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BAILES DE JOSE DANCE TROUPE KEEPING FILIPINO DANCE ALIVE AND WELL

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EDITORIAL

Keeping Filipino Culture Alive Through Dance

Dance is perhaps mankind's oldest form of expression. It is a living art and a good indicator of the health of a culture. Unlike painting and sculpture, dance exists in time, not through time. Once it stops, it is over. Dead, gone and extinct.

There are dances throughout the Philippines and the world where the remaining practitioners are elderly and few in number. When the last practitioner of a dance dies, the remaining traces die with him or her. Sadly, it is already too late for hundreds, maybe even thousands of dances around the world. So when a dance that has never been documented dies, it is as though it never existed.

In the Philippines, you'll find many cultures from distant lands reflected among the Filipino people. Influence from Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Polynesian, Indian and other cultures mixed with native tribal customs from island to island have resulted in a variety of intriguingly diverse regional and folk dances, including the crowd-pleasing *Tinikling* which originated from Leyte in the Visayas, the *Binasuan* from Bayambang in the Pangasinan province, the *Maglalatik* from the Laguna province and many others. These colorful dances represent countless stories that took place throughout the 7,107 islands and provide glimpses into the Philippines' fascinating history. Those who appreciate Philippine dances not only have a better grasp of the country's history but also better understand what the Philippines has become today.

Thousands of miles away on the tiny island of Kauai, a small dance troupe has throughout the years done its part to preserve and promote Filipino dances to audiences in Hawaii and the West coast. The Bailes de Jose Dance Troupe began in 1967 as a strictly volunteer grassroots effort by Waimea High School teacher Jose Bulatao, Jr., and group of students from various ethnicities—not just Filipino. The troupe's staying power is impressive, having lasted throughout the years despite its members disbanding but then reforming on several occasions whenever the need arose. Their efforts have led to a greater appreciation and understanding of Filipino culture and traditions. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of this remarkable dance troupe which continues to perform at various community and family events across Kauai. Bravo to Bailes de Jose Dance Troupe members for keeping the rich Filipino culture alive and sharing it with the world!

Rail Project Needs Full Completion

Honolulu's rail project finds itself at a crossroads. The price tag now stands at \$6.8 billion and its final cost is expected to reach upwards of \$8.1 billion by the time it's all said and done. Honolulu's top political leaders have reached a consensus that perhaps building the rail up to the Middle Street bus transit station is the best option given the fiscal constraints facing the project.

But when you think about about it, ending at Middle Street and using a bus system to bring riders to and from Downtown, Ala Moana and the University of Hawaii-Manoa campus does not make sense. You are simply bringing in loads of people from West and Central Oahu and

FROM THE PUBLISHER

In a few days, Rodrigo Duterte will be officially sworn as the 16th president of the Philippines and the first from Mindanao. The world's attention will be focused on the former mayor of Davao City, who has opted to hold the ceremony at Rizal Ceremonial Hall in Malacañang instead of Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park to prevent traffic jams on Roxas Boulevard. Social networking giant Facebook will offer live streaming of the event, so if you want to watch, log in!

Among those chosen by Duterte for his cabinet is Hawaii's very own Perfecto Rivas Yasay, Jr. who has been tapped as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). Chronicle columnist Emmanuel S. Tipon writes about Yasay, who was Duterte's former college roommate and why he is an excellent choice for DFA secretary. Turn to page 9 for more on Yasay and his background.

Our cover story for this issue focuses on the Bailes de Jose Dance Troupe from Kauai. Founded in the late 1960s, this dance troupe has helped to perpetuate and promote Filipino dance and culture to audiences across the state. Read more about this dance troupe's fascinating history beginning on page 4.

We also have in this issue our special 12-page Wedding Supplement which is filled with many useful tips for prospective brides and couples on planning for their special day. Mahalo to our faithful advertisers for participating in our special supplement which I am sure all of you will enjoy reading.

In closing, thank you once again for your faithful support. I encourage you to read the informative articles in this issue and to also email us at: fipinochronicle@gmail.com with story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. We would love to hear from you!

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



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dumping them several miles short of their destination. Passengers will consist of mainly of those who have no other transportation alternative, such as students and the economically disadvantaged. Ridership is key to offset operation and maintenance subsidies but stopping at Middle Street will mean considerably less riders than projected since the buses will be running at-grade with traffic into a congested urban Honolulu core.

The best option we see is a fully-built system but unfortunately the crucial funding source—the GET surcharge—ends in the year 2027 and lawmakers at the State and county level are opposed to any further extension. It's understandable, given the public's frustration with rising costs and a myriad of complaints associated with the project. But then again, an extension of the GET surcharge may indeed be warranted since it is more palatable than say, an increase in property taxes to pay for the project. At least with the GET, the public is paying in tiny increments at the cash register, rather than a big hit when property tax bills come in the mail. When you think about it, Oahu has been paying the surcharge since 2007 and the resulting mass starvations, job layoffs, business closures and personal bankruptcies have not materialized as critics predicted. Why? It's because we have adapted and

(continued on page 3)

OP-ED

Duterte Is a Lunatic and Complete Embarrassment to the International Community

By Edwin Quinabo

Almost 30 years ago, the world looked to the Philippines with admiration and respect as its citizens endured one of the most successful non-violent revolutions in modern history. Amazingly, the Philippines transition of power from the strongman regime of Ferdinand Marcos to Corazon Aquino was met with practically zero violence -- even though similar historical narratives that involves dictatorial regime-change usually ends in a sea of blood. No one can forget the powerful images where mighty military tanks were stopped in their tracks by kneeling nuns holding rosaries. Victory through peace encapsulated that movement.

The world and the United States was so impressed with the People's Revolution and Aquino that Time Magazine named the peace-loving president its publication's Woman of the Year. The U.S. Congress also invited Aquino to address the assembly where she was welcomed with multiple standing ovations and applauds.

Why? -- because Aquino and the Filipino people exemplified a model of nonviolence that the world could look up to and respect, a rare ideal that became a reality in 1986.

What happened?

Fast forward to today, the entire world community watched in utter shock at who

the Philippines decided to elect into office -- a blood-thirsty president-elect with no compass of morality and humanity, a disgraceful, unapologetic brute whose words and policies are anathema to all civil societies, a man who confesses to be a proud killer, a man who makes jokes of rape and murder, a man who can only bring doom and chaos the longer he is in office, a man whom many Filipinos abroad looked down on as a small thinker and are embarrassed to have as president of their mother country.

This president-elect, Rodrigo Duterte, proclaims to be a champion of a society governed under the rule of law with his promise to fight criminals and drug dealers; yet, his incitement of blood-curling violence is ironically the complete opposite and far from perpetuating a society under the rule of law by any stretch.

Regular citizens now can be killers too

Duterte's latest call to arms is vigilantism. He said in a nationally televised speech that it was fine for citizens to take the law into their own hands.

"If he (suspected criminal) fights, and he fights to the death, you can kill him," Duterte said. Like a madman tyrant, he encourages citizens to use deadly force against drug dealers who threaten them. If that isn't the most convenient excuse to kill anyone, what is? Imagine anyone could justify killing someone else and use drugs as an excuse. Forget about the tradition of having

any courts, or any law for that matter. Even dictators operate under the illusion that they are working within the limits of the law. For Duterte and his supporters, they brazenly have no regard for the law, and somehow pass off killing as some simple matter. The problem with this is: first it is ok to kill criminals and drug dealers; then who could be the next group: stealers, cheaters, liars, or perhaps journalists as he hints.

In the same speech, Duterte elaborates on how to deal with criminals and drug dealers: "Please feel free to call us, the police, or do it yourself if you have the gun...you have my support. Shoot him (the drug dealer) and I'll give you a medal." The president-elect earlier put a bounty on drug dealers "dead or alive." He goes on to threaten corrupt police: "Son of a bitch, I will kill you." Based on his track record in Davao City, this is no laughing matter.

Extrajudicial killing by armed forces working for dictators was and is one of the most unjust features of abuse. But what Duterte is now advocating takes that one step further when he calls upon every day, regular citizens, to become killers themselves, and could eventually be the first step to establishing warring militias, something countries in the Middle East must contend with every day. How is this not considered anarchy? How is this not considered illegal under the Philippine Constitution? And how is this not grounds for im-

minent impeachment when Duterte officially takes office?

Attack on media

In a transparent attempt to strike fear in journalists and the media, Duterte played on words, implying that they too are in danger. He said: "Just because you're a journalist you are not exempted from assassination, if you're a son of a bitch...Freedom of expression cannot help you if you have done something wrong."

The Philippine media is already under siege with violence and the Philippines is named each year among the top 10 deadliest countries for journalists. Since 1992, 77 journalists were killed in the Philippines, ranking third in the world. Only Iraq and Syria have more journalists killed. The Philippines ranks ahead of Algeria, Somalia, Pakistan,

and other repressive regimes. So why would a president-elect even hint at journalists as being open game for further violence committed against them? -- if only to set up a stage of fear and intimidation when he assumes the presidency.

Everything about this small, insecure man could only lead to misery for the Philippines. The Filipino people must rethink what they have done. Should laws be broken by Duterte, the Filipino people should move rapidly to remove him from office before he becomes much too powerful.

Going back to the peaceful People's Revolution of 1986 -- that was only made possible because Marcos agreed to flee the country. Based on all the frightening demagoguery Duterte has shown so far even before assuming office, attempts at any regime change would not pass non-violently.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, RAIL PROJECT...)

made adjustments along the way—and will continue to do so.

It took decades of discussion and planning for rail construction to even begin but if we stop short now at Middle Street, it is likely that we won't ever see the project fully completed, at least not in our lifetime. The old saying that "Anything worth doing, is worth doing right" holds true for completing the project. And in this case, the right thing to do is to complete the project to Ala Moana via an extension of the GET, if needed.

Perhaps minimal five year increments should be considered, along with closer scrutiny of each dollar that is expended for the project. Any such extension will require the political will and strong leadership but we have no choice but to bite the bullet and see the project through completion. Anything less is a disservice to the people of the City and County of Honolulu, who voted in November 2008 for a fixed rail project from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Center. Let's build rail—and build it right!



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COVER STORY

Bailes de Jose Dance Troupe: Keeping Filipino Dance Alive and Well

By Dennis Galolo

Dance like no one is watching. Live like you'll never be hurt. Sing like no one is listening. Live like it's heaven on earth.
— William Purkey

Human beings started dancing perhaps even before there was a word for it. It's very likely that the very first dance steps sprang from our desire for self-expression and social connection.

Dance is a vehicle or expression through which one can communicate to others. Dancing speaks volumes as the dancer puts all of his or her emotions into the movement, which may not be always beautiful to look at or understood.

Dance has also impacted cultures the world over, with different countries having their signature dances. Japan has its Bon dance, China its Dragon dance, Central Europe its Polka dance, America with its Square dance and Hawaii with its hula. The Philippines has its share of beautiful folk dances, perhaps foremost of which is the Tinikling, which features

dancers hopping between two bamboo poles. This iconic dance originated in Leyte and is gracefully performed with precision as well as speed.

As a universal form of self-expression, dance is a major part of Philippine culture. Filipinos' love for dance is deeply tied to our appreciation for rhythm and beats, which explains why Filipinos also enjoy singing. A party is just not complete without several rounds of dancing to the latest dance craze.

Humble Beginnings

In Hawaii, various dance troupes, both local and visiting,



keep Filipino culture and tradition alive through its performances. One such group is the Bailes de Jose Dance Troupe, which was formed on Kauai in early 1967 by Waimea High School teacher Jose Bulatao, Jr. The dance troupe is a household name on Kauai but unfortunately not as well known on the neighbor islands.

The group's humble origins extend back to the time when Bulatao answered a call from the Garden Island Arts Council to gather a bunch of students to provide a contingent of dancers willing to represent the dances of the Philippines at a dance concert at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall. At the time, there were already Bon dancers, hula halaus and other dance groups representing the island's ethnic groups—but none from the Filipino community.

Bulatao began with a dozen or so students from all ethnic groups, including Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian, Portuguese and Puerto Rican.

"We wanted it open to all ethnic groups because dance is a universal experience and so that Filipino dances could be

enjoyed by all," he says.

The students were Henry Taeza, Milling Canon, Dennis Bisano, Nelson Hashimoto, Joseph Kruse, Michael Pagala, Clesson Aipoalani, Jane Valdez, Leila Valdez, Christine Ulanday, Lois Kaneyama, Evelyn Valdez, Glenda Valenciano and Joyce Mizukami. They practiced several hours each week in whatever venue they could find—the school auditorium, his backyard, church property and other places that could accommodate the students. The students committed to performing the following dances—

"Sagayan," "Singkil," "Sakuting," "Itik-Itik," "Alcamphor," "Jota Rojana," "Mazurka Boholana," "Binasuan," and "Tinikling." Despite having no formal dance training, Bulatao based their performances on what his mom Guadalupe taught him as a youngster while preparing for Rizal Day and Philippine Independence Day celebrations coordinated by Kauai's Filipino community. She'd gather groups of youngsters to present some of the familiar folk dances of the Philippines like the "Carinosa" and "Lawiswis Kawayan."

Occasionally, she did a few

creative numbers, including an ensemble number of girls dressed in flowing gowns, waltzing with floral accessories and forming different patterns through their graceful movements.

Now, the responsibility had fallen into Bulatao's lap.

"The whole shebang started from scratch," Bulatao says. "Being literally in the middle of nowhere in a totally rural sugar plantation town, it was more 'guts-than-brains-let's-do-what-we-can' attitude."

Although meant to be a one shot deal, the students enjoyed the performance so much that they decided to continue. A key factor in their growth and development were several opportunities to personally meet with various dance companies from the Philippines that would stop on Kauai on their way to and from the mainland, including the Bayanihan Dance Company, Filipinescas Dance Company and the Roman Obusan Folkloric Group. The visitors would offer their hosts technical advice on various traditional dances as well as encouragement.

In particular, the Bayani-

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COVER STORY



(from page 4, BAILES ...)

han dancers advised Bulatao to keep the group's dance numbers fresh, rather than let it become like a routine.

"They encouraged us to take a more creative approach and to stylize our performances," Bulatao says. "As a traveling group, there is the possibility of performances becoming monotonous."

And travel they did. With financial support from the State Foundation on Cultural and the Arts (SFCA), the troupe traveled to the Big Island, Molokai, Lanai and Maui for various performances. They were dubbed "ambassadors of Filipino dance" and visited high schools across the state for a two-year period. The SFCA provided funds for the group to purchase instruments, costumes, accessories and props directly from the Philippines to augment their inventory.

Members also traveled to Oahu for guest appearances on Tata Faustino Respicio's "Filipino Fiesta" program and on several occasions danced live for television viewers.

In the early 1970s, Bulatao took his students to a national convention of Filipino organizations in Seattle, Washington. The group also sent a contingent of dancers to the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at the University of the Redlands in California. While in California, the troupe also performed at venues in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Traveling to the mainland, Bulatao says, was an eye opener for the young dancers from Kauai.

"They saw how the Filipino culture had flourished in

a big city like Seattle," Bulatao says. "Having come from a small island like Kauai, they didn't realize the extent of how well-established Filipinos were on the mainland. There were also opportunities for them to share the Filipino culture with other ethnic groups in California through their dance numbers."

The troupe's early history was captured in a feature documentary by William Sollner, former dean of students at Kauai Community College. Entitled "Dance Trip," the short film focuses on the dance troupe's efforts on mastering Filipino folk dances despite their limited training and showcasing them to the public.

Bulatao says one factor that makes Filipino folk dances so appealing are the various types and styles—from aboriginal dance to Muslim, Spanish and regional influences—that's reflective of Filipino culture.

"The Philippines is really a crossroads of cultures and influences which is reflective in our multi-dimensional folk dances," he says. "So much international flavor is what helps to make Filipino folk dances so interesting and appealing."

As the original members grew up and moved on with their lives, the group officially retired in 1976. However, the need and demand for cultural dances of the Philippines made it possible for off-shoots of the Bailes de Jose Dance Company to continue to exist. One such group was the Kasibulan Dance Company, founded by pioneering dancer Allan Villaflor.

Interest also came from Kauai's senior citizens who eagerly wanted to join the per-

forming arts, as well as from schools requesting grade-level presentations of Filipino folk dances.

"Members of the troupe were willing to render assistance to teach the children dances like 'Pukol,' 'Carinosa' and of course the 'Tinikling,'" Bulatao says.

New dancers continue to join the Troupe's endeavors, the latest being students from Waimea High School's Bayanihan Club. They bring their vim and vigor to the creative dynamics of the Troupe's repertoire with their hip-hop version of the "Tinikling," but done in the 21st Century style.

The Bailes de Jose Dance Company reformed in the mid-1990s, disbanded and reformed once again in 2012 "like a phoenix rising from the flames of retirement," Bulatao says.

Now 79, Bulatao is beginning to feel physical aches and pains but still enjoys life and the fruits of his labor.

"I have opportunities to sit and watch how the troupe members carry on without me because they have developed the abilities to be creative and contributory in our joint endeavors," he says. "Troupe members have come and gone. Some have returned intermittently when time permits. Some have passed on and we hold them dear to our hearts. There is space for all of them to forever be a part of us."

A few members are still going strong, particularly those who were a part of the earlier years of the troupe's formation and when it first "retired" in 1975. They include June Valenciano Akuna, Lisa Ceballos Moreno, Gloria Galvez Acain,



Marida Valenciano Dorado, Arlene Tacub Sablan and Steven Domingo.

It's been a busy 2016 for members who are preparing for the year's remaining performances. Their schedule includes Fourth of July celebrations in Kekaha, the Miss Kauai Filipina Pageant, as well as wed-

dings, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions and various community events.

"The demand for our participation has been great since we're the only Filipino dance company on Kauai," Bulatao says. "When there is a need for ethnic variety, we will be there to fill that spot."



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By Emil Guillermo

On Filipinophobia, Islamophobia and Father's Day

When Father's Day comes up, I naturally can't help but think of my dad. He left the Philippines in the 1920s and never looked back.

That was a risk then for a kid with his younger brother to travel to America on a cheap steamship ticket. And after all these years and despite having children of my own, I still feel I must defer to my late father. Father's Day is still his day, not mine. And now suddenly, thanks to Orlando and Donald Trump, it really does feel like the late 1920s and 1930s again in America.

The politics of fear, played out by today's Islamophobia, is very similar to what I have dubbed the "Filipinophobia" that took place when my father arrived in California from the Philippines. Filipinos weren't on a jihad. Through Spanish colonialism, they were Catholic. But because of American colonialism, they were nationals. American nationals. Not citizens. Not slaves. Just not good enough.

They were in a strange limbo, exploitable as labor but unwanted for their genetic background. And yet worthy of travel without green cards to the home of the colonizer. They sought their fortune,

though they would settle for opportunity. Instead, they took menial jobs no one wanted and consorted with native women, who happened to be white.

It caused a virulent nativist reaction to their presence that resulted in racial violence, deaths and a successful call for extreme limits on Filipino immigration. You want to know why it takes 20 years to get your green card? In part, it's because of that legacy of the 1920s.

I will tell the story of what my father encountered in a performance piece I've been preparing for a June 24 workshop at the Filipino American National History Association's conference in New York. I will feature an excerpt of my "Amok" monologue, where I talk about my father's journey, how it impacted my own life and how it's all connected to the recent violent shooting death of my cousin Stephen. Check it out if you can. Or invite me to Hawaii to tell my story.

The entire conference is interesting. Filipino American history isn't just a subset of Asian American history—it's a part of hidden American history that few seem to know about.

My dad's story is part of my experimenting in the autobiographical monologue-style that I combined in my journalism when I was a host at NPR's "All Things Considered."

Initially, I discovered the style while I was an arts reporter and critic for the NBC affiliate in San Francisco and interviewed monologist Spalding Gray who was always a truthful and engaging storyteller, with occasional laughs. Just don't call him a standup comic. "Sit-down comic" if anything, he told me. Gray called himself a "poetic journalist" and made his name telling the real stories of his life.

One of the most notable is "Gray's Anatomy," which was turned into a film and where among other stories, Gray talks of seeking medical help for his worsening eye condition from a Filipino psychic healer. It was just one of many stories Gray took from his life. And then he jumped off the Staten Island Ferry and died.

I'm not going to jump off the Staten Island Ferry but the story I tell is an emotional one, more interested in the blood that runs through history, rather than the footnotes. We live in a storytelling culture, though sometimes we'd all rather be private than public. As a consequence, more often than not, stories aren't told. We stay quiet. I'm not.

I'm always surprised when I mention nuggets of Filipino American history like the Tydings-McDuffie Act, which changed the status of Filipinos from American nationals to just plain Filipino and subject to deportation.

Essentially, it was the Filipino Exclusion Act, the final act of American Filipinophobia. My father survived it. But just barely.

Orlando and Islamophobia

The coincidence of so much death and hate of late is almost too much to bear. This I know—the pain never fades. I still have enough problems with the violent gun death of my 27-year-old cousin in 2014, and then, there was the anniversary of my father's passing this week in 1978. All that, and now Orlando's 50 dead.

When even my distractions disappoint, it seems like there's nowhere to turn. In the case of the Pulse massacre, the deaths are so fresh with each news report, it's as if the blood never dries. It all just keeps flowing, as we search for a way to apply some relief. One thing is clear. Our so-called political leaders are hardly able to come up with any real answers, certainly not in their opening responses.

Curbing guns should be the easy one. But it's not. I reported on my first AR-15 semi-automatic mass shooting in Texas in June of 1980. It was in a church. Five killed, 10 injured, a big one for its time. Thirty-six years later and a near 15-hour filibuster hardly seems that impressive, when I doubt it will result in meaningful legislation.

So maybe we can come together to take on homophobia and Islamophobia? Republican presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump keeps fanning the flames of Islamophobia, invoking the politics of fear that Asian Americans know all too well. From the Chinese Exclusion Act to Japanese American internment, fear has always been a failed American response.

But it always has been the first response to America's "others." It has never worked short-term or long-term. This week, we saw Trump baiting President Obama with the "Is-

lamic Radicalism" argument. The best we could hope for was the president angrily exposing Trump, which he did.

I'm just surprised that even smart people can sometimes be fooled by the GOP leader's tough guy rhetoric, which is simply a veiled effort to legitimize xenophobia.

So what is the best answer? Invite your Muslim friends over for shwarma and beer? High in calories, but it couldn't hurt. They aren't the enemy. Last year, I interviewed Parvez Sharma, director of the much heralded documentary "A Sinner in Mecca." It depicts Sharma, a gay Muslim American who lives in New York, making his spiritual journey to Mecca, despite Islam's stance against homosexuality. In particular, the film exposed Saudi Arabia's rigid Wahhabi ideology.

I called Sharma this week to ask him about Orlando. He said he was horrified by the news, but put off by the platitudes of liberals and Muslim pundits, whom he called apologists for Islam.

"As I fast this month of Ramadan, I am ready to have the courage to say this," Sharma told me. "As far as I am concerned, and I say this as a devout Muslim, I will never say 'Islam is a religion of peace.' That's reductive and specious. We as Muslims need to start looking inwards so we can have the strength to challenge this kind of violence that lives amongst us."

He seems to be saying that the religion may have violence. But people don't have to resort to violence. They can choose peace and work toward that. Sharma says he isn't looking for a theological way out of explaining or "apologizing" for Islam. He is, however, keying in on individuals. And being on alert.

"We need to call out Islamophobes, but we need to call out our own," Sharma said. "Muslims have been living with non-Muslims peace-

(continued on page 9)

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Deportation of Aliens at the Behest of Spouse

A growing number of aliens are being deported at the behest of a U.S. citizen (USC) or lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouse or ex-spouse who petitioned for the alien. The usual claim is that the alien committed fraud by using the citizen or LPR to gain entry to the United States without intending to fulfill their marriage vows.

Immigration authorities jump with joy when they hear of such complaints. Marriage fraud is one of the things they intensely hate. In most cases immigration authorities act immediately, but in other cases they procrastinate.

Here is a case where immigration authorities acted quickly. A single mother USC went to the Philippines and married a Filipino citizen. They had sexual relations once. The USC returned to Hawaii and filed an immediate relative visa petition for her

husband. The petition was approved and the papers forwarded to the U.S. Embassy in Manila for further processing. The USC wife kept calling him to file but the husband kept procrastinating. After the Filipino got an immigrant visa, he again kept delaying his coming to the U.S. More than two years had elapsed before the Filipino came to Hawaii. He did not tell his wife that he was coming to Hawaii. Someone who knew the couple found the man working at a fast food restaurant. The friend approached the Filipino saying that she did not know he had arrived. The guy told the woman that his wife did not know and not to tell her.

The friend told the guy's wife. The wife with her parents went to the restaurant and found the man. They confronted him asking why he did not tell them he was coming. He made lame excuses. The man refused to go with the wife to her home. The wife told her husband he would have him deported. The man laughed saying that he could not be deported because he

had a permanent green card since he entered the U.S. after they had been married for 2 years. Apparently he knew that if you are married for at least 2 years when you enter the U.S. you get a permanent green card instead of a conditional one.

The wife filed for divorce. The man fought the divorce, arguing they had a genuine marriage, and there was no ground for divorce.

The wife reported him to immigration authorities. She submitted detailed affidavits of herself, her parents, and friends, claiming that she was a victim of fraud and that they never lived together as husband and wife, had no joint documents together, and no other indicia of a bona fide marriage. Since the marriage was consummated, I suggested for her to say: "One sexual encounter does not a marriage make."

Immigration authorities picked up the Filipino guy, confined him at the Federal Detention Center (FDC), and placed him in removal proceedings. I was asked if I could go FDC to ask the Filipino to sign the divorce papers. I told the guy to sign so he could remarry when he goes back to the

Philippines. He signed. I told him that he was stupid, adding that if he had gone directly to his wife's house, had sex with her, lived together for a couple of days, open a bank account, and then leave her, he might have had a better chance of not being deported. "Diak ammo deyta" (I do not know that)," he replied meekly.

Here is a case where the immigration authorities did not act quickly. A USC went to the Philippines, married a Filipino widower with two minor children, and when she returned to the U.S. filed a visa petition for all of them. The visa petition was approved and the Filipino and his two minor children immigrated to the U.S. They all lived together with the USC in her rented home. In a few days their relationship became intolerable. Even the children were bad mouthing her. She filed for divorce. She also wrote to immigration authorities to have him deported claiming he married her for immigration purposes, and submitted detailed affidavits. The divorce was granted.

However, immigration authorities did not act. After about six months she wrote a follow up letter. There was no answer. I told her to write to the USCIS Director. There was no answer. I told her to write to the Secretary of the

Department of Homeland Security. One of their minions replied saying that they would look into the matter. When she did not hear from the minion for several months I told her to write to President Obama and her senator, copy furnished the USCIS Director, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General. Later, another minion from the Department Homeland Security wrote her saying her husband and his children had been placed in removal proceedings.

Why did immigration authorities act differently in these two cases? Immigration authorities act in inexplicable ways.

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: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. 808 225 2645 E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: 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.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Interest-Free Down Payment Loans Available For Families

City officials are reminding the public that there is still time for qualified low-income and moderate-income families to receive interest-free loans for home purchase down payments.

Interested households must apply for the program through a mortgage lender after receiving approval for a first mortgage. To qualify, applicants must provide five percent of the purchase price as a down payment and complete an approved homeownership course. A home inspection is also required.

Loans will be awarded on



a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to apply. Approximately \$380,000 in Federal HOME funds have been allocated for the program.

"This program can make the dream of homeownership a reality for working families across Oahu," says Honolulu Mayor Caldwell. "With mort-

gage rates still at historic lows, a zero-interest down payment loan can be the difference between renting and owning a home."

For more details on the program, call the Department of Community Services, Rehabilitation Loan Branch at 768-7076.

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PICTORIAL NEWS

June 5th Filipino Food Fair

by Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

The Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH) and the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu held a press conference on June 5 to kick off the Filipino Food Fair at the Hawaii Prince Hotel. The event promoted the 118th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day and the Philippine Independence Gala Night at the hotel's Mauna Kea ballroom on June 11.

Prince Resorts Hawaii President Donn Takahashi noted that the hotel's staff, many of whom are of Filipino heritage, were especially eager and proud to feature the dishes of the Philippines. The Food Fair was among the many highlights of the successful event themed "KKK" or Kalayaan (independence), Kultura (culture) and Kulinarya (cuisine).



▲ (seated): PCCCH Chair Allan Alvarez, Consul General Gina Jamoralin and Prince Resorts Hawaii President Donn Takahashi field questions from the media. (standing) Hong Kong visitors Randolph and Lulu Salazar, and Philippine Airlines Area Manager Sol Solleza.



◀ Waipahu High School Culinary Arts Academy faculty member Kimi Maeda and student Eugene Baudan were among those who prepared delicious Filipino Food Fair dishes at the Hawaii Prince Court.



◀ Consul Joyleen Espinosa Santos and Michi Villaluz show off a dish at the Filipino Food Fair.



▲ Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand (shanghai lumpia), Sol Solleza (pansit), Lynne Gutierrez (lechon kawali), Rhoda Yabes Alvarez (sarcidong salmon) and Angie Santiago (chicken adobo) display several dishes at the week long Filipino Food Fair at the Hawaii Prince Court. The occasion included a media event and taste test of several featured dishes.

AN EVENING WITH GRACE NONO

by Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

"Decolonizing Voice and Reclaiming Cultural Relations with Grace Nono," held June 6 at the Honolulu Museum of Arts Doris Duke Theater, was a community offering and experience like no other. Nono opened with soulful chants that she learned from elders and *babaylans* who she introduced later through pictures. The chants she learned are a very tiny fragment of ancestral knowledge that is alive in many communities today. She told the audience that learning requires not only the mind but also the body, practice and relationships that are based on reciprocity. Kalama Cabigon offered the opening *oli* and Sonya Zabala led the offering of aloha leis. Ric Trimillos introduced Nono and at the end, the audience participated in a Q&A and singing of the traditional lullaby song entitled "Dandansoy."



Grace Nono delivers a soulful chant during the opening night of the event. | Photo by Tim Llana



UH Professor Emeritus Ric Trimillos introduces Grace Nono | Photo by Tim Llana



Posing for a group photo are (from left): UPAAH President Melody Calisay, Nieva Elizaga, Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin, Grace Nono, Belinda Aquino, Bea Ramos-Razon, Divina Robillard and Tim Llana.

OPINION

Perfecto Yasay, Jr.: The Perfect Choice for Foreign Affairs Secretary

by Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

There is no doubt that Perfecto Rivas Yasay, Jr. (“Jun”) is the perfect choice by incoming President Rodrigo Duterte for Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). Yasay has the full faith and confidence of Duterte. He was a roommate of Duterte while they were in school. They are bosom friends. He will have easy access to Duterte. They are not only on a first name basis; they are on a nickname basis. He will be intrigue-proof.

Yasay told this writer that he “did not seek the job. I was just astounded like most of you to know through media that our presumptive president had offered it to me without warning.” When Yasay, Noel Calixto and this writer had breakfast in Waikiki the day before Yasay left for the Philippines, Duterte was not the number one in the polls. Thus we did not discuss what possible position Yasay would get in a Duterte administration. Instead, we talked about how a Duterte-Marcos alliance could easily achieve victory with a combination of the Solid North and the South, unless cheated. Yasay asked this writer to get the endorsement of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

Yasay will be the only Secretary of the DFA who worked as an immigrant in a country foreign to the Philippines – the United States. He lived in New York and regularly visited his family who are U.S. citizens in Hawaii. Thus he knows the American psyche, and the idiosyncrasies or idiosyncrasies of the people of the United States which is the Philippines’ closest ally and trading partner. He knows how to get along with Americans. He is expected to foster closer ties between the Philippines and the United States.

Yasay practiced law in New York where he passed the state bar exams on his first try. Thus he knows the trials and tribulations of Filipinos living abroad and how to overcome or at least alleviate them. He knows the travails of Filipinos especially those living in the U.S. who are victims of ineffective criminal defense counsel and greedy non-Filipino immigration lawyers. He is aware of the abuses of foreign employers especially those in the Middle East. He has ideas on how to combat them. Filipinos abroad believe that Yasay will make Filipino diplomatic officials be more proactive in helping Filipinos instead of simply issuing passports and inducting officers of Filipino organizations.

Yasay is a consummate



Atty. Emmanuel Tipon with incoming DFA Secretary Perfecto “Jun” Yasay and Noel Calixto.

diplomat. He is very respectful and listens. He has never shown anger. During gatherings with close friends, he never bad mouths anybody, even when others are bad-mouthing people who are not present.

He will make a “great” Foreign Secretary, “he has broad experience in the world stage,” and he is “smart, intelligent, talented, and does not just cut down people,” enthused Roland Casamina, a successful businessman and philanthropist in Honolulu who owns House of Finance and a close friend of Yasay who invited him to be a member of the Board of Governors of the FilCom Center in Hawaii.

Yasay is witty and possesses a sense of humor. He is quick at repartee. He is very friendly and unassuming. Walang “hot air”. He is the kind of person with whom one can enjoy having a cup of coffee and “just shoot the breeze.”

He is an effective administrator. He was the Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission under President Fidel Ramos and during the early months of

President Joseph Estrada. Yasay was a senior partner of the law firm Maceda, Yasay, and Tolentino in New York. He is also the chairman of the board of Central Philippine University in Manila.

Yasay is an eloquent speaker. He was a Speaker at the United Nations meeting on the Growth of Domestic Capital Markets in Geneva, Switzerland in 1998. When he was living in New York, he had his own radio program. He is a frequent guest on The Tipon Report on KNDI radio in Honolulu.

He is analytical, articulate, a prolific writer, and an excellent researcher as evidenced by his two books “Terminal Four: Corruption in America’s Only Colony in Asia” and “Out of the Lion’s Den: The Travails and Triumphs of a Public Servant,” and in his writings in the various Filipino American newspapers. According to an analyst on ABS-CBN television, Yasay’s appointment “could prove to be beneficial as it could make way for more in-depth studies on what could be done to resolve the territorial dispute with China.”

He is a fighter against graft and corruption. He had the guts to testify in the impeachment trial against President Joseph Estrada on corruption charges.

Yasay is no stranger to national politics. In 2010, he ran as a candidate for vice president of the Bangon Pilipinas Party with Eddie Villanueva as his running mate. However, they both lost to better funded and more prominent politicians.

He is well-bred. He comes from a very good and deeply religious family. His father, Perfecto Yasay, was a pastor and his mother Deborah Rivas, was a public school teacher.

Yasay is very religious and believes “that God placed me here and prepared me for this new but humbling assignment. He never fails us when we commit our lives to Him in his service. I will continue in humility to draw strength, wisdom, inspiration and hope from Him.”

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: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. 808 225 2645 E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: 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.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 6, ON FILIPINOPHOBIA...)

fully throughout the world for over 14 centuries. So that’s not even a question. It’s what we’ve always done.”

But it becomes a problem when non-Muslims use the religion to justify stereotyping people in the name of fear. Just remember Sharma. It also pays to remember the history of our fathers before we give in to the generalized fear of Trump’s “seen-one-seen-them-all-till-further-notice” approach.

Filipino Americans and all Asian Americans know

what it’s like to be on the wrong end of that equation, when nativists use fear in their desire to make America white again. To stand united against that is what makes America great again.

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 California.

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COMMENTARY

What It Takes to Be An Effective Citizen

By Lee H. Hamilton

It's so easy in a presidential election year to forget that our system is not about a single person. This year especially, when the dynamics of the presidential contest have dominated news coverage so thoroughly that even the Senate and House races have largely disappeared from view, the crucial role that citizens play — apart from serving as voters in the presidential drama — isn't even an afterthought.

Yet effective citizenship is the base on which our representative democracy rests. Our vitality as a country depends on the involvement of millions of people in their neighborhoods and communities, in interest groups and civic organizations, in groups agitating for change and groups defending the status quo.

So just what constitutes effective citizenship? I believe it's made up of several elements.

First, a confident belief that change is possible — that the country can indeed make progress over time thanks to the efforts both of ordinary people and of political leaders. In his recent speech at Howard University, President Obama noted that by almost every measure, the country has moved forward over the last three decades. The poverty rate is down, as are the rates for crime and for teenage pregnancy. More Americans are getting college degrees, more women are working and earning more money, many cities are far healthier than they were in the 1980s.

Yes, we've got miles to go on many fronts, but on the whole, I'll take where we stand today over where we stood in the 1980s. Our system is working better for more people than it did then.

The people who helped make this happen understood two things: that progress was possible, and that it required their efforts. This might seem too obvious even to say, but those who were most effective had an impact because they had the skills to make a difference.

I'm talking here about the fundamental ability we should all have as citizens to solve problems in a representative democracy that's filled with people who have different beliefs, perspectives, and experiences. This means knowing how to work together with all kinds of people, being able to find common ground, being forthright about aims and methods, forging con-

nections to key officials and other players who can help advance a cause, building consensus, and communicating ideas effectively.

I use the word "skills," but in the end, good citizenship is as much about temperament as it is about ability. Mutual respect, tolerance, empathy, civility, humility, honesty, resolve — these are the simple virtues that our nation depends on in its citizens, not because they're nice to see, but because in a vibrant and diverse democracy they're crucial for making progress.

So is a willingness to step up to challenges. The people who make a difference in our system are the ones who not only identify a problem, but then plunge into fixing it.

I frequently hear from people who are exasperated by the obstacles they have to overcome in order to make a difference: fellow citizens who are ignorant of the system, politicians who are too obtuse or self-interested to see the light, incompetence in the bureaucracy, officials protecting turf.... But here's the thing: those obstacles will always be there. You just have to keep plugging away at overcoming them, whether by casting an informed ballot, sitting down with — or protesting against — political leaders, or finding the myriad ways you can improve the quality of life for your neighbors and fellow Americans.

You may already have picked up on the final quality that makes for effective citizenship, and it's a tough one. For the most part, we're not going to solve our challenges in a single generation. So we have to educate our children and those who come after us in the same skill sets I've been talking about.

That's because, as I said at the start, our representative democracy is not all about the presidency. We — you, me, and our fellow citizens — are responsible for the future of our neighborhoods and our nation. Unless we all shoulder the obligation to learn the skills we need to shepherd it into the future, and then teach those skills to others, our country and our system will struggle.

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

FEATURE

Hernando Tan: Rising Labor Union Leader

by Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Filipinos have a long history with public worker unions—not just in Hawaii but on the mainland.

From Larry Itliong of Delano, California to Pablo Manlapit of Kauai, Filipino labor leaders have played pivotal roles in labor movements that have resulted in a multitude of benefits for workers.

One of Hawaii's labor union leaders who is making a name for himself is Hernando Ramos Tan, president of Hawaii's Local 5 Unite Here. Formerly the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 5 Unite Here represents workers at Hilton, Hyatt, Sheraton and Marriott hotels in Waikiki as well as many independent properties.

Local 5's leadership has a reputation for aggressive advocacy and powerful servicing on behalf of members and hard-hitting negotiations that deliver what members need. That reputation for building power on behalf of members enabled Local 5 to grow from a few hundred members up to the current 10,000 members. As proof of Tan's effective and inspirational leadership, Local 5 was named Hawaii's Best Union 2016 by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

Tan graciously answered several questions about himself, his role as president of Local 5 and how Filipino workers have thrived as members. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: How long have you been president of Local 5?

A: I ran with Eric Gill in the union's 1997 election as a Gill/ Tan slate. We lost but were granted a re-run of that election in 2000. Gill defeated Tony Rutledge as Financial Secretary-Treasurer but I lost to Orlando Soriano as president. Local 5 was "trustee'd" by the International Union in late 2000 and another ordered election for the 2001-2004 term with Soriano running as presi-

dent and me as vice president. By mid-2004, Soriano resigned as president and I was appointed by the executive board as president to serve the remainder of the term. In the 2004-2007 election, I won and have been president since.

Q: How did you get involved with Local 5?

A: I was hired by the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in May 1980. I was always an active union member since I started working at the hotel because I wanted to be knowledgeable about my union. I got deeply involved when a housekeeper was crying one afternoon and asked if I could be with her when she met with her boss for a meeting. I represented her even though I was not a union representative of the department. In 1986, I became shop steward and union representative of the housekeeping department.

Q: What are your main responsibilities?

A: Per the union constitution and by-laws, the main job of the president is to preside over meetings of the monthly executive board which conducts union business. The president also is a co-signer of all official union official documents including all the checks issued by the union.

Q: How many members does Local 5 have? What percentage of your membership is Filipino?

A: The total number of our membership varies from time to time but right now it is around 10,750. Approximately 70 percent are Filipino.

Q: What can you say about the work ethic of your Filipino members?

A: Filipinos are highly-sought after and recognized because they are industrious, punctual and take a lot of pride in their work. These qualities are appreciated by many employers.

Q: What types of jobs are your members employed in?



A: We represent members who work at hotels in every classification, health care workers at Kaiser and Hale Nani Care Home, food service workers at HMSHost Food, beverage workers at Honolulu International airport and also workers at Gate Gourmet in-flight catering services.

Q: What benefits do Local 5 provide its members?

A: Our members at most, if not all of our hotels, enjoy fully-paid medical benefits which include their families, good retirement pensions and high standard wages.

Q: Why are unions still relevant in today's 21st Century workplace?

A: Unions are very important in today's complex world for working people. The economy has become very globalized. The hotel industry, in particular in Hawaii, is no longer owned by local people but has become more of an investment driven, real estate type of business. This has changed the relationship between employer and employee. What was once a family type of relationship is now a relationship based on numbers to achieve maximum profits for executives and promised returns to investors.

Corporate greed is rampant at the expense of cutting of hours and understaffing which causes injuries to our members due to physical and mental stress. These are a few examples of unfair working conditions that our members are subjected to. These unfair practices make unions more relevant and needed by working

people. Unions ensure a safe workplace, fair compensation and prevention of abuse especially for immigrant workers. Filipino workers need representation by unions.

Q: Are you personally looking forward to the elections later this year? Will Local 5 make endorsements? How does your union decide which candidate(s) to endorse?

A: I always look forward to the elections because I am an active citizen—even while growing up in the Philippines and before reaching legal voting age. Elections are the public's chance to evaluate how well legislators are serving the public and to effect change for better governance.

Local 5 has a political action committee made up of shop floor leaders from amongst our membership. They interview and scrutinize

candidates' platforms and endorse those who best represent our members' needs.

Q: Tell us more about yourself.

A: I was born in Cebu where I studied mechanical engineering. I arrived in Hawaii in 1980. My grandparents were sakadas who came here in 1920 and worked in Papaiku on the Big Island. My mother Rosa returned to the Philippines together with my grandparents when she was 7 years old. She married Felix Tan, was blessed with 13 children and returned to Hawaii in 1978.

My first job when I arrived in 1980 was as a landscaper. I worked for three months and was hired at Sheraton Waikiki hotel as a houseman in the housekeeping department. I took advantage of our union training program to advance my skills. In 1994, I was hired by Royal Hawaiian Hotel as a laborer in the engineering department and eventually moved up to air conditioning mechanic. In 1997, I teamed up with Eric Gill, our current Local 5 Financial Secretary-Treasurer, and ran for office against incumbent Tony Rutledge. I am married to Juanita Villahermosa Tan and have three children. My wife works at the Waikiki Beach Marriott

(continued on page 15)





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COMMUNITY PARADE

Independence Day at Philippine Consulate

The Philippine Consulate General held a flag-raising ceremony and breakfast reception on June 12th to commemorate the 118th anniversary of Philippine independence.

About 300 guests were in attendance, including incoming Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Atty. Perfecto Yasay Jr., and his wife Cecile, legislators, former U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, members of the Consular Corps of Hawaii, Filipino veterans of World War II, business leaders and leaders in the Filipino community.

Messages from Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III and Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras were read and a video message of Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia was shown. Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin and Atty. Yasay also delivered Independence Day Messages.



PHILIPPINE NEWS

Over 600 Guests to Attend Duterte's Inauguration

by Edith Regalado
Wednesday, June 22, 2016

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – The guests invited to the inauguration of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte at Malacañang on June 30 have increased, incoming presidential communications officer Martin Andanar said yesterday.

Andanar said the guest list has increased to 627 people from the initial 500.

He said the number of guests increased because there are personalities who needed to attend the presidential inauguration because of the office they represent.

Included in the list are members of the diplomatic corps, lawmakers, justices, as well as ranking officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Cabinet members and some 150 personal guests of the president-elect.

Duterte opted to hold his inauguration at the Rizal ceremonial hall in Malacañang so as not to inconvenience a lot of people.

Incoming presidents have by tradition been sworn in at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, but Duterte said he does not want to cause traffic jams along Roxas Boulevard.

Duterte's ex-wife Elizabeth Zimmerman and their children, Davao City Mayor Sara and Vice Mayor Paolo, as well as Sebastian and their grandchildren are expected to attend the inauguration.

Andanar said journalists are still off-limits from the ceremonial hall, but a number of private TV networks would be allowed to put up their equipment at the Malacañang grounds near Gate 4.

"At least for their reporting they could have Malacañang Palace as their background," he said.

Andanar and other mem-



President-elect Rody Duterte

bers of the incoming communication team had a meeting with Elizabeth Hernandez and other Facebook executives for live streaming the inaugural rites on June 30.

Seeing the change

Filipinos will see a "different" Duterte when he assumes office as the 16th president of the republic in his inauguration on June 30.

This was according to Melchor Quitain, who served as city administrator under Duterte for several years.

"He will be a different person when he takes his oath of office as president," Quitain told The STAR.

As to how different, Quitain said Duterte would play his role as one befitting the Office of the President.

Duterte himself said there would be a metamorphosis when he assumes as president of the country.

"From caterpillar, just wait, I will be butterfly by that time," Duterte earlier told reporters.

Quitain, who also served as Duterte's speechwriter, said the incoming president had asked him to write his inaugural speech.

"His speech will be in English and will only be five minutes long," he said.

Quitain said the speech would be straightforward and would cover what Duterte would like to convey to the nation and what to expect from his presidency.

He revealed Duterte is not comfortable speaking the national language, particularly in long speeches.

Quitain said he has submitted the draft speech to Duterte's executive assistant Christopher Go and another copy to Andanar.

Quitain, however, said the length of the inaugural speech might be changed, as Duterte might choose to shorten it further.

"It all really depends on him," he added.

Quitain said the gist of the speech would be the need for everyone to take part in the new chapter of the country's history.

"It is conveying the message that people must help and let us all move together in this, especially since Duterte is not only the president of the 16.6 million who voted for him in the May 9 elections but ... of the entire country," he said.

(www.philstar.com)

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Citizenship Revoked Due to Prior Criminal Conspiracy

happened to a naturalized Filipino whose citizenship was revoked by a district court after he pled guilty to conspiracy to commit visa fraud in April 2009. The Court of Appeals upheld the revocation on April 18, 2016.

Ceferino Olivar was a native of the Philippines. He was naturalized back in 2002 and started working around the same year in a law firm as a paralegal. The visa fraud he committed did not pertain to him.

He, together with another person, was accused of filing fraudulent applications with the Department of labor and the USCIS. They helped immigrants submit false documents such as diplomas,

transcript of records and experience letters to support their applications.

They would charge between \$1,000 and \$7,500 supposedly to find an employer who would sponsor foreign workers for an immigrant visa. The sponsoring employers never actually intended to hire the immigrant workers, according to the prosecutors.

Based on the facts of the case, the conspiracy began in July 2001 though according to Olivar, he did not commit any overt act to further the conspiracy until after he was naturalized.

Olivar contended that when he was sworn in as a US citizen, he was not a criminal and he had not done any crim-

inal act. The “overt act”, which he argued was an important element of conspiracy, only happened after he was already naturalized. “When I agreed to commit the act, that did not mean that I committed it,” he insisted. “That is the very basic principle of conspiracy.”

The court disagreed with his contention. “So somebody could decide to engage in four or five illegal conspiracies to smuggle drugs, smuggle aliens, do a whole bunch of stuff, and say ‘but hold off, I’m going to become a citizen next week and then we’ll start buying the guns?’ Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber asked. “And that’s okay?”

Olivar clearly thought that as a US citizen, he was not at risk of being deported. Yes, you can be penalized and can be imprisoned, but you will

not be susceptible to being deported for the commission of crimes. At least, that is what Olivar thought.

However, the court clarified that one of the requirements for naturalization is having good moral character in the five years prior to naturalization. The court held that even if no overt act was done until after he was naturalized, the conspiracy itself began at the time the defendant agreed to commit the crime. Thus, during the five year period prior to his naturalization or what is known as the ‘good moral character period’, he already failed to comply with that requirement.

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

Ot seldom happens but the citizenship of a naturalized person may be revoked. The process is known as denaturalization.

The grounds for revocation include concealment of material evidence or willful misrepresentation in the naturalization process, membership in subversive organization, and dishonorable military discharge.

Lack of good moral character in the five years prior to naturalization may also lead to denaturalization. This is what

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Truce with CPP Seen Before Duterte’s First SONA

by Edith Regalado
Wednesday, June 22, 2016

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – The administration of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte is set to declare a ceasefire with communist rebels in preparation for the resumption of peace negotiations next month, incoming labor secretary Silvestre Bello III said yesterday.

In a press briefing yesterday, Bello said a truce with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its political wing National Democratic Front is expected before Duterte’s first State of the Nation Address on July 25. The New People’s Army is the armed wing of the CPP-NDF.

“After the formal resumption of the talks, both parties will declare a unilateral ceasefire,” Bello said.

The two parties have vowed to finalize a peace pact in nine months to one year after the resumption of



Incoming president Duterte’s peace negotiators meet the top hierarchy of CPP-NDF in Oslo, Norway. Photo: www.abs-cbn.com

formal talks.

Bello, who is set to chair the government panel that would negotiate with the CPP-NDF, traveled to Oslo, Norway recently with the group of incoming presidential assistant on the peace process Jesus Dureza and former agrarian reform secretary Hernani Braganza to meet with NDF officials led by Luis Jalandoni and Jose Ma. Sison.

He described the exploratory talks with Jalandoni and the other NDF

officials as “very positive” as they have cleared the air ahead of formal negotiations.

“The time we spent there was quality time (because) we achieved what we wanted to achieve when we went there, which was to convince them to return to the peace table,” he stressed.

“After we resume talks formally, we declare ceasefire, then they (CPP-NDF) declare ceasefire then we form the committees for implementation,” he added.

(www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Naidumduma Ti Nangidaulo Ti Oahu Filipino Council Iti Tawen 2014-2016

Ti pannagna dagiti panawen, kas gagangay ag-susukat dagiti mangidaulo ti kadakkelan nga organisasion ti isla ti Oahu ken nagduduma met dagiti adu a pagsayaatan ti tunggal maysa. Agmurdong manen ti panagturay ti Presidente ti tawen 2014-2016 ni Apo Alex Vergara ken dagiti kakaduana nga opisiales. Kas ammotayo awan ti di nasirib, nangato ti

adalda ken adu dagiti kapannunotan ken pagsayaatan a naaramidda a makatulong kadagiti tao ken ti komunidad. No madlawtayo, naidumduma ti agdama a presidente, adu ti akemna a makatulong kadagiti tattao. Maysa a Presidente nga adu dagiti pagsayaatan a naipaayna ti komunidad, kangrunaanna ti panangtamingna ti pannakaiwaras ti libro para kadagiti agad-adal ditoy ken idiay Filipinas. Daya ti maysa a kasayaatan a naaramidna ken dadduma pay. Maysa a Reberendo ni Apo Vergara a mangipal-

palagip ken mangiyas-asideg ti rikna ken pammati ti nailangitan nga isu ti kapapatgan unay a turongen ti maysa a tao. Maysa pay a Mannurat, Editor, Photographer kadagiti simbaan ken Filipino Publications.

Isu ti Police Sheriff Chaplain babaen ti Hawaii State Safety. Isu ti immuna a Filipino a nagserbi iti Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Kas Police Officer, adda latta a mangtartarabay kadagiti tattao, mangisuro kadagiti maiyaw-awan ken adu ti sagsagabaenna iti biag. Saantayo a masarakan kadagiti amin a nangidadaulo ti kababalin ken panagserbi ni Rev. Alex Vergara.

Maaramid ti Convention iti Philippine Consulate ita a lawas ket no asinonto manen ti mapili a pangulo ti OFCC, danggayantayo. Dita ti pakasangan manen ti maaramid iti tawen 2016-2018.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Death Penalty Not Sole Option vs Illegal Recruitment – DOLE

by Mayen Jaymalin
Wednesday, June 22, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – Capital punishment for convicted illegal recruiters is not the only option for the administration of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte to eradicate the problem, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said yesterday.

The existing Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, as amended by Republic Act 10022, categorizes syndicated (three or more conspirators) or large-scale (three or more victims) illegal recruitment as “economic sabotage” punishable by life imprisonment and a fine ranging from P2 million to P5 million.

“If some in our society believe that the penalty under existing law for illegal recruitment is not enough, the next stiffest penalty to life imprisonment is the death penalty and the next administration may want to review the heinous nature of the crime as basis for the imposition of the death penalty,” Baldoz explained.

However, Baldoz said, she is not advocating capital punishment as she is a pro-life believer. (www.philstar.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LA UNION CIRCLE OF HAWAII, 2016 MISS & MRS. LA UNION HAWAII USA | July 30, 2016, Thursday | 5:30 p.m Cost: \$65 | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Baybee Hufana Ablan @ 753-5616

PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB (PWCC), FILIPINIANA BALL & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | August 13, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | For more info, contact Letty Saban @ 255-9429, Edith Gudoy @ 457-0253 or Mimi Gozar @ 312-0778

RE-AFFIRMATION AND INSTALLATION OF ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII [ISAH] OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016-2018 | August 14, 2016, Saturday | HONOLULU COUNTRY CLUB | For more info, contact Amado Yoro, co-organizer and adviser of ISAH @ 364-5258

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (UPAAH), GALA DINNER INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | August 20, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | FILCOM CENTER | Contact: Bea Ramos

Razon @ 778-6291, Melody Calisay @ 224-9535 or Jenny Normandy @ 286-4426

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 17, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 780-4985

FILCOM CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER 2016 | October 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | Contact 808-80-0451 for more information

MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL BY THE MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | October 15, 2016 , Saturday | 10:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m | MAUI MALL, KAHULUI, MAUI | Contact Kit Zulueta @ 808-291-9407

PASKO SA FILCOM | December 4, 2016 | FILCOM CENTER | Contact 808-680-0451 for details.

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES | December 14-Dec. 23, 2016 | Contact: JP Orias @ 387-8297 for further information

MAINLAND NEWS

Schatz Blasts GOP For Blocking Anti-Gun Measures

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz criticized Senate Republicans for blocking two measures that would have helped keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and protect Americans from gun violence.

Supporters say the measures were aimed at establishing sensible regulations that respect Second Amendment rights and also address loopholes in the nation's gun safety laws. Following the vote, Schatz renewed calls for common sense gun safety regulation and vowed to continue pushing for much needed reforms.

"More than 90 percent of Americans demand we take action on gun

violence but Senate Republicans refuse to act. It's unacceptable," says Schatz. "Right now, known terrorists are banned from getting on an airplane but they are still allowed to buy military-style weapons."

One amendment, introduced by U.S. Senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) would have required that every gun buyer, with reasonable exceptions, pass an instant background check. It also would have required states and the federal government to send all necessary records on felons, drug abusers, the seriously mentally ill and other dangerous people to the National Instant Criminal Back-

ground Check System.

The second measure, offered by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and cosponsored by Schatz, would have stopped terrorists from buying guns and explosives. The amendment would give the Attorney General the authority to block the sale of guns or explosives to known or suspected terrorists, if there is a reasonable belief that the weapons would be used in connection with terrorism.

"After one of the most horrific mass shootings in our history, we saw people across the country courageously stand up against gun violence and hatred," Schatz says. "When will Republicans in Congress finally do the same?"

FEATURE (from page 11, HERNANDO....)

Resort as a bell clerk and is also a very active member and leader in our union.

Q: From whom or what do you draw inspiration or motivation from?

A: I have many heroes in my life. I drew my strength from my mother and was motivated by her sheer determination when she set her mind on something. She was a strong, hard-working and honest woman. I was inspired by her courage when confronting the difficult challenges involved in raising 13 children in the Philippines. My mom was a seamstress and my dad a carpenter.

Pablo Manlapit also inspired me with his accomplishments and how he pioneered Filipino leadership amidst the struggles of labor in Hawaii. He was partly responsible

for the many victories and benefits that working people enjoy today. I want to honor their sacrifices by taking leadership on behalf of our members and fighting to sustain gains that they have started for all of us, which is why I'm running for the top post in this year's union election.

Q: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

A: I want to be able to lead our union in securing our members' future. Being that tourism is the economic engine in Hawaii and that our members play a key role, I will continue to lead them in making our case for fair compensation and working conditions. As our employers grow, we too must grow with them. I will also position our union as an instrument for empowerment to effect positive change in the community and remain politically active.

Q: What message do you have for other Filipinos who are interested in running for leadership positions in Local 5 or other unions in Hawaii?

A: Get involved in their union and gain the knowledge needed to become leaders. It takes courage to run for leadership positions in a union but I believe that Filipinos have the qualities, values and qualifications needed to be effective leaders.

Filipinos are now the majority ethnic group in Hawaii but with it comes the responsibility to lead Hawaii into the next century as others have done. To make that journey possible, we must understand that we are "One Filipino" in Hawaii and to let go of whatever is holding us back—the colonial mentality and division according to regions in the Philippines. After all, we have one national flag and one country of birth and origin, the Philippines.

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, RI which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.
