

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

**HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER**

◆ WEEKLY ◆ AUGUST 21, 2010 ◆

## INTRODUCING MAYORAL CANDIDATES TO FILIPINO VOTERS

COVER STORY PAGE

**4**



**LEGAL MATTERS**

**7** ANONYMOUS INTERNET DEFAMERS: HOW TO SUE THEM



**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**8** 4 TIMES THE FUN AT 4TH ANNUAL TASTE OF KALIHI



**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**10** IT'S DEFINITE: NOY GOING TO U.S.

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## EDITORIAL

## Tough Road Ahead for Mayoral Race Winner

**S**everal well-known and battle-tested candidates are gunning for the top job at City Hall. A number of hot-button issues will await their winners—long-standing issues that previous City administrations have wrestled with. Most have no easy answers and no magic bullet.

The short list includes what to do with the growing homeless population at City-owned facilities, dealing with landfills and Oahu's trash, moving forward the \$5.4 billion fixed rail transit system which has yet to break ground, and upgrading Honolulu's aging wastewater collection and sewage treatment system that will cost some \$4.7 billion over 25 years as required by a federal consent decree. Add to that a City budget which was \$140 million in the red last fiscal year, resulting in public worker furloughs, and you can see that the new mayor faces a most unenviable task.

With such a daunting road ahead for the City's top executive, it should behoove Oahu's voters to choose carefully in the next election. Let's hope that this time around, voters will not simply select candidates with name recognition. Voters need to be better informed and educated. They need to make time to attend forums hosted by community groups and non-profits where candidates introduce themselves, tune in to televised debates where the candidates discuss the issues and read up on news reports wherein candidates state their stance on certain topics.

When choosing a doctor, the smart consumer will check his or her credentials to see if they are the best qualified. The same is true before hiring an attorney, architect or mechanic. Similarly, voters will be hiring the next mayor who will be tackling quality of life issues that will affect all Oahu residents. Why not research the candidates and select the best and most qualified to lead the nation's 11th largest metropolitan area through the difficult issues described above? Will it be Kirk Caldwell, Peter Carlisle or Panos Prevedouris?

Voting is a constitutional right, so choose intelligently.

## Honoring Ninoy Aquino— Let Bygones Be Bygones

**I**t was none other than the late Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino who uttered the famous words "the Filipino is worth dying for." Revered by Filipinos the world over, Ninoy is a modern day version of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippines' national hero. His death awakened the sleeping courage of millions of his countrymen who united in opposition that ultimately toppled a dictatorship.

Since then, the two major players, Ferdinand Marcos and Ninoy's widow Cory, who later became president herself, have died. Their children, who later entered politics, are on a collision course especially now that Ninoy's son, Noynoy Aquino, has become the newly-elected president of the Philippines.

To commemorate Ninoy Aquino Day locally, the Philippine Consulate General of Hawaii has scheduled festivities on Friday, August 20. The considerable number of Marcos loyalists in Hawaii may balk at attending such an event. It's understandable given the support Marcos gave to the Ilocos region while in power. However, his supporters should realize that honoring Ninoy does not mean abandoning Marcos nor his legacy. Rather, it is an opportunity for reconciliation to occur.

Any efforts at reconciliation are important for the Philippines because of the daunting challenges the fledgling government is facing with Ninoy Aquino's son as president and considering the resurgence of the Marcos family and its followers in Congress and

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**A**

loha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the Aloha State's leading Filipino community newspaper! Mark your calendars for Monday, August 25. On that



day, some 60,000 university, college and private school students will be returning to class. For that week, State and City transportation officials are warning commuters to expect heavier than normal traffic on our roadways. They are asking the traveling public, if at all possible, to utilize alternative modes of transportation, whether it's carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, or riding TheBus. If you are one of the tens of thousands of daily commuters, please consider adjusting your travel time to avoid peak travel periods and properly maintaining your vehicle to avoid becoming a potential road hazard.

We have dedicated this issue's cover story to the race for Honolulu mayor. Many of you already know that Donovan Dela Cruz, who is of Filipino ancestry, has withdrawn from the mayor's race to try his luck in the State Senate. His withdrawal whittles down the top mayoral candidates to three—Kirk Caldwell, Peter Carlisle and Panos Prevedouris. Well, four actually, if you count embattled City councilman "Lightning" Rod Tam who is in the midst of a criminal investigation into alleged misuse of his campaign funds. To better familiarize our readers with the candidates, the Chronicle emailed a questionnaire to their respective campaigns. We feel that their responses provide a good snapshot of each candidate, where they stand on certain issues, their priorities if elected and their visions for Oahu's future. We hope you will find our cover story useful and informative in deciding whom to vote for mayor.

Locally, the 4th Annual Taste of Kalihii will be held on September 11, 2010 from 10 am to 9 pm. The event, which is aimed at celebrating all the good things about the venerable neighborhood of Kalihii, is fast becoming a community tradition. Event organizers will again close down a portion of Colburn Street to traffic for the event, which will be held at the Waikamilo Shopping Plaza. That the event has lasted until its fourth year is a testament to the generous support of sponsors, vendors and volunteers, despite the bad economy. Please read page 8 for a list of unique and fun events for you and your family at this year's Taste of Kalihii.

In other local Filipino news, the Society of Seven (SOS) Classic will be returning to Hawaii after a successful nine-year run in Las Vegas. The group is well known in the local entertainment scene for its performance of a variety of songs—particularly Broadway showtunes—comedy sketches and celebrity impersonations. To catch them on stage at the Outrigger Main Showroom, please read up on the very latest on SOS Classic also on page 8.

In closing, we again would like to thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com) if you have ideas, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii's Filipino community.

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

*Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido*

local government, particularly in Ilocos Norte.

Reconciliation is important also for Hawaii's Filipinos, considering how divisive the issue has been locally. The Filipino community is to be commended for its willingness to slowly return to table after a decades-long rift. In this particular case, let's let bygones be bygones. Let's also hope that Filipinos from both sides will join in celebrating Ninoy Aquino Day, since it will be an opportunity for unity and true healing to take place.

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## OPINION

# No Escaping VAT?

SKETCHES By Ana Marie Pamintuan

**U**nfair taxation and improper use of taxes have helped trigger revolutions. But President Aquino and his revenue collection team already know this.

While Malacañang said the other day that the 12 percent value-added tax on road toll is on hold, it doesn't look like the administration has given up entirely on the plan. Its tack: to present the toll VAT as a bitter pill that we must inevitably swallow, the sooner, the better. Haven't we been told often enough that there's no escaping death and taxes?

It does make sense to ram bitter pills down a nation's throat at the start of a new administration, when there's still an abundance of hope and the public is willing to give officials the benefit of the doubt.

So far, however, the toll VAT is coming down simply as

bitter, and I'm not sure it's seen by the average Pinoy as medicine for anything at all.

What people remember is the campaign promise of no new taxes, read his lips. Even if Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares emphasizes till she's blue in the face that this is no new tax and her bureau is simply implementing an existing but unimplemented one, we've never had a VAT on road toll so it certainly looks new to us.

Explaining to the public why a tax has to be imposed is always complicated. Multilateral institutions and economic analysts have noted that one of the biggest headaches of the new administration is the country's huge deficit.

Without additional revenue, the government is forced to borrow to finance its operations and projects, including anti-poverty activities. Increasing our already massive debt could push up interest rates and dampen economic activity. But try explaining this to the average Juan or Juana and the reac-

tion you'll get is, "Why are prices going up?"

Trying to explain the difference between a tax on goods and a tax on services is also lost on people who see a road toll as a tax, plain and simple, and VAT on the tax as double taxation.

Maybe P-Noy and his team should make a stronger case for the need to raise revenue ASAP because the previous administration has used up nearly all of the appropriation for 2010, and it's only August.

They can also keep reassuring the people that in the new administration, taxes will be money well spent, without tong-pats, and without public officials taking credit for state-funded projects.

And still they will be confronted with people who only see the bitterness in this pill, without the promised cure.

\*\*\*

Selling this tax to the public could have used some finesse. There are two principal complaints against it. One is that a 12 percent jump in toll rates is too much, too soon in a new administration.

The other is that if we are going to have new, or even

newly implemented or newly tweaked old taxes anyway, why not restructure excise taxes on sin products such as cigarettes instead, and raise up to P51 billion? This is what multilateral financing institutions have been suggesting for a long time.

A tax of P90 per cigarette pack, as reportedly suggested by the new secretary of health, may be a bit too much. Everyone, after all, is entitled to his own poison. But excise taxes on sin products are real bitter pills, good for the health at least of those for whom price matters in maintaining their vices.

On the other hand, what's the impact of the toll VAT? Merchants and transport operators have already said it would mean higher transportation fares, which would lead to higher consumer prices.

Taxpayers may actually be able to swallow this bitter pill, as suggested by P-Noy, but swallowing would be easier if his administration would do other things first.

Reports earlier this year showed that the country's biggest taxpayers are entertainers. How is this possible, with all the billionaires in our

midst?

The perception of ordinary taxpayers is that billionaires save a fortune by simply contributing to politicians' campaign kitties instead of paying the right taxes.

Public resistance to the toll VAT is also aggravated by the real prospect of seeing even higher toll rates in the near future, as tollway operators also want to increase their rates.

The VAT proposal has derailed the plan of operators to raise rates by a whopping 277 percent at the South Luzon tollway. But that increase is expected to be imposed eventually.

Ordinary people usually pay taxes with resentment. This is eased somewhat when they see that tax money is being spent wisely.

P-Noy is prepared to show that his administration will spend public funds judiciously. But first he needs to raise funds to finance his projects. Can he do this without the toll VAT?

This controversy will boil down to how much public goodwill he is prepared to risk so early in his presidency. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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COVER STORY

# Up Close & Personal with Honolulu Mayoral Candidates

By HFC Staff

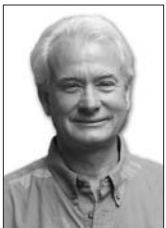
**T**wo lawyers and an engineer are the leading candidates for the top position at City Hall. Each of the three—Kirk Caldwell, Peter Carlisle and Panos Prevedourous—bring substantial experience, expertise and their respective visions of the future for Honolulu.

The outcome will be decided in a winner-take-all election on September 18, 2010. The winner will serve the remaining two years left on the term of former Mayor Mufi Hannemann who resigned to run for governor.

A fourth candidate, City Councilman Donovan Dela Cruz, recently dropped out of the mayoral race due to a lack of campaign funds. He instead filed papers to run for the State Senate seat vacated by former senator Bobby Bunda, who resigned to run for lieutenant governor. At press time, a fifth candidate, Councilmember Rod Tam, chose not to participate in the Chronicle's special mayoral issue.

The Chronicle emailed each candidate a questionnaire on a variety of issues affecting the City and residents islandwide. Their responses have been edited for clarity and space.

**KIRK CALDWELL**



**Chronicle:** Please introduce yourself to our readers.

**CALDWELL:** I was born in Waipahu, where my father was a plantation doctor. When I was young, my family moved to Hilo and I was raised on the Big Island.

I was inspired to enter public service by my father who treated and helped generations of local families, as well as by working for Sen. Daniel Inouye and the late Chief Justice William S. Richardson when I was just out of law school.

**Chronicle:** What executive leadership positions have you held?

**CALDWELL:** I practiced law for 30 years, including as a partner at Ashford & Wriston, one of Hawaii's leading law firms. While there, I rose to Managing Partner, which is essentially the firm's executive officer.

(continued on page 5)

**PETER CARLISLE**



**Chronicle:** You're the front-runner in the mayoral race. The election is several weeks away and your opponents are gunning for you. Does that make you nervous?

**CARLISLE:** Although polls place me ahead of other candidates,

there is a golden rule that I follow: run scared or unopposed. Anything can happen in politics.

**Chronicle:** You have a reputation for being tough on crime and an effective prosecutor, but how intimately do you know the day-to-day operations of the City & County of Honolulu, its many departments and their respective functions?

**CARLISLE:** There are only two elected executives in the City and County of Honolulu—the Mayor and the Prosecuting Attorney. As Prosecuting Attorney, I managed the City office on a day-to-day basis for the last 14 years, making staffing, budgetary and policy decisions. While the scope

(continued on page 5)

**PANOS PREVEDOUROS**



**Chronicle:** You are a professor of civil engineering at the University of Hawaii. How did you get involved in politics?

**PREVEDOUROS:** I have been an advisor for several legislators and other officials for years. I also have been a member of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization and a City Council appointee on rail transit panels. I have done many projects for the Hawaii State Department of Transportation. Add to this my general interest in local, national and international politics and it does not take a major leap to become a candidate for mayor. The mayor manages infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, parks, sidewalks, etc.) and operations (traffic, bus service, police, fire, ambulance and emergencies). It is the perfect job for a civil engineer.

**Chronicle:** Was it a difficult decision to step away from the classroom and enter politics?

**PREVEDOUROS:** It was difficult. After 20 years at UH, not only is it relatively easy to keep going while receiving a decent paycheck but my university job is full of interesting topics and smart people. I am still very close to my graduate students and supervise a couple of research projects for the state.

**Chronicle:** The public knows your stance against the fixed rail project. If elected mayor, will you support the project?

**PREVEDOUROS:** The first thing I will do is to stop this project, which we do not need and cannot afford. Rail is the 1 percent solution—it will increase transit use by 1 percent from 6 percent to 7 percent and it will reduce car trips by 1 percent. Who in his or her right mind would spend \$6 billion for such a poor rate of return? Let me also mention how ugly 20 miles and 21 huge stations will be for our beautiful Oahu and the terrible impact that 10 to 15 years of construction will have on tourism and the economy.

**Chronicle:** How will you convince voters that you are not a single issue candidate?

**PREVEDOUROS:** I am the most diverse candidate. I am stopping the rail so that we can fix the real problems facing Oahu—fulfilling the multi-billion dollar consent decree for sewers, replacing our water mains which break 364 times per year, repairing our neglected parks and beaches (and their homeless occupants) and rehabilitating our neglected, potholed roads.

I am the only candidate who is uniquely qualified to address our major traffic problems. Why would anyone want to hire a lawyer to deal with sewers, roads, water mains, traffic and emergency services? A civil engineer is the best choice. Honolulu had a civil engineer as mayor for 19 years—Johnny Wilson, for whom we named

(continued on page 5)



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## COVER STORY

*(from page 4... KIRK CALDWELL)*

As a member of the State House of Representatives, I served as the Majority Leader. At the City, I served as Managing Director, overseeing 21 departments and over 10,000 city employees. As of July 20, 2010, I have been Acting Mayor.

**Chronicle:** Why have you decided to run for mayor?

**CALDWELL:** I think I'm the best qualified person to lead. As the Managing Director, I was in charge of working on the City's most serious issues, such as keeping rail transit on track, helping the homeless, repaving city streets, making sure that our garbage is picked up and that our police, fire and emergency services are meeting the public safety needs of our community. As Acting Mayor, I was in charge of the City's response during the last tsunami alert. Today, I am both Acting Mayor and Managing Director. I know that I can do the job because I'm already on the job. I would be humbled if the voters of Honolulu elected me as their permanent Mayor.

**Chronicle:** Not many voters know you outside of your district. What have you done to make yourself a household name?

**CALDWELL:** I think more and more voters have come to know me since becoming Acting Mayor and doing the actual job. I dedicate part of my day to personally talk to the citizens of Honolulu because I'm sincere in wanting to make sure that they get the help they need on City issues.

As a candidate, I've been participating in events and going to neighborhoods to introduce myself. I hope people will watch the televised debates to get informed on the candidates. The most important thing I can do is to be the best Acting Mayor I can be. Even as a candidate, my first priority is making sure the City is well-run and that the people get the services they need.

**Chronicle:** What are the major issues facing the City & County of Honolulu? As mayor, how would you address these issues?

**CALDWELL:** Job growth and economic recovery is my number one priority. For every dollar spent outside of the City and County's payroll, I will ask the question: how does this promote job development and economic recovery for the residents of Oahu?

The construction of Oahu's rail system is a guarantee for long-term job growth and will provide a base for further economic development around transit hubs. I will move the rail project forward and work collaboratively with other government offices to cut through the bureaucratic red tape that may slow it down.

Keeping our citizens safe and secure with sufficient police, fire, and emergency medical responders is one of my main concerns. As economic stresses affect our communities, resulting in an increase in property theft and domestic violence, and as the plight of homeless expands into more rural areas of Oahu, it is critical that these services become more community-based.

Affordable housing is a major issue. I will create a workforce housing fund to provide incentives to private developers to build workforce housing and low income rental housing. I want to explore the sale of City-owned low and moderate income properties to private entities under a community land trust model to maintain the property as affordable housing in order to create the workforce housing fund.

**Chronicle:** What is your solution to addressing our homeless problem?

**CALDWELL:** As managing director, I spearheaded finding a solution to combat the homelessness problem. I will appoint a "Housing First" Coordinator to work with providers to implement the Housing First model and move the homeless directly into permanent housing within the next three years.

As a transition to implementation of the Housing First model, I want to create Safe Zones with temporary shelters on City owned land. These safe zones will have sanitation and laundry facilities, trash pickup, storage facilities and provide a safe area for those temporarily homeless.

**Chronicle:** Please describe your leadership style.

*(continued on page 9)**(from page 4... PETER CARLISLE)*

of the duties of the Mayor and the Prosecutor is different, the goal is ultimately the same—doing what's best for the City and County now, and doing what's best for the generations to come.

**Chronicle:** Why not remain as Prosecuting Attorney and leave politics to the politicians?

**CARLISLE:** The office of the Prosecuting Attorney can be left in good and capable hands. I believe the Office of Mayor for the next 10 years, due to the economy and rail, will be the most important job in the state. It is a good idea to elect a candidate who has experience as an elected executive.

**Chronicle:** What experience and skills can you take with you from the courtroom to the Mayor's Office?

**CARLISLE:** Executive, legislative and legal skills. I've been elected to four terms as Honolulu Prosecutor and have executed my duties to the people of Honolulu. Experience in being directly accountable to all the people of Honolulu, not to a single boss or supervisor is what I bring to the Mayor's Office.

**Chronicle:** In addition to your current position, what other executive leadership positions have you held?

**CARLISLE:** Executive Committee, National Association of Drug Court Professions; Chairman, Crime and Drug Control Committee, National District Attorneys Association; President and Chairman, Hawaii Prosecuting Attorneys Association, among other positions.

**Chronicle:** Please describe your leadership style.

**CARLISLE:** Leadership requires one to make difficult decisions with the goal of doing what is right for the future and for the long term,

*(continued on page 9)**(from page 4... PANOS PREVEDOUROS)*

the Wilson Tunnel on Likelike Highway.

**Chronicle:** On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best), how intimately do you know the day-to-day operations of the City, its many departments and their respective functions?

**PREVEDOUROS:** Much better than any lawyer does. Not only do I know what the City departments do, but I also have worked with many key staff members. About half of the engineers who work for the City have been my students. So my rating would be at least a 7. I would also like to clarify that the mayor has very little to do with day-to-day operations. The mayor sets the priorities and goals for accomplishment and works with his departments and the City Council to develop a budget that fulfills the needs and mission of the City without overtaxing its citizens.

**Chronicle:** What are the major issues facing the City and how would you address these issues?

**PREVEDOUROS:** Honolulu's infrastructure has been a victim of mismanagement and neglect for over 20 years. As a result, we rank second from the bottom in quality of roads. Our sewers are so bad that the federal government had to forcefully tell us what to do. This is the direct result of executives who have no respect for the value and cost of City assets.

As an engineer, I will work with department heads to prioritize critical needs and address them immediately within the means of tax and fee collections.

**Chronicle:** What executive leadership positions have you held?

**PREVEDOUROS:** JOHNNY WILSON WAS A SIMPLE county roads engineer when he was voted mayor. Nobody is trained to be mayor,

*(continued on page 9)*

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## LEGAL MATTERS



By Atty. Emmanuel  
Samonte Tipon



here is no first amendment right to defame." Maxon v. Ottawa Publishing Co.

"Somebody sent me a unanimous letter criticizing me. I will not rest until I find that unanimous coward," exclaimed an angry school principal during a Monday morning flag raising ceremony.

"We will help you find that anonymous coward, sir," a student shouted, in a gallant and subtle effort to correct the principal's misplay of words.

The internet is the latest medium for making anonymous critical remarks. "Many people don't realize that their anonymous blogging or comments can be traced back to them. . . Even if you conceal your IP address, it is still possible to be traced." "Blog is short for 'web log,' a running on line commentary about one's life or about the issues of the day."

## Anonymous Internet Defamers: How to Sue Them

The Future of Reputation, Daniel J. Solove.

### Newspaper sued for publishing defamatory comments

A newspaper published an article on its website that a city's planning commission was considering an ordinance allowing bed and breakfast establishments in residential areas. A person using a screen name posted a comment: "Money under the table?" Another posted: "How much is Don and Janet . . . paying you for your betrayal. . . Other postings identified the same persons and used the words "bribe".

The persons named sued the newspaper seeking disclosure of the identity of the persons making the comments, claiming they were defamed. The newspaper opposed the petition arguing that the posters' anonymity was constitutionally protected. One of the posters retained an attorney to intervene.

### Requirements of suit

The state court granted the petition holding that the petition was allowable where it (1) is

verified, (2) states with particularity facts that would establish a cause of action for defamation, (3) seeks only the identity of the potential defendant and no other information necessary to establish the cause of action of defamation, and (4) is subjected to a hearing at which the court determines that the petition sufficiently states a cause of action for defamation against the unnamed potential defendant, i.e., the unidentified person is one who is responsible in damages to the petitioner.

Once the court determines that the prima facie case has been met by a petitioner, he has made out a valid claim for damages and has a right to expect a remedy. Maxon v. Ottawa Publishing Co., No. 3-08-0805, Court of Appeals, Illinois, 06/01/2010. See also Anonymous Online Speakers v. U.S. District Court for Nevada, No. 09-71265, CA9 07/12/2010, ordering disclosure of the identity of anonymous online speakers.

### Expensive to be sued; Imprisonment and fine possible

Internet defamers cannot

hide behind the cloak of anonymity. They will be found out. Criminal charges can be filed against them. See United States v. Turner, 09-cr-00650, Illinois, finding blogger guilty with a possible maximum sentence of 10 years and fine of \$250,000. Civil suits can also be filed. Newspapers and other website owners allowing defamatory comments risk being sued. It is very expensive to be sued. Thousands are needed for court costs. Lawyers for defendants want payment upfront, charge by the hour from \$250 up, require huge deposits. No contingent fees. Lawyers for defamed victims take contingent fees, expecting to win or a large settlement from defendants and/or their insurers. Aggressive lawyers put a lien on the defendants' properties and send a copy of the complaint to credit reporting agencies.

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 Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDI 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 at the time of publication.)

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# SOS Classic Returns to Hawaii August 24-September 25

After nine years in Las Vegas, the original Society of Seven (SOS) Classic is returning to the SOS Main Showroom at Outrigger Waikiki, with a five-week opening run beginning Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 8:30 pm.

Hawaii's top-rated, longest-running show band will perform five days a week Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8:30 pm. After September 25, SOS Classic will alternate nights and perform with their protégées and current showroom regulars, the SOS Latest Version (LV), who will be launching a new "Hot, Hot, Hot" show.

Tony Ruivivar of the SOS Classic says the group has thrived while performing in Las Vegas—receiving such awards

as the Best Show Award in January 2010 and the Las Vegas Walk of Stars Award. After a nine-year long successful run, it was time for the group to return home.

"We're happy to be home because, even though we've enjoyed our Mainland gigs and expect to continue performing in other cities, Honolulu is where it all began more than 40 years ago," says Ruivivar, who has been with SOS Classic since it started as The Fabulous Echoes in the 1960s. "Whenever we perform on the Mainland, Canada or anywhere in the world, we always promote Hawaii and to live up to the standard that Hawaii set in our hearts."

Special guest performer

will be Farrington High school student Arshiel, 15, who sang the "Star Spangled Banner" during statehood festivities at the State Capitol last year. She performed with the SOS Classic in Las Vegas last May.

"We are hoping our return to the SOS Showroom will not only showcase the SOS brand of entertainment but also talented entertainers from all over the world, including the Philippines, Korea, China, Europe and the mainland," Ruivivar says.

SOS Classic, composed of co-founders Ruivivar and Bert Sagum, Hoku Low, Wayne Wakai, Vince Mendoza, Roy Venturina and Erika Santos, were last seen in Honolulu in 2008 when they teamed up with the SOS LV for three shows at



the Outrigger Showroom. They also appeared at three sold-out performances at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall in 2006.

The band began their Hawaii entertainment career at the Ilikai Hotel's Hong Kong Junk and Duke Kahanamoku's at the International Market Place. They have been on many

national television shows including the Ed Sullivan Show, Mike Douglas Show, Dinah Shore Show and more.

Kamaaina can watch the SOS Classic for \$29.50, including free parking at the Ohana East Hotel. For reservations and information, please call 923-7469.

## Fourth Annual Taste of Kalihi to Showcase the Neighborhood's Very Best

By Elisa Agpaga

It's back and promises to be a lot more festive, family-oriented and plain fun!

The Fourth annual "A Taste of Kalihi" (ATOK)—scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2010, from 10 am to 9pm—will once again bring together the very best in food, entertainment and excitement that the working-class community of Kalihi has to offer.

Previous ATOKs have lured thousands of kamaaina, area residents and even tourists to a

neighborhood style block party along Colburn Street. Participants "grind" the rich diversity of delicious Asian, Pacific Island and American cuisine, indulge in the rich sounds of local Kalihi performers and entertainers and dance en masse in the largest Electric Slide that the state will ever see.

Dozens of vendors have offered up everything from Tagalog dictionaries, "I Love Kalihi" T-shirts, social services, fitness videos and even water purifiers.

The 2010 ATOK will fea-

ture these familiar activities but will have an added dash of more interesting and rather "unique" events, including:

- The first ever *balut* eating championship—which will test the strongest stomachs known to Hawaii and one individual will come out on top and claim the title and win some cool prizes.
- "The Twist"—in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Chubby Checker's most famous song and accompanying dance, thousands of attendees will demonstrate how it's done, local-style.
- Kalihi's Got Talent Karaoke Hour—This event will prove that Kalihi's got some of the best singing talents. Spon-

sored by long time Kalihi karaoke king, Walter's Karaoke, this free hour will allow anyone in our community to sing his or her heart out.

- Special 9/11 observance—A commemorative ceremony and special patriotic musical tribute will be held in memory of the September 11th attack as well as to honor our brave uniformed men and women. Symbolic candles will burn throughout the duration of the event.

A portion of the proceeds raised at ATOK will be donated to the Susannah Wesley Community Center, a multi-service community and social service center that has provided much-needed programs and services

to the residents of Kalihi-Palama for over 100 years.

A Taste of Kalihi was conceived during 2007 Kalihi Economic Summit as a way to showcase to the public the unique products and services of numerous small businesses, nonprofits, social and education services organizations that call Kalihi home.

This event is made possible by the support and close collaboration of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the City & County of Honolulu, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and the generous sponsorship of Kamehameha Schools, the Renato and Maria Etrata Foundation, dozens of vendors, many volunteers and the members of the general public.

For more information, please go online to: [www.ATasteOfKalihi.com](http://www.ATasteOfKalihi.com).

## PAL Launches 'Fly the Flag' Promo

To celebrate the inauguration of the Philippines' new president, Philippine Airlines (PAL) has launched its "Fly the Flag" promo with special fares from Honolulu to Manila from August 9-31, 2010.

According to Monet M. Trespases, PAL's District Sales Manager for Hawaii, a Honolulu-to-Manila round-trip economy class ticket will cost \$618. The outbound travel period will be from August 27-



November 30, 2010 and from January 1-February 28, 2011.

PAL officials hope the airline's low fares will attract Hawaii residents who may be planning to visit the Philippines

in the near future.

For bookings or inquiries, please go online to: [www.philippineairlines.com](http://www.philippineairlines.com) or call 1-800-435-9725.



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## COVER STORY (cont.)

(from page 5... **KIRK CALDWELL**)

**CALDWELL:** I do believe I am a people person and that in order to motivate and inspire others, you must respect everyone, treat all people fairly, and be inclusive. Good communication is the key to building strong relationships with people and I aim to make this a priority in my administration.

**Chronicle:** What do you think are the major issues facing the Filipino community today?

**CALDWELL:** Domestic violence—We need to provide greater assistance to domestic violence victims and their families.

Caregivers and Care Homes—Caregivers and Adult Residential Care Homes provide a valuable service to our community. We must ensure that the providers receive the proper support, adequate regulation, and fair compensation.

Language Access—Many in the Filipino community are not getting the services they need because of language difficulties.

**Chronicle:** Why should Filipino voters elect you as mayor?

**Caldwell:** I hope Filipino voters will consider my background and overall qualifications. I am committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of Honolulu. My vision includes providing good paying jobs so that our young people can stay and raise their families in Hawaii, creating a vibrant urban core where people can afford to live and work, preserving agricultural lands and green space and cleaning up our parks and recreational areas so that we can all enjoy Oahu's natural resources.

**Chronicle:** If elected mayor, what factors will you take into consideration when naming cabinet members and appointing department directors? Would you consider appointing qualified Filipinos?

**CALDWELL:** My first and foremost consideration is who is best qualified to head a city department. I will also look for people who are team players, who are able to lead and inspire employees, and who are honest, hard working, and have good character and integrity. I know that there are many qualified Filipinos and I would wholeheartedly consider them.

**Chronicle:** Any final message to our readers?

**CALDWELL:** An issue that angered my sense of justice was the treatment of Filipino veterans. When I served in the House of Representatives, one of the issues facing our Filipino Caucus was rectifying the broken promise and delayed recognition of the brave Filipino veterans who served our country in WWII.

At stake was fair compensation for their service, especially since many of the veterans were elderly. It took our Filipino leaders in the Legislature, our Congressional delegation and President Obama to finally get the money released just last year in 2009. My message to you is that this is the kind of discrimination that cannot be tolerated at any level of government. I applaud Hawaii's Filipino community for fighting so hard for so long to make sure that justice was served.

(from page 5... **PETER CARLISLE**)

not what will please people in the present or what may or may not get you re-elected. Leadership also requires choosing the right people for the jobs based on skills and qualifications, not on political considerations.

**Chronicle:** What are the major issues facing the City & County of Honolulu? As mayor, how would you address these issues?

**CARLISLE:** 1) Getting the city's financial house in order by prioritizing spending, reducing the debt burden, and finding new and efficient ways of doing things. 2) Increasing transparency by creating online systems that show taxpayers how government money is being acquired and spent. 3) Breaking ground on Rail Transit as soon as possible. The project will create jobs, stimulate the economy, and provide affordable and reliable public transportation to those who need it the most.

**Chronicle:** Let's take landfills as an example. What's your solution to the problem of what to do with Oahu's trash?

**CARLISLE:** H-POWER burns solid waste and turns it into energy that is sold to HECO to offset the costs of operation. Completion of the third boiler in 2012 will expand the disposal capacity of H-POWER. Landfills are a short term solution to a long term problem. We should look into utilizing new technologies such as solar, wind, geothermal and others to produce electricity.

**Chronicle:** What do you think are the major issues facing the Filipino community today?

**CARLISLE:** Jobs. Our primary economic engine continues to be tourism and action must be taken to make Honolulu competitive with other world-class destinations.

**Chronicle:** Why should Filipino voters elect you as mayor?

**CARLISLE:** The reasons should not differ from any other ethnic group. I believe that opportunity should be based not on ethnicity or politics but on skills and hard work. Filipino voters very much understand this. Former Governor Ben Cayetano and Vicky Cayetano support me due to the content of my actions and not for ethnic reasons.

**Chronicle:** If elected mayor, what factors will you take into consideration when naming cabinet members and appointing department directors? Would you consider appointing qualified Filipinos?

**CARLISLE:** With appointed positions as with all government positions, skills and qualifications should be the only factors in hiring decisions. There are many qualified Filipinos.

**Chronicle:** Any final message to our readers?

**CARLISLE:** Many people in the community have come out to support my mayoral candidacy including my Campaign Chair Cha Thompson, Roland Casamina, Eddie Flores, Roland and Edith Pasqua, Joey Alcantra, Dee Balfour, Fely Libre Faulkner, Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley and others. Honolulu is unique because of its varied cultural composition and heritage. Cultural institutions such as the Fil-Com Center among others must be encouraged and preserved.

(from page 5... **PANOS PREVEDOUROS**)

but it is essential that the mayor has a firm grasp of what the City does—infrastructure and operations. Like Wilson, I am a civil and transportation engineer. I have directed projects well in excess of \$2 billion and all of them have had very successful outcomes. I have also presided over several organizations, local committees and international subcommittees on transportation.

**Chronicle:** Please describe your leadership style.

**PREVEDOUROS:** My leadership skills were clearly manifested in 2008 when I started a campaign from zero percent and in less than three months received 18 percent of the vote against very well-known political opponents. My leadership was shown in the creation of two international symposia in transportation that I organized, one in Athens in 2006 and the other in Honolulu in 2009.

As a successful professor of over 1,000 engineers and presenter in hundreds of conferences in over a dozen countries, my ability to communicate with a huge variety of people is certain. I have been involved in many projects with city, state federal and international partners—a most recent one with a unit from Saitama University that is connected with Filipino, Thai and Vietnamese engineers and planners.

**Chronicle:** What do you think are the major issues facing the Filipino community today?

**PREVEDOUROS:** Immigration, job security and having enough income after taxes to afford a comfortable lifestyle in Hawaii. The mayor can't help much with immigration, but a mayor who is pro-business and against tax increases can facilitate job growth and economic stability for the community.

Filipinos are a huge asset in the hospitality, nursing, assisted living and health care fields and I commend them for their dedication. Less traffic congestion and more expeditious permitting will allow them to do their jobs easier and cheaper.

**Chronicle:** Why should Filipino voters elect you as mayor?

**PREVEDOUROS:** Because like many Filipinos on Oahu, I am a first generation immigrant who worked very hard to make a good life for myself and my family. Because like Filipinos, I use common sense and respect for money when I make decisions. Because like Filipinos, I choose to call Hawaii home and to care for the aina. Because like Filipinos, I like cars and my independence to go where I want to and when I want to. Because like our past Filipino-American Governor Ben Cayetano, I prefer to say it like it is and not spin or sugar coat it.

**Chronicle:** If elected mayor, what factors will you consider when naming cabinet members and appointing department directors? Would you consider appointing qualified Filipinos?

**PREVEDOUROS:** The only factors that matter in director and other appointee selection are the qualifications for the specific job. Gender and ethnicity will have neither positive or negative weight in my selections. I do anticipate Filipinos to be part of my cabinet. Many Filipinos are terrific engineers and managers.

**Chronicle:** Any final message for our readers?

**PREVEDOUROS:** This is a special opportunity for all Oahu voters to change business as usual that is framing Oahu to fail by sinking it into multi-billion dollar fiscal liabilities that would make it impossible for even middle-income people to afford to live on Oahu. My vision is to return Oahu to its "postcard image"—a clean, less congested, well-maintained Oahu that is a joy to call home or to visit.

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or email: [dwhitelaw@leseas.com](mailto:dwhitelaw@leseas.com)**PHILIPPINE NEWS****It's Definite: Noy Going to US**By Aurea Calica /  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines - President Aquino would visit the United States for four days next month to attract investors into the country.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima has already laid the ground work of his visit.

Mr. Aquino's priority destination would be the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He would also witness the signing of the \$434-million grant of the Millennium Challenge Corp. to the Philippine Development Foundation.

Mr. Aquino said job generation is the government's primary objective in attracting investors.

"Job generation is the first priority and America is still one of our biggest trading partners. We will go there and try to make the country even more attractive to all of these investors in the hopes of generating all those jobs," he said.

The President plans to attract Filipino-Americans who have established businesses in the US.

"Because there are Filipinos and Americans of Filipino descent who in venture-capital industries and they are

movers and shakers of that industry.

They find it difficult to invest in the Philippines primarily because we lack the human resources to meet the needs of industries in that category," he said.

He said he is meeting with the Philippine Development Foundation to discuss ways of growing the country's information database of engineers and scientists.

Mr. Aquino said it has not been determined if the status of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the Philippines and the US would be discussed with US officials during his visit.

The Philippine Senate has passed a resolution to abolish the VFA or renegotiate it.

Aquino, during his term as senator, was among those who signed the agreement.

Other priority trips identified by the Department of Foreign Affairs for the President are the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels, Belgium as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

China and Japan, two other large trading partners of the country, also requested visits from Aquino. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**Aquino Approves Government Borrowing for 2011**By Paolo Romero /  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - President Benigno Aquino III has approved the borrowing program of the government for 2011, bulk of which will come from local sources, a senior government official said today.

Communications and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang, in a press briefing, said, "President Aquino met with the Secretaries of Finance and Budget yesterday...the borrowing program for next year has been approved."

He said the net borrowings for next

year will be P307.8 billion (\$67.7 billion), wherein P45.1 billion (\$993 million) will be sourced externally and the P262.7 billion (\$5.78 billion) will come from local sources.

"We're also going to do a peso global bond, the first security flow of the peso instrument in the global market," Carandang added.

In the 2011 budget to be proposed to Congress within the month, the administration is looking at a budget deficit of P290 billion (\$6.38 billion), about 3.2 percent of the Philippine gross domestic product. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**Tax Collections up 7.9 percent in January-July**By Delon Porcaila /  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - Philippine revenue collections in the first seven months of the year rose 7.9 percent to P467.28 billion (\$10.3 billion) on back of the government's efforts to pursue tax evaders.

"We have achieved (as promised) collection efficiency," Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Chief Kim Henares said in a phone interview with reporters today.

Henares attributed this to the government's anti-corruption measures launched in July against tax evaders, smugglers and

corrupt government officials. This is in line with the government's policy to improve tax collections as a means to plug the widening deficit.

Henares said the BIR still has much to do. The actual collection in the first seven months of the year is still below the P488.38 billion (\$10.7 billion) target collection for the period.

She vowed to improve the agency's performance in the coming months as the economy continues to expand. Henares said programs such as the Run After Tax Evaders or RATE, the Run After Smugglers of RATs and the Revenue Integrity Protection System or RIPS will continue to be pursued. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



Comm. Kim Henares

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## OFW Remittances Up 6.9% in First Half

By Lawrence Agcaoil /  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Money sent home by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) hit a new monthly record high of \$1.623 billion in June due to the continued deployment of professional and skilled Filipinos abroad, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday.

Statistics released by the central bank yesterday showed that money sent home by OFWs went up by 8.3 percent or \$125 million in June this year from \$1.498 billion in the same month last year.

BSP Governor Amado M. Tetangco Jr. said the \$1.623-billion remittances registered last June was the highest monthly remittance level recorded by the central bank, eclipsing the previous monthly record of \$1.578 billion registered last May.

"In June alone, remittance flows peaked at \$1.6 billion, reflecting a year-on-year expansion of 8.3 percent boosted by remittances from both sea-based



and land-based workers," Tetangco stressed.

For the first half of the year, he pointed out that OFW remittances went up by 6.9 percent to \$9.062 billion from \$8.479 billion in the same period last year.

Main sources of OFW remittances include the US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and Italy. These countries accounted for 81.7 percent of the total remittances in the first half of the year.

The BSP chief said data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that approved jobs aggregated 356,878 in the first seven months of the year of

which more than a third consisted of processed job orders for service, professional, technical, production and related workers.

He added that POEA data showed that workers classified as new hires with processed contracts and are awaiting deployment rose by 13.5 percent to 212,700 for the first half of the year from 187,338 in the same period last year.

"The continued deployment of professional and skilled Filipino overseas workers, given favorable global employment opportunities, underpinned the resilience of remittances," Tetangco said.

Furthermore, he said that the Department of Labor and Em-

ployment (DOLE) reported increased work prospects overseas for Filipino seafarers following plans of the Japanese Shipowners' Association to hire 2,000 sea-based workers as officers and crew of high-end Japanese vessels over the next two years.

The BSP chief also cited the continued expansion in the number of banks' branches, remittance centers and correspondent banks and tie ups has resulted in the stronger presence of global financial instruments abroad helped capture a bigger share of the global remittance market.

Data showed that these remittance conduits increased 17 percent to 4,351 as of end-June from 3,730 in the same period last year.

The BSP has upgraded its growth forecast for the amount of money sent home by overseas Filipinos to eight percent instead of six percent due to the strong demand for Filipino skilled workers.

Last year, remittances went up by 5.4 percent to a new record level of \$17.348 billion last year from \$16.426 billion

and exceeded the revised four percent growth forecast set by the central bank due to the steady growth of OFW remittances to the sustained demand for skilled Filipino workers overseas particularly engineers, medical practitioners, and teachers.

The BSP's Monetary Board agreed to waive the fees imposed on banks that use the Philippine Payments and Settlements System (PhilPaSS) remit system for six months as part of efforts to bring down the cost of sending money by OFWs.

OFWs and their beneficiaries are expected to enjoy lower remittance fees starting this quarter with the complete operation of the Philpass remit system resulting in savings of between P100 and P500 per transaction. The system would reduce the charges to P50 for each remittance transaction as the current system charges between P150 and P550 per transaction.

OFW families are expected to save at least P92 million to as high as P922 million due to the faster and cheaper delivery of remittances to the beneficiaries at a lower rate. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Government Eyeing to Increase Investment to 18 percent in 2011

By Paolo Romero /  
Wednesday, August 4, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippine government is targeting to increase the country's investment rate to 18 percent by next year to boost growth, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said today.

"(The current investment rate) is something like 14 percent. (Raising it to) 18 percent would be the target. It's not easy to bring that up but we're hoping that with a better business environment, with increased business confidence, we can," Paderanga said.

Paderanga said the current investment rate in the Philippines is below that than in other Southeast Asian countries.

"It's not yet comparable to the country's neighbors. We have some more to go," he said.

In a previous presentation, Dr. Raul Fabella of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, said the country's neighbors like Indonesia has an investment rate of 25 percent; Thailand, 28 percent; Singapore, 22 percent;



Sec. Paderanga Jr.

and Vietnam, 38 percent.

Paderanga said the government will rely on Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) to raise investments. He said that while it is true that the government's spending, especially in the second half of the year will be lower than the first half when the government

frontloaded some spending, the total investment composed of private and public funds will be higher.

He added that some public investments, particularly in infrastructure, will be realigned to make room for social spending programs.

Paderanga said the government hopes that the slack in public spending, particularly for infrastructure, can be shouldered by the private sector through PPPs.

Paderanga said the government has also started identifying areas which will be prioritized in terms of infrastructure projects. Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said that he plans to focus on infrastructure projects in Visayas and Northern Mindanao. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## TRAVEL

## Africa Lives in Us

RENDEZVOUS By Christine S. Dayrit

**O**f earth is the mother of humanity, then Africa is her womb. Sublime, serene and surreal, the Waterberg Mountain Range in Limpopo Province, South Africa appears as an expansive canvas of insurmountable terrain of orange and green bushes when approaching it from a distance. Just a three-hour drive from Johannesburg Airport where our luxurious Thai Airways plane landed, the Waterberg is a secret treasure that ought to be discovered. The crimson orb of the sun gently recedes in the horizon as thousands of birds fly against the silhouetted drama. Simply poetry in motion, one is awed by this aura of majestic splendor.

The Waterberg is one of the major mountain ranges, the other two being the Soutpansberg and the Drakensberg. Not born of violence, but rather of a gentle and gradual process of formation over eons of time, this expansive region covers a series of spectacular curved and folded buttresses, steep ravines with thickly wooded bushvelds and cliffs. The topography of the range and its escarpments is soft and rounded with some towering peaks high above. With an area of 14,500 kms, it is about 80 percent the size of

Kruger National Park.

In this region that is almost half as old as the earth itself, my traveling group and I embarked on an amazing safari experience during most of the day and stargazing through the ebony night. The Big 5 animals (rhinoceros, elephant, leopard, buffalo and lion) came up-close and personal as well as other game like impalas, wildebeest, oryx, rock rabbit and varieties of birds. There are several private reserves one may choose from for game sightings and successful breeding programs such as Welgeronden, Shambala, Touchstone, Entabeni, Shilanti and Rhinolands. One must exhibit extreme patience in searching for the animals, bearing in mind that these are not zoos but rather expansive reserves.

This captivating and magical part of South Africa, the Waterberg, in a sense, is both a very old, yet a very new place, too. It is rich in human history, wildlife, character and natural beauty and yet it is still off the beaten track of the everyday tourist. The Waterberg is set to become one of the biggest conservation areas in South Africa. It will only not accommodate a large population of the game animals but also important prehistoric and historic sites in this unspoiled wilderness. The Waterberg majestically stands like

an inverted saucer, at its highest towering to 2,085 meters above sea level with its bulwarks rising up to 500 meters above the surrounding plains.

From Ka Lingo game reserve where our efficient guide Filemon drove the army-green land rover safari truck with our cooler of drinks, thick blankets and binoculars, we traversed the thicket terrain like Sherlock Holmes eager to solve a mystery. As the icy wind bit into our cheeks, our sturdy 4x4 rattled along the dirt roads in the savannah. The gauzy dimmer of dawn heralded a new day of interesting finds and our rambunctious group was determined to see them all. With collective prayers to the Creator of all, we securely took our seats and our secret wishes for top choices for individual sightings among the Big Five.

The vehicle scrunched through the dry grass as the sun hovered in the horizon turning the sky into a wash of lilac, pink, orange. It was incredible to feel, in this wilderness, an interaction with nature, its finest treasures. Here, one actually felt connected to something far greater than oneself. The true vibrancy of nature's garb exploded beneath our breath as we tried to contain our excitement as a pair of big gray rhinoceroses drinking by the waterhole pranced in front of us and hurriedly scampered away. Filemon told us they could smell us and hear us but could hardly see us.

As we proceeded towards



Johannesburg, which means Land of Gold, is only a three-hour drive away from Waterberg region.

the river, a family of buffaloes greeted us by the side of the vehicle. Filemon explained the difference among the horns of the male and female as an oryx with its elegant horns posed before us and a flock of birds took flight over us. "This is like the Garden of Eden," he said, and we all agreed.

As we passed around chilled bottles of lemonade, apple and grape spritzer and sweet chili Doritos, we could not help but be impressed by the size of the home of these animals, 8,000 hectares of sprawling terrain that could actually fit over a million human families. This is Africa, we reminded ourselves, where animals are left to their natural habitat to roam and reproduce as they have since time immemorial. This is their land and we are the trespassers. To them, we are the intruders; thus we must respect their place and peace.

In the middle of the safari, Josh, our other guide, murmured with great anticipation: "Elephant." With bated breath we listened and heard the pachyderm snort and then it began lumbering down the hill, moving with so much élan and grace. Josh pointed to what was

left of an impala and wildebeest — by the time lions, hyenas and vultures had had their fill, only the skulls and horns were left. Everything else was devoured — the hyenas crunched up the bones while the eagles relished the eyeballs. Nothing was wasted.

After another half an hour, we spotted a troop of ba-boons from the riverine scrub, shrieking as they scampered away. A herd of pumas or warthogs appeared swiftly with agile leaps and bounds.

We were reminded to be silent as we spotted a huge leopard cleaning its paws up a 200-foot tree. We stood around leafless trees from this elegant feline. It was a moment to cherish.

The realization of confronting an animal that could actually kill us was humbling rather than alarming. As if that wasn't enough, a far distance later, there was a lioness with her two cubs. We could not get near for obvious reasons but knowing they were just there satisfied us all as we basked in this connectivity. Content with the successful sighting of the Big Five, we ventured back to our luxurious lodge adjacent to

(continued on page 13)

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Consular Processing of Immigrant Visa

nate the visa petition.

Petitioners and beneficiaries should periodically monitor the Visa Bulletin in case information relevant to their petitions becomes available. They must ensure that their mailing information is accurate so that correspondence is not delayed.

Applicants should also inform the National Visa Center or the Immigrant Visa Branch of any changes in the status of the petitioner or the beneficiary such as the relocation or death of the petitioner or the marriage or aging out of the beneficiary. Such changes may disqualify the applicant or delay the processing.

If the petitioner has become a citizen the petition filed on

behalf of an unmarried son or daughter is converted to first preference (F-1) which means a longer wait in the case of a Filipino applicant. But this can be avoided by applying to opt out of the F-1 conversion and retain the F2B classification.

If the petitioner has moved out of the U.S. the visa application will be denied because of the requirement that the petitioner who is required to submit an Affidavit of Support must be domiciled in the U.S.

The death of the petitioner revokes the petition but it may be reinstated for humanitarian reasons. A law that was passed last October which allows surviving relatives to continue their green card applications

does not apply to those who did not reside in the U.S. at the time of the death of the petitioner and did not continue to reside in the U.S. thereafter.

The marriage of the beneficiary of an F-1 petition converts the petition to F-3 which translates to a longer wait. The marriage of an F2B beneficiary cancels the petition.

The applicant should be careful in preparing all relevant documents before he/she is given an appointment by the consulate or risk refusal of a visa. The most common reasons for denial are incomplete or improperly completed Affidavit of Support; insufficient secondary evidence to prove relationship or identity; and out-

dated police or medical clearance.

An applicant should be truthful and not conceal relevant facts in the visa application and at the interview. Fraud or misrepresentation may result in the visa denial and may permanently bar the applicant from entering the U.S.

If the applicant follows all directions, submits all the requirements and provides all the necessary documents the likelihood of visa denial is minimal. So it is in the applicant's best interest to be prepared.

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)

**B**eneficiaries of immigrant visa petitions who are abroad process their immigrant visa at the U.S. consulate of their home country. It is important that they familiarize themselves with the rules and procedures of that particular consulate.

Visa applications must be pursued within one year from the date applicants are given notice to apply. Failure to act within that period will termi-

## TRAVEL (cont...)

(from page 12, Africa...)

the reserve — the five-star Dinkweg Safari Camp managed by gracious Hettie de Lange and her loving husband Tian. Our home away from home is a fully serviced bushveldt lodge perched upon a secluded valley ridge overlooking the Waterberg mountain range. The posh lodge resembling a luxury haven in Aspen, Colorado has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a huge living area, private pool, an outside leisure area and its own six-seater Polaris 4x4 ranger game viewer vehicle. On our way back, we took the shortcut from Ka Lingo through rugged roads by the ravine. It was a natural roller-coaster ride, the sense of thrill and adventure eliciting shrieks upon the sudden turns and peals of laughter as we shifted from one side of the vehicle to another.

I will never forget how our

able guides turned off all the lights of the vehicle and asked us to look up at the most amazing star-strewn sky ever in the Dinkweg Camp replete with indigenous game, plant, bird and animal life as well. We looked at the brightest object in the sky, Venus, the amazing Milky Way galaxy with its transparent misty, creamy tail below and other constellations like the Big Dipper, Small Dipper, Orion's Belt, Cassiopeia and so much more. When one lives in the city, one is unable to appreciate such beauty and grace. Here, in the African bush, it seemed like the dome of the sky was like our own private planetarium.

There was so much comfort and serenity being enveloped by a canopy of brilliant stars. One could truly feel God's mighty Hand.

I am convinced we may not live in Africa, but Africa lives in us. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## MAINLAND NEWS

# World-Class Pieces for RP Market

By Mary Ann L. Reyes/  
Friday, August 13, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines — For almost three decades now, a Filipino furniture manufacturing company has been wowing foreign audiences and buyers with its unique indigenous-designed furniture.

Its famous "Malabar" chair, a honey-toned rattan lounge wrapped around a wood frame, has so far sold more than 50,000 pieces and still counting and retails for \$399. It is a top draw at Pottery Barn, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth, Neiman Marcus, Macy's, and Bloomingdale's, and has been adorned the homes of A-list clientele, including top singer Celine Dion who was shown seated in the chair carrying her baby in the cover of People Magazine in 2001.

It also recently sold to Ralph

Lauren an exclusive design for a Palembang urn, a huge egg-shaped metal frame with wicker weave, and trays with leather tags.

CalFurn Manufacturing Philippines Inc. or CalFurn is an Angeles, Pampanga-based furniture manufacturer organized in 1976 under the stewardship of Eredito Feliciano and Angelo Baltazar.

Today, CalFurn is one of the country's most successful furniture exporters and trendsetters, serving foreign buyers from the U.S., Australia, Europe and Asia. It had at its peak 8,000 workers which has now settled to 2,000. About 80 percent of its exports are for the U.S.

Company chairman Feliciano, in an interview, said they believe that wicker furniture and furnishings and other natural products are their best contribution to the furniture industry

worldwide.

In a bid to push the Philippine furniture industry to a higher level, CalFurn has introduced its products to cater to the domestic market. The CalFurn Premium Brands, Baltazar explained, lets one experience the classic ambience of the A-list hotels in their very own homes. Using superior materials and distinctive designs, each piece is ageless. And its California units boast of the same craftsmanship and value for money, catering to the modern lifestyle of Filipinos.

Feliciano expressed optimism that the local market's time has come to embrace world-class products. Those interested in what CalFurn has to offer can visit their showroom and factory at Manga Road, Pulung Bat, Angeles City or they can visit [www.californph.com](http://www.californph.com). ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## DAYASADAS

By Pacita C. Saludes

**S**aan a nakaskasdaaw a napili dagiti dua a nalatak a babai iti Hawaii a mangituray kadagiti nakaisan-gratanda a grupo. Ni MARIA ETRATA ti napili a Presidente ti OFCC para iti dua a tawen. Saan a nakaskasdaaw nga awan ti kinasalina agsipud ta maamito ti amin a nabisked a pagtalkan ken makaited ti nasaysayaat a pannakiwanwan dagiti dandani sangasuat a Filipino organization iti isla ti Oahu. Napili iti Philippine Consulate iti Honolulu idi Junio. Kaduana dagiti matatalek ken napasnek ang opisyalena.

## Dua A Babai Ti Napili A Pangulo Dagiti Kadadakkelan Nga Organisasion Iti HAWAII

Kas tinawen a maaramid, napili met ti mangidaulo ti United Filipino Community Council (UFCH), kangangatuan nga ummong (Umbrella Organization) dagiti amin nga isla ti Hawaii. Maysa met a babai natibker, naepangulo ti isla ti Oahu kadagiti napalabas ni LYNNE Gutierrez. Awan ti kinasangona ta masigurado met a kabaalenna ti nakaipasanguanna. Napili idi naaramid ti OFCC Convention a naaramid Iti isla ti Maui idi 26 ti mabilang ti Julio. Kaduana dagiti natalged a napili manipud kadagiti isla ti Hawaii. Tarabaykoma ti Dios dagitoy dua a Pangulo.

Mabuya tayonto ida iti television, ILOKANIANA VARIETY SHOW nga itutrongtayo iti OLEL'O Channel 53, Martes

9:30 p.m. ken dagiti dadduma pay nga oras a pannakaiparanga. Naska a maamuantayo dagiti plataforma weno aramidn dagitoy a pangulo nga isaritada kadatayo a babaenda. Ken kuna dagiti dadduma, dida kano pay ammo ida ti personal. Ipannamamak met kadakuandan nga am-ammoda ida ta nalatak ti nagan ken ladawanda iti amin a disso ditoy Hawaii.

## ILOKANINA VARIETY SHOW

Naisangrat a pakaipakamuannan dagiti paskan, paspasamak ken pakaiparangan dagiti amin a paskan ken pakaammo ni Filipino (Ilokano) ken paka-amammuan dagiti dipay nakitika gagayyem ken kakailian. Pakaam-ammuannan kadagiti TV Personalities a di pay nakitika nga agparparang dita. Adda pay laeng a programa ti telebisyon a pagiparparangantayo kadagiti Ilokano manipud pay idi tawen 1972-1974 iti Channel 13 and Channel 20. (Channel 52-53 itan). No adda kayatyo a maipatangatang - awagan ti HOST 839-8016. MAKI - APPOINTMENT KAYO!!

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Nasimbeng a panunot mashinga iti nasutil a simron Sabidong nga makaparagsak a purosen nga iyor-or Kas kadagiti nabanglo a sabong ken naluum a bunga Iti hardin a binalabala dagiti nabalitokan nga arapaap Iburay awan limed ta makaparagsak pakinakem Tungpalan dagiti ikari, taganden ti bullalayaw Bilangan dagiti bituen a kenka nagtarabay A nangidaw-as, nangipakilap kinapintas ti aglawlaw Ipnasek ti mangadal, kasasaad, kababalin ti kaaduan.

Iyebkas ta katawa ta makapasalun-at unay Nasayaat nga awis ti imatang sababali a maalian Mangpasaranta, mangpaiseem kadagiti adda iti paggar-garawan Ubogem ta panagsarsarita, tanangem ta panagitigtignay Paliwgem no maiyatadayo, maipatas garawem iti aglawlaw Laglagipen, puonati ti pangatalek dagiti kabaddungalam Talkem dagiti kapulap tapno raemendaka a naynay No makitadaka a sipsiputami ti isisingising ti init kaduam ida Tuladendaka a mangallingag ti tarukitik ti sagumaymay Mangpasaranta ken mangep-ep waw natikagan a pam-mateg Agsasainnek, naawananan namnama, matana ti lumlumteng Ngarud ibuang dagiti makaparagsak a kapanpanunotan Taliawen nalikudnan lagipen dagiti kamali, isut pagadalan Dayta ti pagpalpallailangan ditoy DAGA A NAKA-PARSUAAN.

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## GLOBAL NEWS

# Foreign Secretary Opposes Lifting Deployment Ban in Iraq

By Paolo Romero/  
Monday, August 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo rejected today calls for the lifting of ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq as the security situation in the Middle East state remains volatile with the impending withdrawal of American troops there this month.

"I'm not in favor of lifting the ban (on overseas Filipino Workers

to be left behind and work there) because the combat troops are leaving at the end of the month," Romulo told reporters here.

He said he had instructed Presidential special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu to return to Iraq this week to re-assess the condition of Filipino workers and the post-US withdrawal scenario in Iraq.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent late last month an assessment mission to Iraq, headed by Cimatu, to oversee and examine the

security situation and security measures for the thousands of overseas Filipino workers, who were ordered to be expelled by the United States due to an existing labor deployment ban by the Philippine government.

According to the DFA, there are around 6,000 Filipinos working in Iraq despite the Philippine government's travel and labor deployment ban to Iraq. But the Embassy of Iraq in Manila said the figure has swelled to 15,000, most of them working for foreign companies in Iraq's northern region. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# Global Youth Unemployment Seen Rising to 81.2 Million

By Mayen Jaymalin/  
Monday, August 16, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - The youth sector is bearing the brunt of the global financial crisis, with youth unemployment set to hit a record 81.2 million worldwide by the end of the year.

In its "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010" report, the International Labor Organization (ILO) said the youth unemployment rate could result in a "lost generation."

"The projections show a longer expected recovery (from the financial crisis) for youth compared to adults and their number of unemployed is

projected to increase to a rate of 13.1 percent in 2010," the report said.

The "significant consequences" of the increase in youth unemployment could lead to a lost generation who have no hope of finding employment and who voluntarily drop out of the labor force.

According to ILO projections, the global youth unemployment rate would see a moderate decline to 12.7 percent in 2011. Developing countries, where young people comprise the majority of the population, were particularly at risk.

Youth unemployment rates had proven more sensitive to the crisis than adult rates, with job market re-

covery likely to lag for young men and women, the report said.

This was causing an increase in social hazards in certain countries.

"In the lower-income countries, the impact of the crisis is felt more in shorter hours and reduced wages for the few who maintain... employment and in rising vulnerable employment in an increasingly crowded, informal economy," the report said.

It estimated that almost one third of young workers in the world - 152 million young people - survived on less than \$1.25 per person per day in 2008. ILO director general Juan Somavia said the effects of the economic and financial crisis threatened to exacerbate unemployment. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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