

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER
◆ WEEKLY ◆ SEPTEMBER 5, 2009 ◆

LEONCIO CARDENAS ASSUMES NEW POST AS CONSUL GENERAL TO HAWAII



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EDITORIAL

Welcome New Consul General

In selecting the new Consul General for Honolulu, Philippine president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tapped a familiar face—Leoncio R. Cardenas—who has prior experience with Hawaii’s Filipino community and local culture. Cardenas was last in Hawaii in 1984, serving as a Foreign Service Officer with the Consulate until 1988. Since that time, he has noticed a marked difference in the advancement of Filipinos as an ethnic group. In Cardenas’ own words...“Filipinos have arrived.”

A veteran diplomat who has been assigned to consular posts worldwide, Cardenas inherits a plum position highly-coveted by his peers and colleagues. Who wouldn’t want to be assigned to Hawaii? Nevertheless, Cardenas will face his share of challenges while stationed in paradise. He and the Consulate staff must be up to the task of serving Filipino residents and offering various services including passport issuance and renewal, absentee ballots for domestic elections, visas and other necessary documents related to work, study or travel in the Philippines.

Under Cardenas’ watch, the Consulate will be more involved in social and civic events involving the Filipino community. To help bridge the gap between local and immigrant Filipinos, he will use every opportunity to encourage both sides to join more community-related activities. Greater involvement by the Filipino community at large will hopefully encourage the younger generation to get involved in civic and political affairs, and silence the detractors who complain of seeing the same faces at the same events, year after year.

Overall, Cardenas seems to be a good fit for Hawaii. His previous experience here already puts him ahead of the game. Being from the Ilocos region, he also has an automatic connection with our vibrant Ilocano community. And with a passion for the arts, particularly in music, look for Cardenas to support events that promote Filipino culture and tradition. We welcome and wish him all the very best.

Hiding Transit Shortfall Was Wrong Move

A recent Honolulu Advertiser article that the City’s fixed rail project was \$500 million short in funds was enough to shock even the most die-hard rail transit supporter. The amount was stated in a report dated May 1, 2009 by the City to the Federal Transit Administration. What made the news even more surprising was a report by Jacobs Consulting in July which concluded that the transit project would be short by a palatable \$117 million. The finding was hailed by the administration and transit supporters as proof that the fixed rail project was on sound financial footing.

At a press conference, City transportation officials insisted that the \$500 million shortfall was based on outdated information and that the financial estimates are still a work in progress. Transportation Services director Wayne Yoshioka denied any shortfall when asked point-blank at a June 10th Council meeting. He reassured taxpayers that despite the dip in tax collections, the economy would eventually rebound and that the rebound would be more than offset temporary losses in GET revenues.

The May 1st report may be “outdated” and “no longer accurate.” If anything, the \$500 million shortfall could be even worse, given the continuing decline in GET collections. The point of the matter is not that the report was a draft as explained by City officials. Rather, the shortfall should have been disclosed to the Council and especially the taxpaying public. Why? Because of the

FROM THE PUBLISHER



loha and welcome to this issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the leading and only weekly Filipino community newspaper in the fabulous 50th state of Hawaii! Our dedicated staff works hard to bring you



the very latest news affecting Filipinos in Hawaii and the world over. We are pleased and at the same time very grateful for your continued support and interest.

Have you noticed that traffic is much heavier now that the Fall semester has started for nearly all private and public schools? We hope that you and your family tuned in to the State DOT’s Beat the Jam campaign and adjusted your commute time accordingly.

Speaking of new starts, we would like to welcome Leoncio Cardenas—the new Consul General of the Philippines to Hawaii. Cardenas is the subject of this issue’s cover story which begins on page 4. We have provided our readers with a candid interview of the veteran Philippine diplomat who just recently began his term. If you do not yet know, one of the key roles of the Consulate is to serve Filipinos in Hawaii who have retained their Philippine citizenship and to ensure their safety and welfare. The Consulate also promotes good and friendly relations between the Philippines and Hawaii and serves as an extension of the Philippine government here in Hawaii. We hope the community will in turn support the Consulate in its myriad activities. By working together, Filipinos in Hawaii can continue to advance forward as an ethnic group.

One Filipino who has advanced in his boxing career is Waipahu High School graduate and local boy Brian Vilorio, who successfully defended his IBF light flyweight world title against Mexican opponent Jesus “Azul” Iribe in a stirring 12-round bout at the Blaisdell Arena. Vilorio’s win over his Mexican opponent drew comparisons to Filipino boxing champ Manny Pacquiao who has earned the nickname the “Mexican Killer” for his disposal of several top Mexican fighters. Plans are in the works to have both Filipino boxing champions on the same card sometime next year, possibly in Las Vegas, so stay tuned. Please read more on Brian’s victory on page 8. In the meantime, congratulations to Brian and his family!

Congratulations are also in order to 2009 co-Parents of the Year Manny and Dr. Myrna Valin, and Angel and Corazon Legaspi. Both couples were honored by the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii at its annual Recognition Banquet, which was held on August 29, 2009. The Parents of the Year were recognized for encouraging their children to seek higher education and for their community service. More on this special award is available on page 7.

In closing, we hope that you will enjoy reading these and other articles and columns of interest in this issue, particularly “Mayor’s Column” on page 3, “Legislative Connection” on page 6, “Family Corner” on page 12 and “Legal Notes” on page 13.

On behalf of our staff, thank you once again for your faithful support. Until next time...*aloha and mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

project’s sheer size and duration, public support will be crucial to its long term success. Failure to disclose the shortfall only undermines the public’s confidence.

Later this month, the City will release the final Environmental Impact Statement, along with an updated financial plan, which will include recommendations to close the \$500 million gap. You can bet your bottom dollar that transit opponents will second-guess the numbers and accuse the administration of manipulating the data. We can only hope that won’t be the case. We firmly believe that the transit project is vital for Oahu’s future. But what’s even more important at this point is greater transparency and honesty.

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Viloria's Victory Made Us All Proud



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

Congratulations to Waipahu-born boxer Brian Viloria, who successfully defended his light flyweight world championship title on August 29 at the Blaisdell Center here in Honolulu. From my ringside seat, I saw this athlete's skill and speed at work as he threw well-aimed combinations that kept opponent Jesus Iribe of Mexico on the defense for most of the 12-round bout.

Mahalo to all the hometown fight fans who turned out to support their favorite. There's no question that Viloria has a loyal following here, especially among the Filipino community. I join in wishing Viloria the best of luck in his future bouts.

Congratulations also to newly appointed Philippines Consul General to Hawaii Leoncio Cardenas, who recently visited me at Honolulu Hale and

met some of the Filipino members of my Cabinet and Senior Staff. Consul Cardenas replaces former Consul General Ariel Y. Abadilla, who recently became the first Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland.

Consul Cardenas and I have already participated in several Filipino community gatherings together, including the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii's Recognition Night on August 29, honoring the Parents of the Year and High School Valedictorians; and the United Visayan Community of Hawaii's 61st Anniversary Celebration and Luau in Waipahu on August 22.

Consul Cardenas and I have another thing in common: I am an adopted Illustrious and Compassionate Son of Badoc, Ilocos Norte, his home town. I'm planning to visit the Ilocos region again this November, when I participate in a trade mission to Cebu and Manila, led by the Hawaii Filipino Chamber of Commerce and the City and County of Honolulu.

In other news, our rail transit plan is moving along smoothly, and we expect to receive federal approval of our



Mayor Mufi Hannemann congratulated Waipahu-born light flyweight champion Brian Viloria after he successfully defended his title on Aug. 29 at the Blaisdell Arena.

Final Environmental Impact Statement soon. Bids for construction of the project's first phase came in lower than engineers had estimated earlier, so the project is in great financial shape as we move forward.

We are also encouraged by the five-year tax revenue forecast from the state Council on Revenues and the Council's positive long-term outlook on Hawaii's economy. The Council projects an economic recovery beginning Fiscal Year 2011 with tax revenues up 6.5 percent. Tax revenues will continue to rise through Fiscal Year 2015, according to the Council.

The rail project utilizes revenues from the General Excise and Use Tax surcharge over a 16-year period to fund the City's portion of construction costs.

The Federal Transit Administration is reviewing the project's updated financial plan, which was submitted in August and supersedes an earlier, and now outdated, May 1st report.

Christmas is coming soon, and non-profit organizations interested in creating displays on the Civic Center grounds during the annual Honolulu City Lights exhibition should submit applications to the Customer Services Department by Friday, September 18, 2009 at 530 S. King Street, Room 302B, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Permits will be issued for five display sites via a lottery scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009. The lottery will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 530 S. King Street. Ap-

plicants are welcome to attend the lottery, but need not be present to be selected.

The annual lottery was started several years ago in response to a request from private groups interested in erecting displays at the same time as the holiday event.

Displays chosen through the lottery process will be on view during the same period as Honolulu City Lights. Each organization that receives a permit will be responsible for the set-up, maintenance and takedown of its display.

Applicants must be bona fide non-profit organizations formed under HRS Chapter 415B or any charitable organization formed pursuant to HRS Chapter 467B or under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Proof of this designation must be submitted with the application by September 18, 2009 to be eligible for the lottery.

Interested groups should contact Mike Freitas at the Complaints Office at 768-4381 to request a copy of the application and the rules governing the use of the grounds during Honolulu City Lights.

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A Candid Interview With Leoncio R. Cardenas—New Consul General of the Philippines to Hawaii

By Caroline Julian

As the new Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, Leoncio R. Cardenas is making further improvements to the Consulate's services as his top priority. He'd also like to continue the Consulate's good relations with the Filipino-American Community in the islands.

Prior to arriving in Honolulu in late July 2009, he served as the Philippine Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Dili, East Timor for a year. The Philippines is a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) and a major supporter of East Timor as a newly-established, free and democratic nation in the region.

Consul General Cardenas is a well-respected and experienced senior diplomat with the Philippine Foreign Service. His previous assignments include postings at Philippine Em-

bassies in Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Canada, and Brasilia, Brazil and at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco. At the Department of Foreign Affairs, he last served as Assistant Secretary of the Office of American Affairs.

This is Cardenas' second tour of duty in Hawaii. The Philippine Embassy in Washington assigned him here in 1984 to work as a Foreign Service Officer.

As the new Philippine Consul General in Hawaii, Cardenas shares more of his goals and visions in a candid interview with the Chronicle.

The following interview was edited for space and clarity.

HFC: What do you think are the top three issues facing Hawaii's Filipino community today?

CARDENAS: *I would say the preservation of Filipino culture and traditions amidst the melting pot of Pacific cultures in the state of Hawaii; the growth and strengthening of the Filipino voice and influence in Hawaii's local affairs; and the role of the Filipino community in Hawaii in the political and economic development of the Philippines, the Filipino nation, and the Filipino identity.*

HFC: How would you encourage local Filipinos to get involved in more community activities and events?

CARDENAS: *By convincing them that it's fun to do so. Rediscovering one's rich cultural heritage would reinforce our self-confidence as an eth-*



Consul General Leoncio Cardenas (third from Left) was met by Consul Paul Raymond Cortes and Ms. Teresita Canilao, on his arrival in Honolulu on 29 July 2009.)

nic group in a society that encourages multi-cultural diversity. Our music and visual arts are known and recognized the world-over and so are our artists. Unity is derived from the pursuit and promotion of common interests and this will ultimately empower Filipino-Americans in Hawaii.

HFC: Can you suggest several ways to bridge the gap between the local Filipino community and immigrant Filipinos?

CARDENAS: *We need to encourage more fellowship and appreciate the fact that both sides share a common cultural heritage. There also needs to be greater participation in socio-cultural events and active involvement in political and economic issues that affect both sub-groups.*

HFC: What steps can the Consulate take to continue or improve its relationship with Hawaii's Filipino community?

CARDENAS: *By providing consular services with passion and efficiency and by being role models of the Philippine Foreign Service. We will definitely reap many dividends through our continued involvement in the many socio-civic undertakings of the Filipino community.*

HFC: Please suggest several ways for the Consulate to improve its services to Hawaii's Filipino community.

CARDENAS: *A very effective public information campaign is the key. We will endeavor through all available media outlets to let the public know of the many consular services that we provide. We also want everybody to be aware that the officers and staff of the Consulate are here to serve.*

HFC: The Consulate provides services that include: passports/visas/dual citizenships. Do you know if immigration from the Philippines to Hawaii has decreased or increased? Has it been more difficult for Filipinos to enter the U.S. since America's immigration laws have changed?

CARDENAS: *There has not been much change in the number of immigrants. Data from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas indicate that there are about 200 to 300 Filipinos who migrate to the U.S. via the state of Hawaii per month, or about 2,400 to 3,600 per year. The number of migrants over the years have been quite constant, providing the steady growth of the Filipino community in the state of*



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COVER STORY

Hawaii. We must also, of course, take into account that some Filipino residents in Hawaii eventually move to mainland as well.

The bulk of Filipino immigrants to the U.S. fall under the family category, which means minor sons, daughters, single children, parents, brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens or Filipino permanent residents. For other types of migrants, we note that not too many have entered Hawaii using a working visa similar to the one issued to Filipino healthcare workers and other professionals entering the US via other states. Thus, changes in laws pertaining to immigration to the U.S. via a work permit or what is called the H1B visa have had little effect on the continued migration of Filipinos into Hawaii.

HFC: What has the Philippine government done to help people who want to immigrate to the U.S., given its tough immigration laws?

CARDENAS: Immigration to the U.S. is the exclusive domain of the U.S. government as much as Philippine immi-

gration is ours. The U.S. alone decides who gets in and who gets out.

HFC: When were assigned to Hawaii in 1984, what were your duties? How long were you here?

CARDENAS: I was Consul assisting then Consul General Raul Rabe in the management of the Consulate. Most of us in the Philippine Foreign Service are generalists so we handle anything that was given to us by our superiors. I was here for four years.

HFC: Do you notice any changes in the community since the last time you were here in terms as unification, community activities, and cultural perpetuation?

CARDENAS: Our presence here is markedly different. Filipinos have arrived! Since the last time I was here, we have had a governor of Filipino-American ancestry. More of us have occupied and continue to occupy important positions in all branches of government, be it executive, legislative or judiciary. We have notable personalities in the media and private

sector as well. And our doctors and nurses are major players in the medical industry.

HFC: What did you accomplish during your first tour of duty here and what do you hope to accomplish the second time around?

CARDENAS: Due to my passion for the arts, especially in music, I believe I contributed, albeit very modestly, to the promotion of Filipino culture and talent. But take note that I am only one of many who did their share in showcasing various Philippine cultural disciplines. For my current tour of duty, I hope to continue promoting our cultural heritage and helping our kababayans take pride in their being Filipino.

My role as a representative of the President of the Philippines and the Philippine government will also be a top priority and this will be done with a lot of dedication and enthusiasm. Finally, I will ensure that consular services provided by the officers and staff of the consulate will be world-class.

HFC: How does Honolulu compare to other consulates

in terms of being a desirable location? How long do you think you will be assigned here?

CARDENAS: Honolulu is a paradise and for a very good reason. It is a major tourist destination that attracts quality visitors from all over the world. It follows that it is also a desired foreign service post. Many wanted to come here but as they say, only few are chosen. I consider myself very lucky to be assigned here one more time and as Head of Post at that! I hope to be here until I retire in 2011. I am 62 now. Our retirement age is 65 years.

HFC: What makes working in Hawaii different from any other places you've worked?

CARDENAS: It is easy and fun to mix work and pleasure in Hawaii.

HFC: What's your educational background?

CARDENAS: I graduated with a degree in Foreign Service from the University of the Philippines and had courses leading to a Master's degree in Business Administration from

Letran College.

HFC: What made you choose diplomacy as a career?

CARDENAS: It is in line with my University degree, that of Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service. Because of the prestige attached to the job, I naturally was lured to try my luck. Fortunately, I passed the exams in 1980 with flying colors.

HFC: Please name some of the most interesting people you've met throughout your career.

CARDENAS: Our President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and all the Presidents of the Philippines since the time of President Ferdinand Marcos. President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta. Senator Daniel Inouye is another celebrity whom I have met many times.

HFC: What has been your most memorable moment during your career?

CARDENAS: Serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Philippines to Timor-Leste.

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

Keep Your Guns at Home

is \$14 million a year.

Statistics like these are just some of what lawmakers both locally and at the national level have heard from many people who needed help when their insurance coverage was cancelled or required treatment was denied. While Hawaii in 1974 resolved the issue with the Prepaid Health Care Act, Congress is now addressing the enormous problem of shrinking access to medical care and spiking insurance premiums. The \$2 trillion a year health care industry represents 16% of our GDP, and comes out to over \$7000 per citizen.

Political observers note that in the battle over access and affordability, the amount of outright misrepresentation and distortion is reaching unprecedented proportions. The consequences of riling up public emotion can be dire. Given our history of political assassinations, the presence of weapons at town hall meetings presents not only a risk of death to the elected official holding the meeting, but also to the innocent community members who attend the meeting.

Those bearing the rifles and guns claim it is their Second Amendment right to do so, though the historical context is long outdated. The clause was written in days when colonialists needed to defend themselves against commonly occurring attacks from bandits, Indians, and even troops from other states, as well as fighting the war for independence from Britain. These state militias

long ago evolved into the National Guard, and because of organized government law enforcement agencies, regular citizens are no longer expected to defend the state or nation.

Protestors who bring their rifles and guns to congressional public meetings pose a risk to the public, not just by stray bullets but by panic-driven reactions. The safety of others, in my view, takes priority over an individual's right to carry a gun. Even the First Amendment has been restricted in several types of situations for the sake of maintaining the safety of the public: no falsely shouting "fire" in a crowded theatre, for example. Surely, the Second Amendment is also subject to restrictions in the name of public order and safety.

Safety precautions are not unprecedented. The United States has no-fly zones over the White House, the U.S. Naval Observatory where the Vice President lives, the National Mall around the White House, the area around Camp David, and other areas of national significance. Streets are routinely blocked off and extensive police motorcades used when a president visits, not just for the event itself but for the practice runs in the preceding days. Surely, with concern for the life of the President at stake, a no-weapons policy should be in effect, detaining and isolating

these individuals until the President is safely away.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screens for anything that could be used as a weapon to ensure the safety of everyone on an airplane. Airlines use plastic cutlery to prevent metal meal utensils from being used to hurt anyone. Schools likewise, are gun-free zones, for the sake of the safety of students and education staff. Courthouses have metal detectors to prevent weapons from being brought in, as do prisons and jails. Federal buildings likewise have security screenings, cemented buffer zones, and no-public parking restrictions (to prevent a recurrence of the Oklahoma City bombing).

America's history with killing our leaders is tragic. President Abraham Lincoln was shot while attending a theatre performance. James Garfield, a former pastor who had been president for only three months, was gunned down as he was going to deliver a speech at a university. (Ironically, President Lincoln's son Robert, who was Garfield's Secretary of War, accompanied Garfield and witnessed the murder.) William McKinley was fired at point blank range by a man who waited in line to shake hands with the president at a public reception during the Pan-American Exposition. John F.

Kennedy was killed by a sniper while riding in a motorcade welcoming him to Dallas.

Ninety other assassination attempts have been made on our presidents. President Ford was shot at twice within three weeks at public appearances in California. President Reagan and three others were shot in a notorious episode captured on television. President Teddy Roosevelt was saved when the bullet was slowed by hitting his metal glasses case and a 50 page speech folded twice. These are just a few examples.

With this history, it is entirely appropriate to have a regulation prohibiting carrying firearms and other weapons at certain categories of events. Political protests are usually carried out in designated "free speech" zones where an official is carrying on, or is trying to, a meaningful exchange with constituents. With the rise in militias, the decrease in Secret Service protections during the Bush/Cheney Administration, and the increase in hate talk and death threats against President Obama and members of Congress, the public and our officials deserve protection. This right of to be safe must take precedence over an individual's right to bear arms. Where there are scheduled public events, our police should be able to create and enforce weapon-free zones on exactly the same basis that schools, courthouses, federal buildings, and airplanes are.

You've probably heard or seen of the guns, rifles, or knives that have been brought by protestors who appear at the town hall meetings that President Obama and members of Congress are holding on the debate over health care reform. Heated discussion is one thing, but guns at public meetings or events may cross the line, in my opinion. To paraphrase Hardball host Chris Matthews, to bring guns to a public meeting is a statement that it is your view that government is the enemy.

Why do we need to do something about health care? One in 14 women and girls have no health insurance at all and another 1 in 21 had to buy insurance on their own through individual plans. Three-fourths of people pushed into bankruptcy by medical problems had insurance but their policies denied paying for services needed — just the opposite of what you'd expect when you pay those premiums. Statistically, you probably know someone in either category. That's just the start. The denial of care patients need is linked to unsettling reports that the average salary of CEOs of major health care companies

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City to Launch Citizen Sidewalk Patrol

The City will soon launch a new program that enlists the aid of volunteers for the repair and maintenance of City-owned sidewalks.

Dubbed the Community Sidewalk Patrol, the program will focus initially in Waikiki, an area with heavy pedestrian traffic. During weekdays, City crews will survey sidewalks in Waikiki and spray paint areas determined to be potential trip hazards needing repairs.

Supervised by City personnel, volunteers will then follow with an application of a quick-drying concrete patch to alleviate the problem.

"The City is investing heavily in our infrastructure, from fixing sewers and expanding waste water treatment



"Just as the police ask for residents to be the eyes and ears of a neighborhood, the City needs people to step forward to help us fix problems in their communities," Hannemann says. "The Community Sidewalk Patrol will infuse our sidewalk maintenance efforts with the same kind of public-spirited dedication and involvement."

The City has recruited a number of organizations that have offered their support, including the Lions, affiliate Leos, Boy Scouts of America, and several athletic groups. Volunteers will work every other Saturday morning during the pilot phase. The goal is to make repairs to as many as four complete blocks each day.

Should the program be successful and more groups volunteer to participate, the City may expand to other areas of Oahu.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

PCFH Names Parents of the Year

By Carla Ader

The City will soon launch a new program that enlists the aid of volunteers for the repair and maintenance of City-owned sidewalks.

The Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (PCFH) held its Annual Recognition Banquet at the Empress Restaurant on August 29, 2009. Guests of honor included the 2009 Parents of the Year and several high school valedictorians from the Class of 2009.

Nominees for Parents of the Year were Mariano and Jovita Toledo, Juanito and Apolinaria Tolentino, Manny and Dr. Myrna Valin, Angel and Corazon Legaspi.

Judges Bennette Evangelista, Dr. Raymond Liongson and Maria Etrata tallied up their votes and declared an overall tie. For the first time in the PCFH's history, co-Parents of the Year were announced—Manny and Dr. Myrna Valin and Angel and Corazon Legaspi.



PCFH officers, Mayor Hannemann and members of the State Legislature pose with 2009 Parents of the Year nominees and winners

To be considered for the award, nominees were required to have at least three of their children graduate from a U.S. university or college with a Bachelor's degree. Nominees must also be actively involved in community service.

PCFH president Maggie Domingo was pleased with the results and the number of attendees, which included Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Philippine Consul General Leoncio Cardenas, State senators Willie Es-

pero and Norman Sakamoto, and State representatives Joey Manahan and John Mizuno.

Mrs. Hawaii Filipina Jema Geronimo, Miss Hawaii Filipina Celina Macadangang Hayashi and UFCH president Eddie Agas also attended the event. The event was chaired by Lina Longboy and Janice Sevilla. Domingo was overall chair of the event.

The 2008 Parents of the Year were Tony and Luz Ramil of Maui.

Fil Chamber of Commerce Preps For Upcoming Trade Mission

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) will be hosting a business panel luncheon on September 19, 2009 in preparation for its 21st Trade Mission to the Philippines.

The event, which is scheduled from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Dole Cannery Ballrooms in Iwilei, also includes a business workshop on "Doing Business in the Philippines."



Rose Mendoza

According to FCCH chair Rosemarie V. Mendoza, the trade mission, which is scheduled for November 6-21, 2009 has already generated interest from a number of members. The trade mission is just one of several annual events planned by the FCCH.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Fran Grandano at 778-0215 or Rose Churma at 239-6365.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Defense Chief Says Soldiers to Play Limited Role in Elections

By Ted P. Torres / Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said on Wednesday soldiers will continue playing limited role in next year's presidential elections, specifically in Mindanao, despite the conflict with Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels and Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Teodoro said the defense and military establishment will strictly comply with the Memo-



randum of Agreement they signed in 2006 with the Commission on Elections, limiting the role of the soldiers in elections.

Under the MOA, soldiers should be only tapped to ensure security to the elections and they should observe a certain distance from the polling centers and that

counting of ballots are not allowed inside military camps, among others.

Teodoro said at a news conference that the limited role of the soldiers enables the military to focus on addressing other threat groups.

MILF rebels are still staging attacks against civilian and government targets despite the government's decision last July to suspend offensive military operations against them to pave the way for the resumption of the stalled talks. (www.philstar.com)

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FilAm "Hawaiian Punch" Viloría Wins Decisively

By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tison



ONOLULU. As we have always been saying "size does not matter". At least not in boxing. It does not matter with Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao. Nor does it matter with Brian Viloría. They have convincingly beaten bigger and taller opponents.

In Viloría's case, the only thing missing was the knockout. "I could have done it if the fight had gone three more rounds," said Viloría, in an exclusive interview with this writer. The fight was billed at 12 rounds. The fast and furious Viloría tried to do it in the final round with a spectacular display of lefts and rights that brought the mostly Filipino crowd of about 4,000 to their feet.

The 5 foot, 4 inch Viloría won by unanimous decision against Mexican Jesus Iribe

on Saturday, August 29, at Honolulu's Blaisdell Arena, thus keeping his IBF world light flyweight title (108 lbs). He won 9 out of 12 action-packed rounds. The three judges scored it for Viloría: 118-110, 117-112, 117-111. Viloría was the aggressor throughout the fight. As one wit put it, being called "Jesus" cannot save you in boxing, especially if you fight a Filipino.

He won the title in Manila on April 19, 2009 by a knockout in the 11th round against another Mexican Ulises Solis, then rated the number 1 Junior Flyweight.

Pacquiao-Viloría in same card

Viloría told this writer that arrangements are being made whereby the two Filipino champions (he and Pacquiao) will be fighting on the same card as co-main events probably in Las Vegas sometime next year. He is still looking for a suitable opponent. Iribe's camp want a rematch, claiming that his hand was broken in the second round, otherwise he would have won.



◀ Brian Viloría with this writer in a boxing pose during Viloría's victory celebration after he successfully defended his IBF world light flyweight title on August 29 in Honolulu.

Viloría simply smiled at this claim. He is looking at other opponents like the winner of the World Boxing Organization's match on September 12 in Puerto Rico between current champion Ivan Calderon and Filipino Rodol Mayol.

Grand Entrance

Brian Viloría entered the Blaisdell Arena like a Hawaiian prince. Two men in Hawaiian outfit blew conch shells to herald his arrival. Then hula dancing girls came in to the tune of Hawaii-Five O. Jolina Magdanag, a television star (GMA) sang the Philippine National Anthem. No Filipino National Anthem. Police questioned her singing. Jasmine Trias, Ameri-

can Idol 3rd placer, sang the U.S. national anthem.

About Viloría

Viloría was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to Ilocano parents on November 24, 1980. He started his boxing career as an amateur, winning the gold medal in the 1995 National Junior Olympics. 1999 was his banner year as he won the National Amateur Championship, the National Golden Gloves Light Flyweight Gold Medal, the World Amateur Championship Gold Medal, and the USA Boxer of the Year. He began his professional career by knocking out Eric Ortiz in the first round to win the WBC light flyweight title on September 10, 2005. He

was undefeated in 20 fights afterwards.

Filipino Night

Two other Filipino rising stars in the boxing world easily beat their Mexican opponents in the undercard. AJ "Bazooka" Banal defeated Jose Beranza in a 10 round unanimous decision to improve his record 20-1-1. Dennis Laurente also won a 10 round unanimous decision against Zaid Zavaleta to improve his record to 32-3-5.

Celebration

Consul General Leoncio Cardenas, Jr. and Paul Cortez were very confident of Viloría's victory that they scheduled a "Victory for Viloría" celebration the day after the fight on Sunday at the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu. Hundreds came on a balmy afternoon to greet and congratulate the Filipino champion. Later, another victory party was held in the Filipino enclave of Waipahu, a suburb of Honolulu, where Viloría grew up.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Improves Ranking in Global Survey on Business

By Ted P. Torres /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines likely improved its ranking in the annual global survey on doing business set to be released next week, the International Finance Corp. (IFC) said.

IFC senior private sector development specialist Kim Jacinto-Henares said the Philippines had taken steps to move up in the yearly Doing Business (DB) report, a global rating of how countries establish conditions were conducive to starting business in their respective domains.

The World Bank and IFC, its private investment arm, are spearheading the study.

In the 2008 DB report, the Philippines ranked 136th among 178 countries covered by the survey. Last year, it slipped to 140th in a list that was expanded to 181 countries. In the soon-to-be-released 2010 DB report, a total of 183 countries were included.

In the past two reports,



Inside the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City

Singapore, New Zealand and Hong Kong were among the consistent leaders. Last year, the Philippines even fell behind Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia.

But Henares said the IFC has extended support to local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines working to simplify the business registration process for domestic business.

"We want it to be simple and as painless as possible," Henares, a former deputy com-

missioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), added.

She pointed out that while the national government does not have a single entity that coordinates and initiates all the regulations and procedures to simplify business registration, the IFC acknowledged the efforts of agencies with overlapping or competing functions to streamline their procedures.

The IFC consultant, however, said problems remained prevalent when dealing with national government agencies.

Among those mentioned were the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Bureau of Finance (DOF).

On the other hand, Henares said the LGUs have initiated efforts to standardize the process in business registration.

Backed by a P16-million grant from the IFC, major LGUs are now starting to adopt standards for business registration and permit processing project.

All cities are expected to

adopt a single process based on the project by November this year. The lead cities in Metro Manila are Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong, and Manila.

Henares said improving conditions for starting a domestic business would also encourage the so-called informal sector to go mainstream.

From the IFC studies, countries with very difficult processes for starting and doing business tend to have a large informal sector. "The Philippines is part of this group," Mayet S. Patag, IFC consultant, said.

(www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Four Out of 10 Pinoys Distrust, Disapprove of GMA - Pulse Asia

By Helen Flores /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Four out of 10 Filipinos disapprove of President Arroyo's performance and continue to distrust her, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey released yesterday.

Pulse Asia said 43 percent of Filipinos were critical of Mrs. Arroyo's work in the last three months while 42 percent do not trust her.

Pulse Asia's August 2009 Ulat ng Bayan survey on Presidential Performance and Trust, conducted from July 28 to Aug. 10, used face-to-face interviews of 1,800 adults 18 years old and above.

Pulse Asia said Mrs. Arroyo got an approval rating of 23 percent and trust rating of 21 percent.

The survey said almost the same percentage of Filipinos cannot say if they approve or disapprove of the President's performance (34 percent) or if they trust or distrust the President (37 percent).

Pulse Asia said public uncertainty over the President's work was recorded at +7 percentage points between May and August 2009.

A similar trend may be noted with respect to the level of indecision on the matter of trusting or distrusting Mrs. Arroyo (+10 percentage points), it added.

"And while approval, dis-

approval, and trust ratings are generally unchanged during this period, the President's distrust rating declined by six percentage points," the pollster said.

Pulse Asia said Mrs. Arroyo failed to gain the approval and trust of most Filipinos, which reflected in all geographic areas and socio-economic groupings.

"This handicap persists despite Visayans arresting a year-long trend in declining presidential approval and trust ratings and recording improvements in both dimensions in the current survey (33 percent and 31 percent, respectively)," Pulse Asia said.

Metro Manila respondents continued to express disapproval (59 percent) and distrust (61 percent) for Mrs. Arroyo despite the marginal decline in the distrust ratings (-6 percentage points), Pulse Asia said.

"Indecision ratings - both in terms of the President's performance and trustworthiness - are generally consistent with the overall figures across a one-year period," the survey said.

Meanwhile, the survey showed an increase in the approval and trust ratings of Mrs. Arroyo (+9 to +14 percentage points) in the Visayas between May and August 2009.

However, approval and trust ratings dropped in the rest of Luzon, Mindanao, and the poorest Class E (-7 to -11 percentage points).

As for the disapproval and distrust ratings, double-digit declines occurred in the Visayas and Class ABC (-12 to -20 per-



centage points).

Pulse Asia said public indecision toward presidential performance is more pronounced now than in May 2009 in the rest of Luzon and Classes ABC and E (+9 to +11 percentage points).

The levels of public ambivalence or uncertainty on the matter of trusting or distrusting the President also went up in the rest of Luzon, Mindanao, and all socio-economic groupings (+9 to +18 percentage points.)

Pulse Asia also asked the respondents to assess the President's work from 2004 to

present.

"Using a 100-point grading scale, where the passing mark is 75 percent, the median rating of the President on five of seven national concerns is barely passing (75 percent)," it said.

"Her median rating in the area of strengthening the relations of the Philippines with other countries is relatively good (80 percent). However, the President failed (70 percent) in reducing the poverty of many Filipinos," Pulse Asia said.

The President also received a passing grade in the management of the economy (75 percent), strengthening political institutions such as the electoral systems and relations between branches of government (75 percent), increasing peace in the country (75 percent), ensuring the delivery of basic services such as healthcare, education and low cost housing to Filipinos in need (75 percent); and enforce-

ing the law on influential as well as ordinary people (75 percent).

Pulse Asia said that using an alternative measure, the simple average or mean, the President obtained a failing mark on all seven concerns, ranging from 60 percent for her anti-poverty efforts to 73 percent for her initiatives to strengthen the country's foreign relations.

The survey has a plus or minus two percentage points error margin at the 95-percent confidence level.

Pulse Asia said among the major developments immediately prior to and during the conduct of the interviews for this survey were the death of former President Corazon Aquino, the last State of the Nation Address (SONA) of Mrs. Arroyo, and the President's latest visit to the United States; the unexplained growth in the President's wealth since assuming the presidency in 2001. (www.philstar.com)

No Stopping Erap in 2010

By Jose Rodel Clapano /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Former President Joseph Estrada will not back out of next year's presidential race in the interest of opposition unity.

Estrada told The STAR the withdrawal of Sen. Manuel Roxas II has not changed the fact that the opposition still has many potential candidates in 2010.

"Mar Roxas withdrew from the race, but Senator Noynoy (Aquino) replaced him as presidential candidate," Estrada said. "It does not change the numbers of the opposition. I will only withdraw from the presidential race if there will be only one opposition candidate for the 2010 elections."

Estrada told radio station dzRH the entry of Sen. Aquino in the presidential race has put the political landscape in disarray.

"It has been my consistent position, long before Noynoy's presidential candidacy cropped up, that unless the opposition unites behind one presidential candidate, it will be (nearly a hundred) percent for me to run," he said.

"The political landscape has been confused, right now."

He does not know how long public sympathy would last for Aquino, whose mother former



President Corazon Aquino died last month, Estrada said.

On the other hand, former ambassador Ernesto Maceda, United Opposition spokesman, said Roxas's withdrawal from the presidential race will have no bearing on Estrada's plans for 2010.

"We welcome Sen. Benigno Aquino III's entry into the race, and we salute Sen. Mar Roxas's sacrifice," he said.

"The more candidates the better for democratic process."

Maceda said Estrada has heard the voice of the Filipino people clamoring for him to run in 2010.

"As President Estrada has said it does not affect his decision to run," he said.

"There is no turning back. President Estrada has heard the voice of the Filipino for him to return to Malacañang and finish all his pro-poor programs."

However, Estrada told The STAR he would not give way to Aquino, as former Senate presi-

dent Franklin Drilon has demanded.

"Drilon is interfering with my own affairs when I don't interfere with theirs," he said.

Estrada said the LP is now in disarray, while the opposition led by his party, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino and PDP-Laban, remained intact.

"I will decide (whether or not to run for the presidency) either by the last of the month or by the first of October," he said.

Earlier, Roxas turned down Estrada's appeal for the opposition to support one candidate for president next year.

Jinggoy open for LP

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is willing to be the vice-presidential running mate of Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

"I am open to run for vice president," Senator Estrada said.

However, former President Estrada told radio station dzRH his son will not seek the vice presidency if he runs for president.

"I cannot stop him," the former president said.

"But if I run, he (Jinggoy) won't run as vice president with me. I'm happy he is topping the surveys on senators."

Former President Estrada said he might not run for president should Senator Estrada set his sights on the vice-presidency. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Peso Dips to 9-Month Low of 49.01 to \$1

By Iris C. Gonzales /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines — The peso hit a nine-month low of 49.01 to the dollar during intra-day trading yesterday on the back of renewed risk aversion, traders said.

At the close of trading, however, the peso managed to recover to settle at 48,900, after it opened at 48,850 against the dollar. Yesterday's close was 15 centavos lower than Tuesday's close of 48,750 against the dollar.

Total trading volume amounted to \$802.98 million on an average rate of 48.888 to \$1.

Traders said investors are still wary of the current global economic conditions and that there might be "too much hype" on the so-called worldwide economic recovery.

"There is recovery but recovery is weak," said Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Another dealer said the central bank intervened to support the peso but monetary au-



thorities denied this.

"The dollar-peso opened strong due to risk aversion, but the central bank was well on

the offer to support the peso," a dealer said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said during a budget hearing at the House of Representatives yesterday that talks of BSP's intervention in the foreign exchange market are just rumors.

"Those rumors are not true. We are neither supporting or working against the peso," Guinigundo said.

Traders said the 1.5 percent economic growth in the second quarter of the year also disappointed investors.

Although the 1.5 percent expansion was faster than the government's forecast range of -0.1 percent to 0.9 percent, investors expected a higher growth, traders said.

Ravelas said that BDO, for instance, expected a 2.3 percent growth in the second quarter given the pick-up in consumption and continued dollar inflows from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The economy grew by only 0.4 percent in the first quarter of the year. For 2009, the government expects gross domestic product to grow anywhere from 0.8 percent to 1.8 percent. (www.philstar.com)

UNICEF: RP is a Country with Worst Child Trafficking Condition

By Paolo Romero /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - A United Nations agency has identified the Philippines as one of the seven countries in Asia with the worst child trafficking condition.

A study by the UN Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) entitled "Child Trafficking in East and Southeast Asia: Reversing the Trend," said that throughout East and South East Asia, various socio-economic,

family and individual factors render children vulnerable to trafficking.

These factors are poverty, family breakdown, the low status and role of children in their societies, lack of educational and viable employment opportunities, rapid economic growth and urbanization, gender inequality, discrimination, and the demand for illegal adoption, brides and sexual relations with children.

"Poor legal and regulatory frameworks, weak law enforcement, under-resourced social welfare services, limited capac-

ity of service providers and the lack of recognition of or respect for children's fundamental rights have adversely impacted the lives of millions of children in the region," said the 55-page report released on Tuesday.

Apart from the Philippines, other countries assessed in the study are China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

It noted that the problem of child trafficking has yet to be stemmed amid the best efforts by the governments and aid agencies.

"The trafficking of children has become a priority concern to many governments across East and South-East Asia. It remains one of the most challenging child protection issues to address, with some advocates and practitioners claiming that the



intense focus by governments, development agencies, donors and the media on child trafficking would be better placed on the wider issues of child exploitation, unsafe migration, or child protection more generally," UNICEF said.

In a region where the demand for young brides, adoptive infants, sex with children, images of child pornography, and cheap labor is strong, the study said children may be trafficked at source or during migration,

either en route or after reaching their destination.

It noted that origin, transit and destination countries for child trafficking exist throughout the East and South East Asian region, with some countries characterized as origin and destination, transit and destination, and others encompassing all three.

Internal trafficking, from rural to urban centers, and from small towns to big cities, is also a considerable dynamic, although less researched in comparison to cross-border trafficking, it said.

In some countries, such as the Philippines, the country assessment indicated that internal trafficking is more of a problem than its cross-border form.

"In the Philippines, children are mainly trafficked from the rural regions of Visayas and Mindanao to the urban cities of Cebu City, Manila and Quezon City," the study said. (www.philstar.com)

RP Hopes to Send 20,000 Workers to Guam

By Paolo Romero /
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines plans to send up to 20,000 construction workers to US military bases on the Pacific island of Guam, a Philippine labor official said today.

Guam's governor has said that skilled Filipino workers will make up the bulk of overseas labor to be used as bases are expanded to accommodate some 8,000 US Marines and their families who are due to relocate from Okinawa, Japan, over the next few years.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Jennifer Manalili said the gov-

ernment is targeting the deployment of about 15,000 to 20,000 construction workers to the US territory.

It expects to issue deployment guidelines by the end of 2009 for recruiting the workers, with a proposed salary of at least \$17 per hour, she said.

During a visit to Manila in June, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho said 10,000 to 15,000 workers will be hired for the military buildup, and that most would come from the Philippines.

The buildup will cost at least \$15 billion. Japan is covering \$6 billion of the bill.

About 10 percent of Filipinos work abroad and their remittances are a linchpin of the Philippine economy, accounting for about 10 percent

of the country's GDP. (www.philstar.com)



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FAMILY CORNER



By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a three-part series on managing job loss and financial stress. This series is based on two new publications: "Managing Job Loss and Financial Stress: A Personal and Family Guide" and "Raising Resilient Children During Tough Economic Times," that are available from the UH Center on the Family. Copies of the publication may be requested by calling (808) 956-4132 or e-mailing: cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu.

Managing Job Loss and Financial Stress: A Personal Guide

Living in Hawai'i offers many advantages, but the high cost of living makes covering daily expenses difficult even in the best of times. When people are confronted with reduced hours, work furlough, and job loss, the resulting loss of income can be stressful and traumatic and can lead to depression. If you find yourself in this situation, you should know that people can and do survive periods of financial stress, and you can, too. With preparation and strategic actions, you can lessen the negative impact of job loss and/or lowered income and achieve positive transitions to the next phase of life for you and your family.

The issues associated with losing one's job or having hours cut are often much more than financial. For some people, these challenges can mean losing identity, the routine in daily life, and relationships with coworkers. The future might seem un-

certain. People react to losses and increased uncertainty in their lives in different ways—some positively and others not. Taking the actions below can bring positive changes to your life during these traumatic times.

- Reduce spending. Take immediate steps to reduce spending. Review all income and expenditures, and develop a new budget that ensures that all necessary bills are paid and all unnecessary expenses are curtailed.
- Avoid buying on credit except to meet critical needs. Learn new ways to be frugal and take pride in stretching your dollar.
- Share the news with your family. Whether you realize it or not, your spouse or partner and children are affected by what happens to you at work. Explain what happened so that everyone understands the situation, can express his or her concerns, and can support one



- another.
- Reassure children that the family can weather the financial crisis and that if everyone works together, the 'ohana can emerge stronger than ever.
- Learn about employer and union benefits and services. Be knowledgeable about all of the benefits and services (e.g., medical insurance, severance pay, unemployment payments) that you are entitled to and for how long

they will be provided. Your employer and/or union may also have other assistance (e.g., job placement, resume preparation, retraining), of which you should take advantage. Ask questions and continue the discussion until you thoroughly understand what benefits and services are available and how to access them. Ask your supervisor for a letter of recommendation if you know it will be positive, and file the letter for future use.

- Develop a job-hunting strategy. Put time and energy into planning actions that will lead to your next job such as preparing a resume; registering with several employment services, career centers, and recruiters or "headhunters"; posting your resume online; calling employers about job openings; and responding to print and online advertisements.
- Tap your network of supporters. Turn to friends, relatives, and former workers for job referrals and employment opportunities. Send these supporters your resume if that would be helpful. Keep in touch periodically to exchange information and to get advice and suggestions.

ing depression while managing job loss is also crucial. Serious depression is different from feeling blue every once in a while; rather, it is an illness that can affect your body, mood, and thoughts. Like many other illnesses, depression can be treated.

People who suffer from depression should not be expected to "snap out of it" on their own. Not everyone who is depressed experiences every symptom. Some people experience few symptoms, some experience many. Symptoms of depression* include:

- Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" feelings
- Feelings of hopelessness and/or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, and/or helplessness
- Irritability, restlessness
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies that were once pleasurable, including sex
- Fatigue and decreased energy
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping
- Overeating or appetite loss
- Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts
- Persistent aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease with treatment

If you experience several of these symptoms for two weeks or more in a row, speak with your family doctor or a mental health professional, like a social worker or counselor. You can also go to your community mental health center or to a family social service agency. Treatments such as medication and counseling are available, but you must go to a health professional for a proper diagnosis to determine what treatment will best work for you.

*Adapted from *Overcoming Job Loss, Center on the Family, and Depression Checklist, National Institute of Mental Health*

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LEGAL NOTES

Residency Requirements for Naturalization



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Before an applicant can qualify for naturalization as a U.S. citizen, he/she needs to satisfy the residence requirements for citizenship.

Residence is defined as the "place of general abode which means one's principal, actual, dwelling place in fact, without regard to intent."

An applicant must have been continuously residing in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident for five (5) years immediately prior to the filing of the application for naturalization. During that period, the ap-

plicant must not have left the U.S. for more than six months.

An absence of more than six months but less than a year raises a rebuttable presumption of intent to abandon his/her continuous residence. This can be overcome by showing lack of intent to abandon residence such as maintaining a home, continuing employment in the U.S., presence of family in the U.S. and not obtaining employment abroad.

Absence of one year or more breaks the continuous residence and may result in denial. Exempted from this rule would be those employed by U.S. government agencies, U.S. companies and international groups of which the U.S. is a member. But in order to preserve their residence

for naturalization, they must file Form 470. This form requires proof that they have at least one (1) year of uninterrupted physical presence in the U.S.

Persons married to U.S. citizens benefit from a shortened continuous residency requirement. They must be residents in the U.S. for three (3) years instead of five (5) years. However, if the marriage is terminated, the lawful permanent resident spouse is required to comply with the five-year residency requirement.

The applicant must also have been "physically present" in the U.S. for at least half of the total required period of continuous residency in the U.S. This means that the applicant had to be physically present in the U.S.

for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the U.S.

Religious workers employed abroad may also be exempted from the residence requirement if they resided in the U.S. for over a year without interruption after obtaining permanent residence.

The applicant must reside within the state or within the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) district where the application will be filed for at least three (3) months preceding the filing of the application. If the applicant resides in more than one state, then the state where he/she files the annual federal income tax return is considered the state of residence.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

MAINLAND NEWS

Filipino Named U.S. Marshals Spokesman



U.S. Deputy Marshal Rolando Ubaldo talks to mediators

Filipino-American U.S. Deputy Marshal Rolando Ubaldo was recently named the official spokesman of the U.S. Marshals Service for the state of New York.

After his promotion in July 2009, Ubaldo, 31, led federal marshals in the widely-covered seizure of the \$7.8-million Manhattan penthouse of multi-billion ponzi swindlers Bernard Madoff and his socialite wife Ruth.

"My supervisors liked what they saw and how we handled the media," says Ubaldo, referring to the smooth and orderly seizing of Madoff's luxurious penthouse and his statements to the press last July.

Ubaldo, whose official title is Supervisory Deputy United States Marshal, was born to Filipino immigrants Rolando Ubaldo o Manila and Grace Mortel Ubaldo of Quezon City. Both parents are retired New

York City employees and now reside in Florida. His younger brother is connected with Sony Music Entertainment in New York, while a sister works at a Pennsylvania insurance firm.

He was only 10 the last time he set foot in the Philippines.

"I can hardly remember it—I was so young," says Ubaldo, who doesn't speak Tagalog but understands it very well. "But I want to go there again one day."

Ubaldo took criminal justice at Middlesex County College in New Jersey while working as a hotel night manager. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years before joining the U.S. Marshals in 2001.

"The US Marshal service is very prestigious. Not many people know it's the oldest law enforcement agency in the country," he says. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

New York Film Festival to Show Philippine Film 'Independencia'

Filipino independent film "Independencia" was selected to shown in the 47th edition of the New York Film Festival (NYFF).

The NYFF is one of the truly prestigious international film festivals, rivaling those in Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and Venice. The 2009 NYFF is scheduled for September 25-October 11, 2009 at the Alice Tully Hall of the Lincoln Center in Manhattan.

"Independencia" is a 77-minute long, black-and-white film that employs newsreels and early 20th century studio films with false backdrops to show the destructive effects of American colonization. "Independencia" stars Alessandra de Rossi, Sid



Independencia's cast

Lucero and Tetchie Agbayani. Maverick director Raya Martin, 25, offers a kind of alternative history about the Philippines and its struggle for nationhood in this stylized tale of a mother and son who hid in the mountains after the U.S. takeover of the Philippines in the early 20th century.

About 30 films have been selected by a committee composed of chairman Richard Peña,

program director at The Film Society; Melissa Anderson, film critic; Scott Foundas, film editor and chief film critic for LA Weekly; J. Hoberman, senior film critic at The Village Voice and visiting lecturer at Harvard University; and Dennis Lim, editor at Moving Image Source.

Another Filipino film "Serbis" was shown at last year's NYFF and the Cannes Film Festival. "Serbis" was produced and directed by Dante Mendoza. Prior to "Serbis," there was only one Filipino feature film in the history of the New York Film Festival—Lino Brocka's "Insiang" in 1976. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

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MAINLAND NEWS

ILOKO



ni Amado Yoro

No Agtimek Dagiti Kamengda; Maited Dagiti Botos Iti Panagtalek Kadakuada Kas Maikari

nga eleksion.

Kadua ni Menor a nailayon da Rizal Fernandez, Internal vice president; Sandy Lasquero, External vice president; Emelyn Damo, corresponding secretary; Mila Fernandez, treasurer; Josie Lasquero, assistant treasurer; Sil Bermisa, Jr, auditor, Florie Fermin, PRO.

Nailayon a direktor da Beth Alimbuyuguen, Felipe Bayani, Maggie Domingo, Estrella Pada Taong, Amado Yoro

Nailayon a marshal ni Paul Taong.

Baro a Recording Secretary ni Nena Bueno

Baro a direktor da Eddie Bueno ken Israel Savellano.

Baro a marshal ni Divina Menor.

Ni Rafael Alimbuyuguen ti pasado presidente.

Dagiti mamagbaga: Ric Agnes, Lito Alcantra, Andel Barroga, Joe Lazo, Flor Martinez, Francisco Ponce.

Judge Artemio Baxa ti legal adviser.

Nabangon ti Gumil Oahu idi Agosto 13, 1996 a nagpaayan toy nagsurat kas umuna a presidente aginggana iti Nobiembre 2001 a panangallawat ni Gladys Menor.

Mainaig itoy nga eleksion 2009, maisagsagana manen ti maikatlo a GF International Conference a maangay iti

Setiembre 4,5,6,7, 2009 ken manamna a dar-ayan dagiti opisial ti Gumil Filipinas ken dadduma a kameng.

Agasapata dagiti opisiales no Setiembre 5, 2009 iti Pearl Country Club, Aiea, Hawaii.

ITI SABALI A DAMAG, nailayon met ni Antonio Ipalari a presidente ti Annak Ti Sinaat iti Hawaii. Kadua ni Ipalari a nabotosan da:

Gus Concepcion, *1vp*
Davelyn Quijano, *2vp*
Dolly Willing, *secretary*
Anabel Rafanan, *treasurer*
Adoracion Balagso, *auditor*

Rogelio Ilica, *sgt at arm*
Solomon Pada, *sgt at arm*

Jessie Ponce, *sgt at arm*

8 Directors

1. Estrella Pada Taong. (*Immediate past president*)
2. Ester Cabacungan
3. Hermie Gaspar
4. Edgardo Ipalari-
5. Leonila Degala
6. Angelita Ilica
7. Carlos Rafanan
8. Amado Yoro

Advisers:

Manuel Cabacungan,
Andy Sotelo,
Alex Ingel,
Jerry Ilar

Toy nagsurat ti namagsagana kadakuada.

Iti maikasangapul ket tallo a panagkasangay ti Gumil Oahu kas nabangon idi Agosto 13, 1996 iti Filipino Express Kambingan ditoy met la a restaurant, iti eleksion ita a tawen [Agosto 15, 2009] nga inturong ni pasado presidente Rafael Alimbuyuguen, nailayon nga awan ti kinasangona ni Gladys Menor a presidente ag-atakem iti sabali manen a dua a tawen [2009-2011] iti kalkapas

GLOBAL NEWS

National Geographic Airs Documentary on "Asia's Titanic"

National Geographic Channels (NGC) International has recently televised "Asia's Titanic," a documentary produced in the Philippines about the sinking of the MV Doña Paz on December 20, 1987.

The hour-long documentary probes the world's worst

peacetime maritime disaster, which claimed more lives (approximately 4,000) than the famous Titanic (1,500), which sank in icy mid-North Atlantic waters in 1912.

"This is more like a film presented as a documentary. There's nothing political about it nor were we trying to be con-

troversial about issues such as who was at fault for the sinking. We're just retelling what happened," says director Yam Laranas.

Laranas interviews survivors and re-enacts several scenes of the MV Doña Paz's sinking. "Asia's Titanic" also features a witness who recalled that there were many Filipino soldiers on board the fateful trip who were headed home for Christmas vacation like their fellow passengers.

Critics describe the documentary as cinematic and well-edited. Veteran Filipino actor



Joonce Gamboa is the narrator.

"The documentary is a milestone for Filipino filmmakers to celebrate the launch of an exceptionally high-quality movie to Filipino and

global audiences with a strong admonition about sea safety," says Jude Turcuato NGC-Philippines territory director. (*Good News Philippines*)

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Philippines Wins International Law Competition

The University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law outshined top universities from across Asia, winning the top prize at the prestigious Asia Cup 2009 International Law Moot Court Competition.

The U.P. College of Law competed against China's Renmin University, Indonesia's Padjadjaran University and Parahyanan Catholic University, Japan's Kyoto University and Tokyo University, Nepal's Kathmandu School of Law, Singapore's National University of Singapore, Thailand's Thammasat

University and Vietnam's Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. The competition was held August 24-25, 2009.

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Asia Cup is a prime event in the field of international law moot court competition and is an outstanding venue for good fellowship among the representatives from various Asian countries.

The Asia Cup has also gained growing recognition as international cooperation in the realm of human rights education. The Philippines has won the competition seven times since 1999. UP teams won the event in 2000, 2003,

2007 and 2009, with Ateneo De Manila University taking the title in 1999, 2002 and 2008.

The 2009 Philippine team, composed of UP Law students Daniel Sigfried Corpuz, Marie Michelle Go and Darwin Ocampo, was judged the overall champion and awarded the Foreign Minister's Award. The team also won the Best Memorial Award for the best written pleading.

Corpuz and Go were awarded the Best Oralist and Third Best Oralist, respectively. The team was coached by UP Law Professor Rowena Daroy-Morales. (*DEA*)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB 58TH ANNIVERSARY & 38TH ANNUAL MARIA CLARA BALL / SATURDAY

September 18, 2009 • Ala Moana Hotel • 6:00 pm • Contact persons: Cora Baclog-Credo at 927-4081, Maria Etrata-392-2962, Bernadette Fajardo-342-8090

MISS TEEN HAWAII FILIPINA / FRIDAY

September 18, 2009 • Hawaii Theater • 6:00 pm. • Contact persons: Lynne Gutierrez 728-

1700, Bernadette Fajardo 342-8090, Ruth Aguinaldo-258-1363 and Eddie Agas 783-3327

A TASTE OF KALIHI! FESTIVAL / SATURDAY

September 26, 2009 • Colburn Street near Dillingham Plaza • 10 am-8 pm • For more info, call Harry Alonzo at 306-3460

UFCH PROGRESS AWARD AND AFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY

October 17, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom • 6:00

pm. • Contact persons: Bernadette Fajardo 342-8090, Eddie Agas 783-3327, Carola Ader 688-3215, Maggie Domingo 841-2841

DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT / SATURDAY

October 24, 2009 • 6 - 11 pm • Fil-Com Center • For more details call Tessie Quemado at 680-0451

PASKO SA FILCOM / SUNDAY

December 13, 2009 • 9 am - 8 pm • For details call Tess Quemado at 680-0451

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