

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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A CANDID INTERVIEW WITH HI'S NEW CONSUL GENERAL GINA JAMORALIN

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Photography by Tim ILENA



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EDITORIALS

Welcome, New Consul General Jamoralin

There's a new consul general in town who brings a wealth of experience as a foreign diplomat for the Philippines. With an early interest in learning about other cultures and languages, it seems Gina A. Jamoralin was destined for a career in the Philippine Foreign Service. She has traveled throughout the Asia-Pacific region and Europe on various assignments, including the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan and in Bucharest, Romania. Her latest stop is Honolulu, where she looks forward to carrying on the work of previous consuls general and fostering relations with Hawaii's Filipino community.

The Consul General in Honolulu does more than issue and renew passports for Philippine citizens. Her role is crucial, especially when it comes to building strong ties between the Philippines and Hawaii. She is responsible for promoting the Philippines' interests in trade and tourism by meeting regularly with local government and business leaders. She is also expected to build relationships with non-profit groups on a variety of outreach projects to the Philippines and to meet regularly with Philippine nationals to discuss immigration and other matters that affect Filipinos. And as the official representative of the Philippine government, she must always project a positive image of the Mother Country.

We hope that the new consul general will continue to support community projects statewide that encourage young Filipinos to be more active in political governance and that promote cultural pride. The Consulate should also continue its outreach projects to the neighbor islands to serve Filipino communities there. Processing passport renewals, dual citizenship forms, notary authentication and other legal services may seem like routine consular work, but the gesture is much appreciated by neighbor island Filipinos because it spares them the time and expense of having to travel to Honolulu.

On that note, the Chronicle sends a warm welcome to Consul General Jamoralin and wishes her the best as she begins her term in Honolulu. We certainly look forward to working with her and encourage our leaders in the Filipino community to embrace her with aloha.

Price Gouging is Illegal

As hurricanes Iselle and Julio bore down on the Hawaiian Islands, civil defense officials issued advisories for the public to begin preparations. Residents heeded the call as only locals can—by snapping up supplies of spam, toilet paper, bottled water and other necessities. Store shelves quickly emptied, forcing frustrated shoppers to visit several stores. Worse yet, there were disturbing reports that a few merchants decided to inflate the prices of certain goods. One shopper paid \$36 for a case of bottled water—or about six times what it normally costs.

Let's be clear that price gouging is illegal in Hawaii. Violators face fines of up to \$5,000 and/or a minimum of one year in jail under a recently enacted state law that makes price gouging a criminal, rather than a civil offense. By law, prices must be capped at the time that the governor declares a state of emergency. The emergency proclamation was issued two days before Iselle was expected to reach the Big Island but it may have come too late for some shoppers who paid the over-inflated prices. Businesses that unknowingly raised prices could still avoid violations if they roll back prices to appropriate levels and return excessive payments to consumers.

Still, it is unconscionable for merchants to jack up prices of

FROM THE PUBLISHER

We

dodged two major bullets recently as Hurricanes Iselle and Julio left us largely untouched. On the Big Island, Iselle did inflict some damage, toppling trees, cutting power to thousands of residents in Puna and delaying the results of the Primary Election.

But for the most part, Hawaii was spared from widespread damages. However, we should be careful to not let our guard down especially since weather forecasters are expecting a busier than normal hurricane season which extends through November. To learn more about how to better prepare yourself for storms, natural disasters and other emergencies, I encourage you to attend the 4th Annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 6th. Please turn to page 5 to learn more about this event which is free and open to the public.

Our cover story for this issue introduces new Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin who arrived in Hawaii just last month. She graciously took time from her busy schedule for an interview with our columnist Carlota Ader. Prior to Honolulu, Consul General Jamoralin was the assistant Secretary of American Affairs at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, where she oversaw bilateral relations between the Philippines, the U.S., Canada and Latin America. Her special interest and expertise in economics (she holds a PhD) will come in quite handy in her efforts to promote the Philippines as an investment site for American and Filipino businesses. She will also focus on continuing the good work done by previous consuls general in fostering a good working relationship with Hawaii's Filipino community and maintaining unity. To find out more about Consul General Jamoralin, read our in-depth interview on page 4 entitled "Up Close and personal With Hawaii's New Consul General Gina Jamoralin."

Finally, how did your candidates do in the Primary Election? We hope you took the time to cast your ballots and that the impending storms did not prevent or discourage you from voting. If you didn't vote, don't despair—there's still the General Election in November. The Primary certainly had its share of surprising outcomes. We will recap and analyze the results of the various races in our next issue, so keep an eye out for it.

That's all for now. I hope that you will take some time to read through this issue and find our articles useful and informative. As always, we encourage you to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have any story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Our sincerest thanks to all of you for reading and faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle!

Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

commodities in the event of impending storms and other natural disasters. Common sense business practice is to raise prices on goods as consumer demand increases—only not during emergencies. Without a price freeze, widespread panic could ensue and even, God forbid, looting and rioting. Ask anyone from Kauai about the civil unrest in the aftermath of Hurricane Iwa in 1982.

Shoppers who feel that they have been victims of price gouging are urged to save their receipts and contact the State Office of Consumer Protection. Over 20 complaints have been made so far. Let's send a strong message to unscrupulous businesses that try to make an extra buck at the expense of the public that price gouging will not be tolerated, especially in a state like Hawaii where we pride ourselves in the aloha spirit and looking after one another.



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OPINION

Why Government Fails, and What We Should Do About It

By Lee H. Hamilton

With election season upon us, I've been pondering a crucial issue about the role of government in our society. It's that our government often fails — and that we need to address this. What's odd is that while the frequent failures in government's performance are very much on ordinary people's minds, politicians don't talk much about fixing them.

True, you might hear a few words about the issue when members are back in their districts this month revving up their re-election campaigns, but for the most part they'll be focused on issues like jobs and the economy. This is understandable, because that's what their constituents expect to hear about.

But it's also a shame, because we need a healthy dialogue about why government

often fails and how to fix it. There's ample cause for concern. The VA appointments scandal; the botched launch of the Affordable Care Act; duplicative programs to help low-income families; the 28 years of missed inspections that led to the explosion of the fertilizer plant in West, Texas; scandals at the General Services Administration and the Secret Service; a broken federal appointments process; the regulatory screwups that contributed to the Great Recession; auto recalls that should have happened much sooner than they did; the failure to prevent the 9/11 terrorist attacks by sharing information within government; bridge collapses and infrastructure failures.... There's a long and dispiriting list of occasions when the federal government has fallen short.

Yet the issues surrounding government performance don't stir the passions. Progress comes slowly, the media's not especially interested in the tedious story of building competence, and politicians themselves look for home runs, not singles. They want to make

grand proposals, not spend their time digging into the nuts and bolts of fixing bureaucracies.

Moreover, as political scientist Paul C. Light has amply demonstrated, government failures happen for a long list of reasons that cannot be fixed easily, painlessly or quickly. Sometimes problems are rooted in policies that were ill-conceived, too complicated, or not well communicated. Sometimes the policies were fine, but the resources necessary to implement them were inadequate or misused. Politics often gets in the way of good policy, with efforts to undermine programs by making their implementation difficult or by cutting staffs and budgets.

There are organizational and institutional problems, poor oversight, poor leadership — no matter how good a policy, if good people aren't available to carry it out, it will fail — and government's alarming difficulty attracting and keeping highly qualified administrators. Often, leaders are bored by the nitty-gritty of management.

Still, these are challenges, not barriers. If our political leaders wanted to focus on im-

proving government management and policy implementation, there's no shortage of fixes they could make.

- They could ensure that federal agencies use pilot and trial programs much more frequently than they do now.
- They could mandate better and more rigorous evaluation procedures and the use of metrics that lay bare what works and what doesn't. There's more attention being paid these days to efficacy than there used to be, but it's still a trickle compared to what's needed.
- They could avoid rushing to announce programs, strive to get it right rather than get it quickly, and pay as much attention to follow-through as to the launch. Think about long term, not the next election, and make sure the mission is sharply defined.
- They could devote far more attention to how government will recruit, retain, and train the smart, highly qualified workers we need

to carry out ever-more-complex programs. And they could vow to reduce the number of political appointees in favor of filling most positions on the basis of merit.

- They should certainly flatten the chain of command and reduce the layers of bureaucracy within federal departments and agencies, so that it's easier for top administrators to see what's taking place on the front lines.
- In the case of Congress, it needs to ensure that vigorous oversight of programs becomes a habit, not the rarity it is now.

All of us want government to fail less often, whatever our political stripe. So here's my suggestion: As the campaigning season moves forward, insist that your favored candidate work harder on making government more effective and efficient.

.....
LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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COVER STORY

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH HAWAII'S NEW CONSUL GENERAL GINA JAMORALIN

By Carlota Ader

For many adventurous young Filipino women who dream of traveling around the world and learning about other cultures, working as a flight stewardess or aboard an international cruise ship or volunteering for the Peace Corps would be ideal ways to do so.

Then there are a select few who join the Philippine Foreign Service to fulfill their dreams of seeing the world. One of these is Gina A. Jamoralin, who has been tapped to succeed former Consul General Julius D. Torres who returned to the Philippines after serving Hawaii for two-and-a-half years.

Consul General Jamoralin has traveled throughout Asia, the Pacific and Europe during the course of her diplomatic career. Her previous foreign postings include the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan from 2006 to 2012 and the Philippine Embassy in Bucharest, Romania from 1996 to 2003.

She was most recently the Executive Director and Assistant Secretary of the Office of American Affairs of the Philippines' Department of Foreign

Affairs from September 2012 to July 2014. She was also the director for trade and economics at the Office of United Nations and International Organizations and special assistant to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Senior Official.

She earned her Master's of Business Administration from McGill University in Tokyo, her PhD in economics from the University of Santo Tomas, her Master's of Public Administration from the University of the Philippines and her Bachelor's degree in economics from UP.

Consul General Jamoralin assumed her duties in July and hit the ground running, so to speak, having already paid courtesy visits with Gov. Neil Abercrombie and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. She granted the Chronicle an exclusive inter-

view and spoke candidly of her credentials, priorities and outreach projects for Hawaii's Filipino community. The following interview has been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Welcome to Hawaii! Have you been here before? What do you know about Hawaii's Filipinos?

A: Thank you very much for your warm welcome. Yes, I have been here before as a young diplomat in the early 1990s when I was a Philippine delegate to an APEC-related meeting. I found the island refreshing and beautiful. I'm happy to be back, this time as your new Consul General. The presence of Filipinos in Hawaii, who make up the largest ethnic group, was brought about by the migration of sakadas (plantation workers), mostly from the Ilocos and Visayas regions, to work in sugar plantations in the islands during the early 20th century. The Consulate honored these pioneers by rededicating its lanai and renaming it "Alay sa Sakada" Lanai in October 2012.

Q: What will be your priorities as the new Consul General?

A: I plan to continue what has been the practice of my predecessors, but I also want to prioritize other matters, like enhancing our relations with the U.S., our treaty ally and partner, through increased engagement with the U.S. Pacific Command and its military components. I also intend to pursue a more vigorous economic diplomacy program in



New Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin shares her experiences as a Philippine diplomat with the Chronicle's Carlota Ader

Hawaii, French Polynesia and American Samoa—the Consulate's areas of jurisdiction. Being an economist myself, I plan to do more economic diplomacy and promote the Philippines as an investment site for American and Filipino businesses. The Department of Foreign Affairs has four pillars of foreign policy—national security, economic diplomacy, promoting the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and cultural diplomacy. I would like to touch all of these areas during the course of my stay and to give especial attention to the welfare of Filipinos here since we are the largest ethnic group in Hawaii.

Q: Tell us more about yourself.

A: I was the Assistant Secretary of American Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs prior to coming here where I oversaw bilateral relations between the Philippines, the U.S., Canada and Latin America. I was posted in Japan for six years as economic officer, then I was posted in Bucharest, Romania as vice consul, then later as consul. I was born in Paranaque and have two brothers and one sister. My father's family came from Sor-

sogon, and my mother and my grandparents were from Bohol and Aklan. I lived in Manila and studied at the University of the Philippines.

Q: What skills do you have that will help you with your new assignment in Honolulu?

A: As a career Foreign Service officer, we have special training for our positions—diplomatic skills, political reporting skills, people skills and other skills that promote the Philippines' national interests. I have a special interest in economics as I took my economic doctorate and MBA in Tokyo and I also had my masters in Public Policy at the University of the Philippines. I know that this will help me with my work in Hawaii and is good for our country.

Q: What is the role of the Consul General with respect to Hawaii's Filipino Community? Why is it important to build a good relationship with the community?

A: The U.S. and the Philippines have a strong bilateral relationship and I witnessed that when I was with the Office of American Affairs. OFWs contribute to Philippines' economy. They also bring home a

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, TURNING ...)

lot of talent and experience. We want to foster a close relationship with Filipinos here in Hawaii. We at the Philippine Foreign Service know how vital the Filipino community is in our work. We see them not only as the people whom we serve in terms of consular and Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) services, but we also rely on and highly regard them as our partners in nation building. As such, it is important that the Consulate and the local Filipino community have a healthy, productive relationship. As Consul General, I think my role would be to nurture that relationship, encourage more participation and involvement in community affairs and make our Filipino-Americans feel that the Consulate values their input and contributions.

Q: How did you become interested in working for the Philippine Foreign Consular Services?

A: I was always interested in international affairs and learning about foreign cultures and languages as I first studied the Russian language. When I had the opportunity to take the foreign service officer exam in 1991, I took it, passed and then joined the foreign service and started working, meeting people and travelling to different places. For my first few as-

signments, I lived in Japan and Romania. I also travelled around the world to Europe and attended seminars and meetings across Asia and the Pacific from 1993 to 1996 as a junior assistant for the APEC Summit.

Q: What do you like best about your job?

A: I like to meet other people, learn their culture and touch their lives, however brief the moment is. It's exciting and challenging, and you grow and benefit from these encounters.

Q: What have been the highlights so far of your career in the Philippine Foreign Service?

A: When I was in Manila as a junior officer, I was exposed to multilateral diplomacy early on in my career when I assisted at the 1996 APEC Summit in Subic – where the Philippines first chaired the APEC Summit. The Philippines will host APEC Summit again in 2015. I also worked five years as part of the Philippine APEC Secretariat and I got to travel around the world. When I was in Tokyo as an economic officer, I helped in promoting development assistance for the Philippines. I got to meet development partners from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other Japanese officials. I was in

Japan during the Fukushima nuclear crisis and the tsunami in March 2011 so I was exposed to the areas of disaster response and preparedness. Last April in Manila, I assisted in the preparation for the visits of U.S. President Barack Obama, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other high-ranking officials.

Q: If you were not employed in foreign service work, what would you probably have entered instead?

A: Just a quiet academic—maybe a professor in business or economics, or economist working in the bank. Or maybe a journalist writing about business and economics or a social worker in rural areas doing humanitarian work.

Q: Besides Hawaii, where in the world would you most want to be assigned to and why?

A: This is a tough question because I find all of the places that I've been to as beautiful. I have not been to Latin America where it would be good to hone my Spanish language skills. I also like their songs. Hawaii, of course, is like a paradise. I'll try to do my best here to deserve this excellent assignment.

Q: What is the difference between an embassy and a consulate? How many staff members are assigned to the Philippine Consulate here in Honolulu?

A: An embassy is a country's permanent diplomatic mission in a host country. It is led by an ambassador. It handles the state-to-state relations between the host and the sending government. As there can only be one ambassador to a specific country, there can be only one embassy. The ambassador is the highest-ranking representative of that foreign government and thus the embassy is deemed to be the highest level of representative location. A consulate is somehow similar, but it is generally deemed to be lower ranking as its head, the consul general, reports to the ambassador. Consulates perform mostly consular services, but also see to it that they carry out the four pillars of the Philippine Foreign Service. In the U.S., there is one Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. and six consulates general in Agana, Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New

York and San Francisco, all headed by a consul general. Here in Hawaii, the Consulate has 20 personnel which includes the organic DFA officers and staff, local hires and two liaison officials to the Pacific Command (PACOM).

Q: Any last words for Hawaii's Filipino community?

A: Although I have already met several Filipinos, I want to meet more. We at the consulate want to establish a good working relationship so we could harvest the energy of the Filipinos in promoting our trade and culture. The consulate is engaged to promote relationships, trade, culture and the welfare of the Filipino community. I also would like to encourage all Filipinos to register to vote in the 2016 elections. Participating in the political process is also one way of giving back to our country besides the many assistance given after recent natural disasters. The Philippine Consulate is open Mondays through Fridays, so please come and register early.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Ewa Emergency Preparedness Fair Set for Sept. 6

The Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee will hold the 4th Annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 6, 2014 at Ewa Makai Middle School from 9 am to 1 pm.

The fair is free and open to all Oahu residents. Over \$10,000 worth of preparedness items will be given away to attendees who will learn more on how to be better prepared for the next natural or manmade disaster and other emergencies. This year's theme is "Preparing You, Your family and Pet(s) for Emergency Shelter."

"We'll have a scaled down emergency shelter unit inside Ewa Makai Middle School for people to walk through and see the shocking small dimensions of what they will have to put

up with if not fully prepared," says volunteer media coordinator Kauai Alapa.

Participating organizations include the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, The Bus, Hawaiian Electric Company, American Red Cross, Honolulu Fire and Police, and many other private and public vendors.

The Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee additionally provides monthly training events to include CERT (Community Emergency Response Team Training), Disaster Assessment & Shelter Operations (American Red Cross), First Aid & CPR/AED (Hawaii Heart Foundation), and training by the NDPTC (National Disaster Preparedness Training Center).



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Announces \$11 Million Settlement Over Deceptive Credit Card Practices

The State has reached settlements totaling approximately \$11.3 million to resolve cases against four credit card companies regarding marketing practices for credit card payment protection plans alleged by the Attorney General to be deceptive under state law. The companies were identified as Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Discover Financial Services

and Citibank.

“We filed these cases to protect Hawaii consumers and stop illegal and deceptive practices of marketing credit card protection plans,” says State Attorney General David Louie.

Consumers were typically solicited by their credit card company via phone or email with misleading sales pitches that omitted important infor-



mation. Many Hawaii consumers were duped into signing up for a service that they would not have otherwise pur-

chased. The improper conduct included enrolling consumers without their consent; providing misleading information about free trial periods; distorting plan benefits; billing for services not provided; unfairly charging credit card customers for interest and fees; or denying plan benefits to eligible customers.

“We have taken a strong stance against unfair and deceptive credit card practices,” says Louie. “These cases are

important because they put the credit card industry on notice that it will be held accountable if it engages in misleading practices.”

Federal enforcement actions by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and private class action lawsuits have sought and are seeking restitution for Hawaii consumers. Proceeds from these settlements will go to the State General Fund.

State DHS Expands Access at Farmers' Markets

The State Department of Human Services (DHS) has expanded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) access to Farmers' Markets statewide, thanks to a federal grant that provides free EBT terminals and technical assistance.

DHS officials partnered with the State Departments of Agriculture (DOA) and Health (DOH) to promote the free equipment to local growers and community organizations. Technical assistance is provided through the USDA MarkeLink website.

SNAP is one of 15 nutrition assistance programs administered by FNS. It's the nation's first line of defense against hunger and helps put food on the table for millions

of low-income families and individuals every month. The SNAP Program expansion in Hawaii was possible with a \$57,000 grant from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service (FNS). The grant was used to target low-income neighborhoods on Oahu and the Big Island.

Providing more places for SNAP participants to purchase food directly from local farmers boosts local economies, supports family farmers and creates greater access to healthy foods for SNAP participants, which can help reduce health problems and governmental health costs in the future.

According to DHS officials, the market equipment grant has generated a signifi-

cant return on investment. In the first six months of 2014, there were 53 Hawaii markets authorized for SNAP, representing a 194 percent increase from the previous year. And during the first six months of 2014, more than \$570,000 in SNAP benefits was redeemed in Hawaii. Statistics also show that every \$5 in SNAP benefits generates \$9 in community spending.

Additionally, DHS is collaborating with DOH's SNAP-Ed funded Live-Better-Together program to increase access to

SNAP/EBT at public farmers' markets in Honolulu. The SNAP-Ed program also launched a social media campaign in the Kalihi to promote fruit and vegetable purchases at farmers' markets and on the Big Island to promote the use EBT terminals. In collaboration with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, DHS has already established EBT device access at four separate people's open markets on Oahu.

In February 2014, FNS awarded the state a \$724,134 bonus for the most improved

SNAP Program Access Index in the U.S. The index measures the average number of low-income persons, at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty line, who receive SNAP benefits. Approximately 193,392 Hawaii participants received SNAP benefits in June 2014.

To learn more about the Hawaii SNAP and EBT programs, go online to: www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap. To apply for an EBT Point of Service, call (808) 586-5739 or email ghayes@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Registration Begins for LifeSmarts Competition

The State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) Office of the Securities Commissioner has announced the start of the 2014-2015 LifeSmarts competition—a free consumer education competition open to teens in grades 6-12.

LifeSmarts tests middle school and high school students nationwide on real-life consumer issues through online quizzes and in-person competition.

The sign-up period began August 1, 2014. High school teams will start competing online at www.lifesmarts.org from October 27 to December 3, 2014. Scores will be tabulated at the end of the online competition and the top four scoring teams will be invited to compete in the state cham-



pionship on February 7, 2015. The winning team will represent Hawaii at the national competition in Seattle from April 17-20, 2015.

Over the past decade, over 800 local students have participated in the LifeSmarts competition. The LifeSmarts program meets national educational standards for teachers looking for ways to supplement their classes. LifeSmarts will complement any school curriculum and can be used as a learning activity for classes,

groups, clubs and community organizations.

Interested coaches can log onto www.lifesmarts-hawaii.com for additional information. All teams must have an adult sponsor or coach. Teams competing online may have any number of students, but those competing in-person must have four to five students.

Middle school or “junior varsity” teams may sign up and participate in an online-only competition designed especially for students in grades 6-8 from September 2014 to February 2015. Winners will be recognized online.

Registration is free and can be done online at www.lifesmarts.org. Those interested in forming a team may contact LifeSmarts State Coordinator Theresa Kong Kee at 587-7400 or via email at tkong-kee@dcca.hawaii.gov.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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FEATURE

Iglesia Ni Cristo Celebrates Centennial



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

If you came to ask for money, I don't have any," exclaimed President Ferdinand Marcos as we were ushered into his Makiki Heights office in Honolulu. I was with former Assemblyman Nemesio V. Ganan, Jr. of Romblon.

"No sir, we did not come to ask for money," I answered, emphatically. "We attended the dedication of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) chapel in Waipahu and we stopped by to pay our respects to you before going back to San Francisco. But if you think we came to ask for money, we are leaving. Good-bye."

"I'm so sorry," Marcos apologized. "Everybody who comes to see me these days asks for money, even the relatives of Cory."

"Who, sir?" I asked. "Never mind," he remarked. (I later learned who they were, accompanied by an Ilocano congressman).

"I did not know you were Iglesia," Marcos remarked. (I had known Marcos since 1949. Roque Ablan, Jr. and I learned how to drive using Manong Andy's car. Roque's father, who was the Governor of Ilocos Norte when Marcos was tried for murder, provided Marcos with special treatment in jail, including giving him a set of law books so he could review for the bar. My mother and Marcos's mother, Dona Josefa, both teachers, would go out to raise bail money for Marcos but their efforts were in vain because the judge denied bail).

"You know, I believe that the Iglesia Ni Cristo is the true church," Marcos said.

"What makes you say that, sir?" I inquired.

"How can the Iglesia be so successful, building all these churches with thousands of people joining? God must be behind it," Marcos explained.

"Sir, may I ask you then to join the Iglesia? You will be my first convert," I said.

"I have already changed my religion once. It is too late for me to change it again," Marcos demurred. (The Marcoses were originally Aglipayans before he became a Catholic. Their home in Batac, Ilocos Norte is directly across from the first Aglipayan church in the Philippines).

"I know your parents. You were not an Iglesia ni Cristo at birth, you were Protestants. What made you join?"

"Only my mother was Protestant, my father was Catholic. I went to the church of whoever I was courting," I joked. Marcos laughed, shaking his head.

Common Sense Doctrines

My fiancée, Natividad Valerio, was a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo. She personally introduced me to Brother Erano G. Manalo, then the Executive Minister of the Iglesia. He is the father of Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the current Executive Minister, and the son of Brother Felix Y. Manalo, the first Executive Minister. I asked Ka Erdie to officiate our wedding but he said that if he did it, every Iglesia member would ask him the same, so he offered to be our wedding sponsor.

I did not join the Iglesia simply to marry a beautiful woman. Iglesia doctrine prohibits members from marrying outside the faith. Before I joined, I attended at least 20 indoctrination sessions listening to the Iglesia's history and doctrines. I would not have joined if I did not agree with the Iglesia doctrines. I found that the doctrines are based not only on the Bible but reflect common sense.

Foremost is that the Iglesia believes that there is only one God, not 3 nor 33. That is the first commandment. The Iglesia believes that Jesus

Christ is a man, not God. Indeed, for if Jesus Christ was God, how come he died? God does not die. Jesus Christ may be the Son of God, but that does not make him God.

The Iglesia members do not eat blood. That is the dirtiest part of an animal. I tried it once when I was a child during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. I found it yucky. This is especially true of the Tagalog version called "dinuguan" where the meat is literally swimming in cooked blood. At least the Ilocano version called "dinardaran" is tolerable. It is cooked like adobo. When I was in London for the wedding of Kate Middleton and Prince William, I went to breakfast and asked the waiter, a Filipino, what the sausage was made of. "Blood," he answered, "try it, it is delicious."

"I am Iglesia," I told him, "I do not eat blood." "I am Iglesia too, but I will not report you," he assured me. "God is watching," I told him.

The most difficult doctrine of the Iglesia was voting as one in the elections. I told the minister who was teaching us that I did not want anyone telling me what to do.

"But does not your wife tell you what to do?" he asked. "No, I am not married," I replied. "You went to U.P. (University of the Philippines), did you not belong to a fraternity?" "Yes, in fact I was the Lord Chancellor of a fraternity, the Alpha Phi Beta," I replied. "Don't the fraternities

vote as one?" he asked. "Yes, that is the essence of brotherhood—unity," I told him. "But the fraternity leaders first assess the qualifications of the candidates with input from the members and then the head of the fraternity makes the final decision."

"That is the same with the Iglesia," the minister explained. "You mean I can suggest to Ka Erdie whom the Iglesia should vote for?" I asked. "Sure," the minister replied. Since joining the Iglesia, I have suggested to Ka Erdie whom to vote for in Philippine and American elections and he always accepted my suggestion, even when my suggestion was not

the llamado (favored winner). All the candidates I recommended won, including Danding Cojuangco, but he was cheated of victory, according to former Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez who knows how to count accurately. I also suggested to Ka Eduardo during the last Philippine presidential election whom the Church should vote for as president but he did not accept my suggestion. Millions are now suffering from voters' remorse.

Origin of Iglesia Ni Cristo

The Church of Christ was actually established by Jesus Christ, hence the name. But

(continued on page 10)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Robin Williams Was An Honorary Filipino American, Gone Too Soon

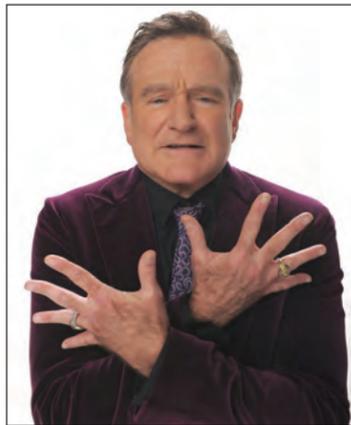
No, Williams convinced me I wasn't funny enough.

I remember seeing Williams pre-Mork, as a comic who loved to wear T-shirts and rainbow suspenders, at the open mikes in San Francisco.

Since the 70's, Robin Williams had always been my go-to funny man. But also the world's.

When we lost our sense of humor, or when the events of the day from the Middle East, the Ukraine, Asia, Washington, and down our block, made us cry "No Mas," we always knew Williams was there to remind us of the potential to have one more laugh. A side-splitting, yet consoling laugh. A laugh that reminded us that things really were all right. That if the world was going to hell in a hand basket, at least the hand basket was Mrs. Doubtfire's.

Williams was pure comic fusion—a volatile mix of en-



ergy and heat that could explode into mirth at a moment's notice.

And would anyone dare refute that in the world's current state we need Williams' counteractive force more than ever?

But we need it live, on stage, with all the humor he could wring from the moment. Any moment. He had the gift to create laughs.

When Williams went on the Tonight Show, he would take over the stage, riff and improv like a jazz man. And leave everyone in stitches as

he did in his first appearance on "The Tonight Show." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr1DSL0Hni0>)

My lasting memory of Williams will always be with a mic on stage at an old comic's dive that smelled of beer and urine. I had seen all the comic greats at the time. Woody Allen. Richard Pryor. Bob Hope. I had grown up as a kid in San Francisco a standup aficionado. And now in little rooms like the Holy City Zoo, the Other Café, and the Intersection, standup was undergoing a renaissance Not in New York, or Los Angeles, or Vegas. But in San Francisco. It would turn into the first modern comic boom in the 80s, the antecedent to all that we see today on cable and the clubs. But in the beginning it was just a handful of comics like Robin Williams, Dana Carvey, Kevin Pollack, that were all spawned in the Bay Area standup scene.

At the open mikes in the mid-70s, it wasn't hard to discover Williams. He was so immensely great, so bright, as a nobody, it convinced a nascent standup like me to sit down and go into journalism instead.

Years later, as a reporter, I interviewed Williams a number of times when he was major star. In a Bay Area where the rock music makers were king, Williams was the all-around entertainment giant. TV, film, stand-up. But it was often hard to catch him calm enough to talk and be real. I always talked to him on the fly when he was way too revved up after a performance to give me more than a perfunctory answer, which led to a joke.

He was always looking for a laugh. That was his truth.

EMIL GUILLERMO, an award-winning journalist and winner of an American Book Award, was an editorial board member of the Honolulu Advertiser.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Kerry Eyes US-China Partnership Despite West Philippine Sea Tensions

HONOLULU — Improving U.S. cooperation with China is critical to maintaining stability and security in the Asia-Pacific

as well as combating the effects climate change, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday.

Wrapping up an eight-day,

around-the-world diplomatic trip and his sixth visit to Asia as America's top diplomat, Kerry outlined renewed priorities for much of the Obama administration's much-touted "pivot to Asia" during its final 2 ½ years, including a focus on strengthening U.S.-Chinese partnership in areas of agreement and bridging gaps in areas of contention.

"One thing I know will contribute to maintaining regional peace and stability is a constructive relationship between the United States and China," Kerry said in an address to the East-West Center think tank in Honolulu. "The United States welcomes the rise of a peaceful, prosperous and stable China: one that plays a responsible role in Asia and the world and supports rules and norms on economic and security issues."

"We are committed to avoiding the trap of strategic rivalry and intent on forging a relationship in which we broaden our cooperation on common interests and constructively manage our differences and

disagreements," he said.

Kerry arrived in Hawaii after stops in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Australia and the Solomon Islands during which tensions between China and its smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea were a major subject of discussion. At a Southeast Asia regional security forum in Myanmar over the weekend, Kerry formally unveiled a U.S. proposal for a voluntary freeze on provocative actions by all claimants, including the Chinese.

The U.S. says that it has no position on the competing claims but does regard stability in the South China Sea as a national security issue, given the region's role as one of the world's busiest maritime shipping zones.

"We do care about how those questions are resolved, we care about behavior," Kerry said. "We firmly oppose the use of intimidation, coercion or force to assert a territorial or maritime claim by anyone. And we firmly

oppose any suggestion that freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea and airspace are privileges granted by big states to small ones. All claimants must work together to solve the claims through peaceful means. These principles bind all nations equally, and all nations have a responsibility to uphold them."

While welcomed in general by the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China took a dim view of Kerry's proposal and suggested it would not agree.

In an apparent nod to such disagreements, Kerry said that building better ties with Beijing will not be easy or inevitable.

"Make no mistake: This constructive relationship, this 'new model,' is not going to happen simply by talking about it," he said. "It's not going to happen by engaging in slogans or pursuing spheres of influence. It will be defined by more and better cooperation on shared challenges. It will be defined by a

(continued on page 11)

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ASK A DOCTOR

Two Diseases Filipino-Americans Should Not Ignore

By Dr. Errol Buntuyan

As a family medicine physician on Maui, it's my job to recognize and address a number of different diseases in a variety of patients. Having immigrated to Los Angeles from the Philippines when I was a child, I am also particularly cognizant of medical conditions that tend to appear more in Filipino-Americans. There are two, in particular, that are especially worth noting, because they can have serious impacts on your health and quality of life.

Gout

Most people have heard of gout, but probably don't know too much about the condition. It's probably best known for creating excruciating aches in

the joints, usually a big toe, though the pain can also occur in the foot, knees or other joints.

Gout is more common in men, and occurs when there's too much of a chemical called uric acid in the blood. For some, higher uric acid levels may never cause a gout attack, but for others, that uric acid can lead to the formation of hard crystals in the joints.

Overall, Filipino-Americans seem to have higher levels of uric acid, increasing their risk of gout. It's not entirely known why this happens, but scientists suspect it's a combination of several factors including genetics and diet.

Gout can be treated with anti-inflammatory medicine – though not aspirin, which can actually increase uric acid levels in the blood.

Dietary changes are also critical to treating and preventing future gout attacks. These changes include limiting meat,



seafood and alcohol, especially beer. It's also important to drink lots of water, which can help to reduce levels of uric acid in the body.

High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a particularly insidious health issue that should be taken very seriously when diagnosed. Because hypertension rarely comes with symptoms, it can be easy to ignore and cause long-term damaging effects to the body's organ systems.

Filipino-Americans, in

particular, have high rates of cardiovascular disease. Of all Asian subgroups, Filipino-Americans report the highest rate of hypertension at 27 percent.

As physicians, we're concerned about hypertension, because it literally puts pressure on the body from the inside, with the potential to damage your heart, blood vessels and kidneys, among other critical organs and structures.

It is relatively easy to get a blood pressure reading, either at the doctor's office or at many drug stores, and it is a set of numbers you should know for yourself. (Normal blood pressure falls below 120/80.) If you're hypertensive or pre-hypertensive, medication can help to lower this number, and it's especially important that you stay consistent in regularly taking your medications as prescribed.

No doubt you've heard about the implications of salt,

or sodium, in the diet and its link to high blood pressure. The average American consumes much more salt than advised; in fact, those with high blood pressure or are at high-risk of high blood pressure should keep their daily sodium consumption to under 1,500 mg per day. This can be challenging when eating a high-sodium Western diet, in which a slice of whole grain bread alone can contain a startling 450 mg of sodium.

Some simple ways to reduce your salt intake include using low-sodium alternatives when cooking, including using herbs and spices as flavor-enhancers, instead of salty rubs and marinades.

DR. ERROL BUNTUYAN is a family medicine physician at Kaiser Permanente's Maui Lani Medical Office. He was born in the Philippines and attended medical school at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. He did his residency in Los Angeles, CA and joined Kaiser Permanente in 2007.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS



**Master Plan for Yolanda-hit
 Areas Completed**

by **Cecille Suerte Felipe**
 Monday, August 4, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - A master plan for areas devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda has been completed.

Speaking over radio dzBB, presidential assistant for rehabilitation and recovery Panfilo Lacson over the weekend said he submitted to President Aquino last Friday a comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery plan covering 171 cities and municipalities in 14 provinces spread in six regions.

"I would just like to emphasize that my office has no power of implementation," he said in Filipino.

"Our task is to draw up a master rehabilitation plan. I will have to discuss

that matter with the President. What will be my next task? Or do I have a task?"

Lacson called for public vigilance in monitoring the implementation of the rehabilitation and recovery plan since the government has allocated about P170 billion for the project.

"With the help of some NGOs, USAID, UNDP, e-PLDT-SMART, which will be our web-hosting, anyone can just click a link in the computer and can immediately see the house built from a certain donation," he said.

The public can check the implementation of the project through a website "empathy," or electronic monitoring program accountability and transparency hub, which his office will set up soon, he added. (www.philstar.com)

FEATURE (From page 6, PHILIPPINE...)

the original members of the Church of Christ became apostatized. However, the Church of Christ (in Tagalog, Iglesia Ni Cristo) was re-established in the Philippines on July 27, 1914 when its articles of incorporation were registered with the government. Brother Felix Ysagun Manalo, considered the last messenger of God, led the re-establishment of the Iglesia ni Cristo. Coincidentally, the First World War began on that day.

Iglesia ni Cristo members are the most persecuted and ridiculed people in the Philippines. Once upon a time, an attractive lady came up to me and said "I heard you are a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo, is that true?" "Yes," I admitted. "But that is the church of the poor. You are not poor," she continued. "No, I am not poor, I am the poorest." I told her.

The Church of the "poor" celebrated 100 years of receiving God's love and blessings which has enabled it to expand throughout the world with members sharing their faith and performing acts of kindness with their fellow human beings. We came to the Philippines to join in the celebration at the Philippine Arena at Ciudad Victoria in Bulacan province. It is considered the largest air-conditioned domed structure in the world with a seating capacity of 55,000 people. We were

among the members with reserved seats inside the arena.

The Iglesia ni Cristo is considered the fastest growing religion in the world with an estimated 8 million members worldwide and hundreds of houses of worship in more than 50 countries. More than one and a half million attended the Centennial. Thousands camped around the arena overnight to listen to the homily of Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the executive minister. He traced the Church's history from a membership of one man to millions. He credited the Iglesia's success to God.

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 is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

NEWS FEATURE

John Kerry Recalls 'Sham' Philippine Election, People Power

by Camille Diola
Thursday, August 14, 2014

MANILA, Philippines — "I think about that moment even today, about the power of people to make their voices felt."

In an address on the US' vision for the Asia Pacific in the influential Honolulu-based think tank on Wednesday, United States Secretary of State John Kerry recalled his trip to the Philippines in 1986 as a young senator who witnessed the "sham snap election" held by late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Kerry was a neophyte senator when he visited Manila as chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Asian and Pa-

cific Affairs. He said many knew the presidential poll was to "fake everybody to prove how in charge [Marcos] was, to preserve his grasp on power."

"I will never forget arriving in Manila and seeing this unbelievable flood of people in the streets all decked out in their canary yellow shirts and banners of pro-democracy protest. Some of us knew at that time there were allegations of fraud," Kerry recounted.

"I was sent down initially to Mindanao to observe the morning votes and then came back to Manila, and was sitting in the hotel there when a woman came up to me crying and said, 'Senator, you must come with me to the cathedral. There are women there who



Secretary John Kerry

fear for their lives'," he continued.

Once in the cathedral sacristy, Kerry listened to 13 women who were crying and huddled together, "intimidated for their lives."

The women witnessed the raw tally of votes disappearing on the computer tote board that used to record them.

"They blew the whistle on a dictator. We held an interna-

tional press conference right there in the cathedral right in front of the altar, and they spoke out, and that was the signal to Marcos, it was over," Kerry said.

The top American diplomat said that the women's courage and the Filipinos' revolution "lit a spark that traveled throughout the world, inspiring not just a freshman senator from Massachusetts, but popular movements from Eastern Europe to Burma."

'Now, I think about that moment even today, about the power of people to make their voices felt. I think about how Cory Aquino rose to the presidency atop a wave of people power when few believed that she could. I think about how her husband fought for democracy, even at the cost of his own

life. And I think about how, decades later, their son would rise to the presidency in democratic elections. In his inaugural address, President Benigno Aquino said: 'My parents sought nothing less, died for nothing less, than democracy and peace. I am blessed by this legacy. I shall carry the torch forward.'

Kerry said that the Filipino people's courage in deposing a dictator inspires him to push for the US' vision for the Asia Pacific, a promising region that develop "modern rules for a changing world."

"There is still a long road ahead. But nothing gives me more hope in the next miles of the journey than the courage of those who have reached a different and more hopeful kind of future," he said. (www.philstar.com)

228 Filipino Deportees Arrive from Malaysia

by John Unson
Friday, August 15, 2014

COTABATO CITY, Philippines - A total of 228 more Filipino deportees from Malaysia arrived Thursday night in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, officials said.

The deportees were immediately ushered into relief sites in Bongao by government social workers and employees of the Tawi-Tawi provincial government.

Hadja Lebia Amlih, a senior provincial staff of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said 163 of the new deportees are adults, while 65 others are minors, now undergoing mandatory screening and documentary



procedures.

The latest batch of deportees were ferried from Sabah to Tawi-Tawi by the M/V MidEast, which arrived at the Bongao Port almost midnight Thursday.

The office of Tawi-Tawi Gov. Nurbert Sahali and the ARMM's Humanitarian Emergency Assistance and Response Team (HEART) have provided them with ini-

tial cereal rations and other non-food relief supplies and hygiene kits.

The ARMM's executive secretary, lawyer Laisa Alamia, said the regional government will facilitate the return of the deportees, mostly from the Malaysian island state Sabah, to their places of origin.

The Malaysian government has deported 4, 806 undocumented Filipinos from January 9 to August 12 this year alone. Some 5,000 undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia were deported from early 2013 to December of the same year.

Alamia said the Malaysian government's crackdown on illegal aliens does not single out only Filipinos. She said undocumented foreigners

from other countries have also been sent home.

Alamia, who is helping ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman

oversee the operations of HEART, said they are thankful to the governor of Tawi-Tawi, and his older sibling, Rep. Ruby Sahali, for helping attend to the needs of the deportees. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (From page 8, KERRY...)

mutual embrace of the rules, norms and institutions that have served both our nations and the region so well."

Kerry said he was pleased at some areas of current U.S.-China cooperation, including multinational talks on Iran's nuclear program, a shared interest in denuclearizing North Korea and promoting calm in South Sudan.

In addition, on climate

change, which he regularly describes as the biggest threat facing Earth, Kerry hailed U.S.-Chinese initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation as well as working on sustainable, clean energy options.

At the same time, he noted that the U.S. and China, along with other Asian nations, routinely disagree on human rights.

Kerry pointed out backsliding in rights protection and democratic principles in Myanmar and Thailand and repression in North Korea but said the United States would not relent in its drive to improve conditions.

"We will continue to promote human rights and democracy in Asia, without arrogance but also without apology," he said. (www.philstar.com)

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TRAVEL

Callao Caves: The Well-kept Secret Mecca Among Trekkers and Lovers

MANILA, Philippines - Adventurous couples seeking a unique and truly memorable place to commune with each other, with nature and with God will appreciate visiting the famous Callao caves in Peñablanca, Cagayan.



The Callao caves possess a divine, ethereal atmosphere making it suitable for a makeshift chapel — a perfect spot for traveling couples

Mere minutes away from the sweltering city center of Tuguegarao, the seven-chamber massive tunnel is situated in the western foothills of the Northern Sierra Madre mountains. With natural crevices that let in streams of light, the cavernous space is illuminated by an ethereal glow. One of the bigger chambers near the entrance has been turned into a chapel, where an altar has been placed right below a natural skylight. Rustic wooden

pews complete the sense of solemnity.

While impractical as a venue for full-production weddings or other religious ceremonies, the Callao caves have in fact been a well-kept secret mecca among mountain climbing and trekking enthusiasts, especially couples who find the chapel a perfect blend of romance and divinity.

Indeed, perhaps many se-

cret vows have been whispered here — with the quiet halls of the caves standing witness to professed love and undying devotion.

For the solo adventurer or less romantically inclined, visiting the Callao caves is no less an exhilarating experience. Reaching the entrance of the chamber is a test of determination, with its uphill path of 187 steps. However, the re-

wards of reaching the entrance are great, as air gushes out of the mountain and into natural vents, cooling the insides of the cave and providing a refreshing atmosphere. Unique, picture-perfect rock formations of stalagmites and stalactites also abound.

After visiting the cave and trekking back down, couples can enjoy an extended romantic date along the banks of the Pinacanauan River. A short banca ride can take lovers to the other side of the river, where the setting is equally serene — calm, clear waters with towering trees and tall bamboo framing the riverbank. A local resort in the area can serve a feast with the day's fresh catch.

As the sun sets, another daily spectacle to look forward to is the flight of bats from a nearby cave from Callao.

Travelers to Callao cave can rent a van in Tuguegarao City for a comfortable 30-

minute ride. Reaching Tuguegarao, meanwhile, is a 12- to 14-hour trip via bus from Metro Manila.

The safest and most convenient way to travel to Tuguegarao is through Victory Liner — the leading bus company plying the Northern route for the last 69 years. With ample legroom, wide seats and reliable air-conditioning, a Victory Liner trip is guaranteed to be comfortable.

Safety is also paramount to Victory Liner, with each bus equipped with Japanese-technology tacograph that alerts drivers if they exceed the maximum speed limit of 90kph.

The bus company offers daily routes to Tuguegarao and other Northern Luzon destinations on regular, deluxe, super deluxe, and first-class buses. For more information on schedules and trips, visit www.victoryliner.com or follow www.twitter.com/victoryliner-inc. (www.philstar.com)

HOME GROWN

Growing Greens in a Juice Bottle

From CtahrNotes

Summer is the perfect time for fresh green salads. If you want to grow your own lettuce, arugula, or other leafy greens but you don't have garden space, B. A. Kratky of the UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has a simple, low-maintenance method to raise them hydroponically. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using a solution

of nutrients (like fertilizer) in water. This project is perfect for lanais and porches, beginning hydroponic growers, summer activities for kids, and anyone who loves fresh-grown salads and herbs.

You will need:

- 1-gallon plastic juice bottle with a 1½-inch opening
- 1 teaspoon of hydroponic fertilizer (available at hydroponic supply stores)
- net pot (1½ x 3 inches) (available at hydroponic supply stores)



- Growing medium (combine at least two of the following: peat, perlite, vermiculite, or coir)
- Vegetable seeds (keep in the refrigerator until you are ready to plant)
- An opaque bag that fits around the bottle (recommended) OR paint

Step 1: Thoroughly rinse the plastic bottle. If you're using paint, paint it now and wait for it to dry. (You don't want light getting to the water, because algae will grow.)

Step 2: Fill the bottle halfway with water and add a teaspoon of hydroponic fertilizer. Swirl to dissolve the fertilizer, then add water to about 1½ inches from the top. The water will be cloudy, with some fertilizer settling on the bottom. If you didn't paint the bottle, cover with a bag and tie it to the neck of the bottle.

Step 3: Fill the net pot with growing medium, but don't pack it too tightly. Place the net pot snugly into the top of the bottle. The bottom half of the net pot should be immersed in the water. The growing medium should soak up the water and become moist. If it stays dry, slowly add 1-2 teaspoons of water to the net pot.

Step 4: Make a ¼-inch hole in the growing medium and plant 1 or 2 seeds. Cover the seeds lightly and add a tea-

spoon of water if the growing medium is still dry. Place the bottle in a location that gets plenty of light but is protected from wind and rain.

Step 5: A little seedling should pop out in a few days (check the seed packet). If the seed doesn't sprout, you may have poor-quality seed and may need to try again. Then leave the bottle alone. Really! Don't touch anything! You don't need to water your plant, just let it grow.

Step 6: After 5–6 weeks, harvest your delicious hydroponic greens and enjoy!

Once you've harvested, you can throw away the roots and growing medium, wash the net pot and bottle, and start all over again. Try other leafy vegetables such as pechay (pak choy), baby Russian kale, and kangkong with this method. Find your favorites and see what works best!

The information from this column was adapted from B.A. Kratky's "A Simple Hydroponic Growing Kit for Short-Term Vegetables": <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/HG-42.pdf>

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Allowed to Keep Green Card Despite Fraud

A case recently decided by the Board of Immigration Appeals involved Jin Hee Shin, a citizen of the Republic of Korea, who obtained her green card through her mother whose green card was issued through a criminal fraudulent scheme.

In 1991, Shin's mother obtained a green card for herself by paying a bribe to a corrupt officer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Shortly thereafter, her mother filed an alien relative petition on her behalf as an unmarried daughter of a lawful permanent resident. The visa petition was approved in 1992.

Shin was granted lawful permanent residence status on the basis of her mother's visa petition in 2002 and she entered the U.S. The fraud was not known to her. Her mother told her that she obtained her green card on the basis of em-

ployment as hairdresser on a U.S. Military base in Korea.

When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) found out that Shin's LPR status resulted from her mother's bribery, she was placed in removal proceedings. She applied for Section 212(k) waiver with the immigration judge who denied her request. The decision was sustained by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) finding Shin ineligible for the waiver.

The Ninth Circuit Court sustained Shin's appeal and found her eligible to apply for a waiver under Section 212(k). The court reasoned that the waiver may be granted to an immigrant who is inadmissible at entry due to the lack of a valid immigrant visa and was not otherwise inadmissible on other grounds. The case was remanded to the immigration judge to hear the merits of her waiver application.

On remand, Shin testified

that she went to South Korea in early 2003. While she was in South Korea, her brother, who was also an LPR, called her and informed her that there might be a problem with her mother's green card and that she should return to the U.S. immediately, which she did in the next two weeks.

The immigration judge denied her waiver application. The court pointed out that Shin was placed on notice that her green card was defective but she did not inquire from her mother about the problem and entered the U.S. using her problematic green card. Because she failed to exercise any diligence to ascertain information regarding her defective green card, she was not eligible for the waiver.

The BIA reversed the lower court's decision and concluded that eligibility for the 212(k) waiver depended on her state of mind when Shin applied for admission as

an immigrant in 2000 and not when she returned as an LPR in 2003.

Also, the BIA reasoned that as a matter of discretion, Shin could not be held responsible for the fraudulent acts committed by others without her knowledge. Moreover, she had a facially valid green card which authorized her to enter the U.S. She had a home and was employed as registered nurse in the U.S.; therefore it was expecting too much of her to abandon her residence in the U.S. simply because her brother informed her of a "problem" with her green card, a problem which she was not even aware of. The BIA sustained her appeal and found her eligible for the 212(k) waiver.

.....
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

A green card obtained through a fraudulent scheme is invalid. Similarly, the green card of an alien who acquires lawful permanent residence on the basis of a visa petition filed by a holder who obtained his green card by fraudulent means is also invalid and he is inadmissible to the U.S. However, he may file a waiver of inadmissibility under Section 212(k) if he was not aware of the fraudulent scheme.

A Section 212(k) waiver may be granted if the alien was not aware of his ineligibility for admission and could not have ascertained his ineligibility by the exercise of reasonable diligence.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pacman Seeks SC Relief in Tax Case

by Edu Punay
Saturday, August 16, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - World boxing champion and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee have turned to the Supreme Court (SC) for help to stop the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) from collecting their alleged tax deficiency of over P3.2 billion, including surcharge and interest, for 2008 and 2009.

In a 75-page petition filed last July 24 but made available to reporters only yesterday, the Pacquiao couple asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop

BIR from collecting the amount.

Petitioners asked the SC to also stop the implementation of a Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) order last July 11 requiring them to post a cash bond or a surety bond worth P4,947,772,341.53.

Through lawyers from the Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc & De los Angeles law offices, the Pacquiao couple told the SC that the amount set by the CTA was "effectively an impossible condition given that their undisputed net worth is only P1,185,984,697."

They said the CTA committed "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or

excess of jurisdiction" in setting the bond amounts and requiring them to post the same within 30 days from receipt of resolution.

The Pacquiao couple alleged that the BIR also committed the same offense and even violated their constitutional right to due process "in presuming the correctness of a fraud assessment without evidentiary support other than the issuance of the fraud assessments themselves."

They said the tax agency "commenced tax collection process against Jinkee without issuing or serving a notice against her" and that it also "failed to comply with the procedural due process requirements for summary tax collection remedies under Sections 207(A) and (B) of the Tax Code when it commenced summary collection remedies before the expiration of the period for Petitioners to pay the assessed deficiency taxes."

Petitioners also accused

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares of violating the procedural requirements for summary tax collection remedies under Section 208 of the Tax Code when she failed to serve petitioners with warrants of garnishment against their bank accounts.

They likewise questioned

why the BIR, allegedly without authority from Henares, increased the aggregate amount of assessed deficiency income tax and value-added tax from P2,261,217,439.92 to P3,298,514,894.35 after they filed the petition before the CTA in August last year.

(www.philstar.com)



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MAINLAND NEWS



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Kangrunaan A Galad A Rumbeng Nga Ikutan Ti Maysa A Papili A Pangulo

Iloy a benneg iladawan tayo dagiti sumagma-mano a rumbeng nga ikutan ti ti maysa nga agpapili a pangulo.

Umona: Tay tao a naigalad kenkuana ti nasayaat a pannakilangen ken pan-nakakinnaawatan iti kaaduan, maipakitana a maakona ti kalikagumanna a pagsaad.

Maiakadua: Saan a man-agidumduma iti aglawlawna, aniaman a saad, kalidad a nagtaudan, gayyem wenno saan, saan a managginkukuna

a kalangen. Maikatlo: Masapul a napakumbaba, mannakaawat ken saan a mangidumduma ti kasasaad ken kalintegan ti aglawlawna, saan a managin-lalayog. In short, he/she must be humble and understanding.

Maikaput: Masapul nga ammona ti dumngeg a saan laeng nga isu ti padeng-dengngeg, managpaliw ken

managparbeng.

Maikalima: Rumbeng nga isu ti agpatulad kadagiti kasayaatan a wagas a pagsayaatan ti grupo. Ipaneknekna nga adda wagas a pagsayaatan ti grupo. Ipaneknekna nga adu dagiti panpanunotenna a wagas a mangpasayaat ti kasasaad ken kasapulan nga iparang a maaramidan ti grupo a mangitandudo ti nakabangonanna. Ikkanna met ti pammadayaw dagiti naanep a katulonganna a saan laeng a ti biangna.

Dagita dagiti kangrunaan a galad a makita a kanayon, ti naipakita a nagapuananna ti napalabas ken agdama nga iladladawanna. Adda tay pagsasao nga "ARAMID TI PAKAKITAAN".

Sumagmamano laeng dagiti nailadawan, nupay adu dagiti rumbeng a maipakita ken maobserbar iti bukodda a panangimutektek. Everyone have their own JUDGMENT and DECISION to what they do. Dayta iti DAYASADAS ita a bulan.

☪ PALAGIP ☪

Lukipen sinuratan a napenpen ti napalaas
Usisaen dagiti benneg a siaannad
Dika agsaramadeng idatag sipapalanas
No ania, ti namsaakan aldaw a naglabas

Saggaysaen nga anagen dagiti bilin
Adda man nalibtawan ken saan
Awan ti rason no surotan pagalagadan
Bayat ta panagbiag di paginsasaan

Laglagipen ti biag saan a kukua
Naipabulod laeng aywanan kuma
Amin a nagapuanan masaminarka
No nakaibaonan naaramindmo met la ida

Inayaden a lukiben binulong listaan
No adu ti nakurangan nakaisangratan
Ita met laeng rugyamom a sulnitan

Amangan madanon panawen adut nagkurangam

Awan makapaglibak uray pugedan
Amin a paddak di ammo a masipsiputan
Uray dimo naiyebkas dimo mapaglibakan
Ta ti langit adda latta nga agwanwanawan

Kada maysa naikkan ti panawen
Mangiringpas naited nga aramiden
No naglabes wenno nakurang templaen
No ania ti utang agbayadka pagsubraen

Madanon ti panawen nga inka maawagan
Agawidka dipay nadalusan naglasatam
Ditan ti pakasagatan pakaamirisan
Nasayaat ken dakes inlemmeng maduktalan
Agbabawikan ngem naladawen anusan!

MAINLAND NEWS

'We Hear You,' US Homeland Security Officials Tell Fil-Ams



Exchange of views: Officials of the Department of Homeland Security led by Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Alan Bersin exchange views with leaders of the Filipino-American Community during a dialogue on the request of the Philippines to be placed under Temporary Protected Status at the Romulo Hall of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday. PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PHOTO/ELMER G. CATO

WASHINGTON, DC – Federal officials are seriously studying the proposal to place the Philippines under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assured Filipino-American community leaders at a meeting on August 13 at the Philippine Embassy.

In a dialogue at the Embassy's Romulo Hall arranged by Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Alan Bersin told Filipino-American community leaders the DHS is still in the process of evaluating Manila's request to place the Philippines under TPS in the wake of the massive devastation wreaked by Typhoon Haiyan last year.

If granted, TPS would allow undocumented Filipinos as well as those holding a temporary visa to work and live legally for a finite period of time in the United States. An estimated 300,000 Filipino immigrants with no legal status would benefit from TPS.

"This is a matter that is under consideration by Secretary Jeh Johnson. There are no specific deadlines, but this does require the kind of outreach, time and consideration that it is being given," Assistant Secretary Bersin told the Embassy's Radyo Tambuli after the meeting.

"I know my colleagues in the government understand the urgency of the situation and the necessity for due deliberation," said Bersin, also the Department's chief diplomatic officer, when asked if a decision on the Philippine request was forthcoming.

"We are delighted and appreciative that Ambassador Cuisia

(continued on page 15)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS • SATURDAY • August 23, 2014 • Filipino Community Center, Waipahu | 6:00 PM • Contact Bea Ramos-Razon at 778-6291 or Melody Calisay at 224 9535

INDUCTION OF OFFICERS OF CIRCULO KAPAMPANGAN • SATURDAY • September 12, 2014 •

Halekoa Hotel | 6:00 PM • For more information, contact Arturo Luna @ 233-8498

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB OF HAWAII, MISS MARIA CLARA AND MR. BARONG CONTESTS • SUNDAY • September 13, 2014 • Prince Hotel | 6:00 PM • For details, contact Bernadette Fajardo at 342-8090

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GLOBAL NEWS

DND Mulls Pullout of PH Peacekeepers in Liberia, Golan Heights

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of National Defense is considering the pullout of military personnel serving for the United Nations as peacekeepers in Golan Heights and Liberia due to the worsening conflict situation in the Middle East and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

“If they are not given proper equipment and tools for their protection, we should not continue the deployment. We cannot put our soldiers to risk,” Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told reporters in Filipino on Friday.

A military assessment re-



vealed that the deployment of peacekeepers to Liberia and Golan Heights has become hazardous.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines deploys military personnel to Liberia, Golan Heights and Haiti as part of its commitment to help the United Nations. There are 115 peacekeepers in Liberia, 332

peacekeepers in Golan Heights, and 157 in Haiti.

Gazmin said that the recommendation to pull out Filipino peacekeepers does not cover the operations in Haiti.

“We will not pull out all the contingents. It may only be done in areas that are risky because of health reasons and conflict,” he said.

The recommendation will be upon the approval of President Benigno Aquino III.

In Liberia, UN peacekeepers have been ordered to restrict their movements to avoid the Ebola

virus, which has already killed over 1,000 people in West Africa.

In 2013, 25 members of the 6th Philippine contingent to Golan Heights were seized in two separate incidents by Syrian rebels. All the peacekeepers were freed later by

their captors. UN peacekeepers patrol the demilitarized zone between Israel and Syria.

Also in the same year, a member of the same contingent was injured in a UN headquarters from mortar rounds fired by Syrian rebels. (www.inquirer.net)

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MAINLAND NEWS (From page 14, 'WE HEAR YOU' ...)

convened the Filipino-American community so that their views could be well heard and taken into account,” Bersin said.

Another DHS official who attended the meeting, Director Leon Rodriguez of the US Citizenship and Immigration Service, also said the views expressed by the Filipino-American community leaders would be helpful in their decision on the Philippine request for TPS.

Cuisia said the dialogue allowed Filipino-American community leaders and DHS to have a very useful exchange of views.

“It was reassuring to know that the US Government will give due consideration to the views of the Filipino-American Community when it makes its decision on our request for TPS,” Cuisia added.

Filipino-American leaders who met Bersin, Rodriguez and other DHS officials thanked them for the dialogue.

“We are really very grateful that they took the time to be with us to listen to the human-

itarian, legal, economic and geopolitical arguments for the granting of TPS,” said Loida Nicolas-Lewis, chair of the US Pinoys for Good Governance. “We are hoping that something will come out of our exchange of views.”

Also present in the dialogue were officials of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NAFFAA) led by J.T. Mallonga (New York), John Melegrito and Bing Branigin (Washington, DC); Cornelio Natividad and Evelyn Natividad (Illinois); Rodel Rodis, president of the US Pinoys for Good Governance (San Francisco); Eric Lachica (Maryland); Father Patrick Longalong, vice president of the National Association of Filipino Priests (New York); Grace Valera Jaramillo and Jessie Gatchalian, co-executive directors of the Migrant Heritage Commission (Virginia); Aquilina Versoza, executive director of the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (Los Angeles). They all underscored the urgent need

for granting the TPS request.

During the discussions, Mallonga, the newly elected chair of NAFFAA, said a TPS designation for the Philippines would allow the Haiyan-affected areas to immediately bounce back from the devastation.

“The more than 200,000 Filipinos who would benefit from TPS will help the Philippines go a long way,” said Mallonga. He cited a World Bank study that showed that dollar remittances to countries earlier placed under TPS

quadrupled and even exceeded the amount of overseas development assistance they have been receiving.

In his presentation, Rodis said approval of the TPS request would help the Philippines strengthen its capacity to respond to similar disasters in the future.

“The Philippines is situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire and should expect more Haiyans to come down its way. It is just a question of which part of the Philippines will be struck next and when,”

said Rodis.

For her part, Versoza said the ongoing recovery effort in the affected areas is putting a strain on the resources of the Philippines. She cited data from the US Agency for International Development that said that more than two million survivors are still without durable shelter.

“Every day is a struggle in the typhoon-devastated areas in the Philippines. TPS is one way to help us rebuild and recover,” Versoza said. (www.inquirer.net)

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