



NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

CONSULATE SPONSORS FORUM ON PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS DISPUTE

By Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.



The four panelists (seated) at the Philippine Consulate's forum "Issues on Philippine Maritime Jurisdiction" prepare to address the audience

To address recent news headlines about confrontations between the People's Republic of China and the Philippines regarding Scarborough Shoal, an area off the west coast of Luzon that has been claimed by both nations, the Philippine Consulate General and several Filipino community organizations recently hosted a community forum at the Consulate.

Entitled "Issues on Philippine Maritime Jurisdiction," the purpose of the forum was to discuss and educate the public about the issues at hand. The waters surrounding Scarborough Shoal is claimed by the Philippines as an integral part of its territory, while China considers the area as an historical part of its national domain. The issue could take on regional and international proportions since it could potentially in-

volve the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the U.S. with whom the Philippines has a mutual defense treaty.

Attendees included those from academe, working professionals and community residents. Deputy Consul General Paul Cortes welcomed the participants and introduced panel members which included Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr., Dr. Federico Magdalena, Dr. Belinda Aquino and Consul General Julius Torres. Dr. Raymund Li-

ngson, professor of Philippine studies at Leeward Community College, served as moderator.

THE EXTENT OF PHILIPPINE MARITIME TERRITORY

Dr. Colmenares, executive director of the State Office of Language Access, provided an overview of the Philippines' maritime territory which includes areas set by international treaties, its inland or archipelagic waters, territorial sea, claim to the Kalayaan Islands, exclusive

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DOLPHY: A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER

by Ricky Lo

MANILA, Philippines - The Comedy King is dead. Long live the Comedy King!

It was curtain call for Dolphy who died at 8:34 last night at the ICU of the Makati Medical Center (MCC), where he was confined for more than three weeks for pneumonia.

He would have turned 84 on July 25.

Dr. Jake Marte, assistant patient relations officer of MMC, said, "Mr. Rodolfo 'Dolphy' Quizon passed away due to multiple organ failure



Dolphy

brought about by severe pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and acute renal failure."

He died surrounded by members of his family,

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400 FIL-AMS RESPOND TO 'MORE FUN' TOURISM CAMPAIGN

by Mayen Jaymalin

MANILA, Philippines - Over 400 Filipino-Americans arrived in the country yesterday to take part in an organized tour.

Among them are the 10 Filipino Young Professionals in America, who were selected by the Philippine consulates in the US to participate in the two-week 7th Ambassador/Consulate Generals/Tourism Directors program.



The program is a joint undertaking of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). It has been effective in luring Filipino-Americans to visit the

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EDITORIALS

Code of Conduct

Finally, a united stand. Meeting this week in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations approved a Code of Conduct to prevent armed clashes in the South China Sea. The ASEAN ministers also agreed to call for the settlement of maritime territorial disputes through international agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China, which is claiming nearly all of the South China Sea, still has to come on board. Beijing has opposed the discussion of the dispute at the ASEAN Regional Forum, which opens today also in Phnom Penh. The forum includes, among others, China and the United States, whose emerging rivalry in the region is being closely watched. Beijing also opposes multilateral discussions of overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea, insisting instead on bilateral talks with the five other claimants including the Philippines.



With 10 of its neighbors thinking otherwise, however, Beijing may want to review its stand, especially in the light of its treatment of some of the

other claimants. China, a member of the nuclear club and now the world's second largest economy, has not hesitated to flex its military muscle in enforcing its claim on disputed areas in its surrounding waters. Its worst encounters in the past years have been with its closest neighbor Vietnam, whose coastline facing the South China Sea is much longer than that of China, but Hanoi is not laying claim to nearly the entire body of water.

Last week the incoming leader of China announced that there is nothing to fear about the country's growing economic and military power. Chinese officials have emphasized that their country has prospered in the past three decades in an environment of regional peace and in the absence of a world war. Maintaining that environment and earning respect in the community of nations are better achieved through peaceful, friendly ges-

tures, starting with neighbors. (www.philstar.com) ■

Manufacturing Center

Over half a century ago, Japan was Asia's manufacturing center for amphetamine-type stimulants, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Around the 1960s the operations moved to South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, the UNODC reported.

Today, in its World Drug Report 2012, the UNODC has identified three Asian countries that have become the manufacturing centers for stimulants including "ecstasy" and shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride. These are China, Myanmar and the Philippines.

What happened to the former manufacturing centers? They have not completely eradicated the drug problem, and they continue to grapple with crime families or organizations. But Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have invested in modernizing their law enforcement agencies, and have a continuing effort to rid the agencies of scalawags. They have also invested in improving the technological and human capability of other offices such as those handling customs and immigration to foil drug trafficking.

Thailand under Thaksin Shinawatra launched a brutal crackdown on drug traffickers. The problem – a serious one in a country that is one of the world's top tourist destinations – has not been completely eradicated. But the bloody crackdown, criticized by human rights groups, broke up several

drug rings and neutralized their coddlers in law enforcement agencies.

The illegal drug industry is big business, and drug dealers operate where they smell inefficiency and corruption in law enforcement. These are problems that the Philippines has in common with China and Myanmar. All three countries have some of the world's toughest drug laws. China has shown that it applies the death penalty on drug traffickers including foreign couriers, in accordance with its laws. Yet huge profits from illegal drugs, particularly those that can be synthesized in small laboratories, push drug traffickers to take risks, especially when they enjoy the protection of crooked law enforcers.

Only a sustained and coordinated effort among several agencies can make a dent in the operations of drug dealers. The effort must include a continuing purge in law enforcement agencies. Police internal affairs units must be revitalized, with more powers and resources. This should be given priority by an administration that rose to power on an anti-corruption platform. (www.philstar.com) ■

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The 6-Year Curse

CTALK by Cito BELTRAN

Even Indiana Jones would have a problem solving why it's so hard to do business in the Philippines. In spite of all the rosy ratings and praises that the country has been getting, one has to wonder why foreign investors are not rushing into the country and even worse, why those who have set up shop have slowly been closing down.

I recently spent time with top executives from various industries, namely Automotive, Garments, Aviation and Agriculture. From those meetings I tried my best to understand why companies who believed in the Philippines enough to invest in it have eventually given up.

Everyone has blamed it on corruption, lack of infrastructure, high electricity cost, high labor costs, militant labor unions, lack of raw materials, red tape, etc. But during my two-week quest for answers, I learned about "the six-year curse" that no one ever seems to talk about or realize. One of the multinational executives I spoke with told me that he learned about "the six-year curse" while attending an industry-sponsored event where a high-ranking Philippine government official was the guest of honor.

After the usual pleasantries, the government official went straight to the point

and candidly confessed that any plans or program of government that requires more than six years is doomed to certain failure because administrations last only six years. That is "the six-year curse," where it becomes impossible to develop, initiate, sustain and accomplish long-term development plans or programs. The recent closure of the Ford factory in Sta. Rosa, Laguna has sparked a lot of talk on why or what caused the closure of the plant. Most of the discussions have centered on short-term problems and their short-term solutions, but very few have gone back in history and made comparisons.

When Ford started up in Asia 20 plus years ago they set up factories in the Philippines and Thailand. Any economist and political scientist can tell you that the Thais and the Pinoys are almost like twins in terms of where they started out, went through and survived in the last 20 years or more. Both countries had political turmoil, corruption, natural disasters etc.

So why is it that after 20 years or so, Thailand has left the Philippines behind in terms of Tourism, Agriculture, foreign investments, services etc.? How did Thailand manage to attract corporate and manufacturing headquarters to relocate to Thailand considering they have their share of coup d'état, floods and cor-

ruption?

For one, the Thais don't live with a six-year curse. When Thailand decided to enter into tourism, they invested in legitimate studies, they crafted a legitimate long term tourism development plan, they set aside tax-backed budgets for infrastructure development and they had a very strong professional civil service structure that insured the continuity and growth of Thai tourism. The core tourism program was not subject to changing leadership, not subject to piracy or invasion of political personalities, and handled by well-paid professionals and industry consultants and not relatives or political appointees. On top of that, the long-term tourism development was not subject to cannibalism, territorial disputes, or pissing contests between ministries or government officials.

In other words, Thais respect the work, the vision and the decisions of those before them. They are not opportunistic meddlers or egoistic experts who need to reinvent the wheel just because they are in or close to the seat of power.

Some 20 years ago or so, Thailand embarked on

a long-term rural development program much like what Ferdinand Marcos had in mind. Back then I would risk saying that we had the upper hand in terms of technology, information and expertise. We had more experience in Aquaculture, developing fruit trees, rice, etc. But when Marcos got kicked out, all those programs were shelved and as a result many of our experts in prawn farming, fruit trees etc. were "pirated" by Thailand and Malaysia, then later on, the Middle East sheiks.

The Thais stayed the course of developing their rural areas alongside tourism. As a result not only did they have the visitors, they also had enough food and exotic fruits to serve or sell worldwide. When they embarked on the rural development program, one requirement was to build roads, bridges and other necessary infrastructure. Once the backlands and beaches were accessible, the Thais then needed transportation the best of which was the "pick-up." Today four

out of five vehicles on Thailand's many highways are pick-up. It was because of the high demand for pick-ups that companies such as Ford, Chevrolet, and Toyota etc. decided to build several factories in Thailand.

One of my sources pointed out the bullet train that people take regularly in Tokyo. "They started working on that bullet train back in the 1960s, not three years ago. In order for industries to succeed, Filipinos have to do their basics well. You don't start at the top, you need a "basic road map."

Clearly we need to think, plan and work long term, but we need to put an end to the six-year curse. Perhaps we should turn all development into "laws" that carries with them punishment for anyone who disobeys or alters the contents and intents of such plans, just like it does in the Book of Revelation Chapter 22:18-19, where a real curse is upon anyone who attempts to change the message.

(www.philstar.com) ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Adds Ambulance Unit for Ewa Beach

CITY OFFICIALS HAVE ANNOUNCED that a new ambulance unit has been stationed in Ewa Beach to better serve neighborhoods most impacted by recent hospital closures.

The ambulance will be housed in existing City-owned space at the Ewa Villages Golf Course's main building.

"Protecting public health and safety are among our top concerns and basing an ambulance in Ewa Beach will allow paramedics to respond more rapidly to emergencies in the area," says Mayor Peter Carlisle.

Extra ambulance units were made available to service Ewa Beach and surrounding communities immediately after the hospital closures took effect. The City planned to station a unit in Ewa Beach within a few years to better serve the area's growing population but the closures brought a new sense of urgency and additional funding from the State Legislature.

"This is happening at the right place, at the right time and was possible because of a collaborative effort between the City and State," says Dr. James Ireland, director of the City's Emergency Services Department. ■

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economic zone or EEZ and continental shelf (CS).

The Philippines' maritime areas, according to Colmenares, were defined by international treaties including the Treaty of Paris of 1898, the Convention of 1902 between the U.S. and Great Britain, the Washington Treaty of 1930 between the U.S. and Britain and the exchange of diplomatic notes of 1946-1948 between the Philippines and Britain.

"The maritime areas covered by these treaty limits were considered as Philippine territorial waters based on historic rights," Colmenares said. "They are not, however, recognized as such under the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which has set a definite, and lower, limit on the extent of a country's territorial waters."

The Philippines' inland waters refer to the waters within and between the islands comprising the archipelago. This is based on the Archipelago Doctrine which allows archipelagic states to identify points around the archipelago and to connect these points using the Straight Baselines Method. These "baselines" encompass the Philippine archipelago, making the Philippines a single, unified territory instead of a conglomeration of several island groups due to the large expanse of water separating islands in certain parts of the country. Philippine jurisdiction over these internal waters is, however, subject to the right of innocent pas-

sage by ships of foreign states.

The territorial sea of the Philippines refers to maritime areas that extend 12 nautical miles from its baselines as laid down by UNCLOS. States can claim an additional 12 nautical miles beyond its territorial sea—known as its contiguous zone—for the purposes of safeguarding commerce and customs laws, but the Philippines so far has not seen it fit to make a claim to its contiguous zone. In areas where the 12-mile territorial sea limit overlaps with that of another state, the Principle of Equidistance is used.

The Philippines' claim to the Kalayaan Islands—a group of islands in the Spratly group located west of Palawan—was based on an older claim by Tomas Cloma who discovered the islands in 1952 and named it Freedomland (Kalayaan) but later relinquished it to the Philippine government. The Kalayaan Islands is currently a municipality of Palawan.

Colmenares said that several nations besides the Philippines have laid claim to the Kalayaan Islands including China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. All have proceeded to occupy some of the islands they claim, except for Brunei. If the Philippines' claim to these islands is recognized, it would have the effect of generating new baselines and additional territorial waters around them. The competing claims between the claimant nations have not been settled to date.

The exclusive economic



The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) a guaranteed 200 Nautical Mile Economic Zone for the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia. UNCLOS did not show any China's territory in the West Philippine Sea's Spratlys. China's limit is only until Paracel islands. The Philippines recorded 6 invasions by China to the West Philippine Sea as of June 16, 2011. (<http://betterphils.blogspot.com>)

zone or EEZ of the Philippines refers to an area that extends up to 200 nautical miles from the country's baselines as laid down by the UNCLOS. Scarborough Shoal falls within the Philippines' EEZ. Any overlap in the EEZ of neighboring countries is to be settled using the Principle of Equidistance—a concept of political geography and international law that a nation's maritime boundaries should conform to a median line equidistant from the shores of neighboring nation-states. The concept was developed to settle disputes where the borders of adjacent nations were located on a contiguous continental shelf. In addition, the existence of traditional fishing rights by a state in another state's EEZ does not provide legal rights but has to be settled through negotiations between claimant nations.

Finally, the continental shelf of the Philippines refers to the seabed and subsoil under its EEZ, extending 200 nautical miles from its baselines. This can be extended for an additional 150 nautical miles if the continental shelf goes beyond 200 nautical miles. On this basis, the Philippines filed a claim to Benham Rise, a maritime area east of Luzon, which is supposed to have natural gas and mineral deposits. The claim, filed with UNCLOS in 2009, was approved in April 2012. There is no other claimant to this area.

"While Philippine maritime claims have greatly expanded its territory, enforcement of its jurisdiction over said territory is problematic given the extent of her claimed maritime area and

the presence of competing claims from other states," Colmenares says.

THE KALAYAAN ISLANDS

The second panelist was Dr. Magdalena of the Center for Philippine Studies, who is from Palawan and a long-time faculty at the Mindanao State University. His presentation was entitled "West Philippine Sea/South China Sea? A View from the Local." Magdalena discussed indigenous perspectives of the conflict over the Spratly islands and the Scarborough Shoal between China and the Philippines.

He noted that the Kalayaan Group of Islands (KIG) has a population of 114 residents, mostly fishermen and soldiers, as of the 2007 Philippine census. KIG consists of 7 islands, 2 reefs and 2 shoals, with a total area of 84 hectares. At the heart of KIG is the island known as Pag-asa, the second largest island in the Spratly. Pag-asa is mostly inhabited and has a landing strip for the Philippine military.

Because of its proximity to Palawan, fishermen from this province frequent the KIG since it is a rich breeding ground for various fish species. This is particularly true of the Scarborough Shoal, which is closer to Zambales at 120 nautical miles. Magdalena noted that local folk songs and narratives among the Cuyonon, including the Muslims and other natives from the western side of Palawan, support this view.

According to Magdalena, the most important claim to the Kalayaan islands comes not from the Palawan folks who have visited them on a daily

basis but from the Moros (Muslims) of Sulu.

"Such a claim is historically grounded," Magdalena says. "It began with the establishment of the Sulu sultanate in the middle of the 15th century. The last reigning Sulu sultan, Muhammad Fuad Abdullah Kiram, insisted that Sulu and Palawan, including the nearby seas, is part of the Tausug ancestral domain which antedates the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. The Sulu sultanate has proprietary rights over the whole Sulu archipelago, Palawan and North Borneo."

China appears to recognize the Sulu sultanate and its sovereignty. Early on, a brisk trade existed between the Tausug Moros and Chinese merchants, which ushered in the rise of the Sulu sultanate during the 18th century. Pearls, tortoise, sea cucumber and birds' nests were the most valued commodities exchanged for tea, opium, gunpowder and other Chinese goods.

What seems remarkable in the historic relations between the Chinese and the Tausug is the royal visit of Sri Paduka Batara in 1417, with two other local leaders, to pay tribute to the Ming Emperor Yung Le. Paduka was unable to return home and died within a month of staying there. His royal entourage went back to Sulu, except his two sons Antulu and Wunhala who cared for his tomb in Shantung, southern China. Today, their descendants are still there, known by their Chinese names "An" and "Wun."

Magdalena concluded that the concept of ancestral domain reinforces the Philippines' claim and sovereignty over the Kalayaan islands. It is also implicitly recognized by China's leaders since the Ming period.

PHILIPPINE POSITION ON THE SCARBOROUGH SHOAL ISSUE

The next panelist was Consul General Torres who expounded on the Philippines' position on the Scarborough Shoal (Bajo de Masinloc) issue.

Bajo de Masinloc is a ring-shaped coral reef. It is part of the municipality of Masinloc, province of Zambales. It is located 124 nautical miles west of Zambales and within the 200 nautical mile EEZ and Philippine

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continental shelf.

The Philippines' claim to sovereignty over Bajo de Masinloc is based on effective occupation and effective exercise of jurisdiction since its independence. The name itself (which translates to "under Masinloc") identifies the shoal as a particular political subdivision of the Philippine province of Zambales known as Masinloc. According to Torres, maps of the area published in 1734, 1808, 1939 and 1990 showed Bajo de Masinloc as part of Zambales.

"Philippine flags have also been erected on some of the rocks of the shoal," Torres said. "In 1965, the Philippines built and operated a small lighthouse although this lighthouse is no longer operational. Bajo de Masinloc was also used as an impact range by Philippine and U.S. naval forces stationed in Subic Bay in Zambales for defense purposes."

The Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources together with the University of the Philippines have also conducted scientific, topographic and marine studies at the shoal. Filipino fishermen have always considered it as their fishing grounds owing to its proximity to the coastal towns and areas of southwest Luzon. In 2009, when the Philippines passed an amended Archipelagic Baselines Law fully consistent with UNCLOS, Bajo de Masinloc was classified under the "regime of islands" consist-

ent with the Law of the Sea.

The Philippines also exercises sovereign rights over the waters outside and around Bajo de Masinloc under UNCLOS. This includes the 12 nautical mile territorial waters over which it is entitled and waters beyond which are within the Philippines' EEZ and continental shelf. As such, the Philippines has exclusive sovereign rights to explore and exploit the resources within the said areas to the exclusion of other countries under UNCLOS. Although other states have the right of freedom of navigation over the said areas, such rights could not be exercised to the detriment of the internationally-recognized sovereign rights of the Philippines to explore and exploit the resources in its 200 nm EEZ and CS.

Commenting on the Chinese claim to Bajo de Masinloc, Torres maintains that the Chinese assertion based on historical claims must be substantiated by a clear historic title. Under international law, historical claims are not historical titles and cannot be a basis for acquiring territory. For a historical claim to mature into a historical title, a mere showing of long usage is not enough—the usage must be open, continuous and acquiesced by other states.

"There is no indication that the international community has acquiesced to China's so-called historical claim," Torres says. "Insofar as China's claim that Bajo de Masinloc is traditional

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country. Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and Philippine consuls in the US conceptualized the project when he was the ambassador to Washington.

"It's More Fun in the Philippines," the DOT's new campaign slogan, supports the program of activities.

The organized tour includes a visit to Malacañang Palace and courtesy call on President Aquino. The group will also join a roundtable discussion on Philippine history, culture and current socio-economic and political situation with chosen experts and local government officials.

Organizers of the event included an immersion program, a segment called "Heroes on the Ground" during which they

would have the opportunity to meet with the implementers of development initiatives and advocacies on education, entrepreneurship, environment and community, including Kariton Klasrum, Gawad Kalinga and 57-75 Movement.

The group will also visit Boracay, Palawan, Cebu and Bohol.

Tourism industry officials said the new country brand It's More Fun in the Philippines is a big help in promoting local tourism and encouraging Filipino-Americans abroad to come to the Philippines.

Officials said tourist arrivals from all major markets particularly North America and Korea have posted growth since the DOT came out with the slogan early this year. (www.philstar.com) ■

fishing waters of Chinese fishermen, it is to be noted that under international law, fishing rights is not a mode of acquiring sovereignty or sovereign rights. Fishing is an economic activity done by private individuals and cannot be considered as a display of State authority."

Besides, the so-called fishing activities are poaching activities involving the harvesting of endangered marine species which is illegal under international law. Finally, since the Philippines has sovereign rights over its EEZ and continental shelf, the presence and action of Chinese surveillance vessels in the area are inconsistent with its right of freedom of navigation and in violation of the sovereign rights of the Philippines under UNCLOS.

Torres said that the Philippines is committed to a peaceful and diplomatic solution. While working towards a diplomatic solution, the Philippine Coast Guard is present in the area and continuing to enforce relevant Philippine laws.

GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF PHILIPPINE MARITIME CLAIMS

Dr. Aquino, retired Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University

of Hawaii-Manoa, was the final panelist. She presented a broad historical perspective of the issue and noted that "maritime territorial disputes have been occurring since the beginning of time, not only in Asia, but in virtually all parts of the world."

She cited several examples such as the West Indian Ocean, which has become the world's hottest piracy spot since 2008 with the collapse of law and order in Somalia. Likewise, the Northern Bay of Bengal has had its share of maritime chaos in recent years involving Bangladesh, India and Burma (now Myanmar) about boundary disputes, some of which are now before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in The Hague.

Most of the claims in the territorial waters are motivated by the presence of extensive natural gas reserves and mineral resources, which could amount to vast economic fortunes for the claimant states. Aquino further discussed the major geopolitical implications of the South China Sea conflicts among the various nations, which have claims on one or more parts of the disputed territorial waters. She said these geopolitical issues involve the role of the major stakeholders, such as the U.S., which

have historical, political, economic and strategic interests in the region.

In a 2010 ASEAN forum in Hanoi, for example, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offered to mediate the South China Sea dispute, which triggered an angry response from China of "American interference" in China's affairs. Meanwhile, China itself has showed an aggressive posture over time, as in the case of the Scarborough Shoal which the Philippines claims as its very own by virtue of historical factors and geographical proximity.

According to Aquino, the Philippines seems wedged between the proverbial "rock and a hard place" and must delicately navigate its position between China and the U.S.

"It would not be realistic to force a showdown with China, its giant neighbor in East Asia, for various historical, economic, geographic and cultural reasons spanning several centuries," Aquino says. "Philippine and Chinese trade was already flourishing and vibrant long before the West appeared in what was to become the Philippine nation. Chinese culture has had an enduring legacy in Philippine society."

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Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Visit Honolulu

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE DESMOND TUTU, the Anglican Church's Archbishop Emeritus of South Africa, will participate in five events in Honolulu in August 2012.

A noted advocate for peace and justice, Archbishop Tutu is currently the chairman of The Elders, an independent group of international leaders who promote causes related to human rights.

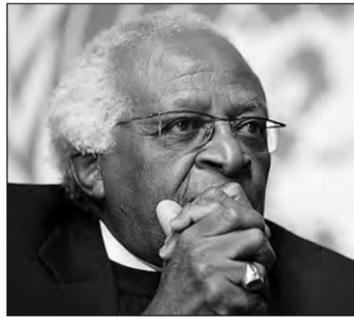
"We are absolutely thrilled that Archbishop Tutu has accepted our invitation to speak at a number of forums," says the Very Reverend Walter B.A. Brownridge, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Andrew. "The Archbishop is an inspirational leader and speaker whose message of

reconciliation and faith has moved millions of people."

Archbishop Tutu will speak at four events and in an interfaith prayer service at St. Andrew's. The events will help endow the Desmond Tutu Outreach Fund for community benefit ministries in Hawaii.

The events include:

- An Evening With Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Friday, August 3 at 6 pm at St. Andrew's. Archbishop Tutu will engage in a lively conversation with Leslie Wilcox, president and CEO of PBS Hawaii. Guests will enjoy a reception catered by the Halekulani. Tickets are \$500 per person for reserved seating and \$1,000 per person for the Arch-



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

bishop's Circle, which includes premium reserved seating, a special reception and photo with Archbishop Tutu.

- The Peggy Kai Memorial Lecture on Saturday, August 4 at 10 am at Tenney Theater. Archbishop Tutu's lecture is supported by a grant from the Estate of Peggy Kai. The event is free and open to the public.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Two tickets will be allowed per person.

- The Bishop's Luau With Archbishop Tutu on Saturday, August 4 at 5 pm at Bishop Museum. The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii, will host an evening with Archbishop Tutu featuring Hawaiian food and entertainment. Tickets are \$75 per person.
- Choral Eucharist on Sunday, August 5 at 9:30 am at St. Andrew's. Archbishop Tutu will be the preacher for the Sunday Holy Communion service. The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick will be the service's cele-

brant. The public is invited; there is no admission charge.

- Interfaith Prayer Service on Sunday, August 5 at 5:30 pm at St. Andrew's. Archbishop Tutu will join leaders from other denominations in an interfaith prayer service but is not scheduled to speak. The public is invited; there is no admission charge.

Archbishop Tutu was an early and vocal opponent of apartheid. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, only the second black person ever to be so honored. In 1986, he was elected Archbishop of Cape Town, the first black to be named to the highest position in the Anglican Church in South Africa. ■

HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1; DOLPHY.)

some of whom had just arrived from abroad.

Dolphy is survived by 18 children and Zsa Zsa Padilla, whom he described as "the last woman in my life." He had wanted very much to marry her but failed due to legal impediments. He died a bachelor.

Even if he was not conferred the honor as National Artist, notwithstanding his great contribution to the entertainment industry, Dolphy left behind a legacy of laughter that has influenced generations of Filipinos during a colorful career that spanned more than half a century and that covered

the stage, radio, television and film.

Since two years ago when news about his illness was first reported, Dolphy had been in and out of the hospital due to recurrent pneumonia that struck him for the 12th time while he was at the Makati Med ICU. Years ago, he underwent a quadruple heart bypass.

Every now and then, rumors would spread that he had died, which he took with his characteristic sense of humor, saying he should not be rushed: "Bakit n'yo ako inapura? Darating din ako d'yan. Huwag n'yo akong apurahin."

A sadness would appear

across his face when, during interviews, names of his contemporaries such as his teammate Panchito, Chiquito and other comedians were mentioned. "Wala na silang lahat; ako na lang ang natirira (They're all gone; I'm the only one left)."

He often repeated the line, "Mamatay man ako at mabuhay muli, mag-aartista pa rin ako (Even if I die and live again, I will still be an actor)."

His exposure to show biz began inside a theater where he sold peanuts and watermelon seeds.

He was 13 when World War II broke out. He helped the family make ends meet by doing odd jobs like shining shoes, attaching buttons at a pants factory, stevedoring at the pier and driving a horse-drawn buggy. He passed his free time watching his idols Pugo and Togo (for comedy) and Benny Mack and Bayani Casimiro (for dance) in stage shows at the Life Theater and Avenue Theater, both of which have been demolished.

He started as a stage performer during the Japanese occupation when Benny Mack got him as a chorus dancer, alternating between Life and Avenue, using the stage name Golay, later changed to Dolphy.

At 19, he did his first movie, "Dugo At Bayan (I Remember Bataan)," with Fernando Poe Sr., who first gave Dolphy breaks as a character

actor.

In the late 1940s, Dolphy ventured into radio with the help of Conde Ubaldo, a popular radio writer, joining Pacho Magalona, Tessie Quintana and Baby Jane. It was Pancho, father of the late Francis Magalona, who recommended Dolphy to Starmaker Dr. Jose R. Perez of Sampaguita Pictures where Dolphy was groomed as a comedian initially playing gay characters ("Jack en Jill," etc.) that he continued to portray in movies that he produced under his own company RVQ Productions, including such classics as "Facifica Falayfay," "Fefita Fofonggay" and "Karioka Etchos de Amerika."

But he would bag as FAMAS Best Actor not for a gay character but for a dual role depicting good and evil in "Omeng Satanasia."

He is best remembered for the long-running TV show "Buhay Artista" (with Panchito) and "John en Marsha" with Nida Blanca as his with in an inspiring story about a poor yet happy family. The TV show was made into movies, just like "Home Along da Riles," the show that followed it.

Dolphy was the only actor who won both Best Actor and Best Actress awards at the Brussels International Film Festival for playing a comfort gay in "Markova" in which he appeared with his sons Eric and Epi. Two years ago, he won Best Supporting Actor for

a relatively brief role in "Rosario" at the Manila Filmfest. His last movie was "Father Jejemon," also shown at a Manila Filmfest, which stirred a minor controversy because of a communion scene that the church found offensive.

"I'm a devout Catholic and I will never do anything that will displease the church," said Dolphy who decided to remove that scene.

When he turned 80, Dolphy had his biography released, titled "Hindi Ko Ito Narating Mag-isa," written by Bibeth Orteza, coinciding with the launch of the Dolphy Aid Para sa Pinoy Foundation, Inc., a non-profit and non-stock organization.

In one of his last long interviews with The STAR two years ago, done at his home while he attached to an oxygen tank, Dolphy said when asked what he was proud of as an actor, "I'm proud of what I have achieved. Palagay ko maski mamatay ako at nabuhay uli, I will still love to be an actor. My life as an actor is full of happiness. Ang dami ko na ring awards."

And aside from making people laugh, what did he think was the best legacy that he would be leaving behind?

"Kapag naaalala ko kung tumatawa ang tao, masaya na ako," he smiled.

Thank you, Dolphy, for making us laugh! (www.philstar.com) ■



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by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

Don't Call It Obamacare, Call It Obamatax; Supreme Court Upholds Obamacare As a Tax

An unlimited power to tax involves, necessarily, a power to destroy." - Daniel Webster arguing in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. 327 (1819) and echoed by Chief Justice Marshall.

For the majority of Americans who are against Obamacare, June 28, 2012, is a day of infamy. For on that day the U.S. Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote with Chief Justice John Roberts casting the deciding vote, upheld the validity of Obamacare not under the power to regulate commerce which the Obama administration forcefully invoked, but under the power to tax which Obamacarians meekly hinted at. But in the same breath, Roberts said that the court could hear the case because the law preventing suits to restrain the collection of taxes does not apply since Congress did not intend the payment to be treated as a "tax". If you are confused by this legal mumbo jumbo, read "Robert's Rules of Order", or should we now call it "Robert's Rules of Disorder."

Even CNN and Fox cable news were misled, announcing that Obamacare had been struck down quoting the Robert's opinion which said that the individual insurance mandate was not a valid exercise of Congress' power under the commerce clause. That's because they read only page one of Robert's circumlocutious 57-page decision. They did not reach page 31

which said "That is not the end of the matter. Because the Commerce Clause does not support the individual mandate [to buy health insurance], it is necessary to turn to the Government's second argument: that the mandate may be upheld as within Congress's enumerated power to "lay and collect taxes." Art. I, § 8, cl. 1. . . . The Government asks us to read the mandate not as ordering individuals to buy insurance, but rather as imposing a tax on those who do not buy that product."

It's reminiscent of an Ilocano lawyer's experience with a beautiful mestiza who was the object of his affection who told him "I don't like you." As the lawyer started to leave, putting his vestigial tail between his legs, the mestiza continued "I love you." The lawyer has since learned to hear the complete sentence before reacting and to read the entire decision before writing a brief attacking it.

"THROW THE BUMS OUT" IF YOU DISAGREE

Roberts was expected to lead a 5-4 majority in striking down Obamacare. Why did he surprisingly turn around? He did not. He obviously does not really like Obama who (1) did not vote for his confirmation, (2) summoned him to the White House to re-do the presidential oath-taking after Roberts flubbed the public oath taking, and (3) criticized the justices on many occasions even in their presence during his State of the Nation address. So Roberts handed Republican candidate Mitt Romney the most lethal weapon in his campaign to throw Obama out of office.

Roberts wrote: "the Court does not express any opinion on the wisdom of the Affordable Care Act [Obamacare]. Under the Constitution, that judgment is reserved to the people" for "we possess neither the expertise nor the prerogative to make policy judgments. Those decisions are entrusted to our Nation's elected leaders, who can be thrown out of office if the people disagree with them. It is not our job to protect the people from the consequences of their political choices."

Romney got the hint. Speaking before a newly designed sign "Repeal and Replace Obamacare," a cheerful Romney declared: "What the court did not do on its last day in session, I will do on my first day if elected president of the United States. And that is I will act to repeal Obamacare. Our mission is clear, if we want to get rid of Obamacare, we're going to have to replace President Obama." Romney advocated a "return to a time when the American people will have their own choice in health care." The anti Obamacarians - and they are legion - will be energized and motivated to vote for anybody but Obama (ABO).

STOCK MARKET FALLS; OBAMACARE IS A JOB KILLER

The stock market fell sharply after the decision was released, fueling fears that Obamacare will increase the cost of doing business and reducing profits. The stocks of companies particularly in health care, banks, insurance, and large industries fell significantly, reported the Washington Post, an Obama-leaning paper. Obama-

care is considered a job killer, says USA Today. Employers will be reluctant to hire because of the additional costs in employee health care benefits.

BIGGEST TAX INCREASE IN HISTORY

The government is expected to gain more than \$4 billion in tax revenue as a "penalty" (tax) from those who do not buy Obamacare insurance. Taxpayers must report on their tax returns how much they paid for Obamacare insurance premium. If they did not pay premiums, they must pay a penalty.

"The court's ruling, that the individual mandate in Obamacare could survive as a tax, means Obamacare is probably the largest tax increase in U.S. history," according to Ed Krayewski, a commentator.

Illegal aliens who don't pay premiums or taxes might escape the penalty. Obama will probably give them "amnesty".

PHYRRIC VICTORY FOR OBAMA

President Obama may have won in the Supreme Court but his reelection chances have been hurt very badly, according to political analysts. Polls after polls have shown that a majority of the American people are against Obamacare. Even a pro-Obama newspaper reported that at least 52% of Americans are against it. USA Today, 06/29/12. People do not want the government between them and their doctor. They do not want to call an 800 number in Washington (or a call center in India or the Philippines) to schedule an appointment with

their doctor. They do not want their medical records to become part of the public records which anybody could look at. They do not want to pay insurance premiums (now it is taxes) on insurance that they do not want or they do not need. They will now mobilize to defeat Obama and repeal Obamacare.

JOKE: I can go out now and get drunk. I don't have to worry about cirrhosis of the liver. Obamacare will take care of that, joked Stephen Colbert on Comedy Central.

People can joke about Obamacare, like Filipinos joke about their leaders, to assuage their present and future sufferings.

RECOMMENDATION: You better learn to like broccoli. The government might force you to buy broccoli because it is good for your health thus reducing health care costs, and if you don't, you will pay a penalty (which the Supreme Court could uphold as valid under the "taxing" power). *Masaki, kuya Roberts.* ■

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Attorney General Issues E-mail Scam Warning

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL is investigating an ongoing e-mail scam in which the sender falsely claims to represent the State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Branch (UPB).

The email is supposedly written by Kalbert Young, the director of the State Department of Budget & Finance (B&F), and solicits personal financial information.

"Someone who is claiming to be me is scamming a number of individuals," says Young. "We want the public to know about this scam to prevent anyone from being taken advantage of by this clearly illegal activity."

Young says that the State does not send e-mail solicitations regarding unclaimed property. Members of the public who receive such emails are advised to not respond or provide any personal information.

In this particular e-mail scam, the sender claims to be an employee of the UPB. The recipient is informed that he or she is an heir to the estate and property of a deceased relative and instructed to either fax or e-mail personal information so that the process to record ownership of the property can begin. The scam includes a form with the State of Hawaii seal, but does not match any form that is currently used or offered by the

UPB.

According to Attorney General David Louie, persons who engage in this conduct are committing a felony.

"Anyone committing this crime will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and may be charged with offenses such as identity theft, computer fraud and any and all other applicable criminal violations," Louie says.

Those who have been solicited as part of this scam are encouraged to provide copies of e-mail, faxes and records of telephone conversations to assist investigators. Victims are also advised to contact the Department of Budget & Finance at 586-1589. ■

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Bright Leaf Prize

Enjoying What Is Truly Asia in Sumptuous Malaysia

KRIPOTKIN by Alfred A. YUSON

For the past five years, Filipino journalists have been given a wonderful opportunity to enter, and possibly win, a contest that involves print and photo coverage of an interesting if often unheralded subject: that of agriculture.

The Bright Leaf Agriculture Journalism Awards have gone to an increasing number of journalists and photojournalists, who we daresay are lavished with grand prizes, thanks to the awards sponsor, PMFTC, Inc.

In 2008, the Manila Bulletin's Melpha Abello's article titled "Carabao models commercial bioethanol production," detailing a new finding by Filipino scientists about micro-organisms from the rumen of the carabao that can be used to produce ethanol, was declared Best Agriculture Story of the Year, winning the top prize of P50,000 and a MacBook Air as well as a trophy designed by sculptor Rey Paz Contreras.

Freddie Lazaro of Star Northern Luzon won with his story on "Why Farmers Choose Virginia Tobacco" for the Tobacco Story of the Year, also meriting the same prizes.

The Best Agricultural Photo of the Year was titled "Soup in Salad" showing a Benguet farmer holding up goeey heads

of lettuce that had melted in his hand after frost ruined a vegetable farm. Business Mirror's Mau Victa won a cash prize of P20,000, a Macbook Air, and a trophy.

With the same prizes for Tobacco Photo of the Year, The Philippine STAR's Andy Zapata won for his photo of an old woman from Candon, Ilocos Sur, hand-rolling part of a 100-meter-long cigar.

Cash prizes of P20,000 each and trophies were also given for Best Agriculture Feature Story - Regional and National, Best Agriculture Radio Program/Segment, and Best Agriculture Television Program/Segment.

The same categories were applied in the next four years, eventually with increased cash prizes for top stories. Melpha Abello repeated as grand-prize winner in 2009 with her story on "A housing material made from chicken feathers," while for the Tobacco Story of the Year, the agri-writing icon Zac Sarian won P50,000, an IBM Lenovo computer and a trophy for his article titled "Something New in Virginia Tobacco."

Both Sarian and Abello have since gone on to win more top prizes, so that in 2011 they were

honored their serial triumphs, the Oriental Leaf Award that came with a trophy and an iPad. Among photojournalists, Andy Zapata has also received the Oriental Leaf Award.

Other winners for their articles on different facets of agriculture and tobacco farming include 2010 and 2011 repeat winner Mach Alberto Fabe of Business Mirror, Teddy Molina of The Philippine STAR, regional and national writers Leny Escaro, Peter Conrad Cariño, Mancelito Savellano Tacedena, Amy Remo, Francis Martin, Miko Jasmine Mojica, Gloria Tuzazon, Neil Jerome Morales, Jonathan Mayuga, Adora Rodriguez, Edmon Agron, Charisma Love, Marilou Guieb and Rita dela Cruz. Winning photojournalists have included Edgardo Espiritu, Mau Victa and Richard Balonglong.

In addition to the yearly prizes, the winners of the top four categories are also awarded an all-expense-paid trip to a Southeast Asian city. Last year, it was Ho Chi Minh City for the 2010 winners, and for the 2011 winners, it was a four-day jaunt in Malaysia conducted several weeks ago.

As a two-time contest judge, this writer has been lucky to be invited along for the last two tours. Ho Chi Minh was all fine dining and rigorous shopping, plus a Mekong River cruise and cultural shows. This time out, we played chaperone to the 5th BLAJA winners Richard Balonglong, Mau Victa and "Bong" Fabe.

Melpha Abello graduated from being a Bright Leaf Hall-of-Famer to media chaperone, together with writer Rene Guatlo and food stylist Editha Antenor,

The four-day sortie took us to Kuala Lumpur, Genting Highlands and Malacca. And again, all we did was tour these places comfortably in a travel coach with our affable Malaysian guide Jack Hanafi, PMFTC, Inc. rep Atty. Amy Eisma, and the Bright Leaf Awards secretariat rep



Petronas Twin Towers

David Isaac Buenaventura. And oh, how we dined, shopped and took pictures.

In KL we were billeted at the posh Sheraton Imperial on Jalan Sultan Ismail, where the dining lounge Essence became a familiar venue for most dinners and all our breakfasts. From fresh oysters and freshwater shrimps to a pan-Asian array of specialties and assorted heavenly desserts, the seven stations in the kilometer buffet counter became a daily and nightly challenge, which we all tried mightily to surmount.

On the long hours aboard the tour coach, I enjoyed being introduced to playing Scrabble on my seatmate's new pink iPad, finding out that I could handily beat the Standard competitor, but in turn being repeatedly trounced by the higher-grade cheat that kept employing two-letter mysteries of the English language that I have yet to see in any reading material, let alone fathom.

In the capital, we did the regular rounds that included photo ops at Istana Negara or the royal palace, the National Mosque, Muzium Negara or National Museum, and the landmark Petronas Twin Towers. A visit to Beryls Chocolate Kingdom made us all very happy to be in the only planet with "choclit" especially me, since in the array of offerings were boxes of chocolate-covered durian. Ahh, the King of Malaysian Fruits, such regal disposition doth thou bestow upon this com-

moner.

Our second day was given over to a coach tour to the fabled Genting Highlands, where we enjoyed a cable car ride that turned out to be the longest I've ever taken, all of nearly half an hour above a lush rainforest of ravines and ridges, with fog often eerily enveloping everything this while the iPad lady took video and played the theme from The Mission. Appropriate enough, as that was how we felt we were in, both ways.

Lunch was at the buffet hall of First World Hotel, after which we barely had an hour to wander about the covered theme park (but not the one outdoors because of a constant drizzle) where replicas of famous buildings all over the world gave us photo op poses by Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the like. It was a happy place, even raucous with kids scurrying around amidst all the rides, pantomimes and other entertainers, shops and food stalls.

For adult fare, there were the casinos and other Resorts World attractions, with an International Convention Center completing the complex.

On our third day, the first of June, the comfortable coach took us to historic Malacca. I first visited the former Dutch settlement decades ago, and still recall how, apart from scouring for a Dutch lamp to-go and snapping away at the picturesque buildings in pink stucco, I had struck a friendship with one of

(continued on page 9)



Istan Negara, the royal palace

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(cont. from page 8: BRIGHT...)

the Malaccan painters who displayed their art atop St. Paul's Hill, by the ruins of A Famosa fortress built by the Portuguese in the 16th century, before the Dutch invasion.

I wrote about Frances Goh and his paintings for Asia magazine. And I heard over the decades how he'd strike up a conversation with every Filipino tourist who wandered up to his spot on that hill, and show them my article replete with photos. The latest send-up from a Singapore-based Pinoy friend came by e-mail less than a year ago, with a photo of Francis still holding up that laminated article for the camera. I thought I'd run into him again on this recent foray, but he must have taken the day off that Friday. So I had to content myself with the usual blitz buys of souvenirs from old Melaka, and the obligatory pics of the Christ Church and the Stadhuys, built in 1650 to serve as the official residence of the Dutch Governor.

One thing new, apart from the profusion of chock-a-block souvenir stalls, was a fleet of flower-bedecked pedicabs that

enticed tourists to take even more shots for a colorful album. We did better, rode on one for several blocks until we got to our rendezvous point for lunch, the Peranakan Restoran.

Here it was a throwback to old China by way of conjugal relations with Malays, as well a recall of the now fashionable Peranakan district in Singapore, where diners feast on distinct cuisine on the high-ceilinged ground floors of old shophouses, with vintage lifestyle furniture and accouterments evoking authentic throwback ambience.

Our fine sampling of Peranakan dishes was quickly topped that evening upon our return to the capital, however, when we had our finest meal, thus far, at the Atmosphere 360 Degrees revolving restaurant atop the needle-like KL Tower.

The changing view of the cityscape at night, inclusive of the Petronas Twin Towers that sailed past at least twice, bedazzled, then complemented the elegant dinner that started with Jiang Xi Rice Noodle with Scallop and Yam Broth and ended, many other elegancies later, with the dessert plate of Fresh Fruits



Cable car ride at Genting Highlands

and Chilled Durian Pancake that last item the most succulent I've tasted in a long time.

Joining us for that last dinner were consular officials and our main host, Chris Nelson, PMFTC, Inc. president, always affable and ready with a quip when he's not seriously waxing positive on the Bright Leaf Awards.

For one, Chris loves to point out that the BLAJA has seen a tremendous increase in the number of entries over the past five years. From 82 entries in 2007, these have dramatically risen to a total of 1,345 entries across all categories from all over the country a 45-percent increase compared to 927 entries last year.

But he still hopes to see more often in the front pages or primetime news the issues affecting the agriculture industry and its contribution to the Philippines. "There are more positive agricultural stories to tell, more discoveries to share, and more images to provoke our minds than what is currently reported," Nelson repeated to our consular officials in KL over dinner.

As it turned out, that repast was equaled if on a different scale by our farewell lunch the next day, our last in Malaysia. It was a fitting send-off, too, at no less than the Central Market, which again sent the blitz shoppers among us into paroxysms of delight and quick flight through the grid of alleys.

On the second floor was the Food Court. Tucked in a corner outside that court was the Precious Restoran & Bar, which also served as a gallery of arts and crafts from Old China. The Nyonya meal was memorable, with blue-tinted rice (from the inclusion of edible flowers); pie tee or rice-flour cones filled with minced chicken, sweet turnip, etc.; lobak or deep-fried rolls of marinated chicken strips and turnips, etc.; ayam pong teh, traditional Nyonya braised native chicken in bean paste and spicy sambal belachan; tender beef rendang; fried Assam prawns marinated in a tamarind-sugar mix; chui pei tofu; and the signature dish, garoupa sek pan or fish head curry.

The burps were sumptuous. We had enjoyed Malaysia its sights, greenery, history, arts and crafts, and food glorious food. Privileged with the bright leaf of an epicurean jaunt, we had our last taste of sago gula melaka, a pudding of sago pearl with coconut cream, palm sugar and pandan. And we were thankful for the signature essence of what is truly Asia. (www.philstar.com) ■

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News Analysis: Strong Peso Threatens Export Growth

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, July 11, 2012

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - **THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF THE PESO AGAINST THE GREEN-BACK** combined with slow growth in electronic exports is hurting the Philippine export sector, analysts here noted.



The Philippine government sees export revenues rising 10 percent on year. But with the local currency climbing to a four-year high combined with the steady decline of electronics exports, which account for about half of total revenues, such target growth may not be attained.

"It's possible that we will sustain this growth. My only concern, of course, is the exchange rate. The peso has been appreciating and that's not good for exports. We have to watch that carefully," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported today export revenues rose to a 17-month high of 19.7 percent in May despite the fact that the country's export winner, electronics, posted a slight decline in revenues.

May 2012 exports earnings reached \$4.93 billion. Earnings from electronic product exports reached \$1.87 billion in May, down 0.7 percent on year.

Balisacan said May's export growth is "very encouraging." He said the Philippines, at a time when other countries are reeling from the crisis in developed countries, is one of the countries in the region that has been posting respectable growth this year.

He added the country's export sector benefited from a more diverse market, reduced dependence on developed coun-

tries such as the United States and Europe which are troubled by economic woes. He said the slack in exports has been taken up by exports to Asian countries which require various commodities aside from electronics.

"(The growth is) pretty respectable and its (driven by)

non-electronics. It used to be 60-70 percent of our exports are electronics, (but) because of electronics being on the downhill for some time now, these other non-electronics exports (are taking up the slack). That makes our exports now less vulnerable to shocks from any country in the world," he said.

Economist Benjamin Diokno said it is difficult to sustain the double-digit growth in May exports.

Diokno said exports growth in May could have benefited more from base effects given that export earnings fell 2.9 percent in May 2011.

He added the growth in export earnings was not broad-based. Diokno said growth was driven by only two commodity groups, metal components and ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships which posted a growth of 162.4 percent and 122 percent, respectively.

"The question is whether these strong performances can be sustained or is whether these are restocking phenomenon and could be stalled by a slowing global economy? There is (also) some element of base effects," Diokno said. "Given the sharp deterioration in global economic outlook in recent weeks, double-digit full year growth for Philippine exports is possible but far-fetched." (www.philstar.com) ■

HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 5; CONSULATE..)

On the other hand, the Philippines has compelling reasons not to alienate the U.S., with whom it has a long-standing special relationship. Though the two U.S. military bases are gone from Philippine soil, the Mutual Defense Treaty and other security agreements and alliances between the two countries established over a 100-year period remain. The U.S. has also escalated military assistance to its former colony in recent years.

Aquino ended her presentation with an observation from Dr. Mark Valencia, a research scholar who has followed the developments in the Spratly waters closely since his days as a research associate at the East-West Center. For a peaceful future in the area, according to Valencia, it will take "genuine goodwill, considerable self-restraint and probably a grand formal or informal compro-

mise—as well as ambitious and clever diplomacy—to achieve and maintain."

OPEN FORUM

The presentations elicited a lively question-and-answer period. Attendees were particularly interested in what the Philippine government plans to do in the face of a seemingly belligerent China and were intrigued about what a possible compromise would look like. The Consul General assured the audience that while the Philippines is looking for a diplomatic solution or compromise, its sovereignty over Bajo de Masinloc is non-negotiable.

In informal discussions after the forum, it was the consensus of the organizers as well as attendees that there should be a follow-up discussion on this issue and that more community forums on other issues affecting the Philippines should be held on a regular basis. ■

DFA: Asean to Start Talks with China on Sea Code

by Pia LEE-BRAGO
Thursday, July 12, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) WILL SOON** start negotiations with China on the code of conduct designed to ease tensions in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

Del Rosario said that for archipelagic states like the Philippines, "unimpeded commerce and maritime safety are important, given that a quarter of the estimated 1.37 million mariners worldwide are Filipinos."

The ten ASEAN nations have agreed on the code of conduct during a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Cambodia, but would still seek to get China to agree to it.

But China and ASEAN countries struggled to make progress on the code of conduct, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

A joint statement to be issued by ASEAN foreign ministers was also held up as countries wrangled over whether to include a reference to recent spats pitting China against Vietnam and the Philippines.

"ASEAN foreign ministers are having an emergency meeting to resolve the wording on the South China Sea in the joint statement," one Asian diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa admitted the debate about whether to mention specific incidents was a key sticking point.

"It's very important for us to express our concern with what happened, whether it be at the shoals, whether it be at the continental shelves," he told reporters. "But more importantly than simply responding to the past is to move forward to ensure that these kind of events no longer occur."

ASEAN secretary-general Surin Pitsuwan told reporters yesterday that the fact the code was under discussion "is already having a calming effect on all parties."

Del Rosario called for the effective implementation of the

Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to ensure a credible, binding and enforceable code of conduct.

Del Rosario said these goals are part of the region's collective goal of enhancing maritime cooperation.

"This expression of hope is not alien to us, nor should it come as a surprise," Del Rosario told the ASEAN meeting.

"The ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan for 2007 to 2017 specifically states our collective goal of enhancing maritime cooperation on safety of navigation, such as through the implementation of relevant treaties and agreements," he said.

BOOST TO PHL POSITION

Meanwhile, Malacañang said ASEAN's approval of a code of conduct and the consensus that the United Nations maritime convention must be the basis for settling contending claims in the West Philippine Sea were a big boost to the country's position on the issue.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the government is confident China would agree on the ASEAN position.

"China has also been of the position that it should be settled peacefully. Everybody is agreed on that. We hope that they will be receptive to the idea as well," Valte said in a press briefing.

Valte reiterated the country's position to push for ASEAN centrality.

Asked if the Palace believes that a code of conduct would bolster the Philippines' position, Valte said "we have been firm that our claim (in the area) is supported under international law and that we intend to pursue our claim under a rules-based approach."

The draft document outlining the ASEAN position called on all sides to resolve territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea by peaceful means, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UNCLOS is an international treaty that sets limits on how



ASEAN countries' foreign ministers join their hands during a photo session at the 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Plus Three Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, July 10, 2012. (Photo: AP)

neighboring nations consider their exclusive economic zones. China is a signatory to UNCLOS.

In 2002, ASEAN and China signed a document that calls on all claimants to exercise restraint and stop new occupation in the West Philippine Sea.

However, its non-binding nature and lack of provision to sanction misbehaving claimants, render the accord useless against aggression.

Both the Philippines and Vietnam have accused China of increasingly aggressive behavior, such as intruding in territorial waters, harassment and sabotaging oil explorations within their respective sovereign waters.

The latest incident involved the standoff at Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal between the Philippines and China.

The Department of National Defense (DND) expressed confidence that the proposed code of conduct would prevent incidents of territorial intrusions and promote stability in the region.

"We hope, of course, that all these things will be addressed in this code of conduct so that everyone can proceed

to harness whatever is there in the region," DND spokesman Peter Galvez said yesterday.

"Of course (this is for) for regional stability and freedom of navigation," he added.

"If there is peace in the region, we need not worry and every country can focus on development," he said.

Galvez said it is a "welcome

development that they are making the code of conduct more definitive, more detailed and more binding.

"As they said, they want to give more teeth."

NO REDEPLOYMENT ORDER YET

In a related development, senior security officials have yet to order the redeployment of government vessels to Panatag Shoal.

"We are prepared to redeploy our vessels back to Panatag. We're just waiting for orders from our national leadership to do so," a senior Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) official said yesterday.

Several PCG vessels, aside from the BRP Pampanga which remains docked in General Santos City, are stationed in Subic, Zambales in anticipation of a redeployment order to Panatag Shoal. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Of Birkin Scams and Vacation Loans

by Rose Fres FAUSTO

MANILA, Philippines - This week two articles posted by my friend on her FB wall caught my attention. The first one is that of the Birkin scam girl who was hidden under the name Sheila in an online article but whose name you can easily google if you write "Birkin scam." She was a flight attendant turned gallery managing director because of her outstanding sales skills. So outstanding that she was able to dupe a lot of people into investing in her buy and sell of luxury bags (that's why she's now known as the Birkin "scambag"), paintings, watches and jewelry.

Investors were lured into the high and quick profits and probably didn't really bother to check the transactions as long as they were being paid on time. They didn't notice that their investments were funding her own Birkins, lavish parties and even the luxurious closet of her husband who refuses to wear Hugo Boss because this brand is beneath him. (???!!) (If you want to see the shoe collections of this couple, you may still see some of their photos which have not been deleted.)

The second post that caught my attention was the article announcing that Pag-Ibig Fund is now extending vacation loans to its members. I saw the morning interview of the Fund's head call-

ing it the Anti-Depression Loan. She actually sounded good and maybe she's just trying to diversify the portfolio of the fund to include loans other than housing (the main mandate of the fund). Well, you may recall that Pag-Ibig was also a victim of a large scale scam care of Delfin Lee of Globe Asiatique Realty, who got P7 billion loans from the fund using fictitious borrowers. His warrant of arrest has been issued but as of writing, he is still at large.

Now here's my take on the Anti-Depression Loan. Although this news got some interest from the show host and the people behind the camera during the live telecast, I think it is not wise to take up a loan to fund your vacation. A vacation is something that you should plan and save up for. If you really need the break from work but can't afford to go out of town, then maybe you're better off taking the vacation at home. To me, piling up unnecessary loans is a sure way to stress that may eventually lead to depression. So where is the anti-depression in that?

Here's another thing that the prospective borrower should be aware of. The maximum amount a Pag-Ibig member can borrow for this purpose is 80% of his total contributions to the fund. His contributions earn him around 4% p.a. while the interest rate to be charged on the vacation loan is 10.75%. So the



rational individual will only use the Pag-Ibig loan for his housing needs because their interest rates are subsidized and lower than those offered by commercial banks. In the event of an emergency, and the member needs additional cash, then he may also consider taking a calamity loan from the fund. But for a vacation? Think again.

THE COMMON DENOMINATOR

The common denominator of these two posts – the Birkin "scambag" and the appeal of the vacation loan is the human propensity to covet the things he cannot afford.

The story of the Birkin girl could have had a happy ending. She was a good salesperson. Had she just saved all the commissions earned from her buy & sell transactions instead of embezzling her investors' money to buy luxuries she can't afford, she could have grown her business. Eventually, she could have purchased her own Birkin the honest way.

There is a right time for enjoying luxury items. There was a Lifestyle Channel show which featured the top of the line items and services worldwide and the guest said, "It is so much sweeter when you reach a point in your life when you can finally afford the luxury that you've dreamed of."

If we were all rational beings, maybe we can all wait for that point. Unfortunately, most of the time, we're irrational. The Birkin girl was surrounded by all these luxury items and having them probably made her accepted in the society she wanted to be a part of. It's a lifestyle creep, a fancy term I chanced upon which means "keeping up

with the Joneses;" in other words, social climbing.

Lifestyle creep is the enemy of wealth accumulation - even if you're using your hard earned money and not some embezzled funds. You cannot save and invest for the future when you start re-labeling your luxuries to necessities.

GUIDELINES:

If your dream is to accumulate enough wealth so that you are not only secure but can afford the luxuries you've always desired, here are some guidelines on your purchase of luxury:

- 1. Never borrow money for a luxury item.** If you can't afford it, you don't deserve it yet. And borrowing money includes using your credit card and not paying it in full knowing too well that the interest rate is 3% per month (that's 36% per annum!)
- 2. Your savings rate should increase as you earn more. I don't just mean the absolute amount that you save but the rate of savings.** Example: Last year your monthly salary was P50,000 and your savings rate was 20% so you saved P10,000. This year you moved to a new job and your salary suddenly jumped to P75,000. You may say that you can just save 20% again and this will increase your savings to P15,000 and that's a whopping 50% increase! Although that's true, wouldn't it be better if you up your savings rate? Strictly speaking if you maintain your lifestyle you can increase your savings rate from 20% to 47%! But you don't have to do that. It's also good for you to enjoy the fruits of your labor as an incentive to work even harder. But just make it a habit to increase your savings rate as you increase your income.
- 3. There's a rule of thumb that goes, "Buy a luxury item only if you can afford to buy 10 pieces of it."** This just means that you don't buy a luxury item even if you have the cash for it, if this purchase will break your bank accounts or compro-

mise the more important expenditures such as your children's tuition fee, etc.

- 4. A deeper guideline to be aware of was expressed well by Will Smith when he said, "Too many people spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like."** Examine yourself when you're buying a luxury item by asking these questions - "Am I buying this just because everyone else has it except me?" "Am I buying this to cover up for something I don't like in myself?" "Does buying this item agree with my core values?"

I'm not a bag person so I have not experienced lusting for a Birkin. But there's nothing wrong with owning one if you can afford it (at least 10 of it). I fondly call expensive bags as GK bags because one bag can buy you a GawadKalinga home. Well, in the case of the Birkin, that's one community. I also don't know the girl in the news so I don't know what really motivated her to dupe her own friends, one is even a cancer patient. But I think she never intended for all these to happen. She was a good salesperson and was "rewarded" by society in the form of trust they gave her and the acceptance she got as she was even featured in style blogs.

Maybe it just took one person to question how she was able to afford the lavish lifestyle and yet still borrow cash to purchase the items she was going to sell. This reminds me of The Emperor's New Clothes. But no one around her was as "innocent" and gutsy as the boy in the fairy tale so no one spoke for as long as the interest was coming in on time. It was only when she disappeared with their money to the tune of P500 million that they started to verbalize their negative intuition about her deals.

Maybe no one dared to question because she looked "credible" in her signature outfits. And maybe that's why she had to wrap herself in luxury so she can keep her "credible look." It's a vicious cycle. And as long as society obsesses unreasonably on these things, there will always be scammers and "scammees" in our midst.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

Work Authorization and Temporary Status for Undocumented Children

Children of undocumented aliens come to the United States, usually at a tender age, without any intent to violate the law. They attend elementary and high school, some even graduating at the top of their class, and many become active members of the community. However, since they often do not have lawful immigration status themselves, they are unable to work legally in this country and they live in constant fear of being deported to a land they never considered home.

In a dramatic but long awaited move, President Obama announced recently that his administration would grant these individuals a form of immigration relief.

The new policy would grant deferred action to young undoc-

umented immigrants who came to the United States as children. For a period of two years, these individuals would be allowed to remain in the United States without fear of being removed and, if they demonstrate economic necessity, would be given employment authorization.

An estimated 800,000 immigrants would be affected by this new policy, which achieves some of the goals of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) that was defeated in Congress last year.

The policy is not an amnesty and does not offer a pathway to permanent residency or citizenship, which only Congress has the power to do. Deferred action is an act of prosecutorial discretion whereby the government agrees to defer removal action against an individual. It does not give positive legal status but is only a temporary reprieve from removal.

The June 15, 2012 Memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security listed the criteria to be met to be considered

for the relief. To be eligible, the individual must have come to the United States under the age of sixteen (16) years; must be present in the United States prior to June 15, 2012 and must have continually resided in the U.S. for at least five (5) years prior to June 15, 2012; is currently in school, graduated from high school, obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or honorably discharged from Coast Guard or the Armed Forces of the United States; not have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise be a threat to national security or public safety; and not be above thirty (30) years old.

If granted, deferred action is valid for a period of two years and may be renewed. Guidance outlining the procedures has yet to be released, but the USCIS has stated that the policy will allow individuals to submit a request for a review of their eligibility and supporting documents. Deferred action will also be available to those already in re-

moval proceedings.

Documentation to prove some of the eligibility criteria (coming into the U.S. before age 16, 5 years of residence, and physical presence as of June 15, 2012) includes financial, medical, school, employment and military records.

Individuals with certain types of criminal conviction will not only be denied deferred action because of ineligibility but in fact also be considered priorities for removal. Those who commit fraud in their deferred action request will also be referred to enforcement authorities.

Executive authority to grant administrative relief lies in Section 103(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which places the enforcement of immigration laws with the Secretary of Homeland Security. The executive branch has granted deferred action since the 1970s and federal courts have recognized such power.

An example of deferred action was the deferred departure granted to nurses, mostly from the Philippines, in December 1977. Hundreds, if not thousands, of nurses faced the threat of deportation. Through the efforts of the NAFL-FNG, a Filipino nursing group, which I represented as attorney, nurses were given a temporary relief of up to 3 years. Most of the nurses eventually obtained their green card.

Republican lawmakers, who are quick to cry backdoor amnesty every time President Obama wields his executive power in matters of immigration law, have predictably criticized the new policy as evidence of the

president's refusal to deal with Congress. Actually, in 2010, the DREAM Act was passed by the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives but rejected by the mostly Republican Senate. The bill was first introduced in Congress in 2001 and has been reintroduced every year since.

It will be recalled that more than one year ago after the DREAM Act's demise, twenty-two Democratic Senators wrote a letter to the president urging him to grant deferred action to DREAM Act-eligible students.

The future of the policy is not guaranteed given that the United States may have a new executive by year-end. GOP candidate Mitt Romney has refused to say whether he would repeal the policy, apparently careful not to alienate the growing immigrant population.

Not all undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. at a young age will be able to, or should, request the relief. If possible, one must seek legal advice before doing so since there are risks associated with the act of presenting oneself to the immigration authorities.

Be that as it may, the option of finally being allowed to contribute productively to society, albeit in a limited measure, should be favorably considered by anyone who meets the requirements. After all, regardless of who occupies the White House, one can always hope that our government will do the right thing. ■

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

MAINLAND NEWS

APALC Hosts Immigration Forum For DREAMers

by Joseph PIMENTEL
Friday, July 6, 2012

LOS ANGELES – THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER (APALC) is hosting a free forum next Wednesday to help guide undocumented youth about the new guidelines set forth by President Barack Obama's historic immigration policy.

On June 15, Obama announced a new policy allowing undocumented youth better known as DREAMers to apply for deferred action or temporary legal status that would authorize them to seek work permits and to be safe from deportation. However, this is not a path to citizenship.

Those DREAMers, though, must several criterions in order to be eligible including they must not be older than 30 years of age and were younger than 16 when they arrived in the United States;

they lived in the US the past five years and during the time of the announcement; Are enrolled in school or graduated from high school, received a GED or have served in the military; They must also have a clean criminal history free of felonies or serious misdemeanor convictions and pose no security threat.

Several organizations report that an estimated 800,000 undocumented immigrants will benefit from this new policy.

According to APALC, undocumented Filipinos most especially, will benefit.

"Filipinos have the highest number of undocumented youth in the United States," said Joyce Noche, supervising attorney of APALC's Immigration and Citizenship Project.

Since the historic announcement, she said, many undocumented immigrants in the community have been con-

fused and skeptical as to how to approach this new policy. Some see it as a rouse to deport more undocumented immigrants, others see it as amnesty and a pathway to get US citizenship.

Both are incorrect, said Noche.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there. This is just temporary relief," she said.

(continued on page 14)

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Jean Jeremiah, Baro a Presidente ti Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) 2012-2013

ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

Ni Jean Jeremiah ti napili a baro a presidente ti Oahu Filipino Community Council [OFCC], iti kaudian a tinawen a kombensyon nga inatendaran ti aganay a 130 a delegado manipud kadagiti nadumaduma a unit organizations a kameng ti OFCC ken naangay iti Philippine Consulate General Social Hall idi

Hunio 10, 2012.

Sakbay a napili ni Jeremiah a presidente, nagpaay a katulongan a sekretaria, sekretaria, direktor ken maysa kadagiti kaaktibuan iti Special Events and Projects. NagChairperson iti Philippine Centennial Celebration Committee of Hawaii a kangrunaan nga aktibidad daytoy a komite ket dagiti aktibidades nga ang-angayen ti Philippine Consulate General ditoy Honolulu ken iti komunidad a Filipino ditoy. Nagkameng iti Filipino Chamber of Commerce, nag-opisial iti Fil-

ipino Business Womens Association, Bulacan Circle Association of Hawaii.

Ipanamnama ni Jeremiah iti pannakidanggayna a mangipatungpal kadagiti proyekto ti OFCC babaen iti 'open door' policy iti administrasionna. Iti agtultuloy a sumaysayaaten ti partisipasion dagiti nadumaduma nga organisasion.

Ngem iti 3% goal nga inrugi ti Membership Committee idi 2007-2008-2009-2010-2011, bumangbangon manen ti OFCC biang iti panagpabaro iti panagkameng ken iti partisipasion kadagiti ak-

tibidad ti OFCC, kangrunaan ti Special Projects nga impanguluan ni Larry Ramirez pakairamanan ti Feeding the Homeless, Adopt a Hwy, Hawaii Food Bank, dadduma pay.

Iti panangiturong ni Jeremiah, mainayon dagiti sumagmamno a Special Committees ti Community Liaison and Outreach, Rapid Response, Sports and Recreation, dadduma.

Dadduma nga opisial a pinagsapata ni Consul General Julius Torres, da: Dr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili, umuna a bise presidente; Atty. Rhoda Yabes Alvarez, maikadua a bise presidente; Julius Soria, sekre-

tario; Perlita Sadorra, katulongan a sekretaria; Vanessa Pulido, tesorera; Rose Aquino, katulongan a tesorera; Cleo Bala-Casino, auditor.

Direktor da: Davelyn Quijano, Eduardo Bueno, Dr. Ignacio Torres, Rossi Peralta Patton, Maggie Domingo, Baybee Hufana Ablan, Amelia Cabatu, Edith Gudoy.

Mangrugi nga agtakem dagitoy nga opisial iti Hulio 1, 2012. Maisagsagana ti panakaangay ti Re-affirmation Rite & Installation of Officers babaen iti panangisagana ti Ad Hoc Committee on Installation for Special Events. ■

MAINLAND NEWS

Pinoy Nurses Settle Discrimination Case vs Baltimore Hospital

by Joseph PIMENTEL
Tuesday, July 3, 2012

FOUR FILIPINO EMPLOYEES THAT ACCUSED a Baltimore hospital for discriminating against them for speaking Tagalog at the workplace have settled their case.

The Bon Secours Hospital "has agreed to pay an undis-

closed amount to end the workers' discrimination complaint," ABS-CBN reports.

"We're almost done with it. We've signed the papers and it's just a matter of paying us," said Anna Rowena Rosales.

Rosales, two other nurses, and a hospital administrator were

fired for allegedly speaking Tagalog during lunch breaks in 2010, according to the report.

ABS-CBN reports the Federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) ruled last year that the Hospital's English-only regulations discriminated against the four Filipino employees.

Rosales, Corina Capunitan-Yap, Hachelle Natano and Jazz-

iel Granada immediately filed a complaint, accusing the hospital's management of singling them out. They said there were other employees of different nationalities who would commonly speak a different language but were not disciplined, ABS-CBN reports.

"Other employees spoke Spanish and other languages, contrary to the policies and were not disciplined," said EEOC Baltimore field office Director Gerald Kiel in his report against the

hospital last August 16. "In addition, it appears more serious infractions of work rules were not comparably punished."

Kiel said the hospital subjected the Filipinos to unequal terms and conditions of employment, a hostile work environment, disciplinary action and discharge because of their national origins in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ABS-CBN reports.

He also urged the hospital to settle the matter with the Filipinos internally. (www.asianjournal.com)

(cont. from page 13; APALC...)

"This is not the be all and end all. This, hopefully, is the first step to a permanent solution but that could only happen through Congress. I think the message that's important is that this is the first step not the end. And this is a step forward to providing relief to everyone not just the undocumented youth."

The forum, which will not allow media members to attend, is a place for undocumented youth and others a safe place to ask any questions they may have about the new policy, she said.

BEWARE

Noche also issued a word of caution to the community. Since the announcement, a lot of lawyers, notarios, immigration experts, and some organizations have reached out to members of the community to process the paperwork or provide legal ad-

vice for a fee.

She urges to not pay for any services. The exact policy and procedure is still being drafted and may not be known until next month, she said.

"Trust non-profit community organizations that will not charge you for information," she said.

As for now, those who may think they qualify or have a family member that does, she said to start preparing their documentations.

"There's going to be a lot of documentation needed in order to prove eligibility. For example, people should start getting copies of their passport, birth certificates, school records, medical records, financial records, anything to document the various eligibility requirements," she said.

"Also, we're telling folks to start saving money. We know currently work authorization

(continued on page 15)

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GLOBAL NEWS



UN Proposes Billionaire Tax

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS CALLED FOR A TAX ON BILLIONAIRES to in an effort to raise over \$400 billion yearly for the world's poor countries.

An annual lump sum payment by the super-rich is one of several measures proposed in a UN report that accuses wealthy nations of renegeing on promises to step up aid for the less fortunate.

According to the UN's annual

World Economic and Social Survey, it is critical to find new ways to help the world's poor as pledged cash fails to flow. However, implementing the billionaire's tax would be technically difficult given the lack of good records on the wealth holdings of billionaires. However, the report stated that imposing the tax could be possible through globally coordinated tax mechanisms.

The report also states that the

number of billionaires worldwide rose to 1,226 in 2012, with an estimated 425 billionaires in the U.S., 315 in the Asia-Pacific region, 310 in Europe, 90 in other North and South American countries and 86 in Africa and the Middle East.

Combined, they own an estimated \$4.6 trillion, so a one percent tax on their wealth would raise an estimated \$46 billion, according to the report. (www.un.org) ■

U.S., China Square Off Over South China Sea

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — **THE UNITED STATES PRESSED BEIJING** on Thursday to accept a code of conduct for resolving territorial disputes in the resource-rich South China Sea, a difficult US mediation effort that has faced resistance from the communist government. It has endeared the US, however, to once-hostile countries in Southeast Asia.

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' annual conference, where several governments have expressed worry about China's expansive maritime claims. Tensions have threatened to boil over in recent months, with a standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships and sharp disagreements between China and Vietnam.

China claims virtually the entire area and has created an entirely new city to administer it, sparking deep concern from rival claimants. The sea hosts about a third of the world's cargo traffic, has rich fishing grounds and is believed to store vast oil and gas reserves.

"The United States has no territorial claims there and we do not take sides in disputes about territorial or maritime boundaries," Clinton told foreign ministers gathered in Cambodia's capital. "But we do have an interest in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea."

Asian countries should "work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation, without threats and without use of force," Clinton added, according to remarks prepared for delivery later Thursday.

ASEAN's 10 members announced earlier this week that they have drafted a set of rules governing maritime rights and navigation, and procedures for when governments disagree. But China is not a member of the group and hasn't agreed to anything.

The ASEAN countries are presenting their proposal to China at this week's conference in Cambodia's capital, though Beijing will probably want to water down any language that ties its hands.

For the United States, the difficult diplomacy ahead could be a major test of the Obama administration's efforts to "pivot" American power toward the world's most populous continent. Just speaking out on the subject already has helped the US deepen ties with Vietnam, and relations are warming with other governments in the region.

But countless meetings between American and Chinese officials have not led to progress on a lasting solution.

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Various longstanding disputes among China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei involve the area's busy sea lanes, and many observers fear the complicated web of disputes could spark a violent conflict.

The standoff between China and the Philippines in the Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines began in April when the Philippines accused Chinese fishermen of poaching in its exclusive economic zone, including the shoal. During the tensions, both sides sent government ships to the area though both have since withdrawn vessels.

Vietnam has protested a recent announcement by the China National Offshore Oil Corp. opening nine oil and gas lots for international bidders in areas overlapping with existing Vietnamese exploration blocks. Vietnam says the lots lie entirely within its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. (www.philstar.com) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 14; APALC ...)

costs \$380. And while we don't know what the fee will be, there's going to be some kind of fee."

The forum will be held from 6 - 8pm at the APALC Community Room

(1st Floor) located at 1145 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

The community forum is co-sponsored by several community organizations, including: API-Equality LA, DREAM Team LA, Korean Resource

Center, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, K.W. Lee Center for Leadership, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, Thai Community Development Center, UCLA Labor Center,

and United We Dream.

Attendees must RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/CFDDA> or call APALC Policy Intern Anthony Ng at (213) 977-7500 x 830. (www.asianjournal.com) ■

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