

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ SEPTEMBER 19, 2009 ◆

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EDITORIAL

Taste of Kalihi Celebrates Third Anniversary

They could have easily called it quits. Instead, a fledgling community tradition will live to see its third birthday, thanks to the intestinal fortitude of a small band of volunteers who recognize the importance of holding such an event. If anything, events such as the Taste of Kalihi help to boost the self-esteem of a community that has long been unfairly stigmatized and associated with crime, gangs and other negative activity—the most recent of which was the discovery of a dead girl's body at Kamehameha Homes in the heart of Kalihi.

Kudos are therefore in order to the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Foundation, the City & County of Honolulu and Kamehameha Schools for cosponsoring the event, as well as to the handful of dedicated vendors who have stuck with the festival despite the slumping economy. They have all done their part, but it certainly hasn't been easy. This year, organizers were forced to do more with less and to pare down the events without sacrificing too much fun or activities.

Now it's the community's turn to get out and support the event. We hope entire families will spend the day at the Dillingham Shopping Plaza and enjoy the delicious food, live entertainment and festivities. If enough people come out to support the Taste of Kalihi, it could very well become an annual event for future generations to enjoy—and not just for Filipinos, but for people of all ethnicities who call Kalihi their home.

KSBE Transit Report: Too Little, Too Late

In an eleventh-hour move, major landowner Kamehameha Schools released a report it says will save nearly \$2 billion for the rail transit project by building half of the 20-mile system at ground level, rather than elevated.

Conducted by a New Jersey-based consultant, the report recommends that the rail system be built at-grade from East Kapolei to Waipahu and from Middle Street to Ala Moana Center. Only its middle portion from Waipahu to Middle Street would be elevated.

City officials, who are anxious to break ground on the project in late 2009, have criticized the report, calling it yet another attempt to delay rail. And rightly so. Kamehameha Schools has had several opportunities to weigh in on the project—the latest being the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) period, when the City was accepting comments from the public. The timing of the KS's report is also questionable, considering that the final EIS report is due later this month.

The bottom line is that building the transit system at-grade within the Downtown area, as recommended by KS's consultant, does not make sense. The most obvious reason is that there simply isn't enough room to operate at-grade through Downtown, especially during morning and afternoon peak times. One only needs to remember the recent gas leak in the Downtown area that closed several lanes and snarled traffic for hours. An elevated system would allow the transit system to bypass such instances.

So, with nothing really new to discuss, the Council is right in not holding hearings on Kamehameha School's report. As far as we're concerned, the ship has already sailed on discussions regarding the route, or whether to build at-ground or elevated. It's time to move on and build the rail.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Aloha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the leading and only weekly Filipino community newspaper in the fabulous 50th State of



Hawaii! We are dedicated to providing you with the very latest news affecting Hawaii's Filipino community.

Our cover story for this issue is the Third Annual Taste of Kalihi, which is right around the corner! Filipinos truly love parties, so it's no surprise that the Taste of Kalihi has been a hit with so many Filipinos. If you're in the mood for a good old fashioned Kalihi-style block party—complete with good food, good friends, entertainment and dancing—then make sure to mark September 26th on your calendar. With your support, the Taste of Kalihi will become an annual tradition and a source of pride for Kalihi—one of Oahu's oldest and most colorful neighborhoods! Please read more beginning on page 4.

Speaking of pride, we are pleased to announce that the City will be providing the Chronicle's readers with regular updates on the mass transit project. Many of you already know that the City is looking to break ground on this multi billion-dollar project by year's end. Although the route, technology and other key decisions have already been made for the transit project, there will still be opportunities for you to get involved. These regular updates are meant to keep you informed on the very latest on this very important project for Oahu. The first update can be found on page 8.

Another source of pride for the Filipino community is the upcoming Penañfancia Fiesta, which is organized each year by the Bicol Club of Hawaii. This colorful, week-long event culminates on Sunday, September 20 with a fluvial procession at the Rainbow Marina at Pearl Harbor and a "Taste of Bicol" food festival. Members of the Bicol Club of Hawaii are already looking forward to 2010, which marks the 300th year of the devotion to the Nuestra Señora de Peñañfancia. Please read more about this fascinating religious event on page 7.

In closing, we hope that you will enjoy reading these and other articles of interest in this issue, particularly the Opinion column on page 3, "Legislative Connection" on page 6, "Legal Notes" on page 13 and "Philippine Language" on page 14.

On behalf of our staff, thank you once again for your faithful support. Until next time...*aloha and mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

LETTERS

VISAYAN PRIDE AT COVO CONVENTION

When the Congress of Visayan Organization (COVO) met recently for their 22nd convention, it got me thinking of my Bisayan heritage (on my mother's side). She spoke fluent Binsayana and I as a child along with my other siblings picked up a lot of Bisayan words from her.

I went to the University of Hawaii-Manoa Hamilton Library in search of Cebuano language dictionaries. To my amazement I found the spelling and the definition of words such as PASTILAN: which is used as an expression of worry/grief. My Mom would often say "Ay, Pastilan!"

Another is PANGADYI—a period of 9 days in which the novena is said. My mom would bring us along to witness the beautiful Bisayan recitation of the Holy Rosary. How I really miss eating the sweet and delicious BINANGKAL!

I wish there was a Bisayan culture classes that we 2nd/3rd generation Filipinos in Hawaii could attend.

Mel Domingo
Honolulu

Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Design Consultant
Randall Shrirom

Photographer
Tim Llena

Administrative Assistant
Shalmir Pagulayan

Columnists

- Carlota Ader
- Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.
- Fredista Bernales, Ph.D.
- Carlo Cadiz, M.D.
- Sen. Will Espero
- Grace F. Fong, Ed.D
- Mayor Mufi Hannemann
- Gregory Mufi Hannemann
- Gregory Mufi Hannemann
- Ruth Elyna Mabangho, Ph.D.
- Rosemarie Mendoza
- J.P. Orias
- Paquita Saludes
- Charlie Sonido, M.D.
- Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.
- Felino S. Tubera
- Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers

- Calvin Alonzo, O.D.
- Rowna Ballesteros
- Clement Bautista
- Linda Dela Cruz
- Fiedes Doctor
- Gregory Bren Garcia
- Danny De Gracia, II, MA
- Amelia Jacang, M.D.
- Caroline Julian
- Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
- Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
- Glenn Waka

Philippine Correspondent
Gulf Franco

Big Island Distributor
Elmer Acasoo
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piroos

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Ader
J.P. Orias

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OPINION

Pricing the Presidency

CTalk By Cito Beltran

When Senator Mar Roxas announced his withdrawal as candidate for President, the first question was: why? The second question that followed a week later was: what about all the money he spent for his initial publicity campaign?

When Congressman Mikey Arroyo was pinned against the wall regarding how he could afford a \$1 million house in the US, he reportedly gave a number of sources for his funding, one of which were campaign contributions. Someone asked: is he allowed to keep campaign contributions for personal expenditure?

Yesterday, someone asked why some "Presidential" persist on paying a million a month for 5 minutes on radio everyday or millions more to maintain their "Presidential" posturing even if they have no chance in hell of being the standard bearer of their party or ever being genuinely "Presidential".

All these questions indicate that there is a growing interest in how candidates do their math, where they get their money, and how they really use

campaign contributions.

We all presume that when a politician decides to run for public office, he or his relatives will be using their personal funds. Unfortunately, that is the exception more than the rule. The seed money or the start up capital may be theirs, but the big ticket or majority of the expense will be funded either by a corruptor, an interest group, a major businessman, an idealist or a fool.

Why do you think was it easier for members of Congress to pass a levy or a tax on SMS/Text messaging, yet they could never pass new taxes on sin products like cigarettes or tobacco? From what I have learned, the telecom bosses have never been in favor of making corporate campaign contributions.

So there is no love lost or any pain involved for Congressmen to hack at telecom profits or burden consumer costs by imposing taxes. On the other hand, a review of data from the Anti-Tobacco Alliance provides insights on who are the Congressmen and Senators who have actively opposed taxes on sin products.

You will even discover which Senator has tried to influence legislation in order to minimize control or supervision of the Bureau of Food and

Drugs over tobacco and alcohol products.

You don't have to commit a sin or pick a fight with sponsored politicians. Once your competitor starts making investments in their politics or their careers, you can be sure that there will be investigations, accusations or legislation ultimately designed to benefit them at your expense.

Some people give millions of pesos in campaign contributions so they can nominate "their people" to a cabinet position, to the Court of Appeals and finally to the Supreme Court. Some religious, business or political groups make political contributions so they can "plant" their people in Customs, the piers, airports, in the AFP or PNP.

In most cases it is more than just business, it is about economic and commercial criminality. Having your "own" people in place allows you to conduct business unchallenged.

As far as the posturing of "presidentiables" who don't even count, don't make the mistake of thinking that they are simply ambitious or are having hallucinations. They are actually following very successful business models that worked in several presidential elections.

In at least two incidents, I

am told that two alleged "presidentiables" volunteered themselves as serious candidates, even though they were nowhere on the political radar. The two who belonged to different parties were repeatedly advised to step aside because they were stalling the process of launching the true candidates.

In the end, I am told that the strategy was to trade places with the real front runner, get the VP nomination on a silver platter with no challenge, get reimbursement for expenses, get paid a withdrawal fee of P50 million and guaranteed funding for their vice presidential bid!

So when a no bearing, non-rating hallucinogenic "Presidential" decides to slide to VP, make sure you tell all your friends and workers not to vote for that person because that candidate was never a "Presidential", but rather a relative of a sucker fish called the Remora.

That's the fish you often find stuck to the underbelly of sharks and whales. They're hitchhikers, whose name in Latin means, "delay". In Greek, their genus Echenis means, "to hold a ship".

As far as campaign contributions and guidelines are concerned, some people at the Comelec must be smoking dope during office hours. The only law that politicians follow regarding campaign funds is: Don't declare and don't get

caught!

Would a businessman want the world to know that he or his company can donate several million pesos for campaign funds? They might as well pay for a billboard on EDSA with their photo, contact details and say: Kidnap me! I have money! Even if it were tax deductible, a publicized contribution would bring in all the rodents who want their share.

Sadly the presumption behind contributions is that once given no one expects to ever get a refund. The only time I ever saw contributions returned was after the failed bid of Danding Cojuangco for President. Once it became clear that the battle was lost, one unit started returning unspent contributions to donors.

On the other hand, the allegations or suspicions that Mikey Arroyo spent left over campaign contributions to buy a \$1 million house is not an exclusive. A couple of Senators have long been suspected of doing the same practice.

One in particular, always has a new house after every election or every seven years on the average. Actually, I'm glad that Mikey fumbled at the inquisition. At least now he knows how it feels to be verbally assaulted and for once we know that all the talk about campaign contributions are actually true! (www.philstar.com)

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COVER STORY

Enjoy Sights and Sounds at Third Annual Taste of Kalihi



Mayor Mufi Hanneman and FCCH president Rose Mendoza boogie to the beat at the 2008 Taste of Kalihi

By Carlota Ader and HFC Staff

If you enjoy good food, live entertainment, dancing and a fun time with hundreds of your closest friends, then mark your calendar for the Third Annual Taste of Kalihi on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 10 am to 8 pm.



The dance group "Stayin Alive" performs for the audience at last year's Taste of Kalihi

Photography by RAYMOND YOUNG

The Taste of Kalihi, which will be held at the Dillingham Shopping Plaza, is essentially a huge block party celebration that highlights the community's rich history and cultural diversity. The main goal of the event is to bring together businesses, community organizations and area residents in a festive atmosphere to revitalize "Kalihi Pride" and stimulate economic opportunities in the area. Attendees will be able to experience Kalihi's unique flavor through a sam-

pling of the delicious cuisine, dynamic entertainment and exciting activities.

The 2009 Taste of Kalihi promises to be just as fun-filled as the 2007 and 2008 versions. The event is sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Kamehameha Schools/ Bishop Estate.

Revitalizing Kalihi

The Taste of Kalihi is one of the results of the Mayor's Kalihi Economic Summit which was held in April 2007. The overall goal of the summit was to brainstorm ways of revitalizing Kalihi, stimulating economic opportunities and restoring pride back to the community via true public-

private sector partnerships.

The first two years of the event proved quite successful, prompting organizers to plan for a third Taste of Kalihi. The event is some somewhat scaled back this year due to the bad economy. Last year, organizers budgeted a total of \$30,000 for the event. This year, however, will require much more belt-tightening.

"Participating vendors have been forced to slash their budget for the event due to the bad economy," says festival organizer Harry Alonzo, who is also looking to cut expenses by about one-third. "We'll have to try and do more with less."

Nevertheless, expectations for the event remain high. Organizers are expecting to at-



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COVER STORY



Hawaii Filipino Chronicle staffers Carlota Ader (seated) and Shal Pagulayan at the HFC booth in 2007



Entertainers at last year's Taste of Kalih belt out a popular tune



Attendees at the 2008 Taste of Kalih dance the evening away

tract even more attendees than last year, which was estimated between 12,000 to 15,000 people. In anticipation of a larger audience, organizers have added a few wrinkles to the entertainment venue.

Back by Popular Demand

The "Electric Slide" dance, which was a big hit at the 2007 and 2008 Taste of Kalih, will again be back due to popular demand. Nearly 1,000 people participated in last year's dance, which was quite a sight to behold.

"It was huge," says event chair Harry Alonzo. "The entire street, from one end to the other, was filled with people doing the Electric Slide. It was crazy."

Portions of Colburn Street and the Dillingham Shopping Plaza parking lot will again be closed to vehicular traffic.

This year, organizers have added the "Cupid Shuffle" to the Electric Slide. The "Cupid Shuffle" is based on a 2007 hit

song by recording artist Cupid, which spawned a popular line dance.

"We added the Cupid Shuffle so more people could join in and have fun," Alonzo says.

Other Events

A new event that organizers have introduced is a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)/ Boxing Exhibition. A fight ring will be set-up for exhibitions but there won't be full-contact fights. According to Alonzo, several fight clubs from the Kalih area will be on-hand for demonstrations.

Unfortunately, the bad economy knocked out two popular events from last year—the Backyard Cook-Out, which featured cooking demonstrations from several celebrity chefs, and a health fair by the Kalih-Palama Health Center.

Still, there will be plenty of entertainment provided by the Royal Hawaiian Band,

High Frequency, Johnny's Rock Society Revival 2, the Eddie B. Band, On the Flip Side, as well as hip hop, break dance and various cultural dance exhibitions.

And if you like food, the Taste of Kalih promises to have lots of it—from Filipino to Korean, local foods and more. If that's not enough to whet your appetite, there will also be games and contests.

Supporting the Event

Alonzo, who was born on Kauai but currently lives in Kalih, hopes that the Filipino community will come out and support the event, particularly since many of Kalih's residents are Filipinos. He says events like the Taste of Kalih are

good for the community's image.

"Kalih has had a negative reputation, compared to other neighborhoods," he says. "But Kalih also has a lot of positive aspects. This event highlights the positive ones."

The event also brings together the entire community—including Chinese, Japanese, Samoans and others—not just Filipinos.

"Overall, it can build camaraderie within the community and between the various ethnic groups," Alonzo says.

"More camaraderie is good for the community and can help make things better for all of us."

The net proceeds from the Taste of Kalih will be divided between the Filipino Chamber Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, and Helping Hands Hawaii—an organization that strengthens the community by enhancing the quality of people's lives through the delivery of goods and services to those in need.

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

Congratulations to 'OLELO on its 20TH Anniversary

During Oceanic's current contract, public demand for community access channels grew from half a channel to six, and from one facility in Kakaako to eight centers. 'Olelo provides television channels for local programs, and equipment and facilities for producing those shows. Thousands of Oahu residents have been trained at 'Olelo. Each year 'Olelo works with about 250 non-profit organizations and community groups to help them get their message out.

The newest facility, located at the State Capitol, enables lawmakers to promptly get information out to the public in time for civic engagement. Over 9000 government program hours have aired in the last five years. I have enjoyed informing Hawaii residents about important issues on 'Olelo during the last ten years. My current show, *Espero Conversation*, airs Sunday nights at 9:30 pm on Channel 54.

'Olelo's active outreach also brings media training to public, charter, and private schools on Oahu. Through its six school-based facilities, 'Olelo has provided media training to 31% of elementary, 66% of middle, and 87% of high schools on Oahu. The fortunate schools that have an 'Olelo site are King Intermediate School, Waianae High School, Jarrett Intermediate School, Waipahu Intermediate School, Leilehua High School, and Kahuku High and Intermediate School. In 2003, 'Olelo

began a Youth Xchange statewide student video competition as a forum for young people's input on important topics of the day such as drunk driving, suicide, drugs, health, and the environment. In 2009, 565 entries were submitted, a clear indicator of the enthusiasm our youth feel about being able to express and share their ideas.

Six 'Olelo channels air more than 6,300 hours of community produced programs each year. Channel 49 (FOCUS) gives viewers an up-close, in-depth look at their community and coverage of the state Legislature. Channel 52 (O'AHU) shows local entertainment, recreation, arts, and sports. Channel 53 (NATV) features the diverse ethnicities and cultures of Hawaii, the Pacific, and the world. Channel 54 (VIEWS) fosters civic awareness with grassroots community issues, City Council and Neighborhood Board meetings, and political discussion. Channel 55 (TEC) and 56 (TEACH) are partnerships with the University of Hawaii, state Department of Education and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and offer educational programming.

With all of the great interest in producing and viewing community programs, 'Olelo needs public support. Part of the discussions being considered by the DCCA is how much funding 'Olelo will get. 'Olelo derives its income from the 3% Oceanic Cable collects from its customers for PEG access. The DCCA capped and diverted PEG

access in 2000, with the result that over \$5 million has been diverted away from 'Olelo. All of 'Olelo's training, facility use, airtime, and other operating expenses are supported by the roughly \$3.5 million it receives from Oceanic, after the \$1 million it gives to the University of Hawaii and Department of Education for the educational programming on 'Olelo's TEACH and TEC channels.

'Olelo also seeks provisions enabling it to keep pace with technologic advances. Among the key requests are live teleconferencing and cable casting abilities at each of the 'Olelo Community Media Centers, additional channels, and Video-On-Demand services via cable, especially for those who are less likely to use computers or have internet access.

Twenty years ago Hawaii's leaders envisioned an engaged community empowered by PEG access. Today 'Olelo is a national leader and role model, and one of the largest PEG access organizations nationwide. Its community media services remove the barriers of time, distance, and transportation to help people communicate and share their stories with government and each other. I and other members of the Hawaii Senate signed a letter of support to the DCCA in strong support of 'Olelo's effort to continue to provide valuable public media access.

Keali'i Lopez, 'Olelo's President and CEO, envisions a future in which it is an integral part of every Oahu community, enabling and empowering people to be heard on important is-

ses. In envisioning 'Olelo's future, I think it can go even further. Imagine the richness of offerings if 'Olelo joined with some of the other over-3,000 media access organizations across the country. Take the health care debate. In 1974 Hawaii became the first state to require employers to provide medical insurance for their full-time workers. Throughout the years, the Legislature passed other laws toward the goal of universal access. With our extensive experience, our debate on national reform is surely much different from that in other states. If 'Olelo coverage aired via a national PEG network, residents of other states could hear of the outcomes of our reforms, and vice versa. The same is true for any issue that government could consider.

Think of how our tourist industry would benefit. Visitors come to Hawaii because films and television showcase our island beauty. Since many 'Olelo programs feature Hawaii's lovely scenery and people, making these shows available to other states would enhance Hawaii's exotic allure as a visitor destination. Think of how much fun it would be to watch local sports coverage of your mainland cousins, nieces or nephews, if a national PEG network was begun.

A hearty congratulations to 'Olelo on its 20th anniversary, to Keali'i Lopez for her dynamic leadership, and all the staff and volunteers that have contributed to its success. 'Olelo has truly given life to its mission statement: *When Our Voice Thrives, So Does Our Community.*

The ability of Oahu's 'Olelo Community Television to effectively meet community access needs was the subject of a Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) hearing on September 15, 2009 at McKinley High School. 'Olelo is the recipient of "Public, Education and Governmental (PEG)" access fees collected by Oceanic Time Warner Cable. The DCCA expects to issue a decision by October 23, 2009.

Oceanic Time Warner is currently negotiating a new agreement with the DCCA for a franchise that will allow it to continue to offer cable services on Oahu for the next ten or more years, beginning January 1, 2010. At stake is how 'Olelo is funded and supported. The public demand for community television on Oahu is at an all-time high. In its 20 years, 'Olelo has broadcast a total of more than more than 50,000 hours of original local programming. This year 'Olelo will air more than 6,300 hours of programming on six channels.

The high volume of community programming means 'Olelo is bursting at the seams.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Budget Gap Could Swell to P270 Billion

By Iris C. Gonzales / Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - The government's budget deficit could swell to as much as P270 billion this year or 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), New York-based GlobalSource said in its latest report on the Philippines.

The US-based think-tank's deficit forecast is wider than the revised deficit ceiling of P250 billion or 3.2 percent of GDP set by the inter-agency Develop-

ment Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) for the year.

GlobalSource said the country's fiscal authorities may be unable to meet the targets unless it can sell more state-owned assets this year.

The government is eyeing to sell P30 billion worth of government-owned properties this year, including the 120-hectare Food Terminals Inc. (FTI) agro-industrial complex in Taguig. The government hopes to raise P10 to P13 billion from the FTI property alone.

It also hopes to sell its stake

in multi-industry conglomerate San Miguel Corp. this year and expects roughly P50 billion from the sale.

However, GlobalSource said that ultimately what the government needs to do is to improve its revenue stream. The research firm said unless there is significant improvement in revenues, the government cannot push through with further pumping next year as planned.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya earlier said the government plans to allot roughly P160 billion next year for pump-priming activities. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

NEWS FEATURE:

Bicol Club of Hawaii to Honor Lady of Peñafrancia

The Bicol Club of Hawaii is planning several events in late September to mark the annual Peñafrancia Fiesta held annually in honor of the Patroness of the Bicol Region—Nuestra Senora De Peñafrancia.

In Hawaii, the week-long Peñafrancia Fiesta of Bicol starts with the Traslacion, (the visit of the statue from her Basilica to the Naga City Cathedral), as juxtaposed by bringing the statue to Star of the Sea Parish Church in Kahala from St. Philomena Church in Salt Lake where she is enthroned, with a procession echoing the litanies of the rosary and Marian songs within the Parish Courtyard. This is scheduled for September 18, 2009 at 7 p.m. under the supervision of Fr. Mark Del Rosario,



Devotees of Nuestra Señora De Peñafrancia.

who hails from the Bicol region. Fellowship caps the night's activities.

The Peñafrancia Fiesta will be celebrated on September 20, 2009, at the Rainbow Marina, located next to the USS Arizona Memorial Park starting at 10 a.m. with a humble fluvial procession on the waters of Pearl Harbor, a tri-duum mass at 11



People lined up waiting to get a taste of Bicol's cuisine.

a.m. officiated by Fr. Mark and Fr. Marvin Bearis, a newly-ordained local boy with the Franciscan order whose parents are extracts of the region, and Fr. Marino Angostura who will be headlining the fellowship.

What follows next is the sumptuous "Taste of Bicol" which features Bicolano dishes originating from the six

Celebration in the Philippines

In the Philippines, the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia is celebrated by the Bicol region on the third Sunday of September. This year marks the 299th year of celebrations for the patroness of the Bicol region, which is composed of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Masbate.

Millions from around the world gather for the week-long fiesta to give thanks to favors received and perhaps to ask for more. The celebration is marked by a procession that echoes the beads of the rosary muffled by passionate repetitions of "Viva La Virgen," a marching and dancing parade along the streets of the hub of Bicol and a fluvial procession on the Bicol River which is nearly shallow for most of year but and swells out a few weeks before the fiesta due to heavy rains.

The Fiesta also features a live band, binaua street dancing (believe it or not, it's Samba music), the pantomina, kiddie games like tikik-purot, siklot, periperico, etc. and chili-eating contest. All these events are open to public.

Please contact Charo at 371-8838, Salve, 744-7840 or JP Orias at 387-8297 for more information on these events

Fil Chamber of Commerce to Hold Workshop on Doing Business in RP

For those who have dreamed of launching a business venture in the Philippines, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a luncheon workshop designed to showcase business opportunities in the Philippines. The event is scheduled for September 19, 2009 at the Dole Cannery Ballrooms beginning at 11:30 am.

Consul General Leoncio "Jun" Cardenas will be the keynote speaker. The workshop is in preparation for the Filipino Chamber's 21st Trade Mission to Metro-Manila, Cebu, Zambales and Baguio from November 6-21, 2009. An overview of the trade mission, including the itinerary, will be briefly presented at the workshop.

Topics to be discussed range from opportunities in health and



wellness; adventures in ecotourism; securing contracts with such U.S. institutions as the Asian Development Bank or USAID, as well as with other multinational entities; and other trade related issues. Local businesses will discover the breadth of professional services offered in the Philippines, including labor-intensive technical expertise not readily available in Hawaii or the United States. The advantages of retiring in the Philippines will also be discussed.

Panelists include: Harold McArthur, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Relations, University of Hawaii; Rochelle Almazor McArthur, Managing Director, Pacific Asian Management Institute and Center for International Business Education and Research, University of Hawaii; Gregg Yamanaka, COO of Green Era Corporation and Chair of the State Workforce Development Council, and Nelda Zulueta, President and CEO, Clearvision Outsourcing. Mayor Mufi Hannemann will offer the closing remarks.

The business workshop and the trade mission are co-sponsored by the City & County of Honolulu's Office of Economic Development.

More information is available by calling Rose Cruz Churma at 239-6365.

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IFS-A107534 Ed. 12/2006

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Update on City's Rail Transit Project

The City & County of Honolulu continues toward its goal of breaking ground for the Honolulu Rail Transit Project at the end of this year.

The train will run along

an elevated 20-mile route from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Center. There will be 21 train stations, with stops at popular locations like Leeward Community College, Pearlridge Center, Aloha Stadium, Honolulu Airport, Kalihi, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu and Ala Moana Center.

By building an elevated rail system that separates the train from the traffic below, the city said it can guarantee travel times of 42 minutes between East Kapolei and Ala Moana Center, including stops at each station.

"Having an elevated train system running above and away from the traffic will provide us with an alternative mode of transportation that is reliable and efficient," says city managing director Kirk Caldwell.

The train's schedule and travel times will not change, no matter how bad traffic gets on the ground, Caldwell said. Trains will arrive at each station every three minutes during morning and afternoon rush hours.

The City has begun meeting with communities along the rail route to gather residents' input on designs for their respective rail stations. Design workshops have already been held for the Waipahu, West Oahu and Leeward Community College stations. The next scheduled workshop is for the Pearl Ridge rail station at Pearl Ridge Elementary School on



◀ (Rail Station Canopy) A city drawing of what the roofline will look like for the elevated rail stations along the 20-mile route.



◀ (Elevated system Dillingham Blvd.) A rendering of what the elevated rail system would look like along Dillingham Boulevard in Kalihi.



◀ (Elevated system near Pearlridge Center) A rendering of the elevated system near the intersection of Kamehameha Highway and Kaonoiki Street near Pearlridge Center.

October 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on the rail transit project and future station workshops, check out the project's website at www.honolulutransit.org or

hotline at 566-2299.

(ED. NOTE: This is the first of several bi-weekly updates from the City. Mahalo to transit officials for keeping Chronicle readers informed about the transit project.)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

'It's Teodoro for Lakas-Kampi in 2010'

By Paolo Romero /
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan, Philippines – Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. will be the standard-bearer of the pro-administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD in next year's presidential elections, Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia said yesterday.

At Malacañang, presidential adviser for political affairs Gabriel Claudio said Lakas-Kampi will try to proclaim its presidential bet by Thursday after the meeting of the party's national executive committee.

Garcia, a Lakas-Kampi stalwart, made the announcement yesterday during Teodoro's visit to Bataan to assess the extent of damage caused by widespread flooding over the past week.

"As of yesterday morning, he is our party's presidential standard-bearer," Garcia said.

In response, Teodoro said he respects the party's selection process.

"I cannot say that I am the one out of respect to the party which I submitted myself to its selection processes," Teodoro said.

"Those who say they're the one is doing a great disrespect to the party," he added.

Garcia said once Teodoro is officially chosen as Lakas-Kampi standard-bearer, he would be included in the survey screens.

"Once he is officially declared as Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard-bearer, he will pick up

in survey ratings, and those on top will drop down."

Most governors nationwide have already endorsed Teodoro's presidential bid, Garcia said.

From his aerial and land surveys of flood-stricken Bataan yesterday, Teodoro proceeded to Iba, Zambales where he ordered the immediate release of additional disaster funds for the local government.

Lakas-Kampi surprise

At Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and presidential adviser for political affairs Gabriel Claudio said Lakas-Kampi might pull off a surprise in next year's presidential elections.

Ermita said they are not worried over the high survey ratings of other presidential contenders.

"Our party is big, strong and tough and we will go by the (selection) process," Ermita said.

"You will be surprised that when we have a standard-bearer, there are people coming in from other parties to our party."

Ermita said one of the big mistakes of national candidates is complacency.

"Just because they know they're strong in surveys, that's enough to carry them (so) they take things for granted, they belittle the others. That should not happen," he said.

Claudio said some presidential aspirants have already stumbled but the race has not started yet.

"Before this gets to us, it is already causing a lot of nervous-



Sec. Gilbert Teodoro

ness and might trigger a reversal of strategies among the opposition," he said.

Once Lakas-Kampi proclaims its standard-bearer, the voters would examine his qualifications and track record, Claudio said.

Lakas or Kampi can name bets

Lakas-CMD or Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) can nominate their own respective standard-bearers for next year's presidential elections, a Lakas-Kampi-CMD stalwart said yesterday.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino posed this worst-case scenario to former speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who claimed the dominant political party cannot as yet nominate its presidential candidate until the Commission on Elections has ruled on his petition to void the fusion.

Antonino said assuming for the sake of argument that De Venecia wins, the "situation is still not irreparable."

"Even if the Comelec decides in his favor, we will just issue separate nominations, from Lakas and Kampi nominations," he said.

"So what's his point? It is clear that all he wants is to be in the limelight again. As far as Lakas is concerned, JDV is no longer part of it, even if the Comelec decides in favor of his petition."

Antonino, House committee on public order and safety chairman, described De Venecia's latest declaration as "nothing but a power-gripe."

"He (De Venecia) is no longer part of the circle that is why he is complaining now," he said.

"His position that we can't field our candidates because of his pending petition before the Comelec is totally wrong and false."

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Simeon Datumanong shared the view of Antonino. "That's what he (JDV) thinks, but the party has its own thinking that we can field our candidates from president down to local levels," he said.

"I feel the Lakas-Kampi-CMD have duly institutionalized its merger and we have gone to the regular process substantially," he said.

Datumanong belied De Venecia's claim that Comelec has yet to accredit Lakas-Kampi-CMD as a political party.

The Comelec is set to hear De Venecia's petition this Thursday.

However, De Venecia said Kampi as a Comelec-registered political party can choose and field candidates on its own.

"But they have to declare that they are Kampi, not Lakas-Kampi candidates," he said.

"They have no right using the name of Lakas. Their continued use of the name of our party is part of the colossal fraud and grand deception they are perpetrating on our people."

The merger of Lakas and Kampi was illegal since members of the Lakas national directorate did not approve it as required by the party's constitution and bylaws, he added.

De Venecia said they will

take the case to the Supreme Court if they lose in the Comelec.

"In the meantime, there will be no Lakas-Kampi candidates," he said.

De Venecia has been joined by scores of original Lakas members in questioning the union of Lakas and Kampi before the Comelec.

Ramos co-founded Lakas with De Venecia shortly before winning the presidential elections in 1992.

'Lakas-Kampi merger will not materialize'

A political strategist has predicted that the Lakas-Kampi merger will not materialize.

Speaking at the "Covering Automated Elections and Campaign Finance" seminar of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in Subic Bay Freeport, Lito Banayo said his merger will not take place.

Banayo said if the Comelec rules in favor of the merger, Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr. would likely not take it sitting down.

"De Venecia will likely elevate that to the Supreme Court," he said. "That will take forever so there won't be a merger before elections."

Last May, President Arroyo had announced the merger of Lakas and Kampi and some two months later, a petition to formalize the unification was filed before the Comelec's second division.

Before the poll body was able to resolve the case, De Venecia had questioned the legality of the merger.

It did not have the blessing of Lakas plenary as mandated in the party's bylaws and constitution, he added. (www.philstar.com)

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NAIA Blackout Probe Ordered

By Rudy Santos /
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - President Arroyo ordered yesterday an investigation into Sunday's power outage at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) that caused the radar system to break down.

Meanwhile, the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said yesterday it had nothing to do with the power outage.

Ricardo Buencamino, Mer-

also executive vice president and head of networks group, said the problem was internal to the airport.

"The problem that affected NAIA operations was due to internal technical trouble traced to the power supply of its air traffic communication systems," he said.

"It was not due to the massive loss of power or blackout of Meralco circuits supplying the airport complex."

Buencamino said power to its Sun Valley circuit serving

NAIA's radar station and Malibay circuit serving air traffic control tower did not encounter power disruptions.

On the other hand, power was restored in three seconds after a circuit in its Parañaque substation serving NAIA terminals 1 and 2 tripped at around 2:29 p.m., he added.

Speaking to reporters, deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez said Mrs. Arroyo instructed aviation authorities to submit a report on the incident as soon as possible. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Erap on Lacson's Allegations: All Lies

By Marichu Villanueva / Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

MANILA, Philippines — Former President Joseph Estrada vehemently denied yesterday the charges hurled against him by his former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, now Sen. Panfilo Lacson and claimed that the accusations are all lies.

Estrada said Lacson was just trying to deflect attention away from himself now that the former PNP chief is caught in bind after being implicated in the 2000 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Interviewed by GMA-7 news last night, Estrada expressed his dismay over the allegations made by Lacson in a privilege speech at the Senate. Estrada said he did not know where it was all coming from and that "puro kasinungalingan halos lahat ng sinabi n'ya (it's all lies)."

Asked what happened to his friendship and alliance with Lacson, Estrada said he didn't know his (Lacson) motive, and if he was telling the truth why did it take him almost 10 years to disclose it.

Estrada said there are speculations that his political enemies are using Lacson to derail his bid in the coming May 2010 presidential elections.

The former president said his eldest son Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada would confront Lacson at the Senate floor today and deliver a privilege speech to counter the allegations.

Estrada shrugged off the threat of Lacson to implicate him in more irregularities when the senator delivers his next privilege speech.

Estrada said he could say everything "on the air" and hinted that he, too, knew a lot about Lacson.

Estrada agreed with observations that Lacson's attacks on him were related to his steady rise in the survey ratings among the preferred presidential candidates running for next year's elections.

He also said that the people, even the so-called masa, could not be fooled with blatant lies.

In particular, Estrada strongly took exception to Lacson's allegations that he supposedly abetted smuggling of chicken in favor of an unnamed crony businessman.

"That's why I changed the task forces going after smuggling. I put him as =nd the PAOCTF (Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force) to stop smuggling. Now he blames me because he didn't do his job," Estrada said in Filipino, fuming.

Contrary to claims of Lacson, Estrada said he had never given any leeway to any smuggler, reiterating that that was why he put Lacson at this position.

On Lacson's tirades against him on jueteng, Estrada recalled his own stint at the Senate where his first privilege speech was calling for the legalization of the illegal numbers game.

Estrada said when Lacson was the chief of the PNP, he was the one who ordered him to give priority to illegal drugs, kidnapping and car theft cases.

He explained that many people earn their livelihood through jueteng, such as the bookies, who live a hand-to-mouth existence. If jueteng is removed, they will not be able to find other jobs.

"As they say, hungry stomach knows no laws," Estrada pointed out.

Lacson also accused the former president of ordering police officers to "harass" the family of former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco to sell their



Former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson

shares in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) to businessman Manny Pangilinan.

He admitted knowing Yuchengco, but insisted that he had nothing to do with what was a private transaction.

Estrada also emphasized that he never gave instructions to Lacson's subordinates, and that he only communicated with Lacson. "That's my style of management. I only deal with the head of agency," Estrada said.

Following the privilege speech of Lacson, Sen. Estrada took the Senate floor to denounce what he said was "a clear vilification drive against my father."

Sen. Estrada sets privilege speech against Lacson

Sen. Estrada did not interpellate Lacson but he vowed to answer all accusations point by point during a privilege speech today.

"I don't wish to dignify his privilege speech through interpellation. As far as I am con-

cerned, they are all lies. And I will deliver a privilege speech tomorrow [Tuesday]," said Estrada.

"And if this gentleman does not stop spreading lies about my father, I will tell that truth about the person of Senator Lacson," Estrada said.

Estrada said Lacson was diverting the issue from the Dacer-Corbito case.

"If President Estrada really ran the government badly, when he was PACC (Presidential Anti-Crime Commission) chairman and when he was president of the Philippines, why did he seek the endorsement of my father (during his past senatorial bids)?" Estrada said.

Estrada said his father "never interfered" in the anti-smuggling operations during his term.

Sen. Estrada challenged Lacson to bring the issue to court, rather than hide under the cloak of parliamentary immunity.

Edno Josen, former National Food Administration head who served under Presi-

dent Estrada, denied that there was rice smuggling during their time.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, another son of the former president, said Lacson's tirades against his father were a rehash of old issues.

Ejercito said he pitied Lacson for allowing himself to become part of an orchestrated effort to destroy the former president.

"I feel sorry for Sen. Lacson for submitting himself to become part of an effort to further destroy the image of President Erap. If all his allegations were true and that he is a man of principle, why did he only speak now?"

"All the issues he raised against President Erap were the same lies used in 2001 by syndicates that put President Arroyo in power and that caused the suffering of the Filipino people since 2001. Does Sen. Lacson want to once again put in jail President Erap?" Ejercito said.

Former narcotics agent turned whistle-blower Mary "Rosebud" Ong questioned the timing of the exposé of Lacson against Estrada.

"The last laugh is mine. Too late to be a hero, why now?" said Ong in a text message in reaction to Lacson's privilege speech. "Did Ping's conscience bother him too? Ping is super desperate. He is digging his own grave deeper than Erap. He is pulling Erap to join him in his grave, pathetic policeman."

Ong has accused Lacson of criminal activities, some of which remain pending in courts. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP July Remittances Surge to 9.3 Percent

By Ricky Lo /
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Remittances from Filipinos working abroad amounted to \$1.5 billion in July, up 9.3 percent from a year earlier due to sustained demand for Philippine manpower and increased access to money transfer facilities, officials said today.

Central Bank Governor Amando Tetangco said Tuesday he expects remittances to remain stable for the rest of year because of the "sustained remittance flows at the onset of the second half of the year and continuing signs of improving global economic conditions."

Remittances in January-July 2009 have totalled \$10 billion, up 3.8

percent from a year earlier.

The United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Japan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Italy, and Germany have been the major sources of remittances this year.

Nearly 10 percent of the country's 90 million people work abroad - many as nurses, maids, engineers, construction workers and seamen.

Last year, overseas Filipinos sent home \$16.4 billion, equal to 10.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product and fueling domestic consumption.

Aggressive marketing by banks and non-bank remittance centers abroad have resulted in the "greater capture" of money being sent home by Filipinos overseas, the central bank said.

(www.philstar.com)

Working Conditions Improve Despite Rise in Unemployment

By Mayen Jaymalin /
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported yesterday that the number of jobless Filipinos increased to 2.9 million in July, apparently due to the lingering effects of the global financial crisis.

Labor Assistant Secretary Reydeluz Conferido, however, maintained that the working conditions for most Filipinos continue to improve despite the growth in unemployment.

Conferido said the latest National Statistics Office (NSO) survey showed that the number of unemployed persons nationwide went up by 200,000 to 2.9 million in July from 2.7 million

during the same period last year.

He admitted that the country is still experiencing the lingering effects of the economic slump as shown by the slight growth in unemployment rate.

Conferido said the NSO survey showed that National Capital Region (NCR) and Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon) recorded the highest unemployment rate in the country.

"Absolutely, the number of unemployed in July increased by 200,000 but we have to consider that the number of employable also went up sharply from last year which means we have a larger base of job seekers," Conferido pointed out.

Conferido stressed that the increase in labor force participation rate (LFPR) in July was

considered a positive development as the figure indicated that more Filipinos are hopeful that they would immediately find jobs.

"Increase in labor force participation rate is a clear indication that more Filipinos are feeling improvement in our economy that they are now opting to look for work," Conferido said.

He noted that the number of underemployed or those looking for extra work went down from 21 percent last year to 19 percent or an improvement of 1.2 percent during the one-year span.

"Improvement in underemployment is a sign of recovery - longer working hours for our workers as well as better income for them. This means that our workers are now happier with their income," Conferido said

(www.philstar.com).

GLOBAL NEWS

RP Film Wins in Venice

By Ricky Lo /
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - "Engkwentro" (Clash) was named Best Debut Film in the Orizzonti (New Horizons) competition of the 66th Venice Film Festival which ended on Sept. 12.

The independent film was directed by Pepe Diokno, 22, who writes for The STAR's Supreme section.

Diokno was in Venice with the star of the film, Felix Roco, one of actor Bembol Roco's twin sons.

"Engkwentro" also won

the Luigi de Laurentiis Award for a debut film, beating all first-timers including those in the main competition.

The Venice Film Festival is one of the oldest in the world and among the most prestigious, including those in Cannes, Toronto, New York and Berlin.

The Orizzonti category

provides a spectrum of new trends in cinema. Lav Diaz won in the same category in the past two years - Melanchoia for feature film in 2008 and Death in the Land of Encantos was special mention in 2007.

"The cast and crew are honored to represent the Philippines, side by side with world cinema's most respected names," Pepe told The STAR before he flew to Venice.

Another Filipino film that competed in the festival as a "surprise entry" was Lola, directed by Brillante "Dante" Mendoza who won Best Director (for Kinatay) at this year's Cannes Film Festival. It was a first for a Filipino director.

Lola is the story of two grandmothers played by Anita Linda, 84, fighting for justice for her murdered

grandson and Rustica Carpio, 79, for her own grandson suspected to be the culprit.

Lebanon, an Israeli film that recounts Israel's 1982 invasion of the Middle East country through soldiers' eyes, won the festival's Golden Lion top prize. The jury was headed by Ang Lee, himself a Golden Lion winner.

Inspired by true events, Engkwentro tells the story of two teenage brothers on opposite sides of a gang war. Tensions between the two arise at a deadly midnight engkwentro (clash) when one is tasked to kill the other. All this happens

while the City Death Squad, a band of vigilantes supposedly backed by a Big Brother-type mayor, is hot on their trail. The two brothers must find a way out of their squalid situation in order to stay alive.

Felix Roco plays a gangster fighting desperately for his life. The movie's other stars include director Celso Ad Castillo as the Mayor, as well as by young actors Zyrus Desamparado, Daniel Medrana and Eda Nolan, singer Bayang Barrios, and controversial indie filmmaker Jim Libiran.

Shot in a hand-held-camera style, Engkwentro premiered at the recent 2009 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival. Its production designer is Carmenezeta "Chie" Floresca, daughter of The STAR's assistant business editor Roman Floresca.

Pepe said that the film was inspired by actual "death squad" killings in some cities in the country where, in the last decade, over 814 people have been murdered by hit men allegedly sponsored by the government.

"According to reports," added Pepe, "many of the victims are minors, including gang members, petty criminals and street children."

Local critics and lay moviegoers describe Engkwentro as "an eye-opener," "raw and alarming," "shocking," "disturbing" and "a must-see." (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Validity of Petition After Business Is Sold

it could pay the wage specified on the labor certification.

But the rule has now been modified in light of changing business practices. In a newly released memo, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) now recognizes the need to be flexible in the adjudication of I-140 petitions.

The successor company is no longer required to assume all of the predecessor's rights, duties and obligations as long as it can establish three factors.

Under the first factor, the job opportunity offered by the successor must be the same as the one offered on the labor cer-

tification.

The job offered must remain unchanged as to the rate of pay, job description and job requirements.

The job must also remain valid and available until the issuance of an immigrant visa abroad or the approval of the adjustment of status. If after the business is acquired, the operations temporarily cease, the original job is considered as no longer valid.

As to the second factor, the successor must demonstrate that all the requirements for the petition approval have been met from the date of the filing of the labor certification until the trans-

fer of the ownership of the business.

The successor must meet the definition of employer and the predecessor must continue to have the ability to pay the proffered wage until its acquisition. If it becomes insolvent at any time before the acquisition, the second factor is not met.

The third factor is the documentation of the transfer and assumption of the predecessor by the successor. Evidence may consist of the contract of sale, mortgage closing statements, audited financial statements of the old as well as the new owner, copies of financial instruments, documentation of the transfer of real property and business license and news articles about the corporate restructuring.

If the above three (3) factors are not established, there is no valid successor-in-interest relationship and therefore the labor certification and I-140 petition are no longer valid.

They are no longer valid also if the location of the beneficiary's proposed employment is in a geographic area different from that in the original labor certification or if there has been a material change in the location of the job opportunity.

But a legal change in the employer's name or a change of location within the original geographic area will not affect the validity of the labor certification and I-140 petition.

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

Pacquiao: Mayweather Showdown Inevitable

By Abac Cordero / Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

LOS ANGELES — Without really looking ahead of the Miguel Cotto fight, Manny Pacquiao yesterday said what seems to be his inevitable dream fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is looming on the horizon.

But Pacquiao said it would all depend on the outcome of his fight with Cotto, the reigning WBO welterweight champion, in November, and Mayweather's own match with Juan Manuel Marquez on Saturday.

Both Pacquiao and Mayweather are favored to prevail, and should no one spoil the fun, they could end up facing each other for what could be the fight of the decade or even greater than that, later next year.

"Kapag nanalo kami pareho ni Mayweather, kami na yan (If me and Mayweather prevail, then it should be us)," said Pacquiao on board the Gulfstream G200 eight-seater plane that took him out of San Francisco.

"Nag-uusap na. Basta. Nag-uusap na (Talks are on)," said Pacquiao who was joined in the 50-minute flight to Burbank in LA by trainer Freddie Roach, top-ranked publicist Fred Stemburg, Mike Konz, Geng Gacal and Roger Fernandez.

Arum said Pacquiao stands

to earn as much as \$20 million for the Cotto fight, and while he has yet to confirm that there are indeed talks with the Mayweather camp, he'd rather have Pacquiao focusing on the coming fight.

At the AT&T Park in San Francisco earlier in the day, Pacquiao and Cotto came to watch the San Francisco Giants clobber the LA Dodgers, and for the fourth straight day the two boxers stood close to one another.

They were together up inside a VIP box, enjoying some cold drinks and hotdogs. They seem to like each other's company but when they part in a couple of days, they should start training, thinking of ways how to beat each other.

After the match, played before a sell-out crowd of 40,000, Pacquiao and Cotto took over, holding a conference just off the Giants dugout, in front of some 3,000 fans who came to see the two world champions in the flesh, and not necessarily the ballgame.

A cold afternoon drizzle was not enough to shoo the crowd away as Pacquiao, Cotto and Arum fielded questions from the media and some of the fans, which occupied eight sections of the lower stands, as well.

Pacquiao hardly talked about his plans for the fight, and instead invited the fans to come

to Las Vegas in November because "I'm going to hold a concert at Mandalay Bay after the fight."

Pacquiao played basketball with friends in San Francisco at noon before leaving for LA.

From the airport, Pacquiao was taken straight to his \$2 million home at the plush Hancock Park, took some rest and enjoyed dinner of grilled angus beef and steamed rice.

Roach was asked about Pacquiao's training, and said they will be ready to go 12 rounds against Cotto. But boxing's hottest trainer today may have something else in mind when he said training will be held in "Boracay."

He was quick in making the correction that it should be Baguio. Later on, before boarding the private plane, he had a good laugh about having mentioned Boracay, which he fondly remembers as the island paradise in the Philippines. (www.philstar.com)

Filipino Priest Beats Celebrity Chef in TV Show

Father Leo Patalinghug went head-to-head against U.S. celebrity chef Bobby Flay in a September 9, 2009 episode of "Throwdown with Bobby Flay." When the smoke cleared, the Maryland-based priest emerged as the winner.

"Having Bobby Flay challenge me to a Throwdown was a complete surprise and shock," says Father Leo. "I'm a huge fan of his and Food Network, so it was an honor just to be on the show and cook alongside of an Iron Chef."

The priest prepared his signature "fusion fajitas" dish. He told a boisterous studio audience that his fajitas are guaranteed to make you say, "Thank you, God."

During the challenge, Father Leo shared some insights into his culinary skills. Born in the Philippines and raised in the Baltimore area, Father Leo developed a love

for cooking while attending seminary at North American College in Rome, Italy.

"Do you know who taught me how to cut?" he asked Chef Flay. "It was Mother Teresa. When I was a seminarian, I'd go to her soup kitchens. Mother Teresa would say, 'Okay, Brother, your job is to cut vegetables.'"

Both competitors appreciated each others' culinary skills.

Chef Flay described the priest's dish as "a fajita with impact," while the priest called Chef Flay's fajita as "absolutely delicious."

Audience members tasted both dishes. They liked how Father Leo's fajita was sweeter, but they also liked Flay's spicy concoction.

In case you missed it, the episode will be re-broadcast on September 20, 2009. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

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ILOKO



ni Amado Yoro

Panangmula Ti Kayo Labor Day: Dedikasyon Ken Selebrasyon Ti Kasangay Ti Bannawag

JUBILEE TREE PLANTING ti awag daytoy a proyekto.

APAY A BANYAN TREE?

Kas iti Narra a nailian a kayo iti pagilian [Filipinas] natibker ken nalagda met a kayo ti Banyan. Addaan iti simbolo iti tipkel, ken kinamunt ti ramut kas iti urat ti agtataray a dara kadagiti urat ni Filipino. Ti Banyan ket mayasa met a simbolo ti kinalagda. Addaan iti narmonyen a sanga ken naberde a bulong.

Ti ania man a kayo, mangted iti salinong, anninwan, pakasaritaan, ti tugot, ti lamiis, buya ken dadduma a saguday ti nakaparsuan.

Mainaig iti sukisokmi, masarakan ti kadakkelan a banyan tree in Hawaii naimula idi 1873 idiy Lahaina, Maui, Courthouse, Samplakanna ti apakgato ti mayasa nga acre weno nagudua ti ektaria.

Ti kaduoganan a banyan tree, weno sibibag a kayo ti bonsai masarakan idiy Tainan, Taiwan iti aganayen a 240 a tawen.

Idi rinukodtayo ti pakaimulaan ti agarup 10 feet a banyan a patubo ni Ric [Agnes], iti 4

feet a saplak ti kabussogan a parte ti ubing a kayo, agarup a 20 a kadanap ti kaadayona iti agsumbangir a padana a kayo ti narra ken mangga.

Saplakanto ti banyan ti agarup 15 a kadanap iti panakadanonanna iti agarup 30 feet iti katayagna, ket makiinnartapo kadagiti dua a kaabayna a kayo.

[Malagipmi kas community volunteer, dagiti kayo nga immulmulami kas proyekto ti MOTTEP, Lion Club, Make America Beautiful ken iti Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission a nakipagmulakami. Masarakan iti Farrington Hwy, Waianae, St. Joseph Church, Waipahu, August Ahrens Elementary School, Waipahu, FilComCenter, Waipahu, Magic Island-Ala Moana Beach Park, banag a makapasalibukag rikna itan a makita dagiti a nalangoda, ken makainayon ti napintas a buya iti aglawlaw]

Iti nabasami a sinurat da Severino Pablo ken Elizabeth Raquel iti Segden a publikasyon ti Gumil Ilocos Norte, kastoy: Inyusuat ti Gumil Ilocos Norte:Iti panagitukitna kadagiti kayo kas panangipamatmatna iti umadamin a Diamond Jubilee ti Bannawag iti umay a Nobiembre 2009. Babaien iti panangidaulo ni Mrs. Elizabeth Madarang Raquel, presidente ti

Gumil Filipinas ken Gumil Ilocos Norte, nagkaykaysa dagiti opisiales ken kamengd a nangannong iti nasao a tree planting iti Bacarra National Comprehensive High School, Bungon, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Don Salustiano National High School, Piddig, Ilocos Norte, Currimao ken Batac.

Napintas daytoy a gannuat ti Bannawag ta malaksid a maitandudo ti nasao a magasin, ket babaien ti partisipasion dagiti Gumil Chapters, mapreserba ti aglawlaw"

"Ti kadakkelan a nagapuanan ni Gumil Ilocos Norte iti panakkattel kadatayo babaien iti DENR Provincial Office, ti lote ti Gumil Ilocos Norte nga aglawla iti three thousand two hundred square meters. Masarakan daytoy a lote iti igid ti baybay iti Barangay Estancia, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. Kayatko a mapaglugos daytoy a beach resort a pakapaktaderan ti convention hall a mabalin a pakaangayan metten dagiti seminar ken workshop para kadagiti kamannurat" nadakamat ni Raquel.

ITI Philippine Consulate Ground a pinili ti Gumil Oahu a pakaimulaan ti Banyan tree, dagitoy dagiti nakipag-Labor Day iti [Setiembre 7, Lunes, agsapa] nakipagkalfi, nakipagmula ken dadduma a partisipante dagiti sumaganad:

1. Elizabeth Madarang Raquel, presidente ti Gumil Ilocos Norte ken Gumil Filipinas
2. Leo Fagaragan, PRO iti Gumil Metro Manila ken direktor ti Gumil Filipinas
3. Rizal Fernandez, Internal Vice president ti Gumil Oahu
4. Sandy Lasquero, External vice president ti Gumil Oahu
5. Ric Agnes, co-organizer ken adviser ti Gumil Oahu
6. Eddie Bueno, direktor ti Gumil Oahu
7. Jun Bermisa, auditor ti Gumil Oahu
8. Pastor Ferdinand, sangaili amador Yoro, co-organizer, immuna a presidente, aglawla a direktor ti Gumil Oahu
10. Andy Barroga, dati a bise presidente ti Gumil Oahu, ken Webmaster-founder ti Iloko.com

Sakbay daytoy a tree planting project, naaramid ti Gala Night iti Pearl Country Club, Aiea, idi Setiembre 5, sangaili ditoy ni Consul General Leoncio Cardenas, Consul Paul Cortez, Retired Judge Artemio Baxa, Norberto Bumbalag, Jr., Las Vegas, Nevada, Andy Barroga, Seattle, Washington; Monica Smith, Calgary, Canada, Johnnyric Domingo, Maui, ken dadduma pay.

Setiembre 6, naangay ti kompresia iti Philippine Consulate General. Sangaili dagiti naggapu iti Filipinas nga indaulan ni Elizabeth Raquel.

Ni Gladys Menor ti agdama a presidente ti Gumil Oahu.

W en, kayo a Banyan ti napili ti Gumil Oahu nga immuna kas panangidatoy iti maikapitipulo ket lima a tawen a selebrasion ti kasangay ti Bannawag Magasin, ti aglanawas nga Ilokano magasin a maipabpablaak iti Metro Manila.

Kaaduan nga Ilokano iti Hawaii ti agbasbaso iti magasin. Adu dagiti manurat weno adda dagiti grupo ti manurat iti Hawaii ket mayasa ti Gumil Oahu a nabangon idi Agosto 13, 1996.

Kas pannakidanggay ti Gumil Oahu, kabayatan nga agbakbakasion ditoy Hawaii ti agdama a presidente Elizabeth Madarang Raquel, kas mayasa kadagiti sangaili iti kalkalpas a 3rd Gumil Filipinas International Conference a naangay iti tallo nga aldaw iti Setiembre 5,6,7 iti Pearl Country Club ken iti Philippine Consulate.

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MAINLAND NEWS

U.S. Promises to Speed Up Processing of Veterans' Claims

Eric Shinseki, U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary, says the U.S. government will commit to speeding up the processing of claims of Filipino World War II veterans under the \$198 million lump sum package provided for in the U.S. stimulus package.

Shinseki made the remarks at a September 8, 2009 meeting with Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

As of September 1, a total of 31,876 claims were received and 8,900 applications processed. Of the total number of applications processed, over US\$77 million

has been awarded to eligible Filipino Veterans as follows:

- 3,138 Filipino veterans with U.S. citizenship received US\$15,000 each
- 3,414 non-US citizen Filipino veterans received US\$ 9,000 each.

Teodoro thanked the U.S. for its continued support for the veterans' war claims. In return, Shinseki reaffirmed Washington's commitment to facilitate record verification procedures and the payment of claims.

DVA officials plan to embark on an extensive outreach program for World War II Veterans throughout the Philippines to meet the deadline for the sub-

mission of documentary requirements of claims before February 16, 2010—a year after the signing of the Stimulus Bill.

During the meeting, Teodoro also thanked Shinseki for the DVA's grant-in-aid to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center totaling US\$5.5 million, which includes MRI equipment worth US\$1 million.

Shinseki also accepted Teodoro's offer for a joint assessment of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center's existing capabilities under the Philippine Defense Reform program in order to institutionalize best practices in providing medical care and services and to transform the VMCM into a model medical institution in the Philippines. (DFA)

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September 26, 2009 • Colburn Street near Dillingham Plaza • 10 am-8 pm • For more info, call Harry Alonzo at 306-3480

UFCH PROGRESS AWARD AND AFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY

October 17, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom • 6:00 pm. • Contact persons: Bernadette Fajardo 342-8090, Eddie Agas 783-3327, Carlota Ader 688-3215, Maggie Domingo 841-2841

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