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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

UH-HILO TO HOST 1ST HAWAII INTL MICRO ROBOT CONFERENCE

By HFC Staff

The 1st Hawaii International Micro Robot Conference and Tournament will be held at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center at the University of Hawaii-Hilo from July 16-19, 2010.

The effort is being led by the Waiakea High School Robotics Club and the Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, two groups that have provided many opportunities for local science students and teachers in the fields of robotics and technology.

Micro Robotics is a program that is transitional between high school and college. Micro robots must measure either one cubic inch or one cubic centimeter in size. With such small components, students are required to use microscopes or magnifying lenses for much of the work.

Art Kimura, education specialist at the Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, says this event will help jumpstart efforts on how the Big Island can benefit

from micro-mechanisms. Community leaders will be able to speak with industry experts and learn about the advantages and possibilities of a micro-mechanisms and robotics industry rooting from the islands.

"The exciting thing about this endeavor is the idea that the Big Island could become a center for the development of micro-mechanisms research and development and a micro-robotics industry in the Pacific," Kimura says.

The goal of the conference is to stimulate high technology education and assist in the creation of a technically capable workforce by developing the infrastructure and skill sets necessary to support high tech-

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Ex-DA Head to Talk on Fertilizer Scam

By Aurea CALICA

MANILA, Philippines - Former agriculture secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr. is back in the country and is ready to talk about the P728-million fertilizer fund scam allegedly involving former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante.

President Aquino said yesterday there is a possibility that Lorenzo, who, along with Bolante, disappeared at the height of the controversy, could become a state witness.

"It is an accepted doctrine that the person with the least guilt who can help you in prosecution is afforded certain privileges, among them immunity from suit," the President said.

He clarified that there was no extensive discussion between him and Lorenzo when they met at a party recently, and he had made it clear to Lorenzo that "I have a



Former DA Secretary Cito Lorenzo

lot of questions for you."

"Have we had discussions? No. It hasn't gotten to that point and, of course, there has to be a determination of least guilt, which is our prerequisite for granting him the privilege of becoming a state wit-

(continued on page 4)

Rep. Charles Djou Pushes for Immigration Reform

By HFC Staff

U.S. Rep. Charles Djou has co-sponsored H.R. 5658—a bill that would keep the American workforce competitive and make it easier to attract and keep the best minds from around the world.

The "Securing Knowledge, Innovation, and Leadership (SKIL) Act" increases the allotment of H-1B visas and would allow foreign nationals who graduate from American institutions of higher learning to contribute to the nation's economy by staying in the American workforce.

(continued on page 4)



U.S. Rep. Charles Djou

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EDITORIAL

Credible Defense

He won't make false promises, new commander-in-chief Benigno Aquino III told the troops the other day as the Philippine Air Force celebrated its anniversary. He issued the statement as PAF officers expressed hopes that the new administration would give priority to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The need to modernize is most glaring in the PAF, which is often described in jest as all air and no force.

That situation would be laughable if it did not put public safety and national security at risk. The lack of a credible air defense capability means the Philippine military cannot effectively patrol the country's territory and deter intruders, including poachers and foreign forces building structures on Philippine-claimed areas in the South China Sea. The weak air capability also puts the nation at the mercy of other countries that offer emergency assistance during times of natural disasters – and there are many such catastrophes throughout a typical year, from torrential floods to landslides, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



Other sectors are in dire need of additional funds, including public education and health services. But defense requirements cannot be given low priority. Military capability is needed not just for fighting insurgents and terrorists but also for rescue and relief efforts. Credible defense also involves providing the people who lay their lives on the line for the country with the necessary equipment to perform their tasks effectively. The AFP lacks not only aircraft but also patrol boats, surveillance equipment, emergency medical kits and even sturdy boots for its personnel.

At his inaugural, President Aquino acknowledged the sacrifices made by the men and women in the AFP as well as the Philippine National Police, and vowed to hire more military and police personnel to match the boom in the country's population. It is not right, he said, that those who watch over the people are neglected. The nation cannot afford state-of-the-art fighter jets or aircraft carriers, but the government can at least see to it that the PAF has sufficient airworthy craft to perform its many tasks effectively. The same goes for the other military service commands. Credible defense capability is a reasonable goal. (www.philstar.com) ■

LETTERS

GIVE MUFI A BREAK

In the June 12, 2010 issue of the *Hawaii Filipino Chronicle*, Felipe Abinsay, Ben Cabrerros, Romy Cachola and David Villaruz state that Mayor Hanneman was wrong to omit former Gov. Ben Cayetano in his address at the Democratic Convention.

They claim that the mayor's omission failed to recognize Cayetano as a role model among Filipinos and as a real life rags-to-riches story. They concluded that Filipinos are slighted by this a glaring omission. Further, they claimed that such an omission disrespected the accomplishments of other Filipinos including the sakadas, World War II Veterans, Benjamin Menor, Eduardo Malapit, Richard Caddito, Lorraine Inouye, Peter Aduja, Inez Cayaban and many Filipino physicians.

We Filipinos are known generally for our hospitality and friendship. To a lesser extent, we are also known for our charity and kindness. Unfortunately, the commentary of Abinsay, Cabrerros, Cachola and Villaruz does not exhibit our characteristics of charity and kindness.

They should have given the mayor the benefit of a doubt because I feel that his omission is nothing but a good old fashioned memory lapse that is neither intentional nor malicious. My take is that this omission is either due to: (1) The fact that the speech was ghost written by one who is not familiar with the po-

litical history of Hawaii, and (2) Sloppy work by his administrative assistant, his secretary, reviewers or editors in the Mayor's Office.

Let us be charitable to the mayor and give him the benefit of the doubt. Let us cut him some slack, particularly since he is facing strong opposition in his run for the governorship of the state.

Ernesto C. Lucas, PhD
Ewa Beach

HANNEMAN WRONG TO OMIT FORMER GOV. CAYETANO

I read your article dated June 12, 2010 entitled "Hannemann Wrong to Omit Former Governor Cayetano." It seems that there was a very strong determination for the mayor to omit Cayetano because of politics and the nearing election for governor in Hawaii.

I believe that we Filipinos must join together to elect the best and most qualified candidate. It should be the candidate who has contributed towards the growth of Hawaii and who is a true friend of the Filipino community.

Mariano G. Sanchez, Jr.
Kapolei

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Creative Designer

Junggoi Peralta

Philippine Correspondent

Guil Franco

Photographer

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OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hannemann, Why Not Recognize Ben Cayetano?

I am responding to the Open Forum in your June 26 issue and the Commentary in the June 12 issue. For the record, I am a registered Democrat and a supporter of Neil Abercrombie for governor.

In the June 12 article, the authors argued that the mayor, during his address to delegates at the State Democratic Party Convention, was wrong to omit Cayetano. They alluded that ignoring Cayetano demonstrated a lack of recognition of the contributions that Filipino leaders and Filipinos in general have made to the community over the past 100 years.

In the June 26 article, the authors defended the mayor and insisted that he is a true friend of the Filipino community. They say that the authors of the June 12 article over-reacted and wrongly accused the mayor of discrediting Cayetano and his many contributions.

As a delegate of Filipino ancestry to the Democratic Convention, I was disappointed with Hannemann for failing to mention Cayetano alongside other previous Democratic governors of our State including John Burns, George Ariyoshi and John Waihele.

Traditionally, the Convention, which convenes every two years, is a time for grassroots Democrats statewide and its political and elected leaders to come together to discuss issues and craft policy initiatives, as well as to honor those who have served the interests of the Party and the State.

This is what the Convention is all about and it is in this context that present day political and elected leaders and others are expected to respect and consider when they are granted the privilege of speaking.

I believe that it was insensitive

of Mayor Hannemann to ignore a former governor and a stalwart of the Democratic Party regardless of the latter's political philosophy or support for the candidacy of a political opponent. Certainly, this was not a unique situation, as I have witnessed this and previous Conventions, wherein politicians of different viewpoints and affiliations expressed openly their sentiments, yet interact with each other in words and action with dignity and respect.

Delegates expect and enjoy political showmanship and posturing at the Convention but it is also a time of renewal, remembrance and appreciation. Politics aside, we were all Democrats, so it was only proper that we pay respect to all who have contributed to the party and the betterment of our State. This recognition is not only for the living "treasures" of the party but for

all well and lesser-known Democrats, including those who passed away since the last Convention.

I am not of the belief that Hannemann intended to belittle the contributions of other Filipino leaders or the Filipino community by ignoring Cayetano, nor am I questioning his commitment towards the improvement of the Filipino community in his capacity as mayor.

However, I believe that the mayor sparked what has become a divisive issue in the Filipino community. I must admit that it was his absolute right and privilege to do so. My opinion, the opinions of Abercrombie's supporters and the response by the mayor's supporters are merely reactions to what Hannemann did not say, purposely or unintentionally, at the Convention.

I agree with the defenders of the mayor that we should expect "fairness, accuracy and completeness" and "nothing less" and "nothing more" from those who claim to be leaders but I hope that we can also agree that it should be more so from those who are highly-

recognized as leaders and pillars of our community.

Cayetano was an exceptional leader who personified the ideals of the Democratic Party and one who led the State during difficult times in a prudent and effective manner for many years.

Accordingly, Cayetano was most deserving to be recognized by all for his contributions. His three predecessors, all Democrats like him, were recognized by Mayor Hannemann, an aspirant for the very same position, but why omit Cayetano? For myself and others, this omission was and still is very difficult to comprehend.

Finally, if this is the type of leadership and politics that Hannemann is offering if elected governor, then we Filipinos should be very cautious and concerned. The non-recognition of Cayetano at the Convention, perhaps isolated and singular, does not define the mayor but it does say a lot. ■

By: **Romel Dela Cruz**
Honouka

Filipinos Urge Unity and Vigilance Against Remarks and Actions that Belittle Filipinos

We are responding to the June 26 Open Forum letter entitled, "Mayor Hannemann, a friend to the Filipinos," signed by city employees, mayor appointees, and the mayor's gubernatorial campaign volunteers.

The letter misses the intent of the four authors who submitted the original op-ed "Mayor Hannemann Wrong to Omit Governor Cayetano" which was published in your June 12th edition.

The four respected leaders in the Filipino community — Jun Abinsay, Ben Cabreros, Romy Cachola and Danny Villaruz — felt that the mayor, during his speech at the recent Democratic Party Convention, disrespected Filipinos by omitting former Governor Ben Cayetano from the list of Hawaii's previous Democratic governors. Their op-ed was based on the following.

1. A May 30th Honolulu Advertiser article reporting that Mayor Hannemann "was inspired and wants to build on the legacy of former governors such as John Burns, George Ariyoshi and John Waihele. The only former Democratic governor he failed to mention was Ben Cayetano."

2. Lengthy discussions during a past meeting of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii (ISAH) that included members voicing their concerns and deciding that an article be published on this matter.

3. Comments made by attendees and delegates at the Democratic Party Convention.

If you look at the overall picture, the intent of the original June 12th op-ed was to ensure that the image and honor of Filipinos were not tainted. If anything, the four authors should be commended for courageously taking a stand on behalf of the Filipino community.

And not too long ago, the Fil-

ipino community rallied together and took action against an offensive remark by ABC-TV's "Community Housewives." Disparate leaders called upon the network to apologize and account for the remarks that disparaged Philippine-trained physicians and other healthcare professionals.

The swift, united response by Hawaii's Filipinos, as well as Filipinos from the mainland and around the world, sent a clear message to the U.S. mainstream media that Filipinos would not tolerate any disparaging or disrespectful remarks.

Ultimately, ABC-TV apologized to the Filipino community, promised to ensure diversity in its hiring practices, provided internship opportunities to Filipinos and consulted cultural experts from the Filipino community, whenever necessary, to avoid airing disparaging programs.

As for Mayor Hannemann, it's worth mentioning that during his first term, he failed to appoint a single Filipino as a director of any City department — a failure that disappointed many in the Filipino community. It was only after a radio interview with former Gov. Ben Cayetano and a scathing editorial criticizing the mayor that he began appointing a few Filipinos to director and deputy director positions.

As for Mayor Hannemann should follow the lead of ABC-TV in addressing the concerns of the Filipino community for this recent incident and apologize to former Gov. Ben Cayetano. Hopefully, this will serve as a warning to others that Filipinos will no longer tolerate being belittled or disrespected.

We learned from the Filipino Centennial, which was themed "Filipinos in Hawaii: 100 Years and Beyond," to appreciate "our roots and heritage. Many of us came away

from the celebration with a greater appreciation for those who paved the way for us, including our sakadas and former Gov. Cayetano, whom many younger Filipinos look up to as a role model.

In closing, let us not allow the mayor or other politicians to use divisive tactics to polarize the Filipino community. On a larger scale, Filipinos and non-Filipinos should rise

above politics and acknowledge the important contributions of Filipinos in Hawaii's history and progress. Let us not allow ourselves to be used, which only compromises our collective goal of protecting the image and honor of Filipinos. Instead, we should rally together and see to it that we Filipinos are not overlooked or put down, again and again.

Let us, therefore, remain united

and vigilant against any remarks or actions that degrade Filipinos, whether by omission or commission, and hold them accountable, no matter who they are. ■

By: **Bobby Aguaa**
Jake Manateg
David Rodriguez
Nora Rimando
Acela Garcia
Jude Butuy*

CALLING ALL RIZALIANS!

We would like to call on all alumni of Jose Rizal College (now Jose Rizal University) in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Class of 1971, to contact us for a planned 40th Homecoming Anniversary in the Philippines in 2011.

If you or someone you know graduated from JRC (now JRU), Class of 1971, please contact Carmencita Jocson at seejai888@gmail.com



Looking forward to hearing from all 1971 High School Graduates of JRC (now JRU)!

OPINION

Inadequate Spending?

by Howard RICH

In a recent column published in *The New York Times*, Princeton economics professor Paul Krugman condemns recent attempts to inject some common sense into what has become an epidemic of mindless government growth in America and around the world.

With the global economy teetering on the brink of another slowdown (due to excessive government borrowing associated with Europe's failed welfare state), Krugman and other Keynesians—including U.S. President Barack Obama—are now lobbying aggressively for additional government "stimulus" spending at home and abroad.

They say they want to protect a "fragile recovery" but Americans know better. With no new jobs, deteriorating consumer confidence

and unexpectedly low retail reports putting a dent in the markets and on Main Street, the truth is there is no recovery—only an attempt to justify more government growth.

Specifically Krugman blasted several world leaders (although obviously not the leader of the "free world") for what he called "preaching the need for belt-tightening when the real problem is inadequate spending."

And no, that's not a typo. He actually said "inadequate spending." According to these "New Keynesians," the unsustainable government growth that preceded the most recent economic downturn apparently wasn't enough. Nor was the unprecedented barrage of bailouts, taxpayer-funded guarantees, freshly-printed greenbacks and deficit spending that Washington threw at the problem over the last two years. And let's not forget

what has been heaped on top of all that "stimulus" spending—a \$2.5 trillion socialized medicine plan that represents one of the largest expansions of entitlement spending in American history.

Amazingly, despite the clear failure of the "stimulus" and despite the fact that excess entitlement spending is what has driven the eurozone to its present precariousness, the rallying cry of these big government backers appears to be "we have only just begun to spend."

Let's examine the efficacy of that mantra for a moment, shall we?

Even prior to the onset of the "Great Recession" in December 2007, government at all levels in the U.S. was growing by leaps and bounds. For example, state and local spending soared from \$1.74 trillion in 2000 to \$2.66 trillion in 2007. Even after adjusting for infla-

tion, that's a 23.7 percent increase. Similarly, federal spending jumped from \$1.79 trillion in 2000 to \$2.73 trillion in 2007—a roughly identical 23.5 percent increase after again adjusting for inflation.

Obviously, this upward trend was placed on steroids when the downturn began. For starters, more than \$13 trillion has been spent, lent, printed or pledged on "recovery" efforts alone over the last two-and-a-half years. Also, Washington's two most recent federal budgets have added more than \$3 trillion in deficit spending to our skyrocketing national debt, with trillions of dollars in additional red ink projected over the coming decade.

Accordingly, when we add post-2007 spending to the total tab for the decade, the government growth rate has more than doubled to 52.4 percent.

By comparison, total government spending in the 1990s grew at a much slower rate—by approximately 17.4 percent which enabled

more economic activity and the creation of more wealth up and down the socio-economic ladder. In fact, per capita personal income during the 1990s grew by 23.6 percent when adjusted for inflation.

By comparison, per capita personal income during the first decade of the new millennium has grown by only 4.6 percent—a sad testament to the failure of the Keynesian philosophy that Washington continues pursuing with reckless abandon.

This is not rocket science. It is common sense. The more government grows, the more the economy suffocates. Conversely, the more government contracts, the freer we will be as a nation to prosper. (*Liberty Features Syndicate*) ■

HOWARD RICH is chairman of Americans for Limited Government, a non-partisan, nationwide network committed to advancing free market reforms, private property rights and core American liberties.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

SBA Announces Funds for Regional Clusters, Job Creation

THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) has announced the availability of funding to support economic development and job creation through existing regional clusters—networks of organizations and businesses in a geographic area that grow through increased collaboration, efficiency and innovation.

As part of its Regional Cluster Initiative, SBA will accept proposals from local and regional cluster initia-

tives beginning July 7, 2010 for funding of up to \$600,000 per cluster to support up to 15 projects across the country. Proposals should be submitted by the cluster's coordinating entity.

The Regional Cluster Initiative focuses on accelerating small business growth and job creation through clusters that leverage and align a region's economic, business and workforce assets.

"Clusters bring together many

businesses and organizations in a region to maximize the economic strengths of that region, enhancing its ability to compete on a national and global scale," says Karen Mills, SBA administrator. "The SBA is committed to providing both financial and technical assistance resources that can be a catalyst for accelerating a regional cluster's viability and lead to sustainable economic growth and job creation."

The SBA is launching two pro-

grams within its Regional Cluster Initiative: Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs) and Advanced Defense Technologies (ADTs). Prospective applicants for both solicitations may find additional information through the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fedbizopps.gov.

Successful applicants will receive a one-year contract with an option for an additional year to provide business training, commercialization and technology transfer services, counseling, mentoring and other services that support the growth and development of small businesses in the cluster area and its industries.

The SBA will select clusters across the country that meet specified criteria. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate that they have the partnerships, technical capacity and

local assets to support their existing regional cluster.

Regional Innovation Clusters will be assessed on the impact they will have on the region's economic growth, creation of sustainable jobs and the opportunities the cluster provides for small businesses.

ADVANCED DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES

The SBA is working with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to identify areas around the country where regional innovation clusters can help meet critical defense technology needs. Applicants that meet specified criteria will receive a one-year contract with an option for an additional year to provide business training, counseling, mentoring, matchmaking and other services to small businesses that focus on critical DOD technologies. ■

Hirono Votes To Extend Benefits for 6,000 Laid-off Workers in Hawaii

U.S. REP MAZIE K. HIRONO voted in support of legislation that extends unemployment benefits to laid-off workers through the end of November 2010. The original legislation expired on May 31, 2010. As a result, an estimated 6,000 laid-off workers in Hawaii will lose their unemployment benefits by July 3.

The Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation

Act—H.R. 5618—will restore those benefits retroactive to June 2, 2010. The U.S. House passed the bill by a vote of 270-153 and awaits Senate action.

"We need to provide Hawaii's laid-off workers with financial help now," Hirono says. "We're not going to turn our backs on these hard-working people."

This bill extends eligibility for

unemployment insurance for laid-off workers through November 30, 2010. An estimated 1.7 million Americans are in the process of losing their unemployment benefits with the lapse of the original law.

"I hope the Senate will be able to muster the necessary votes this time to help people who want to work but cannot find jobs during this difficult period," Hirono says. ■

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SUMMER TRAVEL



Seven Days in Istanbul

by Manny GONZALEZ /
Wednesday, July 7, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - The Friendliest People on Two Continents. People in Istanbul are really friendly. Every time I walked out of my hotel, lots of guys would come up, ask me where I was from, and walk alongside just to keep me company. Then, if I just so much as said "Good morning," they would offer — assuring me they expected nothing in return — to show me the way to the Blue Mosque.

I made a lot of friends this way. By a strange coincidence, most of my had brothers-in-law who sold carpets. And of course, as befitted friends, the brothers-in-law hoped I would buy something from them. But because we were really good friends, they were willing to take a loss on any carpet I bought. Today only, of course.

So if you do go to Istanbul, and do not want to buy FIVE carpets, as I wound up doing, try not to make too many friends. When strange men come up to you in the streets offering to show you the way to the Blue Mosque or wanting to know if you are Japanese, do not pay any attention. Do not say "Hi." Do not say, "Leave me alone." Just keep walking.

What do the Blue Mosque and Seoul Have in Common? If you ever manage to escape the carpet salesman, there is a lot to see in this city of 16 million inhabitants which was, for 1,500 years, the most important city in the world. The tourist area of Istanbul is called

Sultanahmet (pronounced soo-TUN-ah-MED) and this is where most of the world-famous attractions are, including aforesaid Blue Mosque.

I must confess, however, that I did not enter the Blue Mosque at all because, this being a place of worship, you must leave your shoes at the front door. Having just read about how thousands of shoes are lost annually in Seoul (at restaurants), I was not about to let my \$1,200 Ermenegildo Zegna shoes out of my sight. Well, okay, they were really \$69.95 Nikes. But I was very fond of them. Anyway, the exterior of the Blue Mosque is stunning, especially in the evening, and its six minarets are cool (most mosques have only one or two).

Across the plaza, the Hagia Sophia (pronounced A-ya SOF-ya by the well-informed) represents one of the most remarkable feats of architecture of the ancient world. Emperor Justinian had it built around 350 AD as a basilica. Without benefit of any steel, and with minimal use of internal columns, his engineers were able to create a massive interior space that could hold thousands of people. For over 1,000 years, Hagia Sophia represented the largest roofed gathering space in the world, and even now I found it a lot more awe-inspiring than St. Peter's or the Notre Dame, which seem cramped by comparison. Inside Hagia Sophia you feel you could fly a kite.

The Russians Are Coming. Ever since I saw the James Bond

movie From Russia With Love and gazed upon Daniela Bianchi's cleavage, I had wanted to see Istanbul. You should watch this movie before visiting; I'm sure that Daniela Bianchi (an Italian) has done more for Istanbul tourism than any other person alive. In the scene where she says, "Zzhems, Zzhems, will we make luff offen?"; they are on a ferry cruising up the Bosphorus.

In winter there is only one cruise a day, Eminonu Pier was near my hotel but I went early, and got their, too. This was not the first time I chose a line just so I could stand behind a girl with silken hair and nice hips, and I guess it won't be my last. Fortunately, I got my ticket in time anyway. (And I never saw her face, which is sort of better, don't you think?)

The Bosphorus cruise is regarded one of the great romantic short boat-rides in the world. Considering that I was not with Daniela Bianchi, or a distant facsimile, or indeed anybody, I thought it was pretty good. There are picturesque ruins and attractive cityscapes on both sides. And, unlike the Danube, the Thames, and most other bodies of water adjacent to big cities, the Bosphorus is, amazingly, clear and blue. Accordingly, I would put it right there with New York's Staten Island Ferry, Hong Kong's Star Ferry, Venice's Vaporetto (but only in winter, for reasons known to anyone who has visited in summer), and Seattle's Bainbridge Island Ferry, all of which I recommend to you as boat rides you should try before you die.

PG-Rated Harem. Just a bit up the hill from the pier, the Topkapi Palace is actually a large park that somehow vaguely resembles a New England college campus, and has two big draws. One is the State Jewels, of which the best known is the Emerald-Jeweled Dagger. Let me give you a useful tip here. There are five rooms, and people automatically line up at the first one. If like 99 percent of all tourists you are only interested in the Jeweled Dagger, head straight for the fifth room and save yourself an hour or two. Guidebooks should tell you useful stuff like this. You're welcome.

The other draw is the Harem, where the sultan's women were kept. All day long, dirty-minded tourists line up for a look at the Harem. (I was an exception; I wanted to see the Harem purely for the historical interest.) I don't know what those other visitors are all

thinking, but Hello! There are no real people in the harem anymore nor are there actresses dressed as concubines. (What an ideal! If the Topkapi's curators were on the ball, they would have hot models in harem costumes; ticket sales would skyrocket, Turkey's foreign debt would be repaid.) For those with dirty minds, the Topkapi Harem tour is short on sexual satisfaction.

However, I appreciated its historical value.

The Grand Bazaar. While recovering from the bitter disappointment of failing to see anything remotely prurient in the Harem, many tourists wander down Divanyolu Street and if they do not get lost on a side street, 15 minutes later they arrive at the Grand Bazaar. The Grand Bazaar goes back to 1460 AD and is an atmosphere-laden, very large covered mall, now housing some 2,000 shops selling tourist goods, jewelry, leather, antiques, fabrics, lamps, and, of course, carpets. The lanes run in every direction in a Byzantine maze. However, guided only by my unerring sense of direction, I found an exit after only two and a half days.

Well, not really, but I had to buy five carpets before someone would show me the way out.

Testicle Kebab. Anyone? Shopping and museum-hopping can give you a powerful appetite, and fortunately there are lots of restaurants all over Sultanahmet. Unlike Vienna, whose best restaurants are Italian, and London, whose best restaurants are Indian, in Istanbul the best restaurants are Turkish. In fact, most of the restaurants are Turkish... To be honest, all the restaurants are Turkish. In this city, they don't go in for foreign cuisine much.

And with good reason. Turkish food is pretty good. It is related to Greek, though with many differences. (Be careful about confusing Greeks and Turks; ever since the Trojan War, they have not gotten along particularly well.) While many guidebooks will rhapsodize over the "mezze," which are assorted appetizers, mezze taste just about the same as Greek food, and are not the high point of Turkish food. Oops. Neither are kebabs or shawarma, which also taste more or less Greek. Oops.

If you really want to have something to brag about when you get home, order "Testy Kebab." Don't worry, Testy doesn't mean what you think it does. Doesn't in almost every restaurant, it can be made with any meat, but the key point is that it is cooked under pressure in a pot which eventually is flamed and cracked open right at your table,

attracting lots of attention. The result is a kind of stew that is tender, subtle, and powerful all at once.

And, just because I like you, here's another suggestion. This is a serious recommendation. At the tram stop for the Blue Mosque, walk up the nearest alley half a block to the Adonin Restaurant. If you don't see it, try another alley. They serve a dish called "Adonin Palace." This is not traditional Turkish food, but it tastes Turkish, and is out of sight. I think it's chicken. Trust me.

Turkish Viagra. Still on the subject of edibles, when I strolled through the Spice Market near the waterfront, I saw several signs in front of what looked like nougat, saying "Turkish Viagra - Do it 5 times in one night."

I will not admit that I bought some. However, in case I did, I guess it must have been old stock, because I was only able to manage my usual three times.

By the way, no doubt you have heard of Turkish coffee. Get ready for a shock. Turkish coffee is just awful, tasting more or less like waxy mud. Stay away from it. I will not be held responsible for what happens to you if you drink Turkish coffee. And I know the Turks are with me on this one, because none of them drink their coffee, either; instead, they all drink apple tea; the coffee seems to be some kind of long-standing joke on foreigners.

Playing with a Flaw. If you have been having any attention at all, by now you have probably grasped that if you want to experience the real Istanbul, you need to find a hotel in Sultanahmet.

My hotel was spitting distance from both the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. It fronted a quiet cobblestoned street and had an internal courtyard with lovely flowers. Breakfast was hearty, and the staff were great. My room was comfortable and well-appointed, though the carpet in the bathroom was mere cotton on cotton, whereas the better ones are at least silk on wool (I sense that already you are impressed by my expertise on Turkish carpets).

However, I cannot in conscience tell you the hotel's name because it is in a neighborhood infested with carpet dealers — big dealers, small dealers, Kilim dealers, tribal rug dealers, you name it. If you were to stay at my hotel you would never leave Istanbul without spending a large chunk of your life savings on carpets, and I will never forgive myself. Thanks. I knew you would understand.

But do go. Istanbul is a city unlike any other, with a unique feel. Considering its size and age, it is remarkably clean and efficiently run. Plan on at least five days, and even if you stayed a month you wouldn't run out of interesting places to see. Don't talk to strange men on the street, be respectful of all things Turkish and Islamic, steer clear of the coffee, and you will have a wonderful time.

(www.philarstar.com)

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Humanitarian Nonrevocation Requirements Inhuman and Unlawful



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

resurrected a number of petitions of dead petitioners by arguing that revocation would be "inappropriate" and submitting convincing proof thereof.

Later, USCIS transferred the adjudication of humanitarian nonrevocation petitions to the United States and imposed, in addition to other requirements, a 7-point requirement that is almost humanly impossible to comply with. For the requirements of humanitarian nonrevocation, read my article "10 COMMANDMENTS ON HOW TO RESURRECT A DEAD PETITIONER'S PETITION" at www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS HUMALY IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET

USCIS now wants proof of all of the following:

- (1) Disruption of an established family unit.
- (2) Hardship to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- (3) Beneficiary is elderly or in poor health.
- (4) Beneficiary has had lengthy residence in the U.S.
- (5) Beneficiary has no home to go to.
- (6) Undue delay by DHS or consular officer in processing petition and visa.
- (7) Beneficiary has strong family ties in the U.S.

It is apparent that these factors were taken from the old suspension of deportation rules when aliens seeking to avoid deportation could invoke such factors. See, for example, factors like lengthy residence in U.S., no home to go to, and disruption of family unit. What do these factors have to do with aliens seeking to enter the U.S. who have never been here?

For instance, who is the alien beneficiary who has had a "lengthy" residence in the U.S. Most of them have not even left the barrio where they were born. Who is the beneficiary who has no home to go to. Every Filipino beneficiary we know of has a place he calls "home". None is living on the streets or on public parks. USCIS wants the beneficiary to prove that he is "elderly" or in "poor health". If the beneficiary is elderly, will he want to come here? Who wants to be thrown into a nursing home and wither away? In the Philippines he can hire maids and houseboys to take care of him/her. If the beneficiary is in poor health, he/she will not pass the medical examination.

DISRUPTION OF FAMILY UNIT

If the beneficiary claims "disruption" of a family unit in case the petition is revoked, USCIS will likely



insult the memory of the deceased by saying that the deceased petitioner is to be blamed for the "disruption" of the family when he/she immigrated to the U.S. leaving the beneficiary behind.

If you claim "hardship to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents," USCIS will probably laugh at you. USCIS will likely say that you have lived without each other for 10 or 20 years. What hardship did you suffer? Did you miss a meal because the beneficiary was not there to cook for you? Did you miss going to a hospital because the beneficiary was not there to bring you? Did you miss the beneficiary at all? Where are your exchange of letters, cards, and e-mails? Where are your telephone bills showing calls to each other? Where are your receipts for remittances and balikbayan boxes you sent?

If you insist on saying that you have missed the beneficiary as a result of the separation, USCIS will

ask you why you did not petition the beneficiary yourself?

UNDUE DELAY

How can you attack the USCIS or the U.S. consul by blaming them for "undue delay" in processing the petition and visa. They will ask you if you understand the meaning of "undue". They will tell you that there was no delay at all, due or undue. They will pass the buck to the petitioner. They will ask: When the petitioner became naturalized or when the petitioner obtained a green card, did he/she file the petition immediately? How many years did he/she wait?

RELIEF AVAILABLE

Is there relief? Sure. If USCIS denies the request to not revoke the petition, the beneficiary should be prepared to challenge the USCIS by going to court. He should, among others, establish that he is entitled to humanitarian nonrevocation and that the requirements USCIS has imposed to prevent revocation are ultra vires (beyond the scope or in excess of legal power or authority). The beneficiary should ask USCIS: regulations must be in accordance with law; what law authorized you to prescribe these regulations? He/she should also tell USCIS: these requirements are contrary to the intent and spirit of immigration

laws which favor family reunification.

Mrs. Pierno and Miss Sanchez-Trujillo whose petitioners died dared to take a risk and sued INS. They won. See Pierno v. I.N.S., 397 F.2d 949 (2nd Cir. 1968) and Sanchez-Trujillo v. I.N.S., 632 F. Supp. 1546 (W.D.N.C. 1986).

Is there a guarantee that if I sue USCIS the case will be won? There you go again, asking for guarantees. If you go to a white lawyer, you do not ask for guarantees? Why do you ask that of a brown lawyer? ■

(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 practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.immigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City and Misamisgulf, 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. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDD at 1270 AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KHBC at 1060 AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness as to the time of publication.)

The "Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2002" (P.L. 107-150) enacted on March 13, 2002, INA § 213A(f)(5)(B)(ii) [8 U.S.C. § 1183a(f)(5)(B)(ii)] provides for nonrevocation of a dead petitioner's petition for humanitarian reasons (humanitarian nonrevocation). The term "humanitarian reinstatement" is a misnomer. It concedes that the visa petition is dead and its reinstatement is being sought. An excellent lawyer will not concede that. The excellent lawyer will argue that the petition lives on but it should not be revoked despite the petitioner's death - for humanitarian reasons. For that is what the law says.

The law provides that the beneficiary must (1) convince the Attorney General (should now be Secretary of Homeland Security or its agency USCIS) that for humanitarian reasons revocation of the petition under INA § 205 [8 U.S.C. § 1155] would be "inappropriate," and (2) submit an Affidavit of Support signed by a qualified substitute sponsor. For the requirements of humanitarian nonrevocation, read my article "10 COMMANDMENTS ON HOW TO RESURRECT A DEAD PETITIONER'S PETITION" at www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com.

INA § 205 [8 U.S.C. § 1155] provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security may, at any time, for what he deems to be "good and sufficient cause," revoke the approval of any petition approved by him under INA § 204 [8 U.S.C. § 1154].

See. The dead petitioner's petition is not automatically dead. It needs to be revoked to become dead. The Secretary of Homeland Security may revoke it only if there is "good and sufficient cause." Revocation may be prevented by establishing that revocation "would be inappropriate" "for humanitarian reasons" and that death of the petitioner is not "good and sufficient cause".

NO GUIDELANES DURING GOOD OLD DAYS

In the good old days, obtaining humanitarian reinstatement was not too difficult. At that time there were no detailed guidelines for the adjudicator in making the determination whether revocation of the petition would be "inappropriate." This was especially true when the adjudication was made at a U.S. Consulate abroad. We successfully

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PHILIPPINE NEWS



RP Stocks Surge on Wall Street Rally

by Marvin SY /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) — **THE PHILIPPINE MARKET JUMPED** to its highest level this year tracking the sharp gains in the US equities.

The bellwether Philippine Stock Exchange index rose Thursday by 1.43 percent or 48.08 points to 3,398.16, while the broader all-share index gained 1.12 percent or 23.85 points to 2,148.46. Trading volume reached 1.43 billion shares worth P3.98 billion (\$85.64 million).

Foreign investors, however, continue to be heavy sellers with P279 million (\$6 million).

Most investors were engaged in buying than selling as shown by the 60 shares that improved their value, as opposed to the 32 stocks that finished lower. A total of 71 shares, meanwhile, did not move.

All subsectors, except the mining and oil counters, closed higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average index rallied Wednesday following the release of data showing that consumer spending has improved. The US benchmark rose by 2.82 percent or 274.66 points to reclaim its 10,000 level.

"(Thursday's rally (in the local stock market) was triggered by the performance of the US markets. Locally, there was no news and (the latest data that were released) were all positive," said Paul Balaoging, an analyst at the PCCI Securities Brokers Corp.

Investors are starting to position in certain blue chips ahead of the release of their second quarter results next month. The buying indicates that investors are expecting these companies to show positive results.

"The market is not yet oversold. The 3,398.16 level is still within our trading band. I guess investors are sensing that the market will sustain its encouraging performance," Balaoging said. "Foreign investors' continuous dumping of shares however indicates that investors are just "cautiously optimistic."

Most stocks in the 30-company index ended higher. Heavy-weight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. were among the most actively traded issues. (www.philstar.com) ■

Congressman Wants Task Force on Media Killings

by Paolo ROMERO /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines — **A CONGRESSMAN HAS PROPOSED** the creation of a task force to address the spate of media killings in the country.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said the task force, which would fall under the Department of Justice and the Department of Interior and Local Government, will aim to solve the unabated assassinations of media practitioners.

Angara said the task force would have representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine National Police, the Commission on Human Rights and various media organizations.

He cited the recent killing of Jose Dagui, the first media worker murdered under the Aquino administration. Dagui, a former anchor of Radyo Natin-Kalinga and former writer for the weekly Guru Press of Tabuk, Kalinga, was shot and killed



in his house in Brgy. Tuga, Kalinga, last July 3.

"The government should put a stop to media killings, arrest and prosecute the killers to give justice to the families of the victims," Angara said.

"It is about time to look for a long term solution that will prevent further media killings in the future," he added said.

According to the National Union of Journalist of the Philippines, more than 103 mediamen were killed during the Arroyo administration. (www.philstar.com) ■

DOF to Review RP's Borrowing Program

by Iris C. GONZALES /
Thursday, July 8, 2010

MANILA, Philippines — **THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION WILL EMBARK** on an aggressive liability management effort by exploring various options available to government, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said yesterday.

Purisima said the new government would review the current borrowing program set by the previous administration.

"What we want is to lengthen maturities," said Purisima, adding that in three to four years, there would be some bunching up of maturities.

As such, he said the government would embark on a liability management effort by reviewing existing borrowing strategies and future plans.

Options include doing debt swaps and bond exchanges.

"We will consider all instruments available to us based on the right price and the right cost. It will also depend on the timing," he said.



Sec. Cesar Purisima

Purisima did not provide details on when the review would be concluded.

According to its existing borrowing program, the government is planning to borrow P764.54 billion from local and foreign lenders next year, or P56.02 billion higher than this year's borrowing program of P708.513 billion.

The amount is based on the revised macroeconomic assumptions approved by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC).

For 2011, the DBCC expects the economy to grow anywhere from 3.8 percent to 4.7 percent from

the original target of five percent to six percent for the year.

However, the Aquino administration plans to review the numbers set by the previous government.

Of the P764.54 billion, the government is planning to borrow P558.68 billion from the domestic market and P205.86 billion or \$4.380 billion from foreign lenders.

For the programmed foreign borrowings next year, the government plans to borrow \$2.5 billion from commercial lenders, \$1.18 billion from multilateral agencies' program loans and \$700 million worth of project loans.

The bulk of the borrowings for 2011 would be used to refinance P302.701 billion worth of maturing domestic debt and P159.427 billion in maturing foreign debt.

For next year, the DBCC has also proposed a national budget of P1.68 trillion and has programmed a budget deficit of P285 billion.

According to the DBCC, the P1.68-trillion budget for 2011 is 9.3 percent more than this year's P1.54 trillion budget and is premised on existing revenues of P1.4 trillion. (www.philstar.com) ■

Group to P-Noy: Address High Passport Renewal Rates

by Dennis CARCAMO /
Thursday, July 8, 2010

MANILA, Philippines — **A MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS GROUP** has lauded President Aquino for directing the Department of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies to be responsive to overseas Filipino workers' needs and welfare.

But Migrante-Middle East called on Mr. Aquino to stop the

prevailing exorbitant fees in the renewal and replacement of passports and provide social and welfare services to OFWs and their dependents.

"The DFA has implemented the e-passport and had issued a new schedule of fees in various post abroad that are higher than the previous fees; the increases are unjustified and only additional burden to many low-income earning OFWs amid price increases of commodi-

ties and services," said John Monterona, the group's regional director.


Monterona cited that processing the application and issuance of e-passport is now 240 Saudi riyals, up from previous 200 riyals, while replacement of a lost e-passport costs SR 600.

"In fact, SR200 is already an overcharging, it is equivalent to P2,400," he added.

He said the fee increase is a burden to an OFW earning between P10,000 and P12,000 a month. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS
**Noynoy to PNP: Act Swiftly
on Killings**

by Marvin SY /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **PRESIDENT AQUINO ORDERED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) CHIEF** Director General Jesus Verzosa yesterday to act swiftly on unexplained killings, the latest of which have given his administration an unsettling start.

Mr. Aquino's order to Verzosa came on the heels of the murders of a journalist and an activist barely a week after he assumed office last June 30.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the President has directed Verzosa to come up with ways to stop the killings and arrest their perpetrators.

Asked whether the murders were meant to embarrass the new administration, Lacierda said authorities would have to investigate the motives behind the killings.

It was under the previous Arroyo administration that political killings reached record numbers.

"The President said we don't have a policy on (allowing) extrajudicial killings. We do not tolerate that. That's plain and simple," Lacierda said.

Lacierda said Verzosa told the Palace that the PNP is looking carefully into each case because some media killings involved local issues.

"Based on their experience, the journalists being killed are (local) radio broadcasters," he said.

"We will be coming up with ways to handle the extrajudicial killings, but certainly, the Aquino administration and President Aquino, being a victim of human rights abuses himself, does not tolerate and will not tolerate extrajudicial killings under his administration," Lacierda said.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) condemned the killings and called for swifter prosecution and conviction of suspects.

"These killings are a grim reminder that the mere peaceful transition to a rights-committed President is not enough to address the problem of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines," Commissioner Cecilia Quisumbing said.

"Impunity persists because of weak prosecution and lack of convictions," she added.

"We discussed this at the UN Human Rights Council just three weeks ago with the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killing, Philip Alston," she said.

Two killings - allegedly politically related - have been reported since President Aquino's assumption into office on June 30.

"All leaders want to leave positive legacies, and Aquino has pledged to better the lot of ordinary Filipinos. Ending the killings and bringing under control the forces responsible for them would certainly be an achievement the Philippine people would long celebrate," Roth said.

Radio commentator Jose Dagio was killed on Saturday night in Tabuk, Kalinga, and Fernando Baldomero, a councilor of Lezo town in Kalibo, Aklan and Bayan Muna coordinator, was gunned down in Iloilo City Monday.

"We urge President Aquino to unequivocally declare that killings of dissidents, ac-

tivists and media are against the Aquino government policy, and second, instruct the military and the police to pro-actively stop such practices by 'rogues in uniform' and go after the violators, even those within their own ranks," Quisumbing said.

Quisumbing said state prosecutors, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the PNP should closely coordinate with one another during investigation and prosecution of cases of political killings as stipulated in Administrative Order 181.

"Courts are not following the 2007 order of the Supreme Court for 30-day continuous trial," she said.

"Shouldn't that be grounds for disciplinary measures?"

The CHR also urged the 15th Congress to quickly work on a bill defining extrajudicial killings in accordance with international treaties and imposing heavier penalties.

The SC, non-government organizations, and even foreign governments have been discussing ways of improving the Witness Protection Program as well as the conviction rate.

"When I talked to various prosecutors, we noticed that the length of time to assess the qualifications of persons who want to enter the program is about three to four months. Too long for someone who has threats on his life," Quisumbing observed.

BE QUICK, P-NOY URGED

A New York-based human rights watchdog, meanwhile, called on Mr. Aquino to immediately put an end to political killings, saying his "legacy as president may very well hinge on his success at ending this bloodshed and bringing those responsible to account."

"During his campaign, Aquino offered lofty rhetoric about the importance of justice, ending the killings, and abolishing private armies, but so far he has not articulated specific steps to combat these problems," Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth said.

"Unless he moves swiftly with clear and effective policies, he risks replicating the deeply troubling records of his predecessors," Roth said.

He said "death squads" in Davao City continue to hunt and kill petty criminals while powerful local politicians eliminate their opponents and troublesome journalists with impunity.

"Successive governments in Manila have, at best, failed to combat the killings," Roth pointed out.

Roth said the massacre of 57 people - including journalists and lawyers - in November 2009 in Maguindanao allegedly by members of the prominent Ampatuan clan proved that the culture of impunity remained despite the drop in the number of killings in 2007 and 2008 after much international pressure and condemnation from human rights groups.

He said the President should make clear to the police that they are required to vigorously pursue cases involving government officials or law enforcers or be investigated themselves.

He also advised Mr. Aquino to create an independent, accessible, and properly funded WPP to the Maguindanao massacre, who had a pending application for inclusion in the WPP. (www.philstar.com) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

'Villar Has Edge Over Pangilinan'

by Marvin SY /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **TWO SENATORS HAVE SAID THAT SEN. MANUEL VILLAR JR.** now has the edge over Sen. Francis Pangilinan in their respective bids to secure the Senate presidency.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Villar's advantage lies in his early lobbying for the position.

Santiago said that Villar started talking to his colleagues in the chamber to regain the Senate presidency immediately after the results of the elections came out last May.

In fact, she said a resolution expressing support for Villar's bid has already been going around and that when she signed the document, there were already four signatures there.

Santiago said she recently talked to Villar to ask for updates on the resolution and according to him, he already has 13 votes, just enough to secure the much-cov-

eted post.

"My impression is that Villar has it," she said.

"I guess that Villar has the advantage because he was first to talk to our colleagues," Angara said over the ABS-CBN News Channel the other night.

Angara claims to have six senators in his group that would vote as a bloc for the next Senate president.

He said Pangilinan and Villar are equal when it comes to the qualifications set by his group for the candidate.

Angara recalled that during his group's talk with Villar, the former was very frank and told them that he was not going to be a confrontational head of the Senate.

"We'd like to help if we can but we don't want also to be pushed because if you push then we will push back," Angara quoted Villar as saying.

Pangilinan, who has yet to meet with the group of Angara, has already been faced with questions about his independence from the

executive branch because he belongs to the Liberal Party of President Aquino.

Angara has clarified that Pangilinan's party affiliation should not be a factor in his bid for the Senate presidency.

"The closeness or affinity is not necessarily a liability but not also an asset," he said.

DRAWING THE BATTLES LINES

The race to the Senate presidency has now become a battle of propaganda, with the opposing camps both claiming to have the necessary numbers.

Pangilinan claimed that he has nine votes already and if Santiago is to be believed, Villar has 13.

Santiago admitted that the battle is not yet over as the two candidates would do all they can to get the support of their colleagues.

The efforts would include offering the chairmanship of committees, which provide power or fuel for the ambitions of some senators.

"The battle lines are clearly

drawn," she said.

With the prospect of Villar becoming Senate president again, Angara urged President Aquino to reach out to his rival in order to ensure a supportive Senate.

Villar and Aquino went at each other's throats during the election, with both sides resorting to smear campaigns and personal attacks.

Angara said Mr. Aquino should follow the example of former United States President Abraham Lincoln who reached out to his rivals and became a very successful leader.

KIKO COUNTS ON TRILLANES

As this developed, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV's lawyer filed a petition before a Makati Court asking permission to allow the detained senator to attend the opening of the 15th Congress on July 26.

Trillanes' chief of staff, lawyer Rey Robles, filed the petition on behalf of his client before Makati Regional Trial Court branch 148 Judge Oscar Pimentel, who has set a hearing on the issue this coming Friday.

The detained senator cited the

need to attend the opening session to enable him to participate in the voting for the Senate presidency and be involved in the distribution of committee chairmanships.

Trillanes' camp cited how the senator's vote is critical in determining who the next Senate president would be.

Only 21 senators are expected to be physically present on July 26.

Trillanes is barred by the Supreme Court from attending Senate sessions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson remains in hiding because of the double murder charges filed against him, while President Aquino's Senate seat was declared vacant after he was elected president.

Robles said their camp is optimistic that the Court will allow Trillanes, who is detained at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters at Camp Crame, to attend the first day of session of the 15th Congress.

Trillanes has not set foot in the Senate at the GSIS Building in Pasay City since his election in 2007. (www.philstar.com) ■

Norwegian Firm Provides Mangyans with Free Education

by Juanchon MAHUSAY /
Monday, July 5, 2010

CALAPAN CITY, Philippines - **TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN ALLEVIATING** the sorry plight of many Mangyans in Mindoro and as part of its corporate social responsibility, Intex Resources Phils. Inc. has been providing indigenous children with free education.

Starting from the day-care level, Intex Resources, a Norway-based mining company, has been making sure since three years ago that Mangyan children are getting the education they need to prepare themselves for the future.

Some 30 Mangyan children are now enrolled in different high schools in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro as scholars of Intex Resources. In the last two years, a

number of Intex scholars have graduated from college.

Aside from tuition and miscellaneous fees, Intex Resources provides its scholars with a complete set of uniforms, shoes, school supplies, basic daily necessities such as bath soap and shampoo, and cash allowances for their immediate needs. They are also given free board and lodging during their entire schooling.

On top of this, Mangyan children living with their families in mountain villages in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro are also given free education in day care centers and elementary schools.

Intex Resources has made a commitment to help the Mangyans, who belong to the Alangan and Bangon tribes and who are living within

the site of its proposed Mindoro nickel project.

Through Intex Resources and its local partner, Aglubang Mining Corp., the nickel project has been granted three mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for a period of 48 years in the central mountainous areas of Mindoro. Another MPSA is being processed.

The Mindoro project is projected to be the largest nickel

production and the only refined nickel plant in the Philippines beginning 2013.

It has a reserve base of about 1.2 million tons of nickel that would be sufficient for 21 years of production.

Mindoro's nickel resource base

of 2.6 million tons will make it possible for the project to be in production for several decades.

Studies indicate that the Mindoro nickel project is environmentally sound with a low carbon footprint compared to other laterite projects. (www.philstar.com) ■

Japanese Firm to Transfer 2 Factories in Europe to RP

by Maria Eliso P. OSORIO /
Monday, July 5, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **JAPANESE MANUFACTURING FIRM TERUMO CORP.** will be transferring two of its factories in Europe to the Philippines, thereby expanding its existing multi-billion investment in the country.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) spokesman Elmer San Pascual told reporters that the new investments will be announced today during the celebration of Terumo's 10th year in the Philippines.

San Pascual said Terumo chairman Takashi Watchi was invited by PEZA Director General Lilia B. de Lima to invest further in the Philippines.

This has led to the decision of the company to expand the product lines they are producing in

the country as they move operations, one from Belgium and another from unspecified European country here.

San Pascual refused to say how much the new investments will be saying only that the new facilities will be producing medical equipment.

De Lima said Terumo has been manufacturing injections and catheters here in the Philippines. She said they are looking at manufacturing more of the over 2,000 products of Terumo. Terumo is located in Biñan, Laguna.

Capitalized at P1.48 billion, the company is an affiliate of Terumo Corp. of Japan, whose products are marketed in over 150 countries. They are in North America, South America, Australia, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Consumers to Enjoy Lower Money Transfer Fees - BSP

by Lawrence AGCAOILI /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines -- **THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP)** said that consumers will continue to enjoy lower money transfer and remittance costs due to heightened competition between banks and companies that offer money transfer and remittance services.

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said in an interview with reporters that companies that offer money transfer and remittance services have been forced to lower their fees in light of the strong competition from banks that offer similar services as well as providers of mobile banking services.

"Companies were forced to lower their rates because of competition with banks and mobile bank-

ing," Espenilla stressed.

He pointed out that the central bank no longer needs to step in and intervene in the sector as competition has forced companies engaged in the money transfer and remittance business to lower their fees.

"That is why we don't want to regulate and impose price cap. Rather than price cap, let competition come in," he added.

To date, the BSP said there are about eight million users of mobile banking in the Philippines boosting the central bank's efforts to provide financial services in rural and hard to reach areas at a lower cost and higher efficiency.

These users of electronic money (e-money) transact through Smart Money of PLDT-controlled Smart Communications and G-cash of Ayala-controlled Globe Telecom

in the Philippines.

He said the number of banks offering mobile banking for microfinance operations has reached 49 rural banks from none before 2005.

Espenilla earlier said some banks even lowered their interest rates on microfinance loans for clients who use text-a-payment platform by 50 basis points on monthly rates.

"Technology extends outreach of microfinance and banking services to a large number of bankable but un-banked especially those in rural and hard to reach areas at lower costs and higher efficiency," he explained.

The mobile phone industry in the Philippines serves all income groups especially low income groups. More than 75 percent of the population have mobile phones.

More consumers, particularly families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), are starting to appreciate the use of electronic transactions. e-transactions involve the payment of goods purchased and services rendered but could also be a conduit for the money sent home by Filipinos

working abroad.

The BSP has already issued a regulation covering e-money wherein entities already providing or wanting to provide an e-money service must register with the central bank as an electronic money issuer (EMI). (www.philstar.com) ■

Aquino Appoints New Customs Commissioner

by Paolo ROMERO /
Tuesday, July 6, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - **PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III HAS APPOINTED BUSINESSMAN ANGELITO ALVAREZ** as the new chief of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said today.

Alvarez is the president and chief operating officer of Airfreight 2100 Inc., the local licensee of US-

based logistics services company Federal Express Corp.

Aquino earlier said that the government will have to improve tax collection and curb smuggling to boost the country's revenues and plug the widening deficit.

For the months of January to May this year, the BOC collected P107.5 billion (\$2.3 billion), 27.1 percent higher than last year's. For the first half of the year, the BOC is tasked to collect at least P124.1 billion (\$2.7 billion). (www.philstar.com) ■

More Pinoys, Including Retirees Now Taking Up Vocational Courses

by Mayen JAYMALIN /
Wednesday, July 7, 2010

MANILA, Philippines -- **WHO SAYS THERE IS NO LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT?**

In an effort to provide employment or additional sources of income, the government is now offering free skills training not only for young Filipinos, but older peo-

ple as well.

Pastor Guiao, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) director general, said even retirees could take up a vocational courses from an agency and engage in a gainful activity.

"Anybody can enroll in any of TESDA's schools and training centers and we don't discriminate,"

Guiao disclosed.

Based on a recent study conducted by TESDA, Guiao said, graduates of technical vocational courses have higher chances of getting employment than college graduates.

"The skills they learned are very much in demand and are attuned to the needs of companies. The courses they have chosen were based on their occupational interest and aptitude. That is why

they completed their courses and do not have difficulty looking for jobs," Guiao explained.

According to Guiao, TESDA consults with industry representatives in the identification of in-demand occupations and sits down with them in the design of the curriculum.

The graduates, on the other hand, were required to undergo career assessment prior to their enrollment. This helps ensure that the course they will enroll in fits their aptitude and occupational interest.

Results of TESDA study indicated that a high 55 percent of their graduates were already employed and more than one-third got their jobs in less than a month while one-fourth were employed within 1-3 months after completing their courses.

The biggest number of graduates were employed in the following business sectors: footwear and leathers; land transportation; processed food and beverages; business process outsourcing; heating, ventilation and air-conditioning; metals and engineering; construction and furniture and fixtures.

Majority of these graduates receive a monthly income of P5,000.00 to P20,000.00. On the average, their monthly earning is placed at P8,885.74 which is higher than the average basic pay of wage and salary workers of P288.95 per day or P6,136.00 per

month, Guiao noted.

In the past, Guiao said, many Filipinos shy away from tech-voc courses, thinking that these are only for the poor and those with low mental ability.

But he said the reality now is that most of the successful workers and entrepreneurs have taken at least one or two tech-voc courses.

Enrollment in tech-voc courses, in fact, has in fact increased over the years and has reached 1.98 million in 2009, Guiao said while adding that half of the enrollees were high school graduates while 13 percent were already college graduates.

Guiao said tech-voc graduates actually have many options to choose from like they may want to apply for employment in local companies or they may want to work abroad.

Those with entrepreneurial spirit, on the other hand, may wish to set up their own small business and since they have the skills, they may open a small service or repair shop in their neighborhood.

For our unemployed married women, Guiao said, the simplest way to earn is by taking up short service-related courses in massage, cosmetology or beauty culture and offering their services to their relatives, friends and other members of their community.

"Tech-voc is a very attractive option and all it takes is only a short period of time and a small capital investment to finish," Guiao pointed out. (www.philstar.com) ■



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LEGAL NOTES

Deferred Action or Parole to Undocumented Aliens?



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

There will most probably be no comprehensive immigration reform this year. At a recent meeting of Democratic senators and immigration advocates, a consensus was reached that it would be difficult to pass a bill before the November election because of strong Republican opposition.

The Democrat's strategy now is to try to push for the passage of legislations with bipartisan support

such as the DREAM Act and the AgJOBS Act.

The DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education Act for Minors) would grant permanent resident status to undocumented students who have been residing here in the U.S. for several years while the AgJOBS Act (Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security) would give temporary immigration status and eventually permanent resident status to undocumented farmworkers who have worked in the U.S.

There are rumors of another option. The current administration may be contemplating to grant either deferred action or parole to millions of undocumented aliens with no criminal record. Such action which does not need congressional

approval would defer their deportation and allow them to stay in the U.S. and work.

The rumors about such an executive act have been widespread that 8 Republican senators wrote a letter to President Obama last June 21 asking him to confirm or deny it. The senators were Chuck Grassley, Orrin Hatch, Jim Bunning, Saxby Chambliss, Jim Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Thad Cochran and David Vitter. Incidentally, these senators voted against the immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2007.

Their letter alleged that President Obama is pushing to develop a "plan to unilaterally extend either deferred action or parole to millions of illegal aliens in the U.S." and that this plan will cover those "who will

fully overstayed their visas or filed for benefits knowing that they will not be eligible for a status for years to come."

They asked the President to abandon such a plan because "such deferred action and parole are discretionary actions reserved only for individual cases that present unusual, emergent or humanitarian circumstances." They further said that it would circumvent the constitutional authority of the Congress to legislate immigration policy.

Deferred action and parole by the executive branch have been granted in the past. I recall that in 1977, the then Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

granted deferred departure to hundreds of out of status nurses, mostly from the Philippines, who faced the threat of deportation for failing their licensure exams or for changing their employer without authority.

Those nurses, including those who were already under deportation proceedings, were given deferred departure status in 6-month increments up to a total of 3 years. And when they passed their licensure exams they were restored to lawful status.

The deferred status was the result of an agreement between the INS and the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates which I represented. ■

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Belgian Firm Plans to Put Up One of Largest Solar Power Plants in RP

by Donabelle GATDULA / Tuesday, July 6, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - BELGIUM-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY FIRM ENFINITY has expressed interest in building what could be one of the biggest solar power facilities in the Philippines.

Industry sources said Enfinity is eyeing to put up a 50 megawatt to 100 megawatt (MW) solar power plant inside the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

It was learned that the Belgian power developer is now in "serious" discussions for a possible lease agreement with officials of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) on the proposed project. CDC is the government entity running the operation of the freeport.

Sources said Enfinity's proposal would be an ideal project since it will redound to savings for the zone locators.

Clark has about 90 locators. The area covers around 30,000 hectares located 100 kilometers north of Manila.

If the project pushes through, buyers of power will save on transmission costs as it will be directly located inside the economic zone.

According to sources, there is no definite project cost yet but as a rule of thumb, a solar project normally commands around \$2.5 million to \$3 million in investment per MW.

It was also learned that Enfinity expects to secure the approval this week of the CDC for the project.



euros in 2008 to 252 million euros in 2009 and has over 200 employees.

Aside from Asia and Europe, Enfinity is also expanding its presence in North America.

In 2008, Enfinity Asia Pacific Ltd. was formed in Hong Kong to specifically focus on projects in Asia.

So far, it has a portfolio of ongoing solar and wind projects in 14 countries with China and India on the forefront. It is currently developing, financing and constructing a 1,000-MW photovoltaic solar installation on 3,000 acres in India.

Biomass, solar and wind will be among the major sources of energy in the next decade, accounting for more than a third of the country's total energy demand.

The contribution of solar, wind and ocean will reach 0.6 MMBFOE (million barrels of fuels equivalent) in 2003 rising to 1.7 MMBFOE in 2007 and 3.0 MMBFOE in 2012.

Contribution of wind, solar and biomass sources for non-power applications will comprise a large portion of total demand for renewable energy in the next 10 years. Demand for solar and wind energy sources is foreseen to grow with the implementation of the program to invigorate the market for solar water heaters and locally fabricated solar dryers and wind pumps.

Based on the 2001 inventory of solar technologies, a total of 5,120 solar systems have been installed, as follows: 4,619 solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; 433 solar water heaters; and 68 solar dryer systems. (www.philstar.com) ■

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MAINLAND NEWS

RP Consulate General in S.F. Holds Seminar on Disaster Preparedness

THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO recently held a seminar on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness at the Social Hall of the Philippine Center Building.

Co-sponsored by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association of Northern California (PMAAANC), the seminar was meant to raise awareness and provide guidance to the Filipino community on disaster preparedness and management.

The seminar also helped to es-

tablish coordination, collaboration and resiliency efforts in times of emergencies and provided guidance on how to build a structural framework of coordination and action during such events.

Among the participating agencies was American Red Cross which offered to train attendees in their 18-hour intensive Neighborhood Emergency Response Team training program.

Members of the PMAAANC also briefed attendees on their proposed model of a Neighbor-

hood emergency/disaster preparedness organizational structure for the Filipino-American community, which they say could further be expanded to include the rest of the Bay area and California.

S.F. Consul General Marciano A. Paynor, Jr. discussed the Consulate General's operations and courses of action by its Rapid Deployment Team during emergen-

cies and disasters and underscored the need to establish an emergency registry database—a key element in the formation of emergency and disaster preparedness planning.

Consulate officials say that the seminar elicited a positive response from attendees, especially on the importance of increasing the awareness and preparedness of

the Filipino American community.

Consul General Paynor asked attendees to spread the word and stressed that the seminar was the first step in a collective effort of Consulate General, community members and other stakeholders from the private and public sector towards enhanced emergency and disaster awareness and preparedness capability. (DEA) ■

Veterans Affairs Office Awards \$188 Million to Filipino Veterans

ACCORDING TO THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C., over \$188 million has been awarded to eligible Filipino veterans from the Filipino Veteran Equity Compensation (FVEC) Fund as of June 1, 2010.

Of the approved claims, 7,603 (18 percent) are for Filipino veterans based in the Philippines, while the remaining 7,991 (19 percent) are Filipino veterans living in the U.S. Applications received are now presently recorded at 41,195.

There are 7,969 (19 percent) pending claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs which are currently being verified through the appropriate service department at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. The NPRC serves as the Army's records custodian.

Denied applications for com-



pensation total 17,632 (43 percent). Of this number, the Manila Regional Office reported that it has received 1,761 Notice of Denials.

The Veterans Affairs Office is continuously conducting outreach programs to aid veterans who choose to appeal their denied applications.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has enclosed a VA Form 4107, "Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision," in notification letters to explain options available to those veterans who have been denied claims. (DEA) ■

Guidaben Dreams to Return to RP

by Joaquin HENSON / Thursday, July 8, 2010

NEW JERSEY — SINCE MIGRATING TO THE US SEVEN YEARS AGO, two-time PBA MVP Abet Guidaben hasn't been back home. He's resettled in Jersey City with wife Maridol and three of their four children but the 6-5 Camiguin native said yesterday his dream is to return to the Philippines and enhance the sports skills of potential basketball stars in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Guidaben, 57, said he spoke with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno about the possibility of initiating an honest-to-good grassroots development program starting in Cagayan de Oro when the SBP chairman visited here last year.

*Jolas (Lastimoso) was the last

big-name Mindanao player to emerge and we want to develop more stars," said Guidaben. "I want to help. With my experience, I think I'll be able to teach big men how to be more effective in a game. I notice the lack of a post presence in several PBA teams. Maybe, I can do something positive to address that problem."

Guidaben said he plays in PBA Legends exhibitions organized by Abe King whenever there are invitations.

"I was actively playing last year with other PBA veterans like Manny Victorino, Ricky Relosa, Tim Coloso



and Eddie Boy Mendoza who are all based in the East Coast," said Guidaben. "I haven't been too active this year because of work. But I try to stay in touch with the other players, particularly Billy Ray Bates."

Guidaben supervises the Northeast operations of Forex Cargo, a forwarding company he set up with partners, in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The services include dollar remittances to the Philippines. His wife is also employed, working as a baby nurse on 24-hour duty in the first two weeks from birth. (www.philtstar.com) ■

GMA Stars Grace New Jersey Fil-Am Day Parade

by Felix MANUEL / Friday, July 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - **GMA STARS KRIS BERNAL, MARK HERRAS AND RHIAN RAMOS** graced the 20th Annual Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade organized by PAF-COM in Jersey City, New Jersey, said June 27.

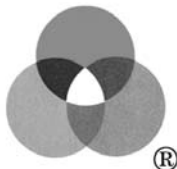
Thousands of Filipinos from Jersey City and the East Coast US joined the celebration of 62 years of friendship between the Philippines and the USA. Engineer Danilo Pagsambangan, President of Maharikang Filipino Pageants-USA, invited me (being Maharikang

Paragant) to attend the parade this year to showcase our Miss Maharikang Filipino-USA winners who will be competing in different national pageants in the Philippines next year. The parade covered places from Lincoln Park to the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Station. A special musical variety show and cultural presentation followed soon after.

Incidentally, I would like to commend Kris Bernal for doing something most young stars today would not. After the parade, the GMA float was parked and there were several people gathered around it. As the stars were being

rushed to go down the float to a nearby car waiting to take them off to a nearby restaurant for lunch, Kris saw a grandmother with her little granddaughter approaching the edge of the float to shake hands with her.

The float was a bit high and the old lady could not reach Kris' hands. In sheer desperation, she tried to walk nearer the float and she nearly fell down the gutter and ended up even farther away from Kris who hurriedly knelt near the edge of the float, not minding that her blouse was a bit loose, and shook the hands of the old lady and her granddaughter and exchanged pleasantries with them! I saw the sparkle in the grandmother's eyes as she left. (www.philtstar.com) ■



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Mass: 6:00 pm • Contact: Erwin
Gabrillo 282-4186

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July 24, 2010 • Hyatt Regency Maui Res-
ort and Spa, Lahaina, Maui • Contact
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sulate General, Pali Highway • 8 - 4 pm
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GALA / SATURDAY

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ANNUAL COVO PICNIC / SUNDAY

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Honolulu • 10 am - 4 pm • Contact:
Richard Ancog at 383-3691 or Erwin
Gabrillo at 282-4186

UP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (HAWAII CHAPTER) BIENNIAL BANQUET AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS / SATURDAY

August 28, 2010 • Hale Koa Hotel •
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1399 or email upaahawaii@yahoo.com;
upaahawaii@gmail.com

GLOBAL NEWS Over 5,000 Undocumented Pinoy's Working in Afghanistan

by Mosen JAYMAUN /
Monday, July 5, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - OVER 5,000 UNDOCUMENTED FILIPINO WORKERS are now working in war-torn Afghanistan and the number is still growing, local recruiters reported yesterday.

Filipino workers continue to sneak into Afghanistan, defying the deployment ban imposed by the government on those who want to work there, recruitment leaders said.

A majority of the illegally deployed Filipino workers are currently employed in American military facilities.

Recruiters said one OFW himself said he and several others have been traveling back and forth the Philippines

and Afghanistan, even with the prevailing deployment ban.

The OFW, a mechanic in Kabul, said he returns to the country every six months and then goes back to Afghanistan with his American employers paying for his plane fare.

The worker claimed that OFWs in Afghanistan are recruited mostly in Pampanga and Olongapo. A majority of them are children of former employees of the Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base and are familiar with the operation of American bases.

Many of the OFWs in Afghanistan are employed as country managers or directors, project team leaders, lead engineers, project managers, and department heads and they receive

monthly salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,000.

The Philippine government imposed a deployment ban to Afghanistan in 2007 due to hostilities in the area.

The US has increased its troops in Afghanistan to 94,000 recently and expects to add more troops by year-end. It intends to end its presence in the country by July 2011.

REVIEW SOUGHT

Meantime, President Aquino has ordered a review of the local recruitment industry to determine its part in resolving the country's unemployment problem.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the President has also directed the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to make a thorough review of Philippine recruitment agencies (PRA).

(www.philstar.com) ■

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 $F = mg$

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* Weight before cooking at least 5.33 oz (151.1 gms). At participating McDonald's.

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