



**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**  
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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**  
Basilio Named  
New Envoy To  
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DECEMBER 15, 2012

# NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## PAROL MAKING CONTEST AMONG MANY HIGHLIGHTS AT PASKO! SA FILCOM

By HFC Staff



The sights and sounds of a festive Filipino Christmas season will fill the halls of the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) in Waipahu when the annual Pasko! sa FilCom is held on Sunday, December 16, 2012 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

The free event will feature Filipino food and holiday treats; handicrafts and ornaments for sale; and traditional music and dance.

New this year is a contest to make the best *parol* (Christmas star lanterns) from recycled materials. Winners in three categories—best *parol* made from a kit, best freestyle and

People's Choice, will win prizes worth \$100 each. Entries will be judged on concept, craftsmanship, Walang Sayang (no waste) spirit and overall impact.

This "Walang Sayang" holiday challenge, the first of its kind at Pasko!, is organized by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii. The *parol* contest is open to the public. Participants must

register before December 16th by calling 680-0451 or sending an email to: upaa-hawaii@yahoo.com.

Children (and adults, too) can also make their own *parol* out of bamboo and paper, listen to folk tales and participate in games and crafts. The FilCom's band, the Banda Kawayan, will play instruments made from bamboo,

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### 'PABLO' DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO 647

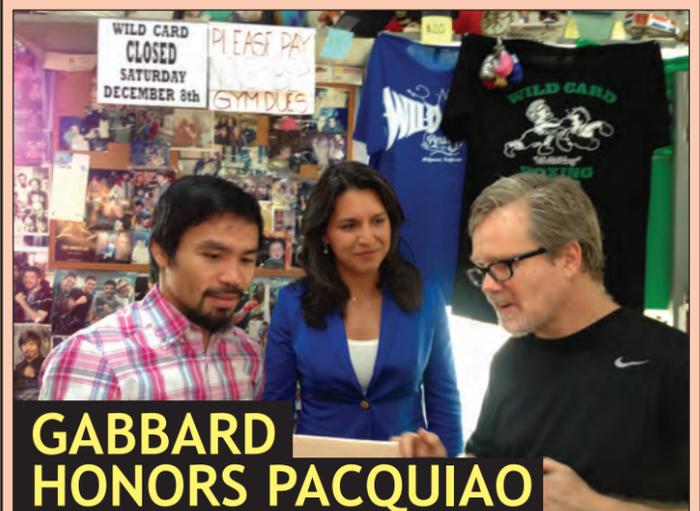
from www.philstar.com

The death toll from Typhoon Pablo has risen to 647, the National Disaster Risk Re-

duction and Management Council said Monday.

"As of December

(continued on page 4)



### GABBARD HONORS PACQUIAO

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard with Congressman Manny Pacquiao and Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Gym

by HFC Staff

Congresswoman-Elect Tulsi Gabbard presented Filipino world boxing champion and Philippines Congressman Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao with a flag that was flown over the

Hawaii State Capitol, along with an honorary certificate.

Gabbard was elected to represent Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District and is

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

Released "Classified" Document May Help in WWII Filvet's Cause

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## EDITORIALS

# Hindrance to Development

**T**he campaign against corruption is a priority not just in the Philippines. In recent years, the United Nations, the World Bank and other organizations have recognized corruption as one of the biggest hindrances to development efforts and one of the major factors behind poverty.

The problem was considered serious enough for the UN to pass the Convention Against Corruption on Oct. 31, 2003. The convention recognized that corruption posed a threat to the stability and security of societies, undermined democracy and the rule of law, and endangered sustainable development. With the passage of the convention came the designation of Dec. 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day.

Today the convention has 164 state parties including the Philippines, which continues to battle entrenched corrupt practices. The UN has noted that corruption hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Studies have shown that corruption takes away billions in funds that could otherwise be used for development projects and basic services including public health care, education and decent shelter. Environ-



mental degradation and human rights violations have also been traced to corruption.

Last September, at a high-level meeting on promoting the rule of law, the UN General Assembly stressed the importance of addressing corruption. The assembly noted the need for governments to fight corruption and for citizens to raise their voices against the problem.

In a message on International Anti-Corruption Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for greater effort to fight the scourge as he declared, "Corruption is not inevitable. It flows from greed and the triumph of the undemocratic few over the expectations of the many."

The Aquino administration has achieved some progress in confronting the problem, but more effort is needed, as indicated in the

ranking of the Philippines in the latest Corruption Perception Index drawn up by Transparency International. The anti-corruption thrust has buoyed business confidence in the country. The thrust must be sustained and the reforms must be made irreversible. (www.philstar.com) ■

## Decent Shelters

**W**ith memories of other deadly typhoons still fresh in their minds, residents of many parts of Mindanao did what they could to get out of harm's way as super typhoon "Pablo" made landfall yesterday. Some local authorities still had to resort to forced evacuation, but most residents readily moved to safer ground to avoid mudslides and torrential flooding.

With houses destroyed, authorities must now move to prevent the spread of diseases at crowded evacuation centers and flooded communities. Pablo is expected to continue roaring across the country at least until tomorrow. It will take time before those displaced by the typhoon can return to their communities, especially in areas hit by massive flooding.

Health officials warned that in cramped evacuation centers, which housed over 50,000 people as of yesterday afternoon, diseases could spread quickly especially among children. Flu, diar-

rhea from lack of safe water, and respiratory illnesses are among the most common afflictions. In flooded communities, the biggest risks are dengue and leptospirosis. Natural disasters can continue claiming lives long after they have left the country.

Some local government units have improved their preparedness for evacuating large numbers of people. In most parts of the country, however, evacuation facilities during disasters are still inadequate. This is true even in coastal communities along the country's eastern seaboard that are usually the worst hit by typhoons, being in the direct path of weather disturbances from the Pacific.

Addressing this problem should not be impossible for local governments and disaster mitigation authorities. With experts predicting more extreme weather disturbances in the coming years, every nation must improve its preparedness for the worst. Preparedness includes the provision of decent temporary shelters for those displaced by natural calamities. (www.philstar.com) ■



NEWS EDITION

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# Most Emotional People

AS I WRECK THIS CHAIR by William M. ESPOSO

**A**ccording to a recently released Gallup Poll, Filipinos are the MOST EMOTIONAL while Singaporeans are the MOST EMOTIONLESS.

Per the Gallup Poll, the 10 most emotionless countries are:

- Singapore: 36 (percent)
- Georgia: 37
- Lithuania: 37
- Russia: 38
- Madagascar: 38
- Ukraine: 38
- Belarus: 38
- Kazakhstan: 38
- Nepal: 38
- Kyrgyzstan: 38

The 15 most emotional countries are:

- Philippines: 60 (percent)
- El Salvador: 57
- Bahrain: 56
- Oman: 55
- Colombia: 55
- Chile: 54
- Costa Rica: 54
- Canada: 54
- Guatemala: 54
- Bolivia: 54

- Ecuador: 54
- Dominican Republic: 54
- Peru: 54
- Nicaragua: 54
- United States: 54

It's easy to believe the Gallup Poll results. Singaporeans are indeed the most emotionless people one could meet in Asia. Maybe that's also the reason why they have this problem of a declining population. In any case, nobody can fault Singaporeans for being most emotionless. They have progress to show for all the emotions that they've repressed.

It's also easy to believe the Gallup Poll results when it says that we, Filipinos, are the most emotional in the world. Filipino reactions and choices clearly demonstrate just how emotional we are. We're so easily drawn to the emotional aspect of a human condition that we altogether forget

the task of preventing its repeat by exercising properly our right to effect good governance.

In the work place, for example, Filipinos who fail to make the grade tend to blame their failure to other factors other than the fact that they didn't exert enough effort to make the grade. They'd say that their supervisor is biased and that they were not graded properly. This attitude produces animosities in the work place and prevents the employee from progressing. If you had more than enough of them in your organization, they could produce a poisoned psyche that will be fatal for business.

If one were to analyze Filipino voting patterns, the emotional factor is very evident. If reason had guided Filipinos when they voted, then a lot of public officials would not have been elected at all. How does one account for the votes cast for candidates like Lito

Lapid, Joseph Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla, Tito Sotto and other showbiz celebrities who capitalized on their popularity to win public office? If these personalities cannot offer competence, then how come Filipinos voted for them? The conclusion is that Filipinos voted with their hearts, not with their minds.

Many folks would say: "What did we do to deserve these showbiz public officials?" Several of them are unfaithful husbands, a good basis for not voting for the adulterer. How can Filipinos associate the images that these showbiz stars project with their ability to perform public service? That would be the height of all the valid reasons that gave way to emotions.

My good friend, the late film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya shared with me a very valid observation when she was helping us during the 1986 Presidential Snap Election Campaign. Analyzing the Filipino voter, Marilou said that we're the

opposite of the British voter. The British voter would first have to be convinced about the merits of a proposition. Once convinced, the Brit would then allow emotion to come in — to propel action for the desired reform.

Filipinos had all of 11 years to be convinced that martial law under Ferdinand Marcos was leading our country on the road to perdition. It took the assassination of Ninoy Aquino on August 21, 1983 to shock us and make us realize that we'll forever be under the Marcos yoke unless we act and remove him. The impact of the assassination of Ninoy Aquino was of such magnitude that it led to the making of the current president — his son Benigno S. Aquino III.

The problem of an emotional people is that emotions are short-term engines for action. Once the emotion had died down, we then also lose our resolve to effect improved protection and better gover-

(continued on page 6)

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(cont. from page 1; **PAROL...**)

and its resident choral group, Himig at Indak, will perform folk songs, dances and carols of yesterday and today. Community groups will compete in a choral contest and a cooking demonstration will highlight Visayan delicacies.

**TREE TOP CONTEST**

Another contest that will be a part of Pasko! is the Tree Top Making Contest. The task at hand will be to design the best tree top from materials that can be recycled and re-purposed.

Cash prizes will be given for three categories—most original and recyclable (\$100), most creative (\$75) and audience favorite (\$50).

The contest is free and open to anyone with artistic talent. Entrants are encouraged to sign up by emailing: 2012OFCCBoard@gmail.com to assure themselves of



a spot. The contest is open to all Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) unit member organizations.

**CHOIR COMPETITION**

If you have singing talents, you may want to enter a third competition—the Pasko! sa FilCom Choir Competition, which is open to all choirs or choral groups consisting of 16 to 25 members.

The choirs may be composed of children, youth and/or adults, and may be formed through school, church or community organizations.

Judging will be based on the performance of two Christmas carols—"Pasko na Sintá Ko" and any carol sung either in English or Filipino.

The choir must have a conductor, can sing either with accompaniment or acapella, and can perform in any appropriate attire or costume. Performances must be limited to no longer

(cont. from page 1; **'PABLO'...**)

10, 20120, 5:00 a.m., 647 were reported dead and 1,482 were injured while 780 are still missing and 109 rescued most of which were from Region 12,"the NDRRMC said.

Damage to properties and agriculture has reached P7.116 billion. Total number of affected families reached 487,364 or 5.41 million persons in 1,928 barangays in 30 provinces.

Some 29, 390 families remain inside 172 evacuation centers. Eleven bridges and nine roads are impassable, 21 municipalities and cities are experiencing power interruption and six area are experiencing interruption in water supply.

The Associated Press however reported that 900 persons remain missing.

The number of people missing after a typhoon devastated the Philippines jumped to nearly 900 after families and fishing companies reported losing contact with more than 300 fishermen at sea, officials said.

The fishermen from southern General Santos city and nearby Sarangani province left a few days before Typhoon Bopha hit the main southern island of Mindanao on Tuesday, Civil Defense chief Benito Ramos said. The death toll

than 10 minutes.

Choirs will be judged based on performance, musicianship and stage presence.

**WHY PASKO?**

Another special presentation at Pasko! is that of the Panunuluyan, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn similar to the Mexican posada, will be performed as it is in Tagalog-speaking towns in the Philippines.

The annual Pasko! sa FilCom is a celebration of Filipino Christmas in Hawaii. As such, it not only reminds Filipinos of this wonderful tradition but also allows them to share their culture with the other ethnic

groups here in Hawaii.

"It is one event which brings all Filipinos together and educates our children of the richness of their cultural heritage," says Serafin Colmenares, Jr., executive VP and prime mover of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO).

"Filipinos always look forward to Pasko," says Beatrice Ramos-Razon, past president of the Hawaii chapter of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association. "It is a good way to be together, share the spirit of the season, and celebrate our culture."

For more information, please call the FilCom Center at 680-0451. ■

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has already surpassed 600, mostly from flash floods that wiped away precarious communities in the southern region unaccustomed to typhoons.

Ramos said the fishermen were headed to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and to the Pacific Ocean. Coast guard, navy and fishing vessels are searching for them, and some may have sought shelter on the many small islands in the area.

"Maybe they are still alive," Ramos said Sunday.

Bopha was dissipating finally in the South China Sea after briefly veering back toward the country's northwest on Saturday, prompting worries of more devastation.

Rescuers were searching for bodies or signs of life under tons of fallen trees and boulders in the worst-hit town of New Bataan, where rocks, mud and other rubble destroyed

landmarks, making it doubly difficult to search places where houses once stood.

Hundreds of refugees, rescuers and aid workers took a break Sunday to watch the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight on a big TV screen, only to be dismayed by their hero's sixth-round knockout.

Elementary school teacher Constancio Olivar said people fell silent when Pacquiao, a congressman who comes from the southern Philippines where the storm hit, fell heavily to the canvas and remained motionless for some time.

"It was like a double blow for me — this disaster and this defeat," said Olivar, whose house was destroyed in the storm. "We were all crestfallen. Everyone fell silent, stunned. It was like we saw a tsunami."

Nearly 400,000 people, mostly from Compostela

(continued on page 5)

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

one of the first female combat veterans to ever be elected to Congress. She appeared at Pacquiao's training facility in California as the boxing champ prepared for his December 8th fight against opponent Juan Manuel Márquez—a fight that the Filipino lost in Round 6.

Introduced to each other by longtime mutual

friends, Pacquiao's endorsement of Gabbard appeared in Hawaii print and radio ads during the weeks leading to the August 11th Primary Election.

"We have many tough challenges that our respective countries are facing, and our commitment to working together is a symbol of the unity that is necessary in order for our country and global commu-

nity to make progress," Gabbard says. "As congressional members in our two allied countries, we are committed to working together on issues that are of concern to both of us—such as, eliminating human trafficking, immigration reform and creating jobs to increase the economic prosperity and quality of life for the people in our communities." ■

(cont. from page 1; 'PABLO'...)

Valley and nearby Davao Oriental province, have lost their homes and are crowded inside evacuation centers or staying with relatives.

President Benigno Aquino III has declared a national calamity, which allows for price controls on basic commodities in typhoon-affected areas and the quick release of emergency funds.

Officials said Sunday that 316 people were killed in Compostela Valley, including 165 in New Bataan, and 301 in Davao Oriental. More than 45 people were killed elsewhere. Nearly 900 are missing, including the fishermen and 440 from New Bataan alone.

Davao Oriental authorities imposed a curfew there and ordered police to guard stores and shops to prevent looting.

The typhoon destroyed about 18 percent of the banana plantations in Min-

danao, causing losses estimated at 12 billion pesos (\$300 million), according to Stephen Antig, executive director of the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association.

The Philippines is the world's third-largest banana producer and exporter, supplying international brands such as Dole, Chiquita and Del Monte.

Meanwhile, weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that as of Monday, no tropical cyclone exists within the Philippine area of responsibility.

"The regions of Cagayan Valley and Cordillera and the provinces of Ilocos will have cloudy skies with light rains. Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy with brief rain-showers while the rest of the country will have brief rainshowers or thunderstorms," PAGASA said.

(www.philstar.com) ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Dr. Mabanglo Among Overseas Filipinos Honored by PNoy

DR. RUTH ELYNIA MABANGLO was among 29 overseas Filipinos and foreign-based organizations honored by President Benigno S. Aquino III at the 2012 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. The event was held at Malacanang Palace on December 5, 2012.



A columnist for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, Mabanglo is well-known both in Hawaii and the Philippines as a poet, playwright, textbook writer, teacher, research scholar and translator. She belongs to the Palanca Hall of Fame and has won five first prize Palanca Awards.

She also received literary awards from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Commission on the Filipino Language, the Writer's Union of the Philippines and from the City Government of Manila. Her works are recognized by Philippine literary critics, included in many anthologies and reviewed and cited in journals.

Due largely to Mabanglo's efforts, the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Filipino Program is currently the largest among 40-plus programs in the U.S. It is the only Filipino program with a certificate, a minor and a BA anywhere outside the Philippines.

In 2008, she initiated a conference called Filipino as a Global Language to promote Filipino internationally and to provide a venue for the exchange of ideas among teachers of Filipino who often are by themselves in teaching the language, researchers, linguists, program administrators, writers and agencies catering to the use of the language.

Institutionalized in 1991 through Executive Order No. 498 and signed by then-President Corazon C. Aquino, the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals

and Organizations Overseas is a biennial search for overseas-based individuals and organizations which have dedicated their work in the service, advancement and improvement of lives of Filipinos worldwide, or who have excelled in their field or profession. Since its inception, the awards have been conferred to 338 Filipinos and foreign-based organizations from 44

countries.

This year's awardees are living testaments to the enduring spirit of bayanihan, perseverance, hard work and exemplary service towards the advancement and improvement of the lives of Filipinos in the Philippines and abroad. Awardees are thoroughly screened from a total of 137 nominations from 26 countries by three different committees with representatives from the government, civil society, media, academe, religious and business sectors, and the president of the Philippines.

President Aquino exhorted the awardees to work together in helping rebuild the areas devastated by Typhoon Pablo.

"I am seeing a greater spirit of cooperation among our fellow citizens and I am confident that those of you who have always been giving generously in the past will take the time to lend a helping hand where it is needed," says Aquino. ■

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# FilCom Revamps Computer Skills Training Courses

**IF YOU NEED TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR KEYBOARDING SKILLS** or to learn a new software, consider taking computer enrichment courses at the Filipino Community Center (FilCom).

FilCom Center has offered computer training since the completion of its Economic Development Administration (EDA)-funded Tech Room seven

years ago. However, the training session went into hiatus when the hard-wired desktop computers started slowing down.

Earlier this year, the FilCom Center replaced the outdated computers with laptops and converted internet access into WIFI thus enabling the resumption of the computer classes anywhere in the facility.

Much of the credit goes

to Conrad Abuel, a retired case manager for the City's Oahu Work Links Program. Abuel teaches "Computer Basics," a four session course that helps beginners learn how to use a laptop. The course is limited to nine students per course and held on Wednesdays, from 10 am to 12 noon.

Most of Abuel's students are newly-arrived immi-

grants who are seeking employment and better computer skills to navigate today's technological requirements, as well as retired seniors who want to use email or surf the internet or socialize via Facebook.

Abuel's wife Linda also teaches Microsoft Excel courses on Saturdays, from 2 pm to 4 pm. She is currently chief accountant at the Waianae Coast Com-

prehensive Mental Health Center and brings years of experience in using spreadsheet software.

The couple is also actively involved with the Bulacan Circle of Hawaii, where Conrad serves as a member of its board of directors.

The FilCom's computer courses are held year round. Please call 680-0451 for more details. ■

# Filipino Junior Chamber Honors Outstanding Young Filipinos

**JCI HAWAII FILIPINO JUNIOR CHAMBER** recognized 8 outstanding individuals in Hawaii's Filipino community via its "The Outstanding Young Filipinos" program.

The honorees were awarded a trophy, certificate of achievement and a 1-year FJC membership at FJC's Night of Honor held at the Ala Moana Hotel on December 9, 2012. The awards ceremony dramatized each honoree's career in narrative form and provided a stage for the honorees to challenge and inspire Hawaii's youth.

The honorees are:

• **Jason Espero**, Shelter Manager for the Next Step Shelter in Kakaako. Currently the secretary and



board member of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Jason is one of

the few young people in the field of social services who is responsible for the day-to day operations of an emergency shelter for the homeless. Jason has a degree in political science and is now a master's degree candidate at UH-Manoa in public administration.

• **Carmille Lim**, Development and Advocacy Manager of the YWCA. Carmille is



also a board member of the League of Women Voters of Hawaii and a commissioner at the Hawaii

State Commission on the Status of Women. Recognized by Pacific Business News as one of the State's brightest young professionals under 40, she was the youngest selected in this elite group.

• **Bryan Munoz**, a popular DJ at KNDI Radio. KNDI radio owner Leona Jona says Bryan is able to bridge the gap between generations of Filipinos of all ages. Bryan also performs for the breakdance ministry for Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor and other churches.



• **Brent Limos**, admissions director at Damien Memorial School. Under Brent's leadership and guidance, Damien has smoothly transitioned into a co-educational institution. He has also organized over 300 religious retreats for the school and helped increase enrollment.



• **Nicole Velasco**, a member of the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board and Envision Hawaii. A graduate of Princeton University, Nicole began her education in public policy as research analyst for the Hawaii House of Representatives Finance Committee and the Auditor's Office. She ran unsuccessfully for State House District 30 by a slim margin of 120 votes. She also serves as a coach for Farrington High School's girls water polo team.



• **Rhonee Joseph Roxas** is an accomplished athlete. He earned a degree in kinesiology from Penn State



University via a volleyball scholarship. During his collegiate career, he led his team to four NCAA championships. Named as team captain in 2004, he was also recognized as an Academic Big-10 All American. Rhonee represented Hawaii at the Mr. Manhunt International 2011 contest in Bangkok and finished in the top 15 out of 60 represented nations. In October, at the height of the flooding in Cavite, he initiated a relief goods distribution program.

• **Julius Soria**, an instructor at UH-Manoa's Ilocano language program. For more than 15 years, Julius taught heritage learners in basic education while he



(continued on page 7)



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## OPINION

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

nance. The assassination of Ninoy Aquino transcended the normal time span of a national emotion because it was integrated with a noble challenge — for citizens to fight for freedom and democracy.

The feeling of such a great loss when Ninoy was assassinated was supplanted by patriotism. The shock effect of the Ninoy assassination segued to the widespread feeling of patri-

otism — the collective resolve of Filipinos that it will require that all of us must take great risks if our country is to be freed from the shackles of Marcos martial law. Filipino hearts in 1983 first wept over the loss of a great son and then rechanneled that emotion to patriotism, the willingness to undergo great inconvenience in order to attain an important national objective.

Why did the Filipino nation have to lose a great son in order to awaken all

of us of the reality of martial law? Imagine how much Ninoy Aquino could have contributed had he been alive to administer the government after martial law.

Indeed, we're an emotional people and we're not alone in that category. There's nothing wrong with emotions as long as these result in intelligent resolves to remedy undesired situations. Filipinos must learn to live with and use their emotions for their personal and national good. ■



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

# Aliens May Have “Second Bite of the Apple” by Claiming Ineffective Counsel

Immigration law has been called a “labyrinth” or a maze, which only a lawyer could navigate. *Nehad v. Mukasey*, 535 F.3d 962 (9th Cir. 2008). Hence, most aliens in removal (deportation) proceedings rely heavily on their lawyer’s advice. Unfortunately, in the vast majority of cases, the lawyer that the alien has hired was ineffective, as a result of which the alien was ordered deported. Simply because the lawyer lost the case does not mean that the lawyer was ineffective, since the lawyer might have done his or her best but the law or the facts of the case were such that there was no way of winning. Even Supreme Court justices disagree on what the law is.

A lawyer is ineffective if there would have been a different result “but for” the lawyer’s misconduct or failure to do particular acts resulting in prejudice to the alien. If the alien in removal

proceedings can establish that he or she is a victim of such ineffectiveness, the alien may have a “second bite of the apple” by asking for the reopening of the removal proceedings.

In the book we wrote on “Ineffective Assistance of Counsel in Removal Proceedings” we discussed the various standards that have been used by the courts in determining whether a lawyer’s conduct was ineffective. The basic rule is that a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel must allege that the lawyer’s conduct resulted in a denial of due process rendering the proceedings fundamentally unfair that the alien was prevented from reasonably presenting his or her case, and that there is a reasonable probability that the alien suffered prejudice because of counsel deficiencies.

Other standards articulated by the courts to establish that a lawyer was ineffective are: (1) the lawyer’s conduct was outside the wide range of competent or professional assistance, (2) competent counsel would have acted otherwise, (3) counsel’s de-

ficient conduct is plain on the record, or (4) counsel failed to file a necessary application or appeal.

In addition, the alien must show that he or she suffered prejudice as a result of the counsel’s deficient conduct – that is, but for the lawyer’s misconduct or failure to act, the outcome or result would have been different, or that the relief sought would have been granted, or that there were plausible grounds for relief and the alien’s entitlement thereto.

#### PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

The alien must meet certain procedural hurdles before being allowed to proceed to establish a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. In other words, there are certain requirements that the alien must comply with before being allowed to cross the threshold and enter the halls of justice to reopen the proceedings. The alien must

establish that (1) such alien has a right to effective assistance of counsel under the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause, since some courts do not recognize such a right, (2) the reviewing court has jurisdiction over the constitutional claim or question of law, (3) the alien has exhausted administrative remedies by having raised the issue in the Board of Immigration Appeals, (4) the alien has complied with the Lozada requirements (present the alien’s agreement with the first counsel stating what counsel was supposed to do, notify the first counsel and give counsel an opportunity to respond, file a statement on whether a complaint was filed against the first counsel with a disciplinary authority and if not why not), (5) the alien has met the time limitations for raising his claim or that there is an equitable basis for tolling the time limitations, and (6) the

alien acted diligently in pursuing the claim of ineffectiveness.

**OBSERVATION:** Adam had only one bite of the apple and he was doomed until eternity. If the alien who was ordered removed can find an excellent lawyer who can do all of the above, the alien might have a “second bite of the apple” and probably live in America until eternity. ■

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com), and [www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://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](http://www.iluko.com).)

## ■ HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

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

earned both his masters and doctorate degrees. He is a recipient of the 2009 United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) award for Education and currently serves as the secretary of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC).

• **Damien Elefante**, an active member of the Hawaii State Jaycees and the Filipino Bar Association. He is licensed to practice law for all Hawaii State courts. Damien currently serves as a deputy attorney general assigned



to the State Department of Taxation. As an attorney, he represented Hawaii in high profile cases. Damien also served as president of the Young Lawyers Division for the Hawaii State Bar Association.

FJC’s Night of Honor also introduced the incoming executive board and bestowed the highest honors by the U.S. Junior Chamber to two of the organization’s current and former members. This year’s recipients are Scott Arakaki, attorney at Badger Arakaki, LLC and Jay Raymundo, CEO of Aloha Rehabilitation Services. ■

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# Drawing Inspiration from the Life of Martha this Holiday Season

by Edwin QUINABO

For most people Thanksgiving day officially begins the holiday season -- loved ones gather for a sumptuous turkey dinner and reminisce good old times while soft Christmas music and big laughs fill the air. For serious shoppers, there's nothing better than saving a bundle on Black Friday to put them in the holiday mood.

But this year something peculiar out of all events captured the essence of the

holiday spirit for me. It happened at a funeral for a wonderful woman who I'd see at parties occasionally. Her story epitomizes love, compassion and generosity. For her, those venerable attributes didn't just come seasonally around Christmas time, but were a part of who she was every day of her life.

Her name is Martha, a woman with a contagious smile and large presence. Being that she was passionate about her hobbies, one of them being writing, it

came as no surprise that she had written her own eulogy. Most people already knew a lot about Martha's dedication to her family, but in her eulogy there were some surprises some of us didn't know about, namely the tremendous sacrifices she endured in her early life.

In her teens, Martha's father had left the family, leaving her, her mother and two younger brothers. Shortly after, her father died. At about the time she was about to turn 18, her mother also died. They had no one left to care for them. Her brothers were still very

young and Child Protective Services recommended that they be taken to a foster home. She couldn't imagine her family be broken apart. Her brothers were all she had left.

The three teens bravely took on immense responsibilities as their single-parent mom went to work while other children their age simply concentrated on homework and having fun. They had to move from their neighborhood in the suburbs to a public housing project. Martha and her brothers had to grow up really fast, practically missing their childhood entirely.

Then when their mom passed on, life couldn't have gotten worse. Life ended in many ways, more than death itself, Martha recalls. There were no answers this time to work at solving. Everything was over, she remembers feeling. Their dream for better days as one family, lost.

But just when separation seemed imminent for the three teens, Martha met a young man. The two of them fell in love and when they both turned 18 years old, Martha asked him if he would be willing to marry her so they could legally adopt her younger brothers. Martha prayed very hard for a miracle to keep her family together so that she could look after her younger brothers. That miracle came in that young man, Alonso, who ended up being her husband for over 50 years before his passing. With Martha's guidance, her younger brothers eventually turned out to become very productive, stable adults, having good jobs and families of their own. As for Martha, she was blessed with four children.

Realizing the importance of extending help to others during times of crisis from her own personal experience, throughout her life Martha helped struggling families make ends meet. She opened her home rent free occasionally to friends and their families who were out of a job temporarily. Eventually, people would hear about Martha's generosity that her home became known as the gathering place. Throughout her life, she has helped over 30 people, providing them a secure, safe place to stay while they worked hard to get their lives back in order.

Martha truly led an inspirational life. It took her funeral, her eulogy, to remind me of the true meaning of the holiday season. Sometimes funerals can have that effect, helping people to refocus on what's

(continued on page 10)

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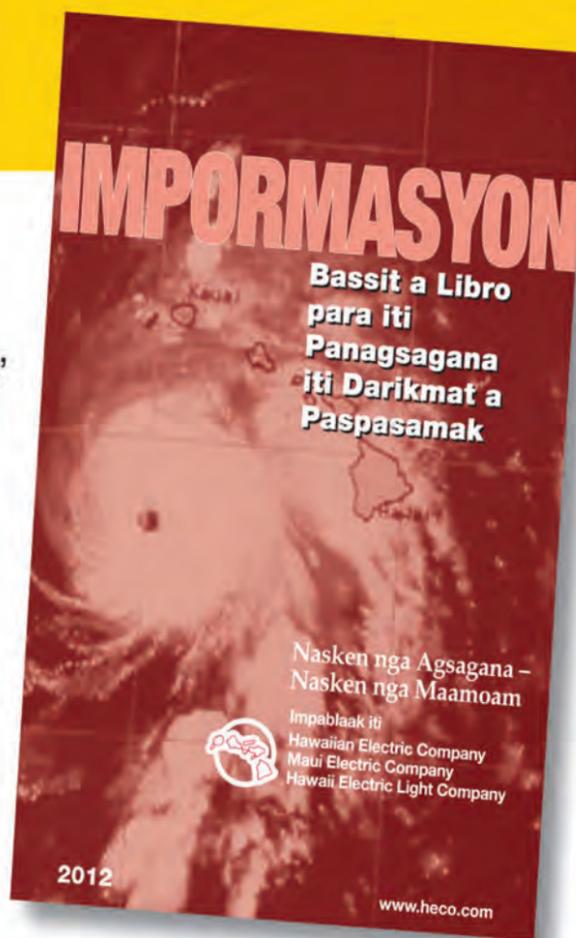
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and Other Disaster-Affected  
Areas Wrought by Typhoon  
'Pablo'**from PCOO/  
Friday, December 7, 2012

**PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III SAID THE GOVERNMENT** is beefing up its disaster response operations to find and rescue the missing residents in disaster-affected areas in Mindanao following the devastation wrought by typhoon "Pablo."

The Chief Executive visited the Compostela Valley and other disaster-affected areas to oversee the search and rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts there. He was accompanied by Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas, Transportation and Communications Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDR-RMC) executive director Benito Ramos

"Nandito ho kami para malaman—importante sa akin—number one, ang ating mga nawawala, iyong missing. Gusto kong ma-account kung mayroon po (missing)—kung puwede lahat buhay pa, maabutan natin as soon as possible," President Aquino told the crowd gathered in Brgy. Cabinuan, New Bataan, Compostela Valley.

"Gusto kong malaman kung bakit nangyari ang trahedyang ito. Gusto kong makita rin kung paano maiwasan ang magkaroon ng ganitong

trahedyang ulit. Pero siyempre ho kailangang maasikaso lahat ng nabubuhay, kaya nandito kami ngayong araw na ito. Masigurado ring ang gobyerno ay talagang naglilingkod sa inyong lahat," he said.

President Aquino is also closely monitoring the government's response for the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to immediately bring back to normal the lives of the residents who were greatly affected by the devastation.

"Nandito ako para makinig (at gusto kong malaman lahat ang sagot doon sa mga katanungang pumapalibot sa aking isipan. Gusto ko lang iwan sa inyo na hindi titigil ang pamahalaan niyo na manigurado na pagandahin ang buhay niyo at iwasan ang ganitong klaseng sakuna," he said.

The government agencies concerned with disaster response were already mobilized to assist the affected communities as part of the efforts to mitigate the impact of the typhoon, the President noted.

"Hindi ho ako kuntento, kailangan talaga habulin natin na walang masasalanta tuwing may sasapit na ganitong pagkakataon," he said.

The President also called on the people to cooperate with the government in rebuilding the lives of the typhoon victims.

"Makipagtulungan po tayo sa ating gobyerno at ilalagay namin kayo sa mas maayos na kalagayan sa lalong madaling panahon," he said. ([www.pcoo.gov.ph](http://www.pcoo.gov.ph)) ■

**ESSAY**(cont. from page 8; **DRAWING...**)

really important -- loving relationships and how we treat one another. These are the things that people remember in the end, not all the other flashy resume stuff and money we spend so much energy trying to attain.

Everyone responds to adversity in different ways. Just like Martha, we can pray and forge ahead with a deafening optimism. From the way Martha carried herself, always rapt with joy, no one would have ever thought she had lived through such a turbulent childhood. Like Martha has shown us, the mysterious beauty of hardship is that it can have a remarkable ability to wake up a giant hero we all have inside of us to overcome anything.

For those of us whose holiday season seems dismal for one reason or another, someone who may have lost his job due to downsizing, someone who is caring for a dying father, someone going through separation, remember there is hope. There will be another job, peace in dying, and new relationships. Everyone goes through painful transitions in life.

For those of us blessed at this time to be able to enjoy stability during this holiday season, let us remember what it was like in our own trying moments, and extend compassion and help to those less fortunate.

May God bless us all. May we all have a merry Christmas and happy holiday season! ■

# Basilio Named New Envoy to China

by Aurea CALICA/  
Thursday, December 6, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **PRESIDENT AQUINO HAS APPOINTED** Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Erlinda Basilio as the new ambassador to China.

In an ambush interview, Aquino yesterday said he chose Basilio for her "wealth of experience" as a veteran diplomat and in consideration of the "high recommendations" of Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario.

"Given that she's already the senior undersecretary, it sends a signal of how important our relations are with China and how serious we are in trying to achieve an understanding with them," Aquino said

after his keynote speech at the League of Municipalities of the Philippines' assembly at the Manila Hotel.

Basilio is replacing Sonia Brady, who suffered a stroke in Beijing at the height of a standoff between the Philippines and China over Panatag Shoal.

Zhang Hua, spokesman for the Chinese embassy, said they hope that the early appointment of the new Philippine ambassador will facilitate communication and development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The President said Malacañang would submit Basilio's nomination to the Commission on Appointments.

"Once they confirm



Amb. Erlinda Basilio

(her), therefore, we can seek – the French term is agreement – the agreement for the designation of Usec. Basilio as our new ambassador to China," the President said. Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office Secretary Ricky Carandang said Basilio has the "necessary skills to

build bridges to China and articulate the policies and positions of our country on important issues."

"She will play a crucial role in shaping our evolving and increasingly complex relationship with China," Carandang said.

Basilio wrote a position paper on why there was no joint communiqué issued following the recent Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s foreign ministers' meeting in Cambodia last July.

She defended the Philippines from criticisms that it was being obstructionist.

The other ASEAN foreign ministers later backed the Philippines in pushing for a joint communiqué to include the West Philippine Sea issue, which was being

blocked by chairman Cambodia.

In August, Basilio handed a note verbale to Cambodian embassy Second Secretary Tan Chandaravuth to protest former Cambodian ambassador Hos Sereythong's claim that "dirty politics" was behind the "inflexible and non-negotiable" position of the Philippines and Vietnam on the inclusion of the West Philippine Sea issue in the ASEAN Joint Communiqué.

Basilio also led last October the 18th Philippines-China Foreign Ministry Consultations co-hosted by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The DFA said the two countries exchanged views on the diplomatic relations and issues of common interest in a constructive atmosphere. (www.philstar.com) ■

# NBI Files Syndicated Estafa Raps vs 17 Bank Execs

by Florence HIBIONADA-PNS/  
Saturday, December 8, 2012

**CRIMINAL CHARGES OF SYNDICATED ESTAFA** have been filed by the National Bureau of Investigation Western Visayas Regional Office 6 (NBI WEVRO 6) against 17 bank personalities of the Rural Bank of Badiangan (Iloilo) Inc.

The charges once upheld, carries no bail for all of the respondents.

With an initial 37 victim-depositors, the NBI WEVRO 6 concluded its probe and established alleged violation of Section 1, Presidential Decree (PD) 1681 in relation to Article 315 (2) (a) of the Revised Penal Code as amended.

At stake are over P13 million in depositors' money gone missing following the bank's closure in July of this year. The said amount though is expected to significantly balloon once the rest of the accounting and pending complaints are resolved.

To date, victim-depositors were segregated into three groups coming from Iloilo City and the Municipality of Januyay. Fourth group are Badiangan, Cabatuan and

Sta. Barbara-based victim-depositors.

In an official NBI WEVRO 6 press statement, named suspects and charged before the Provincial and City Prosecutor's offices are former bank manager Samuel Hortelano and current manager Bella Buscar. Also charged are bank Vice President Joby Arandela, bank cashier Helen Rico, bank secretary Egleserio Reubustes and bank member of the board Josefina Arandela.

Likewise charged are "independent directors" Nena Mana-ay and Edgar Llave, current compliance officer Emilda Davoc, former bank secretary Herlyn Heda Salazar, bank clerks Lenie Abordaje, Cynthia Tacanloy, Ma. Cynthia Paula Tacanloy alias "Mar-Mar," former compliance officer Cres Davoc, account officer Ana Marie Balbasor, security guard Federico Abordaje alias "Idoy" and member of the bank's board of directors, Aileen Consumo.

The victim-depositors, the statement went, "were all enticed by Bella Buscar...to open an account due to the high interest rates...as well as the assurance that their

deposits are insured with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). All of the complainants personally entrusted their money intended for opening a time deposit account to Bella Buscar at her officer in Badiangan, Iloilo or at their respective residences in Iloilo City."

Certificates of Time Deposit were issued and renewed upon maturity as interests supposedly earned were personally delivered to the victim-depositors' homes. However when the closure happened in July, the PDIC disclosed that amount as purportedly deposited were never recorded in the master list of depositors. (PNS) ■



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# Who Says Veggies Are Boring?

FEAST WITH ME by Stephanie ZUBIRI

Last Nov. 13, Nielsen revealed the top 50 Consumer Packaged Goods that Filipinos buy the most. What is most alarming to me is that the top three are carbonated soft drinks, wines and spirits, and biscuits. Even more alarming is that five out of the six food and beverage products that find themselves on the top eight list are just as packed with sugar and empty calories — instant noodles and snack foods. Powdered milk, at number six, can also be argued to have less benefits than that of a healthy mother's breast milk. Ironically, sitting at number four right under biscuits are dietetics.

THE DANGEROUS, IRONIC



(1) Alugbati Frittata  
(2) Red Rice Risotto  
(3) Avocado Salad



## MISCONCEPTION OF FOOD

What does this say about our eating habits as a nation? We want to indulge then take a quick fix to be just as slim and abdominally ripped as the bikini-clad and shirtless models on the billboards, forgetting the adverse effects of extremes on the body. Recently a series of ads on TV and radio promoting a multivitamin sup-

plement describes someone gorging himself on fatty, rich foods, then saying it's all right because you can easily take a pill to get the proper nutrition you need. Another ad shows the difficulty of eating healthy and the lack of accessibility of healthy food, again the pill coming to the rescue. While multivitamins are certainly helpful, what they don't say is that a lack of nutrients is not the only problem you'll have by unhealthy eating.

Another question comes to mind: Why is it more and more difficult to find real, accessible whole food? In a country surrounded by vast waters and abounding with lush, fertile land, why are fish and vegetables so pricey? Also, have our taste buds evolved as a nation to find fresh, clean food repulsive? On a giant billboard for vegetable-enriched spaghetti, the tagline says proudly, "With no veggie taste!" What is so wrong about the taste of vegetables? I find myself having to finely chop herbs and vegetables so that guests eating my food don't pick them out. This, for me, reflects a serious issue with

how we see food and our perception of health.

The Department of Health cites diseases of the heart and diseases of the vascular system as the top two causes of mortality in the Philippines (<http://www.doh.gov.ph/node/198>). In the most recent National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS II) conducted in 2008, one in four Filipino adults has hypertension (25.7 percent). We often forget or perhaps choose to forget the direct correlation between our food intake and our general health. It's simple. Fatty, rich, sugary and overly salty foods will take its toll. The general public, based on my interactions with some impoverished urban and rural communities, are not aware of this correlation. Investing in good eating helps prevent chronic diseases in the long run. Once again, it's the Band-Aid solution rather than prevention.

## 'I CAN'T AFFORD TO EAT HEALTHY'

A common argument is that it is expensive to eat healthy. Yes, it is. But it shouldn't be. One of the major causes is the difficulty of direct access from farm to table. Ka Becca Miranda, an onion farmer and activist from Nueva Ecija, sells her onions to a local middleman for P25/kilo. In most supermarkets you end up paying the retail price of P75 — sometimes up to P95 — per kilo. We need serious effort from the government to open access to these producers. Talking to one of these farmers from Batangas, she said that their town was so abundant in carabao milk and kesong puti that they were practically giving it away or it would spoil. Another cause is our incessant demand for Western-type vegetables. Growing up in the Eighties, I ate macopa picked from a neighbor's tree and one of my favorite dishes was alugbati and giniling. We often had sayote in the house, atis, mangosteen, malunggay and the like. I see more

pears than atis nowadays and go try and find alugbati in a regular grocery or ask your 10-year-old nephew if he likes macopa. They probably won't even know what it is. Many farmers are making the switch to more popular western crops, which are more costly to grow and store. Indigenous vegetables like saluyot (jute leaves) or kulitis (amaranthe) proliferate like weeds and are extremely nutritious. Legumes like tapilan are rich in protein and fiber, and take almost no effort to grow. Making the switch to brown rice, for example, will increase your dietary fiber intake, cleansing your colon of fatty residue and providing a good source of vitamin B. Filipinos don't consume enough fiber. We mostly eat heavy dishes, accompanied by refined starches full of empty calories and sugars.

## 'BUT HEALTHY FOOD IS BORING FOOD'

Most people dismiss vegetables as being boring. But it's all a matter of creativity and education — starting kids young by not getting them used to artificial flavors. Cooking nowadays is all a matter of powders and mixes and our traditional culinary art is also dying from it. Taste tests in culinary schools have shown that people now prefer the powdered sinigang mix to the real deal. Why? Because we got used to it. Re-educating the palate is extremely important. Thinking out of the "pakbet-adobo-gata-sabaw" box when cooking our local veggies is also helpful. Looking to other cuisines for inspiration. During a cooking demo, we came up with a "monggo falafel" that we turned into a "burger" that both parents and children enjoyed. Whole-grain rice and legumes have nourished civilizations in Africa and the Indian subcontinent for years. An alugbati frittata can convert many non-leafy veggie eaters in just minutes. All are tasty. All are cost-effective.

(continued on page 14)

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by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

# Republican Bill to Give Temporary Visa to Families of LPRs

the Republican Party's way of showing that they are serious about immigration reform.

Last September 20, the STEM bill was already taken up in the House of Representatives. It failed to pass even though it received the majority votes of the members because the procedure used required a two-thirds vote.

Democrats opposed the bill because it would eliminate the 55,000 green cards allotted each year under the Diversity Visa Lottery program. These green cards are given by lottery to qualified immigrants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The proposed bill, in effect, does

not increase the total number of visas issued each year.

This time, the Republicans made the bill more appealing by adding a provision which will allow the spouses and minor children of LPRs to enter the U.S. while they wait for their own green cards. They will enter the U.S. under a temporary visa. Although they will not be able to work until they obtain their green cards, this will allow them to be reunited with their families while they wait.

At present, spouses and minor children of LPRs will have to wait over two years before they can be issued their green cards. Those who are receiving their green cards today are those who were petitioned prior to August 22, 2010.

gust 22, 2010.

The backlog has approximately 322,000 spouses and children of LPRs waiting for their immigrant visas. The bill would allow LPRs to be reunited with their families in the U.S. one year after they file I-130 petitions on their behalf.

Whether the Senate will support the bills remains to be seen. The provision on temporary visas for immediate families of LPRs may draw some support; however, it is clear that Democrats remain opposed to the elimination of the diversity visa program and seek to increase the number of visas.

The Democrats have introduced a version of their own STEM bill which has not been taken up in the House.

Like the Republican-version, the proposed bill provides for additional green cards for STEM graduates; however, it retains the Diversity Visa Lottery program. Their proposal also includes utilizing unused visa numbers for STEM graduates to make up for backlogs in the employment-based categories.

Although the STEM bill is not a major fix to a broken immigration system, it will expand visas for STEM graduates and allow families to reunite. More importantly, passing this GOP immigration bill is a tell-tale sign that immigration reform is already in the works. ■

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

## MAINLAND NEWS

# Rob Bonta Breaks the Glass Ceiling as First Fil-Am in the California Legislature

by Malou LIWANAG-BLEDSE/ Wednesday, December 5, 2012

SACRAMENTO—HISTORY WAS DEFINITELY MADE WHEN ROB BONTA took his oath of office and became the first Filipino-American legislator in the State of California, during the 2013-2014 Organizational Session of the Assembly last Monday, Dec. 3.

Bonta, was the former Vice Mayor of the City of Alameda before he was elected last Nov. 6 as a member of the State Assembly for District 18, winning against another Democrat, Abel Guillen.

The session, held in the Assembly Chamber in the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, convened at 12:00 noon by a call to order and roll call and followed with a prayer by Rev. Scott Santarosa, SJ; pastor of the Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles.

Bonta, along with other Assembly Members-elect took their oath of office, administered by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mary Lou Villar de Longoria.



FIRST FIL-AM IN CA ASSEMBLY. Rob Bonta (second to the left; Inset) is shown with fellow Assembly Members-elect as they took their oath of office last Monday, Dec. 3 in Sacramento. Bonta broke the glass ceiling as the first Fil-Am to serve in the California Legislature. | AJPpress photo by Malou Liwanag-Bledse

Wearing the traditional barong tagalog, Bonta stood out in the sea of black suits. He was joined by his wife, Mialisa.

Bonta has received tremendous support from the Filipino community not only while he was running for the State Assembly, but also while he was in office as Vice Mayor and Alameda County Transportation Commissioner. As the son of labor organizers, serving the people runs in his blood.

He graduated with honors from Yale College with a degree in History. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School after

studying at Oxford University in England.

A husband and father of three, Bonta is a strong advocate for public schools throughout his career in public service and has fought for public safety. He also has pushed for economic development and exercising fiscal responsibility.

The session continued on to the re-election of Jose Perez as the Speaker of the Assembly and his speech, the appointment of the Speaker Pro Tempore and other organizational business.

There is more optimism in the State Legislature in 2013

compared to past years, with new revenues that will come in through the voter-approved Proposition 30. The proposition, which is the ini-

tiative of Governor Jerry Brown, raises taxes on the wealthy and hikes the state sales tax by a quarter cent. ([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com)) ■

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# NAFCON Launches Relief Efforts for Typhoon Victims

**THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR FILIPINO CONCERNS (NAFCON)** is appealing to Filipinos across the U.S. to assist victims of Typhoon Pablo which ravaged the southern region of Mindanao and left over 500 dead.

According to the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, a total of 418 are dead, 445 injured and 383 missing. The typhoon has affected over 5.1 million individuals, with the areas most affected as Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and Surigao del Sur. The latest

updates are available online at: [www.ndrrmc.gov.ph](http://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph).

"Days have passed and the people are still seeking relief from the government," says NAFCON organizer Anne Beryl Corotan. "Each day more people have no food and water, are homeless and becoming sick. It's an inexcusable neglect in a state of calamity."

NAFCON's relief effort, which is part of its overall mission to protect the rights and welfare of Filipinos in the U.S. and around the world, has assisted victims of ty-

phoons Ondoy, Sendong and now Pablo.

NAFCON vice president Joy de Guzman was in Mindanao last August and saw how much-needed support from private sector organizations can effectively assist typhoon victims.

"It's only because of people's organizations that victims of Sendong were able to get relief and settle in evacuation centers because the Aquino government is not really doing anything. Now, this typhoon ravaged the whole of Mindanao and parts of the

Visayas. Let's step up our efforts to raise donations for typhoon victims."

In lieu of material goods, NAFCON is collecting monetary donations that will arrive quickly and directly to communities adversely affected by the typhoon. Donations will be given through the Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio Foundation, NAFCON's partner organization on the ground in Mindanao.

Donations can be made through PayPal at <http://tinyurl.com/nafcconrelief3> or by sending checks to

"Tulong Sa Bayan (TSB)" 519 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. TSB has been NAFCON's established partner in sending relief donations to the Philippines. On the check's memo, please write: NAFCON Bayanihan Relief and your city of residence along with a return address. Donations of \$250 or more will be tax deductible.

For more information on regional collection centers, fundraising and relief activities, please go online and visit: <http://nafcconusa.org/>. ■

## FOOD & LEISURE

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

### A PERSONAL CONFESSION

No, I am not a beacon of good health and nutrition. I'm just like everyone else — torn between enjoying life's epicurean indulgences and leading a healthy lifestyle. Every so often I fall into that trap, forgetting that health is not just staying slim. Just last week, after a few months of deliriously amazing food adventures, I had packed on a few pounds that simple exercise was not shedding. I had taken some

herbal (or so it said on the box) appetite suppressants and between intense work, stress and daily intensive exercise, I finished last week by fainting. Yes, a serious "blackout, smelling salts, carry her to a chair" fainting spell. While I should already be happy with how I look and my generally healthy lifestyle, it's difficult not to be influenced by the prevalent national attitude towards food: Indulge, but then you have to have a six-pack. Oh, and let's take a pill for all the missing stuff.

Being a foodie and trying to be healthy at the same time is a constant battle. But yes, I know it is possible. The French have been doing it for ages! And why? Because they eat everything. They love veggies as much as they love their foie gras. They also have massive respect and support for agriculture and fresh produce. They eat real food and not processed foods.

For people like me who love to eat, food is a comfort, a source of joy ... but its most beautiful aspect is that

it nourishes both figuratively and literally. Let the words of Hippocrates be our new

mantra: "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food." ■

### ALUGBATI FRITTATA

(Serves 6-8)

#### Ingredients:

- 8 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup grated cheese of choice
- 1 large onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 4 cups uncooked alugbati leaves chopped roughly; salt and pepper to taste; olive oil



#### Procedure:

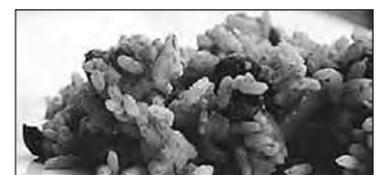
In a non-stick pan, heat some olive oil and saute garlic and onions till soft and light golden brown. Add the alugbati leaves and let wilt. Season with salt and pepper. Cook for about two to three minutes. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs and milk together. Spread the onions, garlic and alugbati evenly in the pan and pour the egg mixture on top. Add some grated cheese all over. Season with salt and pepper. Turn down heat and cover pan. Let the egg cook slowly from bottom up for about 10 minutes. There is no need to flip over the frittata. For quicker cooking you may also place the pan in the oven, uncovered if the pan is oven proof.

### RED RICE RISOTTO

(Serves two)

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked red rice
- 1/2 onion minced
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/2 cup squash cubes
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- Salt and pepper to taste
- fresh thyme for garnish
- olive oil



#### Procedure:

In a deep skillet, heat olive oil and saute onions, garlic and squash. Cook the squash for about seven minutes or until cooked through. Add the red rice. Add the white wine and some chicken stock on high heat. Let the liquid reduce. Add some crumbled feta. Season with salt and pepper. Stir through. The texture should be neither soupy nor dry but slightly creamy. Garnish with more feta and fresh thyme.

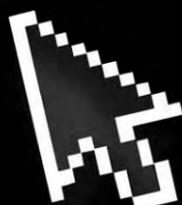
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**SAN PEDRO CALUNGSOD THANKSGIVING MASS CELEBRATION / SUNDAY • December 16, 2012, •** St. Anthony Church, Kalihi • For dinner reservation, please contact, Gene Lumantas @ 623-0598 home or (714) 767-4076 cell, for food ticket

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Released 'Classified' Document May Help in WWII Filvets' Cause**

by **Mico LETARGO**/  
Saturday, December 8, 2012

LOS ANGELES – **A DOCUMENT RECENTLY RELEASED** by the White House may prove as a potential breakthrough in the long enduring cause for due recognition of the elderly Filipino veterans, who fought under the United States command in World War II.

The document, which previously had classified information, could finally loosen the grip of the US Armed Forces on the remaining amounts of compensatory funds payable to the aging veterans.

On Nov. 19, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders announced that the National Archives & Records Administration has released to the public a 335-page report (entitled, "US Army Recognition Program of Philippine Guerrillas") that could help swing the tide for the vets.

The report was compiled after the end of WWII. It includes documentation issued by the US Army during and after the war. Filvet advocates believe that these records can make a strong impact on the results of pending appeals filed by veterans and their surviving kin.

Notably included in this report are the official rosters of what the US Army deems as "recognized" guerilla units. These rosters could potentially bolster the claims of the elderly soldiers.

In a Veteran's Day engagement at the White House, representatives of the American Coalition of Filipino Veterans (ACFV) were invited to meet the president. There, President Obama received a letter from the coalition expressing their appreciation of Cabinet Secretary Chris Lu and his efforts in the Filvets' cause.

Advocates also called on Obama to prioritize the deliberations and the decision-making on the pending appeals of the veterans.



Filipino World War II veterans

"It is our priority," Obama said, in a report from New America Media.

Secretary Lu told the veterans and advocates that an Interagency Working Group of representatives from different government departments will analyze the eligibility process to ensure that all applications are given fair deliberations.

At the same event, ACFV executive director Eric Lachica spoke to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. Lachica expressed his gratitude to Shinseki for the latter's support of the Interagency Working Group.

In a separate interview, Lachica reiterated the need to expedite the resolution on the veterans' appeals because of the looming 'fiscal cliff.' The ACFV head said that the budget cuts could impact the VA budget.

Most Filipino veterans, now in their mid-80s and 90s, are dying out at an alarming rate. Of the original 550,000 fighters from WWII, only about 50,000 vets now remain.

The ACFV estimates that around 300 of them pass away per month on average. At this rate, in roughly 13 years, almost all of the remaining veterans will have passed away.

In 2009, Congress passed the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Act as part of an economic stimulus package enacted in that year.

However, thousands of soldiers who applied for compensa-

tion were denied claims, and are now waiting on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the rulings on their appeals.

Of the remaining veterans, only 43,083 filed for claims under the compensation fund. If the applications are successful, one-time grants of \$15,000 will be given to veterans based in the US, while \$9,000 will be given to those based in the Philippines.

According to NAM, the VA initially approved 18,698 applications, while more than half were denied for the program. Among the estimated 24,000 former soldiers whose applications were turned down, only 4,000 filed to appealed for reconsideration.

The rejections precipitated comments from veterans' welfare advocates, saying that there is an "unjustly complicated standard" that makes it difficult for the elders to prove their qualification for the compensation packages. Many believe that their disqualification can be traced to the stern rules set by the VA in 2011.

Under these rules, the National Personnel Records Center must certify that an applicant's name appears on both the Roster of Troops and the Discharge List prepared by the US Army at the end of WWII. However, many of the names can only be found in either one list or the other, but never both.

A number of those names are also found in the records of the US Commonwealth Philippine Army, which are also archived at the National Personnel Records Center. The US Army has however determined that these files "are not official."

The ACFV is appealing that the US government considers all other records of war service, as they believe that these could help the 4,000 applicants who filed appeals for the compensation program. Furthermore, they believe that the recently released records would make a strong impact on the deliberations. (www.asianjournal.com) ■

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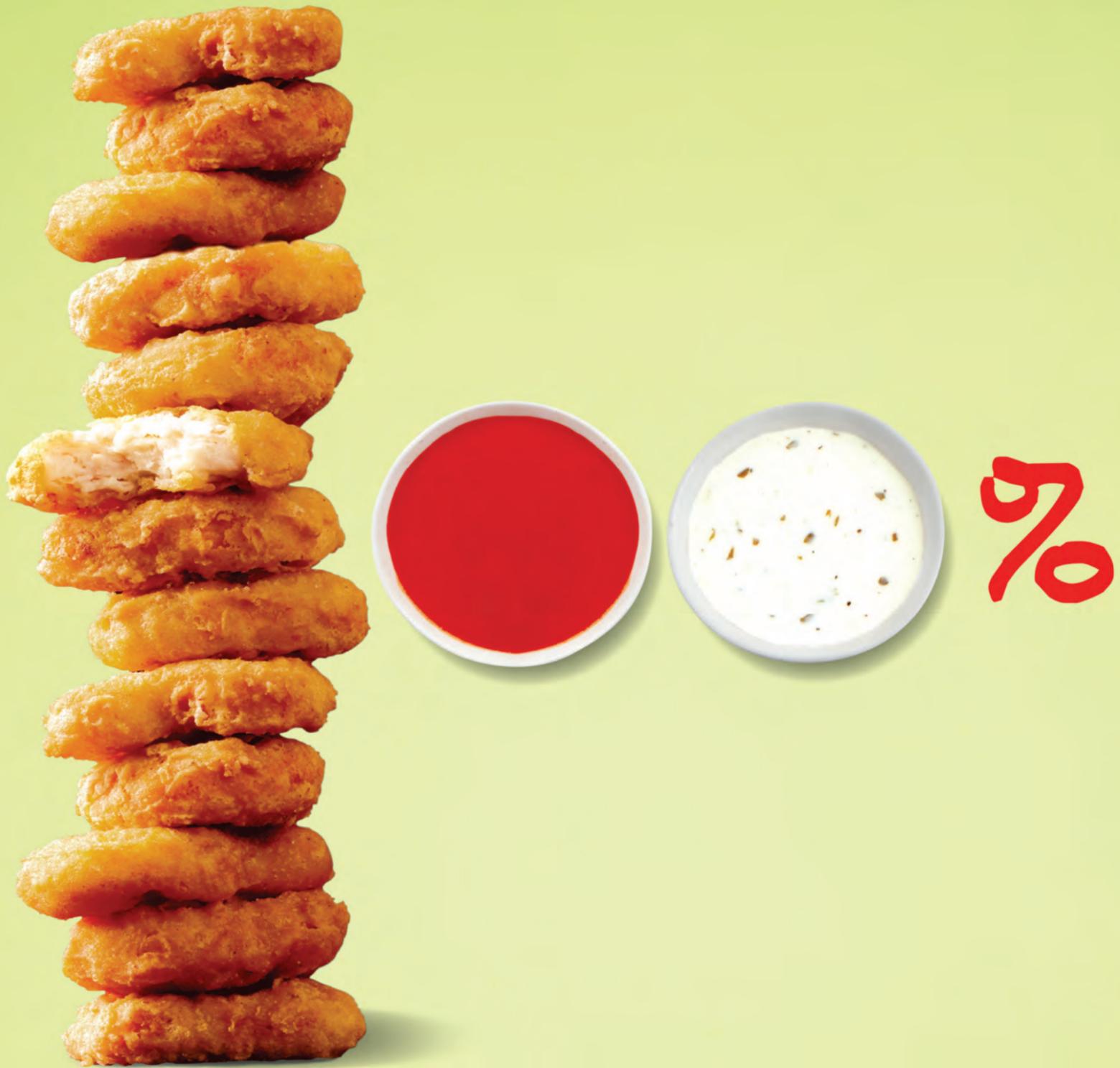
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