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NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

RALLY FOR FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETS TO BE HELD IN LA

By HFC Staff



Filipino-American Vets during an event in Honolulu

The Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV) and its allied organizations will hold its 12th JFAV Protest March/Rally on Veterans Day, November 11, 2012 in the entertainment capital of the world.

The JFAV march and rally will be held in Hollywood and not in front of the federal building in Downtown Los Angeles.

"The federal building in Downtown LA is usually closed for the November 11 holiday so all rallies there are symbolic," says Arturo Garcia, JFAV National coordinator. "Now we will bring this issue to the eyes of the entire

world."

There will also be solidarity rallies in Manila in front of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate in General Santos City in Mindanao on November 10.

POST-OBAMA ELECTION RALLY

After Barack Obama's post-election victory, JFAV officials asked the president to issue an executive order for full recognition of 43,000 Filipino World War II Veter-

ans and their survivors who for more than 66 years were still unrecognized as American veterans.

A full page ad asking for an executive order for recognition was published in two major Filipino-American newspapers in Los Angeles on the 69th year anniversary of the Leyte landing in October 20, 2012 also known as the Filipino World War Two veterans Recognition Day in the

(continued on page 4)

GENERAL ELECTION 2012: THE AFTERMATH FOR FILIPINO CANDIDATES

by HFC Staff

By and large, Filipino candidates in Hawaii fared quite well in the 2012 General Election. All eyes were on the Honolulu mayoral race, where Ben Cayetano lost to Kirk Caldwell. Cayetano, who enjoyed the support of many in the Filipino community, says he will retire



from politics.

Cayetano's loss was a big win for rail supporters. The future

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CONSULATE TO HOST 1ST PAROL FESTIVAL

by HFC Staff

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, in conjunction with the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii will co-host the first ever Parol Festival, set for November

30 to December 15, 2012 at the Philippine Consulate.

Dozens of the iconic Filipino Christmas lantern (parol) will be on grand display, in-

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EDITORIALS

Hope

The election system may be confusing to many people, but Americans picked their next president on Tuesday with the usual speed, orderliness, non-violent competition, and choices based on informed discourse. Around midnight their time, despite the closeness of the race, the winner was known, and the loser graciously conceded and openly prayed for the success of his rival.

In the world's bastion of democracy, elections are the ultimate manifestations of people power. Ensure the integrity of free and peaceful elections and you pave the way for a true government of, by and for the people. Barack Obama, America's first black president, re-elected for a second and final four-year term, had reason to celebrate his win not just as a personal victory but also as another step forward for his nation.

In a stirring victory speech, Obama urged Americans to "sustain that hope" and promised better times ahead. As a senator, his second book was called "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream," in which he called for a different brand of politics.



In Philippine politics, HOPE is an acronym for a dream: honest, orderly and peaceful elections. The acronym has been around for almost as long as the restoration of democracy in 1986. It has become clear that it takes more than ousting a dictator or casting votes regularly to create a strong democracy or see HOPE in this country.

Some progress has been made. In 2010, thanks to automation, the new president was announced by the Commission on Elections just hours after the polling centers closed, although formal proclamation by Congress had to wait for several weeks as usual. Candidates for national office are now being invited to public debates to explain their platforms, helping voters make informed choices.

But many hurdles remain on the road to HOPE. Deadly violence continues, long before the official start of the campaign period. Many races are still largely personality driven. Accusations of cheating mar every electoral exercise, with protests taking an interminably long time to resolve. Campaign fi-

nancing remains opaque, even within the camp professing to work for the straight path or daang matuwid. If President Aquino can achieve HOPE under his watch, it will be an enduring legacy. He can start with the approaching elections in 2013. (www.philstar.com) ■

Long Wait for Compensation

Perhaps the significance is better appreciated by the famously efficient Swiss. Switzerland, according to reports, is waiting for the Philippines to release \$200 million as compensation to at least 10,000 victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime. The money will be sourced from funds deposited by the Marcoses in Swiss banks.

A month after the 1986 people power revolt, the Swiss government reached an emergency decision to freeze \$535 million in Marcos deposits. As required in cases of international legal assistance, the Swiss waited for a final court ruling in the Philippines that the funds were ill-gotten. By the time the money was released by the Swiss and transferred to the National Treasury from the Philippine National Bank, the funds had grown to \$685 million with interest.

It was the first time that Switzerland restituted to a foreign government ill-gotten wealth stashed away by a dictator in the Swiss banking system. The Swiss later also restituted \$700 million deposited by military dictator Sani Abacha of Nigeria.

Actual receipt of compensation by Filipino human rights victims, however, still awaits congressional action. Payment of compensation requires a law. The House of Representatives passed its version last March 21. The Senate version, SB 2615, was filed in November 2010 but has not been approved.

In Laos on the sidelines of the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting, President Aquino assured his Swiss counterpart Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf that the compensation bill would be passed. SB 2615 is currently with the Senate committee on justice chaired by Francis Escudero, whose father, the late Sorsogon congressman Salvador Escudero III, served as agriculture minister under Ferdinand Marcos.

Swiss authorities are reportedly hoping that restitution of ill-gotten wealth and payment of compensation to human rights victims will discourage the emergence of corrupt and oppressive regimes. President Aquino, whose late father was the most prominent victim of the Marcos dictatorship, should call on his congressional allies to give priority to the passage of the compensation bill. Human rights victims of the Marcos regime have waited long enough. (www.philstar.com) ■



NEWS EDITION

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NOVEMBER 10, 2012

OPINION

Elections

SKETCHES by Ana Marie PAMINTUAN

Watching US elections always makes me wonder why, after our so-called 50 years of Hollywood and several more decades under Uncle Sam's umbrella, we ended up with our chaotic and violent election system and politics driven by personalities rather than issues.

It was fascinating to watch the US presidential debates, with President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney defending their divergent views on matters affecting Americans' health care, taxes, jobs, national security, energy and the environment. No motherhood statements there; no promise that can't be precisely tracked along the road to implementation.

In our country, divergent views and party stands are practically non-existent in the race for the Senate and in local contests.

But in the presidential

race, we actually saw some improvements in 2010, when several of the major contenders presented detailed plans - in public debates and in newspaper interviews - on how they intended to deal with our country's problems.

The biggest divergence was on their views on corruption, and how to deal with the scandals of the Arroyo administration.

Sen. Manny Villar, who peaked early and eventually settled at third place behind Joseph Estrada, believed economic prosperity would eliminate corruption. Erap, convicted of plunder, could not take up the anti-corruption cause; he simply promised voters more of himself (and nearly won).

Noynoy Aquino believed that eliminating corruption would lead to economic prosperity. Among all the candidates, he was the only one who unequivocally promised to prosecute any-

one involved in corruption scandals in the Arroyo administration, starting with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself. Pinoys liked the message and gave candidate Noynoy a landslide victory.

Even the team of daang matuwid, however, left much to be desired in its declaration of campaign contributions and expenditures.

Many of the ills plaguing our society emanate from our electoral process.

There's the deadly violence that no administration has managed to control, ensuring more violence long after the elections are over.

There's the glacial pace of resolving election protests, which rewards cheating. Where's the justice in a cheated candidate being declared the real winner with only a few months left to serve in the disputed position?

With positions in the House of Representatives and local governments (plus 12 seats in the Senate) good for only three years, most of

our elective officials are in perpetual campaign mode, preparing for re-election or election to another position long before the official start of the next campaign.

This is part of the reason (apart from sheer shamelessness) for the proliferation of the epal billboards and streamers bankrolled by Juan de la Cruz. For the shameless, it's never too early to work on name recall.

Government auditors should do their job and compute how much public funds are wasted on such self-aggrandizing materials.

The opaqueness of campaign financing breeds large-scale corruption, with winning candidates repaying their unidentified financial supporters with the spoils of public office: lucrative government contracts, appointments to public positions, sinecures in government-owned or controlled corporations.

After over a decade of kicking around various proposed bills regulating campaign finance, the House of Representatives finally

passed a measure: one that seeks state subsidies for political parties.

It's supposed to level the playing field for smaller parties that lack financing. But we can be sure that by the time this bill hurdles the bicameral conference committee, all political parties big and small will be entitled to public funding, without the corresponding requirements to compel transparency in campaign contributions, fund-raising and expenditures.

In the US, campaign contributions are meticulously tracked and candidates' declarations of donors and amounts given are closely scrutinized. Candidates raise funds openly, with big-ticket donors attending formal dinners and their party affiliations clearly delineated. You can't have incorrigible political butterflies being rewarded with the tag of "common candidates" in that setup.

Flitting from one party to another is, of course, facilitated in our country by our

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

United States.

JFAV stopped lobbying Congress on behalf of House Resolution 210 "The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011" after the GOP-controlled House of Representatives refused to hear the measure at the Veterans Affairs Committee last August 2012.

HR 210, which was referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee on January 2011, seeks to recognize the participation of Filipino soldiers in WWII as "active



service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs."

ASSEMBLY AREAS

According to rally organizers, JFAV veterans, widows and supporters will

converge at FACLA, located at 1740 W. Temple Street, beginning at 9 am. After a brief orientation, the group will carpool to the rally site at Hollywood and Vine.

A pre-rally program will be held at the Hollywood/Vine intersection from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and the attendees will march to the rally site at 1 pm. The rally will be held in front of the Chinese Mann Theater past the Highland intersection.

An after rally program will be held at the Filipino

NOVEMBER 10, 2012

American Community of Los Angeles from 4 pm to 9 pm.

MORE THAN 25 SIGNATORIES

More than 25 organizations have signed its position paper for the JFAV rally on November 11 in support of recognition and justice for the veterans and their survivors.

For more information on the JFAV rally, please contact Arturo Garcia at (213) 241-0995 or via email at: pilipinokami76@yahoo.com.■

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

of the \$5.3 billion project now rests in the hands of the Caldwell administration and the City Council—as well as the outcome of two lawsuits pending in court.

Other than Cayetano, only three Filipino candidates failed to win their respective elections—Republican Marissa D. Capelouto, Democrat Chris Manabat, and City Council candidate Joje "May" Mizuno. Two Filipinos ran against each

other for the right to represent Hawaii County Council District 1. The winner was Valerie Poindexter, a human resources manager for Hamakua Health Center Inc.

As for the Honolulu City Council, former House Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine defeated incumbent Tom Berg and will represent District 1. She will be joined by Filipino colleagues Joey Manahan, who will represent District 7, and Ron Menor, who will

represent District 9. Both Manahan and Menor won their Primary Election races outright.

A handful of Filipino candidates were winners in the August 11th Primary, including Donna Mercado-Kim (D, State Senate, 14th district), Will Espero (D, State Senate, 19th district), Gil Keith-Agaran (D, 9th district), Romy Cachola (D, 30th district) and Henry Aquino (D, 38th district).

The following is a brief recap of Filipino candidates in the 2012 General Election and the results:

DELLA AU BELATTI

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State House of Representatives, 24th District
Result: 5,362 (69.68%)
Opponent: Isaiah Sabey
—2,333 (30.31%)

RIDA CABANILLA-ARAKAWA

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State House of Representatives, 41st District
Result: 4,330 (61.33%)
Opponent: Adam Reeder
—2,730 (38.66%)

MARISSA D. CAPELOUTO

Party Affiliation: Republican
Seat: State House of Representatives, 42nd District
Result: 2,256 (26.51%)
Opponent:
Sharon Har
—6,251 (73.48%)

BEN CAYETANO

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan

Seat: Honolulu Mayor
Result: 134,690 (46.07%)
Opponent: Kirk Caldwell—157,650 (53.92%)

TY CULLEN

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State House of Representatives, 39th District
Result: 5,282 (75.68%)
Opponent:
Carl Wong, Sr.
—1,697 (24.31%)

DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State Senate, 22nd District
Result: 10,393 (73.53%)
Opponent: Charles Aki
—3,740 (26.46%)

BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State Senate, 12th District
Result: 9,130 (64.80%)
Opponent:
Elizabeth Larson
—4,958 (35.19%)

DON GUZMAN

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Maui County Council, Kahului
Result: 23,459 (61.12%)
Opponent:
Alan Fukuyama
—14,921 (38.87%)

GREGGOR ILAGAN

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Hawaii County Council District 4
Result: 3,940 (61.53%)
Opponent: Fred Blas
—2,463 (38.46%)

CHRIS MANABAT

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Seat: State House of Representatives, 40th District
Result: 3,106 (48.87%)
Opponent:

Bob McDermott
—3,249 (51.12%)

JOJE "MAY" MIZUNO

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Honolulu County Council District 6
Result: 3,683 (12.55%), 4th out of 16 candidates
Winner: Carol Fukunaga
—8,456 (28.82%)

KYMBERLY MARCOS PINE

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Honolulu City Council, District 1
Result: 15,604 (63.51%)
Opponent: Tom Berg
—8,965 (36.48%)

VALERIE POINDEXTER

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Hawaii County Council District 1
Result: 3,869 (58.71%)
Opponent:
Chelsea Yagong
—2,720 (41.28%)

CHELSEA YAGONG

Party Affiliation:
Non-Partisan
Seat: Hawaii County Council District 1
Result: 2,720 (41.28%)
Opponent:
Valerie Poindexter
—3,869 (58.71%) ■

Source: www.staradvertiser.com

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HEADLINES

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

cluding parols made by master craftsmen from San Fernando, Pampanga in the Philippines, which holds the distinction as the parol capital of the world.

The two-week long Festival will also feature a painting exhibit by Filipino-American painter Arlene Guerrero, a photography display of the works of Litratista Kme, the Filipino photographers association of Hawaii, and the Filipini-

ana fashion creations of Gil Iris Villacrusis.

The festival includes various Filipino and Fil-Am talents, such as the Honolulu Broadway Babies, the Maria D. Lauer Voice Studio, the Silangan Singers, and the New Hope Choir. For dancing enthusiasts and movie aficionados, there will be a Ballroom Night, along with film screenings of Filipino film classics.

Radio stations KNDI

1270 AM and KPHI 96.7 FM will broadcast their respective shows live from the Consulate. Palarong Pambata, or Filipino children's games, will also be held. The schedule of events is as follows:

- November 30: Opening ceremony and reception, and fashion show featuring Gil Iris Villacrusis
- December 1: Honolulu Broadway Babies (4 pm to 5 pm), followed by

Pasuquinio Association

(6 pm to 9pm)

- December 2: KNDI Night
- December 3 and 5: Film showing
- December 7: Charity Night
- December 8: Voice recital feature Maria Lauer and students (1 pm to 5 pm), followed by University of the Philippines Alumni Association Night (5 pm to 10 pm)
- December 9: Palarong Pambata (1 pm to 5 pm), followed by Ballroom Dancing Night (6

pm to 9 pm)

- December 10: Pasko ng Silangan
- December 11: Choir Night featuring New Hope Choir
- December 12 and 13: Film showing
- December 14: KPHI Night
- December 15: Closing ceremony

For details, please call the Consulate at 595-6316 ext. 106, or send an email to: honolulu@hawaii.twcbc.com. ■

NEWS FEATURE

Quality, Quantity of Jobs Dropping in Asia-Pacific

ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS SLOWED DOWN IN MANY ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES, affecting labor markets both in terms of the quantity and the quality of jobs available, according to a report from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The October 2012 Asia-Pacific Labour Market Update says that job growth in the region has slowed down compared to 2011, although the situation varies greatly among countries. While Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan experienced a significant slowdown in employment growth, Korea, Singapore and Thailand, saw a rise in job creation.

Poor quality of employment—which often means low wages and limited access to rights and benefits—is another huge challenge for the region, especially in developing countries.

"Urgent measures are needed to create more and better jobs and to reactivate sustained growth and development," says ILO Vietnam Country Director Gyorgy Sziraczki. "New initiatives should focus on supporting infrastructure development to boost employment and long-term productivity growth, improving access to bank credits for small and medium enterprises and extending the coverage of social protection, especially in developing Asia."

About four out of five workers in Nepal, India and Pakistan work informally in the non-agricultural sector. In Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, the proportion was around 70 percent. Many of these workers are women.

The latest data also shows unemployment at below 5 percent in most Asian economies, with no signs of change in 2013.

Glum Outlook for Youth Labor market prospects for youth ages 15 to 24 remain gloomy in parts of the Asia-Pacific region, which has the world's largest youth popu-

lation. One in six young people are unemployed in Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines and New Zealand. In Indonesia, the ratio is one in five.

Youth make up nearly 60 percent of the unemployed population in Samoa and 50 per cent in Vanuatu. In the Marshall Islands, economically-active youth are nearly three times as likely to be unemployed as their adult counterparts.

"Unless Asia taps the full potential of its young women and men, its quest for prosperity and development remains elusive," says Sziraczki.

A major challenge for companies and governments is the mismatch between the skills that are available and the needs of the labor market. In Malaysia, for example, there were 340,000 registered jobseekers in July 2012, but only 1,700 job placements, leaving 153,000 registered vacancies unfilled.

"The priority for policy makers in the region is reforming the education and vocational training system, making sure that the link between this system and the industries is stronger and more relevant," says ILO Bangkok labor economist Phu Huynh.

But unemployment and skills mismatches are only two dimensions of the problem, as there are far more young people working in poor quality and low-paid jobs than there are unemployed. ■

(Source: International Labour Organization)

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State DOT to oversee ID Program

BEGINNING JANUARY 2, 2013, the public can obtain state identification cards at all drivers' license locations in Honolulu, Maui and Kauai counties, excluding satellite city halls. In Hawaii county, state IDs will be available at the drivers' license office locations in Hilo and Kona only. This will increase the number of locations available to obtain state IDs.

The change is the result of a state law that transfers the responsibility for the State ID program from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the counties.

Leading up to this transition, there will be a brief period when the public will not be able to obtain a State ID:

- The Governor's Liaison Offices on the neighbor

islands will stop issuing State ID cards as of Monday, December 17, 2012;

- The State ID Office at 465 South King Street, Room 102, will be closed to the public beginning Monday, December 24, 2012, through the end of the year. Thereafter, the office will no longer issue State ID cards.

The consolidation of the State ID and the drivers' license programs will provide more locations for the public to obtain State ID cards. The transition will also help Hawaii meet federal requirements under the REAL ID Act of 2005, which sets forth the documentation required and procedures to be followed in issuing drivers' licenses and non-driver identification or State ID cards.

Cards that do not meet

these requirements will not be recognized by federal agencies, such as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). To comply with federal law, state IDs are being issued as temporary cards, whether obtained now, or obtained from a drivers' license location after January 2, 2013. These temporary cards are valid for one month from issuance until the permanent ID card is subsequently sent in the mail. ■

Philippine Consulate General Renames Lanai "Alay sa Sakada"

IN CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu held a rededication ceremony for its lanai area, renaming it "Alay sa Sakada."

The lanai is frequently used by community organizations for various events.

Joining the ceremony was Maximo Cadelina, who sailed from Ilocos Sur to Hawaii in 1946, as one of the last batches of sakadas who were recruited to work at Hawaii's sugar and pineapple plantations.

Cadelina was accompanied by his wife, herself a daughter of an earlier sakada, and his son. Community leaders and other



sakada descendants were among the attendees. Another highlight of the event was a presentation of relics and mementos of the sakada period by the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawaii.

In his welcoming remarks, Consul General Julius T. Torres says that the Consulate holds the sakadas in highest esteem, having paved the way for the immigration of Filipinos to Hawaii. Vice Consul Joy

Santos also highlighted the importance of looking back at one's history to fulfill a people's thrust for and vision of its future.

Deputy Consul General Paul Raymund P. Cortes emceed the ceremony and stirred the audience with a patriotic song.

The event was part of the Filipino community's observance of Filipino-American History Month of October, unanimously passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by then Gov. Linda Lingle in 2008. While Filipino-American History Month has been widely celebrated in the U.S. since 1988, Hawaii was the first governing body to officially embody it in a specific legislation. ■

Social Security Offices Announce New Hours

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER

19, 2012, Social Security offices in Hawaii will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm—a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. In addition, beginning January 2, 2013, offices will close to the public at 11:30 am every Wednesday.

While employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime. The significantly reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed to

handle service to the public as it has done in the past.

On November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public. Employees working that day will focus on reducing backlog workloads.

Officials are reminding the public that most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office. In fact, many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing us of a change of address or telephone number, can be done online at: www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing toll-free 1-800-772-1213. ■

OPINION

(cont. from page 3; ELECTIONS...)

multiparty system, and the fact that there are no discernible party lines on many raging issues. For a candidate, what difference does party membership make if the major contending parties have the same stand on various issues?

Political butterflies also take comfort in the fact that Filipinos don't vote along party lines in the first place. Most of us don't vote on issues either.

Who do we vote for? Those who can entertain us, who allow us to escape even briefly the drudgery and daily tribulations of Pinoy life.

We also vote for those

who might have a job or government deal waiting for us in case he wins. We vote for those who remembered us in our times of need and celebration: "KBL," or *kasal, binyag, libing* (wedding, baptism, burial), and toss in birthdays, too.

Where do we think public officials get the money for KBL? Pinoys who don't pay taxes and have no financial stake in good governance don't care. As long as some of the wealth is shared, does it matter to many people if the money is ill-gotten?

We can try to spread the word that good governance can empower people, allowing them to earn enough so they don't have to depend on

occasional dole-outs from political patrons.

Or we can turn social safety nets into a case for good governance - something that can be jeopardized by corruption and therefore affect the poor.

Advances in information and communication technology are boosting voter education programs. There is a popular anti-epal website, and a similar tack can be taken by the movement that has just been launched against political dynasties.

Change is possible in politics and our electoral system. The pace may be slow, but change is in our hands and we can speed it up. (www.philstar.com) ■



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by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

In pre-Obama days, a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (green card holder) could get a visa petition for a spouse approved by USCIS by simply filing Form I-130, G-325A for the petitioner and the spouse, two passport size pictures, proof of citizenship or LPR status, a marriage contract, the alien's birth certificate, and paying the filing fee. Even though the marriage might be suspicious, USCIS left the determination of the bona fides of the marriage to the U.S. consul abroad.

Not anymore. USCIS is now making the determination whether or not the marriage is genuine. This is especially true where the marriage is suspicious. What is a suspicious marriage? Like beauty, it is in the eye of the beholder – or in the case of immigration-related marriages, in the eye of the adjudicating officer.

USCIS will look with a suspicious eye on inter-racial marriages; marriages where there is a great disparity in the ages of the parties (one party is young enough to be the child of the other), especially where the woman is much older than the man; brief or no courtship; marrying on the first visit abroad; absence of family members during the wedding ceremony; absence of pictures before, during, or after the wedding; and absence of documents in the joint names of

Immigration Authorities Crack Down on Suspicious Marriages

the parties.

The rule appears to be – in case of doubt, deny. Alternatively, the immigration officer might ask for a plethora of evidence which are extremely difficult to produce.

Some examples of evidence that immigration authorities have sought are: a statement from the matchmaker on how he/she knew the petitioner and beneficiary, how the introduction was made, and how much money, if any was paid to the matchmaker. If the meeting was through an online dating website, petitioner must provide details of the website and proof of payment of the services. Correspondence between the petitioner and the alien before the petitioner's trip abroad (letters, cards, emails, telephone bills) must be submitted. If petitioner knows the native language of the beneficiary, evidence of how petitioner learned the language, including school records, must be submitted. If the beneficiary knows English, evidence of how and where the beneficiary learned it, including school transcripts, must also be provided.

WEDDING TRIP

Petitioner must provide details of the wedding trip including date of departure and return to the U.S. Petitioner must submit a statement from the employer that it authorized the petitioner's absence during the trip, together with the petitioner's employment status and wages. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons who



accompanied the petitioner on the wedding trip must be submitted.

Petitioner must submit bank records for the two-month period before and after the trip. Petitioner must declare who paid for the airline ticket, and submit the credit card statement or check in payment thereof. If petitioner used cash, he/she must explain why such a large amount of cash was used for the ticket purchase, together with the source of the cash. If another person paid for the ticket, such person must execute an affidavit explaining why such person paid for it. Receipts for petitioner's expenses abroad, including hotel and restaurant bills and credit card statements must be submitted. If somebody else paid for these expenses, the payor must execute an affidavit as to why he/she paid for them.

If petitioner made more than one trip to visit the beneficiary, petitioner must provide details of all such trips, together with petitioner's passport pages showing such trips.

WEDDING DETAILS

Petitioner must submit photos of the wedding showing those in attendance, and if there are no pictures, why there are none. If the beneficiary's parents and/or siblings did

tionship with the person that he/she married, and if they did not attend the wedding, why not. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of petitioner's other relatives and the beneficiary's relatives in the U.S. must be provided.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Petitioner must submit other evidence to show a bona fide marriage, including pictures and documents in the joint names of the parties, such as bank accounts, property deeds, remittances, insurance policies, and the like.

COMMENT: As the ancient proverb says: "Forewarned is forearmed." ■

(**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.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270 AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.)

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Leni: Congress Bid to Diminish Power of Villafuerte Dynasty

by Cecille SUERTE FELIPE/
Thursday, November 1, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - CA-MARINES SUR THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE Atty. Ma Eleonor "Leni" Robredo believes her candidacy would give a chance to diminish the power of a political dynasty in the province.

Robredo, widow of the late Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, said she knew seeking a congressional seat would be a good move for the people of Camarines Sur.

She, however, admitted having some apprehensions that her political decision might not be good for her family, especially for her three daughters – Jessica Maria, Janine Patricia and Jillian Therese – who may be affected in a bad way.

Robredo, who was supporting her husband on the sidelines when he was alive, was encouraged by

Naga City folk to run in the 2013 polls after her husband died in a plane crash last Aug. 18 in Masbate.

People from all walks of life admired her courage and strength during those trying times.

"I always pray for guidance, I know I made a decision in a rush. Every day I ask myself if I did the right decision," she said in an interview with ANC.

She thanked her children for being understanding and supportive of her decision to join politics, a move which she said was meant to prevent a dynasty to continue to expand.

She was apparently referring to the Villafueres, whose patriarch, Camarines Sur third district Rep. Luis Villafuerte Sr., is on his third and last term, and now seeking the gubernatorial post. He is fielding his wife Nelly to replace him and face Robredo in the congressional race.



Leni Robredo: Congress bid a good move for the people of Camarines Sur (Photo/Mau Agusin)

ways been on opposite sides on issues, particularly on the proposal to divide the province and create the new province of Nueva Camarines.

Asked if she sees herself working with the Villafueres, Robredo said not at the present situation when they have opposing views. She added though that she is not closing her doors.

Robredo said it would be unfair to accuse Malacañang or any from the administration of pressuring her to seek an elective post.

In fact, she said she talked to President Aquino on the night of Oct. 5, hours after she filed her certificate of candidacy.

She said the President told her that her husband would be guiding her.

She said she also talked to then Transportation and Communications Secretary Mar Roxas and Social Welfare Secretary

Dinky Soliman about her running for Congress and both advised her to pray and seek guidance.

"Secretary Mar is a very good friend of my husband and Secretary Dinky was there for me the entire time when Jesse died," she said.

Since her husband was known for being frugal, Robredo said she has been trying so hard to keep the lifestyle her husband taught them.

"That's my husband's secret even if he was already in the public service. Even when he was mayor of Naga, even when he was secretary of DILG, he tried very hard not to change his lifestyle. He tried everything to keep himself grounded," she said.

Robredo was a bit late for her TV interview because of heavy traffic in Quezon province. She just took a bus, as she does all the time, from Naga City to Manila. (www.philstar.com) ■

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NOVEMBER 10, 2012

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Christmas Magic Begins in Makati

from www.philstar.com/
Wednesday, November 7, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - THE COUNTDOWN TO THE YEAR'S MOST AWAITED SEASON has begun as Makati leads the nation in the celebration of Christmas with excitement and jubilation.

Christmas has always been synonymous with Makati. The magic that the Christmas

season brings is the same spirit that the city generates for the entire nation to experience through its various festivities. It is about making things happen for the community, bringing them together to enjoy the season.

And this year will be no exception. The city has committed itself to lead the nation in the joyous celebration of the season through its ceremonial switching on of streetlights.



The main thoroughfares of the Ayala central business district are ablaze with over a million LED lights after the traditional ceremonial lighting in Makati City. Leading the opening of the Christmas season are (from left) Dave Balangue, MACEA president; Marjorie de Veyra, city administrator; Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chairman emeritus of Ayala Corp.; and Tony Aquino, president and CEO of Ayala Land.

Once again, Makati will be magically transformed into a Christmas wonderland, dynamic and vibrant, the same character that describes Makati as the foremost leader not only in business but also in lifestyle, entertainment, and culture.

This annual tradition has given Makati the opportunity to give Filipinos a breathtaking experience they will never forget.

As in previous years, posts and palm trees will be

skillfully decorated with dazzling Christmas installations.

This year, however, the roughly 1.3 million lights will also include islands mounted with free standing sculptures. These sculptures, aptly called as heart trees, will be covered in white fairy lights, to further illuminate the city's three main thoroughfares – Ayala Avenue, Makati Avenue, and Paseo de Roxas.

The streets will be adorned with well-loved Christmas characters and

symbols, creating a virtual Christmas fantasy experience both the young and old will enjoy.

"The bright and dazzling display of lights will share with everybody the magical feeling brought by the Christmas celebration. It will also further highlight Makati's leadership and ability to make great things happen," says Mel Ignacio, Ayala Land's assistant vice president for Strategic Landbank Management Group.

"For years, Makati has achieved many milestones serving as the Philippines' premier economic hub, paving the way for the growth and development of the country's business sector. And the city's commitment to fulfill this vision will never wane but only continue to evolve with more developments set to happen in the city," Ignacio ended.

In terms of lighting designs, designer Xenas Pineda shares, "I wanted to interpret the vibrant character and continuous growth and development of Makati."

She adds that she wanted to utilize designs that relate to Makati's leadership nature, breaking free from traditional expectations but maintaining its

commitment to protect the environment.

The use of LED lights has likewise led to a significant decrease of power consumption with 70 percent less than standard light installations.

The ceremonial switching on of the streetlights is but the beginning of the magical celebration in Makati. Come and join the festivities at Ayala Triangle Gardens starting with the premiere of an enchanting lights and sound show on Nov. 16.

On Dec. 5, listen to the charming songs of cheer during the Young Voices Christmas Caroling competition among Makati high schools.

Be entertained by the whimsical musical performances of The Company at the Christmas Concierto on Dec. 14 and celebrate thanksgiving mass every 6 p.m. from Dec. 15 to 23.

Celebrate the splendor of the magical Christmas right in the center where it all happens: Makati.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Prime Note's Journey from Bathroom to World Stage

FUNFARE
by Ricardo F. LO

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Prime Note Ensemble members (shown below in costume) Hero Emolaga, Jim Oxales, Franceus Rama, Edgar Brisenio, Dennis Quiambao, Vem Cabios, Efren Cardoza, Medard Obida, Jonar Sara, Jerico Yabut, Joel Macapas, Romarico Obida, Carl Andrada, Leo Abalos, Neil Ortega and Fraank Depakakibo, with manager Jush Andowitt (in glasses, rightmost, seated).

entertainment, and culture.

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(continued on page 10)

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North Rail Case Goes to HK

by Christina MENDEZ/

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PHILIPINES HAS IDENTIFIED ITS ARBITRATOR** for the botched North Railway project initiated by the Arroyo administration in 2004 but which was stopped due to alleged anomalies.

"We are now winding down and (there is) the clear provision in the contract. We will enter arbitration," Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said in an interview at the Senate budget hearing yesterday.

Abaya said the Philippines has hired legal consultants and the arbitration will take place in Hong Kong.

Abaya said the Chinese claim the Philippines owed them, but "we

believe it's them who owed us."

"So the arbitration will happen in Hong Kong. We have hired our legal consultants. We are choosing our arbitrators and the process will continue from there," the new head of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said.

According to Abaya, the Philippines and the Chinese government have agreed to subject the North Rail project to arbitration to determine whether the country should be paying the \$500-million loan obtained for the botched railway project.

He said the arbitration would also determine how much should be paid and to whom certain amounts should be paid in relation to the botched project. (www.philstar.com) ■

ENTERTAINMENT

(cont. from page 9; PRIME...)

"The bright and dazzling display of lights will share with everybody the magical feeling brought by the Christmas celebration. It will also further highlight Makati's leadership and ability to make great things happen," says Mel Ignacio, Ayala Land's assistant vice president for Strategic Landbank Management Group.

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NOVEMBER 10, 2012

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy, Phl Officials Welcome Obama Re-election

by Aurea CALICA/

Thursday, October 8, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - PRESIDENT AQUINO CONGRATULATED US PRESIDENT Barack Obama on his re-election yesterday.

Aquino cited Obama's message of hope that had been embraced by the world four years ago when he first sought the US presidency.

President spokesman Edwin Lacierda said Aquino sent a letter to the US leader and wrote that the American people, in giving a new mandate to Obama, "have trusted him to stay the course, move them forward, and to continue harnessing the voices and ideas of the American people."

Lacierda said Aquino recalled how four years ago, Obama's message of hope resonated with the American people and the world, marking the beginning of the long road back for one of the world's greatest countries.

Aquino also said that as a treaty ally and strategic partner, "the Philippines looks forward to deepening the cooperation" between the two countries under Obama's second term.

"The President also wrote that in their encounters, it has been easy for the presidents of both nations to understand each other given the common set of aspirations they have for their respective peoples – inclusive growth and renewed prosperity," Lacierda said.

"The President closed his letter by expressing best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Obama and their family, and to the American people," he said.

The Philippine government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), hailed the successful holding of the presidential elections in the US where Obama was re-elected to a second term.

"The Philippines warmly welcomes the successful holding of the recent elections in the United States. The Philippines and the United States share common and deep democratic values, particularly the right of the people to freely choose their

leaders," the DFA said.

The DFA said Filipino-Americans had a high turnout in the US elections.

"We are particularly gladdened by the high voter turnout of Filipino-Americans and the increasingly active role they play in helping decide the future of the United States," the DFA said.

"We look forward to continue working with the administration of President Obama in strengthening relations between our countries and in the promotion of peace and progress in our region and the world," the DFA added.

Lawmakers also hailed Obama's reelection.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Senators Ralph Recto, Lito Lapid and Panfilo Lacson expressed confidence that the relationship of the Philippines with the US will remain strong as Obama serves his second term.

On the impact of Obama's victory on Filipino immigrants, Recto said the US is "an aging society that needs the infusion of young workers."

"The workers would be able to pay taxes for the retirement benefits of the old people... Whoever won, they will have to open up and allow more immigrants," he said.

Lapid was also in a festive mood upon learning of Obama's victory. "Congratulations," he told reporters at the session hall.

Lapid said many Filipinos living in the US were for Obama's reelection because of his support for immigrants.

He added the number of Filipino-Americans running for local posts in the US may have also helped Obama attain victory.

For his part, Lacson agreed the Democrats are kinder to immigrants.

"So that's why our fellow countrymen in America are rejoicing (in Obama's reelection)," he said.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. led congressmen in congratulating Obama for his reelection.

Belmonte said Obama's victory was "good for us."



File photo of Pres. Noynoy Aquino and U.S. Pres. Barack Obama

hance the Phil-US relations, particularly in the fields of economy and defense," Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evarone added.

Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo said Obama is "highly predictive and not a threat to world peace, unlike his opponent who is not clear on his foreign policy."

"Obama uses soft diplomacy, relying mostly on persuasion in dealing with nations. The Philippines is comfortable with the Democratic party. We could expect much smoother relations with the US," Castelo said.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said, "The US has always been, historically, an ally and supporter, and with this new chapter of their nation's history, we hope to be able to continue to work to strengthen our bonds of friendship and cooperation

with them."

The Liberal Party headed by Aquino also extended its congratulations to Obama and said his victory was a firm recognition of his leadership and competence in sustaining a stronger and more vibrant American economy.

"The fresh mandate bestowed upon him ensures as well the continuity of meaningful alliance" between the countries, the LP said in a statement.

The LP said it was confident that both Obama and Aquino would champion positive reforms to advance their people's welfare and lead them to prosperity.

Malacañang earlier said it was expecting the Philippines' defense cooperation and other aspects of its relationship with the US to remain the same after the elections. (www.philstar.com) ■

Peso Advances on Obama Win

by Prinz P. MAGTULIS/

Thursday, November 8, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - OPTIMISM ON THE RE-ELECTION OF US PRESIDENT

Barack Obama drove investors to risky assets such as the peso, which closed to a 56-month high against the greenback yesterday.

The local currency hit 41.06 to a dollar yesterday, 15 centavos higher than Tuesday's 41.21. This was the peso's strongest performance since March 7, 2008 when it hit 40.85.

Dollars traded reached \$968 million, also higher than previous day's \$750.70 million.

"This is market's initial reaction to the re-election of

Obama. Basically, it is back to risk-on sentiment," a bank trader said in a phone interview.

"The re-election paves the way to addressing the problems facing the US economy such as the 'fiscal cliff,' issues of Iran tensions and dealings with the change of leadership in China," he added.

"The market is more comfortable seeing the incumbent at the helm because they know he (Obama) is familiar with the issues that need to be addressed."

Facing Obama is a sluggish US economy characterized by slow growth, huge unemployment rate, and trillions in budget deficit and

debts which could be worsened once tax breaks expire and spending cuts kick in later this year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said it would be "difficult to say" how the US election results would affect long-term capital inflows which have also driven the local bourse to new-highs last Monday and Tuesday.

BSP, which has a 42-45 exchange rate assumption this year, has been buying dollars to tame the peso's appreciation, which if proven too much could trim the value of dollar export earnings and remittances from overseas Filipinos. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Private Firms Eye Developing Asia as Top Investment Site Region, Including Phl, Seen Attracting \$526 B in Private Capital

by Prinz P. MAGTULIS/
Monday, November 5, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **EMERGING ASIA WILL REMAIN** this year's most attractive investment destination for private entities, whose risk aversion has somewhat been minimized by developed nations' commitment to address the present financial turmoil, a global organization of financial institutions said.

Developing Asia, including the Philippines, is seen to attract \$525.9 billion in private capital flows this year, up 11.79 percent from the level seen in June, the Institute for International Finance (IIF) said in a report released this month.

This accounted for almost half of the total \$1.067



Reforms pushed through by the Aquino administration have put the country back on the radar screen of foreign investors.

trillion private flows likely to enter emerging markets this year, itself an improvement from June's \$959 billion.

The balance is seen to be received by Latin America (\$301.3 billion), emerging Europe (\$176.1 billion) and the African and Middle East regions (\$64.2 billion), the IIF said. The first two experienced increases of 11 percent and 22.5 percent from June, respectively, while the latter saw a drop.

BSP Governor Armando Tetangco Jr. has said the central bank is looking at "creative" ways to manage capital inflows entering the country, which could stoke inflation and contribute to peso's appreciation, among others. A strong peso trims dollar export earnings and remittances.

In a research note, IIF said the outlook for net private capital flows to emerging economies has

"brightened somewhat" following announcements from the US and Europe to address economic woes.

"Renewed large-scale asset purchases by the US Federal Reserve and a decline in risk aversion since the middle of the year have contributed to this improved prospect," the report said.

"The announcement of ECB President (Mario) Draghi to do 'whatever it takes to preserve the euro' at the end of July... likely had led to smaller downside risks in the euro area crisis and for the global economy," it added.

Both the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank (ECB) have announced separate bond buying programs meant to flood their economies with cash and lower interest rates to boost demand and

growth.

"Generally speaking, global monetary policy settings are an important push factor for capital flows to EMs (emerging markets) because lower interest rates in advanced economies increase the relative returns earned on assets in EM economies," IIF said.

Tetangco has said the Philippines has been attractive to foreign inflows on the back of its strong macroeconomic fundamentals characterized by strong growth at 6.1 percent in the first semester, and slower inflation of 3.2 percent as of September.

As of Oct. 12, BSP data showed foreign portfolio investments amounted to \$2.619 billion, lower than the \$3.269 billion recorded as of October 14 last year. (www.philstar.com) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

Republicans Ask 'Where Do We Go from Here?'

from www.philstar.com/
Thursday, November 8, 2012

WASHINGTON (AP) — HAVING LOST THE POPULAR VOTE in five of the last six presidential elections, Republicans plunged Wednesday into an intense period of self-examination, blame-setting and testy debate over whether their party needs serious change or just some minor tweaks.

The fallout will help determine whether the Republican party might return to heights approximating the Ronald Reagan years or, as some fear, suffer even deeper

losses as the nation's Democratic-leaning Hispanics increase in number.

"The party is clearly in some sort of identity crisis," said Rick Tyler, a past aide to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Hard-core conservatives, furious at President Barack Obama's re-election in the face of a weak economy, called for a wholesale shift to resolutely right positions on social and fiscal matters. Some demanded that party leaders resign.

Establishment Republicans largely shrugged off the

tirades. But they split into two main camps themselves, portending potentially lengthy soul-searching, especially in Congress.

One group calls for calm and a steady course. It emphasizes that the party still controls the House, and notes that Obama's popular-vote margin was smaller than in 2008.

"The Republican Party is exactly right on the issues," said Terry Holt, a veteran Republican strategist with close ties to House Speaker John Boehner. The party mainly needs to nominate candi-

dates who can relate to average Americans better than multimillionaire Mitt Romney did, Holt said.

Some other Republicans, however, see bigger problems. The party must shed its "absolutism on issues like tax increases," which congressional lawmakers oppose at virtually every level, said John Ulyot, a former Republican Senate aide.

"The only way the party is going to move more to the middle is when we get sick of losing," he said.

That's essentially what Democrats did in the 1990s. Demoralized after big losses by presidential nominees Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis — and still mindful of George McGovern's 1972 disaster — Democrats turned to a centrist Arkansas governor, Bill Clinton. He won two elections, repositioned the party and served as Obama's top surrogate this fall.

Some activists in both parties say Republicans eventually must follow suit to survive. But their primaries are dominated by staunch

opponents of tax hikes, abortion, immigration reform and government regulations. Until and unless that changes, a shift toward the center may be impossible.

"It's harder for the Republicans, because they are more ideological than Democrats," said Democratic strategist Doug Hattaway. "The religious fervor of the Republican base makes it hard to change or compromise, even though that's what's needed to remain viable as a party."

While Holt and others say the Republican Party is aligned with most Americans on big issues, Tuesday's exit polls raise doubts in some areas. Six in 10 voters said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, the highest share saying so since the mid-1990s. Two-thirds of voters said illegal immigrants working in the United States should be offered a chance to apply for legal status.

Nearly half of all voters supported Obama's plan to raise taxes on couples' incomes above \$250,000. Thirteen percent said taxes should be increased on all

(continued on page 15)

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by Reuben S.
SEGURITAN

For ten years now, the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) has given relief to many thousands of children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who would have otherwise "aged out" or lost the privilege of getting a green card simply for turning 21 years old. Their long wait was in most cases due to government delay in processing the immigrant petitions.

The CSPA allows a child who has turned 21 to still be considered a "child" for immigration benefits purposes. Under Section 3 of the INA, to qualify as a "child" the length of time the petition was adjudicated is deducted from the beneficiary's age on the date a visa number became available. If using this formula the child's age falls below 21, the child can ben-

Under CSPA Child Must File Adjustment Within 1 Year

efit from the CSPA if he "sought to acquire" lawful permanent resident status within one year of visa availability.

Previously, the "sought to acquire" portion of eligibility for CSPA age-out protection was interpreted broadly to include "substantial steps" in pursuing lawful permanent resident status. However, the Board of Immigration Appeals recently rendered a restrictive interpretation of this provision.

In a recent case, Matter of Vazquez, a derivative beneficiary of an I-130 petition filed an adjustment of status application more than one year from the date that his visa number became available. The USCIS denied it on the ground that he had "aged out" of his derivative beneficiary status.

The USCIS reasoned that he had not "sought to acquire" permanent resident status within a year of visa availability because he did not file his adjustment application within 1 year of the visa number becoming avail-

able. Since he did not meet the "sought to acquire" requirement, he was denied the benefit of the CSPA.

He was then placed under removal proceedings. He argued before the immigration judge that he met the "sought to acquire" requirement because, within the 1 year period after a visa became available, his parents consulted with a notario about filing an application. The judge disagreed with this interpretation and ordered the respondent's deportation.

He appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and argued that since the law uses "sought to acquire" instead of "filed", Congress intended to allow a range of actions aside from the "filing" of the adjustment of status application.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), on the other hand, persuaded the BIA that Congress had to use language that would cover the different processes used by the Department of State (DOS) and

the DHS, both of which adjudicate requests for immigrant status. The DOS does not ordinarily use the term "filed" to refer to the initiation of the visa application process. Instead, it uses the word "submit" when referring to the Form DS-230 or the Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration.

The BIA agreed with the DHS and said that it was reasonable for Congress to avoid using the word "filed" because of the difference in language between DOS and DHS.

To the BIA, the 1 year period given to the alien to take advantage of CSPA's age-out protection was more than enough to enable the alien to seek legal assistance, gather documentation and execute the forms. When it comes to DHS (USCIS) cases, therefore, the proper filing of an adjustment of status application will unquestionably satisfy the "sought to acquire" requirement.

The alien may also meet the requirement through other actions that fall short of filing, such as when an alien submits the application to the DHS but it is rejected for a procedural or technical reason.

Extraordinary circumstances may also satisfy the

requirement, as in cases where the failure to file timely was because of circumstances beyond the alien's control. For example, the alien may have paid an attorney to file the adjustment application but the attorney failed to do so in time.

Contacting an attorney about initiating the process of obtaining a visa is not enough to meet the requirement, according to the BIA.

Unfortunately, since Vazquez is a precedent ruling it has to be followed even if one may argue that it is not faithful to the intent behind the remedial legislation. Congress passed the CSPA to bring families together and give relief to children who lose the opportunity to become permanent residents when the government takes too long to process their adjustment of status applications. A court has even ruled that the CSPA should be interpreted in a way that provides expansive relief to children of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

The ruling in Vazquez limited itself to DHS cases. For DOS cases or consular-processed immigrant visa applications, the broader reading of the "sought to acquire" provision should still apply. ■

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

National Red Ribbon Week Contest Extended

THE NATIONAL FAMILY PARTNERSHIP has extended the deadline for the 27th annual Red Ribbon Week Contest due to Hurricane Sandy. Parents and students nationwide now have until November 9, 2012 to enter.

The online voting period has also been extended by a week, and is rescheduled for November 10-24, 2012. Here's how to enter to win \$1,000 for your K-12 school and an iPad for home:

1. Students bring the Red Ribbon Week message home by working alongside parents to decorate their front door, mailbox, fence, etc. with this year's theme "The Best Me Is Drug Free."

2. Take a photo with the family and your Red Ribbon Week decoration, then upload it to www.redribbon.org/contest

or www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek by November 9, 2012 (must be 18 years or older to upload your photos).

3. The voting begins! Ask your family and friends to vote for your entry at www.redribbon.org/vote from November 10-24. Ten lucky winners from across the U.S. will win. Winners will be announced at events at their respective schools in December.

"Students will once again take Red Ribbon Week's message of prevention home to their neighborhoods with this national contest," says NFP volunteer president Peggy Sapp. "By decorating their homes together with this year's Red Ribbon theme, families carry the message to their communities. Take the Red Ribbon Week pledge across America to help children grow up safe, healthy

and drug free."

Ten schools from across the U.S. will each win \$1,000 grant for drug prevention and 10 families will each win an iPad. The nation's oldest and largest drug prevention campaign reaches more than 80 million people nationwide. The Drug Enforcement Agency is co-sponsoring this year's national contest.

"The DEA is excited to partner with the National Family Partnership on this contest that empowers communities to come together to talk about the drug problem," says DEA administrator Michele M. Leonhart. "Red Ribbon Week is also when we honor DEA Special Agent Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena, who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our communities safe."

Please visit www.redribbon.org/contest for additional contest information. ■

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Study: Looking Old May Be a Sign of Heart Risks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — **WANT A CLUE TO YOUR RISK OF HEART DISEASE?** Look in the mirror. People who look old — with receding hairlines, bald heads, creases near their ear lobes or bumpy deposits on their eyelids — have a greater chance of developing heart disease than younger-looking people the same age do, new research suggests.

Doctors say the study highlights the difference between biological and chronological age.

"Looking old for your

age marks poor cardiovascular health," said Dr. Anne Tybjaerg-Hansen of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

She led the study and gave results Tuesday at an American Heart Association conference in Los Angeles.

A small consolation: Wrinkles elsewhere on the face and gray hair seemed just ordinary consequences of aging and did not correlate with heart risks.

The research involved 11,000 Danish people and began in 1976. At the start, the participants were 40 and

older. Researchers documented their appearance, tallying crow's feet, wrinkles and other signs of age.

In the next 35 years, 3,400 participants developed heart disease (clogged arteries) and 1,700 suffered a heart attack.

The risk of these problems increased with each additional sign of aging present at the start of the study. This was true at all ages and among men and women, even after taking into account other factors such as family history of

heart disease.

Those with three to four of these aging signs — receding hairline at the temples, baldness at the crown of the head, earlobe creases or yellowish fatty deposits around the eyelids — had a 57 percent greater risk for heart attack and a 39 percent greater risk for heart disease compared to people with none of these signs.

Having yellowish eyelid bumps, which could be signs of cholesterol buildup, conferred the most risk, researchers found. Baldness

in men has been tied to heart risk before, possibly related to testosterone levels. They could only guess why earlobe creases might raise risk.

Dr. Kathy Magliato, a heart surgeon at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California, said doctors need to pay more attention to signs literally staring them in the face.

"We're so rushed to put on a blood pressure cuff or put a stethoscope on the chest" that obvious, visible signs of risk are missed, she said. (www.philstar.com) ■

Analysis: Obama 2nd Term to Sustain Asia Pivot

WASHINGTON (AP) — **PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S RE-ELECTION** means he can sustain the strategic shift toward the Asia-Pacific started during his first term but the attention and resources the region gets may be hostage to instability in the Middle East and budget battles in Washington.

Obama is slated to attend a summit of East Asian lead-

ers in Cambodia this month, underscoring his commitment to the region. He could also make a side-trip to Myanmar, becoming the first U.S. president to visit that military-dominated country to reward its democratic reforms.

Many Asian governments are likely to welcome Obama's victory over Republican challenger Mitt Romney. Concerned about China's rising power and assertive be-

havior, they have supported the Obama administration's "pivot" to the region as the U.S. disentangles from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Still, they also want the U.S. to get along with China, the hub of the Asian economy. Romney's more confrontational stance, based on his threat to designate China as a currency manipulator, could have set back U.S.-China relations and even

sparked a trade war.

Romney's defeat will be greeted with quiet relief in Beijing, which wants stability in its most critical bilateral relationship as it undergoes its own leadership transition that kicks off at a Communist Party Congress on Thursday.

Whether Asia policy gets the kind of attention from the U.S. as during the first term will depend partly on who succeeds Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. She has made at least a dozen trips to the region and championed the view that U.S. interests lie in more ties with that booming continent. Her hard-charging top diplomat for East Asia, Kurt Campbell, is also expected to move on.

The agenda of the next secretary of state, who is yet to be named, could be at the mercy of events.

Walter Lohman, director of Asian studies at the Heritage Foundation think tank, said China is the main long-term strategic threat for the U.S., but the most immediate foreign policy concern is Iran's nuclear program. A conflict there would suck up resources and could upset what the administration wants to achieve elsewhere, he said.

Fighting in neighboring Syria also shows no sign of abating. Security in Iraq remains fragile, and in Afghanistan, a withdrawal of

U.S. combat forces by 2014 leaves it vulnerable to the kind of civil war that blighted the country in the 1990s and led to a Taliban takeover.

Political problems at home could also cramp Obama's outreach to Asia.

His most immediate domestic challenge is an impending showdown over tackling the national debt that economists say could send the world's biggest economy back into recession.

Even before Obama gets to his second inaugural on Jan. 20, he must reach a budget deal with Republicans to prevent a combination of automatic tax increases and steep across-the-board spending cuts — dubbed a "fiscal cliff" — set to take effect in January.

That would entail nearly \$500 billion in defense spending cuts over a decade that could undermine plans to devote more military assets to the Asia-Pacific, where the increased capabilities of Chinese forces pose a growing challenge to U.S. pre-eminence in the region.

China is already acting with growing assertiveness in the seas of East Asia.

Its territorial dispute over islands administered by U.S. treaty ally Japan could trigger a military confrontation between Asia's two biggest economies. This year, China has already faced down the

(continued on page 15)



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have for this."

Ullyot said congressional Republicans should embrace more lenient immigration policies immediately.

On still another front, many Republicans said their party must find ways to appeal to women, who voted heavily for Obama. The party cannot give people the impression that opposing abortion is its top women-related issue, said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. ■

GLOBAL NEWS

Gov't to Provide Legal Aid to Pinoy Driver in Saudi Blast

VIENTIANE, Lao PDR (via PLDT)

– THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE to a Filipino truck driver said to be responsible for the tanker explosion that killed 22 people, including a fellow Filipino, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last Nov. 1.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said they are coordinating with the Saudi government in investigating the tragic accident.

Del Rosario informed President Aquino that truck driver Robin Kebeng is in the custody of the Criminal Investigation Office in Riyadh.

"We will be providing him all

the assistance that he needs," Del Rosario said in an interview at Don Chan Hotel here.

Meanwhile, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) yesterday assured the family of Kebeng that the agency will allocate funds for the legal expenses of the jailed Filipino worker.

OWWA chief Carmelita Dimzon said Kebeng is entitled to assistance and benefits because he is a bona fide OWWA member.

Dimzon said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is hiring a lawyer for Kebeng and will shoulder all the litigation cost of the Filipino worker.

"The DFA will be handling all the expenses for the trial, and on our part we will be providing a

counterpart fund," she said.

Dimzon added that OWWA personnel visited Kebeng's family in Benguet to determine the necessary assistance the government could provide them.

"We will wait for developments, but for now we don't see the need to send a member of Kebeng's family to Saudi Arabia because they may not be allowed to talk to him" Dimzon said.

She said OWWA will closely coordinate with Kebeng's family so that appropriate assistance can be extended to them.

Meanwhile, the DFA will assist the family of Florentino Santiago, the Filipino fatality in the fuel tanker blast, in bringing home his remains. (www.philstar.com) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

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

Philippines over sovereignty of a reef in the South China Sea, where the competition among China and its neighbors for fish and potential underwater oil and gas reserves could also sow seeds of conflict.

Two years ago, Clinton announced the U.S. national interest in the peaceful resolution of South China Sea. That step irked Beijing, and managing those diplomatic tensions will be of growing importance in the second term. Washington supports efforts by Southeast Asian nations to negoti-

ate collectively with China on the disputes, but China remains reluctant to play ball.

A strident nationalistic tone in China's state rhetoric in its dispute with Japan has fueled concerns that the Communist Party could increasingly resort to such patriotic appeals if China's juggernaut economy slows and public dissatisfaction with the party grows further.

Obama has attempted a balancing act in relations with Beijing, seeking deeper ties and encouraging it to play by international

norms to ward off the possibility of confrontation, but also stepping up trade complaints in an effort to protect the interests of U.S. companies.

His second term is likely to see more attention on economic ties with Asia. The U.S. will be looking to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11-nation regional trade pact that excludes China. In a time of bitter partisanship in Washington, that could be an issue where Obama finds common cause with Republicans. (www.philstar.com) ■

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

Americans, and 35 percent said no one should pay higher taxes.

Boehner and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell will stand at the center of the intra-party debate. Within days they must decide how to negotiate with Obama and Democratic lawmakers on the looming "fiscal cliff," a package of major tax hikes and spending cuts scheduled for the new year.

McConnell issued a defiant statement Wednesday. "The voters have not endorsed the failures or excesses of the president's first term," he said. "They have simply given him more time to finish the job they asked him to do together

with a Congress that restored balance to Washington."

Boehner was more conciliatory in tone when he addressed reporters Wednesday. But he recommended Romney's tax package — including rate cuts for everyone and the elimination of yet-to-be-named deductions — which he said would create a net increase in government revenue.

Obama has insisted that the wealthiest Americans pay higher tax rates, as they did under Clinton. Many Democrats in Congress agree.

Republican insiders, meanwhile, nervously focused on an approaching problem that could produce even bigger presidential

losses in future years. The Republican Party relies overwhelmingly on white voters, a steadily shrinking share of the population. Hispanics, the nation's fastest-growing group, have bristled at Republican attacks on illegal immigration, which some people consider a slap at all Latinos, legal or not.

Republican campaign pros said the party must find a way to temper the talk about immigration without infuriating conservatives who oppose "amnesty" for those who entered the country illegally.

"You can't just say 'If you fix the tone, you fix the problem,'" said Republican consultant Terry Nelson. "We have to figure out what kind of policy solutions we

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