MEDICAL TOURISM BOOMING IN THE PHILIPPINES

OP-ED
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Cover Story: What’s In Your DNA? You'll Be Surprised
Philippines’ Fast Growing Medical Tourism Industry

The Philippines’ fabled hospitality, pristine beaches and world-class shopping malls have long attracted visitors to its shores. However, a new kind of tourist has been flocking to the land of 7,107 islands of late. These are people seeking high quality and affordable medical procedures such as plastic surgery, organ transplants, hip and knee replacements, eye operations and dental care—to name just a few. In 2015, an estimated 200,000 medical tourists traveled to the Philippines for various procedures—more than double the 100,000 arrivals in 2008—resulting in revenues of some $3 billion.

To meet demand, the Philippines’ newest and most modernized hospitals have been built close to tourist areas with stunning beaches and relaxing settings that promote healing and recovery. These private hospitals have medical facilities that are on par with hospitals in the West and provide accommodations similar to five-star hotels. For example, St. Luke’s Medical Center in Taguig City opened in 2010 and is the Philippines’ first hospital designed specifically for medical tourism. It is regarded as the nation’s top hospital and is better equipped than 95 percent of the hospitals in the U.S. Following their medical procedures, patients can recover at a spa, then tour any of the world class tourism sites nearby.

Not surprisingly, third party companies are capitalizing on the Philippines’ booming medical tourism industry, offering medical tourists a full range of services from private, chauffeured-driven rides from the airport to and from the hospital, cellular phones, nurses, caregivers and even translators. These companies have partnered with the Philippines’ premiere hospitals, clinics, health spas, hotels and airlines to offer medical tourists the very best amenities and experience.

Philippine tourism officials are hoping to one day reap the benefits of 1 million medical tourists. But before reaching that mark, the government needs to do much more—upgrade public infrastructure, provide more funds for global marketing and issue special medical visas for foreigners. A robust medical tourism industry could also mean fewer doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals leaving each year to work overseas. For obvious reasons, the Philippines cannot afford to lose thousands of these highly-trained and qualified medical professionals. The bottom line is that the Philippines stands to reap huge financial and social benefits from medical travel, if it plays its cards right. Let’s hope that President Duterte and his administration realize the possibilities and capitalize on this potential windfall.

Medical Tourism: It’s More Fun in the Philippines.

In other news, controversy is brewing in the Ewa Beach community over a project developed by heritage Hasako Inc., to utilize 62 acres and use the land to develop a recreational lagoon that will be surrounded by resort, residential, business and open spaces. Honolulu City Councilmember Kymberly Marcos Pine, who represents Ewa Beach, details her concerns about the proposal in her Op-Ed column “Developer’s Agenda Threatens Community” on page 3. Read her column and see if you agree with her or not.

Each September, the Chronicle produces a special Women’s Health Supplement. We’ve included in this issue a special 12 page supplement on women’s health. Of particular interest is an article by Christine Sabado, the Chronicle’s Maui correspondent, about the latest trend to discover more about your family lineage using DNA test kits. To find out how the process works, please turn to page 3 for “What’s In Your DNA? You Will Be Surprised.” I hope that you will take some time to read the many other useful articles on improving and maintaining your health. You’ll be glad you did!

In closing, thank you once again for your faithful support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to email us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. We would love to hear from you!

Until our next issue…aloha and mahalo!
Developer’s Agenda Threatens Community

by Kimberly Marcos Pine

A recent letter sent by Haseko Inc. to thousands of Ocean Pointe and Hoakalei residents regarding the proposed Hoakalei Master Plan is extremely misleading. In the letter, Haseko President Tom Sagawa said if their project does not pass out of committee, it could lead to “job loss for thousands of people dependent on our project for their livelihood.”

The letter also states “Preleasing for the retail/entertainment/dining center and resorts will have to stop.” In addition, the developer has threatened union leaders in separate meetings that it will lay off workers if the City does not pass their project.

This is misleading to our residents. What the developer does not say in their letter is that the current zoning that the City Council granted to the developer many years ago prior to my service on the City Council already allows the developer the ability to build retail/entertainment/dining centers and resorts now.

Many years ago, longtime residents who supported changing agricultural land to Haseko’s current allowed zoning did so only because Haseko promised them that they would bring resorts and businesses to the area to provide jobs for residents. Since those negotiations took place, Haseko has built thousands of homes but not these job centers. To say that people will lose jobs because they cannot build is simply false. I object to these tactics to gain support of the project.

In the many years that I have represented my community, I have never experienced both long-time residents and new residents opposing a project. However, after talking with many of the opponents, I felt that with a lot of hard work and listening, we would find a compromise that we could all live with. So instead of recommending to the City Council to reject the proposal, I have been in numerous discussions with the community, including the Coast Guard and the National Guard who were against a section of the project.

Councilmember Trevor Ozawa’s insistence on rushing this process and holding a special meeting on this developer’s request hindered these community efforts. Under Bill 62 CD1, Haseko is proposing to rezone 20 acres in Ewa Beach and use the land to develop a recreational lagoon that will be surrounded by resort, residential, business, and open spaces. However, with the current zoning, Haseko’s current allowed zoning that the City Council already allows the developer the ability to build a mixed-use resort and medium-density development.

In addition, I proposed increasing preservation lands instead of replacing it with more housing units while still enabling the developer to build the same number of units it promised to unions in the original resort and medium-density footprints where the developer is already allowed to build.

EDITORIALS (from page 7, TRUMP...

OP-ED

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The Philippines is known for many things—breathtaking scenery, hospitable people, delectable food, shopping and so much more. But there is more to this and much more to boast about.

In a world where sickness takes many lives every minute, cliché as it may seem, health is truly wealth. Maintaining one’s health is costly because it entails discipline and personal sacrifice, but getting ill costs more because not only does it endanger one’s life, it can be financially draining.

Fortunately, the Philippines is fast becoming a popular destination for medical tourism, which involves traveling to another country for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment. Doing so is a way for medically underprivileged patients to receive treatment at a fraction of the cost in their home country. International medical travel often includes vacation amenities such as hotel or resort accommodation, chauffeured travel and a bilingual personal assistant to help patients feel at ease or to make non-medically related arrangements.

Traditionally, people would travel from less-developed countries to major medical centers in highly-developed countries for medical treatment that was unavailable in their own communities. However, the recent trend is for people to travel from developed countries to Third World countries for medical treatments because of cost considerations. Despite being a Third World country, the Philippines takes pride in its world-class medical healthcare services that are among the best in Asia. In fact, the country is ranked eighth among the top medical tourism destinations in the world, even ahead of progressive countries such as Japan and France, according to the 2015 list of the International Healthcare Research Center and the Medical Tourism Association (MTA). MTA is a global non-profit association for medical tourism and international patient industry. It represents healthcare providers, governments, insurance companies, employers and other buyers of healthcare. Canada emerged as the top medical tourism destination of the world, providing the most suitable environment and acceptable healthcare cost.

The clients of the Philippines when it comes to medical tourism come from diverse nations. Many come from East Asian nations like China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. There are also medical tourists from Sri Lanka and the Pacific islands of Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Patients from Australia, North and South America, United Kingdom, Europe and the Persian Gulf States travel all the way to the Philippines to avail of medical services. Filipino expats and overseas workers also prefer to have their medical procedures done in the country.

The Philippines’ rise as a major player in the booming medical tourism industry began in 2006 when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order 372 which aimed at developing the Philippines’ communication, logistics and health and wellness industries. Since then, the Philippines steadily moved up the regional market with continuous renovation and upgrading of its hospitals to meet international standards.

In 2010, the National Economic and Development Authority projected that the Philippine medical tourism industry would become a $3-billion industry by 2015, with an average of around 200,000 foreign patients expected to come to the Philippines every year—double that of 2008’s figures of 100,000. And the arrivals keep coming.

Why the Philippines for Medical Procedures?

The following are the country’s competitive advantages:

1. Excellent quality healthcare services. Top hospitals in the Philippines now have state-of-the-art medical and hospital facilities, and the number of hospitals and clinics that are accredited by international organizations is growing. Five Philippine medical institutions, namely Asian Hospital and Medical Center (Muntinlupa City), St. Luke’s Medical Center (Global City and Quezon City), Makati Medical Center (Makati City) and The Medical City (Pasig City) have been certified as institutions for excellent medical care by the Joint Commission International (JCI), the only patient safety and quality healthcare accreditation and certification body with membership in more than 100 countries worldwide. JCI accreditation is both intensive and extensive in its standards, and assessment is comprehensive, thus ensuring that a hospital with the JCI seal can provide the care that medical tourists require.

2. Competent healthcare professionals. Filipinos are known worldwide as excellent caregivers and health care professionals who have undergone rigorous education and training in the Philippines and abroad. They are highly trained and internationally recognized. The country of
was advertised and children were prohibited.

I asked Haseko why they would do this to residents. At the last City Council meeting, Haseko revealed that the lagoon is actually a dangerous place. To protect future homeowners from liability, my proposal would make sure Haseko makes the lagoon safe prior to turnover to Hoakalei residents.

While my proposals address as many concerns as possible, I still cannot recommend them for final passage to the full Council as so much damage has been caused by calling for this special meeting without finalizing discussions in our community. I am against giving any developer special treatment and you should be too.

KYMBERLY MARCOS PINE

Associate editor Dennis Galolo contributed to this report.

OP-ED (from page 3, DEVELOPER'S...)
Knights of Rizal to Hold 6th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award Gala

by Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.

The 6th Annual Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award Gala will be held on September 24, 2016 at the Filipino Community Center. Instituted in 2011, the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice is given annually by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter to celebrate Rizal’s life and to honor his memory and his achievements.

The award is bestowed to individuals who exemplify the ideals and teachings of the Philippines’ foremost national hero. Rizal was a polymath who excelled in many fields. He is known for his literary works, keen scientific mind, devotion to an educated citizenry, vision of an ideal community, and most of all, his dedication to and struggle for community, and how such achievements promote Rizal’s ideals and teachings. The nominee must also show exceptional leadership, achievement, service and advocacy in the promotion of change through peaceful means, intercultural understanding, social justice and democratic principles.

This year’s awardee is Charlye S. Sonido, MD, a Filipino physician, educator, businessman, journalist, humanitarian, community leader and advocate. Previous honorees include Dr. Belinda Aquino (2011), Jorge Camara, MD (2012), Dr. Amefil Agbayani (2013), Ramon Sy, MD (2014) and Anaceto Alcanta (2015). Like Rizal, Sonido attended the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where he graduated cum laude with a Doctor of Medicine degree. He currently runs a private Primary Care/Internal Medical practice in Waipahu and Lihue, where many of his patients are immigrants, Filipino veterans, the elderly, uninsured and other underserved members of the community. A handful of the 100 patients who are treated at the clinic each day simply cannot afford to pay, so they are seen at no charge.

In 1997, Sonido established the Bayanihan Clinic without Walls (BCWW), a non-profit organization that provides free healthcare to newly-arrived immigrants of all ethnicities. That same year, the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAIH), under Sonido’s leadership, began sponsoring a community health fair in conjunction with the popular Filipino Fiesta & Parade.

Sonido’s impact as a physician extends well beyond Hawaii’s borders. He volunteers several times each year for medical missions to the Philippines and other Third World countries. For Sonido, each mission is truly compassionate in action and represents medicine in its purest sense—providing lifesaving treatment free of charge to the less fortunate without expecting compensation or a reward.

Sonido also shares his expertise and knowledge as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of the Philippines, a position he has held since 1983. To help meet the acute shortage of doctors in Hawaii, particularly for Filipino doctors, Sonido mentors young physicians. He founded the Hawaii Physicians Preceptorship Program which helps international medical graduates, particularly from the Philippines, to land residency positions in U.S. hospitals. So far, a total of 140 physicians and medical students have participated or are currently being mentored by volunteer physicians.

In short, Sonido is well-regarded among his peers in the local medical community. He repeatedly donates his time and personal resources to help the less fortunate through numerous acts of service during his 33 years as a physician. He not only is the embodiment of noblesse oblige—for whom much is given, much more is expected—but also lives up to the ideals espoused by Dr. Jose Rizal.

The event starts at 6 pm. Tickets are $60 per person. For further details, please call Dr. Arnold Villafuerte at (808) 220-2988 or email Raymund Liongson at: rliongson@gmail.com.
How to Petition for an Alien Spouse Without Really Trying

By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte

Do I need a lawyer to petition for an alien spouse? A b u x o m i y woman asked of a lawyer, “Why do you ask that question?” the lawyer inquired. “My grandfather petitioned for my father and mother. It was approved. He did not have a lawyer. I petitioned for my husband without a lawyer but it was disapproved.” “Maybe you are not as smart as your grandfather,” replied the lawyer. “I do not like your answer,” the woman complained. “Ok. Your grandfather was petitioning for a son. You were petitioning for a spouse. The requirements are different. Here are the instructions for petitioning a relative. You will find all the requirements there.” “After I read the instructions, do I still need a lawyer?” the woman persisted. “Look, you are asking a lawyer whether you need a lawyer. What do you expect the lawyer to say? That you do not need a lawyer? Then you will go around broadcasting that Abogado De Campanilla told you that you do not need a lawyer to file a petition for your relative. Then everybody will do it without a lawyer. When their petition is disapproved they will blame Abogado De Campanilla because he said that you do not need a lawyer. Get out of here.”

The first step in filing a petition for an alien spouse is to get the instructions for Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. Read them very carefully. If you do not understand them, get someone who can. If you really love your spouse, hire a lawyer. Damn the cost. This is not the occasion to economize. Anyway, $1,000-$1,500 is a reasonable fee. Beyond that is exorbitant.

Cheap Skate Husband

A cheapskate husband in the U.S. filed a petition for his wife by himself. USCIS requested the petitioner to submit Form G-325A for his wife. The husband did not comply. In the meantime, a playwright courted and won the wife probably telling her that her husband did not care about her since he had not petitioned her even though several years had elapsed. The cuckolded husband asked a lawyer what he should do. “If you were I,” said the wise lawyer, “forget about her. If you petition for your wife and you are reunited, when you make love with her you will always be thinking of the other guy making love with your wife. You will be jealous, suffer E.D., and become an NPA (non-performing asawa). “But I still love her,” insisted the guy, “look how beautiful she is (showing the lawyer a picture of the adulterous wife). I am willing to forgive her.”

Forms, Fees, and Supporting Documents

“Ala ngarud,” said the Ilocano lawyer, let us file a new I-130 petition that is complete with supporting documents. We will write a cover letter listing all the forms and documents you are filing. Many of the items listed here are not specified by the instructions, but we have found through experience that they are useful in convincing the USCIS that your marriage is bona fide (in good faith). Remember, the USCIS is always suspicious of visa petitions for a spouse because of the high incidence of marriage fraud. If you do not submit sufficient evidence to convince the USCIS officer who will process your papers that your marriage is bona fide, the officer will send you a blue form REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE asking you to submit more evidence. I have never received a REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE in connection with I-130 petitions I have filed for alien spouses but I have seen several that were sent to other petitioners who prepared the petition themselves or had incompetent “consultants” misguide them.

Here is a sample list of documents to submit to USCIS:

- (1) Citizenship documents
- (2) Other evidence of permanent resident status of petitioner
- (3) if previously married, documents to establish there was a honeymoon, and presence at wedding, fact that they like about each other, who proposed marriage, physical presence at wedding, fact that there was a honeymoon, and that marriage was consummated
- (4) joint documents to establish a bona fide marriage, affidavits of friends and relatives with personal knowledge of the bona fides of the marital relationship; and
- (6) other relevant documents to establish that there is an ongoing marital union.

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Emergency Preparedness Fair Held for Leeward Coast Residents

State Rep. Andria Tupola organized an emergency preparedness fair on September 17, 2016 at Nanakuli High School for residents of the Leeward Coast. Themed “Wake Up Westside,” the event offered workshops on preparing for an environmental crisis. Experts provided information on CPR, sanitation, food sustainability, aquaponics and how to vacuum seal rice. There were also first aid and shelter demonstrations and workshops on storage batteries, solar panels and hurricane insurance.

“My constituents need to prepare now for any emergency they might face,” says Rep. Tupola. “I wanted to provide the community the opportunity to learn how to protect their families and homes. We need to wake up to the possibilities of a natural disaster. To be safe, we must prepare first.”
Buenconsejo Joins Hawaii Energy

Former U.S. Senate staff member and veteran television news reporter Marvin Buenconsejo recently joined Hawaii Energy as a member of its communications team.

"It’s exciting to join the Hawaii Energy team as it continues to lead the charge toward a sustainable energy future for our state," said Buenconsejo. "I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to Senator Hirono for her years of nurturing and encouragement during my tenure with her office. It is her long-standing support of Hawaii’s sustainability and clean energy efforts that has inspired me to take on this new challenge."

He has been tasked with creating and implementing communications strategies to broaden Hawaii Energy’s impact and assist local homeowners and businesses in becoming more energy-efficient. Hawaii Energy is a ratepayer-funded energy conservation and efficiency program administered by Leidos Engineering, LLC under contract with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission serving Hawaii, Honolulu and Maui counties.

Buenconsejo previously served as U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono’s deputy director of communications. Prior to joining her staff in 2008, he was a familiar face in Hawaii’s television news scene for 17 years with the final three as a morning show anchor.

A graduate of Punahou School, Buenconsejo received his degree in communications from the University of Washington in 1989. He got his first big break in August 1990 when the NBC affiliate, KHON-TV, in Honolulu hired him as a news reporter. A few years later, he switched to KHNL-TV which at the time was the first all-digital newsroom in the world.

Buenconsejo graciously took the time to answer several questions from the Chronicle. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Congratulations on your new position! What prompted you to leave Capitol Hill to work for Hawaii Energy?
A: Virtually all of us who live here in Hawaii have a clear understanding of the importance of creating a clean energy future for our state. Joining the Hawaii Energy team provides a rare opportunity to have a more direct impact on meeting Hawaii’s energy efficiency goals. As many of us know, Senator Hirono is a longtime supporter of developing clean energy sources for Hawaii. I am grateful to the Senator for her support as I start this new, exciting chapter in my professional career.

Q: What were some of your crowning achievements as deputy communications director for U.S. Sen. Hirono?
A: Top of that list is without a doubt helping Senator Hirono reach out to Filipino World War II veterans following the Obama administration’s opening filing date for the Filipino WWII Veterans Parole Program. These loyal veterans have been waiting for decades to be reunited with family in the Philippines.

We utilized our office’s strong relationships with the federal immigration agency, local immigration attorneys and advocates for Filipino WWII veterans to help them and their families (and in many cases veterans’ survivors) navigate their way through our nation’s complex immigration system. I once again thank everyone who assisted in this endeavor to guide our Filipino veterans and their families.

Q: As communications specialist for Hawaii Energy, what will your responsibilities be?
A: The Hawaii Energy program has a strong track record of helping island families and businesses meet the challenges that come with being more energy efficient. With Gov. David Ige raising the bar by calling for 100 percent clean energy use in Hawaii by 2045, it’ll be even more essential for Hawaii Energy to reach out to everyone, such as your loyal readers, and get people to clearly understand what opportunities are available for them to save energy, protect our environment, and save money along the way.

Q: Why is it crucial for Hawaii to be energy efficient?
A: There are numerous reasons: it’s crucial for Hawaii to be more energy efficient and they’re all equally important. From an economic standpoint, we need to stop buying foreign fuel and keep that money – measured in the billions of dollars – here in our state. From a security standpoint, we can’t keep depending on outside sources to meet our state’s energy needs. Improving energy efficiency is also a vital way to protect Hawaii’s environment for island families to live and flourish for generations to come.

Q: How do you plan to get this message out to the public, particularly the Filipino community?
A: I believe everyone understands, at some level, that we must all do our part to be more energy efficient. The Filipino community is a strong and proud contributor to our island culture. Hawaii Energy is currently in the process of reaching out to all of our community leaders, ranging from the various chambers of commerce to our state’s social clubs, spiritual leadership to our numerous sports leagues, to ensure they have the necessary information and access to the support needed to keep us on the clean energy path. Whether at the grass roots level by visiting neighborhoods or taking a wider approach such as utilizing social media, we look to involve everyone in this critical effort.

Q: What incentives are you offering to ratepayers?
A: There are numerous rebates and programs available to Hawaii residents and business owners. As a pair of quick examples, residents can save on the purchase of LED light bulbs by receiving instant rebates at many local stores. Hawaii Energy also offers island businesses incentive funding on the purchase of energy efficient equipment such as lighting retrofits and air conditioning. For locations and details on these programs, I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.hawaiienergy.com.

Q: Any plans to re-enter the TV news industry?
A: My 20-year career in television continues to be blessing to this very day; I learned so much, enjoyed so many amazing experiences and challenges, shared thousands of stories—from the heartbreaking to the fun and the frivolous. But now, it’s time to focus on this new phase of my professional career, one that I hope I can make a meaningful and lasting difference.

Filipino Nurses Attend Annual Convention in DC

Filipino nurses and their guests totaling over 400 strong converged in Washington, DC in July for the Filipino Nurses Association of America’s (PNAA) 37th Annual National Convention. PNAA-Hawaii was represented by a delegation of 16 members headed by President Ramon Sumibcay and President-Elect Erlinda Ferrer.

The Grand Hyatt, which was the temporary home for most during the event, ensured a cool restful place after hours of sightseeing in the hot summer Eastern day. July 20-24 was filled with back-to-back meetings, leadership conferences and educational opportunities. Attendees created and renewed acquaintances and friendships as the various state chapters networked amongst themselves. During the general assembly, PNAA President Leticia Hermosa handed President-Elect Dino Doliante the presidential gavel symbolizing the formal transfer of power to the next administration.

It was in the same occasion that the newly elected members of the PNAA executive board were announced. The process of selecting the next state host for 2018 was fun. New Jersey won the bid by a few votes over San Diego.

Interspersed between the hectic schedule were occasions for light moments, afforded by activities such as the Welcome Night, the Networking Night and the Potomac River Boat Ride. On top of it all, on the days when the schedule allowed, the PNA-Hawaii delegation managed to go for crabs dinner (two bushels of crabs and shrimps on the side), compliments of treasurer Virginia Baptista. Although the tour to the White House did not materialize, they enjoyed touring the Capitol.

(continued on page 10)
On Duterte, Hitler and Resolving a Hero’s Burial For Marcos

By Emil Guillermo

I think I have a pretty simple solution to this Marcos burial madness. But first, being a full-blooded Filipino, albeit born in America, allow me my sentimentality for the assertion of democracy and freedom that I saw in the Philippines.

It was during my first trip ever to the Philippines. I was in the homeland of my parents on one of the most important days in its history—August 31, 1983. It was the first hint that an EDSA was a few short years away.

As a young Filipino-American reporter for the NBC affiliate in San Francisco, I had convinced my bosses that the death of Sen. Benigno Aquino, the main rival of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was not some remote international headline. No, this was a big story for the more than 300,000 Filipino-Americans living in the Bay Area.

With many Filipino immigrants originally from the Ilocos region and the rest of them either in the U.S. because of Marcos martial law as immigrants or exiles, the Philippines story was as local as a five-alarm fire.

There was also the special relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines, the former colony made up to be a replica democracy in brownface. Never mind the dictatorship part.

The Reagan and Bush administrations had given its blessing to the Marcos regime. Remember Vice President Bush’s infamous praise for Marcos and his “adherence to democratic principles”?

You mean, like human rights violations and torture? Yes and ultimately, the assassination of one Sen. Aquino, who was killed upon his return from exile in the U.S. to Manila on August 21.

I had arrived in the country in time to make it to the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City to see Aquino’s widow Cory give the eulogy and then to see the massive funeral procession—1 million strong—throughout the streets of Manila.

In part, it was an adoration of Benigno Aquino, the chosen anti-Marcos, the man Filipinos had hoped would lead them to freedom. But it was also the first healthy public condemnation of Marcos, the man who had sucked the life, liberty and riches from the country under his repressive martial law regime.

It was the beginning of the end. Within three years, in 1986, the country’s resentment of martial law would reach amok levels and with the help of the military, Marcos ultimately would be forced to flee the country.

And it was the funeral procession on August 31, 1983, that let everyone know it was all coming soon. So imagine the irony of August 31, 2016. That’s when the Philippine Supreme Court officially began hearing oral arguments for and against a plan to give Marcos a hero’s burial in the Philippines’ national cemetery, the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The proposal made by the newly-elected Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, the authoritarian tough guy who has been likened to Donald Trump, has split the country and Filipino diaspora community around the world (which incidentally exists mostly because of Marcos).

You either see Marcos as a former president who deserves to be taken out of cold storage and buried on hallowed Philippine soil or you simply can’t forget the long list of human rights abuses of political opponents, Benigno Aquino chief among them. The disappearances and executions of thousands of political foes. The estimated $10 billion stolen from the country for his family’s personal gain.

U.S. federal court judgments in 1994 and 1995 awarded martial law victims nearly $2 billion, of which payments were first made in 2011.

A wall-like monument like the Vietnam Memorial erected near the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus is a constant reminder of the names of those victimized by Marcos’ 20 years of martial law.

And yet 33 years after the Aquino funeral procession, when the country first expressed mass outrage over Marcos, a new generation of leadership is considering honoring the Filipino tormentor.

I talked to one Filipino immigrant, who had come to the U.S. during martial law and was now an American citizen. He was all too willing to forgive and forget.

Hitler

“Well, even the Germans have forgiven Hitler,” he said. I quickly corrected him. “No, they haven’t.” Many still see Hitler rightly as evil incarnate.

But I don’t want to elevate Marcos to Hitler status. The Philippine dictator’s actions weren’t fueled by the belief of the racial superiority of Filipinos among, say all of Asia, or above all ethnicities.

Marcos wasn’t anti-Semitic. He was just anti-Filipino.

Marcos simply saw himself as superior to other Filipinos. He subjected his will lesser Filipinos, which actually made him a whole lot worse than anyone can imagine. He perpetrated crimes against his own people. His own country. There’s nothing heroic about that.

And yet, oligarchs will do as oligarchs will do. Forgive each other and hope that a new generation of ignorant millennials will help them form a new majority of revisionists. They have all been subjected to very little education on the human rights abuses of Marcos. They only see the dictator as the man who ushered in the “Golden Age” of the Philippines.

Public education! National highways! Flush toilets! Ah, modernity and selective amnesia. Last week, Filipinos around the world, who have memories that won’t quit, as well as a strong sense of history, moral and chronological, demonstrated at Philippine embassies and consultates around the world to express their anger at the thought of a hero’s burial for Marcos.

It wasn’t as loud as what I saw August 31, 1983, when a million people thronged the streets to follow the casket of Aquino. And where I was in San Francisco, it was about 100 people, when in the 1980s such a demonstration would have brought out easily 500-1,000 people. That was a big crowd. But there are people who can’t forget what Marcos is responsible for.

My Solution?

Nearly 30 years has passed since Marcos’ death. Last week I was inspired after calling the Philippines. It wasn’t a family member. I had a dispute on a credit card bill and got a call center.

The phone tree got me to the Philippines and an operator who thought I was Mexican.

“Mexican?” I asked. “Pronouncing my name ‘Gil-yerno.’” The call center apologized profusely. And then we chatted. He told me he didn’t think Marcos should be buried a hero. And then it dawned on me.

The hue and cry over Marcos’ dashed deeds against country, along with the doubts over his war heroism, all indicate one thing—Forgiving Filipinos simply need Marcos to endure more and greater penance, both in body and soul before he’s even considered for a hero’s burial.

The soul is somewhere and that might be hard to wrangle. But the body is in Ilocos, refrigerated and awaiting assignment for service to its country. It should be put use immediately—dispatched to the South China Sea and placed in a strategic spot to ward off evil spirits, namely China, which seems to be building up islands like they were Metro Manila suburbs.

Put Marcos’ body to some good use for his country. Tell the China about aswangs, then stick Marcos up as a national scarecrow. Put the “war hero” to work in the latest drama.

Now that should appease all sides in the debate and scare the heck out of the Chinese. If the scarecrow thing is a bit macabre, then okay. Make the disputed Scarborough Shoal sacred Filipino land and just bury the dictator there as a spiritual menace to China. Et voila! The burial of Marcos as the Philippines’ secret weapon.

It would take a scenario as ridiculous and improbable as that to undo all the bad memories of martial law under Marcos.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California Chapter.

Visit our website at www.thefilipinochronicle.com and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaiian filipino chronicle.
**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**OFWs Exempted from Paying Travel Tax, POEA Fees**

*by Mayen Jaymalin*

**Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016**

**MANILA, Philippines – Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) returning to their jobs or same employers abroad are now exempted from paying travel tax as well as securing overseas employment certificate (OEC) and paying Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) processing fee.**

In a newly approved memorandum circular, the POEA said the new policy was in line with the government’s efforts to streamline the processing of OFWs’ documents.

In a related development, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Filipino household service workers (HSWs) and other OFWs abroad could expect better protection as the International Labor Organization adopted the Fair Recruitment Principles and Operational Guidelines during a Tripartite Meeting of Experts in Geneva, Switzerland last week.

OFWs returning abroad are required to secure OECs prior to their departure.

POEA said workers who would be going back to the same employer could register online to update their personal and employment data with the POEA.

POEA said the BM members would have to present valid work visa or employment contract so they could be exempted from paying terminal fee and travel tax.

(www.philstar.com)

**Pimentel Rejects Senate Protection for Matobato**

*by Patricia Lourdes Viray*

**Friday, Sept. 16, 2016**

**MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III on Thursday denied the request to place confessed hit man Edgar Matobato under witness protection.**

Pimentel said he intends to run the Senate based on rules and that there was no Senate rule to justify placing Matobato under protection.

"There’s even no showing that his life or safety is threatened. Worse, the witness’ testimony is not even relevant to the resolution being investigated," Pimentel said in a statement.

During the Senate committee on justice hearing on Thursday, Matobato claimed that President Rodrigo Duterte was behind the killings of suspected criminals in Davao City. The alleged hired gun also confessed to killing dozens as part of the Davao Death Squad.

Matobato also claimed that Duterte gave an order to ambush Sen. Leila de Lima, who was investigating extrajudicial killings in 2009 during her term as Commission on Human Rights chairperson.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, meanwhile, said that the committee will question the rejection of Senate protection for Matobato.

"We have to make arrangements for the temporary security of the witness," Trillanes said in a telephone interview with ANC’s "Headstart."

(www.philstar.com)
n town last week was Nobu New York executive chef Ricky Estrellado, a Fil- ipino who teamed up with Fil-Am Nobu Manila head chef Michael De Jesus for a two-night omakase (a meal where one leaves it up to the chef) gastronomic dinner. They interpreted classic Filipino dishes in the manner of their mentor, world-renowned Japanese chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

Chef Ricky has been with Nobu for 22 years and is the executive chef in New York, overseeing both Nobu New York in Tribeca and Nobu Next Door along Hudson Street. Chef Michael, a Fil-Am who grew up in the US, started his nine-year career with Nobu’s Los Angeles restaurant then worked in Nobu Las Vegas immediately before coming to Nobu Manila early this year.

It was an indulgent eight-course menu, to say the least, showcasing Nobu’s sleight-of-hand interpretations of Filipino classic dishes.

Not counted as a course but nevertheless whetting our appetites was a zemai (bite-size beer/sake chow,) a crispy gyoza cone filled with sisig foie gras wrapped with a shrimp leaf. The mere mention of sisig and foie gras together in one dish elicited a lot of excitement within my round table of eight, but alas, the bite-size cone was a tad too tiny for it to make a statement. Perhaps that was the intention, though, to tease our palate, his current position at Nobu’s Sunday brunch buffet, with an option to choose the unlimited Môet & Chandon Imperial Champagne brunch, at that.

With today’s cutthroat competition in the buffet category, where “volume for money” seems to be the rule rather than the exception, very few establishments in the metropolis come out of the heap with their integrity intact. Nobu sits on top of the heap. Quality is paramount, following chef Michael’s light and refined ways of preparing food — especially seafood. Nobu is known for his fusion cuisine blending traditional Japanese dishes with Peruvian ingredients.

This is where we met chef Michael, who joined City of Dreams Manila in January of this year. With nine years’ experience at Nobu restaurants and a total of 20 years in the kitchen, his current position at Nobu Manila allows him to infuse Filipino ingredients and methods into Nobu-style dishes.

Two international Filipino chefs coming home and rediscovering their culinary roots — haven’t I been telling everyone that Filipino chefs will rule the culinary world sooner than we think? (www.philstar.com)
3 Ways to Teach Kids About Filipino Culture

by Tina Santiago-Rodriguez

August is Buwan ng Wika in the Philippines and is usually a time for Filipino-themed celebrations and activities in schools. I’d like to think it is a special time to celebrate being Filipino, though this is actually something we should do all throughout the year.

We parents, especially, need to remind our children to take pride in their cultural heritage. We need to help them cherish their being Filipino (whether in “full” or in “part”), and teach them about the beauty of our Filipino culture.

How do we do this? Here are three suggestions:

1. Read books that highlight Filipino traditions, festivals and other cultural phenomena.

   We were given two wonderful children’s books earlier this year – All About the Philippines and Filipino Celebrations (both published by Tuttle Publishing and available locally in most major bookstores) – and they have been my go-to resources when it comes to teaching my kids about Filipino culture.

   As a follow-up to our book-reading, we also scout for activities that we can do to reinforce what we have learned. Which brings me to my next tip:

   2. Attend Filipino cultural activities, especially those that are “unusual.”

   Our country’s cultural heritage is so rich and varied, so there are definitely many cultural activities that you and your kids might find “unusual” or unique. This is part of the beauty of being Filipino – there is so much to celebrate!

   You can try searching for Filipino cultural activities in your local community or online. Or you might even be inspired to organize one in your area. Remember, you need not do this only within the month of August – every day is a day to celebrate being Pinoy!

   3. Get to know important Filipino people.

   Go beyond the usual Philippine history books and try to learn about other Pinoy “heroes.” You can try researching about such people online and in other ways, like magazines and books.

   For us adults, I would like to recommend books like The Rise of The Pinoy: 7 Powerful Lessons of Success from 21 World-Class Filipinos, which was written by Irish motivational speaker Mike Grogan. He’s obviously not Filipino but he has a lot of good things to say about us Filipinos, among other things!

   You can pick one or two of the 21 “World-Class Filipinos” in Grogan’s book, and share what you know about them with your kids during everyday conversations – the possibilities are endless!

   Of course, the aforementioned ways to teach kids about Filipino culture and other things related to being Pinoy are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. There are certainly more things we can do to celebrate being Filipino, and we need not limit ourselves to the month of August to do them. Be proud of who you are, and what you can be – all for the sake of God and country!

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Graft, Smuggling Charges Filed vs Noy, Purisima

by Michael Punongbayan

Manila, Philippines – Former president Benigno Aquino III and former finance secretary Cesar Purisima were charged yesterday with graft and smuggling before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly allowing Filipinos Shell Petroleum Corp. to bring unleaded gasoline into the country without paying the right taxes.

Charged with them are officials of Shell led by chairman Edgar Chua.

Former customs commissioner Napoleon Morales, tax collector Juan Tan, and journalist Lourdes Aclan accused the respondents of depriving the government of excise and value added taxes now totaling around P100 billion, including interests and surcharges.

Shell allegedly managed to evade payment of taxes by falsely declaring its unleaded gasoline (CCG) as catalytic cracked gasoline (LCCG) and later alkylate from 2004 to 2009.

Such chemicals are described as so-called blending components in the manufacture of gasoline which are not subject to or covered by internal revenue taxes collected by the Bureau of Customs for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The complainants alleged that from 2001 to 2004, Shell was paying taxes for its gasoline imports but stopped doing so from 2004 to 2009 when it changed its declarations of CCG and LCCG as unleaded gasoline to tetrapropylene and from “exclusive for sale” to “blending component.”

“Due to this modification in the declaration, all the shipments of Shell declared as CCG and LCCG from March 2004 to 2009 were released without payment of taxes,” they said.

When Tan, who is stationed at the Port of Batangas, demanded payment of taxes amounting to P7.348 billion, Shell again allegedly changed its declaration of the imports to alkylate under “waste oil” classification that is not subject to taxes.

An investigation was supposedly conducted on Shell’s allegedly fraudulent acts and the results of the same eventually reached Aquino and Purisima.

Aclan said he wrote Aquino a letter in July 2012 informing him of the refusal of Purisima and other BOC officials to demand payment of taxes from the fuel company, but that his letter was ignored.

“The government has lost over P100 billion including interest, surcharge and 800 percent penalty,” read the complaint.

“It is also losing at least P55 million a month or a whopping P1.3 billion as of July 2016, and counting, in addition to the still unpaid P1.99 billion taxes on Shell’s alkylate imports, aside from the unpaid P7.348 billion taxes on its CGC and LCCG importations.

“Since 2011, the former president and DOP secretary did nothing but allow Shell to continuously use the P7.348 billion and P1.99 billion government revenue for its own use and benefits thereby giving it unwarranted benefits and causing grave and undue injury to the government.”
The U visa is a temporary visa granted to victims of certain criminal activities which occurred in the United States, US territory or US military installation. It is granted to victims who suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the criminal activity and who, as a result of being at the receiving end of criminal activity and who, as a result of the criminal activity, have to change their lives due to this abuse. The U visa may be granted to victims of certain criminal activities including violence, extortion, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, felonious assault, fraud in foreign labor contracts, hostage, incest, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, manslaughter, murder, obstruction of justice, peonage, perjury, prostitution, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, slave trade, stalking, torture, trafficking, witness tampering, unlawful criminal restraint, and other related crimes which includes any similar activity where the elements of the crimes are substantially similar. It also includes the attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit any of the aforesaid crimes.

Immigration services fraud is the crime of taking advantage of one's lack of knowledge and understanding of immigration law and promising to enter them in the lottery, or offering to provide immigration services, without actually being qualified to offer such assistance. Another form of immigration services fraud is the visa lottery scam, which is promising immigrants that they will be forever killing our own citizens. So they have agreed to talk, we can use the extra force now, we can focus them in Mindanao,” he said, referring to breakthroughs in peace negotiations with communist and Muslim rebels. With no insurgency to tackle, the Armed Forces can focus on fighting terrorism and banditry, especially in the countryside.

Immigration Fraud and the U Visa

By Reuben S. Seguritan

In recent years, USCIS has granted 10,000 U visas yearly, which is the cap provided by Congress. It has been a lot in the prosecution of offenses, especially those committed against vulnerable undocumented immigrants. Before this visa, undocumented immigrants were largely placed in very disadvantageous positions because they could not report the crime for fear of being deported due to their immigration status or lack thereof and they could not seek assistance from the authority for fear of being harmed even more by the perpetrators or abusers. Especially in domestic abuse or sexual abuse cases, the situation would persist because the perpetrator would use the lack of immigration status as a leverage to pin the victims down.

When this was created by Congress with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in October 2000, they listed the following qualifying crimes: abduction, abusive sexual contact, blackmail, domestic violence, extortion, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, felonious assault, fraud in foreign labor contracts, hostage, incest, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, manslaughter, murder, obstruction of justice, peonage, perjury, prostitution, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, slave trade, stalking, torture, trafficking, witness tampering, unlawful criminal restraint, and other related crimes which includes any similar activity where the elements of the crimes are substantially similar. It also includes the attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit any of the aforesaid crimes.

Immigration services fraud is not specifically included in the list of qualifying criminal activities but it could potentially fit in the categories of witness tampering, obstruction of justice or perjury.

Recently, lawyers and immigration advocates have lobbied for the inclusion of immigration services fraud in the list. Immigration services fraud is the crime of taking advantage of one’s lack of knowledge and understanding of the intricacies of the US immigration law and promising to render services which are fraudulent, unauthorized or rendering nothing at all.

Immigration services fraud come in different forms. The popular one is lottery fraud, which is claiming to provide immigration services, without actually being qualified to offer such assistance. Another form of immigration services fraud is the visa lottery scam, which is promising immigrants that they will be forever killing our own citizens. So they have agreed to talk, we can use the extra force now, we can focus them in Mindanao,” he said, referring to breakthroughs in peace negotiations with communist and Muslim rebels. With no insurgency to tackle, the Armed Forces can focus on fighting terrorism and banditry, especially in the countryside.

By Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines — How do you prevent terrorism from becoming a full-blown civil war? Deal with it a la James Bond.

This was President Duterte’s advice to soldiers as he urged them to be more responsive to the changing security environment by learning new skills.

“The most important thing here is you have to change paradigm. This is no longer a face-to-face war. So it’s a matter of detection. Meaning to say, something is afoot and you have to detect to find out what it is,” he said at the 48th anniversary celebration of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing at Villamor Air Base last Tuesday.

“Parang James Bond na ang larong ito (The game is now played like James Bond),” he said, referring to Ian Fleming’s smart and dapper British secret agent character in his novels. The character has appeared in several novels, movies and video games.

Duterte explained that playing the game differently is “not so much about the display of might… your ‘might’ might be stolen from you. So change it a bit because we are dealing with terrorists and there will be explosions after explosions until we find peace.”

Duterte has warned that terrorism in Mindanao could metamorphose into a “full blown civil war” if left unchecked. He believes the key to a successful anti-terror campaign is knowing the enemy. “I see in the horizon the dark clouds of terrorism," the President said.

“You have to learn a little bit about your enemy… Study profiling. Start to profile the movements of the eyes, their native dialect. Those are the things you should know.”

Duterte said his administration is working to crush the Abu Sayyaf while talking to Muslim and communist rebels to address security threats in the country.

“As much as I would like to really be very strict about, you know, this thing about war but I am a President and my job is to seek the peace of the land,” the President said.

“We cannot be forever fighting Filipinos. We cannot be forever killing our own citizens. So they have agreed to talk, we can use the extra force now, we can focus them in Mindanao,” he said, referring to breakthroughs in peace negotiations with communist and Muslim rebels. With no insurgency to tackle, the Armed Forces can focus on fighting terrorism and banditry, especially in the countryside.
DOJ Chief: Witness Coached by De Lima

by Edu Pumay
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

MANILA, Philippines - Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II downplayed yesterday the testimony of a self-confessed former member of the Davao death squads (DDS) who linked President Duterte to killings in Davao City, saying that the witness was coached to pin down the Chief Executive.

Aguirre said the testimony of alleged DDS member Edgar Matobato was all lies and an old story revived by Sen. Leila de Lima in a phone interview.

“Call lying and coached witness. This is what we and have no credibility simply because there is no corroborating evidence. This is what we call lying and coached witness,” Aguirre explained in a phone interview.

“Can only be the product of a fertile and coached imagination.”

He revealed that Matobato used to be under the witness protection program of the Department of Justice (DOJ) from 2013 until De Lima left the agency to run for senator.

“If you can recall, De Lima repeatedly said that they had a witness to directly link Duterte to the death squad. But why was he not made public and why was the case not pursued? Because obviously there’s no truth to his claims,” he commented.

Aguirre also questioned why De Lima, chairman of the Senate justice committee, brought Matobato out at this time when she is facing investigation on her alleged involvement in illegal drug trade in the national penitentiary.

“The statements of Matobato are all lies, fabrications and have no credibility simply because there is no corroborating evidence. This is what we call lying and coached witness,” Aguirre explained in a phone interview.

“It is because she knows there will be explosive evidence linking her in the Bilibid drug trade? Is she trying to cushion our witnesses?” he asked.

“These are desperate times for De Lima that’s why she needs desperate solution.”

The DOJ chief also questioned the claim of De Lima that Matobato has not executed any affidavit yet on his allegations, saying it would have not been possible for the witness to be covered by WPP if he did not submit a sworn statement to the DOJ.

Aguirre stressed that the allegation against Duterte being behind the DDS was pursued by De Lima when she was still chair of the Commission on Human Rights in 2009 and also when she was head of the DOJ in the previous administration.

“It’s an old issue that De Lima persistently pursued way back when she was still CHR chair and where the bad blood with President Duterte actually started. There’s really no evidence because if there is any, a case should have been filed in court by this time,” he explained.

“Senator De Lima had six years to file any case she deems worthy to be filed. The question that begs asking is why pursue this only now when there will be a House of Representatives’ hearing on Bilibid drugs proliferation,” he said.

Aguirre bared that he even served as a lawyer for Davao police official Benjamin Laud, who was accused of being a member of the DDS that provided a mass grave for criminals they allegedly killed.

He recalled that several bones were indeed recovered from Laud’s property, but stressed that the CHR did not have evidence to prove that they belonged to victims of DDS and so no case was filed in court then.

Aguirre said he would consider asking the National Bureau of Investigation to look into Matobato’s statements made before the Senate inquiry and also check if he could again qualify for WPP coverage as discussed by senators in the hearing.

“Mr. Matobato stated that he did not execute an affidavit containing what he stated before the hearing. One cannot be part of the WPP without executing an affidavit. He is obviously not telling the truth. Can he be trusted?” Aguirre added.

“I personally know what happened to the case of Benjamin Laud since 2009 because I lawyered for him, I was there when the Commission on Human Rights, then headed by Senator De Lima, ordered the bodies of the alleged victims of extrajudicial killings be exhumed at Laud’s firing range in Maa, Davao.

“The bodies did not prove anything. As a matter of fact, there were statements that they were bodies of people who were executed during the Japanese occupation,” Aguirre said.

“Also, think about this, Senator De Lima headed both the CHR and the Department of Justice, why was it that there was no case filed against Mayor Duterte? Senator De Lima had more than six years to file any case she deems worthy to file,” said Aguirre.

Yasay on U.S.: Don’t Lecture Us on Human Rights

by Camille Diola
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines’ top diplomat on Thursday night defended President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs at a security forum in Washington, saying Filipinos are not “little brown brothers” of America and should no longer be taught about human rights.

Asked how the Philippines and the United States will move forward after the canceled meeting between Duterte and U.S. President Barack Obama and the deaths in the drug war, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay said the two countries should work within the premise of being “sovereign equals.”

“We are asking our American friends and American leaders to look at our aspirations, we cannot be forever the little brown brothers of America (as we were) at one point in time. We have matured, we have to develop, we have to grow,” Yasay told an influential Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He said the partnership with the United States should not be conditional and insisted that the Philippines understands the sanctity of life and freedom, which led to the struggle for independence from America in the 1940s.

“You do not go to the Philippines and say, ‘I’m going to give you something. I’m going to help you develop, I’m going to help you grow. But these are the checklists you must comply with. We will lecture you on human rights.’ No. We know that our goal toward the full respect for human rights with accordance to international norms,” Yasay said.

About 3,500 people have been killed in police operations and by vigilante groups since the start of the Duterte’s administration three months ago.

The bilateral meeting between the Obama and Duterte was canceled by Washington and prompted Duterte to issue an apology, denying that the harsh words were directed to Obama.

In his address to the forum, Yasay tried to assure Washington that Manila is not condoning unlawful killings.

“In the book of President Duterte and in my book, extrajudicial killing has no place in our society,” Yasay said.
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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mvanhess@gmail.com

586-7031 or 808-227-4332 (mobile) or email: mvanhess@gmail.com

**WAKE UP WESTSIDE: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR**

| September 17, 2016, Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 12noon |
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| Contact: Michele Van Hessen | 3808-586-7031 or 808-227-4332 (mobile) or email: mvanhess@gmail.com |

**KNIGHTS OF RIZAL-HAWAI’I CHAPTER’S 6TH ANNUAL DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AWARDS GALA**

September 24, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m. |
| FILCOM CENTER | Contact: 808-80-0451 for more information |

**FILCOM CENTER’S BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER 2016**

October 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM |
| SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | Contact 808-680-0451 for more information |

**APALA SUPPORTS PRISONER STRIKES**

Prison inmates nationwide recently launched a peaceful strike against the use of their forced labor and are calling for reformation of prison policies and practices and improved living conditions. The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) supports the inmates and voices concern over the use of forced labor in a criminal justice system that is built to criminalize communities of color, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

“Tactics like forced labor serve as a way to deprive folks of any dignity or worth of their work in society,” says APALA Executive Director Gregory A. Cendana. “Our criminal justice system needs to focus on restorative and transformative models of justice that value the person as a whole, and we’re calling on the labor movement as a whole to address the rights of workers inside.”

The strikes come at a time when community organizations and advocacy groups are urging the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Bureau of Prisons and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to follow the Department of Justice’s lead to end the use of private prisons and detention centers. Abuse, mistreatment and poor living conditions are not uncommon in prisons and detention centers, especially in private operated institutions.

APALA is a member of AAPIs Beyond Bars, a coalition of labor, education, civil rights and criminal justice organizations that work to address mass incarceration and deportation in the AAPI community. Founded in 1992, APALA is the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

**BOOK REVIEW**

**RIZAL IN OUR TIME, Essays in Interpretation**

By Rose Churma

The commentaries in this book seek to reassess the works of Rizal and provoke a re-thinking of what it means to be a Filipino in a Philippines that seems to be in perpetual crises, or as part of the more than 10 million overseas Filipinos. Rizal as an exile within his own country and as scholar/traveler in the U.S. and Europe, may provide lessons for us and yield clues useful for re-discovering our historical tradition of resistance against colonial domination. It may also help us seek resources within ourselves for renewing the revolutionary legacy and internationalist solidarity that Rizal embodied in his life and works. Bruce Franklin of Rutgers University comments that the author “is now one of the world’s most distinguished progressive critics.” He further says that E. San Juan “is certainly the world’s leading scholar and critic of Filipino literature and undoubtedly the leading authority on Filipino-American literary relations.” (from the back cover). The book is available at Kalamansi Books & Things (bookbook.com) or email <kalamansi-books@gmail.com>- $8.25 plus S&H.

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**RIZAL IN OUR TIME, Essays in Interpretation**

By Rose Churma

The commentaries in this book seek to reassess the works of Rizal and provoke a re-thinking of what it means to be a Filipino in a Philippines that seems to be in perpetual crises, or as part of the more than 10 million overseas Filipinos. Rizal as an exile within his own country and as scholar/traveler in the U.S. and Europe, may provide lessons for us and yield clues useful for re-discovering our historical tradition of resistance against colonial domination. It may also help us seek resources within ourselves for renewing the revolutionary legacy and internationalist solidarity that Rizal embodied in his life and works. Bruce Franklin of Rutgers University comments that the author “is now one of the world’s most distinguished progressive critics.” He further says that E. San Juan “is certainly the world’s leading scholar and critic of Filipino literature and undoubtedly the leading authority on Filipino-American literary relations.” (from the back cover). The book is available at Kalamansi Books & Things (bookbook.com) or email <kalamansi-books@gmail.com>- $8.25 plus S&H.

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Mabuhay and Congratulations to Dr. Charlie Y. Sonido as the Dr. Jose P. Rizal for Peace and Social Justice 2016 Awardee! May your valuable contributions and service to the community serve as an inspiration to all!

From the Management and Staff of the

Charlie Y. Sonido M.D. Inc. Primary Care Clinic of Kauai
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