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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 17, 2015 ◆

## CONGRESS TO DEBATE MEDALS FOR FILIPINO WWII VETERANS

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## EDITORIALS

## Filipino Veterans Deserve Congressional Gold Medals

**A** bi-partisan effort to honor Filipino American veterans of World War II with the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal is gaining momentum in the hallowed halls of Congress. Supporters and sympathizers see the veterans' plight as a symbol of injustice that has yet to be rectified. At the outbreak of the war, over 250,000 of these "Fighting Filipinos" responded to the U.S. government's call for action and were promised full benefits, including citizenship, only to see America renege on its promise in 1946 with the signing of the Rescission Act by then President Harry S. Truman.

Congress has been agonizingly slow in righting the wrongs against the veterans, despite decades of protests and lobbying. The veterans have received health and pay benefits in increments over the years, the most significant of which occurred in 2009 when lump sum payments of \$15,000 were given to veterans and their spouses living in the U.S. and \$9,000 to those in the Philippines. But despite Congressional approval for these payments, the nightmare continued for thousands of veterans who encountered delays in the verification of their documents as evidence of their service. Time is running out for these veterans who are now in their 90s but they refuse to give up on what they believe is rightfully owed to them.

As one veteran stated, getting approval for the Congressional Gold Medals will take a coordinated effort involving many parties. The U.S. government will never be able to fully repay the debt owed to these veterans but the consensus is that the medals are a step in the right direction when it comes to making good on long overdue promises.

We urge Hawaii's Filipino community to stand behind our veterans in this effort to award them the well-deserved medals. Their legacy should be remembered and passed on to future generations. We also commend the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation for tirelessly going to bat on behalf of our veterans. Starting with the venerable Dan Inouye, Hawaii's senators and representatives in Congress have displayed compassion and dogged determination for these veterans that the Filipino community should never forget.

## Council Re-Vote Won't Stop Rail Project

**T**he Honolulu City Council is poised to hold several re-votes on measures involving Honolulu's beleaguered rail project. At issue is a pending lawsuit by Campbell Estate heiress Abigail Kawanakoa who asserts that the Council's prior votes on dozens of rail-related bills and resolutions were flawed due to a failure on the part of several former councilmembers to disclose conflicts of interests at the time of the vote. She wants those votes invalidated, while the City's attorneys have asked that the lawsuit be dismissed. The City's ethics laws require councilmembers to publicly disclose any direct or indirect interest in pending legislation prior to casting their votes. The councilmembers in question were fined for failing to disclose that they received meals and other perks from lobbyists and others who benefited from their votes—raising objections that their votes were bought by special interest groups.

The timing of Kawanakoa's lawsuit could not have been worse particularly since the City has already completed four

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**H**appy Filipino-American Heritage Month! For the entire month of October, Hawaii joins the rest of the nation in celebrating the extraordinary ways that Filipino-Americans have contributed to our great country. The struggles as well as successes of previous generations of our countrymen and women have helped to shape America into the vibrant nation that it is today. If you haven't yet seen a traveling exhibit called "Singgalot" which is now on display at Aiea Public Library, we encourage you to do so. The exhibit depicts the long and winding road traveled by the first Filipinos to the U.S. over the past two centuries. See page 3 for more on this fascinating exhibit.

On a related theme and with Veteran's Day just around the corner in early November, our cover story for this issue is about recent bipartisan efforts to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the few remaining Filipino veterans of World War II. Associate editor Dennis Galolo delves into the history of the prestigious medal and also includes comments from veterans, their families and supporters who are lobbying Congress to make the medals a reality. Many people are hoping that the legislation introduced by members of Hawaii's congressional delegation will be passed by Congress by the end of this year or by early 2016. Please turn to page 4 for "Support Grows for Congressional Gold Medals for Filipino WWII Veterans."

The Chronicle is also pleased to introduce our newest contributing writer—Renelaine Bontol-Pfister, a licensed physical therapist based here in Honolulu. Renelaine was also a former columnist for a Filipino community newspaper in New Jersey and a contributing writer for several newspapers in the Philippines. We hope that you will enjoy reading her first article, which is a review of Doctors-On-Stage's latest Broadway musical "Journey" (see "They Dance, Sing and Save Lives" on page 8). Welcome aboard, Renelaine!

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the other informative columns and articles we have for you in this issue. And as always, we are grateful for your continued support. If you have a story idea, suggestion or concern, please email it to our staff at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you!

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

miles of guideway construction. Critics question why she waited this long to raise her concerns, instead of earlier in the process. Her attorneys suspect that several former as well as current councilmembers may have also received gifts from lobbyists and want to give the City's Ethics Commission time to conduct a full investigation.

In actuality, a re-vote would do little to change anything, since the current Council is firmly pro-rail and should have the necessary votes to keep the project moving forward. Still, a re-vote on rail-related measures will help to shore up dwindling public confidence in the rail project which is nearly \$1 billion over budget and counting. On the downside, more delays could further escalate the costs which taxpayers will ultimately shoulder. However, it bears repeating that the long term success of the rail project will depend largely on public support. With transparency and trust at stake, the Council should proceed with the re-votes and put any lingering doubts to rest. It's an expensive but quite necessary exercise for City officials.



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## COMMENTARY

# We Face Real Challenges to Representative Democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton

**P**eople who care about the United States' place in the world often fret about challenges to representative democracy from other countries. I'd contend that the more formidable challenge comes not from abroad, but from within.

For starters, it's hard to make American representative democracy work. Our country is large, growing, and diverse, and we rely on a bewildering array of branches and units of

government to run it. The system rests on the consent of a public that often wants mutually contradictory things — to shrink the deficit, for instance, but without cuts in defense spending or entitlements and no additional taxes.

Two of our basic governing institutions, Congress and the presidency, are not at the top of their game. Congress has adopted some unfortunate political and procedural habits: it governs by crisis, fails repeatedly to follow time-tested procedures that ensure accountability and fairness,

panders to wealthy contributors, and too often erupts in excessive partisanship. Meanwhile, the President presides over a bloated executive branch that has too many decision makers and bases to touch, lacks accountability, and desperately needs better, more effective management.

The decades-long march toward increased presidential power at the expense of the legislative branch severely undercuts our constitutional system and raises the question of how far down this road can we go and still have representative democracy.

We face other challenges as well. Too much money is

threatening the core values of representative democracy. And too many Americans have become passive and disengaged from politics and policy; representative democracy is not a spectator sport.

Yet, our political system forms the core of American strength. It enshrines fundamental power in a body elected by the broad mass of the people, and is based solidly on the participation and consent of the governed. Allowed to work properly, it is the system most likely to produce policy that reflects a consensus among the governed. Above all, it has the capacity to correct itself and move on.

In other words, we don't need to reinvent our system, but rather use its abundant strengths to find our way through our problems and emerge stronger on the other side.

It is not written in the stars that representative government will always prosper and prevail. It needs the active involvement of all of us, from ordinary voters to the president. Each of us must do our part.

**LEE HAMILTON** is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## OPINION

# Medicaid Mythbuster: Source and Quality of Care

By Jon M. Bailey

**A** constant complaint about Medicaid is that fewer health-care providers take patients on public insurance programs and the resulting quality of care suffers.

The facts, however, tell a different story. According to the Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey, nearly all Medicaid (95 percent) and private coverage patients (94 percent) have a regular source of health care. The quality of care (rated excellent or very good) is higher for Medicaid patients (55 percent) than for those with pri-

ate insurance (53 percent).

Unfortunately, uninsured people are severely disadvantaged in both respects. Only 77 percent of those without insurance have a regular source of health care. And only 40 percent of uninsured rate their care as excellent or very good, compared to 55 percent of those with Medicaid.

Those with private insurance are slightly better able to schedule a same day or next day medical appointment (58 percent) compared to those on Medicaid (53 percent) or uninsured (43 percent). But those on Medicaid have physicians and physician staff who know their medical history; 86 percent for

those on Medicaid compared to 84 percent for those with private insurance and 77 percent of the uninsured.

Those who oppose expanding Medicaid, as provided in the Affordable Care Act, use these myths to support their arguments. But the facts tell us that the right choice, the only moral choice, is to extend Medicaid coverage to the hundreds of thousands who fall into the coverage gap, including

working Americans who don't currently qualify for Medicaid and whose income is too low to participate in the new health insurance marketplace.

**JON M. BAILEY** is a rural policy and research expert and former Center for Rural Affairs Policy and Research Director. Contact him at [jonmbailey1@gmail.com](mailto:jonmbailey1@gmail.com).

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Historical Exhibit on Display at Aiea Library

**F**or you history buffs, a traveling exhibit entitled "Singgalot" may be of interest, particularly since October is Filipino American History Month in Hawaii.

Loosely translated as "the ties that bind," the exhibit depicts the long and tortuous road traveled by the first Filipinos to the U.S. over the past two centuries, and tracks the various waves of Filipino immigration during periods of blatant anti-Asian sentiments. The exhibit began traveling in 2008 and has

been on display at various university campuses and other locations nationwide.

"Singgalot" features rare photographs and illustrations from the National Archives, the Library of Congress and personal collections. It traces Filipinos' presence in North America from the first transoceanic trade missions between Manila and Acapulco in the mid-16th century to the 19th century. During this period, Filipinos settled in the bayous of Louisiana and came as American "nationals" after the U.S. acquired the

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## COVER STORY

# Support Grows for Congressional Gold Medals for Filipino WWII Veterans

By Dennis Galolo

**M**omentum on Capitol Hill continues to build in a bipartisan effort to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino Veterans of World War II.

In June, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono co-introduced H.R.2737, the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015. U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, U.S. Rep. Mark Takai and other CAPAC lawmakers co-sponsored the measure.

H.R. 2737 was co-signed by 12 other members of Congress, including: Sens. Dean Heller (R-Nev.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.), and Tim Kaine (D-Va.); and Reps. Joe Heck (R-Nev.), Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) and Juan Vargas (D-Calif.). The measure was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on House Administration.

Hirono also introduced a similar measure in the Senate—Senate Bill 1555—which directs the president *pro tempore* of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives to make appropriate arrangements for the award of a single Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino veterans of World War II in recognition of their service during World War II. The bill also requires that the medal, following its award, be given to the Smithsonian Institution for research and display at appropriate locations associated with the veterans. S.1555 has been referred to the Senate's Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), community

groups and supporters held a press conference on October 1, 2015 at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to support both bills as well as to kick off Filipino American History Month during the month of October.

"Filipino veterans fought bravely alongside American forces during World War II, and our recognition of their service and sacrifice is long overdue," says Gabbard. "Our nation owes these individuals our deepest and sincere gratitude. I am pleased to join my colleagues in a bipartisan and bicameral effort to honor these veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal—a well-earned tribute for their service."

## Congressional Gold Medal

The Congressional Gold



U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, an ardent supporter of Filipino veterans' rights, greets an elderly Filipino veteran of World War II. Photo courtesy of Alex Hetherington

Medal is bestowed by Congress. It and the Presidential Medal of Freedom are considered the highest civilian awards in the U.S. Both medals carry the same level of prestige, although considerably fewer Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded. The main difference is that the Freedom Medal is personally awarded by the president.

Congressional Gold Medals are designed by the U.S. Mint and specifically commemorate the person(s) and achievements for which they are awarded. Consequently, each medal differs in appearance, since there is no standard design.

Since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. The first recipients included citizens who participated in the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, but Congress broadened the scope to include actors, authors, entertainers, musicians, pioneers in aeronautics and space, explorers, lifesavers, notable researchers in science and medicine, athletes, humanitarians, public servants and foreign recipients.

All Congressional Gold Medal legislation must be co-sponsored by at least two-thirds (290) of the Members of the House. Additionally, the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee requires that at least 67 senators co-sponsor any Congressional Gold Medal legislation before the committee will consider it.

## Fighting Filipinos

Over 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers responded to then-President Roosevelt's call-to-duty and fought under the American flag against the Imperial Forces of Japan during World War II.

Filipinos who served in the United States Forces in the Far East (USAFFE), commanded by General Douglas MacArthur, included:

- The Philippine Scouts, who comprised half of the 22,532 soldiers in the Philippine Department or U.S. Army garrison stationed in the Islands at the start of the war;
- The Philippine Commonwealth Army;
- The New Philippine Scouts, or Filipinos who volunteered to serve with the U.S. Army when U.S. troops returned to the

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **SUPPORT** ....)

- Philippines;
- Filipino civilians who volunteered to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in 1945 and 1946, and who became “attached” to various units of the U.S. Army; and
- The “Guerrilla Services” who fought behind enemy lines throughout the war.

“The Filipino veterans of World War II have faced many challenges in their fight for compensation, family reunification and verification of wartime service. Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal would go a long way toward making sure that their story is never forgotten,” Hirono says. “Time is running out for the diminishing number of Filipino World War II veterans and I call on my colleagues in the Senate to award these brave soldiers the Congressional Gold Medal, giving them the honor and recognition they earned.”

Schatz agrees that the veterans have yet to be properly recognized for their courageous service.

“Today, far too many have not received the basic veterans’ rights they earned,” he says. “While we continue to work in Congress to give Filipino veterans and their families the benefits they deserve, awarding them with the Congressional Gold Medal will honor them for their heroic service and patriotism.”

**Building Momentum**

According to World War II veteran Domingo Los Baños, getting approval for the medals will take a coordinated effort involving many parties. He served as an infantryman with the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment during World War II, which was comprised almost entirely of all Filipino-Americans.

“We are going to need the help of all Filipinos and Hawaii’s congressional delegation in order for the veterans to get the medals,” he said in an interview with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

Los Baños supports the Filipino Veterans Recognition Education Project and says that the Filipino American Historical Society, which has several



U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (left) and Ret. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (right) at the Oahu Veterans Center to discuss legislation to award Congressional Gold Medals to Filipino World War II veterans. Photo courtesy of Erika Tsuji

dozen chapters on the mainland, has coordinated fund raising efforts for the gold medals.

Another staunch advocate is Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (ret.) who last year began heading a national campaign to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino veterans. He estimates that there are between 16,000 to 17,000 such veterans who are still alive.

“Filipino veterans of World War II are the last cohort that has yet to receive their Congressional Gold Medal,” Taguba said in a media interview. “Filipino-American World War II soldiers are equally deserving of this award because they fought valiantly under the American flag.”

Taguba noted that other minority groups have already received their Congressional Gold Medals, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers and Women Air Service Pilots.

Another group is the Filipino Young Professionals of Washington, DC which urges Filipinos nationwide to write or call their representative or senator on Capitol Hill and urge them to support the Congressional Gold Medal legislation for the Filipino World War II Veterans.

“We believe it is important to honor our past and part of that is recognizing the approximately 260,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans who served in World War II,” says FYP-DC President Abbie Elliott.

The group boasts several hundred members in the DC area and is utilizing various channels such as email, a website and social media to get the word out.

In the city of Philadelphia,

Councilman-at-Large David Oh introduced a resolution urging Congress to award congressional gold medals to Filipino veterans in recognition of their service. His efforts were supported by the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia. The group consists of member associations that serve Filipino-Americans in the Greater Philadelphia area, Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Maryland resident Jon Melegrito has advocated for veterans rights for the past 20 years. What drives him is the memory of his late father Gregorio, who died 10 years ago without receiving the promised benefits or recognition for his sacrifice and service.

“He endured the Death March and fought with the guerillas,” says Melegrito, who is a member of the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity and involved with the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project. “This is a personal cause for me and I will continue to fight to get recognition for all of our Filipino World War II veterans.”

Melegrito has lobbied Congress on numerous occasions in support of legislation for

equity and justice, talked to community and church organizations, circulated petitions and held workshops at national conferences.

According to Melegrito, the veterans’ struggles are not just a Filipino issue but an American justice issue, since they fought under both the U.S. and Philippine flags.

“For Filipinos in particular, the story of the Filipino veterans is a national story. Their legacy should be proudly remembered and passed on to future generations,” he says. “As a grandfather, I will proudly

share my father’s story with my two Filipino-American grandchildren and hopefully inspire them to serve their community and country.”

In his letter of congratulations marking Filipino-American history month, President Barack Obama noted the role that Filipino veterans have played in preserving America’s freedom.

“Seventy years ago, the United States and our allies overcame forces of tyranny and oppression that threatened not only the Pacific but the entire world—a victory made possible in part by thousands of Filipino Americans who fought for our nation, but who for far too long, were denied the compensation they were earned.”

Sen. Reid of Nevada says it is impossible to fully repay the debt owed to Filipino World War II veterans, but that the medal is a step towards correcting past wrongs.

“This medal will stand as a testament to the sacrifice of these heroes and to the patriotism of their community,” he says.

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## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Did Analiza Moitinho de Almeida, Husband Flee to the Philippines and Fail to Defend?

**O** have reported on this story since it began in March of this year. It's the story of a rich Filipina from an elite family who came with her husband to America to start a French bakery in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles. She brings with her workers she knows from the Philippines as an investor using the E-2 visa.

Instead of treating them like employees, she treats them as friends and Filipinos, and not as workers on special visas. Is that the problem here? Because something has gone wrong and the story has evolved into a massive civil lawsuit.

Here are the facts—11 Filipino workers in California are suing the bakery owned by the married daughter of Juan B. Santos, chair of the Philippines Social Security and are now asking for a default judgment worth more than \$15 million dollars, according to new court documents filed September 25, 2015.

The filing comes after Santos' daughter Analiza Moitinho de Almeida and her husband

Goncalo Moitinho de Almeida failed to respond to two court filings in September. The Almeidas were in the Philippines for the summer. The papers say the Almeidas triggered a judgment for having "failed to plead or otherwise defend," essentially ignoring the court. The Almeidas told this reporter in an e-mail that they were on holiday in the Philippines and would return at their lawyers' directions.

But since that communication, the Almeidas have fired the workers they brought to the U.S. on special E-2 investor visas; shut down and sold the two L'Amande bakeries; sold off their millions in assets including an apartment building and home in the Los Angeles suburbs and have remained in the Philippines, except for one trip to sign real estate documents in the sale of the home in September.

In another email to me in August, Analiza Moitinho de Almeida admitted to the transferring of assets.

"We needed to find funding somewhere," she wrote. "We are accused of hiding assets. I ask you this—do you think we wanted to lose the bakeries, where we have poured our life-

time savings and such hard work? Do you think we wanted to lay off the other 35 U.S. hired workers who have invested their time and careers with us? Do you think we wanted to use the proceeds of the building to finance this lawsuit? Again I ask you, who is now the victim?"

But the new court documents say the 11 workers are the ones victimized by Almeida and are "entitled to judgment against the defendants on all claims." The suit brought forth last March is based on violations of California state and federal laws, including human trafficking under the racketeering laws and a variety of labor code violations involving unpaid wages and overtime.

The new motion claims damages of \$12.4 million, including \$10 million for compensatory and punitive damages on the human trafficking and the retaliation claims. Actual back wage claims amount to about \$2.3 million. Another \$2.8 million are in court costs and attorney's fees. All told, the plaintiffs are seeking more than \$15 million.

The court has been awaiting a response. Instead, the Almeidas chose to fight the claims based on federal and state law on Facebook, by posting photos of the workers at play during their leisure time.

"How can these photos

(shown on Facebook) be construed as 'slavery?'" Analiza Moitinho de Almeida wrote to this reporter in August. "All the employee claims are based on self-serving untrue statements designed to fast track their permanent residency visa. Their claims will be disproven with the documents and photos we have."

"I have known all the plaintiffs for many years, some as much as 26. I have treated them like family," she continued. "The employees did not work the excessive hours they claim. There are many photos that place them in other places (beach, Las Vegas, New York, Disneyland, Universal Studios, Tijuana, Hollywood, etc.) while they claim to have been working at the bakery. This is an attempt to extort money for work not rendered...The employees have used the cliché of 'rich vs. poor' to further their cause...They have portrayed us as ruthless employers, but examination of the many photos will show that they are far from the oppressed and abused that they claim to be...In our perspective, we feel that this story is told upside down. We are the victims of people who have conspired to use the weaknesses of the justice and immigration system to further their cause."

But the lawsuit claims the Almeidas brought the workers into the U.S. as skilled workers required by the E-2 visa. The jobs, the plaintiffs claim, were actually more menial domestic

servant positions. The original suit further charges there were threats of deportation and threats on the workers' families in the Philippines. It also says the Almeidas made the workers agree to pay them \$11,000 if they did not stay with them for three years.

The lawsuit also seeks increased damages for what the plaintiffs call the fraudulent transfers of assets whereby the Almeidas "absconded and removed assets to the Philippines." The hearing on the motion for default judgment against the Almeidas is scheduled for November.

As a reporter, I don't judge. But as a commentator, I will say this—the Almeidas have made things difficult for themselves by choosing to fight on Facebook and not in court. Now it looks like they've sold off their assets and fled. And the U.S. court is unlikely to take kindly to that. Their problems are further complicated by the broad definition of "trafficking" used in the case.

As an elite family, they may have been accustomed to the way business is done in the Philippines. But they're learning it's done much differently in America.

**EMIL GUILLERMO** is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 3, HISTORICAL....)

Philippines following the Spanish-American War in 1898. Filipinos would later fill the labor needs of Hawaii's plantations, California's farms and Alaska's salmon canneries.

The exhibition also highlights Filipino public service in the U.S. military, achievements in literature, arts and sports, and in the health care industry. The past four decades have witnessed tremendous growth of the Filipino American community, and the current group of immi-

grants who began arriving after 1965 has solidified the Filipino ethnic identity and culture in the U.S.

Originally displayed at the Smithsonian Institution and the Bishop Museum in 2006, "Singgalot" was created by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Department of Ethnic Studies to commemorate 100 years of the Filipino-American experience in the U.S. Former UH faculty member Dr. Dean Ale-

gado and Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution co-curated the exhibition.

"Singgalot: The Ties That Bind" is on display from October 1-31, 2015 at the Aiea public library. The exhibit is presented by the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH), in partnership with the Filipino Community Center, Inc., the UH Office of Multicultural Student Services and the Aiea library.

(continued on page 12)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

# May FilAm Use U.S. Passport After Election to Office in PH?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

**M**ay a natural born Filipino citizen who became naturalized as a U.S. citizen, then renounced his U.S. citizenship, reacquired Filipino citizenship, ran for public office and won continue using his U.S. passport without losing his public office?

In *Rommel Arnado v. Comelec*, decided by the Philippine Supreme Court on August 18, 2015, <http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/pdf/web/viewer.html?file=/jurisprudence/2015/august2015/210164.pdf>, a majority through Justice Del Castillo held that "Only natural-born Filipinos who owe total and undivided allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines could run for and hold elective public office." Therefore, the Comelec did not abuse its discretion in holding that Arnado "failed to comply with the second requisite of Section 5 (2) of RA 9225 [make a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship] because, as held in *Maquiling v. Commission on Elections*, his April 3, 2009 Affidavit of Renunciation was deemed withdrawn when he used his U.S. passport after executing said affidavit. Consequently, at the time he filed his CoC on October 1, 2012 for purposes of the May 13, 2013 elections, Amado had yet to comply with said second requirement. The Comelec also noted that while Amado submitted an affidavit dated May 9, 2013, affirming his April 3, 2009 Affidavit of Renunciation, the same would not suffice for having been belatedly executed." The court upheld the Comelec's ruling disqualifying Arnado from running in the May 13, 2013 elections, setting aside his proclamation

as elected mayor of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, and proclaiming Florante Capitan, the second placer, as the duly elected mayor of said municipality.

This ruling is highly relevant to the disqualification case against Senator Grace Poe who recently announced her candidacy for president. Poe allegedly became a U.S. citizen in 2001. She married a U.S. citizen, Neil Llamanzares. Poe is said to have become a dual citizen in 2006 when she renewed her allegiance to the Philippines. She is alleged to have renounced her U.S. citizenship in 2010 when she was appointed chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. In the disqualification case filed by Rizalito David, a defeated senatorial candidate in 2013, it is alleged that Poe used her U.S. passport even after reacquiring Philippine citizenship on July 7, 2006. The case is pending before the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

Arnado is a natural-born Filipino citizen who lost his Philippine citizenship after he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States of America (USA). Subsequently, Arnado applied for repatriation under Republic Act No. 9225 (RA 9225) before the Consul General of the Philippines in San Francisco, USA. He took an Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines on July 10, 2008 and an Order of Approval of Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition was issued in his favor. On April 3, 2009, Amado executed an Affidavit of Renunciation of his foreign citizenship. On November 30, 2009, Arnado filed his Certificate of Candidacy (CoC) for mayor of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte for the May 10, 2010 elections. Balua, another mayoralty candidate filed a petition to disqualify Amado and/or to cancel his CoC alleging that Amado remained a US citizen because he continued to use his US passport for entry to

and exit from the Philippines after executing the Affidavit of Renunciation. Bureau of Immigration records were presented showing that Arnado used his US passport on January 12, 2010 and March 23, 2010. While Balua's petition remained pending, the May 10, 2010 elections proceeded where Amado garnered the highest number of votes for mayor. He was proclaimed the winning candidate.

On October 1, 2012, Arnado again filed a certificate of candidacy for the May 13, 2013 elections. On May 10, 2013, Capitan, Arnado's lone rival for the mayoralty post, filed a Petition seeking to disqualify him from running for municipal mayor of Kauswagan and/or to cancel his CoC based on the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Maquiling*. The resolution of Capitan's petition was overtaken by the May 13, 2013 elections where Arnado garnered 8,902 votes (84% of the total votes cast) while Capitan obtained 1,707 (16% of the total votes cast) votes only.

The court majority, citing *Maquiling v. Commission on Elections* where Arnado was a respondent, said "that the use of a foreign passport amounts to repudiation or recantation of the oath of renunciation." and "that matters dealing with qualifications for public elective office must be strictly complied with."

The court said that "The circumstances surrounding the qualification of Arnado to run for public office during the May 10, 2010 and May 13, 2013 elections are the same. Arnado's use of his US passport in 2009 invalidated his oath of renunciation resulting in his disqualification to run for mayor of Kauswagan in the 2010 elections. Since then and up to the time he filed his CoC for the 2013 elections, Arnado had not cured the defect in his qualification."

The court said that even assuming that the recently discovered November 30, 2009

Affidavit of Renunciation with Oath of Allegiance is true and authentic, Arnado performed positive acts [used his U.S. passport] on January 12, 2010 and March 23, 2010 which effectively negated the alleged November 30, 2009 Affidavit resulting in his disqualification to run for an elective public office.

The court cited *Maquiling* which held that popular vote does not cure the ineligibility of a candidate. Thus, while Arnado won by landslide majority during the 2013 elections,

garnering 84% of the total votes cast, the same "cannot override the constitutional and statutory requirements for qualifications and disqualifications." The court also cited *Velasco v. Comelec* holding that that election victory cannot be used as a magic formula to bypass election eligibility requirements; otherwise, certain provisions of laws pertaining to elections will become toothless, one of which is Section 39 of the Local Government Code of 1991, which specifies the basic positive qualifications of

(continued on page 11)

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## MUSICALE REVIEW

# They Dance, Sing and Save Lives

By Renelaine Bontol-Pfister

I felt transported back home to the Philippines when I entered the beautiful ballroom at the Filipino Community Center, heard all kinds of dialects and saw people dressed in *Barong Tagalog* and *Baro't Saya*. I'm relatively new to Hawaii, having moved here in January 2014. I knew there were many Filipinos living here but on September 20, I saw them gathered to see "Journey," a Doctors-On-Stage musical organized by Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW).

BCWW is a non-profit organization that helps new immigrants without health insurance obtain health care. This hit me on a personal level, as I once had to stop working and lost my health insurance when I encountered problems with my visa. It was 2012 and I was living in Northern California. The

funny thing about me is that I only get sick whenever I don't have health insurance.

Sure enough, I got sick with shingles. Without insurance, a doctor's visit would cost more than \$300. Someone referred me to the Jewish Community Free Clinic, which provides free medical services to people without health insurance. I obtained excellent care and free medicine. I can't tell you how much it meant to me at that time, when I was sick, in severe pain and unemployed. I donated to the free clinic when I started working again. So BCWW's effort is something I can relate to and appreciate.

The show started with an Ilocano medley by the choir Coro Filipino, which I thought was lovely and could have been lovelier had I been able to understand the words (I'm Visayan).

"Journey" consists of an eclectic mix of songs, from



Broadway musicals, pop, alternative and classic rock. The songs were put together to represent our journey through life, which is varied indeed. Each one of us would have a different song to represent stages of our lives.

My favorite performances were "In Whatever Time We Have" by Dr. Cielo and Ross Simafranca; "Love Song" by Luisa Corpuz, accompanied by dancers Jean Khara Casillan and Philip Amer Kelley-Crawford; and "I Who Have Nothing" by Dr. Cielo.

But it was Luisa Corpuz's performance of "I Dreamed a Dream" that gave me goosebumps. This is such a haunting song from "Les Miserables," one of the most memorable from any Broadway show. I thought Dr. Corpuz did a tremendous job. Not only can she sing—she can act also!

Dr. Nestor del Rosario raised a commotion and evoked scattered laughter every time he stepped on stage. He has a comic flair about him, which the audience responded to. Little gestures

such as unfolding a cane, pulling out a photograph from his breast pocket, or attempting to dance like Michael Jackson made the audience chuckle and made him endearing. I believe it's because he was earnest. I could sense that he was giving his best performance and that he really wanted to entertain us. And he could also sing!

The doctors' performances were supplemented by dancers trained by Philip Amer Kelley-Crawford and the music was

(continued on page 9)

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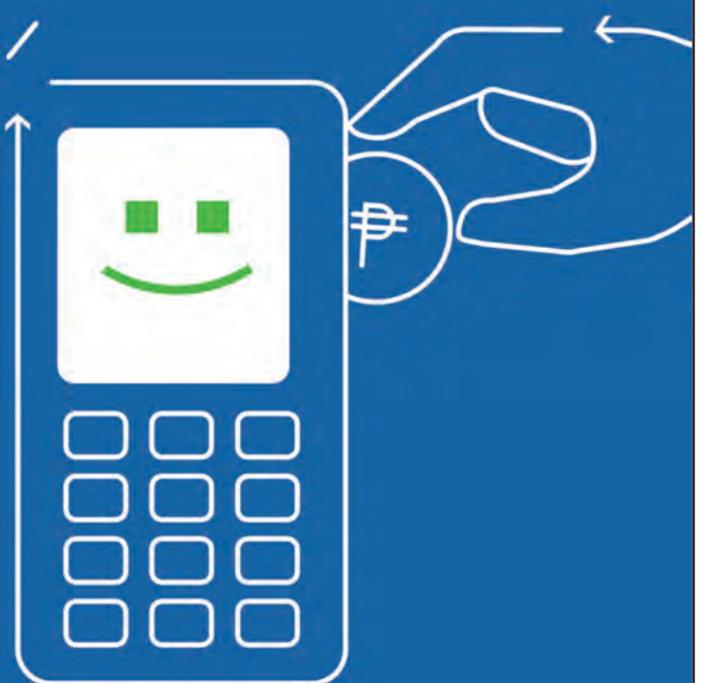


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FOOD & LEISURE

# 3 Pinoy-owned Restos Among Asia's 101 Best Restaurants for 2015

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)



One of Bale Dutung's dishes. Bale Dutung is among the restaurants included in Asia's 101 Best Restaurants for 2015. *The Daily Meal*

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Filipino food is about to become mainstream internationally.

Three restaurants from the Philippines are among Asia's 101 Best Restaurants for 2015.

Now on their third annual list, the New York-based food website, *The Daily Meal* officially named Bale Dutung, Purple Yam and Rural Kitchen as newcomers on their list.

To represent as wide a geographical area as possible, the website started with 520 nominees in 43 cities, in 15 countries plus Hong Kong and Macau.

After a thorough deliberation, the website consulted with 50 experts, which included restaurant critics, food and lifestyle writers, and bloggers with wide restaurant-going experience. The experts then voted for their favorites, country by country based on four categories—cuisine; decor, service and experience; and value for money and essentials.

Here's what *The Daily Meal* has to say about the three Filipino restaurants:

**Bale Dutung at #98**

Tucked inside chef Claude Tayag's home, Bale Dutung welcomes diners by reservation only. Consistently positioned on

*(continued on page 12)*

**MUSICALE REVIEW (from page 8, THEY DANCE....)**

elevated by professional musicians Monnette Forte (musical director and pianist), Duane Padilla (violinist) and Reggie Padilla (saxophonist).

The singing at times might not have been perfect but this was not "American Idol." These doctors and artists volunteered their time and talents to raise funds for BCWW. They didn't ask us to open our checkbooks and write them a check. Instead, they carved time out of their busy schedules to practice, sing and dance. They paid attention to props and costumes, particularly in the finale 'Circle of Life,' when the cast dressed up

like the animals featured in "The Lion King," among them lions, zebras and giraffes. A lot of work was put into the details to make each song transcend. They gave us a good show.

What astounds me is that outside of that night, the performers have hospitals and clinics to go to. They're saving lives. I have nothing but admiration for Doctors-On-Stage, and for BCWW. Not only are they helping the ill, they're helping those who can't afford to pay them. So *maraming salamat, daghang salamat* for a wonderful show and for helping those in need.



By Myra Rodriguez  
AlohaCare Staff Member

## AlohaCare puts aloha back in health care.

Every day I have the chance to make a positive difference in the lives of families. When a health problem occurs, it can be hard to figure out what options are available to you or even to understand what a doctor is telling you. If Ilocano or Tagalog is your first language and English is your second language, that can make everything seem overwhelming. We at AlohaCare are here to help you understand your health care.

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AlohaCare believes it's important to take the time to explain our health plan to you in your preferred language. I translate for my members and help them understand their plan materials, doctor's bills, and more.

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make sure everyone gets the proper care they need. AlohaCare also offers the AlohaCare Advantage Plus Special Needs

To sign up for AlohaCare's health plans or to find out if you qualify for extra health care benefits, call AlohaCare at 973-0712 or



Myra Rodriguez assists her AlohaCare plan member at the doctor.

Plan (HMO SNP) for those who qualify for Medicaid and who are blind, disabled, or 65 years or older. Members on our plan are given a card that allows them to buy vitamins, toothpaste, cold & flu medicines, and more from drugstores in their area.

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Myra Rodriguez and Hyun Joo Lee discuss AlohaCare health plans.

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### State Observes Cyber Security Awareness Month

Recognizing the need to identify, protect and respond to cyber threats, Gov. David Ige has proclaimed October as Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The proclamation coincides with National Cyber Security Awareness Month, recognized by President Barack Obama and various public and private sector agencies to encourage the public to learn about cyber security and put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces and businesses.

To raise public awareness, the annual "Stop.Think.Connect." campaign empowers the American public to take security precautions, understand the consequences of online actions and behaviors, and enjoy the benefits of the Internet.

For example, individuals are urged to keep the following tips in mind:

- When in doubt, throw it out—Links in email, tweets, posts and online advertising are often the way cybercriminals compromise computers. If it looks suspicious, even if the source is known, it's best to delete or, if appro-

priate, mark as junk email.

- Get savvy about Wi-Fi hotspots—Limit the type of business conducted and adjust the security settings on devices to better manage who can access machines.
- Protect your money—When banking and shopping online, make sure that sites are security enabled. Look for web addresses starting with "https://" or "shttp://" indicating that the site takes extra measures to help secure information ("http://" is not secure).

"Maintaining the security of cyberspace is a responsibility that each of us has a critical role to play," says state Chief Information Officer Todd Nacapy. "In addition to protecting personal and other sensitive information, critical infrastructure sectors are increasingly reliant on information systems. The state is doing its part in aligning our cyber security approach with national frameworks and deploying additional security tools and practices to increase protection against network-based threats."

### State Attorney General Launches New Online System For Fundraisers

The State Department of the Attorney General has launched a new online system for paid professional solicitors and fundraisers that contract with local charities.

State law requires fundraisers who solicit contributions on behalf of a charity in Hawaii to register with the Attorney General prior to commencing their services. The new online system allows these fundraisers to register with the Attorney General and to annually renew their registrations. The Attorney General's Tax and Charities division partnered with Hawaii Information Consortium to develop the system.

"The Professional Fundraiser Registration System will allow donors to make better informed decisions about their charitable giving," says State Attorney General Douglas Chin. "It will also help maximize the amount of the donation that is actually received by the charity. The system simplifies the administrative burdens of registering with our office and facilitate compliance with Hawaii law and allows the nonprofit sector to better evaluate professional fundraisers offering their services."

The public can view registration data, contracts and financial reports online at: <https://ag.ehawaii.gov/fundraiser>.



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## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

## OUR BABY CALLIE: MADE IN KOREA

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

**S**outh Korea is known for famous brands LG and Samsung, and cars Hyundai and Kia. When you go to major shopping districts, clothes and shoes vendors would boldly shout “Made in Korea.” Usually, they are more expensive compared to products made in other Asian countries. This nation boasts that its products and brands are excellently made and of the highest quality. Being here for quite sometime now, I can attest to this.

Having the opportunity to stay in a country like South Korea has brought blessings to me and my husband. He has been here for almost five years now, finishing his Masters-PhD degree in Energy Science at one of their more prestigious universities. After getting married early 2014, I quickly followed and we were able to settle down in a simple but cozy apartment near his university.



Seneca (shown with her husband) is expecting her first child in October 2015

Life here is safer, more convenient and faster. Aside from having excellent products, transportation is efficient and systematic. Internet connection is super fast. Technology is way advanced. And an added bonus is that we get to experience the four seasons.

But it doesn't mean life is any easier.

As much as things have become more convenient for us, living in a foreign land

with a totally different culture and language has also brought many challenges. This is true especially now that we are expecting our first baby. Exciting as it may seem to have our child born in a foreign land, there are times we wish that we were back home.

Convenience and technology always come with a price. Almost everything in South Korea is expensive, except for the unlimited *kimchi* and other side dishes they

give you when you dine in a restaurant. Getting pregnant in this land can be very pricey. From clothes to diapers to cribs to strollers...the prices are ridiculously high. Unlike in the Philippines where you can buy simple and affordable ones, here in Korea, children's things are more expensive than adults' clothes.

Aside from this, hospitalization and regular check-ups can be budget-draining. It was very wise for my husband to avail of their National

Health Insurance, which gives us a significant discount when visiting our gynecologist and buying medicines. Moms in Korea, locals and foreign alike, with this insurance also have a “mom card” which has 500,000 *won* (approximately 500 USD) which they can use at any hospital or clinic for pregnancy-related visits. This helps to offset the high cost of having children in Korea. Without the insurance, we would really have a hard time meeting our ex-

(continued on page 12)

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, MAY FILAM USE....)

local government officials.

**COMMENT:** The court said “Only natural-born Filipinos who owe total and undivided allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines could run for and hold elective public office.” This is too broad and contrary to the Constitution and statutes. The “natural-born” requirement applies only to candidates for President, Vice President and Members of Congress. Constitution of the Philippines, 1987, Art. VI, Sec. 3, 6, Art. VII, Sec. 2. The “natural-born” requirement does not apply to local elective officials who are simply required to be citizens of the Philippines without specifying whether they are natural-born or naturalized. Republic Act No. 7160, Sec. 39. When the law does not distinguish, we should not distinguish.

Proclaiming the second placer as the elected mayor to replace the disqualified mayor

is incorrect. The Supreme Court previously admitted that there has been “doctrinal instability caused by see-sawing rulings” on whether the second placer may be proclaimed when the winner is disqualified but this has been settled. The second placer may not be proclaimed winner because to assume that the second placer would have received the votes of the disqualified winner is to extrapolate the results and substitute judicial judgment for the voters' minds. Reyes v. Comelec, 254 SCRA 514 (1996). Where the winner is disqualified, there is a failure of elections for that office. The vice mayor should assume the mayor's office. Geronimo v. Ramos, 136 SCRA 435 (1985). Now the Supreme Court in Arnado v Comelec has gone back to “see-sawing” causing “doctrinal instability.”

Laws governing election protests must be liberally con-

strued so that the popular will expressed through the ballot will not be defeated by purely technical objections. Macasundig v. Macalangan, 13 SCRA 577 (1965)

See Tipon and Tipon, Winning by Knowing Your Election Laws, Sec. 72.1-72.1, 249.9.

**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 specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com). He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.,” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

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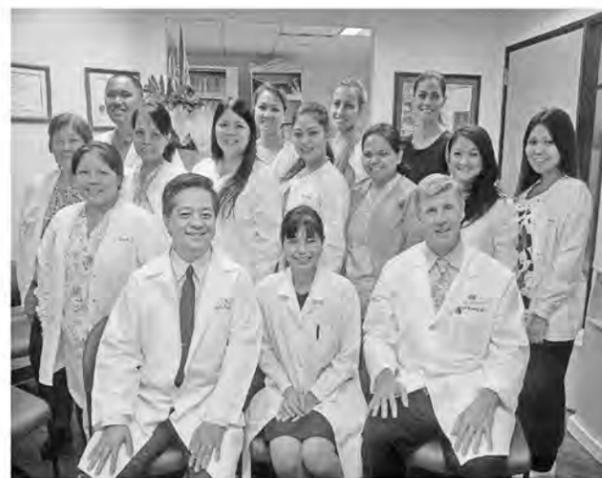
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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Ombudsman Indicts Binay, Son, But...

by Michael Punongbayan  
Tuesday, October 13, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The Office of the Ombudsman has found probable cause to charge Vice President Jejomar Binay and his son Makati City Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay with multiple counts of graft and malversation of public funds through falsification of public documents before the Sandiganbayan for their alleged role in the overpriced construction of the Makati City

Hall Building II from 2007 to 2013.

The Binay camp cried foul over the latest ombudsman move, questioning saying it was meant to stop the vice President's presidential bid.

Also ordered indicted before the anti-graft court were 22 other current and former government officials and private individuals, including Marjorie de Veyra, Pio Kenneth Dasal, Lorenza Amores, Virginia Hernandez, Line dela Peña, Mario Badillo, Leonila Querijero, Raydes Pestaño,

Nelia Barlis, Cecilio Lim III, Arnel Cadangan, Emerito Magat, Connie Consulta, Ulysses Orienza, Giovanni Condes, Manolito Uyaco, Norman Flores, Gerardo San Gabriel, Eleno Mendoza Jr. and Rodel Nayve.

Also included in the indictment are Orlando Mateo from Mana Architecture and Interior Design Co. (MANA) and Efren Canlas of Hilmarc's Construction Co.

However, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales said the filing of criminal cases

against the Vice President would have to wait until after he finishes his term as an impeachable officer.

The ombudsman explained that such is "consistent with the principle that during incumbency, an impeachable officer cannot be the subject of a criminal offense filed with the court which carries the penalty of removal from office."

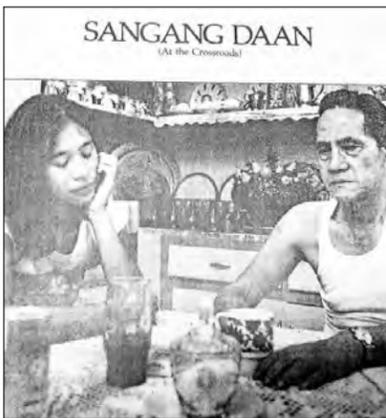
Vice President Binay is being ordered indicted for acts committed when he was still mayor of Makati City for phases one and two of the con-

struction project, while Mayor Binay would be charged for his involvement in phases three to six.

Morales said the criminal charges were all in connection with the anomalous bidding and construction of the Makati City Hall Building II, also called the Makati Parking Building, undertaken from 2007 to 2013.

The finding of probable cause, which can still be appealed through a motion for reconsideration, comes after more than one year of fact-finding and preliminary investigation which began in September 2014. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 6, HISTORICAL....)



In addition, organizers will hold a special screening of the film "Sangang Daan" (At the Crossroads) on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 2 pm to 4:30 pm at the library. The film was produced by FAHSOH in 1981. The showing will conclude with group discussions and a summary.

## FOOD & LEISURE (from page 9, 3 PINOY-OWNED....)

top restaurant lists and praised by the likes of Anthony Bourdain, Bale Dutung serves Filipino cuisine in an old-school house decorated with antiques and a gallery of the chef's art. The restaurant specializes in Kapampangan dishes prepared from scratch, but Tavag adds a twist to old family recipes and his wife shares a little history and background on each dish as it is presented to guests.

### Rural Kitchen of Liliw, Laguna - #64

The entirety of this 14-table restaurant — food, design, branding — is an ode to chef Justin Sarabia's lola (grandmother). Nearly all of the dishes on the menu are from her recipes and nearly all of the ingredients are sourced from the chef's hometown of Liliw, about two hours away from Manila.

### Purple Yam - #60

The menu is mostly Filipino, but also includes inspirations from across Asia with signature dishes seldom experienced outside a family home. Try the pork cheek pandesal (yeast bread) slider with Kesong Puti cheese, the Sorsogon Bay crabcakes with green papaya salad, or the house-cured tuna with organic duck eggs and local greens.

## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS (from page 11, OUR BABY....)

penses.

Another challenge that we face as parents-to-be in this foreign land is the language barrier. Not many people can speak and understand English. Every time we visit our doctor for check-ups, we brace ourselves for miscommunication and being lost in translation. My husband and I only know basic local expressions, and reading and writing *Hangul* characters and learning their vocabulary has been a struggle. We have some serious work to do when it comes to learning the local language. We have been blessed to have a doctor who can speak and understand English. Though limited, we are able to communicate and can understand his instructions and reports about our baby's well being. However, communicating with the nurses and staff requires us to communicate through non-verbal gestures. There are times we pretend to understand but most of the time, we ask our Korean friends to

translate for us. Dumb-founded and confused—this is how we feel during every doctor's visit. We could not even attend the antenatal classes they are offering because everything is in Korean. We are missing a lot but the important thing is that we are assured that our baby is healthy and normal—and we always leave the hospital grateful.

Our baby is due anytime now. As I keep myself busy preparing her clothes and organizing her nursery, I ponder upon the blessings of living here in Korea and the great things that awaits me as a new mother.

Despite the challenges that we are facing as a Filipino couple living in this foreign land, we are grateful that we are here in this season of our lives and our marriage. We've experienced overwhelming favor and provision. A people who are generous and kind surround us. We have received beautiful gifts, both new and hand-

me-downs, from our Korean friends. We have been blessed by their willingness to assist us every time we have questions and need translation when we couldn't understand instructions from the staff in our birthing hospital. Even old women called *ahjumma* would greet me kindly when they see my big tummy. Many of our local friends would even go out of their way to make sure that our family is doing well. They would treat us to sumptuous meals while they share their culture and give us advice on raising a child in their country. The warm hospitality and friendliness of the Korean people blesses our heart.

Indeed, South Korea isn't just a place of world-class products and brands—it's a nation of kindhearted people. Very soon, our daughter will make her grand debut. We believe that she'll be a beautiful, strong and loving girl.

Callie Micaiah, a proud Filipina made in Korea.

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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

## Lawsuit Filed To Strike Down Revised Visa Bulletin

Adjudication of their green card applications, however, would not be made until the “final action date.” Adjustment applicants, in the meantime, would obtain benefits such as employment authorization and advance parole. The much-awaited change was part of the President’s efforts to modernize the immigration system.

Four business days before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) was supposed to start to accept adjustment applications under the new procedure, a revised Visa Bulletin was released which moved the “filing dates” back. In doing so, thousands of immigrants would no longer be eligible to file for adjustment of status on October 1.

On September 28, 2015, a Class Action suit was filed before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington seeking, among others, to strike down the revised October Visa Bulletin and com-

pelting the USCIS to accept adjustment applications pursuant to the original October Visa Bulletin.

The suit was brought against the U.S. Department of State, Secretary of State John Kerry, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, the United States Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS) and USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez.

It alleged that the revision constitutes an “arbitrary and capricious agency action contrary to law, as well as an abuse of the agency’s discretion, and violates Plaintiff’s due-process rights and the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”).”

The Complaint was brought by fifteen individuals and the thousands of class members they seek to represent who are beneficiaries of approved employment-based petitions for highly skilled workers.

The revised October Visa

Bulletin excluded EB2 China applicants with priority dates between the original Bulletin’s filing date of May 1, 2014 and the revised filing date of January 1, 2013. It also excluded EB2 India applicants with priority dates between the original filing date of July 1, 2011 and the revised filing date of July 1, 2009, and EB3 Philippine applicants with priority dates between the original filing date of January 1, 2015 and the revised filing date of January 1, 2010.

According to the Complaint, Plaintiffs and thousands of others, reasonably relying on the original October Visa Bulletin, started preparing their adjustment of status applications. They took time off work to obtain the required documents for their applications, and arranged for the provision and translation of their documents from their home countries.

They paid attorneys to prepare their applications. They went to see USCIS-approved civil surgeons and paid for the required medical exam and vaccinations. With only 22 days from the date the October Visa Bulletin was released to the date the USCIS would start accepting applications on October 1, they rushed to complete all the requirements expecting to submit their appli-

cations on that day.

With the abrupt changes in the revised October Visa Bulletin, they would not be able to submit their applications as promised in the original October Visa Bulletin and they are now left without recourse.

Plaintiffs reasonably relied on the original October Visa Bulletin which was confirmed by the USCIS as announced in its website. Plaintiffs also alleged that there was no reasoned explanation whatsoever for the DOS’s radical recalculation. The DOS merely stated that after consulting with the Department of Homeland Security, it has decided that it is going to change the filing dates.

Plaintiffs pointed out in the Complaint that this is not the first time that this has happened. In the year 2007, the DOS also reissued a visa bulletin which affected thousands of green card applicants. The government, however, took it back after immense pressure from the public. They are expecting the same outcome with the revised October Visa Bulletin.

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

## Bongbong Seventh to File COC for Vice President

by Mayen Jaymalin  
Wednesday, October 14, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Will it be a lucky 7 or an unlucky 13 for Sen. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.?

While many candidates shied away from filing their certificate of candidacy (COC) yesterday because it was the 13th – many consider the number unlucky – Marcos still opted to file his COC for vice president.

He was listed as the 7th candidate in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) registry for the post.

“I was told that I am the seventh person to file (for vice president) so number 7, as the lucky number for the Marcoses, is still there. I think



Sen. Bongbong Marcos with wife, Liza Araneta-Marcos

that’s a good omen,” he told reporters after signing the Comelec’s Integrity Pledge for free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

The senator, clad in blue shirt and jeans, arrived at the Comelec main office at around 1:30 p.m. and was accompanied by his wife Liza. Former first lady Imelda Marcos, who earlier expressed disappointment that her only son chose not to seek the presidency, also

came with him but did not enter the building.

While the lawmaker was filing his COC, about 100 supporters wearing red and orange shirts waited outside the Comelec and watched the process through a monitor. They cheered, clapped their hands and chanted “Bongbong” as they listened to his speech before the media. Some Comelec employees lined the hallway to see the senator in person.

In a statement, Marcos said he sees no problem working with whoever is elected president next year.

“Adversarial politics is fine until the elections are over. Once the elections are over, we really must put all that aside and work for the national interest – not partisan interest, not individual interest, but the national interest,” Marcos added.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro

# DADAPILAN KEN SIAK ITI KINAAGTUTUBO

## Maysa a Lagip ken Panagsubli

**K**ASLA NAG-BIAG ti napalabas ken ti kinaagtutubok iti nasarakak a ladawan ti dadapilan iti BAMBOO Ylocos ni Ilocos Sur Bise Gobernador DV Savellano. Ladawan ti dadapilan, ti nuang, ti tao, ti unas, ti bariles.

Gapu itoy, inspiradoak a nanglukib ti napalabas ti kin-aubingko. Ti dadapilan ti ladawan ti panagubing ken panagdakkeltayo sakbay a nag-tayaktaktayo a kas iti narukatan a tumaytayab iti tangatang t a p n o biroken ti kaibatogan a lubong.

Dakkel ti kaipapanan ti dadapilan iti biagko, iti pudno a biag ti maysa nga ubing, anak ti mannalon, anak ti dua ti akemna nga ama-ina gapu iti ipupusay ti nasapa ti inak ta agtawenak la idi iti 12.

Ibilangko ti bagik a maysa

a ‘tawataw’ ken kallautang gapu ta siak, siak mismo ti nangpanaw ti lugarko saan a gapu iti kita ti biag ngem tapno padasen a sapulen ti sabali a kaibatogan. Iladawan tipudno a biagko iti kaaddak iti Tapao a lugarmi kadagiti 50’s, 60’s Tapao ket idi 1966 kas ‘tawataw’ iti Manila ken nagadal iti Laoag City, im-mayakoniti Hawaii idi Hulio 30, 1971.

Daytoy a one-eyed jack nuang, bakkuko a tangbaw ti dadapilan, ti agassawa a bukel ti dadapilan a pagdingpil ti unas. Kastoy a buya ti nagub-ingak nga aramid iti Tapao, Sinait. Saan a makaadayo daytoy a nuang nupay awan ti pat-inggana a magmagna nga aglawlawlaw iti sirkulo ti dadapilan nga agpespespes iti tubbog ti unas a mabalin nga aramiden a basi, wenno tagapulot.

Dayta kayo ti unay a mad-ingpil iti mamin-ano daras nga umusok-usok ket agbalin nga usang, ti usang no magango ken mayangyanan, mausar a

pagaron ken pagluto iti bennal wenno tagapulot. Dayta ubing simbolona ti panangrugi nga agbiag, masursurona ti agbiag iti aglawlawlaw a nuang a mangpaguddog iti dadapilan—ditoy ti lubong iti panagubing, namsek iti sursuro ken pan-nakatenneb nga agbiag kas kadagiti marim-it ken mape-spespes a ninayon ti unas.

Kadagiti nasapa a parban-gon nga aguddog ti dadapilan, dagiti naladaw a sardam. Makasuratak latta iti adu a daniw, sarindaniw ken dad-duma a piksion ta inkaubingak ti agayat nga agsurat. Adda Urat iti daniw; dagiti panag-birok ken panagtawataw.

No maminsan, maysa met nga kita ti unas ti tao—du-makkel, madapil, mapepes, matenneb, mausang, adu a wagas ti panagserbina iti bukodna a lubong, iti bukodna a komunidad, iti bukodna a pagsiriban, talento ken pangi-paayan iti bukodna a panagserbi a tumulong iti padana.

Maysaak met nga unas a

maimula, dumakkel ken mad-ingpil iti rigat. Maysaak met a nuang a naapput ti matana nga aglawlawlaw.

Maysaak met a dadapi-lan. Maysaak met nga usang, Adda panawen ti amin a pan-nakayanak, iti pannakatubay, iti pannakausar, iti panawen a kasapulan, iti panawen iti panagbiag ti tao. Kas iti dadapilan a natubay, naturno, naikkan iti wagas a panagserbi, kasta met ti tao a masukog, matubay ken masubok iti ania man a kita ti pannakasutna iti panagbiag.

IDI NOBIEMBRE 2012, a naikkanak ti gundaway a nag-bakasion kalpasan iti dandani kinse a tawen iti kaudian a bakasionko idi 1997, Awanen ti pagilasinan ti daan a dadapilan. Awanen ti anawang. Adda pay met ketdi a nabati ti dua a dadakkel nga akasia [algar-roba] kadagiti lima a kapuon idi pumanawak iti Tapao kadagiti panawen ti 1966 a panagbariw-as. Kalkalpas idi ti panagraduarko iti sekundaria kas maysa kadagiti adda iti umuna a sangapulo kadagiti nasurok a 100 a graduates. Di-toyak nga eskuela a nagbalin a Battalion Adjutant iti Pre-Mil-itary Training Corps [PMT]

Dagitoy dua nga akasia ti dakkel a salinong ti aguddog a dadapilan uray agmalmalem a paagdapil. Dua ti nuangmi nga agsinnublat a maipako iti awan patinggana a dalanna nga agrikrikus. No agpaksay ti nuang, alistuam a karosen nga ikkaten iti dalanna nga aglikaw.

Nakallalagip ti dadapilan, ti nuang, ti biag nga intedna iti biagko. Bigat ken malem a panagkiraw iti binurnay a maaramid a basi. Aglebbek iti gamu a rekado ti basi: napagango a bukel ti samak, napagango nga ukis ti kariskis, aggelgel iti napagango a bu-long ti samak. No lumnedn ti rekado wenno gamu ti binurnay a basi, mabalinen sangkakuna ni tatang. No saan a basi ti aramidenmi, tagapulot a linata, tinipay ken sinukog. Adu a kalti ti maaramid. Nangingina ti basi, kuna ni

tatang. Isu a manmanokami nga agluto ti tagapulot.

Naasir ti basi kadagiti ka-purokan nga agpatagnawa. Linata wenno ginalon ti gatan-genda. No panawen ti kampa-nia ti politika, umayda agsakdo ditoy sirok ti balay. Adda manggulpe ti sangaburnay.

Malagipko nga impakadak ken ni tatang: Dawatek ti pam-malubosmo, Ama, bay-annak a pumanaw ta sapulek ti kaibato-gak a lubong. No agsubliak, siakto laeng ti anakmo a nakasarak ti bassit a balligina, ket no saanakon nga agsubli, mabalin man a napaayak wenno diak nasapulan ti bir-birokek.

“Papanam ngarud,” dina-mag ti amak.

“Uray sadinon, tatang.

Makaamo ditan. Iturong-nakto ti gasat iti nalawa a siu-dad”, insungbatko.

Ket dita a nakigasanggasa-t a k . N a g a l l a - a l l a a k . Nakipagyanak iti pangamaek iti buniag iti Libertad Pasay City ta isu ti maysa kadagiti mangimatong iti furniture fac-tory nga ipatpataray ti kay-ongna nga insik.

Tapno awan ti makunada kaniak, tumulongak met iti ania man a maaramidko: agdalu, agbarnis. Umanayen a pagid-daak ti nagsusukot a tabla a maaramid a tugaw, lamisaan. No manganen ni pangamaek, manganak metten. Nasarakak ti kasinsinko a Diego iti sidiran ti Chinese Cemetery iti Tabunting, Binondo, Manila ket dita a nakipagyanak iti barongbarong.

Tugpatugpa a diding. Gapu ta adda met pamiliana, awan ti pagyanak iti uneg, ngarud, nangaramidkami iti bassit a kuarto iti sidiran. Umanay la a pagid-daak. Malem kadagiti kaar-rubami ti agrabaho iti sementerio ken isu ti pan-nakakapatasda. Naammuan ni kasinsin Diego nga agbir-birokda ti temporario a traba-hador a mangsukat iti kaawan ti agnagan iti Genaro Guzman ta nagbakasion kano idiyay probinsiada a Cagayan.

Naigasatak ta innaladak a mangisuno iti Genaro Guzman. Dayta ti nausar a naganko iti payroll. (continued on page 15)

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN CORONATION AND DINNER PROGRAM** | October 24, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL & SPA | Theme: Keeping Ilocano Tradition alive..... Four finalists representing Cabugao, San Juan Lapog, Sto Domingo and Vigan will be competing for the MRS ISAH 2015 crown. Part of the proceed will be used for the ISAH Medical and Homecoming Mission December 2015 to the participating town of Ilocos Sur. Donation for the event is \$75.00 | Contact Loida Yamamoto @679-9540; Danny Villaruz @778-0233

**2ND GRANDMA HAWAII INT'L AND FIRST LITTLE MISS ALOHA STATE INT'L** | October 25, 2015 | 5:30 PM | HIBISCUS RM., ALA MOANA HOTEL | Tickets @ \$65 | For more info, please call Carlota Ader (808) 797-4381 or Adela Salacup (808) 677-8908.

**FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD** | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

**ANNUAL CAREGIVER'S DAY CELEBRATION** | November 14, 2015 | 6:00 PM - 10: PM | NANI MAU | Contact: Maria Corazon Cariaga @937-7465 or 959-6760 or email: cariaacoraa@yahoo.com

**SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII-USA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** | December 5, 2015 | ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH HALL (KALIHI) | Contact Julius Soria @ 722-9958 or Aurora Garcia @ 722-3150 or email santaniansofhiusa@gmail.com

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Miriam Confirms Teamup with Bongbong**

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago on Thursday confirmed that Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will be her running mate in the 2016 national elections.

"I think we mutually chose each

other," Santiago said. Marcos submitted his certificate of candidacy for vice president before the Commission on Elections last Tuesday.

The vice presidential aspirant himself has hinted of his teamup with Santiago by posting a photo of

the two of them on his official Twitter account.

Last Monday, Santiago announced that she has gotten over her bout with cancer and is ready to take another shot at the presidency.

(www.philstar.com)

**Celebrity Political Aspirants for 2016 Elections**

MANILA, Philippines - There's a thin line between politics and showbiz here in the Philippines.

Celebrities are among the political aspirants who formally submitted their certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Election.

Here is an updated list of individuals who have filed the document for candidacy.

Names of celebrities who filed

for national posts as of Oct. 15, 2015, 10:40 a.m.

**National level:**

1. Edu Manzano: Senator
2. Alma Moreno: Senator
1. Herbert Bautista: Re-election Mayor, Quezon City
2. Roderick Paulate: Re-election Councilor, 2nd district Quezon City
3. Alfred Vargas: Councilor, 2nd district of Quezon City
4. Jhong Hilario: Councilor, Makati

5. Charee Pineda: Re-election Councilor, Valenzuela City
6. Lance Reymundo: Councilor, San Juan
7. Ericka Villongco: Councilor, San Juan
8. Vandolph Quizon: Councilor, Paranaque
9. Jomari Ylana: Councilor, Paranaque 1st district
10. Ronnie Ricketts: Representative,

**PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE (from page 14. DADAPILAN....)**

Tallo a pisos ken limapulo sentabos ti maysa nga aldaw. Naanusak ti turkias a tarong nga adda itlogna ken nakelnat ken nabugguongan a balangeg.

Iti kamposanto, dakami ti agkurob, agkabkab, agkali iti

tanem. Ling-et a kasta unay. No agsirena ti pangngaldaw, dita a mangaldawkami uray man iti ngarab ti abot. Agaramidkami pay iti panteon dagiti babaknang nga Insik. Nadumaduma ti kadakkel ken kangato.

Iti aganayen a 44 a tawen a kaawanko sadiay, nagsubli kaniak ti kinaubingko. Ad-adun a panawen ti kaaddak iti ballasiw—dito Hawaii nga imbilangko a maikadua a taeng.

Adda kadatayo met laeng ti abilidad a mangipakat ti kayattayo nga aramiden. Rumuk-attayo iti sirkulo iti dadapilan ket iwarastayo dagiti matatayo nga iti naminsan naikkan iti abungot ket itan ta makitatayo ti nalawlaw a lubong, ditoy nga agserbitayo kadagiti makasapul ti tulongtayo. Kapintasan nga aramid ti mangted ti paset ti adda kadatayo. Saan iti gatad, saan iti kaadu, ti kangrunaan, ti maited a sipupuso ken siraragsak

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**BENEFITS:**

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid  
Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay  
Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

**COMPENSATION:**

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- 12. Alex Castro: Provincial Board member, Bulacan
- 13. Jolo Revilla: Re-election Vice Governor, Cavite
- 14. Vilma Santos: Congresswoman, Batangas
- 15. Andrea del Rosario: Vice Mayor, Calatagan, Batangas
- 16. ER Ejercito: Governor, Laguna
- 17. Imelda Papin: Congresswoman, Camarines Sur
- 18. Lani Mercado: Mayor, Bacoor, Cavite

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PICTORIALS

More Pictorials at the Leeward Health Fair Sept. 20, 2015

Photos by PEPING ULEP

