *The Human Face of Technology* exhibit. It is a 360-degree screen that will feature uploaded videos that present technology not as a mere tool, gadget, or industrial advancement, but as a means to flesh out human values and to help people become better humans. The surround mode of the screen will enable visitors to view it from virtually all angles.

The museum's galleries are also built in such a way that they are interconnected and build on one an-

other's narratives. According to Garcia, the museum's galleries are connected by corridors that are filled with exhibits designed to help visitors bridge their understanding of the story of the gallery they are leaving and the one they are entering.

"For example, the two outermost galleries, Atom and Universe, are connected by a bridge spanning the breadth of the museum. This bridge is filled with exhibits on light because light is a concept that is key in the understanding of atoms and stars. Thus, the bridge is called *The Light Bridge*," she explains.

Aside from the five main galleries, visitors can expect to see more attractions within the museum. For instance, according to Garcia, they are also building the following: *The Hall of Philippine Science* in the middle of the building, *The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments in Science* exhibit, and the *Changing Exhibits Gallery*, which is for traveling exhibitions that will visit the museum in the future.

## BUILDING A LEGACY

Garcia says officials of The Mind Museum want the facility to be accessible to Filipinos from all walks of life.

"The pricing will be different for [visitors from] public schools, and corporate sponsorship for public schools will be vigorously pursued," she says.

In addition, they also aim to be the center for the public understanding of science in Metro Manila and in the Philippines.

"[The Mind Museum] will inspire to understand. It will not only encourage kids to pursue the sciences but also encourage society in general to appreciate and support the sciences because it is the one discipline that has reliably moved societies forward. So we aspire to make our audience realize that whatever it is they do, there is science in it," she says. ■

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

ours. I don't see them doing this because this is confrontational. We don't want them to argue because they are heads of state," Ortega said.

She said Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario already had a detailed discussion of the issue with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, during his recent visit to China.

"We have agreed to disagree because both countries are claiming areas, especially the Kalayaan Group in the South China Sea and the Recto Bank," she said.

Ortega added that both parties "agreed to open the lines of communication and that we will go on talking to each other."

She said it is unlikely that there will be a special agreement on the West Philippine Sea, considering

that a settlement of territorial or maritime disputes is not very easy to get.

"And because this is a problem of the Asia Pacific region, then the answer would be multilateral or a regional answer," she said.

But she said the dispute will be part of the joint statement between the Philippines and China, which would be released after the state visit.

"That will be crafted during and right after the state visit to China so we don't know yet. I don't think we can preempt the joint statement but I would assume that there would be a line or two on the West Philippine Sea," Ortega said.

The joint statement would be one of the six agreements to be signed during the President's China visit. The other five agreements are the Philippines-China Five-Year Development Program for Trade and Economic Cooperation, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Presidential Communications Operation Office and State

Council Information Office on Friendly Exchanges, MOU on Sports Cooperation, and Implementing Program on the MOU on Tourism and Exchange of Letters on the Executive Program of the Philippines-China Cultural Agreement.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao confirmed that the dispute will be taken up in an "appropriate way" and "in good faith" during the President's visit.

"South China Sea is an issue that concerns both of our two countries but it's only just one issue that concerns us, so I think this issue will be discussed but it will be positioned in an appropriate way," Liu said in a press conference.

He said the two sides will proceed in the spirit of trying to avoid the issue affecting the general development of the overall relationship

between China and the Philippines.

"I'm not too sure how the two presidents will be discussing this issue, but I'm sure that they will discuss this issue in good faith and that the issue will not affect the general relationship," he added.

He said the dispute over the West Philippine Sea is just a part of the wide-ranging relationship between the two countries and should not impair the development of ties.

He said efforts to further expand cooperation and strengthen people-to-people exchanges are the "major part of the trip."

The ambassador earlier said China had conveyed to the Philippines that it would like to have a positive response from the Philippine side on the issue of joint cooperation in the disputed area.

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# HEADLINES (CONT.)

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ents of his President Elpidio R. Quirino Award.

It is history at its best.

It is history-making at its finest.

And it is our salute to our community leaders who, time and again, have made us remember that light must be there and that a living dream must orient our lives even if we have traversed distances from home to find a new home here in the U.S.

Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii President Danny Villaruz, in putting together the rationale of the award, the first for the association, said: "An award of distinction, prestigious and eminent, ought to be thought of to recognize the extraordinary work of those who come from Ilocos Sur and who have called Hawaii their home."

For this first award, ISAH chose Felipe P. Abinsay, a former member of the State House of Representatives, and Dr. Charlie Y. Sonido, a medical doctor and champion of

medical missions to the Philippines. Both will be recognized at a banquet in their honor at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on August 27, 2011.

Guests will include Consul General Leoncio Cardenas, Jr., consul Paul Cortes, Cabugao Mayor Edgardo Cobangbang, Jr., Miss Oahu Filipina 2011 Leonevi Mabigo and Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz. Emcees for the evening will be Larry and Jennifer Ordonez.

The President Elpidio R. Quirino Award was conceived to substitute the Mrs. ISAH Pageant 2010 and to raise funds for the ISAH Homecoming and Medical Mission 2011. The award will be given annually.

Dr. Sonido has chaired ISAH's medical missions, along with co-chair Dr. Elizabeth L. Abinsay. ISAH organized three medical missions in 2005, 2007 and 2009 to Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Quezon.

Proceeds of the three Mrs. ISAH Pageants (2005, 2007 and 2009) were used to purchase medi-

cine and equipment for the medical missions.

The pageants had the following queens: Nancy Clemente from Cabugao and now Mrs. Lualaba, reigned in 2005; Helena Puesta from Santa in 2007; and Davelyn Ancheta Quijano from Sinait in 2009.

The fund-raising efforts of ISAH shifted to "Dance With the Mission" and to the holding of "Distinguished Award and Fund-raising."

At an ISAH board meeting in March 1, 2011, Villaruz's idea was approved after a presentation was made from names of other prominent leaders and heroes.

The board also decided to name the award after the 6th president of the Republic of the Philippines, Elpidio Quirino, a native of Vigan.

Quirino, a graduate of law from the University of the Philippines, was raised in La Union, but always looked to Vigan for part of his Ilokano roots and heritage, also in

Caoayan.

Among many accomplishments, Quirino was a barrio school teacher, orator, debater, painter, constitutionalist, statesman and lawmaker.

In 1934, he joined the Philippine Independence Mission to Washington, D. C. The mission, headed by Manuel Luis Quezon, secured the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act that set the date for Philippine independence in 1945. The independence of the Philippines from the U.S. was declared on July 4, 1946.

Both Abinsay and Sonido were chosen for their selfless acts and dedication for the success of the medical missions under the lead sponsorship of ISAH.

Sonido, from Sinait and Cabugao, is also being recognized for his outstanding work as a medical doctor. For a time, he served as president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii and publisher of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

Abinsay, of State House District 29, served for 10 years and held leadership roles as majority whip and chair of the Agriculture Committee.

He introduced the creation of the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission [Act 159] that became

a law. The law, signed by Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano, appointed 15 commissioners who were tasked to plan and implement the centennial celebration of the coming of the first 15 recruits of the Hawaii Sugar cane Planters Association. Many of the first recruits were from Candon. They boarded the SS Doric and landed in Honolulu on December 20, 1906. The recruits were then sent to the Ola'a Sugar Plantation on the Big Island.

Abinsay, who served as OFCC president and vice president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, is from Cabaroon East, Vigan City.

Many ISAH members come from various municipalities and cities such as Aillem, Banayoyo, Bantay, Burgos, Cabugao, Candon City, Caoayan, Cervantes, Galimuyod, Gregorio del Pilar, Lididda, Magsaling, Nagbukel, Narvacan, Quirino, Salcedo, San Emilio, San Esteban, San Ildefonso, San Juan, San Vicente, Santa, Santiago, Sta. Catalina, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Maria, Sto. Domingo, Sigay, Sinait, Sugpon, Suyo, Tagudin, and Vigan City.

Former State Rep. Abinsay and Dr. Sonido, certainly, have shared their light with us. In that light is their life as well, a life filled with dreams for our people. ■

(cont. from page 4; SPRATLIX...)

"I'm sure that this issue will be discussed. I know it has been there for decades but the visit will further enhance the understanding of the leaders of the two governments," Liu said.

He said the joint development of the South China Sea was put forward by the Chinese government since 1985, and proposed by the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping to the late Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Salvador Laurel.

"And since then we've been working with other claiming parties about the possibility of such a joint exploration and development, so we do hope this will materialize as soon as possible because we do believe this is the best way for the claiming parties to have opportunities of cooperation rather than engaging in any kind of conflict," Liu said.

Liu said Aquino's visit will be significant because it will be his first state visit to mainland China and a non-ASEAN country. The state visit is scheduled on Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

He said the President will be in Beijing for three nights to meet top Chinese leaders and the business community, and have a tour of the city. The President will then proceed to Shanghai to meet local officials, business community leaders and leading Philippine companies there, and proceed to Xiamen, where he is expected to interact with the villagers where his ancestors came from.

Noy to promote PH as tourist, business hub  
Ortega said the President is also expected to promote the Philippines as a business destination, as the government aims to raise up to \$60 billion in investments from China until 2016.

The government is also eyeing at least two million tourists from China by 2016.

Ortega said \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in investments had already been firming up under the five-year trade and economic development plan between the Philippines and China until 2016.

"That would be included in the five-year plan. Just like we are hoping that there will be (\$60 billion in investments) by 2016. So that is the target. We always have targets and we won't have this target if it would not be possible. We will work hard but I think it could be done," Ortega said.

She said 200 to 250 business people from the Philippines would be joining the President to explore

opportunities in Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen.

"We have a luncheon with the Chinese economic policy makers, policy banks and regulators with the President. Following that, we will have one-on-one meetings with individual Chinese businessmen. These businessmen are those that are really interested in doing business in the Philippines and hope-

fully most of them would be engaged in the PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects that we are offering," Ortega said.

She said the President would likewise meet with the Filipino communities in China but would not likely make a pitch for Philippines in detention, although an agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons was being worked out as well as stronger cooperation against human trafficking and drug smuggling.

The President said he would also bring up the shelved NorthRail project with Beijing.

"We're hoping that we will move forward on the NorthRail and other issues," Aquino told reporters in an ambush interview after welcoming the BRP Gregorio del Pilar at Pier 15, South Harbor in Manila on Tuesday.

The 80-kilometer railroad, a flagship program of the Arroyo administration, will link the northern flank of Metro Manila with the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark free port in Pampanga.

From an original budget of \$421 million, the NorthRail project cost has now gone up to \$621 million.

The DOTC earlier suspended the contract for the NorthRail project with Sinomach (formerly China National Machinery and Equipment Corp.) due to its slow progress and cost overruns. ■

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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Philippine Cultural Foundation Names Parents of Year

**RENATO AND MARIA ETRATA HAVE BEEN NAMED** the 2011 Hawaii Parents of the Year by the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii.

The award recognizes exceptional Filipino couples who ensure the college education of their children and foster in them values that make them achievers and role models in their respective communities. The minimum requirements for consideration include having not less than three children graduate from a U.S. university with a bachelor's degree—which is no small feat considering today's high costs for a college degree.

The couple has raised four children—Arlene, Renato Jr., Ann Marie and Rosemary. All of them are col-

lege graduates and working as professionals in their respective fields.

Arlene attended Cannon's Business College and Texas A&M University, where she majored in business administration and accounting. She is currently working in Texas.

Renato Jr., is a medical internist and doctor of pharmacy. He attended the University of the Pacific and the University of Hawaii-Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine. He works for Kaiser Permanente on the mainland as an anesthesiologist.

Ann Marie graduated from UH with a degree in education and from the University of California-Long Beach with a master's in special education. She is a special education teacher at an elementary school in



2011 Parents of the Year, Renato and Maria Etrata

Long Beach, California.

Last, but not least, Rosemary graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a bachelor's in nursing. She works as an administrator for

Preferred Home and Community Based Services—the family owned business.

Renato and Maria emphasized early on to their children the importance of a good education.

"We encouraged them to pursue higher education to attain a better life," Maria says. "We disciplined them but also gave them freedom to choose whatever field they wanted to pursue."

Raising four children, along with making ends meet, was not an easy task but the Etratas managed to do just fine. They emphasized love, discipline and guidance, along with regular family discussion during dinner time.

"We are a very close-knit family," Maria says. "The dinner table

was very important. It was where we would discuss family matters at the end of the day."

In addition to successfully raising their four children, the Etratas have also had fulfilling careers. Renato worked at Amfac for 28 years and Safeway for nearly 8 years until he retired a few years ago.

Maria is currently the president and founder of Preferred Home & Community Based Services and Home & Community Services of Hawaii, both of which are day care centers for the elderly. Maria was named the 2007 Filipino Business Woman of the Year by the Filipino Business Women's Association for her excellent track record of caring for the elderly and medically-fragle of our community. ■

## Nominees for 2011 Parents of the Year

**FOUR OTHER PARENTS WERE NOMINATED** for Parents of the Year. They also deserve recognition for inspiring their children to be all that they can be in life and encouraging them to pursue higher education.

### FEDERICO AND FLORIDA BADUA



Federico and Florida were both employed by Del Monte Corporation. Federico worked as a planter, then as tractor operator until he retired. Florida picked pineapples and worked her way to

a supervisor until she retired.

Although they did not finish high school, they encouraged their children—Nancy Burnett, Vilma Atiburcio and Froilan Badua—to study hard, work hard and acknowledge God's blessings. They are very proud of their children's accomplishments.

Now in their late 70s, both Federico and Florida lead simple lives. They are actively involved with the San Nicolas Organization of Hawaii. Federico also belongs to a gardening organization in Wahiawa, while Florida is a member of the St. John the Apostle and Evangelist Church choir, cleaning committee, women's guild and Filipino Catholic Club.

### LORENZO (LARRY) AND ESTEFANIA (FANNY) FIESTA

Larry and Fanny met in history class at Divine Word College in Laog, Ilocos Norte. After graduating, Fanny left for Hawaii to be with her parents but returned two



years later to marry him.

Larry worked at the Halekulani Hotel, Royal Hawaiian Hotel and as an agent at New York Life Insurance. He is currently a family service counselor at Valley of the Temples Memorial Park and the owner of El Fiesta Tax Service, LLC. Fanny worked as claims examiner at HMSA for many years and is now a claims examiner for Aloha Care.

Larry and Fanny are active members of the Divine Word College Alumni Association of Hawaii. Larry served as a board of director

for the association which raises scholarship funds for students attending Divine Word College. They also both serve as eucharistic ministers at St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi and are members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

Their children are Zonia Fiesta, Laureen Ann Fiesta and Lawrence Fiesta.

### ROMULO AND ELENA ONNAGAN



Romulo and Elena met while he was helping his father, a contractor, build the home of Elena's parents. The couple credits their parents as their greatest inspiration and for instilling in them a strong desire to succeed in life.

Their children are Sean Orville Onnagan, Samantha Love Onnagan and Shaina Lucky Onnagan.

Romulo owns All the Way Builders. Elena retired from McDonalds where she started as a crewmember in 1978, became a trainer, swing assistant and first assistant manager at various McDonalds restaurants on Oahu. They are also members of the Pasuquino Association of Hawaii. During his term as first vice president, they contributed to the improvement of their hometown of Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte. They sponsored four students who graduated from college, helped prepare medical provisions for the Aloha Medical Mission's trip to the

Philippines and hope to one day establish a computer school and library in Pasuquin.

### ADEODATO AND PRISCILLA VILLALOBOS



Adeodato and Priscilla met in Manila. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban missile crisis and Vietnam War, then worked as a civilian employee for the U.S. government. After being married for 44 years, both are now retired and enjoying life.

The couple worked hard to make ends meet and diligently saved for their children's college education. They instilled in their children—Leiani Villalobos-Arakaki, Aladin Villalobos and Amber Villalobos—the value of higher education, which ultimately leads better opportunities in life.

Adeodato and Priscilla are also active officers and members of several community organizations, including the Zambaleñan Club of Hawaii, the Bulacan Circle and Associates of Hawaii. They also participate in the Fil-Com Center's annual Filipino Fiesta and Kapusanan Ng Tagalog sa Hawaii Annual Reading of the Christ's Family during Lent. Adeodato serves as an usher, while Priscilla sings in the choir at the Resurrection of the Lord Catholic Church. ■

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# IMMIGRATION GUIDE

## “Backdoor Amnesty” for Certain Illegal Aliens



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

The Obama administration announced via a blog, yes, blog, not a television address or press conference, on August 18, that was posted by Cecilia Munoz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, not Barack Obama, that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) will be reviewing the current deportation caseload to clear out low-priority cases on a case-by-case basis and make room to deport people who have been convicted of crimes or pose a security risk.

### BENEFICIARIES OF AMNESTY

The low priority people include individuals such as (1) young people who were brought to this country as small children, and who know no other home, (2) military veterans, and (3) the spouses of active military personnel.

On the same day, Secretary Janet Napolitano of the Department of Homeland Security wrote to Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, author of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act

that was rejected by the last Congress, that the DHS has established priorities governing how DHS uses its immigration enforcement resources. We were able to obtain a copy of the letter. She indicated that DHS will focus on border security and identifying and removing criminal aliens, those who pose a threat to public safety and national security, repeat immigration violators and other individuals prioritized for removal. She recalled that the President had said that it made no sense to expend enforcement resources on low priority cases, such as those individuals who were brought to this country as young children and know no other home. She said that “prosecutorial discretion” will be implemented to ensure that resources are uniformly focused on the highest priorities, and together with the DOJ to execute a case-by-case review of all individuals currently in removal proceedings to ensure that they constitute the highest priorities, and to ensure that new cases placed in removal proceedings similarly meet such priorities.

### BACKDOOR AMNESTY DENOUNCED

This is “backdoor amnesty” for illegal aliens, charged Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, who succeeded Napolitano as governor. Appearing on CNN on August 19, she accused

Obama of acting “like a king” by declaring an amnesty “by executive fiat” after Congress had rejected the so-called DREAM Act. She said that the President “has no authority to override Congress” but that he should “work with Congress” and “enforce the rule of law.” Brewer said that the President was “playing politics” and that his action will “boomerang” saying that she did “not believe the American people will support it.”

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Lamar Smith, (R-Texas) similarly denounced the new policy saying that “the Obama administration has again made clear its plan to grant back-door amnesty to illegal immigrants.”

The Immigration Law Daily, a pro-immigrant on line publication said in a commentary titled “Prosecutorial Indiscretion” that “This DHS announcement is intended to curry favor with the DREAMers who were brought to the USA as minors by their parents and being the American in spirit (albeit not in law) that they are, are pains in the neck to the powers-that-be. . . . This action by DHS is consistent with the cowardly approach that this administration has consistently had from inception on immigration matters. While it may curry favor in the Red States, the Obama re-election team can write-off New Mexico, Nevada, and Col-

orado if this announcement is the best they can do. Elections have consequences, once Republicans are firmly in charge of all levers of power post-November 2012, the door will be open for an about-face on immigration policy, thus cementing a split in the Latino vote for a generation, effectively locking the Democratic Party out of power. Such is the hope and change that will likely be Mr. Obama’s legacy.”

Immigration attorney Matthew Kolken in a blog published by the Immigration Law Daily ridiculed the new policy, saying “I’m confident that this is little more than lip service, and that it will remain business as usual for the Obama administration’s deportation machine.” Last year, the Obama administration reportedly deported about 400,000 aliens, the highest of any President.

Other critics of the policy believe that this will add to the problems of our country by hiring new employees to process the papers of the illegal aliens, increasing the number of unemployed by adding an estimated two million aliens to the labor pool, making it more difficult for students to get into college because there will be more people competing for admission, reducing the chances of students in getting scholarship grants since there will be thousands of others competing for these grants.

### FILIPINO BENEFICIARIES

There are only a few potential Filipino beneficiaries of this new policy. We know of no military veterans or the spouses of active military personnel who are in deportation. How many minor Filipino children were brought by their parents illegally? I

know of only 13 in Hawaii, 10 of whom we represented. Their parents committed fraud by claiming that their petitioning father was still alive, although dead. The children were derivatives. We won 8 of the 10 cases using existing waivers and other immigration relief. We did not need an amnesty.

### TESTING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION’S SINCERITY

We are going to test the sincerity of the Obama administration by filing a petition to remand to the DHS for review and/or to administratively close the two remaining pending cases. We will point out the prosecutorial indiscretion committed by DHS when they placed these children in removal proceedings, since DHS had already issued a memorandum in June 2010, before the children were placed in proceedings, to prioritize resources to remove aliens posing a danger to national security or public safety. We will challenge the administration to show that they are not merely doing “lip service” to immigration reform in order to win votes for the big boss. Abangan. ■

(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: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDD at 1270, AM, dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.tbko.com.)

# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Mighty Mo to Host WWII 66th Anniversary Ceremony

**THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL** will commemorate the 66th anniversary of the end of World War II with a ceremony on September 3, 2011, from 8 am to 9 am aboard the Mighty Mo.

Rear Adm. Girrier, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven, USS Ronald Reagan Strike Group, will join keynote speaker Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, WWII veteran and national spokesman for The Greatest Generations Foundation, in offering remarks.

The program will feature patriotic music, a rifle salute, Echo Taps and a special Old Glory Detail by the Navy Region Hawaii chief petty officers. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the ship’s decks, including the site where Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur and representatives from 10 nations assembled on September 2, 1945, to accept Japan’s formal surrender.

During WWII, Heilman joined

the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to Okinawa. Heilman’s outfit took over Chimu Field, an airstrip vital to sustaining the bombing of Japan. He later served on occupation duty in Japan, flying as a radio operator on staff of the Commander of the Fifth Fleet, taking intelligence personnel to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other sites in the Pacific, and even surviving an airplane crash on two Jima.

Today, Dr. Heilman is chancellor of the University of Richmond and serves as spokesman for The Greatest Generations Foundation, a Denver-based, non-profit organization sponsoring the return of 20 WWII veterans to Pearl Harbor this month.

Rear Adm. Girrier assumed his duties in February 2011. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Surface Warfare Officer, Girrier most recently served as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eleven, USS Nimitz Strike Group, from March 2010 to February 2011. From 2008 to 2010,

he served as vice commander, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, with operational commander duties in 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th Fleets. In both these tours, his commands pioneered innovative tactics, improving naval force warfighting effectiveness.

In additional sea tours, Girrier commanded Destroyer Squadron 15, from 2005 to 2007, forward deployed in Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron developed new tactics, techniques and procedures for anti-submarine warfare and maritime ballistic missile defense while exercising extensively with navies throughout the 7th Fleet area. Girrier is co-author of professional naval books “Command at Sea,” “Watch Officers Guide” and “Division Officer’s Guide.”

The ceremony is free but reservations are encouraged, as space is limited. RSVPs are being accepted online at USSMissouri.org. Complimentary roundtrip shuttle bus service from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center will be available beginning at 7 am. ■



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# WHAT'S COOKING?

## Kitchen Lamb-ada

FOOD FOR THOUGHT by Millie & Karla REYES

**M**ILLIE: Karla and I are habitual lamb eaters. The same goes for the rest of my family. We adore it in any cut or form, whether as leg, rack or chop and cooked in any manner: grilled, roasted, braised or even hotpot style. My Dad enjoyed it so much with a bit of mint sauce or mint jelly that when we would frequent restaurants that served a particular lamb dish he liked but did not serve mint jelly, he would always make sure we brought a bottle along. Every time we eat fancy, I'd choose a lamb dish over sea bass or Angus beef anytime. I just love it! My favorite lamb dishes are grilled lamb chops, braised lamb shank with an exquisite red wine sauce, and lamb curry — ooh la la! I still remember the very first time I tasted lamb was when I was 18 years old, at the Chateau d'Ouchy in Lausanne, Switzerland. It had a very distinct flavor, so different from the regular red meat I was used to.

In cooking class, I took a special interest in lamb dishes and got hooked. The simplest recipe I learned that one may even try at home is a piece of boneless lamb leg, rubbed and cooked with lots of fresh garlic, simply seasoned with ground pepper and salt and oven-roasted. The

sauce would be made from drippings cooked with fresh mint leaves in garlic and olive oil.

Another favorite and easy recipe is braised lamb cooked with sprigs of rosemary and thyme, bay leaf and whole cloves of peeled garlic. Add this to a mirepoix of diced onions, carrots and celery cooked in about half a cup of vegetable or olive oil. To braise, add a tablespoon of tomato paste, a cup of dry white wine, two to three cups of chicken stock and a handful of chopped parsley. Squeeze the zest of half a



Our Sunday dinner: Braised Australian lamb *osso buco*-style

lemon for that extra zing! Braise the meat until tender and the sauce is thick enough to pour over a rich risotto, buttered noodles or some boiled potatoes.

Lamb is actually meat from young sheep, is considered lean and said to be healthy.

Last week, Karla and I met Italian chef Danny Russo, who was in Manila for the World Food Expo on the invitation of Meat and Livestock Australia to promote lamb cooking with Aus-

tralian lamb. Chef Russo demonstrated ways to prepare lamb dishes and even shared practical tips and recipes for professionals, students and cooking enthusiasts.

MLA gave us some lamb samples and we cooked it *osso buco*-style for our regular Sunday dinner at home and it was great!

**KARLA:** Last June 12, I was given the opportunity to join my first ever cooking competition. It was held at the Legazpi Sunday Market and entitled "Adobolympics 2011." Our main objectives were to

prepare two dishes: one using a secret ingredient, which they later divulged to be lamb, and the other, any specialty of choice. My uncle, Raymond Reyes, who religiously wakes up early in the morning every Sunday to sell his Beer Can Chicken at the Legazpi Market, signed up for the competition not realizing that he would be out of the country with his family. His persistence on the matter convinced me help him out and be his representative, or I'd never hear the end of it. Haha! Our team consisted of Edmund, Tito Raymond's helper at his Sky RayBBQ and Grill at the Legazpi Market every Sunday, and Rea Ferrer, my chef from Go Gourmet by The Plaza on the fourth floor of Rustan's Makati. Tito Ray assigned us to make a side dish to go with his Beer Can Chicken plus an original creation. Since it was my first competition, I honestly did not know where to begin. Rea and I had several brainstorming sessions but ended up chatting and waiting until the last minute. We did two trials for our dishes. First was when we experimented with different dishes to finalize one product, and the second to time-trial everything to make it fit within the given time frame. We settled on Ski Ray's Beer Can Chicken with adobo risotto with garlic flakes and adobo breaded lamb with



Karla's entry to the Adobolympics: Adobo breaded Australian lamb with adobo mayo sauce on chicken adobo risotto

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pc. chicken breast
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup vinegar
- 3 cups water
- 3 pcs. minced garlic
- 6 pcs. peppercorn
- 2 pcs. bay leaves
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 2 tbsps. oil

### PROCEDURE:

In a medium saucepan heat 2 tbsps. of oil then sauté garlic.

Add the chicken to the pan. Then add the water, soy sauce, vinegar, peppercorns and bay leaves. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes or when meat is tender. Remove the chicken from the sauce.

In a medium bowl, combine 1cup adobo sauce and 2 cups mayonnaise, mix until well-blended.

adobo mayo sauce and a simple garlic mashed potato.

On the competition day, we were provided with sponsored Datu Puti items to use for our adobo and Lamb from Meat and Livestock Australia. Despite the outdoor conditions and space constraints, everything was going perfectly well in terms of our preparations and timing. Yes, I had a schedule prepared, with approximate durations on how much time we should spend preparing a certain item. But at around the last hour of the competition, everything started to go wrong. I'm not sure if it also had to do with the constant rounds of the judges and their intense questions that were so nerve-wracking, or if it was pure bad luck. Our stove was acting up and would take forever to turn on, plus the fact that sudden gusts of wind would knock out the fire on the stove, especially since

we were using low heat to cook the adobo. This probably happened three times without me noticing immediately. So I had no choice but to crank up the knob to catch up, and naturally, we probably got deductions for using medium heat on our adobo. Finally, when we were all done, we were just about to garnish our plate when our veggies for garnish fell on the ground! Panic! After five seconds of shock, Rea and I realized there was no way we were going to be able to make another batch of our creamed kangkong in a tomato cup as sidings for the adobo breaded lamb. Thankfully, we had extra grilled vegetable skewers and used it as sidings for both the chicken and the lamb.

Facing the judges was the scariest feeling ever. It was obvious that they were interested in just the food because no matter how much I smiled at them while I was presenting, they were all just looking at our plates, taking a bite or jutting down stuff. Haha! Well, although we didn't win a formal prize, we placed third out of 12 teams, which is pretty great considering everything that happened that morning, and that it was my first competition. ([www.phistar.com](http://www.phistar.com))



Genie of the lamb: Chef Danny Russo was in Manila to promote home cooking with lamb under the sponsorship of Meat and Livestock of Australia

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## TRAVEL &amp; TOURISM

## 'Help Regain Phl Glory as Int'l MICE Hub'

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

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim is urging the entire nation to help regain the Philippines' prominence in the 1970s up to the early 1980s as an international meetings, incentive travel, conventions, exhibitions/events (MICE) destination.

Lim said the attainment of that goal by 2016 would leapfrog the growth of the country's foreign visitor arrivals, as the Philippines, since recent memory, has barely scratched the surface of this high-value MICE market.

"In the meantime, though, we have to focus on meetings that we have the capacity for, while taking advantage of our inherent superiority in terms of natural attractions and the hospitality of our English-speaking people," Lim said at a press briefing shortly after he and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia spearheaded the world's industry leaders in opening the Philippine MICE Conference (MICECON) 2011 at the Cebu International Convention Center recently.

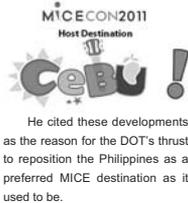
This new priority goal of turn-

ing the country into a MICE hub would make the Philippines compete directly with fellow Southeast Asian countries Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Based on the 2008 statistics of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), the Philippines as a convention destination ranked 44th in the world and 12th in Asia Pacific after Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and New Zealand.

Singapore, according to the 2008 ICCA figures, ranks fifth in the world's top 10 countries and fourth in the world's top 10 cities for meetings and conventions.

"But according to industry analysts recently, MICE buyers are no longer looking at well-established cities, but at new and upcoming MICE destinations in Asia. Rising countries like Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, which are currently being marketed aggressively, are scrambling for a slice of this market," Lim said in his opening message to MICECON's unprecedented number of more than 450 participants.



He cited these developments as the reason for the DOT's thrust to reposition the Philippines as a preferred MICE destination as it used to be.

For this year, however, Lim is eyeing a modest volume of only 187,500 MICE visitors, or five percent of the country's total inbound target of 3.75 million by end-2011.

Nevertheless, this MICE target is equivalent to \$525 million or P23.63 billion in tourism receipts based on a foreign convention participant's average daily spending of \$700 on an average stay of four days.

"And with the private sector supporting a MICE infrastructure boom, the Philippines is again poised to elevate its position as a destination for international events," Lim said.

Lim was referring to the 57 new accommodation facilities and integrated resort developments that have begun operations in Metro



Recently resigned Philippine Tourism Secretary Alberto A. Lim (center) tours the One Cebu exhibition at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) on August 11, 2011 together with Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia (left) and Central Visayas Tourism Regional Director Rowena Montecillo (right). MICECON FB page

Manila, Cebu, Boracay and other local destinations this year, generating some 3,000 additional room capacity.

These developments augur well for a global MICE market that ICCA statistics show as preferring hotels to convention centers as venues for meetings and conferences.

Nonetheless, the SM Group is building more convention and event venues in Baguio, Cebu, Bacolod, and Davao while other real estate conglomerates like Robinson's Land and Sta. Lucia are further investing in tourism-related projects.

Similarly expanding is the aviation industry, with major airlines increasing their fleet and flight frequencies as the country's international airports are building additional facilities.

"With these developments, there is no better time than now for

international meetings and events organizers to put back the Philippines in their shopping cart," Lim told the conference participants, which included a powerhouse of MICE experts and guests from the United States, France, Ireland, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, and Vietnam.

Lim's call appeared to have gained political emphasis later in the day at the MICECON's Governor's Night when Garcia presented her special guest, Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, who described herself as a "MICE baby" and vowed to pursue tourism cooperation between her province and Cebu.

Marcos recalled having grown up with the rise of MICE infrastructure and facilities all over Metro Manila that made the Philippines the center for international meetings and conventions in all of Asia.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Lay Catholic Group Raises P2.7 Million to Buy Vehicles for Bishops

by Evelyn MACAIRAN/  
Thursday, August 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - A LAY CATHOLIC GROUP LED BY FORMER MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza and election lawyer Romulo Macalintal yesterday said they have already raised P2.7 million and have donated utility vehicles to at least three Catholic bishops.

CBCPNews, the official news service provider of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said Macalintal revealed that the money was used to purchase four Foton pickup trucks.

Television host Willie Revillame has also donated P100,000 with a van and another pickup truck.

"The drive was a success and we thank everyone for their help. Catholics from all walks of life, from the rich to the poor, responded to our call," Macalintal said.

A pickup truck was already donated to the Diocese of Bontoc-Lagawe headed by Bishop Rodolfo

Beltran.

The Diocese of Butuan under Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, who was highly criticized for asking former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for a car for his birthday, received the van from Revillame.

Tabuk Bishop Prudencio Andaya also received a pickup truck for his diocese's social action programs although he was not implicated in the so-called "PCSO fund mess."

"The Foton pickup trucks were worth P800,000 but we were able to get a big discount. We also asked Toyota and Mitsubishi but their pickup trucks were worth P1.6 million," Macalintal added.

Catoblat Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, meanwhile, declined the donation, saying that it should be given to poor dioceses in need of vehicles instead.

Other prelates implicated in the controversy were archbishops Romulo Valles of Zamboanga and



Ernesto Salgado of Nueva Segovia and bishops Martin Jumoad of Basilan and Leopoldo Jaucian of Bangued.

Valles, Salgado and Jumoad, however, are still waiting for word from Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, the incoming

CBCP president, if they should receive the vehicles.

Jaucian earlier received a car donated by his Filipino-Chinese parishioners to reach the remote areas under his pastoral jurisdiction.

Other personalities who gave money to the fund drive were Senators Vicente Sotto III (P200,000), Francis Escudero (P100,000), and Bong Revilla and his wife, Cavite Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla, (P200,000).

The fund drive was launched last July to provide utility vehicles for seven prelates who were criticized for receiving cars from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) during the Arroyo administration. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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■ **PHILIPPINE NEWS**

'U.S. Says Mindanao has \$1-T  
Untapped Mineral Resources'

by Angelo **GUTIERREZ**  
Wednesday, August 24, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **A PEACE PACT WITH THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF)** could be the Philippines' way out of poverty, a congressman said today citing a US intelligence assessment.

Iloilo Rep. Jerry Treñas, chairman of the House committee on good government and public accountability, said that the success of the ongoing peace talks between the government and the MILF plays a vital role in solving poverty.

Treñas said that based on the US intelligence assessment, "the Philippines may have untapped minerals worth between US\$840 billion to US\$1 trillion" in Mindanao.

The congressman said that the US intelligence assessment was included in the 2006 "unclassified/for official use only" cable from the US embassy in Manila released online by Singapore-based journalist Andrew Macgregor Marshall.

He said that the assessment can only become a reality of peace and security in Mindanao is secured through the success of the government-initiated peace talks with the MILF.

Treñas said that the intelligence assessment "basically assures that peace in Mindanao could catapult the entire nation from being a third world nation into a major economic power in Asia."

"We've always known that Mindanao is fertile and rich in natural and mineral resources but I didn't realize that Mindanao's mineral wealth can single-handedly reverse our present economic situation. With this report, I'm convinced more than ever that our key to finally

become a first world nation is to bring peace and development to Mindanao," he said.

The lawmaker said that the US intelligence assessment should raise the urgency for the forging of peace talks between the government and the MILF. He urged opposition congressmen to support the Aquino administration's bid to secure the peace deal.

President Benigno Aquino III had recently met with MILF leader Al Haj Murad in Tokyo. Both agreed to speed up the talks and work for the forging of a peace pact before Aquino's term expires in 2016.

Treñas said the US report should now convince skeptics that President Aquino is on the right direction in his decision to do anything possible that is within the bounds of law to guarantee the success of the peace talks between the government and the MILF.

He also dismissed claims that a peace deal between the government and the MILF is a "sell out" of the nation's patrimony because on the contrary, the full integration of the MILF and their decision to give up their quest of an independent state is a big leap forward in promoting national patrimony.

"We should stop talking about national patrimony in a manner that treats the MILF as non-Filipinos. The fact that they have given up secessionism should be considered as something that strengthens our nation and not something that weakens it," Treñas said.

Talks between the government and the MILF bogged down Tuesday after the MILF panel led by Mohagher Iqbal rejected the proposals presented by the government peace panel enumerating economic and political solutions that can end the armed conflict in Mindanao. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

**Pinay Chosen for Q&A  
with Pope**

by Evelyn **MACAIRAN**  
Monday, August 22, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD KRITZIA SANTOS** of the Philippines represented Asia in a special session and answer session with Pope Benedict XVI at the World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain.

Santos was one of five young Catholics given the opportunity to ask the Pope directly on youth issues just before the Saturday (Madrid time) vigil at the World Youth Day (WYD) festival in Madrid, the CBCPNews reported. Santos, according to CBCPNews, is the only Filipino WYD volunteer and a member of Regnum Christi, an apostolic lay movement. The report did not mention further details regarding her identity.

Before 1.5 million pilgrims, she asked the Pontiff how should modern young people balance their desire for success with the call to be Christian.

"It is my desire to reach high goals, but success and big dreams are always linked to amassing wealth and high positions. How can I



*Kritzia Santos asking Pope Benedict XVI a question during the World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain.*

be faithful to my faith without distancing myself from society?" she asked the Holy Father. Pope Benedict XVI replied, "In the Gospel, Jesus gives us an answer. Deep in our hearts, we yearn for what is grand and beautiful in life, but ground them in Jesus."

In an interview with YouthPinoy! Santos said that at first she was hesitant to accept the invitation to take part in the Q&A "because I'm a very shy person, I didn't want to."

After almost three months in Madrid coordinating the WYD volunteers for Asia, Santos was nervous but ecstatic when she received the offer.

"It's such a blessing... I don't desire many things I receive in my life," she said referring to her experience. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Noy on Hostage Tragedy: Unfair to Blame 95M Pinoys

by Delon **PORCALLA**  
Wednesday, August 24, 2011

**MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT AQUINO CLARIFIED YESTERDAY** that while the Philippine government regrets the death of eight Hong Kong tourists in the August 2010 hostage-taking incident, its citizens should try to be fair because nobody wanted it to happen in the first place.

"Giving an apology connotes that the state did them grievous harm. I don't think that is correct. This was the act of one man. In the same token that some of our citizens have been affected elsewhere in the world, we do not blame the entire population," he said.

Yesterday marked the first anniversary of the hostage-taking incident in Manila perpetrated by a dismissed policeman and disastrously managed by authorities, resulting in a bungled rescue operation that resulted in the death of eight tourists and the hostage-taker.

The President cited the massacre last month in Norway, where some 80 people were killed by a "deranged gunman," who bares close resemblance to the lone hostage-taker in Luneta, a be-medalled policeman who was expelled due to alleged extortion.

"We know that there are criminal elements, there are mentally deranged individuals that pose a threat to anybody regardless of race or country of origin," he told reporters at Pier 13, where he was guest of honor at the arrival rites of BRP Gregorio del Pilar (PF-15).

"In the same token that in Norway was this was tragedy that could have been prevented because of a solitary, deranged gunman," Aquino pointed out, implying that it was something beyond their control.

"So can we really be faulted? There was such a rapid turn of events that I don't think any force anywhere in the world (could have prevented it)," he added.

Hong Kong authorities have been also aware that "all of the victims had been shot even before our forces moved against them."

But he said this is not to say that the Philippine government is not sorry for the tragedy.

"We sympathize and we continue to sympathize with them. We really wish it did not happen. We hope we had performed better at that point in time," Aquino said.

The President expressed hope that the families of the victims could move on, since it has been a year since the tragedy occurred.

"We understand they're hurt, but hopefully they understand also that we could have improved and we have been improving from then to now."

He said the families of the victims are aware of the fact that both public and private concerns from "this country have really tried to assist them in their moving on."

"Even at our levels right now, if you have a deranged individual who suddenly changes disposition practically knowing there are very serious limitations as to what one person or any country can do. But, again, we deeply regret what has transpired," Aquino repeated.

### SOLIDARITY MASS

The President did not attend a mass commemorating the first anniversary of the bungled hostage crisis held yesterday, but Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Lella de Lima and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jesse Robredo were present.

Robredo and Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Raul Bacalzo led police personnel in the Mass that was held at the St. Joseph Chapel inside Camp Crame that was officiated by Bishop Leopoldo Tumalak.

The DILG secretary said the government has done a lot, including putting up solidarity funds for the victims, although he pointed out that there was no price tag for the lives of



those who perished.

"If you ask me, an apology coming from us is mere words. The more important dimension of the incident is that we are taking actions," Robredo said.

De Lima, on the other hand, said President Aquino did not answer the demands for criminal suits and damages made by survivors and families of the victims.

In an ambush interview, the DOJ chief said she immediately relayed to the President what she called requests – not demands – in a meeting at the Palace on Monday afternoon following her closed-door meeting with the survivors and families.

She said she believes the President is carefully considering the matter before making a decision since the requests were "serious" and would "need careful consideration."

"No comments yet from the President so I think he will also wait for my recommendation and written report (on the meeting)," she explained.

De Lima said she would submit her recommendation to the President next week.

On Monday, a delegation composed of a survivor, a lawyer for two survivors, relatives of a victim and a Hong Kong legislator publicly expressed their disappointment over what they perceive to be insufficient actions taken by the government in response to the incident.

They demanded financial compensation without the usual tedious and expensive process and asked the government to criminally prosecute officials and authorities involved in the bungled rescue

Relatives of the victims of the Aug. 23, 2010 hostage tragedy and some of the survivors offer prayers at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila yesterday. | JONHUN VICTOR

operation.

The relatives of the victims also sought a formal apology from the government and visited the site of the incident in the Luneta.

Tse Chi Hang, brother of Tse Ting-Chun Masa, who was the tour guide of the ill-fated tourist bus, said the government officials who met them expressed sorrow for the incident, but what they wanted is a formal apology from the Philippine government.

"What we are asking for is to ask the Philippine government to be accountable for the whole incident because they have made many silly mistakes and many decisions during the whole incident. Someone has to come out to take responsibility on this, and someone has to compensate all those injured and all those hurt by the whole incident," he stressed.

### JUSTICE CRAWLS IRRITATINGLY SLOW

But while the one-year anniversary brings back bitter memories, the National Police Commission (Napolcom) has yet to rule on the administrative cases slapped against four of five accused police officers.

Napolcom vice chairman and executive officer Eduardo Escueta said 13 separate hearings have so far been conducted for the cases filed against Chief Superintendent

Rodolfo Magtibay, then director of the Manila Police District (MPD); Superintendent Orlando Yebrá, the hostage negotiator; Chief Inspector Santiago Pascual, MPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit commander; and Senior Police Officer 2 Gregorio Mendoza, brother of hostage-taker Rolando Mendoza.

Magtibay has been charged with serious neglect of duty and gross incompetence; Yebrá with serious neglect of duty, serious irregularity in the performance of duty and gross incompetence; Pascual with gross incompetence; and Mendoza with grave misconduct and serious neglect of duty.

The case of another accused officer, Director Leopoldo Santiago, then chief of the National Capital Region Police Office during the hostage taking, has already been resolved after he served an 11-day suspension from March 4 to 14. Santiago was slapped with less grave neglect of duty.

Escueta said that in the case of Magtibay, the prosecution will still make a formal offer of evidence that will be followed by the respondent's presentation of his evidence.

He said the speed by which Napolcom will resolve all the cases filed against the respondents will depend on their respective lawyers and on the number of witnesses they will present.

Escueta admits that the process could have been faster if the parties in the cases – the respondents and the prosecution – had agreed to undergo a summary dismissal proceeding which only involves the submission of sworn statements and position papers.

(www.phlistar.com)

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## DFA Orders Mandatory Evacuation of Pinoys from Libya

by Pia LEE-BRAGO  
Tuesday, August 23, 2011

### MANILA, Philippines - THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) ORDERED

yesterday the forced repatriation of some 1,600 Filipinos in Libya where rebels were making a final push to crush forces loyal to embattled strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

"It's now Alert Level 4 which calls for mandatory evacuation," said DFA spokesman Raul Hernandez.

Earlier yesterday, the DFA told a press conference that the Philippine embassy in Tripoli would first monitor the situation before deciding if there would be a need to raise the alert status from level 3.

Hernandez said there were still clashes in the streets of Tripoli, although the rebels in many places around the capital were already celebrating the defeat of Gadhafi's forces.

"Many of them are medical workers and they are helping out in the hospitals taking care of the sick and injured Libyan nationals," Hernandez said, referring to Filipino workers in Libya.

At Malacañang, officials said the government is prepared for any eventuality in Libya and Syria, where thousands of Filipinos are in danger of getting caught in worsening violence.

"The President is having the situation in Libya validated so we can see what else can be done to help Filipinos who are there," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte told reporters in an informal briefing.

In Libya, the rebels were already in the heart of the capital Tripoli on Monday and were expected to swarm into Gadhafi's palace anytime.

Syrian security forces, meanwhile, continue their operations to crush protesters.



Libya's strongman Moammar Gadhafi

Valte said majority of the Filipinos in Libya are "nurses and medical workers, who are still safe within the hospitals that they work for."

"On the situation in Libya, the President has given additional instructions... We have been advised by the IOM (International Organization for Migration) that our people in the embassy must remain in the embassy due to violence in the streets," Valte said.

"We have been advised that it is highly, it is extremely unsafe for our people in the embassy to go out now to check the situation of our fellow Filipinos," she said.

Valte said the government's warning to Filipinos in Libya to avoid venturing outside their homes or offices was first issued weeks ago when it became apparent that Gadhafi was not prepared to step down.

"We have made that call I think as early as the end of last week. The embassy is there, our officials are there and they are ready to assist you (OFWs)."

Out of around 1,000 OFWs in Libya, 86 have so far manifested their desire to be repatriated, according to the DFA.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), for its part, said it has a list of 258 Filipinos - mostly domestic workers - who now want to leave Syria.

The OWWA said 61 other OFWs in Libya who ran away from their employers are also awaiting repatriation.

"The embassy is there and the DFA's quick response team arrived



People celebrate the capture in Tripoli of Moammar Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, at the rebel-held town of Benghazi on Monday. Libyan rebels raced into Tripoli in a lightning advance on Sunday that met little resistance as the strongman's fighters melted away and his 41-year rule appeared to rapidly crumble. The euphoric fighters celebrated with residents of the capital in the city's main square, the symbolic heart of the regime. ■

over the weekend," Valte said, referring to Syria.

"They were deployed as quickly as possible and for those who need help, you can contact the embassy so they may extend the assistance that you require," she added, noting that some 100 OFWs in Syria have already expressed willingness to come home.

"I will have to check what our embassy's advice is to our countrymen in Syria, because the situation will be different depending on where they are," she said.

Most of the OFWs in Syria are domestic helpers.

"It's alert level 3 so there has to be repatriation. But it will depend on the Filipinos themselves if they want to return home."

### ASSESSING THE SITUATION

The DFA said it is checking if it is safe to designate areas in Libya where Filipinos willing to be repatriated can converge in preparation for their journey home.

"As of date, 86 Filipinos signified their intentions to leave Libya. The embassy is continuously assessing the security situation,

whether it would be safe for Filipinos to proceed to agreed meeting points for repatriation," the DFA said in a statement.

DFA Undersecretary Rafael Seguis reported that the Philippine embassy in Tripoli has received information that five more OFWs from Benghazi are willing to leave Libya.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Antonio Rodriguez said that with most of the Libyan capital now under rebel control, the Philippine embassy is trying to find out if forced evacuation may no longer be necessary.

"The embassy said they will wait and see for 24 hours if the situation will stabilize," Rodriguez told a press briefing.

On Aug. 12, DFA Secretary Albert del Rosario instructed Seguis to proceed to Tripoli to convince the remaining Filipinos in the embattled capital to leave.

Seguis visited neighboring towns and hospitals to arrange for the repatriation of some Filipinos willing to return.

Philippine Ambassador to Libya Alejandro Vicente and Seguis are coordinating with the IOM for the repatriation of the Filipinos by sea.

The IOM has made available 400 passenger seats on a chartered ship for Filipinos.

The DFA hotline for families of Filipinos still in Libya are 834-3240, 834-3245, and 834-3333.

### UNCOOPERATIVE EMPLOYERS

OWWA chief Carmelita Dimzon said Philippine authorities are negotiating with Syrian employers to allow their Filipino helpers to leave the strife-torn country.

"We now have the list of 258 Filipinos, mostly domestic helpers, who have registered for repatriation

from Syria and our embassy officials there are now negotiating with their employers for the release of their exit visas," Dimzon said.

She said some Syrian employers would only issue exit clearance in exchange for \$3,000 purportedly for the unserved portion of the Filipinos' employment contract.

"The Syrian employers are reluctant to allow the OFWs to leave because they believe there is really no peace and order problem in the country and thus there is no reason for the Philippine government to take away their domestic helpers," Dimzon said.

Dimzon said she believes there is no need to charter large vessels or planes for the repatriation since only a few are expected to leave Syria anyway.

"Some of those who have already registered may change their mind at the last minute so we don't expect massive repatriation and we may just be using commercial planes. We will be buying the tickets as soon as exit clearances of our workers are released," Dimzon pointed out.

Since negotiations between the Philippine embassy officials and employers are still ongoing, Dimzon said there is still no schedule for the first batch of repatriation.

Dimzon also noted that OWWA has yet to get hold of DFA's list of 86 OFWs wanting to be repatriated.

The OWWA chief said the OFWs from Libya would be evacuated by sea to Alexandria, Egypt, where they would be flown home on commercial flights.

"We have sufficient budget to buy the plane tickets so there is really no problem in repatriating our workers from Libya and Syria," she said.

The DFA has allocated \$550,000 or roughly P23 million for the forced evacuation of 17,000 Filipinos from Syria.

Meanwhile, National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCC) Director Vivian Tornea yesterday said returnees from Libya and Syria could avail of the government's P2-billion reintegration program.

Under the program, OWWA members wanting to expand existing businesses, or put up a new one, may avail of business loans from a minimum of P300,000 to a maximum of P2 million.

Since January this year, Tornea said, about 10,000 OFWs and dependents from the country's 17 regions have already attended NRCC's entrepreneurial development training, which is a requirement for those wishing to avail of the loan. ([www.phstar.com](http://www.phstar.com)) ■

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# LEGAL NOTES

## Humanitarian Reinstatement of a Revoked Family Petition



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

**B**eneficiaries of family-based immigrant petitions face lengthy backlogs for visa availability. For example, with the exception of spouses and children of permanent residents (F2A), the waiting period for family sponsored preferences for the Philippines runs from 10 to 23 years.

Given these long waiting times, it is quite possible for the petitioner to pass away between the time of the I-130 approval and the availability of a visa number. The petitioner's death results in the automatic revocation of the I-130 approval. As a

rule, the death of the petitioner results in the death of the petition. For many foreign nationals, this could mean the end of their dream of ever living in the United States.

However, the law gives the USCIS director the discretion not to revoke the approval in instances where revocation would not be appropriate for humanitarian reasons. The I-130 beneficiary may ask for the reinstatement of the revoked petition by submitting a written request for humanitarian reinstatement to the USCIS office where the I-130 petition was filed. Only approved petitions may be reinstated and not petitions where the petitioner died before the approval.

The following factors are considered in evaluating a humanitarian request: disruption of an established family unit; hardship to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents; if the beneficiary is eld-

erly or in poor health; if the beneficiary has had lengthy residence in the United States; if the beneficiary has no home to go to; undue delay by the DHS or consular officer in processing the petition and visa; and if the beneficiary has strong family ties in the United States.

The beneficiary must have a substitute sponsor who will execute the affidavit of support (I-864) in the place of the deceased petitioner. A law enacted in 2002 allowed the following relatives to become substitute sponsors of the beneficiary: spouse, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, child (if at least 18 years old), son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparent or grandchild or legal guardian of the beneficiary.

The substitute sponsor must meet the minimum income requirements and be a U.S. citizen or legal

permanent resident, at least 18 years old, and domiciled in the U.S.

In 2009, Congress passed a law that provides great relief to I-130 beneficiaries already present in the United States at the time of the petitioner's death. These beneficiaries may have their pending visa petition and adjustment of status application approved if they are surviving relatives under the law and they meet the residence requirement. In these cases, the petition does not die with the petitioner, so to speak.

The deceased qualifying relative may be the petitioner or the principal beneficiary in a family-based immigrant visa petition, the principal beneficiary in an employment-based visa petition, the petitioner in a refugee/asylee relative petition, the principal alien admitted as a T or U nonimmigrant, or the principal asylee who was

granted asylum.

Furthermore, the surviving relatives must have resided in the United States at the time of the petitioner's death, and continue to reside in the United States. For purposes of this law, "residence" need not be lawful U.S. residence.

Beneficiaries who were outside the United States when the petitioner died have humanitarian reinstatement as their only recourse. A claim of humanitarian factors must be supported by documentary evidence in order to increase the chances of the petition's reinstatement.

The laws on substitute sponsorship and surviving relatives were passed to ameliorate the harsh and unjust consequences to the beneficiary resulting from the petitioner's death. ■

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

## Pinoy WWII Veterans' Contribution Bill Passes in Senate

by Joseph PIMENTEL/  
Saturday, August 20, 2011

**LOS ANGELES – FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS** are one step closer to being recognized for their contributions in history textbooks across California.

California bill, AB 199, the Filipinos in WWII Social Studies Curriculum Act, passed the Senate Floor on Thursday with a 37 – 2 vote and will head to Governor Jerry Brown's desk next week.

The bill, AB 199, was re-introduced by Assemblymember Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco) earlier this year and if passed into law, would recognize the contributions of Filipino soldiers and civilians in World War II. The bill passed the Assembly in March with an overwhelming 72-0 vote.

"[This bill] encourages social science instruction for grades 7-12 to include instruction on World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war, consisting of an accurate history of the contributions of the Filipino American veterans who fought courageously in the United

States Army," said Ma, the bill's author.

"[And] to include a component drawn from personal testimony, especially in the form of oral or video histories of Filipinos who were involved in World War II and those men and women who contributed to the war effort on the home front."

This is the second time the bill passed the Assembly and Senate in California.

The last time then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declined to sign the bill saying, Filipinos contribution in WWII in textbooks should be taken up by the state's education board and not made into law, according to WWII Veteran Franco Arcebal.

"We lobbied Governor Schwarzenegger and tried to impress him but he said it should be taken up by the educational board rather than by legislation," said Arcebal. "It's important to include the services of the Filipinos during World War II in the history books because the American people do not understand or have any idea



Assemblymember Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco)

how the Filipino soldiers served during those days.

"When Bataan fell, the US was in its lowest [state] but with the help of the Filipinos and nurses and civilian combatants the Americans were able to recuperate and gain strength within five months," he added.

During World War II, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United States.

There were more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers that aided in defending against invading Japanese forces. The Filipino soldiers in the US Armed Forces were in effect US nationals, and the US

government promised them the same health and pension benefits as US soldiers, according to Ma.

However, after World War II ended, President Truman signed the Rescission Act of 1946. The Rescission Act states that the service of Filipinos "shall not be deemed to be or to have been service in the military or national forces of the United States or any component thereof or any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits."

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that included a provision that called for \$198 million for Filipino World War II veterans. According to the provision, Filipino World II veterans who received their US citizenship would receive \$15,000 each; non-citizens get \$9,000.

There is an estimated 15,000 Filipino World War II veterans still living today. ([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com)) ■



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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# PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

## Naselebraran Ti Ninoy Aquino Day Ken Ilocos Surian of Hawaii



**DAYASADAS**

by Pacita C. SALUDES

**S**aan a malipatan ti Agosto 18 a pannakatay daydi Senador Benigno Aquino Jr. nga inlagig dagiti Filipinos iti Hawaii babaaen ti panangidaulo ti Philippine Consulate General iti Hawaii. Dagiti mangigabi kadagiti nadumaduma nga organisasion ti nangparungbo a danggay dagiti nadumaduma nga agtuturay (sangsangaili) a nagbilita ti pamadayaw iti naselebraran.

Ti Presidente ti OFCC ni Maria A.F. Etrata ti nangidaulo ti panagkararag sakbay a narugian ti programa ken nakanta ti National Anthem nga indaulo ti Philippine Choral. Ni Consul General Leoncio Cardenas ti nag-welcome remarks. Simmaruno ti film showing ti biag ni Ninoy Aquino.

Natukay ti rikna dagiti amin nga timmabuno iti panangkanta ni Deputy Consul General Paul Raymond Cortes. Nangngegan met ti panagsarita ni Apo Mayor ti Honolulu, ni Maday-

dayaw Peter Carlisle kasta met Gobernador ti Estado iti Hawaii, Neil Abercrombie.

Inyam-ammo ni Col. Restituto Padilla Jr. nga AFP Liaison ti US PACOM Speaker ti Guest of Honor a ni Major General Eduardo Oban Jr. a Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Naragsak ken naurnos ti programa a naaramid iti daytoy a rabil babaaen ti panangiwawan ti nalatak nga agur-urnos kadagiti paspasken iti Oahu - ni Ms. Amelia Casamina-Cabatu.

Kalpasan ti programa isun ti naragsak a pananglak-am dagiti amin a timmabuno ti naisagana a pagsasanguan iti dayta a rabii. Nagyaman ti Philippine Consulate General kadagiti adu a nakitinnulong a nagserbi iti daytoy a rabii. Da agassawa a Renato ken Maria Etrata, Buddy and Melga Gendrano, Maggie Domingo, Bennette E. Misalucha, Edith Gudoy, Edna Alkippa, Henry and Lina Calderon, Reynaldo Edralin, Mr. ken Mrs Angel Dichoco, Gladys Menor, Lynn Gutierrez, Biculture Club of Hawaii, UFCH, OFCC, Phil. Cultural Foundation of Hawaii, Bulacan Circle & Associate,

GUMIL Oahu, North Star Deli and Jesse's Restaurant. Naragsak a pannakaselebrar ket KODOS to the Philippine Consulate General iti Honolulu.

### ILOCOSURIAN OF HAWAII

Ti ILOCOSURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII idasarna met ti Elpidio Quirino Award & Gala inton Sabado, August 27th at 6:00 pm to 11 pm idiy Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel & Spa Coral Ballroom, 2055 Kalia Road, Honolulu.

Attire is Formal/Barong Tagalog. Contact Maria Etrata at 392-2962 or Davelyn Quijano at 489-8782. Dagiti makaawat ti Award: Felipe (Jun) Abinsay Jr. ken Dr. Charlie Sonido. Maawis amin a Taga Ilocos Sur ken Ilokano Organization. Maaramid daytoy "To Rebuild Communities Here and in Our Homeland". Ti ILOCOS Surian Association, naorganisar idi 1358 Wanaka Street, Honolulu, HI. Danny Villarun ti agdama ita a Presidente ken nabayagen a presidente a nagpadur-as ti Ilocos Sur kadagiti adun a pagsayaatan a naaramid daytoy nga ASSOCIATION. ■

## KABABALIN

Naisangsangayan a talugading

A kawes ti tao manipud kinaubang Nasin-aw a ladawan natarnaw a sarming Mangipamatmat ti kinadayag adda naitaklin

Uray mayksa laeng a napanglaw

No dayta pusom nagpupunapan ti kinadayag Naracem, naragsak a pannakisarita natarnaw Agbalin a tampok di pulos mapukaw

Kadagiti ummong nga inka makisarsarita

Amin a tignaymo nalinis napakumbaba Kinasingpet, nadayaw, ragsak adda kenka Saguday a naindaklan, pagwadan a naiduduma

Agalalo no ti aramid idasarna ti kinadulus

Kinamangparbeng ken napasensia a pampanungot Ket ti panabiag awanan pangpungpungot Pamilia ken kagimongan, aramid bin-ig a naurnos

Kababalin katatan-okan a kinabaknang

Gameng ditoy lubong di magatadan Kadagiti amin a tao isut umok pagwadan Naindaklan a saguday sarming ti kagimongan

Nasayaat a kababalin, naindaklan a saguday

Sino man a tao nabaknang ken nakurapay Kawes a napateg a di pulos pamansaan Agpappanto ken patay, lagipto kenka sirarayray

## MAINLAND NEWS Ambassador Cuisia Calls on U.S. Companies to Invest in the Philippines

**PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., JOSE CUISIA, JR.** recently met with a group of CEOs of U.S. companies in New York and encouraged them to invest in the Philippines.

The meeting took place during a luncheon hosted by the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce in New York, one of the oldest bilateral Chambers of Commerce in the U.S., at the Philippine Center.

The 12 CEOs in attendance included Ms. Loida Lewis-Nicolas of TLC Beatrice and Catherine Smith, Connecticut State Commissioner for Economic and Community Development.

In his remarks, Cuisia talked about the positive news from the Philippines and the many opportunities for investments. He encouraged U.S. companies to partner with Filipino investors in undertaking major infrastructure projects under the Philippine government's

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

Highlighting the resiliency of the Philippine economy and the improving investment climate in the country, Cuisia called on U.S. investors to continue investing in the Philippines or to scale-up investments in growth sectors such as business process outsourcing, agribusiness, health and wellness, renewable energy and tourism.

Cuisia also discussed the Philippines' campaign to seek the passage of the Save Our Industries Act, a bill to be re-filed in the U.S. Congress that will allow duty-free entry into the U.S. of apparel products made in the Philippines using U.S.-made fabrics. He also disclosed the Philippines' interest to join the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) at some point in the future.

The Philippines was selected in January as one of four pilot pro-

(continued on page 15)

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, DINNER AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING/SATURDAY

August 27, 2011 • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233 or Maria Etrata @ 392-2962

### 60TH ANNIVERSARY AND 40TH ANNUAL MARIA CLARA BALL / SATURDAY

September 10, 2011, 6pm • Ala Moana Hotel • For details call Cecilia Villafuerte

@ 780-4985

### 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

### PMAH OHANA MEDICAL MISSION TO DAVAO, PHILIPPINES

December 12-16, 2011 • For more info, contact Arnold Villafuerte @ 220-2988

### ILOCOS SURIAN HOMECOMING MISSION

December 18-22, 2011 • For details, contact Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233

## GLOBAL NEWS

# 100 Filipinos Stranded in Macau

by Mayen **JAYMAUN**  
Thursday, August 11, 2011

### MANILA, Philippines - BE WARY OF JOB offers in Macau.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Carlos Cao Jr. yesterday said about a hundred Filipinos are now stranded in Macau after failing to find employment.

Cao warned against accepting job offers of employment in hotels and casinos in Macau, saying many unscrupulous persons are recruiting workers for non-ex-

istent jobs there.

He stressed the need for prospective overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to apply only with licensed recruitment agencies and make sure that they have legitimate job orders from foreign employers.

Cao also warned OFWs to be vigilant to avoid being victimized by unscrupulous individuals who are collecting money as processing fee in exchange for securing loans with the POEA.

He said a certain Ronnie Sonera

was caught on video surveillance camera, while collecting money from OFWs applying for a P30,000 loan from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

It was found out that Sonera alias Ronnie Montilano, has been luring OFWs to just apply for loan at the POEA instead of paying a processing fee of P8,759.

But Cao said the POEA does not have lending services and only the OWWA is offering low-interest loans for OFWs. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

# Phl Schools Included in Tony Blair Foundation

by Rainier Allan **RONDA**  
Thursday, August 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES** have been included in the list of beneficiaries of the foundation of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair for religious and cultural awareness as well as education programs.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro and Commission on Higher Education chair Patricia Licuanan signed a memorandum of agreement with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation during a press conference held yesterday at The Peninsula

Hotel in Makati City.

Blair said he was happy that the Philippines has become a beneficiary of the peace-building program.

"This is a very important moment in the development of my foundation," Blair told reporters.

Blair said that Filipino children, especially Muslims and Christians in Mindanao, would benefit from the program.

The program aims to teach basic education to schoolchildren in elementary and high schools, while tertiary students would be taught religion and culture.

Blair noted that peace can be achieved by "eradicating ignorance among individuals living in the community."

Under the MOU signed by Blair with Luistro, the Face to Faith program will initially identify six public schools in different areas of the country for school year 2012-2013. The program will be expanded to an additional 18 schools in the succeeding school year.

Under the Faith & Globalization Initiative with CHED, four universities – Ate-



Tony Blair

neo de Zamboanga University, Mindanao State University, Xavier University and Ateneo de Manila University – were identified as beneficiaries.

"We thank the Tony Blair Faith Foundation for the opportunity for peace to take root in the hearts and minds of Filipino teachers and students by developing their skills at peace-building and engagement across different faiths. Many social, ethnic and cultural conflicts are born out of mistrust which is fueled by wrong or incomplete information or outright falsehood against a certain race, faith or ethnicity," Luistro said.

Licuanan echoed Luistro's sentiments. "The Philippines can immensely benefit from the help of our friends at this stage of our quest for lasting peace in the country," Licuanan said.

The Tony Blair Faith Foundation was founded in 2008 with the goals of promoting respect for and understanding between peoples of different faiths. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## MAINLAND NEWS (CONT.)

(cont. from page 14, [AMBASSADOR.com](http://AMBASSADOR.com))

gram partner countries under the U.S. Partnership for Growth (PFG) initiative. The PFG is President Obama's signature development initiative that focuses on the Philippines' potential for sustained economic growth and recognizes the country's potential to be part of the next generation of emerging markets.

"The program will help us in our fight against corruption and support our efforts to prioritize infrastructure projects under the PPP program," Cuisia says.

Cuisia also briefed the group about the developments in the US\$434-million Philippine Compact grant from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation. The grant, signed in September 2010 in New York, is now being implemented by the Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines and will cover three innovative projects on infrastructure, socio-community development and revenue administration reform. ([DFA](http://DFA)) ■

# Japan Protests China Boats' Entry in Disputed Area

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
Wednesday, August 24, 2011

TOKYO (AP) — **JAPAN SAYS IT HAS PROTESTED TO CHINA** after two Chinese patrol boats entered waters near islands in the East China Sea claimed by both countries.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano



Chinese boats patrol the disputed but Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands

says two Chinese vessels entered Japanese waters off the islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China

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early Wednesday. He says the boats left the area about 30 minutes later after warnings by Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats and aircraft.

Edano says Japan's government "strongly" protested to China and reiterated its claim to the islands.

Last year, a collision between a Chinese fishing trawler and Japanese patrol boats sparked a diplomatic spat. Japan says Wednesday's incident is the first time China has entered Japanese waters since then. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



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