

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 24, 2015 ◆

# THE JOYS OF VOLUNTEERISM

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## EDITORIALS

## The Impact of PMAH and Other Volunteers

**A**merica is a nation run by an unseen and all too often forgotten army of volunteers, young and old from all walks of life. They help keep our neighborhoods safe, tutor and mentor children, look after the most vulnerable members of society and care for animals. According to some estimates, volunteers in the U.S. contribute some 8 billion hours annually, worth an astonishing \$162 billion—or roughly the gross domestic product of nations like Egypt. Think of the impact on our nation should these volunteers were to suddenly stop or not show up for work.

One such group that has made an impact in this world is the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), a group consisting primarily of Philippine-born and U.S.-trained physicians. Outside of the Filipino community, not much is known about the PMAH nor its local outreach efforts and numerous medical missions abroad. Through PMAH's service organizations the Ohana Medical Mission (OMM) and the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, PMAH's volunteer physicians, medical professionals, support staff and friends time and again provide free medical services for poor people across Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region. A lesser known fact is the millions of dollars worth of supplies, equipment and goods that PMAH has donated during relief and medical missions.

PMAH's medical missions and outreach projects have saved a number of lives and changed many more for the better. During their medical training, physicians often hear the saying "See one. Do one. Teach one." Such a saying is reflective of how action-oriented the field of medicine truly is. Ironically, in the Philippines where many PMAH physicians were born and raised, the practice of freely giving of one's time and personal resources was a rare occurrence. With many Filipinos barely able to eke out a living, why should one work for little or no pay? The importance of volunteering was first instilled in these young doctors during their medical training and fully realized after seeing the tremendous need for help.

We cross paths all the time with volunteers like these PMAH physicians. The next time you do, stop and thank him or her for their kindness and willingness to serve. They truly deserve our gratefulness.

## Are You Charlie, Or Not?

**B**efore taking on any debate on freedom of speech and religion in the press, it should first be stated very clearly that violence should never be justified as a reaction to what is printed.

Should acts of violence occur as a result of published material, as in the horrific killings of Charlie Hebdo's staff, it is right that communities stand in solidarity to condemn violence. Journalists and members of the media in particular have a greater responsibility to condemn the killings at Charlie Hebdo.

After establishing that violence should in no way be condoned, it's actually productive for free societies and communities to engage in debate over what should be considered morally and ethically acceptable for printing, especially in light of what occurred at the French magazine.

### No limits vs limits to freedom of speech and religion

When Pope Francis said that "There are limits (to freedom of speech)," his comment was received with criticism around the world. Even British Prime Minister David Cameron took offense, rebutting the "limit" argument. Cameron said: "We have to accept that newspapers, magazines can publish things that are offensive to some as long as it's within the law."

## FROM THE PUBLISHER



How are you doing on those New Year's resolutions? Most have vowed to lose weight or quit smoking. It's easier said than done, considering that we are almost a month into 2015. If you are still going strong, good job and keep it up! But if you've thrown in the towel, don't despair or wait until next year to try again. Instead, start small with daily goals and make lifestyle changes. You can do it!

Our cover story for this issue (see *Mission Possible: Volunteers Make Things Happen* beginning on page 4) focuses on the positive impacts of volunteering, a "win-win" action of service that brings mutual benefits for both volunteer and recipient. Our focus is on the Philippine Medical Association (PMAH) and the activities its members regularly volunteer for. Many of PMAH's member physicians have found that volunteering allows them to break free from the daily grind of running a private practice and brings them back to the very reason why they pursued medicine in the first place—to help others. PMAH, which is celebrating its 37th anniversary, welcomes Dr. Carolina Davide as its new president. Congratulations to all incoming officers of the PMAH and best wishes to Dr. Davide as she leads PMAH forward in 2015!

Speaking of anniversaries, last December 30th marked the 118th anniversary of the death of Jose P. Rizal. The event was marked by simple ceremonies held by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter and the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu. For a related story on the Philippines' national hero, turn to page 10 for *(Re)executing Rizal in the 21st Century: History, Development and Politics Entangled* by Dr. Raymund Liongson. His article delves into the growing controversy surrounding a high-rise condominium currently under construction that some say is encroaching too close to the venerable Rizal monument in Luneta. Please read the article and decide for yourself whether or not this is cause for concern.

In other news, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) is preparing for its 25th Annual Trade Mission to the Philippines from February 7-17. We wish them much success as they work to increase business opportunities between Hawaii and the Philippines.

In closing, I hope that you will take a few moments to read the other articles and columns in this issue which I am sure you will find useful and informative.

Until next time...aloha and mabuhay!

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

Cameron is right, but he also missed entirely the heart of Pope Francis' message, and the Pontiff perhaps would agree entirely with the Prime Minister's statement. The legal limit of freedom of speech and religion is not what the Pope is referring to. Rather, he is challenging the quality of content, of what is in good taste, of what is accomplished by being provocative.

Charlie Hebdo's new editor, Gerard Biard, said: "Every time we draw a cartoon of Mohammed, every time we draw a cartoon of prophets, every time we draw a cartoon of God, we defend the freedom of religion."

Now that is hardly convincing and reasonably debatable. Hebdo's cartoons very well may be legal, and even perhaps be examples of freedom of speech being exercised. But where the Pope, as well as many other religious leaders around the world, have every right to question is: does Charlie Hebdo's provocation do any good in promoting understanding between religions and communities? Does Charlie Hebdo's cartoons further polarize religious communities and exacerbate already deadly tensions in the world between Muslim and non-Muslim communities?

Drawing a cartoon of God or a prophet is not exercising freedom of religion, by any stretch.

Charlie Hebdo's co-founder Roussel agreed that the French magazine's decision to publish cartoon depictions of the Prophet



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(continued on page 3)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

# Charlie Hebdo? Or Just Adobo?



By Emil Guillermo

**J**e suis Charlie. Nous sommes Charlie.

Can you tell I was a Francophile in high school? (The man can conjugate an irregular verb!) My French high school teachers were teachers' union radicals who had an impact. I loved everything French for many years.

I even lived in Paris and on a farm in the Pyrenees. I grew to love everything French, including their screwy handwriting. I envied the Vietnamese their colonizer. They had France, while the Philippines had Spain. My love for France waned as an adult mostly because France had changed—its immigration issues, the rise of the right-wing. *Foie gras*.

But when the Charlie Hebdo murders occurred this month, it all came back. And I was in shock at the death of the French satirists.

Satire is in the blood of anyone who dares speak the truth in a derisive tone. I've done it all my life. And usually from the position of an American Filipino pricking some-

one's balloon.

Asian-Americans of Filipino descent are natural satirists in an absurd modern world, where minorities must continue to speak out or be ignored. Humor and sarcasm only make the irony bearable.

People don't always agree on what's funny or what balloon is worth pricking. Some balloons and their makers get used to all the blowing that have made them large and "prickable." They like the rich lifestyles to which they've become accustomed. And some have even learned to prick back at the lowly.

But real satirists aren't that cowardly. They understand the purpose of satire in a free society and they go after the high and mighty—politicians and kings but not the peasants or serfs.

Satire attacks to clear the air. It exposes the truth so that people see the big picture. And hopefully, it's all accompanied by an explosion of laughter. And more discussion.

It's the gift of free speech in an open society. Free speech begets more speech. You discuss, you talk (or write). You spend hours at the sidewalk cafe with others, nursing your *demi-tasse*. And that's at the crux of the Charlie Hebdo murders in Paris.



The response from the gunmen was an attack on the way we do it in a free, civilized and democratic society. Satirical barbs are invitations to debate, not for bullets. The gunmen disagree. I wish they had drawn a cartoon rebuttal.

When I first heard the news, I couldn't believe the headlines that included the line "a French satirical magazine." I didn't want people to think the satirists were somehow lower in the food chain than, say, the writers at *The New York Times*.

The fact is they were journalists. A truth-teller is a truth-teller. It takes courage to do that in these days when the more truth you tell, the more it costs you. For the cartoon satirists at Charlie Hebdo, it cost them their lives.

The magazine, known for skewering the au-

thoritarians in government, religion and the military, had the right targets. Charlie Hebdo had the sharpest sticks. And the most courage. It's interesting now how some journalism organizations won't even publish some of the cartoons of Charlie Hebdo. But the *Washington Post* will.

So now it's our turn as a global society to respond courageously to those who will bully us into silence. Salman Rushdie issued this recent statement about the killings:

*Religion, a medieval form of unreason, when combined with modern weaponry becomes a real threat to our free-*

*doms. This religious totalitarianism has caused a deadly mutation in the heart of Islam and we see the tragic consequences in Paris today. I stand with Charlie Hebdo, as we all must, to defend the art of satire, which has always been a force for liberty and against tyranny, dishonesty and stupidity. Respect for religion has become a code phrase meaning "fear of religion." Religions, like all other ideas, deserve criticism, satire, and, yes, our fearless disrespect.*

It applies to all religious zealots and maybe to a lesser degree, the nuns I knew with their deadly rulers.

Conan O'Brien, whom I last saw in a jester's outfit in college at the Harvard Lamppoon, said this on his show:

*All of us are terribly sad for the families of the victims to the people of France and for anyone else in the world tonight who now have to think twice before making a joke. That's not the way it's sup-*

*(continued on page 6)*

**EDITORIALS (from page 2. ARE YOU CHARLIE, OR NOT?....)**

Mohammed went too far.

According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Mohammed is considered blasphemous.

The repeated, and continuous printing of Mohammed caricatures, is clearly within the magazine's legal right to do so. But considering how offensive this depiction is to millions of Muslim faithful, is it ethical or moral? – this is what's being called into question.

Perhaps the goal of the staff was to challenge fundamental, extremist thinking and ideas with regard to religion. News commentators and editorial writers are constantly challenging the inner-workings of political and economic institutions, as well as political and business leaders. Why should religious institutions be an exception? – is perhaps what the magazine staff had in mind. This is a very legitimate argument. Where problems arise is in the nature of cartoons. They are made to poke fun and are almost automat-

ically perceived as making a mockery of the subject or issue. Political cartoons are widely accepted by most people as simply humor. The same level of acceptance can't be made of religious cartoons.

Maybe as a society, particularly outside of the western world, we are not at that place where religion or God could safely be made fun of, for whatever point a newspaper or editorial cartoonist is attempting to make. Maybe we may never get to that point and some things ought to remain simply sacred.

This is perhaps what's behind the question: "Are you Charlie?" (pro-freedom of speech without limits and taking a stand against fundamental extremism) or "Not Charlie? (believers that there should be limits to freedom of speech and that some things should remain sacred). At the very least, at this point in society, the majority of people can all agree no matter which side of the fence you stand on this debate, there is no justification for violence.



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## COVER STORY

# Mission 'Possible': Volunteers Make Things Happen

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

**L**ast December, 15-year-old Renee Galolo, with bell in hand, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with two other teens at the entrance to Wal-Mart on Keeaumoku Street.

"Thank you," they say in unison to a middle-aged woman, who drops a handful of coins into the bright red Salvation Army kettle.

The trio—classmates from Hawaii Baptist Academy—cheerfully smiles at passing customers whether they give or not. The girls volunteered this particular Saturday morning to ring bells for the Salvation Army as part of a service project for their service club Interact, which requires a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer work each semester.

"Volunteering is a way for me to give back to the community," Galolo says. "It feels good to be able to help others."

The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign raises much needed-funds that allow the non-profit to provide food, shelter and social services to those in need. Donors may think their spare change is a drop in the bucket, but in 2013, the campaign raised nearly

\$136 million nationwide.

From counting whales, to feeding the homeless, to preparing for natural disasters—local non-profits like the Salvation Army depend greatly on volunteers. Last year, Salvation Army volunteers donated over 182,000 hours for various service projects statewide.

"Volunteers are essential to our work," says Victor Leonardi, divisional community development manager. "They help keep our costs down, which in turn allows us to spend more money on our programs and services directly for those in the most need. Volunteers help us carry out our mission in a grander way than we could with just our limited staff."

#### Aloha From PMAH

One particular organization whose members regularly volunteer their time and resources is the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH)—



Ohana Medical Mission's doctors and volunteers during a mission to Davao December 12-15, 2011.

an organization founded in 1978 that provides medical care to immigrants, those without medical insurance and needy people overseas.

PMAH marks its 37th Anniversary with a gala celebration and installation of its officers and Board of Governors on January 24, 2015 at Hilton Hawaiian Village's Tapa Ballroom. The evening is aptly themed "The Joys of Volunteerism"—considering the organization's deep involvement in community projects via the Ohana Medical Mission (OMM) and Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW).

"We wanted the theme to inspire members and others to be aware of our affiliate organizations and eventually get involved," says Dr. Carolina Davide, PMAH's new president. "We need to encourage the next generation of physicians to join these organizations."

OMM was established by PMAH members in 2009 to provide healthcare and health education to indigent patients in the Philippines, Hawaii and other countries. Since then, OMM has sent doctors on missions to Isabela, Davao, Cabanatuan, Bicol, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Quezon City. A team of 40 doctors and other medical volunteers were also sent to Tacloban and the Visayan region in late 2013 and 2014 to assist in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. Just re-

cently, OMM volunteers returned from a mission to Burma, headed by physicians Josephine Waite, Vernon Ansdell, Seiji Yamada and Eddie Lim.

Amazingly enough, OMM is gearing up for yet another mission to the Philippines scheduled for February 14-21, 2015. Some 10 doctors from U.S. and 20 more from the Philippines will be providing free medical services to the poorest of the poor living in select barangays in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City; Agudo, Mandaluyong; and Gerona, Tarlac. The team will also treat the poor people in the Bicol Region of Naga City, Legazpi City and Bacacay, Albay.

In addition to doing dental work and minor surgery, OMM's volunteer physicians will donate about \$200,000 worth of medications, along with 5,000 gently used eye glasses collected by the Aiea Lions Club and useful gifts like toiletry items, soap and rice.

Dr. Charlie Sonido says that the volunteer physicians look forward to each and every mission.

"We have a few new faces for this mission but most are repeat volunteers," Sonido says. "Our volunteers have discovered that giving of oneself without thought of reward not only brings deep joy and satisfaction but can be also very addicting."

Mrs. Teodora Villafuerte,

who hails from Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, is a repeat mission volunteer. She intends on going on a seventh mission—and even more, so long as her health holds up.

"In my own small way, I'm giving back to the community that raised me," she says. "I feel good when I see that I have made a difference in people's lives."

Sister organization BCWW provides dental and medical services for newly-arrived and medically-uninsured immigrants of all ethnicities. At times, BCWW goes beyond the call of duty to help those in life-and-death situations. One such person is leukemia patient Jezreel Juan, 20, who recently immigrated to Hawaii from Ilocos Norte.

Life-saving treatment for Juan's acute leukemia was available only at Stanford University, but unfortunately, his family could not afford the plane ticket, accommodations and related expenses.

BCCW generously picked up the tab for Juan who received medical treatment at Stanford for his leukemia, which is currently in remission.

"They had given up on this young man who was going to be placed in hospice care but he beat the odds," says Dr. Nicanor Joaquin, President of BCWW. "We're so grateful for success stories like Jezreel's which makes everything we do worthwhile."

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, MISSION...)



Volunteers in action during previous medical missions in Ilocos and Leyte.



BCWW President Dr. Nicanor Joaquin presents a life saving monetary gift to leukemia patient Jezreel Juan.

**Volunteerism in Action**

Kailua resident Tess Bernales has participated in no less than three medical missions to various provinces in the Philippines. For her, helping others was an important lesson that she learned early in life.

“My family has always been helping people in need,” she says. “Having observed this while growing up, I developed a sense of responsibility to give back and help the less fortunate.”

As a youngster in Laur, Nueva Ecija, the Philippines, Bernales volunteered at a nearby elementary school and church during the summer. She continued to volunteer as a college student at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), where she and fellow students, through a local parish church, worked with families from the slums of Sampaloc.

“We made sure that their children attended school,” Bernales recalls. “I helped students with their homework and encouraged them to attend Sunday mass regularly. In those days, interacting with the slum dwellers was unheard of.”

PMAH member Dr. Romeo Perez says volunteering is uncommon in the Philippines and that students rarely donated their spare time to a charity or worthy cause. However, that didn’t stop him from participating with his church group’s summer camp in Batangas City.

“I joined the United Church of Christ for a six-week long summer camp helping pastors,” he says. “It’s eye-opening to realize that doing even small things can have a big impact on others.”

The bottom line, Bernales

says, is that volunteering is good for one’s soul.

“When you have helped someone in need, you feel a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment that in your own little way you were able to help and make a difference in the life of a person,” she says.

PMAH member and repeat medical mission volunteer Dr. Jose de Leon agrees wholeheartedly. As a pre-med student, he joined a group of college students in developing a hillside parcel for the Badjao tribe in Zamboanga—Muslim seafarers who spend much of their lives on the ocean and never owned property. The young volunteers spent weeks toiling daily under the hot sun, surveying the land, leveling the hill and filling in a nearby lake.

“My job was to signal the dump trucks to the edge of dirt pile to dump the soil into the lake,” de Leon recalls. “We ate rice and sometimes just sugar.”

The students also endured the threat of physical harm. The males were warned not to look a Muslim girl in the eye and to refuse offers of cigarettes. At night, the group slept in elementary classrooms but constantly awoke to the sound of rocks landing on the building’s tin roof.

“We later learned that Muslim teenagers who hated or were afraid of Christians were the ones who threw the stones,” de Leon says. “That was the sad part of the mission.”

When the volunteers completed their task, each Badjao tribal family was given its own parcel—much to their surprise and delight.

“They cried and we all hugged,” de Leon says. “Al-

though they are seafarers, they were very proud of being landowners for the first time.”

It was an experience that de Leon says he will remember for the rest of his life.

**Benefits for Young Volunteers**

Teenagers and young adults have much to gain from volunteering. Be it at school, church or other non-profit organizations, youth volunteers can enhance their knowledge, learn useful interpersonal and organizational skills and how to deal with problems, challenges and different types of personalities.

High school students find that volunteer work can help them get noticed when applying for college scholarships and financial aid.

“Volunteer activities can help give young people an edge in college admission,” says Dr. Perez. “Their volunteer work illustrates their interests and character. When they list volunteer work on college applications, they show admission officers the value they will bring to their campus community.”

For OMM mission volunteer Dr. Seiji Ya-

mada, volunteering starts when people are willing to step out of their comfort zone and keep an open mind.

“When you volunteer on behalf of the underserved, you gain the opportunity to learn about what their lives are like,” says Dr. Yamada, who joined OMM’s missions to Leyte and Cebu to help victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan.

Dr. Davide and her teenage daughter Anna were members of that same Leyte mission, which she admits was the most difficult but a

memorable one she has ever participated in.

“We were able to alleviate some of the pain and suffering of the people,” she says. “One feels the inner joy when you help others outside your comfort zone.”

“It also set an example to my daughter about the importance of giving back to the community and strengthened our relationship since we worked as a team to help others. Hopefully, she can continue to do the same on her own.”

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Rizal Day Commemorated

By Jun Colmenares, Ph.D.

**T**he 30th of December – Rizal Day to Filipinos – marks the death anniversary of the Philippines’ national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. On this day 118 years ago, the Filipino patriot was executed by firing squad by the Spanish authorities after a rigged trial that found him guilty of rebellion, sedition and conspiracy. His death provided the spark that ignited the Philippine revolution against Spain and eventually brought about the emergence of an independent Filipino nation.

Rizal’s death anniversary was commemorated in Honolulu in two separate events. The Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter held its event on December 28, 2014, while the

Philippine Consulate General held simple rites on December 29, 2014.

## Knights of Rizal Event

The Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter’s celebration started at 3 pm at the Philippine consulate lanai, and was opened with welcome remarks by its chapter commander, Sir Arnold Villafuerte, KCR. It included the dubbing of Sir Alex Vergara as the newest member of the fraternity. Sir Alex Vergara, a chaplain by profession, is currently the president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. The knighting ceremony was followed by a speech from the guest speaker, Sir Frank Condello II. Introduced by Sir Alex Escasa, KR, Sir Frank is a recently retired federal law enforcement officer. He is a past Grand Master of Masons in Hawaii, and he

talked about Rizal’s Masonic affiliation, an aspect of his life that many are not aware of. After closing remarks by Sir Raymund Liongson, KGOR, area commander for Hawaii Western USA, members of the Order and their guests partook of a simple *merienda cena*. Sir Ryan Fernandez, KR, served as master of ceremonies.

## Philippine Consulate General Event

The Philippine Consulate General commemorated the event in simple ceremonies at the consulate grounds starting at 8:30 am. Attended by consulate staff and their families, members of the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter and some community members, and with Vice Consul Joyleen Santos serving as the emcee, the program started off with a flag-raising and the singing of



the Philippine national anthem. This was followed by wreath laying and lei offering by the Philippine consulate and KOR leaders, respectively. Acting Consul General Roberto Bernardo welcomed those in attendance and touched upon the significance of Dr. Rizal’s martyrdom to the Filipino people. His remarks was followed by a “response” from Sir Raymund Liongson, KGOR, represent-

ing the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter, who talked about the ongoing construction of the Torre de Manila, a 48-storey condominium, which has defaced the view of the Rizal Statue in Luneta – an action which he likened to a re-execution of Dr. Jose Rizal (see accompanying article). After a photo op, the group retired to the consulate lanai where a brunch of Filipino food was served.

# Schatz Co-Introduces Bill for Federal Worker Raise

Federal workers would receive a 3.8 percent pay raise during 2016 under a bill co-introduced by



U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Ben Cardin (D-Maryland).

Supporters of the bill say that federal workers have lost over \$1 billion in salary and benefits due to sequestration and a three-year pay freeze from January 2011 to December 2013.

“In recent years, our federal workers have endured pay freezes, furloughs, and a gov-

ernment shutdown,” says Sen. Schatz. “Our bill recognizes the service of working families and gives them a well-deserved raise.”

Nearly 2 million federal workers, including more than 20,000 in Hawaii, would benefit from the proposed bill, known as the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act. Several versions of the bill were introduced last year in support of the federal workforce but failed to pass.

Federal employee unions were quick to praise the news

of the proposed pay increase. J. David Cox, National President of the American Federation of Government Employees, says the proposed pay increase will help restore federal employees’ pay after three years of pay freezes and the past two years of 1 percent increases which have been well below the recommended baseline increase.

“Federal employee pay is a critical component of recruiting and retaining the quality employees who are VA nursing assistants, Border Patrol agents, civilians in DoD who equip the troops, and those who help the elderly and the disabled obtain their Social Security benefits,” says Cox.

# JABSOM Report Confirms Physician Shortage

Hawaii residents are half as likely as mainland residents to be able to find physicians they need, according to the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Physician Workforce Assessment.

The report cites a statewide shortage of 890 full-time doctors—an amount that is expected to jump to 1,500 within five years. The number could be higher, considering that almost one-third of physicians currently practicing in Hawaii are age 60 and over.

State lawmakers are continuing to monitor Hawaii’s doctor shortage, which has made access to medical care challenging for residents on the neighbor islands and in rural communities.

The shortages are particularly acute for doctors in the areas of family medicine, gen-

eral surgery, pathology and internal medicine.

“Without enough providers and physicians, we are all at risk,” says JABSOM’s Dr. Kelley Withy. According to Withy, a local flu epidemic would overburden physicians’ offices, send patients to emergency rooms for treatment and result in higher costs for everyone. Worse yet, not everyone would receive treatment.

The Legislature will consider a handful of proposals to ease the shortage, including using unfunded state “matching money” to secure tuition loan repayment stipends for healthcare workers who pledge to work in rural or underserved areas for at least a two-year period.

The Physician Workforce Assessment is available online at: <http://www.ahec.hawaii.edu>.

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## CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, ARE YOU....)

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*Nous sommes tous Charlie. What else is there to say?*

**EMIL GUILLERMO** served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser and was the first Filipino to host a national news program.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

# Using Obama Amnesty as Weapon to Fight Deportation

house.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/20/remarks-president-address-nation-immigration.

But can the amnesty be used by aliens unlawfully in the country already out of the shadows and have been caught by immigration authorities for having violated immigration laws and are in various stages of deportation?

Why not? We have used it in three instances. First, even before President Obama made his speech on November 20, 2014 that he was going to use his executive powers to defer the deportation of aliens unlawfully in the country and that he was going to make the announcement after the elections, we sked an Immigration Judge (IJ) to continue (postpone) the hearing of a deportation case until a date after the November elections in anticipation that the President will be announcing an immigration relief pro-

gram that could potentially benefit the alien.

The IJ denied the request for continuance on the ground that it “is speculative at best” and ordered the alien deported without a hearing on the merits.

We appealed the IJ’s decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals on the ground that the IJ denied the alien due process of law and committed grave abuse of discretion as a result of which the alien suffered prejudice because the IJ ordered the alien removed even though the alien had a reasonable ground and good cause for continuance. We contended that a modicum of respect for the President should have made the IJ treat the alien’s request for a two-month continuance as a “good cause” for continuance. The period requested was not unreasonable. The President was not bluffing or speculating when he made a pre-election

announcement that he would grant relief to certain aliens who were otherwise removable. As it turned out, the President’s pre-election announcement became a reality on November 20, 2014 when he allowed parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have been in the country since before January 1, 2010 to request deferred action. The program is called Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). The alien qualified for relief because he had three U.S. citizen children and the alien had been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010. We are filing an application for DAPA benefits for the alien. Then we will ask the BIA to terminate the removal proceedings.

In second instance, the USCIS wrote to an alien that it would deny the alien’s application for removal of conditional resident status because the alien did not establish that her

marriage to her U.S. citizen husband/petitioner was bona fide. If denied, the alien would be placed in removal proceedings. We replied on behalf of the alien telling USCIS to grant the application because there was sufficient evidence to establish the bona fides of the marriage. We told USCIS that if it denied the application, we were filing an application for DAPA benefits for the alien since the alien had children who were lawful permanent residents and the alien has been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010.

In the third instance, an alien was ordered removed and is scheduled to be physically removed next year. We filed an application for DAPA benefits since the alien has a U.S.C. child and the alien has been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010.

The Department of Homeland Security has not issued forms and released spe-

(continued on page 12)

**A** great general uses every weapon in his military arsenal to fight the enemy – whether he likes the weapon or not. Similarly an immigration lawyer who expects to become great must use every weapon in the legal arsenal to fight the government who is deporting the lawyer’s clients, whether the lawyer likes the weapon or not.

The Obama immigration amnesty was originally conceived to entice aliens unlawfully in this country to “come out of the shadows” by allowing them “to stay in this country temporarily without fear of deportation.” Read Obama’s speech at <http://www.white->

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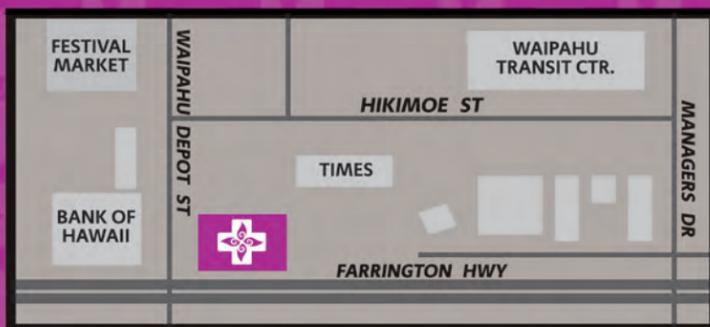


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PROFILE

# DAVIDE TAKES OVER REINS OF PMAH

By Chona Montesines-Sonido



*To be a doctor, then, means much more than to dispense pills or to patch up or repair torn flesh and shattered minds. To be a doctor is to be an intermediary between man and God.*—Felix Marti-Ibanez

North Carolina-born Dr. Carolina Davide was recently installed as president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH)—the premiere organization representing Filipino doctors in the Aloha State.

Davide has readily accepted the responsibilities and challenges that come with holding down the top post at PMAH.

“I am not getting any younger, so I decided to give it a try while I still have the energy,” she says. “But it’s humbling to lead a group of doctors with such great minds and big hearts.”

Davide joined PMAH in 2005 after being recruited by colleague Dr. Sorbella Guillermo. The 100-member strong organization is celebrating its 37th Anniversary this year. Organizers of the installation banquet settled on the theme “The Joys of Volunteerism” to emphasize the many missions and service projects PMAH undertakes each year.

“We are an organization that is deeply committed to helping others, so we wanted a theme that would inspire current and potential members to get involved with PMAH’s many activities,” Davide says.

### A Helping Hand

Helping others comes naturally for Davide, who found at a young age that she enjoys interacting with people. The eldest of four, Davide’s family returned to the Philippines after her dad completed his doctorate in soil science in Raleigh, North Carolina. She grew up in Los Banos, a university town that hosts the University of the Philippines

(UP)—Los Banos campus.

While most of her friends and family chose to work as consultants in various fields in the Philippines and internationally, Davide ended up at the Cebu Institute of Medicine where she finished medical school. However, she returned to the U.S. due to immigration issues and finished her Family Medicine residency at the University of Illinois-Chicago Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

She thoroughly enjoys being with her patients and helping see them through the various ups and downs that come their way.

“Being a doctor means that I can make a big difference in people’s lives,” she says. “Doctors are there with their patients through the stages of life—from birth to the grave and everything in-between like marriage and graduation.”

### Effective Leadership

As PMAH president, Davide plans to carry on much of the work that her predecessors have launched—addressing the physician shortage in Hawaii, mentoring young medical school students and providing member physicians with opportunities for career enhancement and professional development.

Other issues facing PMAH members and fellow physicians include the high cost of living, taxes on small businesses and the ever-changing medical bureaucracy. Addressing these difficult issues, Davide says, may require brainstorming sessions, better networking and legislative action.

When she’s not treating patients, Davide enjoys music

and dance. She studied ballet, modern dance and jazz during her younger days back in Los Banos, but has settled for dancing the hula under the tutelage of kumu Iwalani Tseu.

She is also mom to Anna, 16, a junior at Mililani High School, whom Davide describes as simply “awesome.” Mother and daughter are especially close, having spent much time together and sharing similar interests. The two attend St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church in Mililani and are actively involved in the church’s outreach programs. They have also participated in various Christmas caroling concerts and several musical stage productions that



PMAH President Dr. Carolina Davide

raised funds for Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls—an ancillary organization of the PMAH. The musicals include “Butterflies and Kisses” (2008), “Love Stories” (2010) and “Believe” (2012).

Davide brought Anna with her on a medical mission to Tacloban, Leyte only a few weeks after Super Typhoon Haiyan leveled the area. The mission—organized and financed by the Ohana Medical

Mission, another PMAH ancillary organization—was an eye-opening experience for both of them as they joined other volunteers in restoring a sense of normalcy to scores of victims’ lives.

Working under extreme, disaster-like conditions drew both of them even closer together.

“I am proud to say that she did great and was a hard worker,” Davide says.

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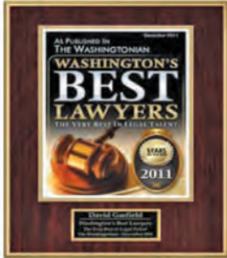
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# (RE)EXECUTING RIZAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

## HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICS ENTANGLED

by Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

**T**wice a year on his birthday and execution, we celebrate the life of a Filipino thinker and reformer, martyr and hero—Dr. Jose P. Rizal. Born on June 19, 1861 in Calamba, Laguna and executed by the Spanish colonial rulers on December 30, 1896 in Bagumbayan (now Luneta) in Manila, Rizal is an enduring Filipino symbol of rational and peaceful resistance to oppression and injustice.

Following his execution, the body of Rizal was secretly buried in an unmarked grave at the old Paco Cemetery. His sister Narcisa searched suburban graveyards for where Rizal was buried. She eventually discovered the burial site and marked the plot with the letters R.P.J.—Rizal's initials in reverse. On August 17, 1898, Rizal's remains were exhumed, placed in an ivory urn and brought to the Rizal family house in Binondo.

Fourteen years later, the government finally moved to put the urn in Luneta where Rizal's monument was to be erected. On December 30, 1912, a solemn ceremony was held to finally bury Rizal's remains at the base of the monument. A year after the transfer, on the 17th anniversary of his

death, Rizal's monument was unveiled.

### Sacred Grave on a Sacred Ground

The Rizal Monument in Luneta is no ordinary structure. It is a sacred grave on sacred ground—a memorial enshrining the remains of a patriot, martyr and hero. Considered a national cultural treasure, it is a tabernacle of patriotism, self-sacrifice, freedom and renewal. In front of the monument is the country's Kilometer Zero, the point from which all road distances from Manila are measured. The Philippine Marine Corps' Marine Security and Escort Group continuously guard its perimeter, with the changing of guards being a daily ritual. About 100 meters



Behind the Rizal monument is the Pambansang Photobomb, Torre de Manila. Photo credit: Rappler.com

north-northwest of the monument is the exact location where Rizal was executed, marked by life-sized bronze dioramas depicting his final moments.

Every 30th of December, in front of this historic monument, Filipinos young and old, ordinary and opulent, meek and wielders of power gather to commemorate the tragic but historic execution of Rizal and reflect on the life of a man who believed in human dignity and justice, courage and resistance, reason and peaceful change.

### Torre de Manila A Desecration of History

A high-rise structure is being erected by DMCI Homes behind the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal in Luneta, dwarfing the shrine and resting place of the national hero and ruining its sightline. Called Torre de Manila, the 49-story condominium is 31 percent complete and has reached 32nd floor. Future generations will call it “Torpe de Manila”—a disparaging reference to our timidity, silence and submissiveness to the dictates of unabashed wealth and power, if we allow its completion.

How did this desecration of a cultural treasure come about? It appears that we have a recipe of collusion, negligence, indecisiveness and perhaps chunks of greed and corruption.

DMCI Homes began constructing Torre de Manila in

2012, during the administration of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. Despite a Manila City Council resolution to halt the project due to zoning violations, Melvin Balagot, the City Building Official in charge of issuing permits for construction projects in the city, granted DMCI a building permit and construction continued. The Council conducted an investigation on the permit issuance and concluded that there was a “conspiracy” between Balagot and the DMCI.

The Council held a hearing in 2013 to look into the project following a protest initiated by cultural activist Carlos Celdran. In a televised forum, Councilor Joel Chua of Manila's 3rd District stated that representatives from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Development Park and Celdran attended the hearing but no department head under the mayor's office appeared.

The committee was unable to finish its report and craft a resolution due to the May 2013 local elections. The issue, for a while, was set aside and “forgotten.” After the elections, Celdran revived the protest against DMCI's project which resulted in another hearing—this time attended by all stakeholders, including executive department heads. During the hearing, the Council asked the NHCP if there was any na-

tional laws violated in relation to the erection of Torre de Manila. NHCP responded “no” and reversed its initial stand.

In reality, there are Philippines laws protecting cultural and historical heritage. Article XIV, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution, for instance, provides that “the State shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.”

Further, there is Republic Act (RA) 10066, otherwise known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, which was enacted to “protect, preserve, conserve and promote the cultural heritage, its property and histories and the ethnicity of local communities.” The same law mandates that the National Historical Institute (now called National Historical Commission of the Philippines), is “responsible for significant movable and immovable cultural property that pertains to Philippine history, heroes, and the conservation of historical artifacts.” It further provides in Section 25 that “when the physical integrity of the national cultural treasures or important cultural properties are found to be in danger of destruction or significant alteration from its original state, the appropriate cultural agency (in this case the NHCP), shall immediately

(continued on page 11)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# FCCH Gears Up for 25th Trade Mission to Philippines

Over 30 local business executives are headed to the Philippines as part of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's (FCCH) 25th Trade Mission scheduled for February 7-17, 2015.

Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui, Kauai Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho Jr. and Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin will lead the delegation, which also includes the following business leaders:

- Anacleto "Lito" Alcantara, President & CEO of Group Builders Inc.
- Jon Matsuoka, President & CEO of Consuelo Foundation
- Joey Alcantara, President of First Pacific Builders

- Patrick O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of Security Resources
  - Vernon Wong, SVP and Manager of First Hawaiian Bank
  - James Handsel of the Rotary Club of Kapolei Sunset
- The delegation is expected to make courtesy calls with Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III, Vice President Jejomar Binay and Metro Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada. The visit to Manila will include a business conference with members of Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a dinner reception ("Aloha Night") on February 10, 2015 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati.

Trade mission participants will also visit major cities in

the Philippines that are experiencing tremendous economic activities and emphasizing renewal and green technology—Manila, Camarines Norte (Labo and Daet), Cebu City and Palawan.

Cebu City and Palawan are among nine potential venues for the Philippines which will host the 2015 APEC Summit. FCCH President Paul Gaerlan Alimbuyao says that the trade mission is an ideal opportunity for members of the delegation to share their experiences when Hawaii hosted the APEC Summit in 2011.

The trade mission's 25th Silver Anniversary marks the second time that Lt. Gov. Tsutsui will lead the delegation from Hawaii. Organizers chose

the theme "Strengthening Business Links With the Philippines" to recognize the various business opportunities that the Philippines can offer Hawaii.

"As I experienced in 2013, the trade mission allows us to foster relationships with the Philippines and its people in order to facilitate current and future business dealings," Tsutsui says. "During the upcoming trip, we will continue to learn from each others' knowledge and experiences, which will strengthen our ties with the Philippines, improve our visitor industry and help grow business relations."

Consul General Jamoralin fully supports the trade missions, which she says will open doors of opportunities for more

business and trade between the Philippines and Hawaii.

Kauai Mayor Carvalho is also looking forward to the trade mission and sees it as an "incredible opportunity to build upon our cultural and economic ties with the Philippines."

"We greatly value our sister city relationships in the Philippines, and see this as a way to expand upon those connections to our mutual benefit," he says.

The goals of this trade mission are to increase business activity by promoting Hawaii and the Philippines as an investment and tourism destinations, encourage trade and economic activities across the Pacific region, and strengthen business links between Hawaii and the Philippines.

**FEATURE (from page 10. (RE)EXECUTING....)**

issue a Cease and Desist Order suspending all activities that will affect the cultural property."

Section 28 of RA 10066 gives the Commission "the power to deputize the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard and other local or national law enforcement agencies" to carry out its order(s). This is an enormous power that the NHCP squandered and failed to exercise. Why NHCP changed its position is unclear. We can only speculate whether pressure or grease or both were involved.

**Legacy vs Progress Debate**

There are those who contend that the DMCI project helps promote progress and development, citing creation of jobs and increased economic activity. We can't eat legacy, heritage and national pride, they argue. But neither can we eat freedom, human rights and dignity, yet they are indispensable.

There is no doubt that Rizal himself believed in meaningful development and progress. After all, he practiced medicine, pursued scientific studies, established a school for boys, promoted community development projects, engaged in farming and commerce, built

an irrigation system, engaged in artistic and literary works, widened his knowledge of languages and even invented a wooden machine for making bricks.

But Rizal also valued history and heritage. Annotating one of the oldest historical accounts of pre-colonial Philippines, *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas* (Events in the Philippines) by Antonio Morga, he underscored the importance of a people's history and heritage. In his works, he reflected the desirable aspirations and achievements of a nation—excellence over mediocrity, courage over cowardice, reason over blind faith, and critical consciousness over unexamined life. The erection of the Torre de Manila behind Rizal's monument is a disregard of these aspirations, a re-execution of the national hero, a relegation of history to insignificance and a triumph of distorted sense of development and unprincipled, weak—if not corrupted—bureaucracy.

**Actions Taken**

An online petition opposing the erection of the Torre de Manila has been launched and has gathered tens of thousand signatories.

The issue has also entered other arenas. Sen. Pia Cayetano, chairperson of the Senate Committee of Arts and

Culture and who began a Senate probe into the DMCI project, has taken the controversial issue into the international arena. The senator presented a resolution against Torre de Manila before the International Council on Monuments and Shrines (ICOMOS) at its 18th International Assembly in Florence, Italy in November 2014. ICOMOS is one of the most prestigious bodies promoting the protection of heritage sites and monuments all over the world. Composed of 9,500 heritage experts from all over the world, it is an advisory body to the UN Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO).

Meanwhile, the Order of the Knights of Rizal has asked the Supreme Court to issue a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against the Torre de Manila condominium project and stop the construction. In its 26-page petition for injunction, KOR expressed: "Torre de Manila does not only offend the sensibility of every patriotic Filipino, it desecrates the very ground consecrated by the blood of the martyred Jose Protacio Rizal."

In a surprising move, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) on January 5, 2015 directed DMCI to cease and desist from constructing the high-rise condominium "until such time as the commission can make the

declaration of whether or not there is actual destruction" of the national cultural treasure. DMCI, however, refused to comply, saying it will only recognize orders from the highest court.

Cultural and historical conservationists continue to wait and hope that the high court will decide in their favor. Some are also hopeful that President Noynoy Aquino, a member of the Order of the Knights of Rizal and conferred with the highest honorific rank (Knight Grand Cross of Rizal or KGCR) will intervene to protect the national cultural treasure.

**Echoing the Call**

A move endorsing the NCCA order is brewing on the island. Students and friends of the Philippine Studies program, KASAMA and Sulong Aral at Leeward Community College are organizing a picket at the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu on January 30, 2015.

"This action is an appeal to the Philippine Supreme Court to preserve our cultural and historical heritage, and it is our hope that the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu conveys our plea" the groups say.

These youth groups are

*(continued on page 12)*





**Michael A. McMann, M.D.**

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Consulate Launches 4th Fil-Am Youth Leadership Program**

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu and six other Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the U.S. are accepting applications for the fourth batch of delegates for the annual Filipino American Youth Leadership Program (FYLPro).



Fil-Am delegates of 2014 FYL-Pro

The program was launched in 2012 as part of Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.'s efforts to encourage Filipino-American youth to actively engage in their own communities and promote the development of the Philippines.

"We are giving young Filipino-American leaders the opportunity to have a better appreciation and understanding of the land where their parents came from," says Ambassador Cuisia. "In doing so, we hope to inspire them to be stronger advocates for the Philippines and the Filipino-American community in the U.S."

To date, 30 promising Filipino-American youth leaders have partici-

pated in the immersion program that includes meetings with top government, business and civil society leaders and visits to local communities. The three participants from Hawaii include Kit Zulueta (2012), Randy Cortez (2013) and Mike Dahilig (2014).

Applications and other required documents must be mailed to the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu at: 2433 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96817 or via email at: [honolulu@hawaii.twcbc.com](mailto:honolulu@hawaii.twcbc.com) no later than March 30, 2015. The names of the 10 chosen delegates will be announced on April 30, 2015.

Please contact the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu for more details at 595-6316.

**(IMMIGRATION GUIDE from page 7, USING....)**

cific guidelines on how to apply for DAPA benefits. But why wait? "He who hesitates is lost." If a client has been ordered deported or is in imminent danger of deportation, there is no time for these niceties, otherwise you will lose. File first and let the government challenge your filings. As they say in war, "shoot first and ask questions later."

**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 Magsinlal, 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](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com). This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

**(FEATURE from page 11, (RE)EXECUTING....)**

hoping to get the support of other Filipino organizations in Hawaii and call not only for the halting of the project but for its demolition.

Impossible demand? A similar case happened in Istanbul, Turkey. The Onaltidokuz Residence erected three luxury apartments that butted the sightlines of the 400-year old Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Museum and Topkapi Palace. In a landmark ruling, the Turkish Council of State, the highest administrative court in Turkey, ordered the buildings demolished.

It is our hope that the Philippine Supreme Court will rule similarly and that the highest executive chief guarantees the implementation of such ruling. Let us collectively stop this re-execution of Dr. Jose Rizal and desecration of Filipino history

and heritage. We cannot and must not erase the past to build our future!

Indeed, *ang bansang walang pagpapahalaga sa sariling kasaysayan, kailan man ay hindi mabubuo ang tunay na kasarinlan.* (A nation that values not its history will never find its true identity).

**RAYMUND LL. LIONGSON, PHD** is an associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Hawaii-Leeward. The immediate past commander of the Knights of Rizal—Hawaii Chapter, he is currently the KOR Hawaii USA Area Commander. He is a Past Master of Hawaiian Lodge Free and Accepted Masons. He is also currently a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. He obtained his PhD from the University of the Philippines-Diliman as a San Miguel Educational Foundation scholar.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Who Will be Deported Under Obama's Immigration Plan?

**P**art of the President's immigration plan announced last November 20 is the shift in enforcement policies set forth in detail in the policy memorandum on apprehension, detention and removal of undocumented immigrants.

The memo issued by Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson focuses on the deportation of unauthorized immigrants who pose threats to "national security, public safety, and border security." It serves as a guidance to agencies such as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The memo identifies three deportation priorities. Priority 1 represents the highest priority for enforcement. They include individuals who are engaged in or suspected of terrorism or espionage or other-

wise pose a danger to national security. Also included are individuals who pose as threats to public safety such as individuals convicted of felonies, aliens convicted of offenses defined as aggravated felonies under U.S. immigration laws, and gang related convictions or intentional participation in gang activities.

Individuals who are apprehended at the border or ports of entry while attempting to unlawfully enter the United States or recent border crossers are also top priority for enforcement.

Secondary priorities or Priority 2 identified in the memo are misdemeanants and new immigration violators. They include individuals with convictions for three or more misdemeanor offenses which arose out of three separate incidents. This does not include traffic offenses or local offenses for which an essential element was the alien's immigration status.

Also identified as a second priority for enforcement are individuals with convicted of a "significant misdemeanor" de-

finied for these purposes as being an offense of domestic violence, sexual abuse or exploitation, burglary, unlawful possession or use of a firearm, drug distribution or trafficking, driving under the influence, or a conviction where the individual was sentence to a time in custody of 90 days or more. The sentence must involve time to be served in custody and does not include suspended sentence.

Recent border crossers or individuals who are apprehended anywhere in the United States after unlawfully entering or re-entering the U.S. and who cannot establish that they have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since January 1, 2014 are also listed as a second priority for enforcement.

Individuals who, in the judgment of an ICE Field Director, USCIS service center or district director, have significantly abused the visa or visa waiver programs are also included.

Priority 3 represents the lowest priority for enforcement. This is accorded to individuals who have been issued a

final order of removal on or after January 1, 2014.

The memo does not prohibit or discourage the apprehension, detention, or removal of aliens not identified as priorities. However, it stressed that resources should be dedicated, to the greatest degree possible, to the removal of aliens identified as priorities for enforcement. It also states that anyone can be a target for removal if an ICE Field Office Director determines that removal would serve important federal interest.

Detention resources, as set forth in the memo, should be used to support enforcement priorities. Field office directors are instructed not to expend detention resources, absent extraordinary circumstances, on aliens who are known to be suffering from serious physical

or mental illness, disabled, elderly, pregnant, nursing or primary caretakers of children or an infirm person, or whose detention is otherwise not in the public interest.

The memo also lists a number of factors in exercising prosecutorial discretion in removing those listed as priorities for enforcement. Factors include extenuating circumstances involving the offense of conviction, extended length of time since the offense of conviction, length of time in the U.S., military service, status as a victim, compelling humanitarian factors such as poor health, among others.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Philippines Cited as One of World's Cheapest Countries to Live in

by Alixandra Caole Vila  
Thursday, January 22, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines – On a venture to find out the living cost around the world, Movehub, a site that provides information to those looking to move across countries, mapped out an infographic showing the countries with the cheapest and most expensive cost of living.

The infographic was made based on figures taken from Numbeo, a site where global users including supermarket companies, government institutions and press reports among others, submit the prices of goods and services in their country. Specifically, data

from July 1, 2013 to Jan. 2, 2015 were used in the study.

According to Movehub, "the Consumer Price Index, used to determine the difference in the living costs between countries takes into account the prices of groceries, transportation, restaurants and utilities."

The living costs in each country are measured against a base of 100, which represents New York City's cost of living. For example, the data below show that living in Philippines is 60 percent less expensive than living in New York City. Below are the 15 countries with the cheapest costs of living, according to Numbeo's data.

Meanwhile, the study

found out that Western European countries are among the most expensive places to live in. Switzerland's cost of living is highest, barely edging out Norway. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro



ith your continued cooperation and support

and in the spirit of the holidays, we gathered here celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ" kinuna ni Danny Villaruz, presidente ti Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii [ISAH] kas panangk-ablaawna iti grupo. "And with so many activities and projects we had been involved and accomplished during the years within and outside our organization, I personally say thank you to you all".

Iti sumurok-kumurang a pitopulo a nangibagi kadagiti masnop nga organisasion a kameng ti ISAH, nagasat pay ketdi ti kaadda ni Miss Oahu Filipina Lovely Orsino ken ni nanangna Ellen, dua a sigud a State House of Representatives members Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr,

# Nagpaskua Ti Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii Ditoy Parke

ken Ben Cabreros, maysa ti agdama a Representative Romy Cachola, uppat a nagpresidente iti Oahu Filipino Council, Amado Yoro, Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr., Ben Cabreros [pasado presidente ti ISAH], Danny Villaruz, agpapada a kameng iti OFCC Council of past presidents, ken agpapada a taga-Ilocos Sur, adda met ni Charlene Cuaresma, dati a kameng iti State Board of Education ken isu ti bise presidente iti the Fil-American Citizens League.

Mensahemi kas Co-Chair of the Christmas Party Planning Committee, and also co-organizers and Advisers daytoy 'action group' tay pagsasao nga "aramid ti pakakitaan" "Nothing is impossible as we have that spirit of commitment, time, and priorities and consider yourself as an 'achiever' are the key in achieving things, it is action over idea and intent. It may be immediate or in long term.

## Ti Parambak Ti Paskua Iti Parke:

Nasapa a parbangon iti December 13, 2014 Sabado, adakami iti Neal Blaisdell Park a nangitundaan kaniak ti anakko, ditoy a marambakan ti paskua: Ilocos surian way: open air, open arms, open heart, open area. Kaduamin da Al Sabangan, Art Abinsay, Roger Tapat, Danny Villaruz tapno adda napintas a lugar iti pavillion. Saanmin a naala ti masungad ta adda dagiti kakabsat nga agpalabas ti rabiida ditoy, dagiti awanan taeng, isu a ti bangir ti naalamin.

Saan nga immobra ti park permit nga innalami iti City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Nupay kasta, tim-mangkarang ti init a naraniag ken napintas ken naisem. Naki-danggay met ti paniempo nupay adda bassit palayupoyna. Agsangpeten dagiti tao.

**Dagiti nangibagi ti tunggal UNIT/TOWN ORGANIZATIONS:** Annak ti Sinait [4], Cabugao [5], San Juan/Lapog [2]m Sto Domingo [2], Vigan Assn [21], Santani-

ans [2], Narvacan [5], Candonians [4], Sinait Alumni [2]

Ni ISAH Ivp Estrella Taong nanglukat iti kararag ken nagpaay nga emcee. Kim-mablaaw ni Christmas Party Chair Al Sabangan a sinaruno ni ISAH president Danny Villaruz.

Lechon ti naisaruno a natadtad ken naiserbi kas paset ti pamaskua ti Ilocos Surian Association.

Impatayab ni Songbird of Narvacaneos Lucy Funtanilla ti dua a napintas a kanta Ilokana mainaig iti panagsina iti agas-sawa, 'diborsio and alimony'. Kaingungot ni Ms Lucy ni Mr. Louie "Agbayag" Ka Funtanilla, a nangted ti baro a bersion ti Agbiag iti AGBAYAG.

TUNGGAL presidente ti gunglo [wenno pan-nakabagida] ti kimmablaaw a pakairamanan da Davelyn Quijano, SNHSAAH, Ben Somera, Cabugao vice president; Alice Castaneda, San Juan Lapog, Roger Tapat of Sto Domingo Assn - Hawaii Chapter; Danny Villaruz, Santanians Assn of Hawaii USA; Louie Funtanilla, Narvacan; Maria Cristina White, Santi-aguenians Assn of Hawaii; Neil Gazo, Candonians of Hawaii vice president [Helen Go, president left earlier]; Amado Yoro, Annak Ti Sinait Iti Hawaii, adviser a nangipeksaanna met ti naim-pusuan a panagyaman kadagiti amin a volunteers iti nadumad-uma a proyekto ken aktibidad ti OFCC Special projects in partnership with UFCH and other organizations.

Kimmablaaw met da Rep. Romy Cachola, Jun Abinsay ken Ben Cabreros.

Awan ti nakadar-ay a kameng ti Magsingal Assn of Hawaii; Annac Ti Caoayan, Tagudinians of Hawaii, Santa Marians of Hawaii iti masnop a rason. Ngem tay pagsasao: Life must go on.

Ti PUSO no managayat ken agayat, ken aramidna ti agserbi kadagiti adda iti igid ti kalsada, awanan taeng ken pagturogan, siak mismo, as the Organizer and Coordinator of

the Mission Day Service in the Feeding the Homeless and Adopt a Highway/Park with the UFCH/OFCC and partner organizations, and the Institute for Human Services and the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highway Division for many years now I cannot close my eyes what I've seen around our tables with bountiful and abundance of foods, I shared my suggestion to President Danny Villaruz and Chair Al Sabangan to share a good service and extend to some homeless brothers and sisters at the park since early dawn. I asked Vangie Bacani, another volunteer for the feeding the homeless at the shelter to prepare plates with food and served them meals. What a good feeling to hear their expression of gratitude. Thank you Lord, kunami.

Paset ti naragsak a programa ti salip ti kinnantaan a nagpaayan da Nancy Walch, Charlene Cuaresma ken Ben Cabreros a hurado. Nangabak ti Vigan, Cabugao ken Sinait iti umuna, maikadua ken maikatlo kas panagsaganadda. Naibatay ti panagpili iti uppat a sagatan: Stage presence, Poise/Artistic, Voice/Melody, Timing/Force tig 25% a porsiento iti 100 a puntos a pakadagupan iti perpekto a puntos.

Sabali pay a kangrunaan a tampok ti programa iti pan-nakaipakdaar ti Vigan City kas maysa a kagasatan iti New 7 Wonder Cities in the World a naggibus idi Disiembre 7, 2014 ti salip manipud kadagiti 1200 a ciudad iti 220 a pagilian iti lubong.

Agpada a nagyaman da Vigan Assn president Tessie Aganon, ken Jun Abinsay iti suporta ti amin. Nagbalin manen a paset ti historia ti lubong ti pannakapili ti Vigan City iti kastoy a salip.

*Vigan is the country's oldest surviving Spanish colonial city that dates back to the 16th-century. Tourists visit this heritage site known for its cobbled streets, old houses and horse-drawn carriages.*

Napili idin ti Vigan City a World Heritage Site babaen iti United Nations Educational

(continued on page 15)

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**U.S. CITIZENSHIP CLASSES AND US IMMIGRATION COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM • EVERY SATURDAY** • February 14 - March 7, 2015 | TECH CENTER I | Immigration Outreach | 9:00 - 10:00 AM | Free Registration | U.S. Citizenship Classes I 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN | Registration Fee: \$25.00 | Please call (808) 680-0451 or email filcom

@filcom.org to register

**PMAH DINNER INSTALLATION • SATURDAY** • January 24, 2015 | Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village | 9:00 - 10:00 AM | For details, contact JP Orías @ 387-8297 or jporias808@aol.com.

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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Binay Faces New Allegation as Senate Probe Resumes**

by Louis Bacani  
Thursday, January 22, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The Senate inquiry into the corruption allegations against Vice President Jejomar Binay resumed on Thursday with a new accusation hurled at the former Makati mayor.

Binay is now facing allegations that he pocketed kickbacks from the transactions of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP), a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC).

Binay has been the president of the BSP since 1994.

In resolution filed on Tuesday, Sen. Antonio Tril-

anes cited a Commission on Audit report that discovered the allegedly anomalous joint venture agreement between the BSP and Alphaland Corp. pertaining to a Makati property of the former.

Under the said agreement, the BSP gave rights to the Alphaland over the said property, in exchange for 15 percent of the "total gross floor area of completed and

disposable units," which is equivalent to a P600-million investment.

Earlier this month, Binay was also accused of being involved in allegedly anomalous transactions in the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund).

Binay is the current chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

The vice president and his family had been accused of benefiting from various projects in Makati City including the allegedly overpriced construction of a parking building and a school building.

The Binays were also accused of hiding their ill-gotten wealth such as a sprawling estate in Batangas province and several condominiums in Makati City. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Hirono Co-Introduces Bill for Filipino Veterans Benefits**

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono and two senators have co-introduced the Filipino Veterans Promise Act which establishes a process for all eligible Filipino veterans to receive the compensation for their service to the U.S. during World War II.

The Filipino Veterans Promise Act directs the Depart-

ment of Defense, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish a process for determining whether certain individuals have the necessary service requirements to receive specific Filipino veterans' benefits.

"We have heard stories of how numerous Filipino soldiers were afraid to record their



names during World War II for fear the enemy would obtain roster lists and retaliate against them," says Hirono. "This bill will provide Filipino World

War II veterans a process to prove that they indeed served and are eligible for the benefits they've been promised."

After World War II, the U.S. Army created the Approved Revised Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, also known as the "Missouri List," based on individuals who came forward after the war to receive health

care. This list has been used to verify those who served alongside U.S. troops in the Philippines. It is possible that some Filipinos who fought were not added to this list and could be improperly denied benefits.

The senators who co-introduced the Act are Dean Heller (R-NV) and Grace Meng (D-NY).

**PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE (from page 14, NAGPASKUA....)**

Scientific and Cultural Organizations [UNESCO] idi 1999 for being the "best preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia" dati a Ciudad Fernandina ken agdama nga opisial a capital city of Ilocos Sur. Nagkaykaysa a nakidanggay a nagrag-o ti grupo ti ISAH members a nangidir-i: Agkaykaysatayo. Dayawmo—Dayawmi---Dayawtayo a AMIN!

Kangrunaan pay a pasakbay a padamag ni dati a Rep Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr., pondador ti Vigan Assn, ken co-organizer iti ISAH ken ISAH Adviser dagiti sumaganad: the 2nd President Elpidio Quirino Leadership and Humanitarian Award/Gala May 2, 2015; Mrs. ISAH 2015 October 2015; Project Marker in Barangay Ambulogan, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, boundary of Narvacan and Abra province, Revisiting the Sakada Statute at the Port Salomague, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, the Syquia Building

in downtown Vigan City, the ISAH Medical Mission on December 7 to 22, 2015; others.

Nabangon ti ISAH idi Pebrero 27, 1977 babaen iti duapulo ket dua [22] a community and civic oriented leaders manipud iti nadumaduma nga ili ti Ilocos Sur a pakairamanan ti Sinait [Manuel Cabacungan, Fred Saludes, Pacita Saludes, Amado Yoro], Magsingal [Francisco Ponce, Bert Ugalino, Mike Ulibas, Francisco Ugale], Sta. Catalina [Leon Flores], Vigan [Jun Abinsay, Mario Albalos, Peter Aduja], Caoayan [John Quiocho, Julio Quiocho, Jr, Elvin Quiocho], Santa [Ernie Cardenas], Narvacan [Macario Manzano], Santa Maria [Art Perez]; Candon [Johnny Villanueva], San Esteban [Ismael MEL Europa, Annie Lugmao, Sonia Lugmao Arranza]

Aktibo a kameng ti ISAH iti Oahu Filipino Community Council, United Filipino Coun-

cil of Hawaii. Actively involved in various community fundraising, scholarship, typhoon victims campaign drives; community outreach and services include but not limited to Feeding the Homeless, Adopt a Highway/park, Hawaii Food Bank, Walk for Fun, Health Fitness and Medical Missions, community and organizations' conventions and seminar/workshops. The Fil-Com Center and with other civic organizations' activities.

Dagiti opisial ti ISAH 2014-2016 are Danny Villaruz, president; Dr. Estrella Pada Taong, 1vp; Letty Dar Dalit, 2vp; Loida Alimboyoguen Yamamoto, recording secretary; Davelyn Ancheta Quijano, corresponding secretary; Rose Sabangan, treasurer; Lina Barnachea Mercado, assistant treasurer; Alice Castaneda, auditor; Emmie Villaruz, assistant auditor; Antonio Ipalari and Romulo Basuel, PRO; sgt at arms: Art Abinsay, Jimmy Dalit, Nemesio Dar, Al Saban-

gan, Paul Taong.

Advisers: Rep. Felipe P. Abinsay, Jr., Ben Cabrerros, Romy Cachola, Maria Etrata, Louie Funtanilla, Al Sabangan, Dr. Charlie Y. Sonido, Engr. Carlito Soria, Dr. Ignacio Tor-

res, Amado I. Yoro.

Dagiti pasado presidente ti ISAH : Atty Peter Aduja, John Quiocho, Mario Albalos, Sid Villafuerte, Rey Custodio, Ben Cabrerros, Epifanio Billeda, Julio Quiocho, Jr.

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