

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Abercrombie, Democrats Cruise to Victory

Democrats retained a firm grip on local politics, easily winning the majority of seats statewide, including the high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races in the 2010 General Election. But what really paved the way for the lop-sided Democratic victory was how the party came together in unity. It began early on with Ed Case withdrawing from the 1st congressional race and endorsing fellow Democrat Colleen Hanabusa—a move that paid enormous dividends. Then there was the ringing endorsement of Neil Abercrombie by a gracious Mufi Hannemann, whose appearances at several rallies statewide may have just been enough to sway his undecided supporters to vote Democrat. Both Democrats sacrificed personal ambition, swallowed their pride for the greater good of the party and proved that there is strength in unity.

For the Filipino community, the Primary Election proved to be much more divisive than the General, particularly with Hannemann and Abercrombie supporters going toe-to-toe. Many Filipinos are passionate when it comes to politics and wholeheartedly throw their support behind their candidate. With so much at stake, feelings were bound to be hurt and toes stepped on. Hopefully, the Filipino community will let bygones be bygones and choose to move forward as a community, rather than remain divided. Fortunately, the former mayor's endorsement of the former U.S. Rep.—a classy move considering both men's acrimonious history—will certainly help to smooth the waters within the Filipino community.

With the elections now over, let's give the Democrat majority a chance to bring the state out of its economic doldrums. Doing so will require bold leadership—starting at the top with Governor-Elect Abercrombie. Let's hope that the Democrats will also translate their campaign promises into action. Hawaii's voters deserve just that.

Republicans Win Big Nationwide

While Hawaii remained firmly in Democratic hands in the aftermath of the November 2 General Election, the same couldn't be said for the U.S. mainland where Republicans showed big gains. Buoyed by the momentum of victorious Tea Party candidates, the GOP took control of the U.S. House of Representatives by claiming over 50 seats. In the Senate, they narrowed the Democrats' lead by gaining at least six seats. Republicans also won nine governorships and a large number of state legislative chambers. The results astonished even the most seasoned observers, considering that only two years ago, the Republican Party was pronounced dead, if not on life support, by many.

U.S. Rep. John A. Boehner from Ohio, who is expected to be the next Speaker of the House, has his work cut out for him. He will push the Republican agenda which includes a smaller government, spending cuts and job-creation policies. Boehner will have to work with ambitious Republicans who are already calling for budget cuts and the repeal of Obama's new healthcare law.

The Republicans basically have a two-year time frame to show results or come 2012, they will be ousted as quickly as the Democrats. The victorious Republicans should realize that in 2008, the support for Barack Obama was a reaction to the things voters didn't like about Republican leadership. It would be in the Republican's best interests to begin finding common ground with the president and Democrats in order to address the nation's economic slump, high unemployment, soaring federal deficit, immigration reform and other pressing issues. As for Obama and the Democrats, they need to seriously work with the new Republican leadership in the House.

Mainland voters sent a clear message that they want economic recovery, job creation in the private sector and an end to wasteful

FROM THE PUBLISHER



loha! First of all, we extend our congratulations to the victorious candidates and their die-hard supporters this past General Election.

We also commend those of you who heeded the call to go out and vote. You may not realize it, but your vote truly made a difference in this year's election.

Our cover story for this issue is written by none other than veteran associate editor Edwin Quinabo who has provided a thorough recap of the 2010 General Election both locally and nationally. We applaud him for his hard work and political expertise during both the Primary and General elections. If you haven't yet caught up on the election results and its effects on the Filipino community, please make sure to read his story entitled "What 2010 Election Results Mean For Filipinos" beginning on page 4.

Interestingly enough, our General Election poll proved quite accurate in the gubernatorial race. The Chronicle Poll showed Abercrombie leading by 14.4 percent less than two weeks prior to the election, compared to the final outcome of 17 percent. Considering the poll's 8.75 percent margin of error, it's clear that Filipinos not only voted in the same way with the majority of the state electorate but that Neil Abercrombie is wildly popular among pinoy voters. However, we regret to inform you that the handful of Filipino legislators at the State Capitol dipped slightly this year. The short list of Filipinos who lost their respective races include Bobby Bunda, Lyla Berg, Lynn Finnegan and Michael Magaoy.

In other news, if you happen to know of a successful small business owner, you may want to nominate him or her for the 2011 SBA Small Business Awards. Winning this prestigious award would be a tremendous honor for any one of our hard-working Filipino entrepreneurs. The Chronicle is among the many thousands of locally-owned small businesses in Hawaii. In fact, we are the only local Filipino newspaper in Hawaii to win the U.S. Small Business Administration's Journalist of the Year Award for the City and County of Honolulu. For details on how to nominate an individual, please read page 6.

Lastly, the new Carlisle administration is also accepting applications for various key cabinet and staff positions. If you would like to apply, please read page 10 for more details on how to do so.

There are other articles of interest in this issue which we hope you will take some time to read. As always, we thank you for supporting the Chronicle. Until next time... aloha and mahalo!

Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido

government spending. Can it be done? Many remain skeptical but meaningful reform can happen if both sides are willing to put the interests of the voting public and our nation before their party.

LETTERS

Please Update Readers on Filipino Veterans Lawsuit

I am a Filipino World War II veteran who came to the U.S. through the Veterans Act of 1990. I arrived in Hawaii on October 8, 1994. After a few days, I reported to the Immigration and Naturalization office for an interview. The following day, I took the oath of allegiance and became a U.S. citizen.

I was one of the few remaining Filipino World War II veterans who were awarded lump sum payments of \$15,000 or \$9,000. When we veterans received payments, we were unhappy and hoped that in the future, leaders in the Veterans Organization would head a movement to claim more of our rights as veterans who have served the U.S., as other war veterans have been receiving for their military services.

In the October 16, 2010 edition of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, there was a story entitled "Filipino World War II Veterans Sue Feds Over Benefits." Atty. Arnelo Valera filed the lawsuit in San Francisco Federal Court on behalf of Filipino World War II veterans against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a veteran of World War II, I am with this movement, so I request that the Chronicle continue to update readers on this case. I can only hope that the case will be favorably resolved by the appropriate agencies of the U.S. government.

Barlome T. Dumagaog
Honolulu

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OPINION

RP Lags in Regional Nuclear Power Race

POSTSCRIPT

By Federico D. Pascual Jr.

CLARK FIELD (PLDT/WeRoam) — While the neighbors are busy erecting nuclear power plants to meet the heightened demand

for power in a competitive investment market, Filipinos sit in a dark corner still burning coal to produce steam for generating electricity.

Earlier it was Malaysia in our region, now it is Vietnam planning to build also its first nuclear plant. Napag-iwanan na yata tayó!

During his state visit to Vietnam last week, President Noyonoy Aquino must have heard of his host's signing a \$5.6-billion deal with Russia for a two-reactor plant planned to start operating in 2020.

Their plans call for four reactors, with a total capacity of 4,000 megawatts and at least one of them operational in 10 years. (Philippines' current capacity is around 10,500 mw.)

Even Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan, also on a visit to Hanoi, announced with his Vietnamese counterpart that their countries will work together to build two other nuclear reactors.

With the influx of major in-

vestors (Intel has just plunked in \$1 billion), Vietnam needs a boost in power capacity. Its direction appears to be nuclear, which is widely regarded as the cleanest, safest and cheapest source (compare its P2.50 per kilowatt-hour to the P8.50/kwh of our coal-powered plants).

* * *

NUCLEAR OPTIONS: The Philippines under martial rule built a 621-megawatt Westinghouse-supplied light water nuclear generator in Morong, Bataan. When it was nearly complete in 1984, its cost had reached \$2.3 billion.

Overtaken by the 1986 Edsa Revolt, the project was struck down by President Cory Aquino. She had an aversion for things smudged with the fingerprints of one Ferdinand Marcos. Besides, a list of nuclear safety concerns was too long to brush aside.

The guessing game now is whether or not Cory's president Noyonoy will rehabilitate the mothballed Bataan power plant and at least light a candle rather than curse the gathering darkness.

Talk is rife — but still unconfirmed — that with our power plants wearing down, with no new ones coming up fast, and with the demand for electricity catching up on the erratic supply, a power crisis may hit the coun-

try next year.

If President Aquino wants to go nuclear, his options are to rehabilitate the Bataan plant at \$8-\$10 billion over two years or build a new one, maybe in the centrally located Visayas, which can be on-stream in 10 years.

* * *

SOVIET LOAN: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev witnessed the signing of the contract that kicked off Hanoi's plan to build eight nuclear facilities in the next two decades in a bid to jump ahead in the regional race for investment locations.

The Soviet Union has been Hanoi's benefactor since the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

Recalling that war... Viet Cong guerrillas in pajama-like peasant garb and sandals fashioned out of old tires liberated Saigon (now renamed Ho Chi Minh after the ascetic leader of then North Vietnam), forcing the massive evacuation of US personnel and Vietnamese collaborators.

In globo-cop fashion, Americans stepped in when the French scamped out of Vietnam after their expeditionary corps was routed in Dien Bien Phu in 1954 by Viet Minh communist revolutionaries. Uncle Sam inherited an unwinnable war.

* * *

MILITARY BOOST: After destroying Vietnam's forests, poisoning the land, bombing the nation virtually back to the Stone Age, and still losing the war despite all that hell and fire, the US returned to the scene of the crime — this time to help the Vietnamese rise from the ashes.

But the US will have to jostle not only with Russia, Vietnam's ideological soul-mate, but also with Japan and the nostalgic French who cannot resist lingering in their former colonial outpost in Indochina.

While we in Manila now see our US-made military aircraft and ships being retired by poor maintenance and inadequate funding, Vietnam is acquiring from Russia 20 Sukhoi fighter jets. Last December, Moscow also signed a contract to sell it submarines!!

* * *

UPDATES: To help update readers on the power situation, we pass on these notes from Marcial Ocampo, tireless hands-on technical resource person:

The ongoing projects are the 50-100-mw lignite coal-fired CFB in Cauayan, Isabela, of PNOC-EC which is encountering local/LGU acceptance problems; the 250-500-mw Malampaya natural gas-fired CCGT Greenfield (possible location in Rosario Cavite, Sucat, Paranaque, Cabuyao Laguna, Calamba Laguna or Lipa Batangas) of PNOC-EC, the 150-mw Kanan River Hydro Project of SK E&C

for Meralco, the coal-fired plant of GN Power in Bataan (formerly natural gas/LNG-fired) and another coal-fired plant in Subic of Abotit.

In the Visayas, a number of mini-hydro and coal-fired plants are being developed or under construction.

For Mindanao, the 70-140-mw coal-fired CFB in Surigao del Sur of Benguet Corp.'s coal mine is obtaining approvals from top management and regulatory agencies.

* * *

CUTTING COSTS: Still from Ocampo — Nuclear power can lower the generation cost and minimize tariff increase arising from the Renewable Energy Charge (REC) that will be collected from all end-users and paid to all renewable energy developers through the feed-in tariff (FIT) mechanism in the order of over P10-P11/kwh.

The conventional power from the grid is around P4-P5/kwh (large hydro, geothermal, natural gas, coal, oil/diesel). Since the FIT will be diluted in the grid, the resulting universal-type charge (REC) will not impact that much in the final cost to end-consumers.

But we need nuclear power (P2.50/kwh) to reduce the impact of RE generation and to make our cost of power competitive in the region. Without nuclear power, our cost of power can never be competitive.

(www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Office on Aging Awarded \$88K to Fight Medicare Fraud

The State Executive Office on Aging (EOA) has received \$88,750 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expand the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) project. The funds will be used to recruit and train retired professionals for outreach and education about detecting, reporting, and preventing Medicare and Medicaid fraud, errors and abuse.

The grant will help recruit more dual-language SMP volunteers to reach limited English proficient populations; provide training to expand outreach, answer beneficiary inquiries and resolve complex issues; increase the number of presentations in the community; and facilitate the development of a public service radio campaign

and a website.

In acknowledging the award, Noemi Pendleton, Director of the Executive Office on Aging, said, "Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries are a potent force in fighting fraud and abuse. They are in a front-line position to detect billing errors and potential fraudulent activity."

"This underscores the importance of the Senior Medicare Patrol project in showing beneficiaries how Medicare and Medicaid fraud happens; how to check for fraud, errors, and abuse; and where to call if they detect errors. In stepping up our educational campaign, we call on seniors to join our Senior Medical Patrol project and become SMP volunteers."

The Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid Services announced grants to over 50 SMP projects nationwide to ramp up local community resources to educate seniors and people with Medicare about how they can prevent fraud. The grants are administered by the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the federal government's Department of Health and Human Services.

Last September, the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA) selected Hawaii's Senior Medicare Patrol program for its NHCAA 2010 Excellence in Public Awareness Award.

The Senior Medicare Patrol program is based in the State Executive Office on Aging and may be reached at (808) 586-7281 or 800-296-9422.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, What 2010...)

cially tight times.

Filipinos and Midterm Election

The number of Filipinos in elected office dipped slightly this year due to candidates seeking other public office then either losing or facing another Filipino who eventually won. The most glaring example was the race for lieutenant governor. Sen. Robert Bunda, Rep. Lyla Berg and Rep. Finnegan all no longer hold seats. Rep. Michael Magaoy left his seat to run for the state senate only to be defeated by fellow Filipino candidate City Councilman Donovan Dela Cruz in the Primary Election. Other notable Filipinos winning in the general election were state senators Donna Mercado Kim and Will Espero.

Perhaps the biggest news concerning Filipinos in this year's election season is greater recognition by serious contenders that the Filipino vote is essential to winning, especially in statewide races. Many candidates actively reached out to the Filipino community leaders, solidified alliances and recruited many to be a part of their winning campaigns. The fact that Filipinos are more organized and savvy electorate also bodes well for future elections.

Senators Kim, Espero and Dela Cruz in particular have the potential to launch viable campaigns for higher office down the road. Of the three, Kim is perhaps the most seasoned, heavyweight Democrat insider having served in leadership roles for many years at both the State Senate and House, as well as the Honolulu City Council. Should she decide to seek higher office, where Kim would need to gain ground in the Filipino community is its most trustworthy, powerful segment—older and senior immigrant Filipinos.

The New Congress, Balance of Power and President Obama

While Democrats suffered a major blow in the loss of the House majority, there may be a silver lining in the party's defeat. Americans could be optimistic that partisan gridlock might take



VICTORIOUS FILIPINOS IN STATE SENATE RACES

(L-R) Senators Donovan Dela Cruz, Donna Kim, and Will Espero

a back seat when Congress reconvenes simply for the reason of accountability. The unique shared balance of power—a GOP-led House, Democrat Senate Majority and Democrat Presidency in Washington—may just be the catalyst to force through bipartisan legislation.

Americans now can hold both parties accountable for gross obstructionism leading into the next 2012 election. The incentive for successful passage of meaningful legislation is greater as both parties could now have legitimate claims of co-ownership. But in order for this ideal scenario to play out there must be major concession by both parties' far-leaning factions—the progressive Democrats and conservative Republicans. President Obama, who already had been criticized by the far left and right in his first two years, has an even greater challenge of bringing both sides to work together. With the numbers now stacked against him, at this point the president has no choice but to do what former President Bill Clinton did after his midterm election defeat—compromise in some areas and stake his ground in others.

The president must do a better job of selling his ideas to the American people. In healthcare reform and the stimulus initiative, two areas he received the most criticism, he failed to do what former President Ronald Reagan masterfully accomplished, to make that connection with "principle and policy." Instead of complex rhetoric, he needs to keep political talk very simple, to the point, and repeat it over and over, something Re-

publicans do better.

At the very least, Obama will not have to work on consensus-building with his home state's three recently elected Democrat congressional politicians—U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and House representatives Mazie Hirono and Colleen Hanabusa.

Hanabusa Wins

With her convincing win over Charles Djou, new Democrat member to Congress Hanabusa will join veteran Hirono in D.C. Although Hanabusa trailed Djou in the HFC General Election poll, her stance on the issues are in close alignment to the majority of Filipinos. Perhaps greater name recognition, increased grassroots outreach to the Filipino community, an incumbency advantage and a softer persona may spike her popularity next time around.

Both Hanabusa and Hirono are expected to contend with major ideological hurdles from Republicans from the get-go. Republicans have already stated among their top priorities a rollback of healthcare reform, rollback on Wall Street regulations and extension of the Bush tax cuts on the richest 2 percent of Americans. Realistically, House Republicans at best would be able to get

minor amendments to all three. Both Hanabusa and Hirono are staunch supporters of healthcare for all citizens. Entrusting health insurance companies once again to voluntarily do the right thing would not be in the interest of most Americans.

Most working Filipino families would benefit from the basic protections under the new healthcare law—prohibiting spending caps on lifetime and annual limits, prohibiting health coverage from being dropped to chronically ill patients, prohibiting the denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions and extending working parents' medical coverage to their children enrolled in college, to name a few. These patient safeguards must be protected.

Controlling Spending

Republicans' most achievable goal will come in controlling spending, but not by much. Medicare and social security are untouchable. Draconian cuts could threaten whatever gains the economy has already made. Where the biggest spending could be curbed is in the military which hasn't undergone a major

revamping. But this is one area Republicans historically refuse to cut. In many aspects, the U.S. Armed Forces still operates as if a cold-war exists. With more money spent on homeland security and domestic protection, as cost-saving measures Congress could close military bases in already stable democracies such as Germany and save billions of dollars annually. That country is already united and no imminent military threat has existed for decades in that region.

With investments in high tech weaponry that could respond to any military danger anywhere in the world, doing away with heavy permanent ground forces in Europe can help to reduce much needed cuts in spending and chip away at the national deficit. The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and eventual scale-down in Afghanistan should also lower defense spending in the near future.

Best Chance for Bipartisanship

Where bipartisanship has the greatest potential to flourish is in immigration reform that

(continued on page 6)

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COOKE, GRANTZUTRA, 09

COVER STORY (cont.)

(from page 4, What 2010...)

both parties already agree needs overhauling. One of the Democrats most influential base, the Hispanic electorate, has been demanding reform since the election of Obama. Republicans also want it for completely different reasons. Areas of contention include strengthening the U.S.-Mexican border, visa visitor entry screening, full deportation and re-entry, limited amnesty, the Dream Act, pathways to citizenship, enforcement of labor laws, specifically penalties on companies hiring undocumented workers, reunification of families on long waiting lists, overall caps on entry and more recently in light of Arizona's controversial immigration law—methods of enforcing the law relative to due process and civil rights, as well as jurisdiction scope, federal versus state laws.

Reasonable consensus could

easily be reached among Democrats and Republicans on a number of these issues. Where compromise gets tricky would be in deportation, grounds for amnesty and requirements of reentry.

Tea Party's First Election

For all the talk surrounding the Tea Party, it did manage to achieve noteworthy success, five in the Senate and 40 in the House. Although the Republican establishment far outnumbers their new conservative arm in the Tea Party, both GOP leaders in the Senate and House will have to contend with this new faction that's already expressed inflexibility and an unwillingness to cooperate with the status quo.

In addition to their desire to roll back healthcare reform and Wall Street reform as the GOP establishment stated, Tea Party members ultimately want to cut-



New leaders Lt. Governor Brian Schatz and Governor Neil Abercrombie

down government to the bare bones by eliminating Social Security, Medicare, the Department of Education and the minimum wage. How the GOP establishment will mollify this new base and pay lip service to Tea Party members' radical ideology will be similar in the way moderate Democrats have done to their very far left colleagues. Eventually, the Tea Party will become

more institutionalized and fall into line as a practical matter. Their complete shut-down of government is just as far fetched as the far left's socialistic utopia. In reality, anger over the lingering economy had more to do with drawing in independent and Republican stragglers to the Tea Party than confidence in the party's future in American politics.

Get the Economy Up and Going Again

The best outcome for the country moving forward is for both sides to regroup, engage in the usual post-election jousting, then quickly come together to get important legislation passed. Lawmakers' top priority should be improving the economy.

One area that could stimulate jobs is a bipartisan effort to get the U.S. back into good-paying manufacturing careers to supplement the current intangible-based, largely service-only economy. Congress needs to adjust trade laws and pass on tax breaks for start-ups and existing manufacturers. The world needs to see more "Made in the U.S." labels on all types of consumer goods: light, heavy, high-tech, low-tech, automobiles, clothes, food, assembled, unassembled and green. It's time to get Americans back to work and stop exporting jobs away.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

SBA Accepting Nominations for 2011 Small Business Awards

The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking nominations for the 2011 SBA Small Business Awards. The annual SBA honors continue to be one of the most competitive and prestigious small business awards in the state.

Many of Hawaii's outstanding small business award win-

ners have garnered national recognition for their innovative practices, creativity and success. Past SBA winners have included outstanding small companies such as Bale Sandwich and Bakery, Baldridge and Associates Structural Engineering, Inc., Old Lahaina Luau, L&L Drive In, Rising Sun LLC, Haliimaile General Store,

Leather Soul, Martin and MacArthur, Mountain Apple Company, and Pictures Plus.

"For more than 20 years, SBA's annual Small Business Awards have highlighted the exceptional talent, skill and determination of our small business community," says Jane Sawyer, District Director. "We're looking for small firms that have demonstrated staying power and ingenuity, created jobs and successful operations that add value to our lives here in Hawaii."

The required nomination forms for each of the ten categories of the Hawaii District Office awards can be found on-



The SBA-Hawaii 2010 award winners

line at www.hawaii-sbdc.org. The 2010 award categories include:

- SBA Small Business Person of the Year
- Entrepreneurial Success Award
- SBA Family-Owned Business
- Small Business Exporter
- SBA Young Entrepreneur
- Minority Small Business Champion
- Women in Business Champion

- Veteran Small Business Champion
- Financial Services Champion
- Home-Based Business Champion

Nomination forms should be submitted by mail or hand-delivered to: 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 1-306, Waterfront Plaza, Honolulu, HI, 96813, by 4 pm on November 19, 2010. For additional on the SBA, please call 541-2990.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

"S"

on of a g _ n" you might exclaim, what a silly question - Is a son of a citizen still a "son" after

mother dies? Or is he an "ex son" or a "former son"? Don't blame me. Blame your "honorable" (or "horrible") members of Congress for rushing to write immigration laws without defining the terms used, thus wasting the time of the courts and immigrants in trying to determine what the words mean.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 237(a)(1)(H)(i) [8 USC § 1227(a)(1)(H)(i)], an alien who is placed in removal proceedings for procuring a visa by fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact may request relief

Is a Son of a Citizen Still a "Son" After Mother Dies?

from the fraud and be saved from removal if, among others, he is a "son" of a U.S. citizen. Who is a "son"? The statute is silent.

This issue arose in a recent case involving a Filipino which I found while writing my book on "Waiver waiver lang" (The title might be changed by my publisher to suit American audiences).

Rolando and his mother were both Filipinos. The mother moved to the U.S. and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Rolando applied for a visa as the unmarried son of a U.S. citizen, indicating falsely that he was unmarried. He was given a visa and immigrated to the U.S. and obtained lawful permanent resident status.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) discovered the fraud and initiated removal proceedings against Rolando alleging he violated Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 212(a)(6)(C)(i) [8 USC

§1182(a)(6)(C)(i)] which forbids procuring a visa by willfully misrepresenting a material fact. He conceded the allegations and requested relief under INA § 237(a)(1)(H)(i) [8 USC § 1227(a)(1)(H)(i)] which grants discretion to the Attorney General (who has delegated his authority to the Immigration Judge) to waive the fraud in favor of an alien who is a "son or daughter" of a U.S. citizen.

When the proceedings were initiated, Rolando's mother was still alive. The proceedings dragged on and Rolando's mother died. DHS jumped (with joy?). Rolando is no longer eligible for a waiver because he is not the "son" of a U.S. citizen. The IJ disagreed, holding held that he was still eligible for a waiver because he "continues to be the son of a United States citizen" after the death of his U.S. citizen mother. The IJ considered the equities in his favor and granted him a waiver.

The DHS appealed to the

Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) which reviews decisions of the IJ. The BIA reversed, holding that "an alien must establish a qualifying relationship to a living relative." Since Rolando's mother was no longer living, the BIA explained, he was no longer eligible to apply for a waiver and ordered him removed to the Philippines.

The U.S. Court of Appeals held: Black's Law Dictionary defines "son" as a "person's male child". The BIA erred in holding that a "son" of a U.S. citizen means "son" of a "living" citizen of the U.S. because that is not what the statute says. "A child never ceases to be his mother's son. He always is her son, even after death." The "fundamental purpose of this legislation [creating the fraud waiver] was to unite families . . . [and to avoid] separat[ing] families composed in part of American citizens or lawful permanent residents. *Federiso v. Holder*, No. 08-74792 (9th Cir. 05/19/2010).

The BIA cited earlier cases where the courts held (1) that an alien was ineligible for waiver despite the fact that he was a father of a USC, since his USC child was living in Korea, *Myung v. INS*, 468 F.2d 627 (9th Cir. 1972); and (2) that an alien who was in the process of divorcing his USC spouse was not eligible for waiver despite being the (soon-to-be ex-) husband of a USC, *Kalezic v. INS*, 647 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1981). The court distinguished these cases saying they dealt with an older version of the waiver statute, INA § 241(f) [8 USC § 1251(f)], which was mandatory pursuant to which any eligible alien automatically received relief. Under the current revised statute, waiver is discretionary, and eligibility no longer guarantees relief.

OBSERVATION: What difference does it make whether waiver is discretionary or mandatory? That is not the point. The point is whether there is a "spouse, parent, or child" re-

(continued on page 5)

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ENTERTAINMENT

SOS Latest Version Returns to Outrigger Showroom

With new energy and new guest stars, the SOS Latest Version, the second generation of Waikiki's longest running show band, is returning to the Outrigger Showroom with a new show starting November 9, 2010.

SOS Latest Version will take over the Outrigger Showroom after the three-month return engagement of the SOS Classic, which ends November 6. SOS Classic is slated to entertain at several mainland venues throughout the holidays.

SOS Latest Version entertainers John Salvatera, Jonathan

Kaina, Mike de Guzman and Freddie von Paraz welcome back original member Jan Luna, who returns to sing, dance, and perform impressions and comedy skits along with his multi-talented colleagues. Each SOS Latest Version member has mastered several musical instruments and can sing in a variety of styles from blues to ballads to Broadway.

Featured guest artists Melinda Fausto and Ryan Gallagher are expected to add more scorch to SOS Latest Version's new Hot!Hot!Hot! show.

"You have to see these two

young featured stars," says Tony Ruivivar, founder of the SOS Classic and creative director for Hot!Hot!Hot! "Ryan Gallagher is only 22, but he already sang back-up for Josh Groban and his singing range is unbelievable. Melinda Fausto has been performing professionally in Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines. She's a fabulous talent."

Kamaaina can watch the SOS Latest Version Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. for only \$29.95, including show and free four hour validated parking at Ohana East Hotel. Regular rates are \$45. For reservations and information, call 923-SHOW (7469).



SOS Latest Version with featured guest artists (insets) Ryan Gallagher and Melinda Fausto to add scorch to new Hot! Hot! Hot! show

RAIL TRANSIT

Rail Transit Update in the Leeward Oahu Area

The City & County of Honolulu continues to move forward with the Honolulu Rail Transit Project with continual test work in the Leeward Oahu area.

As part of design work for the first phase of the Honolulu Rail Transit route, the City & County of Honolulu is currently conducting shaft testing work in the East Kapolei and Ewa area, with similar testing early next year in Waipahu along Farrington Highway.

The shaft and soil testing will provide important data to help design the first

6.5-miles of elevated guideway for the rail transit route between East Kapolei and Pearl City. The tests will provide key information in helping determine the depth of the concrete columns to support the elevated guideway.

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co., selected to design and construct the first segment of the rail route, has been authorized by the City to conduct the shaft testing.

There are eight shaft testing locations along or adjacent to Farrington Highway. Work at each location is scheduled to take approximately six weeks and all test work is slated to be completed by Spring 2011.

Work along Farrington Highway in Waipahu will require some day and nighttime lane closures during non-peak traffic hours between 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. One lane of traffic in each direction will remain open during the work.

The public will be notified in advance of detours via traffic control signs, with special duty police officers to traffic at affected intersections. Motorists using Farrington Highway in Waipahu are advised to anticipate possible traffic delays or take alternative routes.

For updates on the Honolulu Rail Transit Project, check the project website at www.honolulurailtransit.org or con-



Waipahu Transit Center entrance

tact our hotline at 566-2299.

Construction of the rail transit project could begin next year once the governor accepts the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement. As part of our community outreach, rail project staff have begun meeting with Waipahu residents and businesses along Farrington Highway to discuss construction impacts.

Property acquisitions along Farrington Highway will be related to the two planned Waipahu stations: the Waipahu Transit Center will be located at the corner of Farrington and Mokuola Street just below the Waipahu Civic

Center, while the West Loch rail station will be situated at the corner of Farrington and Leoku Street. All other construction for the rail elevated guideway along Farrington Highway will take place within the highway median.

Private property owners who will be directly impacted have already been notified by the City, and the City will continue to work with these owners throughout the process. All property acquisitions will comply with state and federal laws, with landowners receiving fair market compensation for acquired property through the process of negotiation.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (cont.)

(from page 7, *Is a Son...*)

relationship between the USC and the alien seeking waiver. Myung was wrongfully decided in holding that because the USC child was living abroad there is no longer a "parent-child" relationship with the parent living in the U.S. The statute does not say that the USC must be living in the U.S. Kalezic was incorrectly decided in holding that a "soon to be ex-spouse" is no longer a spouse, since it is the relationship at the time the waiver is sought that is determinative, not the future relationship.

Furthermore, in the case of Rolando, if the purpose of the waiver statute is to promote family unity, how can a living relative be united with a dead relative? United in spirit, perhaps?

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: jilamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City and Magalang, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDV at 1270 AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KRBC at 1060 AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS



Mayor Peter Carlisle

Carlisle Administration Seeks Applications for Key Positions

Mayor Peter Carlisle's new administration is seeking applicants for key cabinet and staff positions with the City and County of Honolulu.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to submit resumes and cover letters stating their interests in particular posts and subject areas in City government.

"Mayor Carlisle is looking to fill positions in several City departments, with the clear objective of assembling the most professional team possible as the City faces the challenges ahead," says Doug Chin, acting managing director.

The Carlisle administration is particularly looking for qualified applicants for cabinet and sub-cabinet positions in the departments of Budget and Fiscal Services, Facility Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Permitting, Corporation Counsel and the Royal Hawaiian Band. Chin emphasized that the City is an equal opportunity employer.

Those interested should submit their packets via email to: mayor@honolulu.gov or regular mail to: Candidate Applications, Office of the Managing Director, Honolulu Hale, 530 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Lawmakers Push to Create Youth Detention Homes Nationwide

by Paolo Romero
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2010



REP. LEOPOLDO BATAOIL

MANILA, Philippines—Lawmakers are strongly pushing for the establishment of youth detention homes in all provinces nationwide to address the alarming upsurge in the number of young offenders.

Pangasinan Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil said there is an urgent need to amend Republic Act 9344, otherwise known as "The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006" to tackle the issue head on.

"It is my strong belief that children in conflict with law should be treated with utmost care by trained police and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) personnel in cooperation with non-government organizations (NGOs) specialized in such intervention," Bataoil, a former police director, said.

At present, the DSWD has 14 Regional Rehabilitation Centers for the Youth (RRCY) and seven provincial based rehabilitation homes called Bahay Pagasa.

In a similar move, Western Samar Rep. Mel Senen Sarmiento filed House Bill 1495, which aims to put up a Youth Detention Home in every province and highly-urbanized city.

"The establishment of Youth Detention Homes in each province and highly

urbanized city, not only to have the offenders' parents rights to easily visit their love ones, to house the young, separate from the hardcore offenders but also equipped the law enforcers and social workers, as they perform their duties," Sarmiento said.

"In rehabilitating the kids, the visitation right of the parents is important part of the program. The country is composed of so many islands, it would be very hard for the parents to visit their children and be a part of their therapy," he said.

He said his office is trying to gather all the data pertaining to many cases where "the social workers are forced to release the offender because of lack of facility, lest they be accused of illegal detention or kidnapping."

Sarmiento said the measure shall provide the care and maintenance of the young offender be borne by parents or those persons liable to support them otherwise the city or municipality where the child resides will pay for the cost.

"If it cannot pay for the offenders' care and maintenance, the province can invoke the responsibility of the city and municipality to the welfare of its residents," he said. (www.philstar.com)

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Tourism Industry Stakeholders Joining NorthPhil Expo 2010

by Paolo Romero
Monday, Nov. 2, 2010



ANILA, Philippines - Not only tourism stakeholders in northern Luzon are joining the North Philippines (NorthPhil) Tourism and Travel Expo 2010, but also their peers in the Visayas and Mindanao, including Sabah, Malaysia, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said.

DOT-Region 3 (Central Luzon) director Ronnie Tiotuico said the participation of tourism establishments across the entire archipelago, including neighboring Sabah, could turn the NorthPhil Expo 2010 into a national and international event.

"Aside from the NorthPhil exhibitors from Luzon's far north in CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) to the far south in Region 5 (Bicol) and many others in between, popular destinations in the Visayas

and Mindanao have confirmed their participation in this event," Tiotuico said.

"They (NorthPhil exhibitors) include the Sabah Tourism Board, local government units in Western Visayas and South Central Mindanao, Boracay Regency Group of Resorts, Alta Vista Boracay, and Korea's Asiana Airlines, among others," he said.

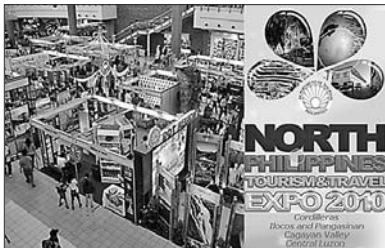
Stated at the SM City Clark on Nov. 12-14, the NorthPhil Expo 2010 showcases the best tourism destinations, products and services in the country's northern regions and affirms the rise of this part of the Philippines as a domestic and international tourism hub.

Such distinction is being enhanced by the continuous development and transformation of former US military bases Clark and Subic into freeports serving as international gateways to the northern Philippines and the rest of Luzon, from which sea and air travel to other parts of the archipelago can be launched.

Luzon alone is gaining the distinction as a virtual "tourism mall" with its contiguous sprawl of rich and diverse natural and cultural attractions and destinations that can all be reached by land.

Many of those destinations are in the North, which will be aptly highlighted in the expo by the display pavilions of CAR, Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, the provinces of Bulacan, Pangasinana and Aurora, and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and the exhibit booths of the Tourism Investment and Economic Zone Authority, Clark International Airport Corp., Manila North Tollways Corp., the province of Zambales, various tourism organizations, and many other corporate and government entities.

With the theme "Go North! A Wellspring of Diversity!" the expo also features corporate booths offering package tours, traders' displays of arts and



crafts, and souvenirs and delicacies at farm-gate prices.

There will also be theatrical presentations on the history and customs of the different regions, corporate game shows, product demonstrations and raffles, food preparations, and social and business functions.

The three-day event stands to gain exposure from a wide range of visitors, including the consumer traffic at SM City Clark, which has a land area of 17 hectares, total floor area of 100,000 square meters, and over 300 shops and restaurants frequented by thousands of domestic and foreign tourists daily.

The Clark Freeport Zone itself is a famous tourism hub with its own world-class international airport, golf course and many other attractions.

Supported by the Central Luzon Tourism Council, the expo is a project of the DOT regional offices in CAR, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon.

The expo is managed by the Philippine Exhibits and Theme Parks Corp., which can be reached at (632) 832-9303 to 05, fax (632) 5562723, e-mail northphilexpo@gmail.com, and website www.northphilexpo.com. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

DOF to Scrap Tax Holidays for Investors

by Ma. Elisa P. Osorio
Monday, Nov. 2, 2010

ANILA, Philippines - The Department of Finance (DOF) is planning to totally scrap income tax holidays (ITH) for investors in the next six years, a ranking government official said.

In an interview over the weekholidays (ITH) for investors in the next six years, a ranking government official said.

In an interview over the weekend, a ranking government official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the DOF has a draft order on the rationalization of fiscal incentives that will totally remove the ITH in six years time. This move, the official said, will surely make the country less competitive in terms of attracting more investors.

Board of Investments (BOI) managing head Cristino L. Panlilio confirmed that the DOF is initiating moves to rationalize and streamline incentives given to investors. Panlilio, who is also a Trade Undersecretary, said that the DOF is proposing a stricter incentive plan. "We want to see the master plan. We are in favor of incentives. Other countries have more liberal incentive programs than us," Panlilio said.

He said he has formed a task force to deal with the rationalization of incentives

and they will sit down with the DOF to discuss the matter.

"We will retain the kind of incentives that we are giving but we will review the industries that are being given incentives," Panlilio said.

Meanwhile, the source said the BOI is opposed to the idea because this will make the country an unattractive investment destination.

"Even advance countries like Japan, the United States, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia provide incentives. In fact, their incentive packages are better than ours," the official said.

The official said that the DOF would like to remove investment incentives in order to collect more taxes. However, if investors will not pump money into the country then there will be no tax to collect altogether. Currently, companies enjoying ITH still pay taxes like the value added tax (VAT).

At the same time, the official said that the proposal goes against the thrust of the Aquino administration to promote the six industries chosen by the economic managers because this will hamper investments and will make our neighbors a more attractive investment destination.

This proposal will not affect BOI-registered firms but all the companies within the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Subic and Clark freeports. (www.philstar.com)

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FAMILY CORNER

Learning to Learn



By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

From the time he is born, your child is constantly learning and acquiring the basic skills he will need to be successful later when he enters school. Your loving interactions and guidance in these early years can make a world of difference in building a strong foundation for successful and enjoyable

learning at all levels of his schooling and in life. For instance, as you read to him daily, your young child is learning how to look carefully at books, recognize symbols, listen to the words you speak and read, and remember story lines—all skills that will help him to one day read by himself.

Skills for Learning

Children gain learning skills through everyday activities. These skills include paying attention, using language, taking responsibility, being curious, solving problems, and learning to cooperate.

Paying Attention. Looking at books and listening to stories, nursery rhymes, and songs help children learn to pay attention and sit still. You can help your child learn to pay attention in various ways:

- Begin reading to him when he is a baby
- Vary your facial expressions and voice when you sing songs or tell stories
- Ask him simple questions about stories
- Stop before the end of a story and ask him how he thinks it will end
- Encourage him to add to or ask questions about a story
- Tell stories from your childhood
- Sing part of a song he knows and ask him to finish it.

Using Language. Academic learning requires your child to know how to speak and understand language. He needs to be able to tell other people what he is thinking and doing, and to understand what other people are telling him. You can help your child recognize and use language by doing the following, even when he can't yet respond with his own words:

- Talking often with him
- Talking to him about what you are doing or what he is seeing
- Asking him who, what, when, where, and why questions
- Avoiding yes and no questions because they don't require much thinking or talking
- Encouraging him to ask you for help
- Offering suggestions when he seems to be having trouble with a task.

Taking Responsibility. At school, your child will be responsible for getting work done. Help him develop a sense of responsibility by asking him to help you. Doing simple age-appropriate chores will also help him follow simple instructions,



develop confidence in his ability to do new things, and learn to finish things that he starts. Consider some of the following types of chores which are appropriate for toddlers, and gradually increase the complexity of the chores as your child matures:

- Setting the table
- Folding napkins
- Tearing lettuce for salads
- Stirring vegetables
- Holding the dust pan while you sweep
- Helping to dust the furniture
- Putting away his toys.

Being Curious. Children are eager to explore the world around them. Their innate curiosity helps them seek out new experiences to expand their learning. To build on your child's desire to learn and to encourage his curiosity:

- Play pretend games with him.
- Read books that invite him to imagine.
- Provide a combination of quiet time to enjoy the pleasure of just "hanging around" or daydreaming, and active times to explore, experiment, and create.
- Let him experiment with different materials like paints and construction paper or use objects in ways that are different from their intended purpose, for example, dipping blocks or slices of fruit in paint and stamping designs on paper.
- Take him on outings to places like the zoo, beach, park, or store, and draw his attention to details such as the sounds animals make, the texture of the sand, print written on signs, or the movement of tree branches when the wind blows. Build conversations around these observations.

Solving Problems. If you encourage your child to ask questions and make decisions, he will learn to ask and answer his own questions and to make decisions. For example, ask him, "What should we eat for dinner—spaghetti or hamburgers?" (Limit choices to two things.)

- Where is your book about bats?
- Why do cats purr?
- What would you do if you got lost?

Learning to Cooperate. Learning to cooperate is an important part of interacting with people. Provide ways for your child to interact with and cooperate with other children, as well as adults.

- Enroll your child in a preschool, playgroup, or class.
- Show children how to work together on projects such as making peanut butter sandwiches, playing store or doctor, or sharing the same box of crayons.
- Have him help you with smaller tasks needed to complete a larger one, for example, measuring ingredients or mixing them together to make cookies.

Creating a Learning-friendly Home

Establish consequences. If your child knocks down a friend's blocks, point out that because he did so, his friend wants to play alone. Simple explanations can help your child learn how his actions affect what happens to him. Help him see that he can influence the future. "Your friend might want to play with you again if you help him build his tower."

Acknowledge Your Child's Accomplishments. When you acknowledge your child's work, his confidence grows and he sees that you care about what he does. Recognize his efforts such as helping you wash the dishes or waiting patiently at the doctor's office.

Provide brief explanations. Explain why things happen. If you left the park when it started to rain, explain that you left so you would not get wet and muddy. Such explanations help your child understand why things happen and encourage him to be curious.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Recent CSPA Decision Favors Aged-Out Children

after reaching 21.

Another situation when a child's age is frozen under CSPA is when a lawful permanent resident parent is the beneficiary of a visa petition or files a visa petition for his or her child under 21. The number of days between the filing of the petition and the approval is subtracted from the child's age on the date that the priority date of the child or parent becomes current. If the difference is less than 21, the child benefits from the CSPA.

An additional requirement for CSPA purposes is that the child must have "sought to acquire" lawful permanent resident status within one year of the visa number availability. This is the date when the visa petition is approved and the priority date is current as indicated in the Department of State Visa Bulletin.

The phrase "sought to acquire" has been interpreted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) narrowly. The DHS has stated that the phrase refers to the filing of an adjustment of status application.

The DOS has said that for purposes of consular processing it means the submission to the National Visa Center of the Form DS-230 Part I by the child or by the child's parent or Form I-824 by the parent in cases where the child is following to join.

Many CSPA applications have been rejected or denied because of such strict interpretation.

In a recent unpublished decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals, the term "sought to acquire" was given a broad

meaning.

In this case, Matter of Murillo, the visa petition of his father had a priority date of October 16, 1995 and was approved on August 8, 1996 when Murillo was 12 years old. A visa number became available on June 1, 2003 when he was 19 years old. However his attorney whom he retained to file his adjustment of status filed his application more than 20 months from the date when a visa number became available.

The DHS concluded that Murillo was not eligible for CSPA benefits because he did not file his adjustment application within a year from June 1, 2003. But the Immigration Judge ruled that he was eligible because the requirement of "sought to acquire" could be satisfied by circumstances short of filing the application. The hiring of the attorney to prepare the application satisfied this requirement.

The Board of Immigration Appeals agreed with the Immigration Judge. The Board said that the term "sought to acquire" was broad enough to include substantial steps (such as hiring an attorney who completed the form and obtaining a money order for the filing fee) toward the filing of the adjustment application within the required one-year period. To hold otherwise, the Board said, "would undermine the very purpose and intent of the statute which was to protect an alien 'child' from 'aging out' due to 'no fault of their own'."

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A child who has turned 21 may still be considered younger than 21 years old under the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA).

Being considered younger than 21 for immigration purposes significantly reduces the wait time to become a lawful permanent resident.

Locking a child's age at younger than 21 occurs when a United States citizen parent petitions an unmarried child before he or she turns 21 but the child's adjustment of status or admission as an immigrant takes place

MAINLAND NEWS

Mobile Money Transfers Available from 70k Western Union Locations Worldwide

Englewood, COLO.—Western Union has announced that consumers can now send money transfers from nearly 70,000 Western Union Agent locations in 27 countries directly to Globe Telecom and Smart Communications mobile subscribers in the Philippines.

Consumers in six countries can also visit www.westernunion.com to send funds online using a credit or debit card directly to Smart Communications or Globe Telecom subscribers' "mobile wallets" or accounts tied to their mobile phones.

OfGlobe Telecom's 24 million subscribers, 1 million are enrolled in its GCASH mobile wallet service. Of Smart Communications' 45 million subscribers, more than 8 million are enrolled in Smart Money.

To send a Western Union Mobile Money Transfer to a Globe GCASH or Smart Money account holder, consumers can simply visit a participating Western Union location in 27 countries or a Western Union website in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom or the U.S. The transaction



is completed just like a traditional money transfer, except that the sender provides the receiver's mobile phone number and the funds are received in the receiver's "mobile wallet" instead of being paid out in cash.

"Our Mobile Money Transfer service is a key part of Western Union's multi-channel strategy to offer our consumers numerous ways to send and receive money," says Khalid Fellahi, Western Union's Head of Mobile Transaction Services. "By continually expanding the number of locations where overseas Filipino workers can send funds to their loved ones' mobile phones, we are making it more convenient for our consumers in the Philippines to receive funds how, where and when they want."

Western Union offers Mobile Money Transfer service in Kenya with Safaricom; in

Malaysia with Maxis; and in South Africa with Absa Bank. The company also recently announced an agreement with EnStream in Canada and has agreements with Zain (Airtel) in Africa and Orascom in the Middle East and with the State Bank of India, the Tunisian Post and with the Bank of Commerce & Development (BoCD) in Libya.



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MAINLAND NEWS

US, Canada, NZ also Issue Terror Warning

by Jose Katigbak
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010

WASHINGTON – The United States has joined four other nations – major allies in its global war on terror – in alerting its citizens of terror threats in the Philippines, particularly in areas frequented by foreigners in Metro Manila.

The US travel alert came a week after a near terror attack on its shores and hours after the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada issued similar advisories to their citizens planning to travel or are already in the Philippines.

In Manila, the British embassy clarified yesterday that it had not raised the level of its travel alert for the Philippines and did not specifically mention Metro Manila.

"There's been no change to the level of threat," Colin Crorkin, deputy chief of mission, told The STAR. "We have not changed the level of our travel advice."

He clarified that only one sentence was added the other day to their long-standing warning about the terrorist threat in the Philippines: "Such places could include, but are not limited to, airports, shopping malls, places of worship, etc."



The travel alert was revised, Crorkin explained, after they received an intelligence report about a terror threat in the Philippines.

He said his government shared intelligence with the Australians, who warned the other day that the terror threat could cover Metro Manila, "but it's up to us to make our own interpretation of the reports."

In a travel advisory issued on Tuesday, the US State Department warned Americans of the risks of going to Mindanao and Sulu and said indiscriminate attacks could also occur in other areas, including Metro Manila.

"US citizens traveling, living, and working throughout the Philippines are urged to exercise heightened caution in public gathering places. US citizens should exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of demonstrations since they can turn confrontational and possi-

bly escalate to violence," the advisory said.

"Travelers should exercise extreme caution if traveling in the central and western portions of the island of Mindanao, as well as in the islands of the Sulu Archipelago. Regional terrorist groups have carried out bombings resulting in injuries and death," the advisory read.

The State Department said it updated its travel advisory to reflect continuing threats due to terrorist and insurgent activities in the Philippines.

On Oct. 21 a bus bombing in Mindanao killed 10 people and an investigation was underway to determine whether this was a terrorist act or a case of plain extortion.

More terror alert

The Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, for its part, cited threats to Westerners

and Western interests in the Philippines and that kidnapping-for-ransom activities remain despite breakthroughs in the government drive against them.

Canadian nationals are advised against traveling to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which includes Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Sharif Kabunsuan, as well as the Zamboanga Peninsula, Zamboanga del Sur, Sarangani, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur (excluding urban areas of Davao City), South Cotabato, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

"The threat of terrorist activities exists, particularly in Mindanao. Bombs have exploded in shopping malls, on public transportation, at airports and port facilities, in places of worship, and in other public areas. Further explosions are possible anywhere in the country," Canada's travel alert read.

New Zealand also advised its citizens wishing to travel or are already in the Philippines to "exercise caution at this time."

"There is some risk to your security elsewhere in the Philippines, including in Manila, due to the threat from terrorism and risk of kidnapping. We continue to receive reports that terrorists are planning attacks, including in places frequented by foreigners such as large shopping malls and convention centers. New Zealanders are strongly advised to exercise caution at this time," the advisory said.

New Zealand said traveling to Mindanao, particularly to se-

lected areas like Basilan and the Sulu Archipelago is extremely dangerous.

"Terrorism, kidnapping and violent clashes between the military and terrorist or rebel groups make travel to these areas extremely dangerous," New Zealand's advisory said.

No threat but alert up

While the military leadership downplayed the foreign embassies' terror warnings, Malacañang declared Metro Manila on high alert as part of "precautionary measures."

"We are on top of the situation and President Aquino is being briefed from time to time. We are now on full red alert, a carryover from the All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day. This is for precautionary measures," Edwin Lacierda, the President's spokesman, said.

He clarified that the issuance of travel advisories is just a standard operating procedure for any government.

"As a precautionary measure they (foreign governments) issue travel advisories, to forestall any litigation on their part," he explained.

"We are checking intelligence reports from within and from our allies (in the Asian region). Our security agencies have taken the necessary steps. We're asking the people to be vigilant in the fight against terror," he said.

"The AFP would let us know if they would lower the status level. We call on the public to be vigilant and don't panic, and for them to exercise due diligence," he said.

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GLOBAL NEWS

RP Wins UK BPO Award for 3rd Time

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippines is now a three-time winner of the National Outsourcing Association's "Offshoring Destination of the Year Award" after it bagged the prize at the NOA 2010 Awards.

This also makes the Philippines a back-to-back winner as it also won the same award last year and for the first time, in 2007.

The awards night was held last Oct. 21 at the Park Plaza Riverbank which is right in the heart of London.

Philippine trade attaché Mike Ignacio and marketing officer Vic Casim received the award in behalf of the country.

The NOA is United Kingdom's only outsourcing trade association.

Advocating best practice, the NOA represents outsourcing end-users, vendors and other companies, which support outsourcing such as legal firms, consultancies and HR. It



The Philippines is a consistent winner since 2007

is also involved in research, events, education and public affairs.

In the past four years, the NOA has set high standards in the recognition of outsourcing as a legitimate business practice. The awards also give recognition to companies or people worldwide who exhibit excellence in the field of outsourcing

In 2009, the Philippine BPO industry generated \$7.2 billion in export revenues, employing close to 450,000 workers, making the Philippines the

world's second biggest BPO player next only to India.

The Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) is the umbrella trade association of the Philippine BPO industry representing the entire spectrum of BPO and IT-enabled services, including customer service, back office outsourcing, software development, engineering design, digital animation, and game development.

By the end of 2010, BPAP expects the BPO industry to register revenues close to \$9.5 billion, which is a 26-percent improvement from the previous year.

The headcount of BPO full-time employees in the country is also expected to increase to 650,000 by yearend.

This year's nomination entry was submitted by the Bureau of Investments in cooperation with BPAP. (www.philstar.com)

RP Top Jr Triathlete Wins Gold in Oman

MANILA, Philippines - Marion Kim Mangrobag struck gold in only her second race at an Olympic distance as the former RP No. 1 junior triathlete conquered the international triathlon test event of the second Asian Beach Games recently in Muscat, Oman.

Mangrobag didn't waver in the stifling heat at the Al Hail beach, making a strong charge in the bike leg to pull away from her toughest rivals, Hong Kong's Edith Li Yik Lam, and Thailand's Mattika Maneekaew, en route to the top podium finish in the women's division.

The lass from Sta. Rosa, Laguna submitted a winning time of 2:19, besting the Thai and the Hong Kong beths, whose bid was stymied by a leak on her bike, by over four and eight minutes.

According to Australian coach



Gold-medalist Marion Kim Mangrobag

Dan Brown, who accompanied Mangrobag to the race, the 19-year-old triathlete had shown great improvement since her first stint in the 1.5K swim, 40K bike, 10K run distance at the Hong Kong ITU Triathlon Asian Cup. She logged 2:31:33 in placing fourth in that Hong Kong meet held a week prior to Oman's.

"She seemed at a new level from HK (the previous) week and ran out of the transitions with a confident fast stride," Brown, who's conducting a training camp for RP triathletes

as part of the IOC Solidarity program, said in an email from Oman.

"I thought that she would blow for sure at the pace she was running but to her credit, she handled the heat very well and held her lead to finish first," he added.

Philip "Epoxy" Juralan, the other RP entry in the test race for the Dec. 8-16 Asian Beach Games, also gave a good account of himself, finishing fifth in the men's competition won by the Netherlands' Luc van Es.

Making his debut at Olympic distance triathlon, the 18-year-old Juralan trailed the leaders by 30 seconds in the swim leg but charged back hard in the bike and run stages for his 2:20 clocking, good for No. 5 behind Van Es' 1:58.

"I was very impressed with both of them and they have a big future as they are so young and both swim well," said Brown. (www.philstar.com)

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