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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

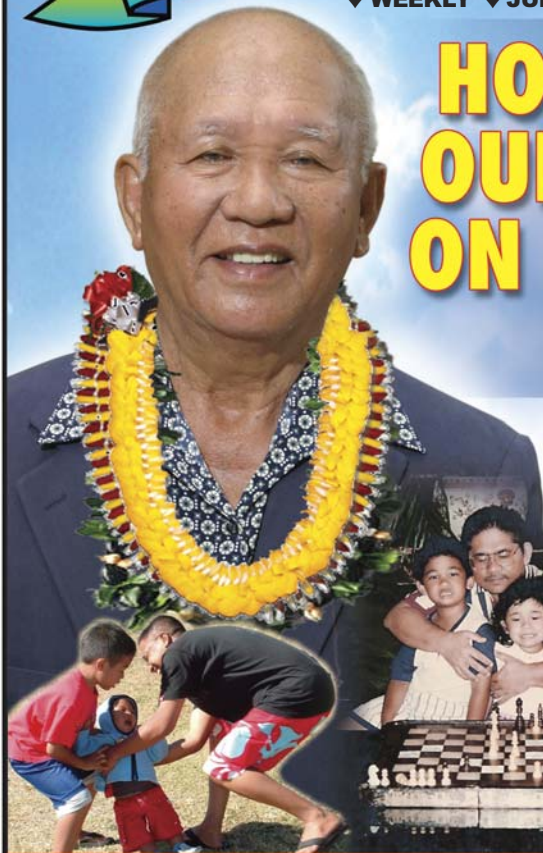
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ JUNE 7, 2008 ◆

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**EDITORIAL**

**Pay Tribute and Honor Our Fathers on Father's Day**

**P**erhaps no other word can warm a man's heart more than hearing the word "dad"—particularly for men who have children. While any man can impregnate a woman and sire a child, it takes someone special to be a dad. A man must be willing to pay a price for the privilege of being called a dad. It's certainly not easy. A dad pours out his life for his wife and children, expending his time, energy and resources for their benefit. A dad who does this is rewarded with a happy marriage and well-adjusted children who are better prepared to face life's many challenges.

The majority of dads in Filipino families choose to hand the reins over to the moms and allow them to manage the family's daily affairs. Instead, hard-working Filipino dads toil long hours at work in order to provide for the family's needs. Their focus on work may make them seem indifferent or invisible at times, but the truth is that Filipino dads deeply love their families. Most Filipino dads, particularly those raised in the Philippines, won't say much or show much emotion. Yet, when push comes to shove, they would gladly sacrifice everything for their children.

So to our dads, we hope you will wear your badge with pride on this Father's Day. You are truly deserving of a special day of honor for all that you've done for the family.

**What Can Be Done About Keeping Gasoline Prices Down**

**W**ith the latest gas price average approaching \$4.00 a gallon in the U.S., Americans, historically spoiled with cheaper gas prices, must now rethink the way in which they travel. Imagine, really, "budgeting for gas," a practice almost no one had to do less than a decade ago. The gasoline price spike in the U.S. has risen from around \$1 to over \$3 a gallon only in the last seven years. The bad news, however, is nobody, or even no government, seem to have control over this beast of burden. Simple economics will theorize supply and demand as a culprit. But that's proving to be only one aspect driving gasoline prices. So yes, gas-guzzling SUVs and owners of unnecessarily huge trucks are partly responsible in the way of over consumption. But more importantly, the problem boils down to the rising cost of crude oil. Crude oil prices have risen to record-high this year, settling above \$125 a barrel. These suppliers of crude oil, powerful, non-government, multinational money machineries, dictate their own profit margins from which everyone else and governments have no recourse to be able to accept.

So what is being done. Attempts by private companies to improve oil refining methods, as well as government's efforts to keep taxes on gasoline lower and subsidizing part of the cost have only had marginal success in stabilizing prices. Even if suddenly, consumers miraculously changed their excessive gas consumption behavior, the price for gasoline - adjusted for inflation and all the economic formulas that these suppliers justify to keep costs high - will be set at some level of hardship. Say an alternative energy is finally put into place, would that change our transportation costs? Not likely, unless the ease of production and distribution of this substitute is as simple as breathing air. Just look at the price of bot-

**FROM THE PUBLISHER**



elcome to another issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Summer is perhaps one of the most anticipated times of the year for our keiki, many of whom have just finished the 2007-2008 school year.



With summer in full swing, some families are having second thoughts about taking that trip to the Philippines or other favorite vacation destinations. And who can blame them? Due to the downturn in the economy and higher fuel costs, staying at home instead may very well turn out to be the best decision your family can make this summer. But whatever your plans may be, we hope that you have a very happy and safe summer!

With the Father's Day weekend fast approaching, we hope you will take time to celebrate this very special day for the man or men in your life. If you are a father, we at the Chronicle would like to wish you a very Happy Father's Day! Consider spending the day doing fun activities with your children—at the beach, the movie theatre or the mall. If your dad is still alive, why not tell him in a new, creative way how much you appreciate all that he's done for you?

In keeping with the Father's Day theme, the cover story for this issue is written by Dennis Galolo, who has an article on fathers and the role that they play in the lives of their families and children. He also delves into the persona of the typical Filipino dad, describing them as hard-working, doesn't say much around the house, doesn't show much emotion but deeply loves his children. Yet, he is often the glue that keeps families together. We hope you will find his article on page 4 to be interesting and thought provoking.

Continuing this issue's theme on Father's Day is our Chronicle Pulse wherein we ask several dads what they wish for on Father's Day. Their responses are on page 5. In our Family Corner article on page 12, columnist Dr. Grace Fong gives tips on how to be a "Great Dad." She says great dads tend to be good listeners, supportive and respectful and fair when it comes to disciplining their children.

In closing, we've included our regular columns in this issue such as the Governor's Column, Immigration Guide, Legal Notes and Philippine Language. We hope you will enjoy this issue.

Until next time, *aloha & mabuhay!*

*Charla A. Montesines-Sonido*

tlend water, an abundant, endless resource. What are we paying for there? - labor, packaging, advertising, distribution.

The reality is, good or bad, we've been programmed to accept the idea that we must pay for everything. That is the way of capitalism. So the fundamental questions to this dilemma, as is the case with most, go back to a deconstructionist one, and that is: "What do you value and how much should it cost?" Perhaps, the ill psychology directed at rising gasoline prices has plenty to do with a lack of choice and little to do with making the sacrifices needed to pay less by altering our lifestyles.

**LETTERS**

*I would like to thank you for serving our Filipino community in keeping us abreast with latest news. I am a regular reader and really happy with your service.*



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GOVERNOR'S COLUMN



By Governor Linda Lingle

# Successes, Shortcomings of 2008 Legislature

and encroaching on conservation land, expedite the removal of grounded vessels, and save important agricultural lands from urbanization. Additionally, the Legislature passed a bill that will help the state acquire the Turtle Bay property on O'ahu's North Shore, thereby allowing us to preserve the undeveloped lands and long-term economic viability of the existing resort.

I'm also pleased that measures moved forward supporting our state's Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative. Specifically, the Legislature approved our proposal to expedite permit-

ting of renewable energy facilities and to create an energy facilitator position within the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to assist with the permitting process.

I'd like thank all of you who participated in the 2008 legislative session. Your input remains critical as we continue to review bills passed by the Legislature over the next few weeks. Please visit my website at [www.hawaii.gov/gov](http://www.hawaii.gov/gov) to track the detailed results from the 2008 session, including new laws enacted and vetoed bills. Readers who would like

to provide feedback on bills that are still under consideration can e-mail my office at [governor.lingle@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingle@hawaii.gov).

Lastly, I'm happy to share that I recently released a \$125,000 grant-in-aid for the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu on O'ahu, which provides a variety of education and cultural programs for the Filipino community, including nursing certification classes and a Smart Seniors Program to keep participants active and healthy. I consider partnerships with the nonprofit sector to be vital as we work to create a brighter future for all residents. Support of organizations like the Filipino



The Filipino Community Center

Community Center pays important dividends by helping individuals and families lead happier and more successful lives.

Since the legislative session ended on May 1st, my Administration has been analyzing more than 200 bills that were approved by the State Legislature. As Governor, I have until July 8 to sign the bills into law, veto them or let them become law without my signature. We encourage the public to provide input on the bills during this comprehensive review process.

Though many important initiatives we introduced moved forward, overall the legislative session was lackluster. The Legislature could have approved major investments for affordable housing and homeless programs and done more to support innovation in education and further long-overdue medical malpractice reform, but instead chose to sustain the status quo.

A major disappointment was the Legislature's failure to enact meaningful tax relief for Hawai'i's neediest families. In December 2007, my Administration presented a six-year balanced budget to the Legislature that included \$102 million in targeted tax relief, but the Legislature chose to pass a token \$1 per person tax credit instead.

In dealing with our state's moderated economic growth, the Legislature took a cookie-cutter approach to our budget and made the unfortunate decision of setting aside \$22 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for "a rainy day." With welfare cases decreasing, we should continue to build on the progress we have made in increasing self-sufficiency by putting every federal dollar to work for us and investing in prevention and work programs. Now this money will most likely sit idle.

On a more positive note, the Legislature did support proposals my Administration set forth to protect our valuable natural resources. These include bills that increase fines for damaging the environment

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## Bus Stop Realignment Project

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**Wednesday, July 2, 2008**

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**Miercoles Hulio 2, 2008**

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**Note:** Only bus stops in the affected area are shown. Bus stops not shown are not affected.

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# HONORING OUR FATHERS ON FATHER'S DAY

By Dennis Galolo

*"He didn't tell me how to live—he lived, and let me watch him do it."* — Clarence Budington Kelland

**D**AD. For most of us, the word conjures up images of strength, calm and assertiveness—qualities that are expected of and evident in many fathers.

When it comes to parenting, the role that fathers play can sometimes be overlooked, particularly with mom in the picture. Yet, if we reflect back to our childhood memories, we'll find that our dads played a big role in our lives.

As children, we played catch with him and climbed onto his lap for a bedtime story. As we grew older, he drove us to doctor appointments, cheered us on at our sports games and taught us how to drive. When the kids came, he and mom babysat then while we worked to make ends meet.

#### Someone to Look Up to

Fathers are role models for their children, whether they real-

ize it or not. Many studies have shown that girls who spend time with a loving father expect to be treated with respect from boys and from men upon entering adulthood. As for boys, they learn from their fathers honesty, responsibility and respect for women.

For State Rep. Joey Manahan, who is originally from Manila, that male role model was his grandfather, who filled the void in his life when his parents separated while he was still very young.

"My grandfather on my mom's side was a huge influence in my life," he says. "From him I learned how to conduct myself during my formative years and to always be a gentleman."

Another male figure in Rep. Manahan's life was his uncle Johnny Manahan, from whom he learned the importance of commitment, looking out for one's family and always being there for them—not just in times of need.



The same holds true for Bobby Agpaoa, past president of the Filipino Jaycees, whose father was a tremendous influence in his life.

"He influenced me in so many different ways," he says. "I could write a book on all the things that my father did to pave the way for me to move forward in life."

#### Father's Day in the Philippines

If you ask someone who

grew up in the Philippines what Fathers Day celebrations were like back then, you're likely to get a blank stare. Most cannot remember ever setting aside a day to honor fathers.

"It's an American concoction," says Clem Bautista, director of the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Office of Multi-Cultural Student Services. "The Philippines started celebrating Father's Day only because the U.S. did—just like Thanksgiving."

Agpaoa agrees and considers it "an American holiday."

"It (Father's Day) was not something we celebrated in the Philippines," he said. "Families there spend so much time working hard that holidays and special moments were sometimes forgotten."

However, some Filipinos can remember church events that honored fathers. At some Catholic churches, towards the end of Sunday Mass, the fathers are asked to rise, go to the front of the church and face the audience, while the priest leads a prayer of recognition and thanks.

Elena Lao, who works in the City Clerk's Office, recalls the first time her family celebrated Father's Day in her hometown of Tarlac, which is located about 5 hours north of Manila. Six years old at the time, Lao remembers her mom cooking lunch while her dad and fellow band members rehearsed a few songs. The delicious smell wafted over to nearby homes, bringing hungry and curious neighbors who gathered to

watch the "E and M Power Drive Band." Before the rehearsal was over, Lao's mom cooked extra food for everyone.

"It turned out to be the first time we celebrated Father's Day," she says.

#### Father's Day in the U.S.

Contrary to what some people may think, the Hallmark card company did not invent Father's Day. Some historians credit Sonora Dodd of Washington state for coming up with the idea for Father's Day back in 1909, while others give the nod to Mrs. Charles Clayton of West Virginia. In any case, Father's Day did not become an official U.S. holiday until 1966 when then-president Lyndon B. Johnson signed a proclamation setting aside the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

In Hawaii, families have many different ways of celebrating Fathers Day. Some hold barbecues at the beach, while others eat out at their favorite restaurants. Whatever the celebration, it more likely than not, revolves around good food and good times with the family.

For Corrine Gallardo, who hails from Kauai, she and her 6 brothers and sisters would let their dad spend the entire day doing what he liked best—fishing.

"We'd let him relax and fish, which was his favorite thing to do," she recalls. "When he'd come home, we'd celebrate by having a big family dinner."

When they were little, she and her siblings would give him

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COVER STORY

hand-made Fathers Day cards or gifts like a new hat or fishing lure they had bought by saving their money.

Kalihi resident Don Aguilar, who is on staff at New Hope Christian Church, remembers his family buying a cake with "Happy Father's Day" on it and then ordering pizza and fried chicken. His siblings would also pool their money and buy him tools.

"My dad loved to work on the house and fix cars," he said. "The entire day was a time for our family to relax and enjoy each other's company."

**The Typical Filipino Dad**

If there was one characteristic of Filipino dads, it's their propensity for hard work. Aguilar says his dad worked two, sometimes three jobs to ensure that there was food on the table and a roof over their heads. The little money that was left over was sent to relatives in the Philippines. For 19 years, the elder Aguilar worked as a janitor-maintenance worker in the hotel industry.

"My dad influenced my out-



Don Aguilar

look in life through his example of selfless sacrifice and hard work," he said. "I remember he would get very little sleep in-between jobs. On the weekends, he would clean people's yards."

Agapaa also learned the value of hard work from his dad, who constantly reminded him of the family's humble past and the sacrifices made that enabled the children to have a better life.

Speaking of hard work, one of Lao's earliest memories of her father was when he used to whistle out loud upon arriving home from work. She and her younger brother would run to the door to retrieve their dad's lunch pail. Then, the two would race to untie their dad's work

boots. "I remember my brother and I would run to the door to greet him," she says. "We were always glad to see him come home."

The typical Filipino dad also deeply loves his children and is quite sentimental. Never one for words, he won't say it or show emotion, but deep down inside, he would gladly sacrifice everything for them. In a heartbeat.

"My dad is a man of few words, but he spoke loudly by his actions, doing whatever it took to ensure the well-being of our family and to prepare us for the future," Aguilar said.

**The Father's Role in Philippine Society**

Traditionally, the father is the main authority figure in the family. He would leave for work in the morning, while the mother stayed at home. Nevertheless, the mother held considerable authority and influence—generally controlling the family's finances and taking charge of daily affairs.

Bautista says changing economic conditions in the Philippines have blurred the lines that once defined the roles expected

of fathers and mothers. "Now, things are changing because more women are leaving the home," says Bautista, referring to the growing number of women who are traveling outside of the country to earn higher wages as Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs). "So the family dynamics have changed."

While the results are yet to be determined, one thing for certain is the need for Filipino fathers to step up and keep the family moving forward, while the mothers are working abroad.

The movies, believe it or not, can be a good indicator of how Philippine society views the role of fathers in everyday life.

"In many Filipino movies, the father is a patriarchal figure, but if you look closely at his role, he holds so little power," Bautista says. "He makes the final decisions, but it's the wife who holds the power. She handles the family's money and takes care of the children."

This was not the case for the Gallardo family of Kauai, where the father was like "super glue." Mr. Gallardo kept the ship steady, so to speak, while her mom chased after the seven kids and micromanaged the affairs of the busy household. His positive outlook on life brought a steady influence into the family.

"We had our ups and downs as a family," she said. "But he taught us to have a positive outlook because there were so many things in life that could bring us down, including each other," she says.

Gallardo says her father was the disciplinarian who held the final say. Sometimes the kids would go to their mom, hoping to skirt dad's authority, but her response was always "run it by your dad."

The same was true in the Agapaa household, where the father did not hesitate to use the slippers or stick on his children.

"He was a quiet person, but was very disciplinary," Agapaa recalls.

**Where Do Dads Go From Here?**

Some dads feel that they may not have done as good a job as they could have or wanted to in their children's lives. Fortunately, there is still time to make things right.

In his book "Dads: Walking Faithful, Standing Strong," author Steve Farrar encourages fathers to study Psalms 90:10-12: "The length of our days is 70 years—or 80 if we have the strength; they quickly pass and we fly away... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

So what does that mean? It means that we need to ask God to teach us to live wisely, to make the right choices, so we can be the best fathers we can possibly be.

You may have 40 years left in life, or you may have four days. Nobody knows. You don't even know if you'll be around to celebrate next Father's Day. Life on earth isn't forever.

If you're a dad who's reading this, ask yourself: "Am I living wisely today?"

**Note:** Cover photo on May 24, 2008 issue was taken by Tim Lena Photography.

CHRONICLE PULSE

**What Is Your Father's Day Wish?**

By Carlota Ador

"I wish to see all dads driving a luxury car and for them to be happy, content and at peace during their wonderful day."  
- LITO LABUGEN, CAR SALESMAN



"To achieve maximum sales in our company and for my family to enjoy comfort, happiness and togetherness."  
- EDDIE ACIO, LUMBER COMPANY EMPLOYEE



"Good health for my family."  
- CESAR FAJARDO, BUSINESSMAN



"I wish for my youngest child to have a successful career."  
- EDGAR MADARANG, HOTEL EMPLOYEE



"I would like to maintain good health and a good relationship with my family."  
- RANDY RIVERA, TV NETWORK CREW



"I wish to continue serving the Filipino people to the best of my ability and to reach the ripe old age of 100 years or so like my grandmother."  
- JINGGOY ESTRADA, PHILIPPINE SENATOR



"I'm looking forward to taking my family on a world cruise without any traffic on my schedule."  
- MARIO PALMA, NURSE



"I wish for the preservation of a good and clean environment for the next generation to enjoy."  
- RANDY RIVERA, TV NETWORK CREW

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

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**Smithsonian Launches National Tour of 'Singgalot' Photo Exhibit**

After a nearly two-year wait, a Smithsonian exhibit commemorating the Filipino immigration to the U.S. is finally set to begin a nationwide tour to cities like San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle, New York and Atlanta.

Through some 100 photo murals and images, this exhibition explores the challenges and issues that confronted Filipinos from the annexation of the Philippines as a U.S. colony in 1898 to their struggles to ac-

quire full U.S. citizenship during the 20th century.

The exhibition also highlights their contributions to the development of Hawaii, the agrusiness industry on the West Coast, the seafood and cannery industries in Alaska, the U.S. military, public service, literature and the arts, sports, and health care.

"Singgalot" was created by Dean Alegado, former University of Hawaii Ethnic Studies associate professor, and

Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Program. It has already been on display at the Smithsonian Institute and the Bishop Museum in 2006.

The exhibit was designed by local graphic artist Marissa Gacula, a first-generation Filipino-American who was born and raised on the Big Island. Her father came to Hawaii in the 1960s to work for the Hamakua sugar plantation company, while her mother came as a student.

**Transit Project to Hold Workshop for Contractors**

The City will host a workshop on June 12, 2008 at the Neal Blaisdell Center which will provide details on the Honolulu Rail Transit project as well as opportunities for designers, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.

Organizers are encouraging firms to begin teaming up for various contracts associated with the Rail Transit Project. As an open-house style event, the workshop will facilitate communication among the project team, contractors, subcontractors and various groups within the construction industry.

One of our primary goals is to make sure that local companies are given every opportunity to work on this project," said Mayor Mufi Hannemann.

"We encourage teaming so that the capability of large firms can be complemented by the skill and firsthand knowledge of smaller companies."

Hannemann estimates that the rail transit project will generate 4,700 construction jobs annually, along with another 6,600 jobs in indirect employment.

Workshop topics include:

project overview, project implementation schedule, potential civil contract packaging and the procurement process, contract components and construction features, as well as additional City of Honolulu project opportunities

At the conclusion of the workshop, project team members will be available for consultation with individual companies.

Registration fee is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Seating is limited. Registration forms are available online at: [www.honolulustransit.org](http://www.honolulustransit.org). Please call 535-6243 for further details.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

# No Talk, No Mistake



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

cause the other one was lost. He added that he had a broken left foot.

The police officer said that they were catching people who drank and drove. "Just like dad," chimed in his teenage son at the back.

He was arrested. He eventually pleaded *nolo contendere* (no contest) which has the same effect as a plea of guilty. He served two days in jail.

What was the senator thinking of when he talked? As a lawyer, did he not remember what even freshmen law students are taught -- you have the right to remain silent and anything you say may be used against you. Did he panic? Or was he trying to talk the officer out of it? Was he trying to elicit sympathy?

What would have happened if he had simply said: "I do not wish to talk. I want to talk only in the presence of my lawyer." By the time they contacted his lawyer, the effects of the red wine might have evaporated.

In one case, a defendant got out of a drunken driving charge because the he was chewing gum when arrested which affected the result of the breathalyzer. Eclipse or Altoids have a strong flavor.

### Immigrant talks about drugs

An immigrant was ar-

rested for drug possession. He was read his "Miranda" rights -- that he had a right to remain silent, not to answer any questions, that anything he said could be used against him, he had a right to talk to a lawyer before he answered any questions, and if he could not afford a lawyer, one would be provided him. He said he understood the advice.

Then he started talking. He said that he owned the glass pipe used for smoking crystal methamphetamine (ice) in his possession, he had been using ice for 2 years, smoking it every morning. Worse, he admitted that ice users would give him money to buy ice for them, he would bring back the ice to the user and they gave him part of the ice in payment for his services. Good grief. That could be considered drug trafficking, an aggravated felony.

When I interviewed him at the Federal Detention Center and asked why he talked about his activities, despite the warning, he said that he wanted to cooperate with the authorities.

What did he get for cooperating? He was charged and convicted for using drug

paraphernalia. He served a jail term and afterwards placed in removal (deportation) proceedings.

He asked if there was hope for him. We told him: "We saved a guy with 45 arrests and 22 convictions, including drugs. You have only one arrest and one conviction. It depends on your and your family's cooperation."

### Immigrant refused to talk without a lawyer

An Ilocana from Kauai island, Hawaii called saying that her husband was in the Philippines following the advice of his lawyer who told him that he was about to be picked up for firearms violation. She said that her husband was lonely and wanted to come back. I told her that if he insisted in returning, he should tell the arresting officers that he will not talk without the presence of a lawyer.

Upon arrival, immigration officers arrested him and asked him to make a statement. He followed our advice and told them that he did not

want to talk without the presence of a lawyer. The FBI came and asked him to make a statement. Again he told them that he did not want to talk without the presence of a lawyer. They gave him a public defender.

**Editor's Note:** (ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laoag City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Umi St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel: (808) 947-1601. Fax: (808) 847-1624. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNDD 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)



When President Ramon Magsaysay's brother Gene was running for senator, reporters asked why he was not discussing the issues.

"No talk, no mistake," he riposted. He won.

If only politicians and persons arrested followed Gene's credo, they would win or avoid trouble.

However, many people are loquacious. In Ilocana, we call that *nalokay ti dila* (loose tongue).

Take the case of Senator Hillary Clinton. When asked why she was not withdrawing from the presidential race even though Obama had the numbers, she replied that her husband did not win the nomination until June. Then she added: "Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in June." Kennedy was then running for president and his closest opponent became the nominee after his death. The implication was that Obama might be assassinated in June. If that happened, who would be the nominee?

### Don't drink and talk

A FilAm Hawaii state senator was stopped by the police at about midnight driving slowly and erratically. When asked what the problem was, he admitted that he had two glasses of red wine (Democrats drink wine, Republicans drink champagne) after attending a concert. He also said that he was wearing only one contact lens be-

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# BBB Warns Consumers of Phony Online Escrow Companies

Hawaii's Better Business Bureau (BBB) issued an alert to warn online shoppers that scammers are posing as phony escrow services and defrauding consumers.

Internet-based thieves are now using escrow service websites as fronts to steal money and personal identities.

"Legitimate escrow companies in Hawaii and on the mainland create a safe environment where both the buyer and seller feel comfortable exchanging money and goods knowing they can't be taken advantage of," said Dwight Kealoha, chief executive officer of Hawaii's BBB. "Unfortunately, scammers have realized they can cash in on this type of transaction by creating a facade of trustworthiness as an escrow company."

Escrow fraud is typically perpetrated through online auctions or websites with classified ads. Both eBay and craigslist have posted warnings to consumers about escrow fraud on their websites, but BBB notes shoppers in Hawaii and across the country continue to fall for the scam as cons become more sophisticated.

Victims of escrow fraud are often shopping online for big-ticket items such as a used car when they come across a deal that is often too-good-to-be-true—perhaps several thousands if dollars below the Kelley Blue Book value.

Recent complaints to the Golden Gate BBB serving the San Francisco Bay area show that escrow fraud scammers are taking increasingly sophisticated steps to instill a sense of trust in their victims. Scammers, using the name "Best Auto Trades," created a complete web site that detailed the escrow process in detail, required the buyer to register through the website, and even provided a transaction number and the supposed escrow officer's contact info.

"Perpetrators of escrow fraud have learned that every detail they provide and every step they require the buyer to take creates a greater sense of trust in the company," added Kealoha. "These scammers know that the more intricate and complicated the process, the more legitimate it will seem."

BBB Tips on Avoiding Escrow Fraud

- Buyers should be leery if the seller pressures them into

- using a particular escrow service. Always check the company out first at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

- While escrow scammers might devise a company name and set up their own website to back up their fraudulent activities, many are resorting to simply stealing the identity of a legiti-

- mate company. After checking with BBB, buyers should contact the supposed escrow company directly to ensure it has not been a victim of corporate identity theft.

- A legitimate escrow site will not ask to do a person-to-person money transfer using Western Union. Legitimate

- escrow companies ask that buyers wire money from their bank account to the company's bank, and will provide a routing number and account number for their financial institution.

- A buyer should confirm that the escrow service is licensed and bonded with the appropriate state agency

(usually the state in which the escrow service is located) and avoid using an offshore escrow company.

If you are a victim of online escrow fraud, report it immediately to Hawaii's BBB. Call 536-6956 or 1-(877)-222-6551 toll-free from the Neighbor Islands, e-mail [info@hawaii.bbb.org](mailto:info@hawaii.bbb.org), or file a complaint online at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Community Leaders' Clothes On Display at Unique Art Exhibit

Local artists have pooled resources to host a unique art exhibit featuring recycled clothes donated by government officials, business executives and other community leaders.

The exhibit—entitled “From the Closet of...” opened June 1, 2008 at the Honolulu Country Club with a reception at 5 pm.

The exhibit also doubles as a fundraiser for the Oahu Arts Center, a non-profit organization that is looking to build a first-class arts education and performance center in Central Oahu.

Among the list of notables who donated their clothes for the art exhibit include Councilmember Nestor Garcia and his wife Karen; Ruth Limtiaco, CEO of the Limtiaco Company; Bennette Evangelista, vice president of Actus Lend Lease; and Donna Ribellia-Abreu, CEO of McDonalds of Mililani and Mililani Mauka.

Local artist and legislative staffer Corinne Gallardo transformed clothing



Local artist Corinne Gallardo

from Evangelista's closet into a special art piece for the exhibit. Designing the Garcias' clothing are local artists Elizabeth Kent and Lynda Sakraida, while Limtiaco's clothing was done by artist Pearl Paulani Ling. Ribellia-Abreu's clothing was designed by Angela Posatiere.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, runs through July 12, 2008 at the Honolulu Country Club's art gallery.

# Eddie Flores Receives National Award

Local businessman Eddie Flores, Jr., who is president and CEO of L&L Drive-Inn, was recently awarded the National Restaurant Association's (NRA) Diversity American Dream Award.

“Eddie has been an outstanding model and inspiration for those facing daunting odds to improve their station in life,” said NRA chairman Richard Rivera.

Flores attended the NRA's annual convention in Chicago, where he received the award, which honors individuals who have achieved the American dream through hard work and determination despite the odds and adversity.

Flores was selected from among thousands of nominees across the country. From a list of 17 finalists, Flores distinguished himself as an inspiration to immigrants and those with learning disabilities.

Due to an unusually short-attention span, he was forced to repeat several

grades in elementary school. Although never diagnosed with a learning disability, his difficulty concentrating and an extremely short attention span are challenges for him even today.

Flores grew up in Hong Kong and moved to the U.S. when he was 16. Eddie's father was a Filipino entertainer who married a Chinese girl. His multi-ethnic family was never accepted by Hong Kong society, his teachers or even his own grandparents.

In 1976, Flores opened the first L&L Restaurant on Liliha Street. He purchased the business as a gift to his mother. Today, L&L's is a multi-million dollar national franchise with nearly 200 locations from American Samoa to New York City.

“I'm truly honored to represent the Filipino community,” he said. “I hope that those who face learning disabilities, discrimination and other challenges will continue to reach for the stars, persevere and always believe in the American dream.”

# Philippine Consulate to Celebrate 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence

Internationally-acclaimed violinist Jay Cayuca will perform at the Honolulu Country Club on June 11, 2008 as part of a dinner and musical show celebrating the Philippines' 110th Anniversary of its independence.

The evening is part of several activities planned by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii. The next day—June 12, 2008—a traditional

flag-raising ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Philippine Consulate General, followed by a Thanksgiving Mass.

This year's theme is “Republic Service, Towards the Fulfillment of Freedom and Progress.” The celebration will pay tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people and the Philippines' rich historical and cultural traditions.

The public is invited. Please call 595-6316 ext. 242 or 235-8589 for more details.

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

# GMA Orders Mandatory Fuel, Energy Conservation for Government Offices

by Paolo Romero

President Arroyo has issued an administrative order directing government agencies and offices to reduce energy and fuel consumption with specific instructions on how to do it.

Administrative Order 228 "Addressing the Rising Cost of Energy," which the President signed on June 2, orders all government agencies to reduce their transport fuel consumption in liters by 10 percent starting this month.

The AO further stated that all government buildings must turn off their air conditioning units at 4:30 p.m. Exempted

from this order are offices on 24-hour work.

By next month, Mrs. Arroyo wants all government offices to implement plans to replace all incandescent lamps and by September, all agencies shall convert 20 percent of their vehicles in major cities to liquefied petroleum gas.

"Agencies shall install and/or adopt other energy saving technology, with the help of the Department of Energy and/or the Department of Science and Technology," the AO stated.

She also issued Executive Order 728 creating a top-level body that will formulate programs and strategies to assure adequate food and energy supply for the country over the

next five years.

An EO was also signed on June 2 creating the National Food and Energy Council (NFEC).

"The NFEC is tasked with assessing the food and energy situation and prospects, and formulating, coordinating, undertaking, monitoring and/or adjusting major national long-term policies, programs and project as measures to ensure adequate, competitively priced supplies of food and energy for the nation, especially the very poor," the EO stated.

The President will chair the NFEC, with the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as vice chair. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# More Benefits for Poor from VAT

by Iris Gonzales

Malacañang assured the poor yesterday of more direct cash aid and other forms of assistance from the P14-billion government revenue from value-added tax (VAT) on oil and power.

In separate interviews, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the Presidential Task Force on Energy Contingency is reviewing numerous proposals on ways to immediately and effectively use the VAT proceeds to enable impoverished households to cope with rising fuel and food prices.

"President Arroyo thought that we should immediately implement things that are doable, so there is the P4 billion from the VAT on oil from the first quarter," Ermita said.

"We're not just thinking of welfare of people now, we are also thinking of their welfare in the long run," Andaya said. "We want to return immediately to the people what was collected."

Ermita said Mrs. Arroyo has launched a P4-billion assistance program for the poor in the last few days.

"What she and the Cabinet are preoccupied with is what the government can immediately do to alleviate the effects of rising oil and food prices," he said.

Mrs. Arroyo is set to launch today at the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology in Manila the P500-

million "New Students' Assistance Fund for Education for a Strong Republic" program with funds from VAT proceeds in the first quarter of the year.

Andaya said the educational assistance was on top of another P500 million allocated for student loans in state universities and colleges, and private schools.

The task force headed by Ermita will fast-track its review of the various proposals on how to use the P14 billion expected from VAT this year, he added.

Ermita said the task force will meet again on Monday, this time to discuss the matter with members of academe.

Another P1 billion has been set aside to fund the conversion of public utility vehicles running on diesel and gasoline to liquefied petroleum gas or compressed natural gas, he added.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Arroyo launched the P2-billion one-time subsidy that would benefit some four million poor households that would get P500 each to pay for their electricity bills for the month.

Mrs. Arroyo has vowed to plow back proceeds from VAT on oil and power to the poor as government revenues increased due to rising prices of crude in the world market.

"The high price of oil is a global issue outside the control of the government," she said. "We have nevertheless taken and will continue to take actions to reduce the pain on our people of these high prices."

## Fuel subsidy

Public utility vehicles will be given a P3-billion fuel subsidy every quarter, the government said yesterday.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the subsidy will come from the expected P18.6-billion VAT on oil this year.

The subsidy may be in the form of a P2-per-liter discount for public utility vehicles although its implementing guidelines are still being drawn up, he added.

Beltran said an interagency group comprised of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance, has already endorsed the plan to Malacañang.

"It can be accommodated by the increase in collections," he said.

Computations by the Department of Finance showed that every one-percentage-point increase or decrease in inflation translates to an increase or decrease in revenues of P10.6 billion.

Inflation already rose 8.3 percent in April, above the official forecast of 7 percent and the previous month's inflation of 6.4 percent.

The Finance department is in the habit of granting a subsidy to the various sectors using revenue from the VAT on oil instead of scrapping the tax. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## FAMILY CORNER



By Grace F. Fong, Ed.D.

## How To Be a Great Dad

- A great Dad plays with and helps care for his kids. Dad is not just another version of "Mom." Men are often more playful. Their involvement has big payoffs for young children. It can lead to higher IQ levels, longer attention spans, and heightened eagerness to learn in their children.
- A great Dad communicates with his kids. He listens, really listens to words and meanings when his children talk to him. He teaches family cultural values by taking time to explain and help his children experience pride in their cultural heritage. When they become adults, children will look back on these times of storytelling, talking, and sharing as the "magic moments" of their childhood.
- A great Dad disciplines his kids with fairness. Many people think discipline and punishment mean the same thing. A great Dad knows that discipline means teaching and encouraging desirable behaviors, while gently and firmly correcting unacceptable behaviors. Discipline can be done in ways that build a child's character and self esteem. It involves maintaining

high expectations, teaching and practicing skills together, giving serious criticism in private, and motivating with love.

- A great Dad supports and respects his children's mother. Children can learn to be loving and to accept love by living in a home where both parents are dedicated to keeping their relationship strong. But whether or not it is possible for both parents to live together, it is important for children to see their Dad treat their Mother with respect and dignity. Children grow up feeling secure when the two adults most important in their lives treat each other kindly and with respect.
- A great Dad knows how to be a hero! Life is complicated and full of risks and temptations for young people today. Children need a strong person, a hero, to show them how to make the right choices and to be someone other people will admire. A great Dad demonstrates by his actions and his ethics how to become a strong, responsible adult. His children want to grow up to be just like him.



### Checklist for Great Dads

- How are you doing as a Dad? Here is a checklist to assess where you stand. Do you do these things often, sometimes, or seldom?
  - I take time to play and have fun with my family.
  - I show my children that they are loved for who they are, not just for what they do.
  - I listen carefully to my children and try to find out what they are really saying.
  - I get involved in my children's schooling. I read to them and make time to attend special events.
  - I share equally in daily chores (cleaning, feeding, caretaking, transporting, etc).
  - I correct behavior with restraint, consistency, and fairness.
  - I contribute to the financial

security of the family to the best of my abilities.

- I am dependable. My children can count on me to do what I say I will do.
- I am drug and alcohol free so that I am the kind of person I want my children to grow up to be.
- I encourage my children to reach for their dreams.

Do you find that you're doing your best "often"? Great! Your lucky children are probably doing well in life. If you're mostly a "sometimes" or "seldom" great Dad, it's time to get back into shape, flex those hero muscles, and move into the "often" category. Your kids count. Most of all, they count on you!

*This article is adapted from "Dads Are Important," a publication of the University of Hawaii's Center on the Family.*

## MAINLAND NEWS

### Pinoys Make History at West Point

Two Filipinos made history while recently graduating from the world's foremost military academy. Christy Isis Achanzar became the first Filipina to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from America's premier military academy, while countryman Mario Feliciano

was the highest ranked international cadet ever to graduate from West Point. He graduated with honors in engineering management and placed 87th out of a graduating class of 995.

Achanzar bagged a number of awards including the Superintendent's Achievement Award and the National Society Dames of the Court of Honor

Award for excellence in electrical engineering sequence.

They were 15 foreign cadets in West Point's Class of 2008 whose motto is "No Mission Too Great."

Feliciano's dream is to become AFP chief of staff and president of the Philippines. Achanzar, who hails from Davao City and is deeply religious, wants to live her life one day at a time.

After the graduation ceremony, Philippine embassy defense attaché, Army Col. Rolando Tenefrancia presented Achanzar and Feliciano their commissions as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

He described the pair as "the best of the best and a credit to the country and the AFP."

In addition to Achanzar and Feliciano, about 10 Filipino Americans graduated from West Point. (Good News Philippines)

### Filipino Students Shine at U.S. Science Fair

A team of Philippine Science High School students bagged a special award at the Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) recently held in Atlanta, Georgia.

A micro-tremor device developed by Adrian Patacsil, Marvin Paolo Ambrosio and Rachel Ruth Cahilig won the Distinguished Achievement Award given by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists to projects that "display excellence related to the geophysical sciences."

According to Teresa Pacis of Intel Philippines, the high school students won a \$1,500 cash prize and a trip to the Society of International Exploration Geophysicists international expo this November in Las Vegas.

A micro-tremor device monitors ambient vibration on



The PSCH winning team on the ground, and is commonly used by architect and engineers to ensure safety of structures, Pacis said.

"There is only one such instrument in the country and it's in Phivolcs (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology)," Pacis said. "The project made by the Philippine Science students is a prototype that's more affordable and portable."

More than 1,500 students from 51 countries competed for more than \$4 million worth in prizes and scholarships. (Good News Philippines)

### MR. ILALO PARAYNO

Candidate for the  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 35  
WAIPAHU, CREST VIEW & SEA VIEW



- Resident of Waipahu for 41 years
- Department of Education (DOE) employee for 41 years
- Retired DOE Administrator
- Works at the State Capitol as Legislative Aide-Community Liaison
- Volunteer at Filipino Community Center

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LEGAL NOTES

# Adjustment Denied Due To Fake Documents



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**O**f an alien enters the U.S. with fraudulent documents and later gets married to a U.S. citizen, is he/she eligible for adjustment of status?

A recent decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said no.

The case, *Orozco v. Musaque*, involved Mr. Orozco who entered the U.S. in 1996 using another person's green card. He was inspected and allowed entry into the U.S. He later met and married a U.S. citizen who filed an I-130 petition for alien relative on his behalf.

Mr. Orozco applied for adjustment of status at the same time.

The I-130 was approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) but the adjustment application was denied.

He was later placed in removal proceedings on the ground of his prior use of a counterfeit document to gain admission into the U.S.

During the removal proceedings, he filed another adjustment of status application. He also filed a waiver of his misrepresentation under Section 212 (i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) on account of extreme hardship on his U.S. citizen spouse should he be deported.

He argued that because he had presented himself for inspection and was allowed to

enter, he was "inspected and admitted" and was therefore eligible for adjustment under Section 245 (a) of INA.

The immigration judge found Orozco not eligible to adjust his status because although he was inspected and allowed entry into the U.S., he was not "admitted" in the U.S. as required by law.

The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) affirmed the immigration judge's decision.

The Ninth Circuit Court, on review, upheld the administrative court's decision stating that admission into the U.S. requires "lawful entry into the U.S. after inspection and authorization".

The court ruled that mere admission into the U.S. by the use of a fraudulent document is not the "lawful admission" to the

U.S. contemplated by law.

A previous BIA case, in the Matter of *Areguillin*, cited by Orozco in support of his application was not applicable, according to the court. In that case, the alien was considered to have been inspected and admitted when he presented himself for inspection and did not knowingly claim to be a U.S. citizen. The court held that the passage of the new law, *Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996*, which clearly required lawful admission already superseded the case.

The court also ruled that while Mr. Orozco can qualify for a Section 212 (i) waiver of his misrepresentation, it would not cure his unlawful admission into the U.S.

It should be noted that Mr. Orozco could not claim the benefit of another section of the law

Section 245 (i) that would have allowed him to adjust his status despite fraudulent entry into the U.S. because his I-130 petition for alien relative was filed only after the deadline for filing of petitions under that law on April 30, 2001.

The Orozco case is currently the binding law in states where the Ninth Circuit court has jurisdiction: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands. It is not binding in other jurisdictions.

There is no indication that the immigration judges or the Board of Immigration Appeals will follow this decision. Aliens with similar cases should consult an attorney.

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

GLOBAL NEWS

## UN Honors Fallen Philippines Peacekeeper

Ambassador Hilario G. Davide Jr., the Philippines' representative to the United Nations, received the Dag Hammarskjold Medal on behalf of Lt. Col. Renerio Batalla, the Philippine Army officer who died of malaria last year while serving as a military observer with the UN in Sudan.

Batalla was among 90 fallen peacekeepers from all over the world who were honored in ceremonies in New York last week. He is the 16th Filipino peacekeeper to die while

serving in a UN mission.

The Philippines is among the top 30 UN members that have contributed police and military personnel to support its peace operations. As of April 2008, the Philippines had 627 peacekeepers deployed in various UN missions throughout Afghanistan, Cote d' Ivoire, Darfur, Georgia, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Sudan and Timor Leste.

The number of Filipino peacekeepers is expected to increase in the coming months



Ambassador Hilario G. Davide Jr

with the request of the UN for the deployment of additional police and military personnel to support the requirements of new UN peacekeeping missions in Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic. (DFA)

## Philippine Food Festival Opens in Vienna

The Philippine Food Festival opened its doors to the people of Vienna, signaling eight straight days of the Philippines' culinary and cultural experience at the Hilton am Stadpark Hotel.

Linglingay F. Lacanale, Philippine Ambassador to Austria, hosted a diplomatic reception to inaugurate the event, the first of its kind in Vienna in 14 years. Filipino expat artists performed Filipino dances like "Subli" and "Tinkling" and songs like "Rosas Pandan" and "Sa Libis ng Nayon" during the

program.

Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, who arrived in Vienna a week earlier for a visit to promote Cebu's furniture industry, was among the dignitaries in attendance.

The hotel displayed mock kiping chandeliers suspended from the ceiling and Philippine decorative natural fibers for wall hangings. Tables were set with Philippine-made placemats and capiz candle holders. Pieces of seashells and festive bunting adorned the food service area.

The festival was possible

with the support of the Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Governments of Cebu and Quezon, and the Department of Tourism. Partners from the private sector include the Hilton Vienna am Stadtpark, Hilton Cebu and Manila Tours.

Shipments of fresh mangoes, tropical fruit beverages and cocktail and alcoholic drinks from the Philippines were brought in to upgrade the visibility of Philippine food exports to Europe. Two Filipino chefs from the Hilton Cebu, Gilbert Edano and Jose Tagalog, traveled to Vienna for the event. (DFA)

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

## BAHAGHARI



ni Elynia S. Mabanglo

# KUWENTONG BUKIDNON: Si Matabagka at ang Bathala ng Habagat

bae lamang ang gumagamit. Sa bag na ito isinisilid ang mga sangkap at gamit sa panganganga—ikmo, bunga, apog at iba pa. Samakawid, sakay ng kanyang sadok o sulinday (isang tila salakot na panabang sa ulo na maaring gawing sasakyan kapagkuwan), mabilis na nakalis si Matabagka. Nang mamalayan ni Agyu na umalis ang kanyang kapatid, mabilis niya itong ipinahanap. Si Tomulin, ang kanyang pamangkin at pinuno ng mga mandirigma, ang naatasang manguna sa mga maghahanap sa dalaga. Iniuutos ni Agyu na hanapin si Matabagka sa lahat ng dako, at kapag nakita, pigilin at ibalik sa Nalandangan.

Samantalang, sa tulong na mababait na hangin, nahatid sa bahay ni Imbunguna si Matabagka. Inilapag siya ng kanyang sulinday sa loob mismo ng bahay ni Imbunguna; sa lugar na kinauapuan mismo ni Imbunguna. Hindi nakapagsalita si Imbunguna nang biglang lumapag sa harapan niya ang dalaga. Nagulat siya. Isang napakagan-dang bae sa kanyang harap, wari'y isang maaon (nahulog na bunga) na nalaglag sa harap niya; o "isang sinag ng liwanag."

Nagkunwang naliligaw si Matabagka. Nagtanong siya ng daan kay Imbunguna ngunit ayaw magbigay ng anumang impormasyon ang bathala. "Ibibigay ko ang direksyong hinihimog," ani Imbunguna, "kung papahinam mo ng apog ang aking ikmoga babalutan ng aking

nganga." Alam ni Matabagka ang ibig sabihin noon. Sa kulturang Bukidnon, nangangahulugan iyon na hinihimok ni Imbunguna na maging asawa siya. "Isa pa, tiyak na hindi ko mapalilipad ang iyong sulinday," dagdag pa ng bathala. Sinabi niya iyon sapagkat may kapangyarihan siya sa hangin.

Sabihin pa, napilitang mantali sa bahay ni Imbunguna si Matabagka. Habang nangyayari ito, patuloy naman sa paghahanap ang mga tauhan ni Agyu sa kanya. At sapagkat pawang kabiguan ang natatangap nila, nalulungkot ang lahat sa kaharap ng Nalandangan.

Bagaman kabiyak na siya ni Imbunguna, hindi nalilimot ni Matabagka ang kanyang pakay. Walang humapang paghahanap niya ng paraan para mawalan ng kapangyarihan si Imbunguna. Hindi naman siya nabigo. Isang araw, natuklasan niya kung saan itinatago ng bathala ang takluba at baklaw. Agad-agad, kumilos siya. Pinanguya niya ng nganang pampatulog si Imbunguna. Nang makatulog na ang bathala, agad siyang tumakas sakay ng sulinday, dala-dala ang takluba at baklaw.

Nang magising si Imbunguna at matuklasang nawawala ang takluba at baklaw, inutusan niya ang kanyang mga mandirigma ng sundan ang bae. Dahil may katutubong kapangyarihan siya sa hangin, nagawa niya pababain ang sulinday ni Matabagka. Nasabat si Matabagka ng mga humahabol na mandirigma ngunit lumaban ang bae. Natalo niya ang maraming kawal sapagkat inuutos ni Imbunguna na huwag nilang sasaktan si Matabagka. Tumagal nang ilang araw ang labanan. Naging madilim na ang dating maputing balat ni Matabagka.

Sa pagkakataong ito, nauling-an ng mga mandirigma ni Agyu ang naganapan na labanan. Sapagkat hinahanap pa rin nila si Matabagka, pinuntahan nila ang nangyayaring labanan. Nakilala ni Tomulin si Matabagka kaya sumangkot sa labanan upang iligtang ang kanyang ale. Naglabo-labo ang lahat. Sinamantalala ito ni Matabagka para bumalik sa Nalandangan.

Natuwa si Agyu nang makita ang kapatid. Nakita at nadama niya kung gaano ito kapagod. Ni hindi nito maihikbang paa



paakyat sa kanyang bahay. Agad-agad namang dinaluhan ng kanyang mga kasambahay si Matabagka. Binigyan siya ng nganga, binihisan, pinakain, pinatulog. Nang manumbalik ang kanyang lakas, isinalaysay niya ang kanyang pakikipagsapalaran. Hindi niya nakalimutang sabihin pingabilin ni Imbunguna na huwag siyang sasaktan, ni hindi magagalusan. Ipinasya ni Agyu na kung saan ang digmaan. Natanto niyang kailangang magtulungan na sila ni Imbunguna sapagkat asawa na ito ni Matabagka, ang kanyang kapatid.

Kasunod nito, inatasan ni Agyu ang kaniyang arang si Pamulaw na makipagkasundo na kay Imbunguna. Tumigil ang paglalaban habang nag-usap ang dalawa. Pumayag si Imbunguna ang itigil ang labanan kung isauli ng magnanakaw ang takluba at baklaw. Napangiti si Imbunguna nang malamang si Matabagka ang magnanakaw. Sa halip na magalit, isinalaysay niya kung gaano katapang at kahusay

sa labanan ang kanyang kabiyak. Gayunman, ikinalulungkot niyang marami siyang tauhan na namatay.

"Mabubuhay ang lahat ng namatay," sabi ni Pamulaw. "Magagawa iyan ni Matabagka." Natuwa si Imbunguna sa narinig. "Ngunit kailangang tumigil na ang labanan."

"Kung gayon, kailangang makuha ko ang takluba at baklaw. Iyon lamang ang paraan para matapos ang labanan," sabi ni Imbunguna. Tinawag si Matabagka. Isinauli naman niya ang takluba at baklaw.

Nang mapawalan ang ipu-ipo at habagat, nalipad ang lahat ng naglalaban. Nanghina sila at dahil doon, hindi na makalaban, Nang matapos ang digmaan, binuhay na ni Matabagka ang lahat ng namatay sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng nganga sa kani-lagang bibig. Pagkatapos noon, bumalik ang lahat ng mandirigma sa Nalandangan at nagsaya.

**S**i Matabagka ay kapatid na bae ni Agyu, hari ng Nalandangan. Matatagpuan ang Nalandangan sa Bukidnon. Bilang isang bae, maraming pangalan si Matabagka. Kung minsan, tinatawag siyang Pigsayo; kung minsan, Yambunganon. Nalaman ni Matabagka sa isang tumano ni Agyu na naghahanda si Imbunguna na salakayan ang Nalandangan. Ang tumano ay parang anghel de la guardiyari.

Makapangyarihang bathala si Imbunguna. Sakaling magapan ang pagsalakay, tiyak na malilipid ang kabayaran ni Agyu. Si Imbunguna ang nagtatago ng takluba, taguan ng makapangyarihang ipu-ipo. Si Imbunguna rin ang tanod ng baklaw, sisidlan ng pinakamalalakan na habagat. Anupa't mahirap kalabanin si Imbunguna.

Ngunit nagkibit-balik lamang si Matabagka. "Hindi tayo dapat mabahal," anyia sa kapatid na lalaki. At, tiniyak niyang maayos ang gusot bago lumala.

Lingid sa kaalaman ng kapatid, naglakbay si Matabagka. Wala siyang dala kundi ang kanyang libon (tinatawag ding binulay), isang uri ng bag na mga

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iingat  
Susuyuin, itatago ang puso
- Bihira na ang babaing  
mandirigma  
Sapagkat nilikha kita sa  
paniniwala,  
Tadyang ka lang
- Galing sa kanya, dapat  
sumunod  
Sa kanyang pita... ay,  
kawawang Marissa  
Anak na baba'e'y inulila
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