

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

FILIPINO COMMUNITY COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS

by HFC Staff

Hawaii's Filipino community has a reputation of looking after its own and this time, many members are again responding to a recent plea for help for their countrymen and women who have been impacted by another natural calamity in the Philippines.

Super typhoons Pedring and Quiel slammed into Luzon late last month, while a third typhoon—Ramon—followed shortly thereafter, pummeling northeastern Mindanao and the central Philippines. The death toll had reached more than 100, with tens of thousands of people displaced by massive flooding. Scores of people are still missing, raising prospects that the death toll could rise.

More than 67,000 people remain in evacuation centers across more than 40 provinces in Luzon, most of them in low-lying agricultural areas where rivers and tributaries overflowed with heavy rains.

Thousands more are homeless throughout the Visayas and Mindanao.

In response to these calamities, the Filipino Community Center, in collaboration with several key leaders in the Filipino community, has initiated "Kokua for the Philippines"—a relief fund drive to assist typhoon victims and their families. These individuals include Raymond Liongson, Tony Sagayadoro, Paul Cortes, Lynne Gutierrez, Paul Alimbuyao, Felipe Tan, Richard Ancog, Florante Pumaras, Ryan Fernandez, Angelica Lewis, Jay Raymond and Jun Colmenares.

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These youngsters seems to enjoy the giant waves of typhoon Pedring as it hits the seawall of Manila Bay in Roxas Boulevard

AFP Pushes Back MILF

by Jaime LAUDE

MANILA, Philippines - Combined government forces have breached the fortified defenses of a group led by Waning Abdusalam in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay and are now pushing the militants toward the coastline where naval assets have been deployed.

The continuous fighting has displaced more than 10,000 people in the towns of Payao, Alicia and Talusan, according to provincial disaster officials.

Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., AFP spokesman, yesterday said six OV-10 aerial bombardment sorties softened the re-



Armed Forces of the Philippines in full-battle gear assistance of the "rogue rebels" who were subsequently dislodged from their bunkers and running trenches.

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Pacquiao Takes It Personally in 3rd Marquez Fight

from www.philstar.com

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Manny Pacquiao never takes his fights personally. The pound-for-pound king's opponents are usually quite respectful of his throne, and the easygoing Pacquiao shrugs off any stray insults with a smile.

Not this time. Not in his third fight with Juan Manuel Marquez, the closest thing to an archival for this unrivaled eight-division champion.



Pound-for-Pound King, Cong. Manny Pacquiao

Pacquiao's trainers are sensing an unsettling edge in the Filipino congressman, who started an all-out training regimen with

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EDITORIAL

Occupy Wall Street Movement Sparks Debate on Real Problems

No true democracy is attainable when the process is ruled by economic power. Big corporations have abused this power and the tipping point is now. With this message at heart, so began the new Occupy Wall Street Movement led by a loosely knit group calling itself the General Assembly.

When some 20,000 demonstrators protested along Wall Street and vowed to occupy Zuccotti Park in New York, most media outlets underestimated what was about to transpire. The first day of protest passed with a whisper, largely ignored by the mainstream press. But their message reverberated loud and clear from the Empire State Building to San Francisco Bridge among hundreds of thousands of Americans.

As the world has seen in Egypt and other parts of the Middle East this past summer, when social movements finally hit the streets, their legs have remarkable leaping ability, oftentimes sweeping unrest from city to city, state to state, even regionally from country to country.

Americans actually witnessed their first grassroots uprising this decade in the birth of the Tea Party whose members today continue to challenge the political establishment.

WHAT IS THIS NEW MOVEMENT?

The General Assembly's future positioning in the political establishment is unknown. What we do know is that its members are currently occupying Zuccotti (as of press time) for a fourth week and the movement has swelled into national and worldwide prominence. Within just a few weeks, Americans angered by corporate greed have come together in rallies in 147 U.S. cities from coast to coast, and keeps growing.

As most grassroots movements in the birth stages, the General Assembly do not have a structured leadership. The groups that have been supporting the movement are largely left-leaning Democrat progressives. Within this motley assemblage, they've taken on a catchy populist moniker: "We Are The 99%" — identifying themselves as the majority of Americans who stand in solidarity against big corporate abuse and greed. The catchy populist 99 percent isn't a misnomer for inequality in the U.S. The fact is the wealthiest 1 percent of households own 36.6 percent of all privately held wealth, and 42.7 percent of all financial wealth (total net worth minus the value of one's home). The top 1 percent in the U.S. takes in an average of \$1.3 million annually, while the average American earns \$33,000 per year. The average CEO of the 299 companies listed in the S&P 500 Index made

\$11.4 million in 2010, or 343 times more than the median pay of American workers. Those 299 CEOs have a combined income of \$3.4 billion per year, which could pay for 102,325 average American jobs.

According to the latest mainstream media polls, a majority of Americans not only have heard about the Occupy Wall Street movement, but they consider it favorable and an actual reflection of the mood of the country.

Like the Tea Party, the General Assembly or "We Are The 99%" considers the economy a major issue. But unlike the Tea Party that holds government responsible for the country's financial woes, the General Assembly blames large corporations. Their grievances are anything but new.

Protestors are angered with 1) the \$700 billion taxpayer-funded bailout of large corporations in 2008, 2) the shocking bonuses of corporate heads that ensued the bailout, 3) the predatory subprime financing that led to tens of thousands of foreclosures, 4) the growing corporate influence on politics with the Supreme Court ruling which allows corporations to make unlimited donations to candidates, 5) the mass firing of American workers and closure of entire industries

by shipping jobs overseas for greater profit, 6) the increasing change of the workforce from full-time to part-time and contract workers also for greater profit, 7) the outsourcing of labor and its use as leverage to deny workers health insurance and a decent wage, 8) the billions annually in tax breaks large corporations continue to receive while average Americans pay a larger share of taxes, and 9) the unrelenting increases in consumer premiums, business fees and costs of goods by large corporations posting record profits that have not been reinvested in the company or workers, but doled out to executives as bonuses.

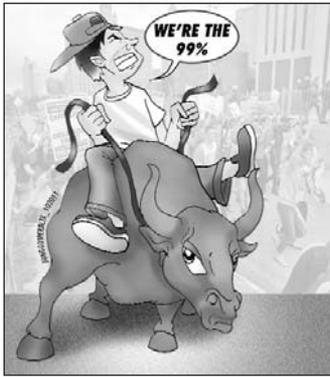
WHERE DO THEY STAND IN THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM?

This latest people movement follows a trend in U.S. politics — the radicalization of both political parties. Given the lack of representation from the left by the moderate leadership of President Barack Obama, it comes as a surprise that it took this long for the progressive left to shore up political muscle in the streets. But as the Tea Party, the General Assembly is forced to fold into an existing political party just as a means of practicality to win elections. Their political tenor is even farther left from the progressive block within the Democratic Party. How well this movement develops into a real force has yet to be seen.

A BROKEN SYSTEM

What these protestors are doing right so far is bringing attention to the

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Creative Designer

Junggoi Peralta

Philippine Correspondent

Greg Garcia

Photography

Tim Llena

Administrative Assistant

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Maria Watanabe

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OPINION

How Much Is Enough?

CITIZEN Y by Yoly VILLANUEVA-ONG

Some years ago, there was a story about the matriarch of one of the Philippines' richest clans, who supposedly admonished her children that they had amassed enough wealth for three generations, so they should pay less attention to acquiring more profit and share or give back to the less fortunate. No one knows if this was true, or if the young successors heeded her advice. But the anecdote certainly reverberates as the subject of GREED impales the universal psyche.

The "Occupy Wall Street" movement is spreading like wildfire from the US to Europe and Asia. Undoubtedly, the protest will reach our shores eventually, specially with the Left itching to claim a more widely accepted cause. As usual, the social commentators analyzed the phenomenon, calling it everything from amorphous, fluffy and vague, an "eclectic mix of protesters composed of peace activists, indigenous rights activists, immigrant activists... their politics zigzag wildly" to a "grab bag of sentiments" with causes that are "impossible to decipher."

I think the protest is clear and doesn't need more explanation. OCCUPY initially targeted the icons of greed — banks, finance institutions and big corporations which contributed to the loss of jobs and homes of ordinary citizens. It denounced CEOs who have continued to give themselves fat bonuses and supernumerary paychecks despite looming bankruptcy. They may not have a clear agenda of specific demands, but there is no mistaking the message: ENOUGH! Leave some for the rest. As Mohandas Gandhi observed, "There is enough for man's needs, but not for man's greed." So the blistering question is "How much is enough?"

Pico Iyer wrote about the Marcoses as reported by Edwin Reingold and Nelly Sindayen in Time Magazine. Excerpts from "Behind the Scene" illustrate insatiability in vivid detail.

"Inside Imelda's boudoir were two queen-size beds on an elevated platform, and a grand piano. The former First Lady's washbasin was made of gold. Downstairs, in a not-so-bargain basement, the woman who used to refer to "my fellow poor"

had left behind some 2,700 pairs of size eight shoes, five shelves of Gucci handbags and 38 of her 105 clothes racks, designed to carry 80 outfits each... Elsewhere, the legends on their bedroom intercoms read simply "King's Room" and "Queen's Room".

Even more graphic evidence of decadent splendor, was afforded by a private collection of more than 500 videotapes unearthed in Manila and New York. In one of the tapes, Imelda cavorts with bejeweled guests in a private Malacañang disco, complete with DJ's booth and man-made waterfall. Another video chronicles a bacchanal aboard the presidential yacht, celebrating the birthday of the youngest, Irene Araneta. A man in a baby bonnet bursts out of a cake. The First Lady jives under flashing strobe lights with an American consular official dressed in Bermuda shorts... Bong-bong steps up to a mike, sporting makeup and a flashing electronic bow tie, and joins in on a raucous rendition of We Are the World, the song recorded to raise money for the starving in Ethiopia...

Among the first of history's judges were the Filipinos who filed through the palace, many of whom

earn less in a year than Imelda spent on a single pair of shoes. "I am appalled by the greed," said one nun. Even visitors accustomed to more affluent surroundings were stunned. "Next to Imelda," said Democratic Congressman Stephen Solarz of New York after visiting Malacañang, "Marie Antoinette was a bag lady."

Rapacity to the Marcosian degree is extreme. But in oligarchic economies, greed is a natural by-product of success. When 90+ percent of the country's wealth is owned by less than one percent of the total population, even a patina of social equality is highly improbable. Unlike "Occupy" that targeted USA Inc., local demonstrators usually rally against the exorbitant costs of commodities: fuel, water and power that snowballs on the prices of consumer goods and services. It's a fact that the Philippines has the highest cost of electricity in Asia, higher than Japan, Singapore and Malaysia. So protest actions are aimed mostly at the utilities sector and the government. Corruption is after all, the other face of avarice that is seen in both private and public sectors.

There is a formula for a "triple bottom-line" that enlightened and visionary companies follow. It redefines profit from being just a number — a percentage or increment bigger than last year's that translates into hefty bonuses, dividends and salaries for management and stockholders — to a new perspective that includes the well-being of their employees and the community where their business operates.

Their measure for excellent performance embraces a better

quality of life for their employees and gives back to community through real CSR programs that go beyond press releases and photo ops. The triple bottom-line purposefully distributes profit-after-tax three ways: Reward yourself, reward your employees and reward your community. It does not demand that earnings be divided equally, only that fractions trickle downwards and outwards to more people. The ripple effect is a good antidote for greed and might render interventions like "Occupy" unnecessary.

It success best appraised by material wealth? How many mansions should one own? How many luxury vehicles must be parked in the garage? How many yachts, planes, jet skis and tech-toys to play with; caviar and champagne to consume; signature bags, shoes and outfits to wear? How many mistresses and boy-toys to indulge? How much is enough? The hunger to acquire is never content. As Erich Fromm illuminated, "Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy need without ever reaching satisfaction".

The death of Gadhafi proves once again that you can't take it with you. In the movie "Boiler Room," the character of Ben Affleck goaded, "Money can't buy happiness, but you can park your Ferrari next to it." But maybe it's wiser to go for the "decent profit". Pay your employees not just what is legal, but what is right. Pay forward to communities and societies to help improve their lot. Listen to your conscience. "Occupy" your heart and soul.

(www.philstar.com) ■

EDITORIAL (CONT.)

(cont. from page 2...)

current system's failure. The income gap between rich and poor continues to widen. Income levels adjusted for inflation for the average worker has been flat in the past 20 years. Income for the richest 1 percent keeps skyrocketing. The middle class is fast shrinking; the American dream is becoming more elusive for many Americans. More college students are finding no jobs are available for them upon graduation. Small to medium sized business can no longer compete with the vast resources of large corporations. Most seniors are not able to retire because of the high cost of health insurance even with Obama healthcare reform. Each one of these is related to large corporations' practice of putting excessive profit into the pockets of upper echelon company executives at the expense of average workers. But most importantly, we know the system is not working when people who are fortunate enough to have employment, must work two jobs just to be poor.

As both established political parties now are faced with challenges from extreme factions within, perhaps it may benefit the entire system. The Tea Party's existence highlights the perils of an overspending big government. This new General Assembly movement undoubtedly raises the horrors of how corporate greed can impact society. How we as a nation claw out of this recession is unknown. To the far right: is government so destructive in our current system that it needs to be destroyed? To the far left: are big corporations so destructive in our current system that they need to be destroyed? If we have a general consensus that neither one of them are, then perhaps the rhetoric, demagoguery, and gridlock from both factions could be placed in check. Or perhaps the greatest of lessons await us as we move further apart until we arrive to a new uncharted place as a nation where neither big government nor big corporation is too powerful. ■



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HEADLINES (CONT.)

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

Organizers' efforts were supported by the Fil-Com Center board of directors and supported by the Philippine Consulate General and various Filipino organizations such as UFCH, COVO, OFCC, Oahu Visayan Council, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Filipino Jaycees, Knights of Rizal and others. Filipino organizations from the neighbor islands are also participating. The ad-hoc committee met several times and came up with the various fund raising events.

The Philippine government has declared that the devastation from these recent super typhoons could be greater than from Ondoy. With this in mind, organizers are urging Hawaii's Filipinos to join in the relief efforts.

"I urge Hawaii's Filipino community to participate in this disaster relief effort," says community leader Jun Colmenares. "Our countrymen need our help. Any assistance we can give will help alleviate the suffering that they are



The U.S. Embassy in Manila was not spared from the wrath of Typhoon Pedring experiencing now. Please be generous.

Co-organizer Liangson echoes Colmenares' sentiments.

"It is very important to help others, especially our kababayan. This is simply the right thing to do. We cannot look the other way and pretend everything is normal and okay. Our kababayan, to borrow two networks' references, are our "kapuso at kapamilya." And this is what our distinctive cul-

ture—the spirit of bayanihan—calls for. Concern for the distressed is the ultimate expression of humanity."

Since October 16, various donation drives have already been held at the Fil-Com Center, Don Quijote stores in Waipahu, Pearl City and Kaheka Street; Wal-Mart stores in Mililani, Pearl City and Keeaomoku; and Pacific Supermarket in Waipahu. To date, nearly \$5,000 have been collected, in-

cluding monies collected during the recent UFCH Progress Awards Night.

Upcoming donations drives are scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 3:30 pm to 10 pm at the Taste of Waipahu on Malakeke Street, and on Sunday, October 30, 2011, 6 pm to 8 pm at "Concert for a Cause" featuring Filipino local talents at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel.

Contributions can also be dropped off in collection boxes at Max's of Manila (Waipahu and Dillingham), Jollibee (Waipahu), Golden Coin Restaurants (North King and Waipahu), Jesse's Restaurant (North King), and select Filipino physicians' offices starting October 15, 2011. The drive ends on October 31, 2011.

Organizers say that only monetary contributions are being accepted. All monies collected will be sent to two reputable non-profit organizations in the Philippines that are already involved in the ongoing typhoon relief efforts—the

ABS-CBN Foundation and the GMA Kapuso Foundation.

According to Toy Arre of the Fil-Com Center, cash donations are preferred because of the logistics involved.

"We're collecting cash because it presents little, if any, logistics issues," Arre says. "In-kind donations involves paperwork and requires labor and money to pack and ship. They are also subject to Philippine taxes and could lead to distribution problems."

Arre also says that donations are tax deductible whether they are given in cash or via check and whether acknowledged by Fil-Com receipts or not.

Those wishing to contribute must make checks payable to the Filipino Community Center and note "2011 Philippine typhoon relief."

For further details on how to give, please call the Filipino Community Center at 680-0451, Colmenares at (510) 734-4491 or Liangson at 381-4315. ■

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

"Our ground forces met little resistance and recovered four bodies of lawless elements yesterday out of the six reported the other night," Burgos said.

The same ground targeted by the air strikes was blamed for ambushes that killed four soldiers and four policemen in the same area on Thursday last week. They were initially reported to be regular members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) but are now described by the AFP as rogue elements.

The fighting came two days after MILF fighters gunned down 19 Special Forces commandos who allegedly strayed into rebel territory on the adjacent island of Basilan.

At least 35 people have been killed in Mindanao and Basilan in a week of fighting.

Burgos said there have been reports that two of the fighters — Putot Jakaria and Ogis Jakaria — have moved from Zamboanga Sibugay to Basilan, where the military is now conducting air raids against the MILF.

Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Oban, meanwhile, ordered the ground forces to ensure the success of the operation following President Aquino's directive for an "all-out justice" operation on Monday.

"I have directed the commander of Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), General (Raymond) Ferrer, to ensure the success of the military operations there in Payao. I also tell him I expect more successes in future military operations in his area of responsibility," Oban said after emerging from a command conference at the Wesmincom headquarters in Camp Basilio Navarro, Zamboanga City.

He said the "directive was to continue to pursue the lawless elements wherever they are, driven by intelligence work."

He also clarified that the military is after "rebel personalities" attached with the MILF but have criminal cases, referring to the group of Abdusalim in sitio Talaba, Barangay Labatan, and Abu Sayyaf militants.

Wesmincom spokesman Lt.



Col. Randolf Cabangbang said the MILF has disowned the group of Abdusalim, based on the information submitted by the MILF ad hoc joint action group (AHJAG) to their government counterpart in the peace panel.

Results of verification for the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces showed Abdusalim is not in their records, while brothers Putot and Ogis Jakaria are tagged as notorious outlaws and kidnapers.

CIVILIANS ON THE RUN

Zamboanga Sibugay Gov. Rommel Jalosjos said civilians affected by the air strikes are all accounted for and no one has been hurt in the military offensive.

Jalosjos, who imposed a province-wide curfew to secure his constituents, said the move was aimed at protecting civilians from diversionary attacks of the rebels in public places and vital installations.

Residents within the area of operations voluntarily evacuated and took refuge with their relatives shortly before MILF forces occupied several schools in these areas, preventing potential civilian casualties. Jalosjos said the concentration of the government forces is in the mangrove areas of Sitio Talaba where Abdusalim and his men were holding out.

A total of 1,237 families in

Zamboanga Sibugay have been affected by the air raids conducted by the military.

Adriano Fuego, Zamboanga civil defense director, said the affected families or 10,385 persons have been evacuated to safe areas.

"We are still discussing ways to provide their needs like food. Initially, they need help from their respective municipalities using their local disaster fund," Fuego told reporters in a phone patch interview.

AFP: NO LETUP

On Monday, OV-10s launched three bombing runs targeting the enemy position at Sitio Talaba, Barangay Labatan Payao town, in preparation for the ground assault.

To further soften the defenses of the lawless group, two more aerial strikes were launched yesterday before the ground troops moved in.

Burgos said Army and police troops are now pursuing the bandits from a vantage position, towards the coastline with little resistance.

"Our ground troops, despite the terrain, are now pushing them (lawless group) towards the coastline where we have deployed some of our naval assets," he said.

Army spokesman Maj. Harold Cabunoc said "there were no air strikes but only clearing operations against Abdusalim, the alleged

brains of several kidnappings in the area.

"He is not MILF, he is a bandit and the (village) officials even had a resolution stating there is no identified MILF camp there," he said.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Meanwhile, the military will start talking to the ceasefire panels to run after lawless elements who may be inside the area of temporary stay of the MILF.

Burgos said they would coordinate with the AHJAG and the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) to allow them to conduct pursuit operations inside MILF territory.

"We will reach that point (discussions with ceasefire panels)... that would be the subject of talks. They (MILF) should show sincerity to the ceasefire by acting on the demand of the AFO to surrender Asnawi and the other lawless elements," he said. Laksaw-Dan Asnawi is the leader of the MILF rebels that killed 19 soldiers in Al-Barka, Basilan last Oct. 18.

Burgos remains optimistic that the ceasefire mechanisms could prevent the escalation of violence once the military enters the MILF areas.

He also clarified that "there is no such thing as (destabilization) and we don't need that this time."

"We don't need loyalty check at this point and we're confident there is no destabilization plot emanating from the ranks of the military," he added, adding that the board of inquiry tasked to probe the Basilan clash may finish its initial report by weekend.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1: PACQUIAO ...)

pre-dawn runs and lengthy gym workouts before the fight was even announced. The steady stream of bloody, beaten sparring partners leaving the Wild Card Gym testifies to a focus that nobody in Pacquiao's camp has ever seen.

"I'm not upset, but I get excited because he's claiming that he won the fights," Pacquiao said while wrapping his hands in the broom closet that serves as his dressing room at trainer Freddie Roach's gym in Hollywood.

"That's why I train hard, because I want to end this, all the doubts. This is our last fight."

Pacquiao admits he's insulted by Marquez's boastful insistence that he won their first two fights, which ended in a draw in 2004 and a split decision for Pacquiao in 2008. Marquez even traveled to the Philippines to plead his case to the public, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with: "We Were Robbed."

In truth, both bouts were dazzling displays of style and heart, with Pacquiao's aggression and toughness matching Marquez's counterpunching and combinations for 24 fascinating rounds. Pacquiao knocked down Marquez three times in the first round of the first fight, and he floored Marquez once

in the rematch, but Marquez rallied both times to even the bouts, doing more damage to Pacquiao than any opponent in the past decade.

"It seems personal to him because he talks too much, and he needs to prove it," said Pacquiao, who will meet Marquez at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas on Nov. 12. "He talks a lot, and it's not good for a fighter to talk a lot without action. Me, I don't talk a lot. I just do some action."

Pacquiao is sparring more aggressively and running more miles than he usually does at this point in his preparation for a fight, Roach said. He's also training smarter, with strength trainer Alex Ariza finally selling him on the benefits of an occasional day off to rejuvenate the calf muscles that cramped against Marquez.

"I don't think I've seen him more focused, and I think it's because it's personal, for sure," Ariza said shortly before Pacquiao knocked another popoeka through the Wild Card ropes twice in the same sparring round. "When something is personal, it's a lot different. He knows that he has to make a statement in this one. With every-one having questions about the first two, he has to make sure in this one that there's no doubt. ... We're



(L-R) Trainer Freddie Roach, Manny Pacquiao, Juan Manuel Marquez and his trainer Nacho Beristain

going through sparring partners like you change underwear. I'm surprised that these guys are still coming back."

Even with his stellar career in full bloom over the past two years, Pacquiao has been generous to a fault with his recent opponents. He noticeably let up on Joshua Clottey and Antonio Margarito when they couldn't match him last year, and he iced many fans by constantly touching gloves with over-the-hill Sugar Shane Mosley last May, even hugging Mosley before the 12th round.

"I don't see Manny even touching gloves (with Marquez)," Ariza said. "He has a disdain for the guy, and I've never known him to dislike anyone. ... Manny is still a nice guy and everything, but there's something very Third World about him when he wants to be. He can be

merciless. I've seen it, and it's been a long time since I've seen that. Usually he lets guys off the hook. He isn't letting anybody off the hook."

It's unlikely Pacquiao would get a hug back from Marquez, a relentless competitor from the old-school Mexican tradition of brawlers. Marquez and his trainer, Nacho Beristain, are still sore losers about the second fight, with Beristain improbably alleging corruption in the judging when Pacquiao won by one round on one

judge's scorecard. Pacquiao insists he won't be disappointed if he doesn't knock out Marquez, but his trainers will be surprised. The WBO welterweight title bout will be fought at a 144-pound catch weight, and Pacquiao fights comfortably at a weight Marquez has only tried once before — in a one-sided loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"I don't think this fight is going to go six rounds," Roach said. "With Manny's footwork, he's just a completely different animal to the guy that fought Marquez the first time. (Marquez) has gotten up against Manny before, but I don't think he's going to be able to get up from the power Manny has now. He's a much stronger guy than he was at those smaller weight classes. He's just a completely different animal. We can put it to bed, finally shut them up, and be happy." (www.philsstar.com) ■

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipinos Continue Boycott of Pacific Beach Hotel

MEMBERS OF THE FILIPINO COALITION FOR SOLIDARITY, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NaFFAA), are continuing efforts to boycott the Pacific Beach Hotel.

An article in the hotel employee newsletter "Justice at the Beach" highlighted a June 14, 2011 ruling by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Washington D.C. on behalf of Pacific Beach Hotel workers. The decision upheld Administrative Law Judge James Kennedy's 2009 findings that hotel management violated federal labor

law by failing to recognize the union, failing to bargain in good faith and firing union supporters.

Hotel owner HTH Corporation's appeal of Kennedy's ruling was denied. Instead of acknowledging the ruling and moving forward in accordance with the law, hotel management has appealed the NLRB's decision to the 9th Circuit Court. This means more hotel money spent on lawyers, more tax dollars wasted and more delays in achieving justice to hotel employees.

On September 19, 2011 NLRB Administrative Law Judge John J. McCarrick ruled in a separate trial

that the hotel wrongly fired ILWU negotiating committee member Rhandy Villanueva on trumped-up charges, wrongly banned negotiations spokesperson Dave Mori and organizer Carmelita Labingano from hotel property, improperly surveilled members as they took flyers from their union and more.

In his ruling, Judge McCarrick wrote that he found parts of the testimony by hotel representative Robert "Mick" Minicola to be "evasive" and "absurd or self-serving."

The Hawaii office of the NLRB is well aware of the hotel's history of delaying justice for the workers

and has already filed a request for an injunction to compel the hotel to obey Judge McCarrick's ruling. This is the latest in a long list of legal rulings by the NLRB and the courts in favor of the workers. The hotel would be better served by obeying legal decisions, respecting the workers' rights and ending expensive legal proceedings, but the hotel has appealed this decision as well.

"Please consider other options before giving your dollars to this law-breaking hotel," says Charlene Cuaserna of the Filipino Coalition For Solidarity. "If you must attend a

function at Pacific Beach, call the ILWU at 949-4161 and get a button to wear that shows support for the workers."

On October 31st, a contempt hearing will be heard before Federal Judge J. Michael Seabright on HTH Corp's violation of an injunction issued in federal court in 2010. Also on that day, a Halloween activity called "Tricked and Mistreated" will be held in front of the hotel from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Please call Rick DeCosta at 783-4627 for more details or go online at: www.pacbeachworkers.ilwuocal142.org. ■

Work Begins on Rail Maintenance/Storage Facility

THE CITY HAS BEGUN SOIL sampling work for the rail transit system's maintenance and storage facility (MSF) baseyard in Waipahu.

The soil sampling work is in preparation for construction of the MSF baseyard, where the rail system's train cars will be stored and maintained. The facility is located off Farrington Highway between Leeward Community College (LCC) and Waipahu High School.

The soil work will be done on weekdays from 7 am to 3:30 pm

and will last through mid-November. Officials are reminding motorists and pedestrians using Ala Ike Street, which connects to LCC, to watch for construction vehicles entering and exiting the work site. Those who work, live or travel near the work site are advised to proceed with caution and to avoid crossing barricades that fence off designated work zones.

When completed, the 43-acre MSF baseyard will provide enough room to store and maintain up to 100 rail vehicles and the following



four major structures:

- A train system control center
- A maintenance building for track inspection and repairs
- A train vehicle wash facility
- A train wheel repair center

The facility will also be environmentally-friendly and meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification. Its sustainable features will include photovoltaic panels on

roofs to generate electricity; natural lighting and ventilation; recycled construction materials; and water-efficient landscaping.

The City awarded a \$195 million contract to design and build the baseyard to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. and Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc., a joint venture. Subcontractors include HNTB Corporation, Maintenance Design Group, Yogi Kwong Engineers, Lyon Associates, Mid Pacific Engineering and WCIT Architecture. ■

City Dedicates Middle Street Intermodal Center

THE CITY RECENTLY DEDICATED THE MIDDLE STREET INTERMODAL CENTER, located at the intersection of Middle Street and Kamehameha Highway and adjacent to the existing Kalihai-Palama Transit Facility.

The Middle Street Intermodal Center is comprised of the handi-administration and maintenance building, handi-van parking lot, Middle Street Transit Center and a park-and-ride lot.

The handi-van administration and maintenance building and parking lot have already been dedicated. At the October 25th dedication ceremony, the City acknowledged the

completion of the Middle Street Transit Center and its park-and-ride lot.

This project includes bays for staging buses and an expanded transit center to replace the existing bus service center. The passenger platform has a customer service center, which will issue bus passes and badges, a lost and found facility, two restroom buildings, a utility building and security office. The passenger platform and customer service center are under a covered canopy with a "living wall" landscape in the center of the platform. Provisions have been made to allow connections to the

future rail station at Kamehameha Highway.

"The transit center demonstrates our commitment to developing our multi-modal transportation system," says Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle. "The Middle Street bus facility will be an integral part of our transit system, complementing other transit facilities in Mililani, Wahiawa, Waipahu and Wai'anana. This is all part of our efforts to improve The Bus service and encourage ridership, while also proceeding with a rail line that will connect Oahu's urban core."

The Middle Street Transit Center project cost \$11.2 million and was built by T. Iida Contracting. The prime consultant for the Middle

Street Intermodal Center is Urban Works, Inc. Sub-consultants include SSFM International, Inc.; Nakamura

Oyama & Associates, Inc.; Notkin Hawaii, Inc.; and Masa Fujioka & Associates, Inc. ■

State Lawmakers Hold Info Briefing on Elder Abuse

A JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE on Human Services held an informational briefing on elder abuse and financial exploitation on October 27, 2011 at the Hawaii State Capitol.

The briefing addressed consumer protection issues involving Hawaii's seniors as well as House Bill 1123, which was introduced during the 2011 legislative session. HB 1123 defines seniors against financial exploitation by caregivers by requiring a durable Power of Attorney (POA) to be signed by two witnesses not related to the POA and acknowledged by a notary public.

"We should look into ensuring that the second signer is someone experienced in elder financial exploitation and would know whether a person is being coerced or is in the proper state of mind to make financial decisions," says State Rep. Kymberly Pine, who helped author HB 1123.

The committee also reviewed the state's ability to address the needs of the elderly and reviewed recommendations for stronger policy

and public responsibility to adequately address elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. The briefing covered policies to ensure quality long-term healthcare for the elderly and community-based healthcare.

"Abusers often target elderly men and women who live alone and have family on the mainland or on other islands," says Rep. Pine. "The victim and his or her family may not even realize the crime is occurring until it's too late. Hawaii needs stronger safeguards, tougher penalties and education to protect our seniors from these perpetrators."

"Our state is graying faster than any state in the union," says State Rep. John Mizuno. "Hawaii's seniors have contributed to our communities for decades. It is imperative that we protect them and their families from this kind of suffering."

In addition to victims of elder abuse, other organizations were invited to the briefing, including Adult Protective Services, Community Ties of America, State Executive Office on Aging, AARP, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, HFD, Ohana Health Plan, Evercare Hawaii and Healthcare Association of Hawaii. ■

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Serial Fiancée Visa Petitioners Now Face Legal Hurdles



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

There is a story about an Ilocano who would go back to the Philippines, meet a young woman, come back to Hawaii, petition for her as a fiancée, and when she arrived he would marry her, go on a honeymoon, and later divorce her. He did it at least three times. Whether he was having fun or was a victim of failed marriages, we have not been able to ascertain.

This is the kind of behavior or misbehavior that the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA) wants to stop. This Act (codified at 8 USC 1375a) amends INA 214(d) and 214(r) and was signed by the President on January 5, 2006. It imposes limitations on the number of fiancée/fiancée petitions (K-1) that a U.S. citizen can file or can obtain approval for. If a petitioner has filed two or more fiancée/fiancée visa petitions at any time in the past, or has previously obtained approval of K-1 visa

petition within two years prior to the filing of the new petition, the petitioner must apply for a waiver. These regulations are not applicable to petitioners for a nonimmigrant fiancée/fiancée visa for a spouse (K-3). USCIS is required by IMBRA to establish and maintain a multiple K-1 visa petition tracking database. USCIS will notify the petitioner and beneficiary of the number of previously approved K-1 visa petitions.

Ordinarily, the petitioner is expected to know the limitations and if he/she has exceeded them. Consequently, he must file the request for waiver with the K-1 visa petition. Oftentimes, the petitioner does not know about these limitations. So when the petitioner files a fiancée visa petition that exceeds the limitations, USCIS will send the petitioner a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), unless the petitioner requests a waiver and can establish eligibility for a waiver.

WAIVER REQUEST

The waiver request consists of a letter, signed and dated by the petitioner, explaining in detail what happened to the previous petitions and the beneficiaries and why a waiver would be appropriate in the peti-

tioner's particular circumstances. The letter must be accompanied by evidence to support the waiver request. The kind of supporting evidence will vary with the circumstances. For example, if the previous fiancée died, the death certificate should be submitted. If there was a divorce, the divorce decree should be submitted. If the previous fiancée became incapacitated, medical records should be submitted. If the beneficiary did not apply for a visa and come to the United States, documentary evidence of such fact should be submitted. Police records or clearances to show that the petitioner has not committed any offense, especially domestic violence, should be submitted. Having a conviction for domestic violence may not necessarily be fatal to the waiver request. The offender should explain the circumstances that led to the domestic violence and whether he has been rehabilitated and gone to anger management classes. Letters of support from friends, relatives, employers, and co-workers attesting to the good character of the petitioner are helpful – the more the better.

UNLUCKY IN LOVE

In one case where a petitioner

had exceeded the IMBRA limitations, we used the "unlucky in love" strategy to help the petitioner. The petitioner claimed that he was acting in good faith all the time in his previous fiancée visa petitions but was simply "unlucky in love" and that he was a victim of unscrupulous women who used him to come to the United States. He said that one former fiancée whom he married refused to consummate their marriage. To bolster the claim, we suggested that he write to the Department of Homeland Security to deport the former fiancée. He stated in his waiver request that he believed this new fiancée whom he was petitioning is the right one, and explained why. He wrote a declaration that he had not been arrested for any of the specific offenses that IMBRA condemns. He also got a letter duly notarized from the new fiancée that she would marry the petitioner within the 90-day period

and fulfill her marital obligations. Of course, they had pictures galore showing their various trips, dates, and meetings with friends and relatives of the alien fiancée. The waiver request was approved.

USCIS adjudicators have sole discretion to approve the waiver request. So, petitioners should write convincing and sincere waiver requests with a plethora of supporting evidence if they want successful results. ■

(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 Behel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: flamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270.AM, daily every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iloko.com.)

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

Surprisingly More Than You Think



by Senator Will ESPERO

The common constituent might surprise you – it's petroleum. Yes, the same substance which we pump into our cars also provides most of the items we use in everyday life. According to one source, more than half of our nation's oil consumption is for these and many more products – more than half of our annual oil consumption. Each day, according to one source, the U.S. uses 19.6 million barrels of oil, which is nearly two and a half times the next nearest country (China), U.S. oil consumption accounts for one-fourth of the annual oil consumption in the world.

Just 10 years ago, gas costs 90 cents a gallon. Today it's up over \$4 a gallon, nearly five times what it was a decade earlier. That's just gas for cars. Those of you who fly to the mainland have a pretty good idea of how hikes in fuel prices raised airfares.

Let me give you a list of every day products* that we all use. Think of how it might affect us if an essential component became scarce or the price for that component went up 500%.

ASA (pain reliever)	air conditioners	anesthetics	artificial turf
asphalt	awnings	bandages	boat resin
brushes	candles	car battery cases	carpet
car sound insulation	chewing gum	clothing	combs
compact discs	contact lenses	cosmetics	crayons
credit cards	curtains	deodorant	dishwashing
			liquid
disposable diapers	dolls	eyeglasses	fertilizer
fishing rods	floor wax	food preservatives	golf balls
hair coloring	house paint	ink	insulation
laundry detergent	medicine	milk jugs	movie film
packaging materials	pantry hose	pesticides	pillows
plastic bottles	refrigerator linings	roofing	safety glass
shampoo	shaving cream	shoes	shower curtains
sports balls	sun glasses	surfboard	sweaters
telephone	tires	toilet seats	toothpaste/
			toothbrushes
toys	trash bags	upholstery	vitamins

*This list was taken from the American Petroleum Institute's "Petrochemical Products" list.

Calling for forward-thinking energy policy, California Congressman / engineer Jerry McNerney said, "Buying millions of barrels of oil from overseas puts money in the hands of countries like Iran and Venezuela that are hostile to America. Achieving energy independence is essential for the economic well-being of California families, for our national security, and for the environment."

With such a great dependency on petroleum, running cars and airplanes is only the beginning of the problems we face if we don't

take action to reduce consumption. Research and development has the challenge of finding, in the near future, alternatives to petroleum as a component of these many products so that before the shortage grows or the scarcity drives prices higher, we can make the shift to other resources and not have life interrupted or financially painful.

The Legislature is well aware of biodegradable products such as those distributed by Styrophobia. The company was trying to negotiate a neighbor island farming part-

nership for the food by-products that would go into making those food container and utensil products. Biodegradables came about mostly as an environmental response to landfill shortages and the "live forever" nature of petroleum-based plastics. Bioplastics hold great promise for using those parts of food that are now mostly thrown away and giving farmers a second source of revenue, and equally importantly, as an alternative to petroleum-based plastic.

The petroleum dependence issue is a major reason why it is critical that we support and encourage our young people to enter fields of science and engineering – to find solutions to our problems.

The 1970s OPEC oil crisis made rationing a part of life in the U.S. Europeans began manufacturing cars that run on compressed natural gas, siting about 2500 stations around the continent that supply this form of vehicle fuel. Brazil is perhaps the most well known country to take a "never again" response to the OPEC oil crisis. Investment in research made it possible for alternative fuels to be developed, and consequently, cars that run on those alternatives. A typical Brazilian fuel

station offers ethanol, gasohol, compressed natural gas, and biodiesel. The alternative fuel cars we are familiar with in America are those that follow a second route – vehicles with systems that reduce or substitute petroleum – battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, hybrid electric, hydrogen fuel cells.

In my next article, I'll talk more about what the Europeans are doing to in the area of renewable energy to gain their independence from the petroleum industry.

Our economic well-being is one crucial facet of the clean energy issue. Also at stake is American freedom and independence. National security is more than a military matter. It is strengthening our country so that we are not vulnerable to those who may want to hurt us by controlling the resources we need. Research and development expended to finding other resources that we can use in place of petroleum is imperative to increasing national security. As fictional Gov. Mike Morris tells the Ohio audience who have come to listen to the candidate in the new movie "Ideas of March," the way you get rid of your enemies is you stop buying their products, then they go away. ■

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Salem: Witch You Were Here

RENDEZVOUZ by Christine S. DAYRIT

How would you like to celebrate Halloween every day of the year?

A witching good time can be had near the city of Boston in Massachusetts where Halloween fantasies and myths attract about a million visitors each year. Here in the mysterious city of Salem, popularly known as the "Witch City," one could be hoodwinked by one's very own senses.

Strolling around Salem recently on a rainy day with my childhood friend Reesa Guerrero-Silliman proved that a walk through history might be a ghostly and ghoulish adventure as we came up-close and personal with the "witch trials" and inquisitions of 1692. For the curious visitor, touches of the past still exist which will bring the past to life, if you look in the right places.

Salem's logo depicting a witch on a broomstick is the epitome of "witch kitsch" and has incited ghost or paranormal tourism in this part of the world. This kind of travel transports you to grounds that are perceived as haunted. In New Orleans, I visited the home of Interview with the Vampire author Anne Rice. In Richmond, Virginia, I explored the eerie home of "The Raven" author Edgar Allan Poe. In Vieques, Puerto Rico, I was told many UFO sightings take place there while some streets of London are still frequented by the spirit of Jack the Ripper. I have yet to visit the Bran Castle in Transylvania, Romania, reportedly the home of vampires, and probably the inspiration for the Count Dracula myth. In Salem, Massachusetts, unearth more about the sensational tales of 17th-century witchcraft and sorcery.

Salem is popular worldwide for its rich history, which includes the tragic Salem Witch Trials of 1692, the dynamic maritime era evident in its glorious architecture, its impressive museums and rare artifacts, and for its world-famous month-long celebration of Halloween. The Salem Tourism Board reported nearly one million people visit Salem annually, generating more than \$99.5 million in tourism spending.

When the month of October sets in, the icy winds of autumn whisper to the witches and welcome guests alike who make their way from all over the globe to Salem to celebrate Samhain — the ancient name of Halloween. This sacred holiday attracts visitors who toast to divinely kept secrets, magic and mystery.

Truth is, in 1692, 20 innocent people were put to death after the hysterical and malicious accusa-

tions of witchcraft. This hysteria led people to believe that some souls would actually engage in spectral travel, even though their bodies were grounded in their homes. It was alleged that their spirits would haunt the homes of innocent young girls who swore they were being chased by these fleeting spirits!

The Witch Trials led to the execution of many young women and the arrest of even more. Today, as one walks down the streets of Salem, one can pass by the Witch House where the court inquisitions took place, the Witch Museum displays paraphernalia and outfits during the 16th century, the Witch Dungeon shows how the alleged "witches" were executed, while souvenir stores sell Happy Halloween postcards all year round.

This season, enjoy the Salem Sound, a 90-minute cruise by the shores of Salem, Marblehead, Beverly, Manchester and the mysterious Misery Islands. Of course, you can expect spooky stories and spine-tingling tales about ruthless local pirates, haunted lighthouses, mansions, abandoned mental wards, tails of local ghosts, ocean demons and living monsters while you sail.

A stay at the historic Hawthorne Hotel, the premier address in the city, is a must. According to the hotel's regional director for sales and marketing Kristie Poehler, the structure "was built by the public subscription as a joint venture of the Salem Chamber of Commerce and the Salem Rotary in 1925. Over one thousand people in the area purchased stock in order to create a modern hotel." She added that it is now listed as an "Historic Hotel of America," and the Hawthorne Hotel continues to welcome thousands of visitors every year.

"Over the years, the Hawthorne Hotel has hosted many well-known personalities, including newsman Walter Cronkite, actress Bette Davis, General Colin Powell, and on separate occasions, President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush," said Poehler.

It was when the 1960s TV series Bewitched was aired that Hawthorne Hotel gained its utmost popularity, if not notoriety. For years, after two episodes set there aired as the "Salem Saga," the hotel desk fielded telephone calls asking if this was the Hawthorne Hotel that could be seen on Bewitched.

To better comprehend the events of the Salem Witch Trials is to examine the times in which accusations of witchcraft occurred. As



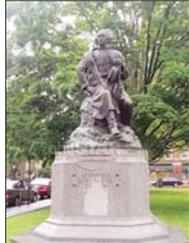
This painting of Thompkins H. Matteson called "Examination of a Witch" is a depiction of Salem Witch Trials in which people accused of witchcraft were prosecuted in colonial Massachusetts, in 1692. (Courtesy of the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts.)

discussed in the book Hunting for Witches by Frances Hill, that fear and suspicion added to the ordinary stresses of 17th-century life in Massachusetts Bay Colony, as factions among Salem Village fanatics grew as well as a rivalry with nearby Salem Town, a recent smallpox epidemic and the threat of attack by warring tribes. Soon prisons were filled with more than 150 men and women from towns surrounding Salem. Their names had been "cried out" by terrified young girls as the cause of their pain.

As years passed, apologies were offered, and restitution was made to the victims' families. Historians and sociologists have examined this most complex episode in

their history so that people may understand the issues of the time.

Ever since I was a student at Boston University and Harvard Business School, I have always wanted to visit Salem, but only got the chance on this trip. Reesa and I were like school kids on a trick-or-treat trail in search of candies as we traipsed from one witch house, dungeon and museum where we watched video presentation that reactivated the



Nathaniel Hawthorne, famous son of Salem, is the author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of Seven Gables*

Witch Trials of 1692. We even visited the nearby Peabody cemetery where bright flowers adorned the graves of many relatives of those who lived within the vicinity. We learned that it really is an electrifying place to visit all year round but particularly on Halloween when the whole town transforms into one big, ghoulish spectacle!

Each time I remember Salem, what comes to mind are the "witches" in black gowns mixing brews, incantations and potions. For the young ones and the young once like us, the city is as intriguing as the tales that feverently haunt it. Check it out... if you dare. (www.philtar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) vice chairman Ghadzali Jaafar looks at the MILF troops formation inside Camp Abubakr

**Criminal Activities Funding
MILF?**by Paolo ROMERO/
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **DRUG TRAFFICKING, KIDNAP-FOR-RANSOM AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES** are still the main sources of funds for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in carrying out its armed operations, a senior military intelligence official said.

"Each (MILF) commander also makes his own money from criminal activities for their operations. They have their own individual sourcing. Not all funds raised reach their leaders," the official, who declined to be named, told The STAR yesterday.

He said the rebel group also gets funds from foreign sources, but these come in trickles. Some local politicians also give financial aid to the MILF, the official said.

MILF rebels were reportedly behind the spate of kidnappings in Basilan over the past several months. Abu Sayyaf bandits had been blamed for the kidnapping activities.

"Oftentimes, somebody or some group earns at each stage of the kidnapping, one kidnaps and turns over the victim to another group for a price, and the victim is held in custody in an MILF camp, and the leader there would get

a share (of the ransom payment)," the official said.

The victims were usually held in so-called MILF territories or in areas covered by the ceasefire agreement with the government. Authorities as a result cannot go after the kidnappers since they would have to "coordinate" first with the separatist group before being allowed to operate in the area.

In Central Mindanao alone, there have been at least six kidnappings recorded this year, including one where the victim's family reportedly paid P20 million to the kidnappers identified with the MILF.

MILF leaders have always denied any involvement in kidnap-for-ransom activities, but military officials insist the rebel group has a "special operations group" tasked with carrying out criminal activities.

Some survivors in the Basilan ambush last week that left 19 soldiers dead reported having to face guerrillas armed with new high-powered automatic weapons.

Another source said the rebels have marijuana plantations in areas covered by the ceasefire agreement or beyond the reach of government troops.

"There are still some (money) coming in but not as much as before," the official said, referring to foreign funds. (www.philstar.com) ■

**'Rice Wastage Can Feed
4.3 Million Hungry Pinoys'**by Ding CERVANTES/
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

ANGELES CITY, Philippines - **EACH FILIPINO WASTES AN AVERAGE OF THREE TABLESPOONS** of rice daily, the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija said yesterday.

If rice is not wasted, import savings can reach P10 billion in a year and at least 4.3 million hungry Filipinos could be fed, according to PhilRice.

PhilRice, one of the country's leading rice research agencies, encouraged the public to eat the right amount of rice and to try other sources of good carbohydrates.

PhilRice urged Filipinos not to rely only on rice as staple, but also eat other products such as banana, corn, sweet potato, potato and cassava, which "offer comparable caloric values at lesser quantity."

A study conducted by the Bureau of Agri-



cultural Statistics showed that in 2010, each Filipino consumed an average of 113 kilos of rice.

PhilRice will observe National Rice Awareness Month this November to prevent rice wastage.

Activities include the ceremonial harvesting of palay at the Rizal Park in Manila to be led by PhilRice Los Baños and the launching of the Rice Manga, a book on rice conservation. (www.philstar.com) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy Vows 'All-Out Justice'

by Aureo CALICA

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT AQUINO DECLARED

yesterday that the government would pursue "all-out justice" against criminal elements that might include some members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) amid calls for him to declare an "all-out war" against the Muslim rebel group.

The President's pronouncement came a few hours after the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched its first air strikes in three years against Muslim separatists.

"All-out war is indiscriminate and borne out of anger. All-out justice is sober and fair. It is based on the rule of law and leads to lasting peace," Aquino said in a televised press conference in Malacañang late yesterday afternoon.

"In line with this, I have instructed intensified operations against all these criminal elements. The mailed fist of the state will be brought to bear upon them so that justice may be served. There is no question that the state will find them; the only remaining question is when. There will be sacrifices in addressing this decades-old problem. We expect everyone to understand this, and are confident of the cooperation of the citizenry," he said.

The President said there would be no suspension of the ceasefire or peace talks with the MILF but those from the Muslim rebel group who aided and would coddle their "rogue" comrades and other lawless elements like the Abu Sayyaf Group would also be subject of government operations.

The President said that the AFP began operations to pursue lawless elements in Al-Barka, Basilan on Oct. 18, resulting in the neutralization of nine criminals.

"There have been calls to wage an 'all-out war' against the MILF. While it is tempting for the government to join the chorus in calling for blood, we believe that such a course of action is not appropriate at this point. We are not interested in knee-jerk actions that will jeopardize our efforts to address the roots of conflict in the region," the President said.

Aquino said he recognized that these calls might come "from those who do not have a full awareness of all the factors at play." He added that there was no point in pursuing an all-out war because there were so many "thinkers smarter than me."

However, he maintained that his decisions could not be "borne out of ignorance."

"They have to be based on available facts. It is so easy, out of frustration, to close the door on negotiations at this time. If we go down this path, more innocent civilians will

be put in harm's way. The difficult peace process cannot be enhanced by shedding more blood and generating more ill will. We have to exhaust all possibilities for attaining peace through dialogue," the President said.

Nobody asked why the President still trusts that the MILF would cooperate with the government in stopping some of its members from attacking the military and civilians, but Aquino said the sincerity of those in the Muslim rebel group who want to pursue peace will be "demonstrated."

"They have been showing (sincerely) already. I am not at liberty to tell you where there has been cooperation because that will jeopardize the ongoing operations," he said.

The President said the government was "targeting certain people, those who will block our forces in pursuit of legitimate operations cannot be differentiated from those we are after."

"Let's separate those who don't want to talk peace from those who do; if we close that door, it is not like instant coffee, when we go all out, it will generate ill will, deaths. A month later, can we expect them to go back to the negotiating table?" he said.

Aquino said backdoor channels are being exploited to make sure that the MILF knows who the military are pursuing.

AIR STRIKE NOT AIMED AT MILF CAMPS

The President said the air strikes in Payayo, Zamboanga Sibugay were not aimed at any MILF camp but against members of the MILF who had been part of those the government forces were running after.

"We are not targeting the MILF. We have sent message to the MILF that we are not out to get them, but if some of its members participate, then there is no exception," the commander-in-chief stressed.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesman for Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the bomb run was staged as ground forces tried to move in on the fortified enclave of fugitive MILF leader Waning Abdusalam.

The initial bombings were directed against the rebels' machine gun nests, bunkers, and fortified positions while the second bomb targeted the rebels' fortified positions in Barangay Labatan.

He said the targets of the law enforcement operations were based on the warrants of arrest issued against Putok Jakaria, Ogis Jakaria, Abdusalam and several other unidentified members issued by Judge Reuben Maraon for kidnapping with serious illegal detention.



President Noyon Aquino

Asked if the government would ask the MILF to surrender those who attacked the soldiers in Basilan, the President said the military forces were after Ibrahim Malat Sulayman or Long Malat and Dan Asnawi, who was incarcerated but sprung by some of his comrades.

When told that the MILF had been opening up to the attacks in its website, the President said, "I'm sorry I did not view their website."

The President stressed that the government "will try to push the negotiations forward to address the roots of the conflict" and assured the public that civilians would be kept safe.

The President also said he would not broadcast how many forces, which firepower would be used and other details for security reasons.

He assured that during operations, "our armed services always have been, and always will be, mindful of the safety of the civilians."

BLOODY RESULTS

At least eight were killed, including two soldiers and six rebels, while four troopers were wounded in the ground assault that preceded the intense aerial and artillery bombardment on the position of the "rogue rebels," according to a military official.

An estimated 40 rebels were also believed wounded in the assault as the troops under the 102nd Army Brigade tried to penetrate the fortified position of Abdusalam in sitio Talab, Barangay Labatan.

The military utilized two OV-10 bronco bombers in the aerial attacks.

The troops also unleashed rounds of 105mm howitzer fire towards the rebels' positions.

LAWMAKERS DIVIDED ON PEACE TALKS

At the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago urged the national government to immediately remove the provision of the ceasefire agreement with the MILF that requires the state to coordinate with the group before entering their so-called territories.

She said this need to coordinate

with the rebel group was the cause of the deaths of the government troops at the hands of the MILF.

Santiago explained that this provision should have been discarded immediately when the MILF took custody of the 19 soldiers initially reported in Basilan last week.

She said the situation then was already considered an armed conflict which, under international law, allows the state parties to go after the perpetrators regardless of territorial jurisdiction.

"Military necessity trumps any ceasefire agreement. The murder of 19 soldiers could have been avoided, if the Philippine military and police were allowed to apply the doctrine of fresh pursuit. This rule allows government soldiers to cross jurisdictional lines in fresh pursuit of rebel guerrillas who have committed war crimes," she said.

Santiago said the deaths were caused by the so-called coordination in the ceasefire agreement.

In a briefing with reporters during a luncheon hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs for her yesterday, Santiago argued that the actions taken by the MILF against the government troops already constituted extrajudicial killing and as party to the Rome Statute, she said those responsible should be punished.

She said that the MILF cannot be allowed to continue hiding behind their numerous excuses and legal shields to escape responsibility for the attacks last week.

Santiago said that the leaders of the MILF should immediately turn over the perpetrators to the government as a show of good faith if they are really sincere about pursuing a peace agreement with the state.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said President

Aquino's call for "all-out justice" against the MILF should be a clear signal to the AFP and the Philippine National Police "to relentlessly pursue intensified operations to serve justice to all our soldiers and civilians who fell victims to the atrocities of 'rogue' members of MILF."

At the House of Representatives, opposition congressman Rodolfo Albano of Isabela urged the President to listen to the sentiments of his "bosses" in deciding what to do with the peace talks with the MILF and its fighters who killed scores of soldiers.

Five Mindanao lawmakers, on the other hand, urged the government to stick to the peace process.

"We must say no to total war in Mindanao. To wage 'total' war is by definition to take huge numbers of innocent lives -- and perpetuate the cycle of senseless violence, death, and destruction," Lanoa del Sur Rep. Pangalilan Balindong said in a statement he read for his group in a news conference.

Balindong's group included Nur Jaafar of Tawi-Tawi, Jim Hataman-Salliman of Basilan, Bai Sandra Sema of Maguindanao, and Nur Ann Sahidula of Sulu.

Responding to questions, Hataman-Salliman said the MILF should consider surrendering to the government its fighters who were involved in the ambush-murder of soldiers.

Jaafar, on the other hand, suggested that the military could mount a "surgical operation" to catch those who carried out the ambush.

Another administration ally, Rep. Erin Tañada of Quezon, added his voice to the chorus of support for Aquino's peace tack.

Tañada and the five Mindanao lawmakers are the latest group of administration lawmakers who have expressed support for Aquino's decision not to declare war on the MILF. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Beijing Urges Manila to Return Chinese Vessels

by Pia LEE-BRAGO/

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - CHINA HAS JUSTIFIED THE ACTIVITIES of Chinese fishermen who strayed into Philippine waters last week, saying the actions taken by the Philippines have harmed the "lawful rights and interests of fishermen."

Beijing urged Manila to "unconditionally return the Chinese dinghies as soon as possible and appropriately handle relevant issue."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu claimed during a press conference in Beijing last Oct. 20 that the Philippine naval vessel entered the waters off Lyue Bank of Spratlys, called the Nansha Islands in Chinese, last Oct. 18 and attempted to approach a Chinese

fishing boat under "normal operation" towing 25 unoccupied dinghies.

The Philippine Navy vessel's propeller, she said, got entangled with the cables of the fishing boat, disconnecting it from the dinghies. But the Chinese fishermen and the fishing boat were safe.

She said China enjoys indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters.

"It is completely justified for Chinese fishermen to fish in an area that has been a traditional fishing ground for generations," Jiang said. "China has expressed its position to the Philippines, urging it to unconditionally return the Chinese dinghies as soon as possible and

appropriately handle relevant issue," she added.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was firm that no apology was necessary for the collision of Navy and Chinese vessels.

Sources told The STAR that the Chinese side does not deserve an apology because their boats were in Philippine waters.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario maintained last week that the Chinese fishing vessel towing 35 unmanned dinghies strayed into Philippine waters.

Del Rosario said "When we took a closer look, our naval ship developed a steering problem and collided with the dinghies."

The Chinese vessel left the scene and abandoned 24 of the dinghies, now in possession of the Navy, he said. (www.philstar.com) ■

Miriam Leaves for New York to Campaign for ICC Seat

by Alexis ROMERO/

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO WILL CONTINUE HER CAMPAIGN for a seat in the International Criminal Court (ICC) during a visit to the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Santiago leaves for New York today as the second leg of her campaign tour, after her tour to The Hague in the Netherlands.

Santiago will personally meet with the ambassadors based in New York to campaign for one of six seats available in the ICC.

There are 19 candidates vying for the six seats in the ICC, two of which are from the Asian region, including Santiago.

Santiago is also one of two female candidates, the other being Olga Venencia Herrera Carbuccion of the Dominican Republic.

Santiago, with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs, has also been lobbying for the post in the Philippines.

The DFA hosted a luncheon for Santiago in Makati City yesterday with 21 honorary consuls in attendance. All them are assigned to countries that have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Philippines recently ratified the Rome Statute, becoming the 117th state party to the treaty.

These countries are Belize, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Costa



Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Uruguay and Zambia.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario gave clear instructions to the consuls to actively campaign for Santiago, which would be a significant achievement, not only for the country, but for developing nations as well.

"Asia is a region that has only 17 state parties in the ICC. Asia needs to be better represented in the court. Developing countries need to be better represented in the court," Del Rosario said. He added that women also need to have better representation in the court, considering that a lot of the cases brought before it involve violence against women.

Del Rosario noted that former Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon was the last Filipino to have ever held a position in an international court.

Bengzon served in the International Court of Justice from 1967 to 1976. (www.philstar.com) ■

House to Expand e-voting

by Pia LEE-BRAGO/

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL EXPAND its electronic voting system to accommodate all its 285 members.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez, author of a resolution on the expansion of e-voting, said the installation of more electronic voting gadgets would bring about "a more accurate and faster voting."

"The objective is to encourage lawmakers' attendance and promote efficiency in plenary procedures, especially during voting on important measures," he said.

"The e-voting system allows for the immediate availability of results for analysis and information to the public," he said.

At present, Benitez said there are only 239 voting gadgets installed at the House session hall, "46 short of the total number that we need."

He added that the expansion would require additional funds from the House.

Benitez pointed out that many countries in Asia have already installed e-voting in their parliaments, including Thailand and South Korea.

The House, under the leadership of Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., has started using its biometric electronic voting system. The chamber has been recording unprecedented levels of attendance in its plenary sessions and in committee meetings.

The House initiated its e-voting

project under former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. His successor, ex-Speaker Prospero Nograles, continued the project.

Aside from facilitating the voting process, the system also expedites the calling of the roll of members.

Lawmakers have increased in number due to the filing of more party-list seats by the Commission on Elections.

The militant group Bayan Muna, one of the first party-list organizations that succeeded in electing representatives to the House, has bewailed the entry of what it described as bogus groups that do not really represent marginalized sectors. (www.philstar.com) ■

Press Village to Rise in Bulacan

from www.philstar.com

Monday, October 24, 2011

PULLIAN, Bulacan - A DREAM COME TRUE for Filipino journalists.

Regular and lifetime members of the National Press Club (NPC) of the Philippines will soon have the opportunity to own a house at a prime lot in Barangay Tibag here.

NPC officials led by its president Jerry Yap together with Presidential sister Elena "Balsy" Aquino-Cruz, Bulacan Governor Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, Pullian Mayor Vicente B. Esguerra, Sr. and Atty. Darlene Marie B. Berberabe, Chief Executive Officer of Pag-IBIG Funds, laid the time capsule over the weekend containing the construction plans for the first 11 housing units of the NPC Village located near the Pullian exit of the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Tibag here.

"The project is in line with our efforts to uplift the living conditions of our less privileged members. The NPC Village is a low-cost housing project in partnership with Pag-IBIG fund that will extend soft loans to qualified journalist-borrowers," Yap said.

Former NPC president and current Alyansa ng Filipinong Mamamahayag (Afima) president Benny Antiporda said the NPC has resolved to allocate P6 million from its funds to begin construction of the 48 housing units which will be sold to NPC members at very minimal cost.

Other NPC partners have even vowed to help underwrite downpayment and other expenses that would be required from journalist-borrowers.

"This is low-cost in its very meaning. Each house will have enough room for the family. There will also be a car port and a provi-

sion for the construction of a lot. This will be the NPC's legacy to its members," Antiporda, who co-chairs the housing project with NPC secretary Louie Logarta, said.

Yap and Antiporda thanked Aquino for personally helping the NPC to have a link with the Pag-IBIG Funds through Atty. Berberabe who promised them that she will ask the board to make NPC members regular Pag-IBIG members.

Aquino, for her part, hailed the initiatives of the NPC officials in providing low-cost housing units to less privilege Filipino journalist, adding that housing is the next best thing to education that Filipinos should have.

Alvarado, on the other hand, said Bulacan is honored to be the host of the NPC village because the province is the hometown of the great propagandist of Philippine revolution Gat. Marcelo H. del Pilar, the acknowledged "patron saint" of Filipino journalists. ■

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LEGAL NOTES

Naturalization Denial Due to False Statements



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

petition, her U.S. citizen husband no longer resided with her and was not even in the same state. She also had a child by another man. However, in the I-751 she listed a Florida address for her husband and falsely stated that she had no children.

False statements made in order to obtain any immigration benefit can result in a finding of lack of good moral character. Good moral character is one of the requirements for naturalization. The applicant has the burden to establish that he/she had it for the required period of residence and up to the time of filing and administration of oath.

The USCIS generally looks only at the statutory period (generally five years, three for spouses of U.S. citi-

zens) to determine whether the applicant meets the requirement.

If before the statutory period the applicant committed acts or exhibited conduct that would otherwise show lack of good moral character, the USCIS may not deny the application solely on these acts or conduct, but it will consider whether, during the statutory period the applicant has reformed his/her character.

The law gives no specific definition for good moral character but the USCIS has adopted a reasonable standard. It is described as that character measured by the standards of average citizens of the community, but which does not require the highest degree of moral excellence.

Certain classes of people are

enumerated in the law as ineligible for naturalization for lack of good moral character, such individuals who were at any time convicted of murder or an aggravated felony.

Aliens who during the statutory period were convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or committed 2 or more offenses and sentenced to at least 5 years in prison, or committed drug offenses, are also deemed to lack good moral character.

Admission that one has committed a criminal act either in the U.S. or abroad, although not formally charged, arrested or convicted for it, makes him/her ineligible for naturalization.

Other classes of ineligible aliens include habitual drunkards, smugglers, polygamists, illegal gamblers and those engaged in prostitution or commercialized vice. A bar also exists for aliens previ-

ously ordered removed, illegal voters, and those who have made a false claim to U.S. citizenship.

Other grounds include willful failure or refusal to support dependents, adultery, or unlawful acts that adversely reflect on moral character, committed during the statutory period. However, applicants may be able to overcome a negative finding by showing mitigating or favorable factors.

Some male applicants also overlook the requirement of selective service registration. Save for a few excepted classes such as non-immigrants on student, visitor, tourist or diplomatic visas, all men over 18 but less than 26 years old must register with selective service. Knowing and willful failure to do so will raise concerns on one's eligibility for naturalization. ■

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Palace Cites Two-track Approach to 'All-Out Justice'

by Aurea CALICA
Wednesday, October 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT AQUINO IS EMPLOYING a two-track approach in dealing with separatist rebels, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said yesterday.

Valte said the President had deemed it best to go after those behind the killing of the 19 soldiers in Basilan last Oct. 18 while pursuing peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The pursuit of the lawless elements will continue. The President was very categorical - you cooperate or you stand aside because we are trying to make the distinctions as to who really wants peace," Valte said.

"Those who are just meddling and hiding, we are trying to determine, we are trying to separate

these kinds of people. But the President was very categorical: regardless of affiliation, if you violate the law, you will be liable and we will come after you," she said.

Malacañang denied the government had not been swift in addressing the situation, saying "we cannot sacrifice thoroughness for speed."

Valte said they were aware of the comments on Aquino's approach in dealing with the situation.

"We are aware of comments: why come out only now? Why talk only now? And our answer is always... I think the President addressed it also partly in the past few days that he wanted to verify all the facts first before coming out and before giving a statement on it," Valte said.

"We wanted to be absolutely sure as to what happened before



Abigail Valte

taking any step."

Valte explained the President is working on pursuing the MILF rebels behind the attack while at the same time, pushing the peace talks with the MILF.

"These are separate tracks now. The peace talks is a separate track (from) those who perpetrated the incident in Basilan. And the military and our law enforcement forces already know the steps they have to

take," she said.

Valte said the military approach is not targeting the MILF.

"What does that mean? You will not be pursued just because you were affiliated, a former member, a current member, you were a member for a brief period of time - just because of your affiliation. The President was very categorical: if you're considered a lawless element because you broke the law, we will come after you - that is very clear," she said.

Valte said all the troop movements would be calculated now "and everybody should be fore-

warned because of the operations that we are conducting."

She said there was "an ongoing investigation" into the Basilan incident, including the alleged use of the P5-million cash that the government gave to the MILF to purchase arms.

The P5 million was intended for the Bangsamoro Leadership Management Institute that the government has yet to release.

Valte also said the Department of Social Welfare and Development would be ready to take care of the families who would be displaced by the operations. (www.philstar.com) ■

16,000 People Flee From Mindanao Clashes

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, October 26, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - MORE THAN 16,000 PEOPLE HAVE FLED from four southern Philippine towns where government troops have been battling Muslim guerrillas and outlaws.

The Office of Civil Defense said Tuesday that about 10,800 villagers have been displaced in three towns in Zamboanga Sibugay province.

The towns include coastal Paway, where air force bomber



planes, army troops and naval gunboats have been battling more than 120 suspected Muslim rebels and outlaws accused of kidnappings for ransom and other crimes.

Officials say nearly 6,000 villagers have also fled from Al-Barka

town in the island province of Basilan, where 19 army soldiers were killed in a clash with Muslim guerrillas last week.

The fresh clashes are complicating government peace talks with Muslim rebels. ■



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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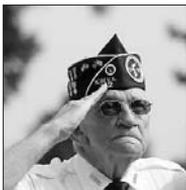
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MAINLAND NEWS

White House Rolls Out Job Creation Initiatives for Veterans

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) - **THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TUESDAY** that it would take two new steps to help create jobs for veterans, the administration's latest effort to circumvent Congress to jumpstart the fragile economy and create more job opportunities.

The Obama administration prodded the country's Community Health Centers nationwide to hire 8,000 veterans in three years, and the Health Resources and Services Administration would begin to give priority in physician assistant grant awards to universities and colleges that help train veterans for careers as physician assistants, the White House said in a statement.



The White House spokesman Jay Carney said Monday that the Obama administration would bypass the obstruction from an uncooperative Congress to take executive branch moves to boost the weak economy, after the administration's recent jobs plan met

strong obstruction from Republican rivals.

Facing a sluggish economic growth and stubbornly high unemployment rate, US President Barack Obama unveiled the jobs plan on Sept. 8, including measures like payroll tax cuts for employers and employees as well as new investment in infrastructure projects.

However, Republican Senators scuttled the jobs package on Oct. 11, and a portion of the bill, which provided \$35 billion to state and local governments to prevent layoffs of teachers, police officers and firefighters, failed to advance in the Senate on Oct. 20, 2011. (www.philstar.com) ■

Filipino Teachers in U.S. Sue Hiring Firm

MANILA, Philippines - **TWO FILIPINO TEACHERS**, who were hired to fill a shortage in Louisiana in 2007, have filed a federal lawsuit against the hiring firm that recruited them in the Philippines after being allegedly forced to pay exorbitant fees, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

In a complaint filed in Los Angeles, Ingrid Cruz and Rolando Pascual accused Universal Placement International Inc. and its president Lourdes Navarro of forcing them to pay immigration fees, which should have been paid by the districts that hired them under the federal law.

The lawsuit said the respondent charged the complainants with \$16,000 in recruitment and immigration charges. The two teachers added that they were forced to pay a second fee of \$8,000 before they were allowed to leave the Philippines.

Cruz and Pascual are among the five plaintiffs in the lawsuit, who seeks unspecified compensatory

and punitive damages against the hiring company.

A judge has not yet ruled on a request to certify the lawsuit as a class action, a move that could add about 350 teachers to the litigation, the L.A. Times pointed out.

The complainants also noted that Navarro was earlier convicted of defrauding California Medi-Cal system of more than \$1 million, a court decision that she pleaded no contest in 2000. She was also convicted for money laundering in New Jersey.

Navarro's counterpart in the Philippines is the PARS International Placement Agency.

The plaintiffs also accused school officials of the East Baton Rouge Parish School of participating in the scheme that left many teachers saddled with debts.

The L.A. Times said a judge dismissed human-trafficking claims against the school board but did stand allegations that the school system was negligent in hiring Navarro because of her prior criminal convictions. (www.philstar.com) ■

Social Security Announces 3.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2012

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICIALS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED that monthly social security and supplemental security income (SSI) benefits for more than 60 million Americans will increase 3.6 percent in 2012.

The 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 55 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2012. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries

will begin on December 30, 2011.

Other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$110,100 from \$106,800. Of the estimated 161 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2012, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the in-

crease in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2012, when announced, will be available online at: www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their social security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. ■



Donaire Beats Argentinean Opponent

NONITO "THE FILIPINO FLASH" DONAIRE DEFEATED Argentinean opponent Omar Narvaez via unanimous decision at historic Madison Square Garden in New York City on October 22, 2011. Donaire's record is now 29-1, with 18 knockouts.

After the fight, Donaire—reigning World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Organization (WBO) Bantamweight title holder—announced that the fight would be his last at 118 lbs. (junior bantamweight) and that he would be moving up in weight, presumably to super-bantamweight.

The last Filipino boxer who had a boxing match at Madison Square Garden was the legendary Gabriel "Flash" Elorde who fought against Puerto Rican Frankie Narvaez in 1966. Prior to the fight, Donaire was ranked by boxing magazine The Ring as the fourth

best pound-for-pound boxer in the world and is expected to move up the list.

Donaire also visited New York Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr. and conducted a press conference at the Philippine Center in New York prior to the fight. Consul General de Leon noted that Donaire is "an inspiration not only for aspiring boxers in the Philippines but also for Filipino-American athletes working to make their mark in the United States."

Boxing experts are noting the similarities between Donaire and Philippine boxing legend Manny Pacquiao. Both fighters grew up in General Santos, became professional boxers before their 20th birthday in one of the smallest weight classes and held multiple championships at the age of 28. Many, in fact, are expecting Donaire to be Pacquiao's heir apparent. ■

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ANNKA TI BATAK OF HAWAII, GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY
 October 29, 2011, 6:30pm • Hawaii Prince Hotel • For details, contact Liza Romualdo @ 220-5250 or Delia @ 381-3673

FILIPINO BUSINESSWOMEN'S ASSOC. FOUNDATION, FILIPINO BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD / FRIDAY
 November 4, 2011, 7pm • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND 2011 OUTSTANDING FILIPINO HOTEL EMPLOYEES BANQUET / SUNDAY
 November 13, 2011, 6pm • Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center • Contact Emmanuel Baltazar @ emanbaltazar74@yahoo.com

DINNER RECEPTION FOR THE OUTSTANDING FILIPINO PRESIDENT ROTUYO AQUINO / SUNDAY
 November 13, 2011, 6pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village. Attire will be Filipiniana or formal • For more details please call 398-5988 or 383-7986

DIOCESAN CONGRESS OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB KAILUA-KONA
 November 18-20, 2011, 7pm • Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel • Contact Ruth @ (808) 333-1196

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 Villanuz @ 778-0233

GLOBAL NEWS

Hong Kong Nationals Protest Residency Rights for Domestic Helpers

MANILA, Philippines - **PROTESTERS IN HONG KONG YESTERDAY MARCHED** from Wan Chai to government headquarters to protest a recent court ruling granting right of abode for domestic helpers.



Around 200 domestic helpers took part in a candlelight vigil in support of the court ruling in Chater Garden in Hong Kong Sunday night, according to a report in The South China Morning Post.

The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, which organized the march, said local workers could lose their jobs if a large number of migrant domestic helpers were given abode.

The demonstrators, numbering about 1,500, were joined at the Tamar site by the New Territories Association of So-

cieties, which collected 16,000 signatures to support the protest.

"We are not discriminating against migrant domestic helpers, as they are workers and we want to protect them too," federation chairman Pan Pey-chou said.

The protesters called for the government to appeal against the court decision granting right of abode to Evangeliste Banao Vallejos, a ruling that could set a precedent for thousands of other domestic workers.

"We are targeting the government because we are worried that they are not doing enough to protect the interests of local workers. If Hong Kong is to absorb such a large influx of migrants all of a sudden, it will negatively impact the job market for local workers," Pan said, adding

that current restrictions should be maintained.

Pan cited a survey by the Hong Kong Employers of Overseas Domestic Helpers Association that showed an overwhelming majority of domestic helpers would apply for right of abode if there was a chance of it being granted.

He also warned that migrant workers' command of English could put local workers at a disadvantage. "In the service sector, local workers will be at a disadvantage if migrant workers enter the job market," he said.

Sheilla Grace Estrada, chair of the Alliance of Progressive Labour, said helpers faced discrimination regardless of their command of English. "We are fighting for a right of abode for all domestic helpers," she said, adding, "We think this is class discrimination, not just race discrimination. People are against migrant domestic helpers obtaining right of abode." (www.philstar.com) ■

Europe Urges Phl Gov't, MILF to Stop Use of Violence

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - **THE EUROPEAN UNION ON MONDAY CALLED** on Muslim rebels to stop the use of violence that have killed 19 soldiers and several other civilians in strife-torn Mindanao last week, but rejected armed retaliation by the Philippine government.

British Ambassador Stephen Lillie expressed serious concern about the recent spate of ambushes by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), saying the rebel group needs to reassure public and political opinion that they remain committed to

the peace process.

But for this to happen, Lillie said, "the current spate of ambushes must stop."

The European Union, for its part, wants the MILF to condemn the use of violence as it joined Britain in calling for a peaceful and non-military solution to the conflict.

"We hope all sides will maintain an unwavering commitment to the cease fire and the peace process," it said in a statement.

Both the UK and the EU provide as-

sistance in the Mindanao peace process.

The UK is a member of an advisory body called the International Contact Group (ICG) and the EU is part of the International Monitoring Team (IMT), which oversees the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

The EU said the Malaysian-led IMT should consider conducting an independent investigation of the incidents to determine whether there have been violations of the ceasefire agreement and violations of the international law and human rights.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Accidents Kill 34,000 Each Year in Vietnam

HANOI (Xinhua) -- **EACH YEAR THERE ARE ABOUT 900,000 ACCIDENTS** in Vietnam, which claims more than 34,000 lives, accounting for 11-12 percent of the country's total deaths, said Vice Minister of Health Nguyen Viet Tien.

Tien made the remarks at the 2nd National Scientific Conference on Prevention of Fatal Accidents held here Tuesday by the Ministry of Health (MOH), in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children

Fund (UNICEF).

Addressing the conference, Tien said each year the world witnessed more than five million fatalities and 10 million disabled people caused by accidents. Accidents causing fatalities and disability in Vietnam have spread complicatedly.

According to MOH, Vietnam has not yet an agency to manage activities for the prevention of fatal accidents, and the people's awareness of the problem is insufficient.

During the two-day conference, participants will review the prevention of fatal accidents in Vietnam and related issues, including traffic accidents, fatal accidents to children and labor accidents.

They will also exchange experience in implementing and reviewing policies and projects on the prevention of fatal accidents, building a safe community and treatment and rehabilitation of injuries. (www.philstar.com) ■

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