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◆ FEBRUARY 21, 2015 ◆

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## EDITORIALS

## Well-Loved Musician Leaves Lasting Impression

**W**illiam Shakespeare once wrote “If music be the food of love, play on.” Such words beautifully describe the life of the late Angel Matias Peña—a legendary Filipino classical and jazz composer and musician. A child prodigy in the tradition of Mozart and other great legends of music, Angel began his musical career as a guitarist and through hard work and discipline, made his way to the forefront of the Philippine music scene from the 1930s to the 1960s. He was a multi-award winning composer, arranger and double-bass player—in both the classical and jazz genres. Angel was a pioneer in composing and popularizing jazz in the Philippines’ musical culture. This musical genre came to be known as “Pinoy Jazz.”

During the 1970s, Angel was recruited as a double bassist for the prestigious Honolulu Symphony Orchestra where he performed until his retirement in the late 1990s. Angel wrote over 100 musical arrangements during his 18 years with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. Even into his twilight years, Angel remained a highly-sought after arranger and an award-winning composer whose works include Igorot Rhapsody, Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra, Bagbagtulambing Jazz Fantasy, and the immortal kundiman, Iyo Kailan Pa Man.

Angel passed away peacefully on December 22, 2014 in his home in Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, but not before living a full life that blessed many who came into contact with him. It is most unfortunate that today’s generation did not hear him play or are even aware of his musical compositions. For all of his accolades and immense musical and artistic talents, Angel remained humble, deeply spiritual and is remembered as truly a “gentleman’s gentleman.”

Angel’s passing is not a period, but a comma in the sentence of life. He may be absent in body but is present with the Lord and in a far better place. Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others, like Angel, stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same. We will miss you, Mang Angel, and bid you Godspeed.

## Public Support Dips For Floundering Rail Project

**O**ahu’s fixed rail project has received negative press of late, much to the chagrin of taxpayers. The \$5.3 billion project is now over \$900 million more than originally projected—a mind-boggling deficit that many people are finding downright unacceptable. And for good reason. City transportation officials have doled out repeated reassurances that rail would be completed on time and on budget—and that there was more than enough money in the contingency fund to cover delays and other expenses. Not surprisingly, there have been increased calls to halt the project while there is still time.

To continue funding the cash-strapped project, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) has asked the Legislature to make the collection of the general excise tax (GET) surcharge permanent, instead of letting it end as scheduled in 2022. The request is a long shot for this legislative session, considering that HART could not provide lawmakers with solid financial data as requested.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**A**nticipation is building among boxing fans as news of the long awaited Pacquiao-Mayweather fight may soon become a reality. Promoters continue to remain tight-lipped, but if approved, the megafight of the millennium would be held May 2, 2015 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, where Mayweather has fought exclusively for years. In case you’re wondering, the 36-year-old Pacquiao is 57-5-2 with 38 knockouts, while Mayweather (47-0 with 26 KOs), turns 38 later this month.



Speaking of exclusive, we recently caught up with Miss America 2001 Angela Baraquio who was in town for a special signing of her inspirational new book entitled “Amazing Win, Amazing Loss...Miss America Living Happily, EVEN After” which details how she rose above her personal fears, family tragedy and other challenges in life. If you want a copy, order it online at amazon.com or drop by Na Mea Hawai’i Native Books at the Ward Warehouse. Read more about Baraquio in our exclusive feature story on page 8.

This issue’s cover story is about the inspirational life of Angel Matias Peña who is arguably one of the greatest Filipino musicians and composers who ever lived. Written by none other than Dr. Lindy Aquino, the article covers Mang Angel’s humble beginnings, extraordinary musical talents and his contributions to the Philippines’ music scene. We hope you will enjoy reading “A Man Called Angel” beginning on page 4.

Also in this issue, Dr. Raymund Liongson, an associate professor at Leeward Community College, writes about a protest at the Philippine Consulate against the construction of a luxury condo that some say encroaches on the monument of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. Opponents of the project have called on the Philippine government to take steps to stop and even demolish the project. Please turn to page 6 for more on the protest and controversial project.

That’s all for now. Please drop us an email at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto: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—the state’s leading Filipino newspaper!

Until next time...aloha and mabuhay!

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

An even greater long shot would be for the State to stop taking its 10 percent share for collecting the GET surcharge. According to some estimates, the State has raked in nearly \$1.6 billion from the surcharge since it was implemented in 2007 and has so far received some \$156 million for administrative costs. Most, if not all, of this money has been probably spent but if the proposal gains approval, at least future GET funds can be deposited into the City’s coffers where it right-

*(continued on page 3)*

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

# TV's 'Fresh off the Boat' Reminds Me of Fil-Am Pioneers



By Emil Guillermo

**O**n general, Asian-Americans around the nation were celebrating a breakthrough last week. For the first time in 20 years, a modern Asian-American family was on display for sitcom consumption on a major network.

"Fresh off the Boat" (FOTB) is the story of how Eddie Huang and his Taiwanese family went from Chinatown in D.C. to Orlando to start a restaurant. It's Eddie's story turned into a sitcom by Nahnatchka Khan, an Iranian-American writer/producer, who grew up in Hawaii. It's Chinese in flavor but should be universal in its immigrant appeal.

One of the first episode's big jokes is the difference between "Asian lunch" and "white lunch."

It wouldn't mean much if everyone at your school brings last night's leftover noodles to the lunch room. But if you attend a mostly white school, well, don't bring the tuyo to school if you know what's good for you.

There are some things that are always true when you are the "other" in a new situation, and FOTB exploits those for laughs. But what hit me in seeing this show in 2015 is how slow the evolution has been for Asian-Americans to get on TV.



Poncie Ponce



Leon Lontoc

As a Filipino-American who was the first on one of the Big Three network affiliates in 1981 in San Francisco, I know how hard it is. That's why, just from an invisibility standpoint, the arrival of "FOTB" deserves a massive fist pump.

In fact, FOTB made me think of Poncie Ponce. Remember him? He was the first Asian I ever saw on TV in 1959—Poncie Ponce (real name Ponciano Hernandez, a Filipino-American born in Maui). He played Kazuo Kim, the cab driver in ABC's "Hawaiian Eye." (Any Connie Stevens fans out there?)

I was just four but it made an impression on me. I learned it wasn't really all that cool to be Filipino or Asian on TV or in Hollywood. And certainly not on the news.

There was another Filipino on that show named Leon Lontoc, who usually played a storekeeper but ended up as Gene Barry's driver on the network show "Burke's Law." Lontoc was typical of the Asian-American actor. His character list includes "Chief Watu Watu" in the sitcom "McHale's Navy." He's been a Chinese grocer in "Ironside,"

a houseboy in "Mission Impossible" and was Ah Yee in "Bonanza." Maybe he was Hop Sing's buddy?

It doesn't really get any better. A short list of Asian-Americans in sitcoms includes the late Filipino-American actress Sumi Sevilla Haru who appeared in "M\*A\*S\*H" and "The Beverly Hillbillies." She was also the SAG-AFTRA leader who in her later years fought for better roles for Asian-Americans.

Let's not forget legendary Japanese-American comic actors Jack Soo in "Barney Miller" and Pat Morita, who before the "Karate Kid" was on "Happy Days." Forgive me if I left out anyone, but can you see why it was a big deal when comedian Margaret Cho burst onto the scene in 1994's "All American Girl?" Asian-Americans went from bits in your white fried rice to the whole

damn main course. Unfortunately, Cho's show was a product of the times and indicative of a society still struggling to deal with the notion of a multi-cultural America. "All American Girl" was off the air by 1995.

Thirty years after the Civil Rights Act, Asian-Americans were still relatively invisible and most of society had no problem with our lack of inclusion. Now 20 years after Cho's cancellation and 50 years after the civil rights law, "Fresh Off the Boat" gives us a whole new take on the Asian-American family.

It's no better than getting more family reunification provisions in immigration reform but it's close. "FOTB" passes the invisibility and representation tests. We're back in prime time. And there's still an ethnic flavor. We're not coincidentally Asian like Mindy Kaling's "The Mindy Project" or Lucy Liu's Watson in "Elementary" or Aziz Ansari in

"Parks and Recreation."

At its core, "FOTB" is still the story of a modern Asian-American family struggling to be a part of American society.

I graded the first episode an "A." But the second episode on Tiger Mom style was a "B-plus" at best. And I really like Constance Wu, the actress. Something struck me wrong about a Tiger Mom making a sitcom morality point after running over some white dudes with her car. Comedy? Like the road runner chasing Wile E. Coyote surviving an anvil falling on his head?

So now we must ask: are Asian-Americans ready to prop this up as "must see TV?" Will others be drawn to FOTB? Will it become the Asian-American version of the "Jeffersons?" Stay tuned.

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

**EDITORIALS (from page 2, PUBLIC....)**

fully belongs. Steps should be taken to place the proposal on the 2016 ballot for voters to ultimately decide, since the State is expected to fight tooth and nail to keep its 10 percent of the GET collection.

For the time being, HART officials need to stop handing off the blame to previous mayoral administrations and realize that from here on out, the buck stops with them. It also would not hurt to continue pursuing public-private partnerships to make the most of opportunities at or near the transit stations

and to seriously consider re-engineering key aspects of the rail project. For instance, how feasible is it for the 20-mile long rail line to have 21 stations, or 1 station every mile?

Most importantly, HART must continue to cut costs and do all it can to regain the public's confidence by being transparent on every aspect of rail construction and operation. Rail is doomed if the tax-paying public is no longer willing to buy into the project. It's an outcome that we certainly don't want to see happen.

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## COVER STORY

# A Man Called Angel

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

**H**e was a precious gift to the Filipino and Hawaii community in particular and to humanity in general. And his name, appropriately, was Angel. His special gift was music and the arts which he pursued with passionate intensity during his lifetime.

Though no longer with us, Angel Matias Peña and the legacy he left behind include his talents, creativity, gentleness, humility and dedication to his craft. He was 93 when he passed on, a measure of his longstanding vitality and productivity as an artist with extraordinary qualities.

He was fondly called “Mang Anghel” by everybody, which could be transposed into various ways to express affection and great esteem. “Mang” is a contraction of “Manong” (or “Manang” for its feminine equivalent), which is a term of respect for someone truly deserving of such honor. “Mang” also sounds like “My Angel” in translation as, in this case, one’s Guardian Angel.

Who was this extraordinary individual? We will call him simply Angel in the rest of this tribute written by someone who knew him very well as a truly talented, remarkable and wonderful human being.

## His Life and Career

Angel was born and raised

in Malabon, Rizal, now part of Metropolitan Manila, the capital of the Philippines. Music was in his DNA from the get-go. He was a child prodigy in the tradition of Mozart and other great legends of music.

He was a composer, arranger and double-bass player—in both the classical and jazz genres. His talents were recognized right away by musical experts in Manila like Herbert Zipper, the famous conductor of the world-class Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO).

During the 1950s, Angel played the double-bass with MSO and on the side wrote music for LVN pictures, one of the three producers of movies in the Philippines at the time, along with Sampaguita Pictures and Premiere Productions.

In 1956, Angel formed a big band for the annual jazz concert of the Upsilon Sigma Phi, a leading fraternity at the University of the Philippines. He composed for this event “Bagbagtulambing,” which

was considered a “high watermark” in Filipino jazz music.

Angel was a pioneer in composing and popularizing jazz in the country’s musical culture. This musical genre came to be known as “Pinoy Jazz.”

Angel was on his way to national and international fame in the Philippine world of music. During the 1960s, he composed a symphonic poem entitled “Igorot Rhapsody.” The term “Igorot” is a collective reference to the various indigenous tribes in the northeastern Philippines, popularly known as the Cordillera region.

It was a big hit and Angel’s composition won first place at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) National Symphonic musical competition. UST is the Philippines’ oldest university established by the Dominican Order during the centuries-old Spanish colonial regime. Founded in 1611, it is older than Harvard.

Increasing recognition of Angel’s unusual talents came one after another. In Hong Kong, he was awarded a Licentiate in Performance and Music Theory, with Distinction no less, by the Royal Schools of Music-London. This is a most prestigious award coming from a prominent musical institution in the world. Angel’s works as a neoclassical composer are cited in the Encyclopedia of Philippine Music and Arts. It was published by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The “brain-drain” decade of the 1960s robbed the Philippines of its precious Angel, who emigrated with his family to Hawaii to join the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra (HSO). The world-famous HSO recruited Angel as its double-bass player. He was a valuable addi-



Filipino jazz virtuoso Angel “Mang Anghel” Matias Peña

tion to the orchestra.

In his 18 years with the HSO, Angel wrote over 100 musical arrangements. He visited the Philippines periodically to perform or compose music as he did before he left the country. In 1982, the CCP presented an “All-Peña” classical concert with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra playing his numerous compositions.

The glorious event was billed as a Tribute to a “Philippine Expatriate Artist” honoring Angel’s lengthy career as a Filipino musical legend.

He retired in 1987 and stayed for a while in Honolulu with his wife Josefina (Jo) and daughter Irma, a Filipino language instructor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Irma also spent some time teaching French at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. By this time, she had a family of her own. “Lolo Anghel” and “Lola Jo” spent much time with their grandchildren during Angel’s retirement.

Eventually, Angel and Jo went back to the Philippines to retire and build a home in Valenzuela, Bulacan where Angel spent the last years of his remarkable life.

His contributions to Filipino music in various genres were tremendous and universally acclaimed. His influence on the jazz genre was docu-

mented in a DVD entitled “The Story of Jazz in the Philippines.”

His later jazz compositions are recorded on a CD album called “Ugnayan,” which translates to “Connection,” and released in 2006 by the Global Studio Orchestra.

The Ateneo de Manila University Press published Angel’s autobiography, which was titled “Angel Peña: A Man and His Music.” He is enshrined in the Philippine Hall of Fame for Music.

The accolades kept coming even after retirement. The 19th Hawaii State Legislature presented him with House Resolution 029 “honoring Angel Peña for his contributions to the enhancement of culture and the arts as a jazz musician, a musical arranger and Hawaii’s own classical composer.” Hawaii was certainly very proud of him.

Indeed, the great Angel’s legacy spanned eight decades of his long and productive life in two worlds of music—his ancestral country of the Philippines and his second home in Hawaii, both of which he loved dearly. He was an international figure but it was in these two worlds that he gave his “full measure of devotion” performing and perfecting his craft as a musical artist.

Angel was not just gifted in  
(continued on page 5)



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## COVER STORY

(from page 4, **A MAN...**)

music. He was also an accomplished painter who produced a number of artistic works again showing his signature dedication and excellence as a consummate artist.

**Angel's Family and Friends**

The anchor of the small but deeply religious Peña family is Angel's spouse Jo. She was always entertaining guests in their household and still found time to attend most, if not all, of Angel's concerts. She was complimented by friends not only for her hospitality but also for her culinary talents.

Irma, the only daughter, remembers her father with fondness. "I had a very special bond with my dad, especially as a 'coffee mate,'" she wrote. "Spending as much time as I could with him enriched my life in every way with his love and understanding. He always made me feel important as his 'chokaran' (special friend). He was a deeply spiritual man who lived his faith and knew his place in the world.

"When Dad got a standing ovation after one of his concerts, he took me aside after bowing to the audience and said, 'It was really the Lord I was bowing to. I am only His instrument.'"

Angel and Jo always attended their grandchildren's activities. Irma remembers that he would always tell them, "No matter how great people say you are, remember that there is Someone greater than you."

Angel's granddaughter, Angela Peña Gosalvez, remembers her "lolo" (grandfather) with pride:

"When my brother and I shot our finger guns at him, he would fall down in defeat claiming he was an alien. He agreed to take the fake medication I 'prescribed' for him three times a day. He danced in our apartment with my grandma Jo, who hummed a tune. Lolo was an amazing man, musician and friend. He always had a kind word for everybody; it was through his love, selflessness, spirituality, patience and peacefulness that I've learned and grown to be the person I am today."

Evelyn Mingming Llena,

president of the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), attended college with Irma and remembers Angel as a "gentle and quiet human being, easy to communicate with and always had a lot of humility."

"He was an accomplished artist and musician," Llena says. "With other artists, he used his recreation time to do some painting. He was a creative individual not only in music but in other forms of art."

Vickie and Yong Bunye were also longtime family friends with the Peñas. Angel was the godfather of Regina, the Bunyes' only child.

"When Regina was about seven years old, she asked Angel why he liked playing the double-bass," Vickie recalls.

Angel explained, "You know, the double-bass is the foundation of the symphony orchestra. That's why it's very important."

He was pleased, according to Vicky, that Regina was interested in music at such an

early age. And he recalled that he himself learned the "solfeggio" and how to play the ukelele from his mother at the age of five.

Hana Trinidad and her late husband Corky, an internationally known editorial artist of the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* for 40 years, were very close friends of Angel. They had this to say:

"When you talk to Mang Angel, you can hear music. His talent was limitless. He would compose or arrange a piece for the Pamana Dancers, making music out of *gongs* and *kulintang*, and turn a Maria Clara or Igorot piece into a classical tune. He even changed the beat of the *Tinikling* and *Subli*. He was truly creative, innovative and a great artist. He was devoted to his music, wife Jo, daughter Irma and grandchildren. We will really miss him but his music will live on."

**Angel's Wings: His Colleagues and Admirers**

The man was not only rich in art and spirit. He was blessed with many wonderful colleagues, admirers and support-



ers. He was a great role model to them.

Kit Samson, considered Hawaii's most celebrated pianist, thinks the world of Angel. Kit came to Hawaii as an entrepreneur for his family's business in 1971 but ended up as the leader and driving force behind Hawaii's favorite dance band for 24 years—Kit Samson's *Sound Advice*—at the old Kahala Hilton Hotel. Kit was saddened by Angel's passing.

"We have lost the Filipino godfather of music," he says. "Mang Anghel covered everything from classical to jazz. Whenever he visited me (at the Kahala Hilton), I was always

inspired by his presence. He always brought other visiting musicians to my *Sound Advice* band. Angel can make a 5-piece band sound like a big band. He was such a great musician and arranger."

Kit recorded several songs arranged by Angel and remembers his sense of humor.

"I would ask what his rates were for arranging," Kit recalls. "And Angel would always reply, 'Basta ikaw, walang bayad,' which means 'for you no charge.' That was the kind of person he was."

On one occasion, Kit called Angel for another musician's contact info. Angel readily gave him a number but called back after a few minutes to apologize, saying, "Sorry Kit, I gave you the wrong number because it was a zip code."

Kit and Angel were a great team, closely collaborating, comparing and critiquing each other's music. Kit, who now plays at the Mahina Lounge at Ala Moana Hotel, performed at President George W. Bush's inaugural in 2004, playing old time favorites like "Moon

River" and "Claire de Lune." He also recorded most of Angel's arrangements over the years on a separate CD.

Another close friend was Tomas Hernandez, Ph.D. in Theatre from UH-Manoa, who taught Filipino and Philippine Studies before moving to Washington, D.C. Tomas' message runs in part: "I first met Angel Peña when he played in an orchestra for the performance of 'Messiah' at the Cathedral in Honolulu. It was the beginning of a long and fruitful friendship with Angel. My memory of Angel will remain alive in our musical collaborations. Highlights include the premiere of "Homage to Jose Rizal" in Honolulu and Manila."

Tomas adds that in this Homage to Rizal, he excerpted passages from the writings of the Philippine national hero such as "Mi Ultimo Adios" for the performance by the Honolulu Symphony. While Angel played in the bass section, Tomas recited the text from Rizal's works. An artist him-

(continued on page 6)

## SIDEBAR

## My Memories of Angel Peña

By Byron Yasui

**O** first met Angel Peña when he was playing bass with Bobby Enriquez—the Philippines' legendary jazz

piano virtuoso. It was around 1967 in Waikiki at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel's Golden Dragon Bar. From that very first meeting, I felt that Angel and I were destined to become very close friends.

His genuinely warm personality and sincere nature was obvious within the first minute. Our paths crossed several times over the next few years and we slowly discovered how much we had in common. We were both jazz bass players and Angel soon joined me in the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra bass section. I was in grad school studying music composition and I soon learned that Angel was himself a composer of



serious classical music—and there are not many of these around.

I was also a classical guitarist and Angel told me that he played guitar in jazz ensembles in the Philippines and Hong Kong and wrote several pieces for the classical guitar. I later discovered that Angel was a very successful musical arranger and orchestrator of jazz and popular music, and I also was quite active in those same areas. My career was in music education and Angel was also involved in music education.

Finally, Angel was very health conscious, as I gradually became. We enjoyed several

hikes into the mountains of Oahu, oftentimes with friends. I have so many vivid memories of our times together I don't know where to begin.

The two of us hiked Diamond Head before it became a tourist attraction. There was absolutely no one in the crater except the people inside the FAA building and I simply parked my car wherever I wanted on the deserted dirt road. We also hiked Tantalus and a few other mountain trails, all the while discussing our special common interest areas in music.

Think about it—there are not many musicians who are at once jazz bassists, symphony bassists, composers of serious music, guitarists, music educators and commercial music arrangers...and who like to hike. The two of us must have made up the world's smallest minority group.

Throughout our friendship,

(continued on page 7)

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Dozens Rally at Consulate Against Torre de Manila

By Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

About 50 people, mostly youth, gathered at the Philippine Consulate grounds on January 30, 2015 to denounce the ongoing construction of Torre de Manila, a 49-storey luxury condominium being erected a walking distance from Luneta and which now juts out behind the historic monument of Dr. Jose Rizal, ruining its sightline and dwarfing the iconic monument.

Organized by the Philippine Studies and KASAMA students at Leeward Community College (LCC), the picket-rally demanded respect and preservation of historical and cultural heritage treasures. The protest was also attended by UH-Manoa students and members of the Knights of Rizal.

Some of the placards read “End Torpe de Manila!”—a witty pun on the DMCI pro-

ject’s name. “Torpe,” in various Filipino languages, means “timid” or “dumb.”

One after the other, participants expressed their strong opposition to the project and aired their demand to “tear the Torre down.”

Geryll Agno, vice president of KASAMA—the Philippine Studies student society at LCC—read a one-page manifesto asking the Philippine Supreme Court to stop the construction of Torre de Manila, whose structural work is already 100 percent complete as of January 2015, according to DMCI’s website.

“We are asking the Philippine Supreme Court to uphold the Cease and Desist Order issued by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) on January 13, 2015. We are asking the State to assert the spirit of the laws protecting and preserving the nation’s historical and cultural heritage,” the youth



group said.

“It is total arrogance that DMCI continues the project in spite of a CDO issued by the NCCA,” KASAMA president Felix Galicinao says. NCCA has threatened to file a criminal charge against the developers if they disregard the order. ABS-CBN has reported that construction of Torre de Manila continues even following the Commission’s CDO.

Khara Jabola Carolus, a student of the UH Richardson School of Law, read a petition

she wrote to the Supreme Court.

“Dr. Jose Rizal, our national hero, has helped Filipinos imagine themselves as a community of brilliance and worth. His spirit continues to move our pens and inspire the genius of our hearts. Through displacement and dispossession, Dr. Rizal represents the values of collaboration and resistance that define the Filipino people. The Torre de Manila condominium desecrates and disregards his

legacy and our collective history and heritage,” Carolus wrote.

Sir Serafin Colmenares, Jr., deputy regional commander of the Order of the Knights of Rizal-USA, also read a joint US-Canada KOR resolution. The International Headquarters of the Knights of Rizal filed a case against the DMCI project last year, calling for its demolition.

The manifesto, petition and resolution were presented to the Philippine Consulate which will be forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Organizers of the picket later thanked the Philippine Consulate for providing the youth with a venue to express their voice.

**RAYMUND LIONGSON, PH.D.** is an associate professor in Philippine Studies and adviser of KASAMA at LCC. He is also area commander for the Hawaii Western USA of the Knights of Rizal.

## COVER STORY (from page 5, A MAN....)

self, Tomas is a writer, singer, actor, theatre director and choir director. Their other musical collaborations included art songs with original texts in Tagalog written by Tomas.

“Angel will be very much alive in these songs, and now in Chattanooga, Tennessee [where he and his pianist friend Keith live], we are planning to perform them in Angel’s memory,” he says.

Tomas also directed the “Ako’y Pilipino Tanghalan” series of historical and cultural vignettes shown on every island in Hawaii when he was still teaching at UH-Manoa during

the 1970s. The series was funded by the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and produced by the then Program (later Center) for Philippine Studies at the University. It was here that I got to know Angel Peña very well as he attended all the performances and helped out with musical arrangements. Irma Peña was one of the technical assistants who produced the dramatic series.

Another famous colleague of Angel’s, musician and jazz singer Jimmy Borges in Honolulu, had this to say:

“I loved and respected Irma’s father, Angel, very much. He was my first bassist when I came back to Hawaii in 1970. What an artist and musician! His symphony POPS arrangement for me of “Our Love is Here to Stay” is still untouchable and so fantastic. I miss him.”

Last but not least, is Angel’s highly-esteemed colleague, Byron Yasui, who is now Professor Emeritus of Music at UH-Manoa. Yasui taught music in the department for many years and got to know Angel as a colleague and friend. Yasui described in detail their friendship and his collabor-

ative experiences with Angel Peña (see sidebar article).

Yasui mourns Angel’s passing. He reminisces: “I discovered that Angel was a very successful musical arranger and orchestrator of jazz and popular music. We were both jazz bass players and Angel soon joined me in the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra bass section.”

## CONCLUSION

There are people you meet in life whom you always talk about in superlatives because of their superior traits in a range of human endeavors and values. Angel Matias Peña was one of them. It was a joy having him around because of his humility, simplicity and pleasant disposition. But deep inside him was an amazing pool of creative genius. He had no airs or pretensions despite his supreme achievements in his field.

And his genius was not only in his field of music but also in day-to-day life. His sense of humor was down-to-earth and really funny at times—like the time he gave a zip code to Kit Samson instead of a telephone number.

Angel’s deep-seated spirituality was also refreshing. Writer Mary Daly once said, “It is the creative potential itself in human beings that is the image of God.”

Another well-known writer, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, aptly stated, “Nothing feeds the center (of being) so much as creative work.” Angel’s thoughtful message to his grandchildren about a human being just an instrument of the Lord embodies this universal essence of human creativity.

Our deepest sympathies go to Jo, Irma, Angela and Joseph—and our best wishes to Angel as he journeys into another world where his contributions in life will no doubt continue to resonate with his fellow angels.

**DR. BELINDA AQUINO** is Professor Emeritus at UH-Manoa where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies. An accomplished writer and journalist as well, she is currently contributing editor to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle and commentary writer for various publications over the years.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

# DAPA: Many Unanswered Questions Will Result in Endless Litigation



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



W e expect people who live in this country to play

by the rules. We expect that those who cut the line will not be unfairly rewarded. So we're going to offer the following deal: If you've been in America for more than five years; if you have children who are American citizens or legal residents; if you register, pass a criminal background check, and you're willing to pay your fair share of taxes -- you'll be able to apply to stay in this country temporarily without fear of deportation. You can come out of the shadows and get right with the law. That's what this deal is." These are the exact words of President Obama in granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens who are parents of children who are American citizens or legal residents in his speech on November 20, 2014.

Is not the President contradicting himself by saying that we expect people "to play by the rules" and that "those who cut the line will not be unfairly rewarded", and yet grants amnesty to those who do not play by the rules or who cut the line?

We participated in an information seminar conducted by USCIS high officials on the implementation of the Obama amnesty, aka Deferred Action for Parental Responsibility (DAPA). There were many unanswered questions from the listeners that will result in endless litigation.

That is what happens when there is no discussion and debate on an immigration law, unlike what happens when Congress enacts a law, lamented a Caucasian immigration lawyer.

The most important requirement for DAPA is that the parent must have a qualifying relative, namely "children" who are American citizens or legal residents. Does the term "children" cover illegitimate children, stepchildren, or adopted children? If it does, the

illegal alien can quickly father a child out of wedlock, or marry a woman with children born in the U.S., or adopt a child who was born in the U.S.

Must the child be in the U.S.? What if the U.S. born child was brought out of the country by his mother who was deported, is the child still a qualifying relative? Suppose the U.S. born child is already dead, is the child a qualifying relative? Suppose the legal resident child turns out to have obtained residency by illegal means, does the child still qualify?

The amnesty announcement says that the applicant for DAPA benefits must have been in America for more than five years. Does it mean five "continuous" years? Is the applicant who traveled abroad but returned within the five year period eligible for benefits? What is the maximum length of time abroad permitted for the alien applicant to remain eligible? If the applicant was deported but reentered the U.S. illegally, is the applicant still eligible?

Can a DAPA applicant travel abroad after applying for

benefits and then return?

The applicant must "pass a criminal background check". Does it mean that the applicant never committed any criminal offense in the United States only or anywhere in the world? Do traffic violations which are also considered "offenses" like speeding and drunk driving disqualify the applicant?

Does the requirement of "good moral character" apply to DAPA applicants? If not, then there is a denial of equal protection to aliens seeking immigration benefits like naturalization or voluntary removal.

What is the effect on DAPA applicants of Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act which declares certain aliens inadmissible to the United States and Section 237 of the Act which declares certain aliens deportable? If these statutory provisions are not imposed on DAPA applicants, are they not being given preferential treatment over non-DAPA applicants for admission or on lawful residents who have com-

mitted deportable acts, thereby triggering equal protection challenges?

How can a DAPA applicant challenge the denial of an application? What is the agency to whom the applicant may appeal? Is there judicial review? What are the time frames for an appeal or judicial review? What are the fees? What is the standard of review?

**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](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.

COVER STORY SIDEBAR (from page 5. MY MEMORIES....)

we have had countless get-togethers over lunch, dinner and coffee, again discussing our favorite topics. He and his wife Jo invited me over to their apartment several times. I remember visiting them at their place on Punchbowl, on Date Street and also on South Beretania Street where Angel was the resident manager at the time Barack Obama was living there with his grandmother.

One distinct memory I have of our coffee hours at the old Coco's restaurant was when we were sitting at the counter late at night, with the Muzak playing softly in the background. At one point, we both reacted simultaneously, almost spitting out our coffee, when we heard a wrong bass note in one of the songs on the Muzak. I remember the song. It was "And I Love Her So" with Andy Williams singing.

We laughed about that incident for years after. People must have wondered why these two strange people were having a simultaneous attack.

Angel wanted to include me as co-author of a stage band arranging book on which he was working. We never finished it. By the time we would want to present it, publishers preferred computer-generated images and computer-assisted instruction presentations.

I learned so much about music from Angel. In our many discussions, he confirmed a lot of what I thought I knew—that is, he provided me with the reassurances I needed. Angel was a serious student of Bach counterpoint, thorough in his knowledge of harmony and jazz chord substitutions, a stickler for observing traditional voice leading rules and an expert in orchestration.

Knowing Angel made me a better teacher of music.

I could go on and on but I'll end with a memory that reflects how special our friendship was. On more than one occasion, Angel mailed me the sheet music of a standard song that showed about four or five ways he could reharmonize the original chords. I mailed him back my further four or five ways of reharmonizing it. I have never had a relationship with a fellow musician where such technicalities in music were shared.

Anyone who knew Angel Peña as I did would probably agree that the expression "a gentleman's gentleman" was created especially for someone like Angel. I will dearly miss my *kaibigan*.

**BYRON YASUI** is professor emeritus of ZZZmusic at the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

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## FEATURE

# Happily EVEN After For Miss America 2001

By HFC Staff

**M**iss America 2001 Angela Baraquo (now Angela Baraquo Grey) returned home for a book signing at Na Mea Hawaii Native Books in Ward Warehouse on February 14, 2015.

During the meet-and-greet, Baraquo signed autographed copies of her new book “Amazing Win, Amazing Loss...Miss America Living Happily, EVEN After.” She also read an excerpt from her book and shared with the audience how she faced her fears, abandonment, her brother’s suicide and the 9/11 tragedy in the public eye with grace and dignity.

In an exclusive interview with the Chronicle, the former Miss America speaks candidly about her family, marriage, move to Los Angeles, teaching and motivational speaking careers, and other issues in her life. Her responses were edited for space and clarity.

**Q: Congratulations on your new book! How did you come up with the title?**

**A:** Thank you! My previous working title was “Better Than a Fairytale,” based on what my mother told me. She said, “Angie, if you obey God and do His Will, your life will be better than a fairytale.” That title eventually turned into “Amazing Win, Amazing Loss: Miss America Living Happily, EVEN After.” We kept the fairy tale theme by adding “Happily EVEN After” as opposed to “Happily EVER After” because of the topics of overcoming adversity, great tragedy and loss, but also experiencing great success after winning the prestigious title.

**Q: What motivated you to write your book?**

**A:** As the first Asian-American, the first teacher and the first and only Filipina-American woman to capture the title since the pageant’s inception in 1921, it intrigued people and there was a demand for me to write a book. When I won at age 24, I wasn’t ready for a memoir. Not until now.

As a professional speaker, I was asked to speak at the “Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference” in Des Moines, Iowa in September 2014. They wanted me to specifically touch upon my experiences of winning Miss America and on how my family dealt with my brother Albert’s suicide in 2006. We still feel the loss but have been able to fall back on our faith to get us through the toughest times. They told me to sell my book after the conference, but I did not have a book completed at the time. I did, however, have a book proposal I started writing in 2006 before my brother died. I shelved the project but decided to resurrect it in 2013. Here we are today at

my official book signing in Hawaii and it feels incredible to be able to share my faith-based inspirational memoir with the world. It really is me baring my soul in hopes of helping others.

**Q: Please share some of the tragedies and challenges that you faced shortly after being crowned Miss America. What else is your book about?**

**A:** Some of the tragedies I faced include being the current Miss America during 9/11, which I talk about at length in my book. I also share my experiences as a current and former Miss America and break down a lot of stereotypes that I encountered as a young Filipina girl living in Hawaii and as a teacher-turned-Miss America. Finally, I talk about my brother’s suicide and how I struggled with depression and anxiety after the 9/11 tragedies. This book is based on many of my journals that I kept for years. It shows people what it takes to win not just in sports, pageants and contests, but also in life. The theme of the book is what’s most important to me—faith, family and friends.

**Q: Tells us about your husband and 4 children.**

**A:** My husband is Tinifuloa “Tini” Grey. He is a 6-foot-4 inch tall Samoan whom I met at the age of 15. He attended St. Louis High School. He was the altar boy and I was the choir girl at a church in Waikiki. He had a crush on me for three years before we started dating at age 18. When he left for college, Tini asked me to be his girlfriend, so we had a long distance relationship for 5 years. Even through the pageant years and Miss America he was by my side. After winning Miss America, he proposed to me onstage at Miss



Miss America 2001 Angela Baraquo with a young admirer at her February 14th book signing at Ward Warehouse



Hawaii. We have been married since 2002 and have four beautiful children—3 boys and a girl, ages 10, 8, 3 and 2. Tini was recently featured on NBC’s Season 7 of “The Voice.” I am so proud of him for all his accomplishments. I feel blessed to have such a loving family.

**Q: Why did you decide to move to the mainland? Why the Los Angeles area?**

**A:** Tini and I decided to move to LA in 2006 when my first son Isaiah was only 2. I wanted to pursue a career in television and had an agent. She said if I wanted to work in TV, I needed to physically be there for auditions. I also wanted to be closer to Tini’s family to be fair since we had lived in Hawaii for years and his parents never got to see him or our child. When we got there, I found out I was pregnant with my second child, Micah, so I decided to change gears, focus on motherhood, teaching and speaking professionally so I could be more present with my husband and children.

**Q: You are working as a vice principal at a catholic school there. Any differences and similarities with Holy Family Catholic Academy?**

**A:** I am currently the vice principal and junior high English teacher at a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. I love it because I was trained to be an elementary school teacher and got my Master’s in educational administration, so I finally get to do all that I was trained to do. I am like an “unofficial” school counselor for the students and I love being in that role to help them through a difficult time in

their lives—adolescence. At Holy Family, I was a P.E. teacher and athletic director/coach, so my role was different. My current school has a convent on campus and 14 nuns who walk by each day in their habits. It’s something we hardly see in Catholic schools anymore. It’s very family-oriented, just like Holy Family Catholic Academy, which is probably why I love it so much. It’s like a second home to me, just as Holy Family was to me for so many wonderful years.

**Q: Which is better—being a teacher in Hawaii or in California? Why?**

**A:** Both are good—just different. I loved teaching in Hawaii because of the local culture. There’s so much diversity and everyone knows each other in Hawaii. In California, there’s a lot of diversity as well, but the natural surroundings are not as beautiful as Hawaii. I love my students both in California and Hawaii, so no one place is better than the other. I am very happy where I am now but I also miss where I came from.

**Q: What’s it like being a motivational speaker? What venues have you been invited to speak at?**

**A:** I am so blessed to be a professional motivational speaker. There’s nothing better than being able to address a crowd that may be skeptical at first but in the end, they give you a standing ovation and stand in line for hours to talk with you and share their stories of how my words inspired and touched them. One girl told me she was going to commit suicide until she heard me speak. I had the power and oppor-

(continued on page 14)

FOOD & LEISURE

# MADRID, HERE WE COME!

By Claude Tayag

**M**anila's culinary world is abuzz with excitement for the forthcoming Madrid Fusión Manila 2015 slated from April 24-26 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City. No stone will be left unturned in preparation for what could be the greatest gastronomic event in our history as a nation.

This will be preceded by a large Philippine delegation from the government, media (including this writer) and private sectors attending the main Madrid Fusión 2015 conference at the Spanish capital next week, from Feb. 2-4. Not only will Madrid Fusión Manila 2015 be formally launched there, but also two of our kababayan chefs will showcase the wonders of our cuisine.

If we have been collectively griping in the past about why Philippine cuisine hasn't taken off internationally, this could be the singular event that could propel us to new stratospheric heights, surpassing all our Asian neighbors that have long passed their prime.

I recall an interview by Carlo Tadiar (Metro Home, June-August 2008) with American author of Eat My Globe and Cutthroat Kitchen judge Simon Majumbar declaring: "I underestimated just how delicious Filipino food is. I can only say that I think it is one of the few undiscovered culinary treasures left in the world (italics mine), and if the people of the Philippines attacked the marketing of their food with the same gusto that they apply to eating it, it could be the next culinary sensation."

Our time has finally come! This is the decade of Philippine cuisine, and one man could be credited for launching it with a big bang: Tourism Secretary Ramon J. Jimenez Jr. He's the one responsible for bringing this Spanish gastronomic summit to Manila, the first ever in Asia.

"Madrid Fusion Manila is an event that will challenge our

food artisans to bring out the best in their craft and start a crusade to make Manila the center of culinary excellence in this region," said Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. "The whole concept of Madrid Fusion Manila is to get the best in culinary arts to come to Manila to share their knowledge, and learn from our own Philippine chefs at the same time. Not only are we excited to learn about modern techniques, Madrid Fusion Manila will revolutionize the people's outlook on culinary arts in the Philippines."

A seed was planted in his

mind when chef Margarita Forés proposed to him way back in 2013 that he send a delegation to participate in Madrid Fusión. To chef Margarita's surprise, not only is the good secretary sending a delegation to this year's summit in Spain, he's bringing the summit to the country! This is a major PR coup for the country, not just coinciding with the DOT's "Visit the Philippines" campaign this year, but at the same time celebrating 333 years of shared history with Spain.

I have attended the Madrid Fusión (in Madrid) twice in the past. It is dubbed as one of the



Chef Myrna's Batangas-style fish kinilaw soured with calamansi, with avocado and burong mangga

most prestigious gatherings of the world's culinary titans since its inception in 2003. This annual three-day event is a virtual

marketplace of food and wine from all over the world, of cutting-edge ideas and concepts

(continued on page 12)

## GARFIELD | LAW GROUP

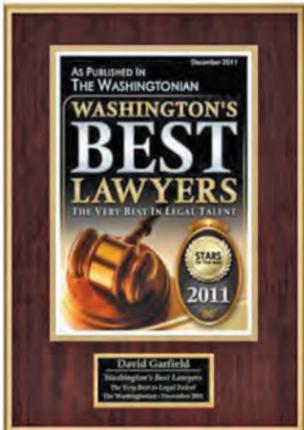
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**HEALTH & FAMILY**

**Vitamin E May Slow  
 Functional Decline  
 in Alzheimer's**

**YOUR DOSE OF MEDICINE**  
 By Charles C. Chante, M.D.

**H**igh-dose vitamin E significantly slowed functional decline over two years in a population of patients with mild-moderate Alzheimer's disease. Compared with placebo, 2,000 IU daily vitamin E reduced progression by 19% per year, colleagues wrote.

Patients, who took vitamin E scored about three units higher on a measure of daily function, wrote the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System. A loss of this magnitude could translate into either the complete loss of being able to dress or bathe independently, or losing independence on any three different activities of daily living.

Vitamin E also proved better than memantine at delaying progression, although the difference was not statistically significant. But paradoxically, the combination of vitamin E and memantine was significantly less helpful than either intervention alone.

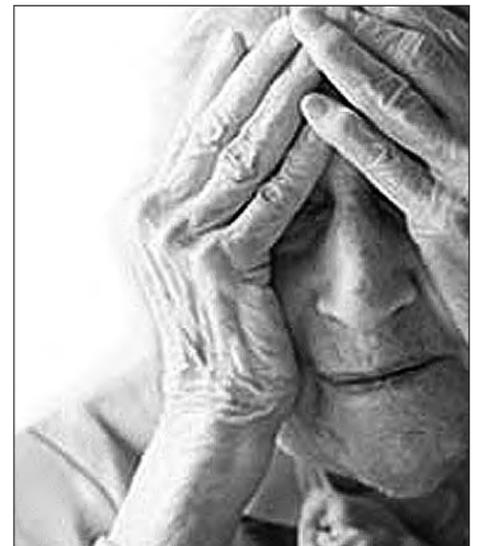
The four-year study randomized 613 patients with mild-moderate Alzheimer's into four treatment groups: 2,000 IU/day of vitamin E, 20mg/day memantine, a combination of both, or placebo.

The primary outcome was change on the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study/Activities of Daily Living Inventory. Secondary endpoints included the Caregiver Activity Survey, a measure of the time care givers spend assisting Alzheimer's patients.

The patients were a mean of 79 years old; 97% were men. The mean baseline score on the ADCS-ADL was 57 on a scale of 0-78, with lower numbers representing worse function.

The final analysis contained data on 561 patients. The dropout rate was similar between the groups; most of it was from death during the study. Only three withdrew from medication-related adverse events.

The mean follow-up time was just over 2 years. The mean decline on the ACDS-ADL from baseline was 3.15



units less than the decline in the placebo group. "The treatment effect translates into a clinically meaningful delay in progression in the [vitamin E group] of 6.2 months," the investigators wrote. "A delay in progression was sustained throughout most of the trial, with delays at 1,2,3, and 4 years of 10.6, 8.7, 9.3, and 1.8 months, respectively."

The placebo group also declined more than both the memantine and combination groups, but those differences were not statistically significant.

However, there was a significant negative treatment interaction between vitamin E and memantine, with patients who took the combination performing worse than patients taking either of the interventions alone.

There were no between-group differences in the rate of cognitive decline or neuropsychiatric symptoms. Patients in the vitamin E group did require about 2 hours less of caregiver time per day, compared with those on memantine, but that difference was not statistically significant, with a confidence interval of 0.63-3.71.

Despite being statistically not significant, the authors said the reduction in caregiver time was clinically meaningful and could have "a major effect on informal and direct medical costs .... The loss of the ability to perform ADLs is associated not only with increased caregiver burden, but also with nursing home placement," the investigators noted. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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HEALTHLINE

# “Doc, Am I Crazy For Seeing You?”

By Jay D. Valdez, Psy.D.

**H**ave you ever thought about seeing a psychologist, or was referred to one by your doctor but was afraid it might mean you were “crazy”? Or maybe it meant you was “weak.” Have you been scared, nervous or unsure about seeing a psychologist because you did not know what to expect? These are common fears that I hope to address in this article.

First, there is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to improve yourself or knowing when to ask for help when you’ve reached your limits. My question to the reader is, are you crazy for wanting to educate, help, and improve yourself? People see a psychologist or other mental health professional for exactly these reasons. Likewise, when you go to the “Self-Help” section of the bookstore, participate in a seminar to improve a skill, or go to church to listen to a sermon, aren’t you there for the same reasons?



Second, while it can be intimidating or anxiety provoking seeing a psychologist for the first time, this feeling is normal. However, knowing what to expect might ease some angst. Like any doctor’s office, you will be asked to complete some forms, which gives an idea of why you want help. When you meet the psychologist, he/she will talk about limits of confidentiality, which means that information you share is confidential and released only with your written permission. However, there are exceptions that your psychologist will discuss with you. Next, an intake is done where you will be asked more in-depth questions about your

background and what is currently bothering you. This might be done in one or more sessions depending on how much you share. The intake is designed to help the psychologist understand who you are and what concerns you. Then the psychologist develops a treatment plan and schedules a follow-up. Normally, psychologists see patients once a week for about one hour. The most common issues psychologists treat include depression, anxiety, and relationship problems. Everyone has dealt with at least one of these in his/her lifetime. Many problems arise because current coping techniques are no longer effective or something traumatic may

have occurred.

A psychologist’s approach to treatment depends on his/her theoretical orientation—a psychological model used to explain the root of the problem. Clinicians who subscribe to a psychodynamic orientation, generally focuses on childhood experiences. Other approaches may focus on a person’s thought patterns and beliefs; and yet others may use a combination of different theoretical approaches. The most important aspect of treatment; however, is not the psychologist’s theoretical orientation, but rather the quality of the relationship between patient and therapist. There are instances where therapy might not be enough and medication is needed to help take the edge of off the symptoms. People with severe depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia—to name a few, might need medication to help balance certain neurotransmitters in the brain. It is akin to trying to improve a health condition. Ever heard your doctor say you need

to stay away or reduce your intake of salty and fatty foods and increase exercise, because of high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Not an easy task if you love Filipino food like me. Old habits are hard to break and if you want to improve your health, you need to commit yourself to a healthy lifestyle. If it isn’t enough, medication is prescribed.

The point is psychotherapy is similar to improving your health in that it takes a lot of personal work and commitment; because psychotherapy involves the psyche, it involves a process of learning, discovering, recreating, and redefining to improve your life. If you have been thinking about getting psychotherapy for a personal issue and are ready for some change, don’t hesitate in asking your doctor for a referral or finding a psychologist in your area. Do this, and you’ll be part of that population who chose to take responsibility rather than stay in denial. Does this sound like something a crazy person would do?

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Officers of New Rizalian Youth Council Take Oath of Office

By Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

“**T**he youth are the hope of the future.” This enduring statement from Dr. Jose P. Rizal once more echoed with the formation of a Rizalian youth council dedicated to promoting among the young people the ideals, principles and virtues of the 19th century martyr and hero.

Named Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal (KAPARIZ), the group also endeavors to promote among the Filipino youth the appreciation of their history, heritage, culture and arts. It envisions providing opportunities for youth leadership training, as well as talent and skills development.

Retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. inducted the officers at a Knights of Rizal dinner in Honolulu. Officers



CJ Davide inducting members of KAPARIZ in Hawaii

include Andrea Mateo, president; Charmelaine Ramento, vice president; Rovy Pajarillo, secretary; Georgianne Nicolai Santiago, treasurer; and Djojeanne Simon, information officer.

Abigail Basuel, who was unable to attend the installation ceremonies, is the historian/ archivist. The officers are all migrants from the Philippines and enrolled in the early

college program at Waipahu High School.

A Rizalian youth conference and leadership training are among the major endeavors being considered by the group.

KAPARIZ is a youth organization associated with the Order of the Knights of Rizal, with chapters in various schools in the Philippines and other countries.

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Hirono Pushes for Homeland Security Funding Bill



Sen. Mazie Hirono

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono has urged her House and Senate colleagues to pass a clean appropriations bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

With funding for DHS set to expire on February 27, 2015, the Republican-controlled House passed a bill that would fund the department in exchange for erasing President Barack Obama's efforts to ad-

dress the nation's broken immigration system in the absence of Congressionally-passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation. However, House Republicans have refused to take up such legislation.

Obama will veto any policy riders that undo his executive action and harm millions of students and families. According to Hirono, the House Republican bill forces a choice between shutting down the

DHS or deporting children and families. If a DHS funding bill fails to pass, front-line DHS personnel will continue to work but will not get paid.

"Of the nearly 200,000 DHS employees across the country, 2,000 are based in Hawaii," Hirono says. "We count on the Coast Guard, TSA, Customs and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which are all part of DHS, to be on the job, each

and every day.

"Rather than debating comprehensive immigration reform, the House has once again ducked the issue, this time holding DHS hostage so that a small minority of their colleagues can have their way. Let's bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor, get that done and then move on to the debate on comprehensive immigration reform that is long overdue."

#### FOOD & LEISURE (from page 9, MADRID....)

on the latest ingredients, cooking techniques, gadgets, and actual cooking demonstrations of traditional and experimental cuisines by celebrity chefs from all over.

In 2011, I witnessed chef Ferran Adria of El Bulli (then the numero uno restaurant in the world) first announce to a stunned crowd that he was to close it permanently in a few months' time, and transform it into a foundation and culinary school. I remember vividly I was green with envy of other Asian countries like Singapore, Japan and Korea, which had no shared colonial past with Spain but were featured nonetheless. And it was the same feeling I had in 2013, somewhat dejected over this bypass again. I strongly felt we had a big "K" (karapatan, or right), more than any other Asian country, to be

there. Until DOT market development group OIC Verna Covar-Buensuceso is working on this milestone project with the Tourism Promotions Board. In one of several brainstorming meetings between her team and the private sector, including Filipino and Spanish chefs living in Manila, tour operators and the media, Covar-Buensuceso could not stress enough how important this momentous event will be.

#### The Philippines' five flavors & the bayanihan spirit

At the Palacios Congresos Municipal de Madrid, a Philippine booth will be strategically set up by the entrance. It will showcase the best of Philippine produce, co-curated by the indefatigable Dept. of Agriculture Usec. Berna Romulo-Puyat. The products chosen are based

on the five flavors of our cuisine: sweet, salty, sour, bitter and "linamnam" (yumminess, or umami in Japanese). She will be bringing to the Spanish capital the bulk of our trade items: Destileria Limtuaco's Manille Liqueur de Calamansi (whose raw material is from Oriental Mindoro) and Liqueur de Dalandan (Quezon); ripe and green mangoes from Guimaras; suha or pomelo and coconut sugar from Cotabato; pili nuts from Bicol; muscovado (handcrafted raw sugar) and batuan fruit from Negros Occidental; coffee from the slopes of Kanlaon volcano; kasuy (anacardo in Spanish) from Palawan and Cordillera heirloom rice; and adlay grain from Bukidnon.

To represent the sweet flavor, Covar-Buensuceso tasked me to collate Pampango delicacies that are believed to be of Spanish origin, or at least those that bear Spanish names. From the top of my head, I handily named Sta. Rita's turrónes de casuy (after turrónes de Alicante), Mexico town's Atching Lillian Borromeo's sanikulas (San Nicolas cookies), Angeles City's pride, Rosing's yemas with caramelized sugar (from the nuns of Avila, Spain), Magalang's pastillas de leche (made of carabao's milk, no less), and Porac's heirloom ensaimadas (after Mallorca, Spain) by Chona Ayson.

I lost no time contacting my kabalen (province mate), DOT Region 3 director Ronnie Tiotuico, to sponsor the items. The next day, he called me in a puffing voice from Rosing's store confirming if he got my list right. He apparently was going around Pam-

panga doing the shopping himself. Dakal salamat, mykabalalen, for this gallant effort, saving the day for me. And what would Christmas be without the parol or lantern (after the Spanish farol), traditionally made of all-white papel de Japon (Japanese paper). Angeles City's Kuliati Foundation took care of this.

The bayanihan spirit of kindred souls came to the fore with siblings J and Malu Gamboa of Milky Way Restaurant sending gallons of atchara made with green papaya, labanos (radish) and ampalaya (bitter melon), burong mangga (pickled green mango); taba ng talangka (crab fat) and garlic-sautéed dulong (pygmy goby fish) for that linamnam factor.

Margaux Salcedo is sending a box of Nana Meng's Tsokolate tableas for that thick, bitter chocolate beverage mentioned in Jose Rizal's Noli Me Tangere. Her co-Bulakeña Rheeza Hernandez tapped the generosity of Nanay Luz Ocampo for her famous pabalat or Japanese paper pastillas wrappers, now made by her daughter Naty Ocampo-Castro. Though they have ready-made generic pabalat, Naty was kind enough to custom-make "Manila-Madrid" and "Filipinas-España" motifs.

#### Why kinilaw in Madrid?

Chefs Myrna Segismundo and Margarita Forés are presenting together, discussing kinilaw within the allotted 30-minute slot. Myrna shared how the Madrid Fusion organizers chose kinilaw. When they were here in Manila last September 2014, she served them kinilaw

and they fell in love with it, and asked that it be presented in Madrid.

"I think kinilaw is a great introduction to our cuisine because it is unique to us," she said. "This will also be a chance to highlight the sourness in our cuisine."

Each will be using the ingredients indigenous to their respective provinces. Chef Myrna will be doing a Batangas-style kinilaw, using ingredients found in her landlocked province like calamansi, green mango, avocado and bagoong Balayan (salt-fermented fish paste), with Spanish shellfish, shrimps and oysters. Chef Margarita, on the other hand, will do a Bacolod-style kinilaw using the bounties of the Visayan seas, batuan fruit, coconut vinegar (tuba) and Bacolod's sugar, with Spanish sea bass. To complete the LuzVi-Minda triad (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), a third version will be sinuglaw, Cagayan de Oro's iconic dish, in which grilled pork (sinugba nga baboy) is mixed with the fish. Sua (Mindanao's lime) and tabon-tabon will also be brought the hallmarks of a Mindanao kinilaw.

Aside from the cooking demo, the super duo will each prepare dinners at different venues: chef Myrna at the 19th-century Hotel Orfila on Feb. 3, while chef Margarita will serve dinner at the highly acclaimed Goya Restaurant of the Hotel Ritz Madrid on Feb. 4.

We wish you all the best of luck. Vaya con dios! And don't forget to bring home the bacon, or should I say, the jamon bellota (wink, wink). (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

# Expanded DACA Filing Starts February 18



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**O**n February 18, 2015, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began accepting requests for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) under the expanded program.

The expanded program eliminates the age cap of 31 and now covers individuals brought into the U.S. as children regardless of their current age. Under the original program, only those who were under 31 years old on June 15, 2012 were eligible to apply. By eliminating the age cap of 31, the age of the applicant at the time of application would not

matter so long as he meets all the other criteria.

The expanded program also moves the eligibility cut-off date when an applicant must have been in the U.S. from June 15, 2007 to January 1, 2010.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements as set forth in the expanded DACA guidelines: came to the U.S. before his 16th birthday; continuously resided in the U.S. since January 1, 2010 up to the present; was physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012 and at the time of making the request; and had no lawful status on June 15, 2012.

Also, they must be currently in school, graduated from high school or obtained general education development (GED) certificate, or honorably discharged from the Armed Forces; and not con-

victed of a felony offense, significant misdemeanor offense, or multiple misdemeanor offenses, and not otherwise a threat to national security or public safety.

An applicant must complete and sign Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, accompanied by Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765WS Worksheet, and documentary evidence demonstrating their eligibility for the program.

The application must be submitted with the \$380 filing fee for the Form I-765 and \$85 for biometrics fee, totaling \$465 in filing fees. The check must be made payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

After filing, the USCIS will schedule applicants for biometrics collection at a USCIS Support Center. Appli-

cants will receive their schedule in the mail. An in-person interview may also be required for some applicants.

Unlike the original DACA program which granted recipients deportation relief and work permits for 2 years; recipients under the expanded program will get relief for three years. Deferred action under the program, however, does not lead to permanent residence nor provide lawful immigration status.

Over 610,000 have been granted DACA status under the initial program. An additional 270,000 immigrants are expected to benefit from the expanded program.

Meanwhile, 26 states have signed a lawsuit seeking to prevent the Obama Administration from implementing the executive actions including the expanded DACA program. Republicans are also planning to

undertake congressional action to block the President's programs.

Immigrant rights advocates are confident that the President's executive actions will survive lawsuits and congressional action aiming to block it.

The President, on his part, said, "I want to be clear as possible: I will veto any legislation that got to my desk that took away the chance of these young people who grew up here and who are prepared to contribute to this country that would prevent them from doing so."

Immigrants are encouraged to apply for the expanded DACA program.

*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*

PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Palace Vows to Crush Coup Attempts

by Delon Porcalla  
Thursday, February 19, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The government vowed yesterday to crush any attempt to overthrow the administration and maintained that the rumored plotters of a coup hardly comprise the millions of Filipinos who voted for President Aquino.

Malacañang issued the stern warning following reports that the President's maternal uncle, Jose Cojuangco Jr., and members of the Cabinet have joined groups calling for Aquino's ouster due to his supposed culpability in the slaughter of 44 policemen in a clash with Muslim rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Cojuangco was at a rally last week calling for Aquino's resignation.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. assured the public that authorities are monitoring the situation and they would not allow anything that would endanger

the public and disrupt peace.

Malacañang also clarified that the President is not hiding amid jokes and speculation that he refused to attend any public engagement after the Mamasapano incident on Jan. 25.

Coloma said it was mere coincidence that all the President's engagements in the past weeks were held at the Palace, such as the reception for Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Feb. 9 and the Cabinet meeting on Feb. 16.

'Arrest coup supporters'

The military and police are also not buying the rumored destabilization attempt.

Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) chief Maj. Gen. Ricardo Visayas yesterday ordered his men to arrest anyone who attempts to recruit them for destabilization.

Visayas warned that anyone who tries to organize a coup will face rebellion charges.

He expressed confidence that there is no attempt to per-



suade soldiers in SOLCOM to join a rebellion.

Soldiers and policemen in Southern Luzon showed their unity in supporting the President yesterday by forming a human chain during the Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines-Philippine National Police Fellowship Day at Camp Guillermo in Lucena City

The soldiers and police interlocked arms while singing "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" to show that ties between the PNP and AFP in Southern Luzon are strong.

"The AFP and PNP in Southern Luzon remain loyal to the Constitution, the commander-in-chief and the chain of command," Visayas said during the event.

"There is no need for a loyalty check in our ranks.

With the AFP, we remain committed in our mandate in enforcing peace, law and order in the province," Quezon province police Chief Superintendent Ronaldo Genaro Ylagan also said.

Even retired Navy commodore Rex Robles, one of the founding members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement or RAM, which staged coup attempts against the President's mother Corazon, expressed support for Aquino.

"The republic is safe. P-Noy is also safe. We will help him," Robles said. (www.philstar.com)

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**DAYASADAS**  
By Pacita Saludes

# Dagiti Agiinnayat Iti Daytoy A Bulan

**B**ulan ti Febrero ti makunkuna a bulan dagiti agiinnayat. Aldaw ni VALENTINO “Valentin” nagan ti ilokano kaano pay a nairugi daytoy ubbing tay pay idi mangmangngegtyon ti Valentines Day. Tapno ammotayo daytoy a namunganay. Nasayaat ti mangagbasa kadagiti istoria kadagiti napalabas tano adu ti maammuantayo. Ti naammo mi ti inkam nabasa ket ti pakaritaan ti maywa nga agnagan ti Valentin a managayat naasi. Gapu itoy nga aramidna, naipanangan kenkuana ti VALENTINES DAY. Daytoy aldaw a seleselbrarantayo ita.

Tano ad-adda pay a nakallagip iyur-uray metten dagiti kaaduan nga agayan-ayat daytoy a bulan ti panangkumit da iti ayat kadagiti ipatpategda Febrero 14 ti

taen ket isu payen pannakilan-tip dagiti dadduma. Kasla nagbalinen a nabirtud daytoy nga aldaw a panangtun-uyda iti ayat a kukuikupanda.

Dagiti met dadduma isu met ti panawen a panangi-paayda ti naindaklan nga ayat a maipaayada akas iti daydi manong Valentin a namunganayan daytoy aldaw a selselebrarantayo. Nabirturd ken nalagda kano daytoy nga ayat a maipaay iti Valentines Day ania a kita ti ayat dayta a maipaay iti daytoy a bulan. Hadu maduma ngamin a kita ti ayat a maipaay. Ania man dayta nga ayat nga intay maipaay mapakuyogan kadagiti balikas a “HAPPY VALENTINES DAY” manipud iti Dayasadas.

## Annak Ti Badoc Iti Hawaii

Maisaruno met ti naragsak a selebrasion ti grupo dagiti ANNAK TI BADOC iti FEBRERO 21, 2015. Agrabtabii a ragragsak iti Ala Moana Hotel. Ayat met nga iburay dagiti tubo ti ili a Badoc. Agsapata dagiti napili

a mangmantiner ti naragsak keno naurnos a panagkakadua dagiti umili. Dagiti agsapata nga opisiales para iti 2015-2017 Presedente Marilyn Villar, umoa a Bise-Jin Cardenas, 2nd Vice-Roger Clemente, Sec.-Enriqueta Mendoza, Cor.-Procsedes oasay Tres; Nena Cajimat Asst. Treas-Corazon Sinfuego, Auditor-Ereneo Pagat Jr., P Ranada, Mgr.-Rudy Bugarin, Madeline Clemente, Board of Directors, Atty. Mar Apuya, Chato Sinfuego, Erene O. Pagat Sr., Alice Tadena, Rizal Fernandez, Rodrigo Agapay, Angel Mendoza, Advisors-Rev. Fr. Danilo Laeda, Celino Semana, Francis Cajimat, Allan Yago, Joselito Quibuyen, Jovencio Tadena, Sargent at Arms-Martin Mendoza, Joel Tolentino, Gill Dahilig, Fermin Suza, Magno Oasay, Emy Magbual, Antonio Acdan, Antonio Pro. Lety Bals, Tina Acdan, Nena Apuya, Maxime Pagat, Iren Magbual, Cely Quinto, Lucena Bugariu ken Teresa Cainlit. Natungos dagiti taga Badoc babaen ti panangi daulo

in Marilyn Villar a Presidente. rang-ay! Good Luck Annak ti Bareny adu ti maitulong iti ili Badoc!!! a Baoc tapno siurado a rmen-

## SAPSAPULENKA

Adda dagiti kanito a kayatko a ladpan Ti ilelennak ti init tapno saan a dumteng Ti sipngat panagmaymaysak a mangur-uray Ti makatitileng nga ulimek.

Kaarigko ti manglaylayen a sabong A pinanawan ti dungngo dayta pusom Hardin ni ayat awanen ti ayamuomna Arbis ken apros dakulap a nakairuamak Awandan a makaparagsak kaniak.

Ita, kayarigakon ti maysa a tumaytayab Iti sanga ti kao a di makapayakpak Agur-uray iti kaasi mangappupo kaniak Limdo, saem ti rikriknaek nga iliw Umanay a mangkeltay kakaisuna a biag.

Wen, sapsapulenka kadagiti tugot Iti kadaratan igig ti baybay Sapsapulenka iti rawis dagiti kayo Ken bulbulong a pumaypayapay Sasapulenka a maibinggas sonata ni ayat Ngem saino itan ti ayanmo, Ayatko? Dinak koma paayen nabuslon nga ayatmo!

## FEATURE (from page 8. HAPPILY....)

tunity to help save a life. That is powerful!

I’ve visited over 40 states and traveled over 20,000 miles a month as Miss America on a speaking tour. I’m going on 15 years as a professional speaker. I have spoken at the White House, Pentagon, Capitol Hill, at schools and legislatures across the country, in the Philippines and many more. My biggest audience was at a conference at the Indianapolis Convention Center in front of 24,000 people. My recent speech in Iowa allowed me to address 7,500 people. Many stood in line for hours to speak with me and buy a book. It was an unforgettable experience.

### Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I love to be with my husband and kids every chance I get. When I’m around my parents and siblings, I love to sing karaoke with them, go to the beach, play beach volleyball, play cards, talk story and go dancing.

### Q: What do you miss most about Hawaii? Will you eventually return home?

A: I miss my family, friends, the weather, the trade winds and the food! Yes, I will eventually return home. This IS my home, no matter where I am in the world. I want to retire here in Hawaii with my husband.

### Q: Any parting words of advice for our young Filipinos?

A: Anything is possible with hard work and a vision. A dream is nothing but a goal with a plan and a deadline. It can happen with desire, dedication and discipline, so go out there, dare to dream and just do it! You don’t have to win Miss America—just go out into the world, share your light and make a difference!

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Fil-Am Composer Wins 2015 Grammy Awards**

The musical works of Filipino-American composer Robert Lopez and writing partner and wife Kristen Anderson-Lopez received two major awards at the 2015 Annual Grammy Awards.

The songwriting duo's huge hit "Let It Go" sung by Idina Menzel for the blockbuster film "Frozen," won the Grammy for Best Song Written for Visual Media, besting The Hobbit's "I See Fire;" The Lego Movie's "Everything is Awesome;" Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me's "I'm Not Gonna Miss You;" and Her's "The Moon Song."



Kristen and Robert Lopez

The couple also received a Grammy Award for "Frozen" in the Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media category, along with album compilation producers Tom MacDougall & Chris Montan. The

album beat "American Hustle;" "Get On Up: The James Brown Story;" "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Mix Vol. 1;" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

The couple has previously won awards for the same song, taking home two Oscars last year. Lopez is the 12th and youngest person to join the elite circle of EGOT winners, the nick for an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony award in a span of 10 years.

The Grammy Awards are given by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in recognition

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of outstanding achievement in the music industry. (GoodNewsPilipinas.com)

**Philippines, U.S. Forge Labor Protection Accord**

The Philippines has formally entered into another partnership to protect the rights and welfare of Filipinos working in the U.S., marking another milestone in its efforts to look after the interests of overseas Fil-

ipinos.

According to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on February 12, 2015 between the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EOCC).

The MOU is the fourth migrant worker-related bilateral agreement signed by the Embassy and only the second agreement entered into by the

EOCC with a foreign government.

"We are pleased at being able to formalize our alliance with the EOCC and collaborate closely towards ensuring that Filipino nationals working in the U.S. are accorded equal opportunities at their workplace," says Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. He thanked the EOCC for initiating collaborations with countries like the Philippines that have substantial worker populations in the U.S.

Cuisia says the MOU is an affirmation of the U.S. government's advocacy for equal opportunity in the workplace and stance against employment discrimination. The EEOC's participation will also enhance the awareness of Filipino workers

of their rights as well as remedies available to them under existing labor laws regardless of their status.

EEOC Chair Jenny Yang noted the invaluable contribution of Filipinos to American society and its workforce and reiterated the EEOC's commitment to uphold the rights of migrant workers. The EEOC estimates the number of Filipino immigrant workers in the U.S. at over one million—one of the largest immigrant groups in the U.S.

"By signing this MOU, the Commission signals its unwavering commitment to justice and equality in the workplace for individuals of Filipino descent whose efforts and contributions have been invaluable to American society and the US workforce," Yang says. (DFA)

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**More Countries Offer Support for Philippines' Peace Efforts**

International support for the Philippines' peace and counter terrorism efforts continues to pour in following the incident in Mamasapano, Maguidanao on January 25, 2015.

The Russian Embassy in Manila expressed shock and grief over the death of the 44 Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) personnel. "Memory of their valor and self-sacrifice shown while pursuing a noble mission of fighting terrorism will remain in our heart," Ambassador Nikolay Kudashev wrote in a letter dated January 29, 2015 to Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario.

The Republic of Palau conveyed through its Embassy in Manila "its unwavering support

and solidarity with the Republic of the Philippines in condemning such heinous acts of terrorism against government security personnel."

Similarly, the Libyan Embassy in Manila conveyed in a letter to Secretary Del Rosario the "earnest hope that, under the leadership of President Aquino, the people of the Philippines will triumph over this tragic incident and continue the pursuit to attain the peace in Mindanao."

Meanwhile, Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende commended the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) "on their unyielding commitment to the peace process," adding that "Armed conflict is a serious threat to development and has negative consequences far be-

yond the actual battlefield. A lasting settlement in Mindanao would benefit the entire population of the Philippines."

"It is now more important than ever to put every effort into the peace process," Foreign Minister Brende stressed. Norway is a member of the International Monitoring Team for the peace talks and sits as vice-chair of the Independent Decommissioning Body in charge of the decommissioning process of the MILF forces and arms.

Turkey, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, Spain, Switzerland and the U.S. previously expressed support for the Philippine government's efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in Mindanao as they extended condolences to the families and loved ones of the fallen policemen. (DFA)

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