



Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity - Page 10

Philippine Fiesta

A Division of Five D's Arts, LLC

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Magellan Hall's Happy New Year 2016 - Page 16

Economy grows 5.8% in 2015



The skyline of Makati City, the heart of Manila's business district.

The domestic economy grew at a pace of 6.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015, bring the full-year growth of 5.8 percent, the government announced Tuesday.

Last year's economic expansion was slower than the 6.1-percent growth in 2014. It also fell short of the Aquino administration's target of 7 to 8 percent.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said the 2015 growth gave a six-year average of 6.2 percent, the highest since the late 1970s.

The fourth quarter growth, meanwhile, was expectedly the highest quarterly growth for the year. Yet it is still slower than the 6.6 percent posted in the same period in 2014.

The Philippines's growth in the past five years and trend. Trading Economics

The country's growth—based on gross domestic

product (GDP) or the total value of all goods and services produced—while slower than expected still outpaced most of its peers.

The Philippines lagged behind Vietnam, which led Southeast Asia with a 6.68-percent growth last year due to strong exports and record foreign direct investments. China's economy, meanwhile, dipped to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent growth in 2015.

Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who recently resigned from the NEDA for another government post, said the Philippines has been "traversing the higher growth path, building on solid efforts by both public and private sectors."

"For 2015, among the major developing countries, the Philippines [was] likely among the fastest next to In-

Continued on page 4

Ati-Atihan Festival and Dance



The only Ati-Atihan in Sacramento to celebrate this kind of endless dancing to the continuous, rhythmic beat of drums and lyre.



Josie Patria with the Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento, CA

Photos by Dave San Pedro

The Aklan Association of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. led by Frank Zabal, as president, along with the Filipino community and the Aklanons celebrated their 25th Ati-Atihan Festival and Dance in Honor of the Infant Jesus on January 23, 2016 at the Jose Rizal Community Center, Sacramento.

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Editor's Note

This is the first issue of Philippine Fiesta for the year. As always, our contributing writers have done it again, with their articles published and many more to follow to cover the upcoming events in our Fil-Am community. We are blessed and inspired by their continued support of this publication.

Just one month into the year, we already have several events lined up to happen in our community. Consulate on Wheels will happen again through the sponsorship of Bayanihan Association. This is the best time to prepare all your documents and to schedule an appointment, when applying for dual citizenship. Other organization with upcoming events include the Fil-Am Veterans Association, the Magellan Post 604, and the Maharlika Lions Club. Please come and support their fundraising activities.

Congratulations to the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity's newly-inducted set of officers, under the leadership of Mercy Guerrero. Let us also extend our appreciation to Aida Azurin for her outstanding service and as the outgoing president of FCSV. We are grateful for her generosity and in her continued support of Philippine Fiesta news. Congratulations also to Frank Zabal, president of Aklan Association and their members, in the celebration of their 25th Anniversary in our community, and to St. Paul Parishioners' and the Magellan Hall's pageant winners!

The Philippine National Day Association in its new leadership is bringing back the Filipino American Youth Leadership Conference (FAYLC). Let us help them with their projects to empower our youth!

Dave did not give me enough space. But I save this last line to extend my loving wishes, as he celebrates his 65th Birthday!

With love,
Dinnah San Pedro

The Mamasapano saga continues

By Romeo Y. Lim

The recent hearing of the Mamasapano incident, in a way, was more of the same and a lot different at the same time.

The brilliant questioning of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile did not disappoint although many of the respondents stuck to most of their original answers even though it was already obvious that they were lying through their teeth. But I digress.

I talked about the importance of the chain of command in the military and the consequences that may come about should this chain be broken.

Incidentally, Senator Gregorio Honasan apparently had the same concept of the importance of the chain of command even as he underscored that even the family has a chain of command. He expounds that the father is the titular head with the mother as next in command followed by the "panganay."

In fact, a visibly bothered Honasan said "kaya tayo minsan naisahan kasi 'yung mga terorista sumusunod sa chain of command, tayo hindi."

There is however, another side to the strict following of the chain of command.

A miffed Senator Enrile questioned former AFP Chief of Staff Gregorio Catapang why the "beleaguered SAF troops" were not given immediate assistance or air assets to aid them in the operation that was taking a downturn.

Catapang said the tactical commanders were the ones running the show and stated, "We follow the chain of command, your honor. The decision to use the helicopter was relegated to the tactical commanders. We don't macromanage (micromanage) operations



The Special Action Force (SAF) mural

because if we do that, every time there are encounters, they will ask me what to do. Pangilinan was making the decision, the battalion commander, lieutenants; that's their job. I can't macromanage (sic) them."

Under these circumstances, it was also the ineptness of the tactical/ground commanders that did in the SAF troopers. That is what I would call the weakest link in the chain of command.

Yes, in this issue I agree with Catapang.

In fact, the Chief of Staff is not even supposed to delve into the operations aspect of AFP operations. You have the service commanders - the commanding generals of the Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Army - to do that.

This does not dilute, however, my admiration for this grand old man of the Senate whose sharp intelligence and wit continue to cut into the arguments of the resource persons.

As I write this, it is a continuing saga for the people involved in the Mamasapano incident. I continue to root for Senator Enrile that he can ferret the truth from all the gobbledygook that is spewed in the hearing.

And while I know that this is supposed to be in aid of legislation, I truly hope this travesty can be corrected. It would be best if the executive can help correct the loopholes in the system.

Otherwise, God help our men and women in uniform.

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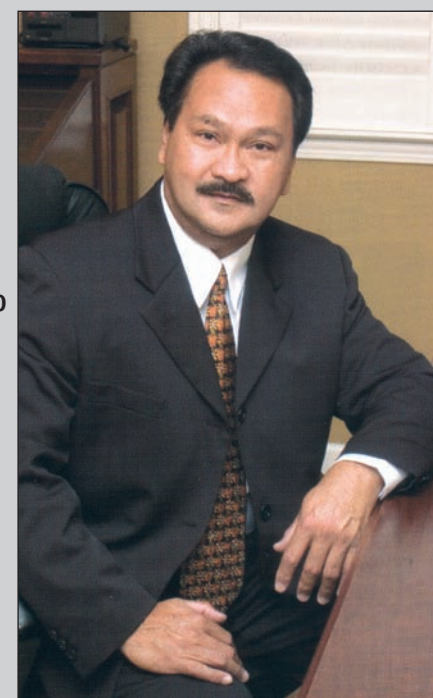
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Enrile blames President for SAF 44 massacre

By Christine O. Avendaño

The line of command in the Armed Forces of the Philippines was paralyzed the day 44 elite troopers were massacred in Mamasapano a year ago.



Senator Juan Ponce Enrile

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, seeking to prove an alleged failure of leadership, Wednesday said President Aquino had “compartmentalized” the Mamasapano operation on Jan. 25, 2015, that left out the existing police and military hierarchy, immobilizing ground commanders at the critical moments and leading to the massacre of the Special Action Force (SAF) commandos.

Enrile said Wednesday at the reopening of the Senate inquiry into the slaughter of the SAF troopers after they had killed Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, that the planning and execution of “Oplan Exodus” were left only to Alan Purisima, the then suspended chief of the Philippine National Police, and Getulio Napeñas, the director of the Special Action Force (SAF) who had been sacked.

In a meeting in Malacañang’s Bahay Pangarap on Jan. 9, with Napeñas, Purisima and Supt. Fernando Marquez, the President gave the go ahead that Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and then the PNP officer in charge, Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina, be informed of the operation “time on target” when the SAF troopers were on the ground.

Purisima also later said he would take care of informing Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr., the then Armed Forces chief of staff on the day of the operation to get Marwan.

Enrile berated Catapang for not responding fast enough to help the trapped SAF men. He was irked at Catapang at first when he asked the number of military troops sent to aid the SAF men and the former AFP chief replied by saying this

could be answered by Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, commander of the 6th Infantry Division.

“For heaven’s sake, you are the chief of staff. If we are at war with China, and that is what you do, this country is doomed,” Enrile said.

Critical situation

He also asked why Catapang called his staff to make an assessment on the “criticality of the situation” of the SAF men. To which Catapang said they were not informed about the operation against Marwan.

“The Army should operate at the tip of your fingers in case of emergency. You are not supposed to remove your boots, that’s the manner of preparedness of the Armed Forces. You must be prepared all the time, at any time anywhere,” Enrile said.

Noting that the military was not informed about the operation, Catapang admitted that it took sometime for the military ground commanders to “react at the tactical level.”

Catapang also said there were two helicopters prepositioned in Cotabato province that day but the PNP did not request air support.

“My God, do you really need a request to support a beleaguered troop? My goodness,” Enrile said.

Catapang replied: “We follow the chain of command. The decision to utilize the helicopters was delegated to our tactical commanders.”

Enrile asked Catapang if he informed President Aquino about the ground situation and the former AFP chief of staff said this was the

job of the PNP.

“So the line of command was paralyzed that day. The command system of the AFP and the PNP was paralyzed on that day and that was the reason for the loss of 44 people,” Enrile concluded.

Eight blunders

He said this compartmentalization was among eight blunders that the Chief Executive committed in the planning and execution of Oplan Exodus, the code for project Marwan, and these were “at the center” of the Mamasapano debacle.

Saying he was out to seek justice for the dead and survivors in the bloody clash with Moro rebels after Marwan was killed, Enrile blamed Mr. Aquino for the Mamasapano debacle as he pointed out the role the President played in the police operation.

After the seven-hour hearing of the Senate committee on public order, Enrile said he focused on the President’s role, responsibility and accountability in the Mamasapano episode because this was not discussed in the earlier hearings of the committee chaired by Sen. Grace Poe.

He said he had “established” the President’s role in the operation, and that Wednesday’s hearing was enough.

Asked on the possible liability of Mr. Aquino, he said that this will be up to the courts if this reaches them. “Let the law enforcement people do the job in the future,” Enrile said.

Fulfilling promise

In his opening statement, Enrile said that he was just fulfilling his promise to the wounded SAF survivors who were confined at the PNP General Hospital in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Enrile was detained there on a plunder case against him in connection with his alleged misuse of pork barrel funds but was released on bail in August last year.

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Philippines, Japan forge stronger ties

By Delon Porcalla

MANILA, Philippines - Under the cloud of China's aggressively staking maritime territorial claims, Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived in Manila yesterday to forge stronger ties between their country and the Philippines.

President Aquino was on hand for planeside honors for the Japanese royals at a special hangar at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

It was the first time for Akihito to visit the Philippines as emperor. He was two weeks short of his eighth birthday when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii with the blessings of his father, the late Emperor Hirohito, setting off the war in the Pacific that would lead to the Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

Since then ties have improved between the two former foes, linked by their common ally the United States. Japan is now the Philippines' single largest source of official development assistance and Japanese businessmen are among the biggest investors.

With China staking claims on islands occupied by Japan and claimed by the Philippines, Manila and Tokyo have also strengthened defense cooperation.

The imperial couple met the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers yesterday afternoon shortly after their arrival.

Today, the imperial couple is scheduled to attend a welcoming ceremony at Malacañang and meet Aquino in the morning, and visit a cemetery for Filipino victims to lay flowers in the afternoon.

After that, they will return to the palace for a state dinner. The Loboc Children's Choir will serenade the imperial couple during the state dinner. The choir global attracted attention when they sang at the ruins of the Loboc Church following the killer



Japan's Emperor Akihito, center, Empress Michiko, left, and Philippine President Benigno Aquino stand at attention as the national anthems are played upon their arrival Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016 in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila, Philippines. The 82-year-old Akihito will pay his respects at memorials for both the Philippine and the Japanese war dead during a five-day state visit.

quake that hit the province of Bohol in October 2013.

On Thursday, the imperial couple is expected to meet some people of Japanese descent living in the Philippines.

On Friday, they will travel to Caliraya by helicopter and lay flowers at a monument installed by the Japanese government to commemorate the war dead, before returning to Japan the following day.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura will serve as principal attendant.

Around 1.1 million Filipinos and 518,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians perished during the war.

The Imperial Japanese Army launched air strikes on the Philippines, then a US colony, on Dec. 8, 1941 (Dec. 7 Hawaiian time), the same day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, marking the start of the Pacific phase of World War II.

Japan occupied Manila in January 1942, while local residents continued to resist the move through guerrilla fighting. A month of Japan-US fighting in Manila in February 1945 claimed the lives of around 100,000 Filipino civilians.

"In the Philippines, many

lives of Filipino, US and Japanese people were lost during the previous war. Especially, an enormous number of innocent Filipino civilians fell victim in the urban combat in Manila," the emperor said prior to departure from Tokyo's Haneda airport.

"We'd like to carry out this visit while always bearing this in mind," he said, adding that he is pleased to travel to the country again following a previous visit by the couple in 1962 when they were crown prince and princess.

Their return after more than half a century comes at the invitation of President Aquino, extended during his state visit to Japan last June.

The trip was arranged on the occasion of the two countries marking the 60th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral ties in July.

With a strong desire to mourn all the war dead, the emperor has been traveling with the empress to places hit hard by the war at home and abroad, including Saipan, one of the Northern Mariana Islands, in 2005 and Palau last year, in commemoration of the 60th and 70th anniversaries of the war's end in 1945.

Cardinal Tagle: Corrupt politicians part of 'throwaway culture'

By Lito B. Zulueta

CEBU CITY—Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle criticized corrupt politicians and said they were part of the "throwaway culture" condemned by Pope Francis.

Speaking on the fifth day of the 51st International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) being held here, Tagle noted that materialism and individualism had skewed traditional values and there was a need to foster the "culture of giving and sharing."

"Politicians, will you throw away people's taxes for your parties and shopping or guard them as gifts for social services?" the prelate said.

While urging dialogue with "traditional and emerging cultures," Tagle warned against dealing with people whose values are contrary to Christianity's, apparently referring to materialism and individualism.

"We should avoid cultures with widespread acceptance but incompatible to Christian values," he said.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Peter Erdo of Hungary contrasted the vitality of Catholicism in the Philippines with the dormant faith in former Communist coun-



Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle gives his thumbs up as he speaks before the crowd on the 4th day of the International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu City, where around 12,000 participants gathered to promote centrality of the Eucharist in Christian life.

tries of Eastern Europe.

Delivering the homily for the High Mass on the fifth day of the IEC, Erdo noted that while there were many young people actively participating in the churches of Cebu, there was nil participation by young people in Hungary.

Erdo said that the situation in Eastern and the rest of Europe was correctly likened by Pope Francis in the latter's address to the European Parliament last November 2014 in which he noted the continent's "weariness and aging."

Pope Francis likened Europe to a "grandmother, no longer fertile and vibrant," pointing out that "the great

ideas which once inspired the continent seem to have lost their attraction, only to be replaced by the bureaucratic technicalities of its institutions."

Like the Pope, Erdo blamed materialism and individualism for the decline of Christianity in Europe.

Erdo said that during the rule of the Communists, Hungarian fathers were made to choose by the Communist Party between keeping their jobs and renouncing their faith.

He said many chose to keep to the faith at the risk of losing their livelihood because of their belief and "hope in eternal life." (We need) trust in eternal life," Erdo declared

Economy grows 5.8% in 2015

From page 1

dia, the People's Republic of China and Vietnam," Balisacan said at a press conference.

Despite failing below forecasts, Balisacan called the economy's performance "very encouraging."

"The growth is respectable, given the difficult fis-

cal environment, the onset of El Niño and the challenges in government spending in the first semester," he said.

The Philippines's quarterly growth. Trading Economics

The Philippine Statistics Authority said the fourth quarter GDP was driven by the services sector that grew

by 7.4 percent from 5.6 percent, Industry followed as a major growth driver, decelerating to 6.8 percent from 9.1 percent.

Agriculture, meanwhile, contracted by 0.3 percent from a growth of 4.2 percent the previous year.

Services was also main driver of the full-year economy, accelerating by 6.7 percent from 5.9 percent the previous year.

Industry and the entire agriculture sectors decelerated with 6.0 percent and 0.2 percent, from 7.9 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said late last year that the government is setting a 7.5- to 8.5-percent goal in 2016 for now.

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- This information is used only to determine eligibility for Medi-Cal and Healthy Partners. It is confidential

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Alin-alin ang mga kabilang na serbisyo?

- Patuloy na paunang lunas at pagtutukoy sa kalusugan
- Mga impormasyon at payong pang kalusugan
- Mga serbisyo at pagsusuri sa laboratoryo
- Mga reseta - karamihan sa mga gamot, ang magbabayad ay ang nagpalista Magkano ang mga babayaran?
- Paunang lunas - walang bayad
- Mga gamot - karamihan sa mga gamot ay mabibili ng mura sa mga kilalang tindahan (Walmart)
- Laboratoryo o Diagnostic services - walang bayad

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**Glenn D. Carrasca, FBI Community Outreach Program
Steve Dupre, Media Representative/Community
Outreach Coordinator**



Sacramento, Calif. --- Nicolas Michael Teausant, 22, of Acampo, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization, announced Assistant Attorney General for National Security John P. Carlin and United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner.

According to court documents, on March 17, 2014, Teausant was arrested near the Canadian border en route to Canada with the intent of continuing to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a foreign terrorist organization. On March 26, 2014, Teausant was indicted on one count of attempting to provide material support or resources to a terrorist organization. He pleaded to the single count indictment with a plea agreement. Teausant is scheduled to be sentenced by United State District Judge John A. Mendez on March 8, 2016.

"Nicolas Michael Teausant attempted to travel overseas to join ISIL and to provide material support to the the terrorist organization," said Assistant Attorney General Carlin. "The National Security Division's priority is counterterrorism, and we are committed to stemming the flow of foreign fighters abroad and holding accountable those who attempt to provide material support to designated foreign organizations."

"This case, like others in communities across the United States and around the

world, is an example of how a young person from any place and any background might make the terrible decision to try and become part of a terrorist organization," U.S. Attorney Wagner stated. "Fortunately, the FBI intervened in this case before any harm could be inflicted upon innocent persons. We hope that this case will be a reminder to us all to stay vigilant and involved in the lives of our youth and in particular with respect to the dangerous influences they may be subject to on the Internet where these organizations are very active."

This case was the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau Of Investigation, the Modesto Police Department, and the San Joaquin Sheriff's Office, who are members of the Modesto/Stockton Joint Terrorism Task Force, with significant assistance from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Assistant United States Attorneys Jean M. Hobler and Jason Hitt and Trial Attorney Andrew Sigler of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section are prosecuting the case.

Teausant faces a maximum statutory penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables.

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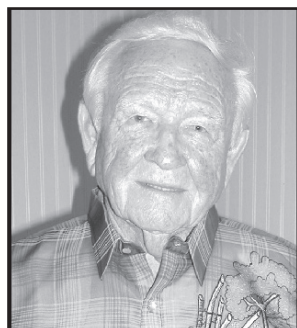
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By Perry Diaz

EDCA: A new strategic partnership

Twenty-four years after the Philippine Senate rejected the extension of the American bases, the Philippine Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). EDCA is an “executive agreement” between the U.S. and the Philippines that would allow the American military to once again set foot on Philippine soil. It didn’t take long for the Philippines to act; she immediately offered eight strategic locations throughout the country where the U.S. could position equipment and personnel on a rotational basis.

It’s interesting to note that prior to the Supreme Court’s ruling, every time American warships docked at the Subic port (formerly Subic Naval Base), they were met by



A local marching band welcomes the arrival of sailors aboard the USS Topeka (SSN-754), a Los Angeles-class submarine, as it prepares to be docked at the Alava pier off Subic port.

protesting leftist groups displaying anti-American signs. This time around, when the USS Topeka, a nuclear attack submarine, docked at Subic a few hours before the high court decision was announced, it was welcomed by a marching band composed of local students.

Changing times

Indeed, times have changed since the Philippine Senate, by a narrow 12-11 vote, decided not to renew the U.S. bases agreement in 1991. A year later, after then President Cory Aquino’s administration tried vainly to work out an extension, the U.S. flag was lowered in Subic for the last time. Since then, leftist and nationalist groups have vigilantly opposed any presence of American forces on Philippine soil. It was a period when the nationalists proudly declared the Philippines as “truly independent.” However, it was also a dark period when China started grabbing Philippine territories including the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, Scarborough Shoal, and six other islands where she built artificial islands that could be used for military purposes. China has been trying to expel a contingent of Philippine Marines guarding the Ayungin Shoal in a grounded and rusty naval vessel, the BRP Sierra Madre.

Reclaimed Fiery Cross Reef.

But it was when China started building the artificial islands that the nationalist legislators began to worry. They turned to the U.S. for help but Uncle Sam stayed out of the disputed islands, claiming neutrality. Some of them even tried to invoke the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), which makes one wonder: Did they expect the Americans to come to the aid of the Philippines after they were booted out of the country? And these “patriotic” legislators know that with a navy without warships and an air force without warplanes, the country is helplessly — and hopelessly — at the mercy of China.



US-Philippines bilateral meeting in Washington DC on January 12, 2016, the day the Philippine Supreme Court ruled the EDCA constitutional.

It did not then come as a surprise when President Benigno Aquino III opened the doors for the U.S. to station troops and equipment on a rotational basis. And that’s when EDCA came to fruition. But it wasn’t easy. As soon as the EDCA was signed in April 2014, several



The “Magnificent 12” of the Philippine Senate in 1991.

leftist and nationalist personalities petitioned the Supreme Court to declare EDCA unconstitutional. Among them were former Senators Rene Saguisag and Wigberto Tañada who were among the “Magnificent 12” — as their supporters called them — who voted to kick the U.S. bases out of the Philippines 24 years ago. Today, these 12 senators are now referred to as the “Dirty Dozen.” Indeed, times are changing.

Supreme Court ruling

When the Supreme Court circulated the draft of the ponencia penned by Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno last November, the Senate immediately passed Resolution 1414 introduced by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, which says that any treaty should be concurred in by the Senate otherwise it becomes “invalid and ineffective.” However, the U.S. and Philippine governments have always insisted that EDCA is an executive agreement, not a treaty.

Fourteen senators voted to adopt the resolution. Only Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV voted against it while Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile abstained. It’s ironic that Enrile, who was one of the

“Magnificent 12,” had abstained this time around, which makes one wonder: Did he finally realize the folly of his action in 1991? Indeed, had he voted for retention of the U.S. bases then — a notion that might have swirled in his mind today — China would have stayed out of the Spratly Islands.

Nevertheless, in spite of the “invalid and ineffective” language of Resolution 1414, the Supreme Court went ahead and voted 10-4 on Sereno’s ponencia. Justices Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Arturo Brion, Teresita Leonardo-De Castro and Marvic Leonen dissented while Justice Francis Jardeleza inhibited.

In his concurring opinion to the court’s ruling, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said that EDCA’s provisions that allow the repositioning of U.S. war materiel and equipment in Philippine military bases would “give teeth” to the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). “With the EDCA, China will think twice before attacking Philippine military resupply ships to Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys. With the EDCA, the Philippines will have a fighting chance to hold on to Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys,” he said.

Containing China

With EDCA in place, the Philippines can now play an important role in preventing Chinese expansionism in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region that spans more than 12,000 miles across the globe — from the coast of East Africa to the shores of California. The



Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno.

Philippines, which was the weakest link in the First Island Chain that forms the first line of defense against Chinese intrusion into the Pacific Ocean, is now going to be a fortified 1,100-mile “retaining wall” against China’s “nine-dash line” — which U.S. Admiral Harry Harris calls the “Berlin Wall of the Sea” — that runs parallel to the Philippines’ 12-mile territo-

rial boundary and the First Island Chain. And at both ends of that retaining wall are the Bashi Channel in the Batanes Islands in the north and the Tawi-Tawi Strait in the Sulu archipelago in the south. It’s no surprise then that the U.S. has requested access to Batanes Island and the Laoag Airport in Ilocos Norte where movements in the Bashi Channel could be monitored, and blocked if a conflict with China occurs.

Whoever controls the Bashi Channel, Tawi-Tawi Strait, and the Miyako Channel — a major choke point that connects the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean — would control the First Island Chain; thus, containing China to the confines of the South and East China Seas.

It’s also been reported in the news that the existing Philippine naval facility at Oyster Bay, Pala-



First and Second Island Chains.

wan is being developed into a “mini Subic.” Oyster Bay, which is only 100 miles from the Spratly Islands, is the Philippine Navy’s sole base facing the South China Sea and the staging point to the Kalayaan Islands that includes the populated Pag-Asa Island.

In the previous week, three important events happened that gave the U.S. a geopolitical victory over China in Asia-Pacific, to wit: (1) The resolution of the “comfort women” issue between Japan and South Korea; (2) The election of pro-independence Tsai Ing-wen as Taiwan’s next president; and (3) The Philippine Supreme Court’s ruling on the constitutionality of EDCA.

With America’s military alliances with South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Australia, and Singapore secured, President Obama’s “Pivot to Asia” strategy is finally paying off, which solidified the position of the U.S. as a Pacific power. And with EDSA in place, a new strategic partnership between the U.S. and the Philippines is created; thus, providing a safety net for the Philippines to protect her sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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PerryScope
By Perry Diaz

Why was Bonifacio murdered?

On July 7, 1892, Andres Bonifacio, together with Deodato Arellano, Valentin Diaz, Teodoro Plata, Ladislao Diwa, and Jose P. Rizal's deportation, convened secretly and agreed to form a secret society. The founders called the secret society the Kataastaasang Kagalang-Kagalang na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan or Katipunan for short. It was also referred to as KKK.

Bonifacio, born on November 30, 1863, is considered the Father of the Philippine Revolution against Spanish colonization. He became the Katipunan's military leader or "Supremo." The Katipunan grew into a large organization and became a potent revolutionary force against the Spaniards.

The country honors Bonifacio by declaring November 30 as "Bonifacio Day," a national public holiday. But there is one question that remains unanswered today and that is: Was Bonifacio the First President and why was he murdered?

Was Bonifacio the First President?

On July 7, 1892, Andres Bonifacio — upon hearing the news that Dr. Jose Rizal was arrested and deported to Dapitan the day before — called for a meeting with five of his friends, to wit: Jose Dizon, Valentin Diaz, Deodato Arellano, Ladislao Diwa, and Teodoro Plata. That night, they organized a secret society called Kataastaasang Kagalanggalan na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Highest and Most Respected Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Nation) — in short, Katipunan. Bonifacio was named their "Supremo."

They recruited people to join and by 1896, on the eve of the revolution, the Katipunan had more than 400,000 members. During the revolution, two dominant leaders emerged — Bonifacio and Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. By 1897, to the detriment of the revolution, their rivalry had divided the revolutionary forces into Bonifacio's Magdiwang faction and Aguinaldo's Magdalo faction.

Attempts were made to reconcile the two leaders. On March 22,

1897, the two factions held a convention in Tejeros, a barrio of San Francisco de Malabon in Cavite, Aguinaldo's bailiwick. Aguinaldo did not attend the gathering. Jacinto Lumbreras, a Magdiwang, presided over the assembly. The agenda of the convention was to adopt a plan for the defense of Cavite. However, the subject was not even discussed as the meeting became tumultuous.

Instead, those in attendance decided to elect the officers of the revolutionary government. In essence, the participants threw out the Supreme Council of the Katipunan under which all the revolutionary forces had been fighting for.

Bonifacio reluctantly agreed to preside over the election. Aguinaldo was elected President; Mariano Trias as Vice President; Artemio Ricarte as Captain-General; Emiliano Riego de Dios as Director of War; and Bonifacio as Director of the Interior. The following day, March 23, Aguinaldo and the other elected officials, with the exception of Bonifacio, took their oath of office in the new revolutionary government.

Meanwhile, on the same day that Aguinaldo took his oath of office, Bonifacio and his followers —

for nullifying the results of the convention.

Bonifacio and his supporters believed that Aguinaldo's men were responsible for the chaos at the Tejeros convention. He believed that Aguinaldo's men had maneuvered him out of power. Indeed, it was a rude awakening for him because even the Magdiwangs, his followers, did not vote for him either for President or Vice-President.



General Emilio Aguinaldo

Adding insult to an injury, Daniel Tirona, a Magdalo, protested Bonifacio's election as Director of the Interior saying that a person with a lawyer's diploma should hold the post. Bonifacio, outraged by Tirona's insult, angrily declared: "I, as chairman of this assembly and as President of the Supreme Council of the Katipunan, as all of you do not deny, declare this assembly dissolved, and I annul all that has been approved and resolved."

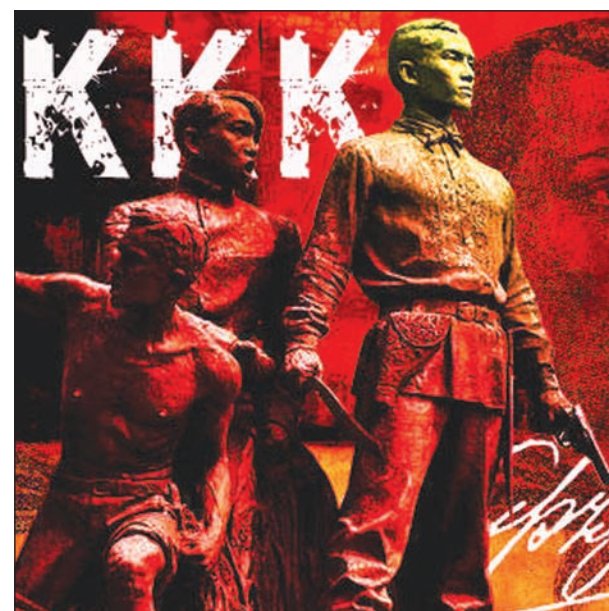
At Naik, where Bonifacio subsequently moved his Magdiwang forces after the failed Tejeros convention, Bonifacio and his supporters drew up another document — known as the Naik Military Agreement — in which they resolved to establish a government independent and separate from the one established at Tejeros.



Tejeros Convention

numbering forty-five — met again at the same venue of the convention held the day before. They were furious. They felt bad about the results of the election. They believed that the Magdalo faction committed anomalies during the balloting. Consequently, they decided to invalidate the election. They drew up a document — Acta de Tejeros — giving their reasons

Country of the Tagalog Nation). They printed its Cartilla, a small handbook containing the rules, the 14-point code of ethics, and the recruitment process. In it, the Katipunan declared that the word "Tagalog" stood for "all who were born in this archipelago... hence Visayans, Ilocanos and Pampangos were all Tagalogs" ("Filipino" during the Spanish regime was



Andres Bonifacio

a Spaniard born in the Philippines and the natives were called "indios"). The following were elected as officers of the de facto government of Haring Bayang Katagalugan: Andres Bonifacio — President; Emilio Jacinto — Minister of State; Teodoro Plata — Minister of War; Aguedo del Rosario — Minister of the Interior; Briccio Pantas — Minister of Justice; Enrique Pacheco — Minister Finance; Silvestre Baltazar — Treasurer General; Daniel Tirona — Secretary General. Unfortunately, the Bonifacio government was never recognized because they were all busy fighting the Spanish colonial forces.

Upon learning of the Naik Military Agreement, Aguinaldo sent a contingent of soldiers to arrest Bonifacio and his brothers Procopio and Ciriaco. The confrontation became deadly. Ciriaco was killed and Bonifacio and Procopio were wounded. They were brought to Naik to face a military tribunal. Albeit the absence of evidence, the Bonifacio brothers were found guilty of treason and sedition. They were recommended for execution. Aguinaldo commuted the sentence to deportation. However, Generals Mariano Noriel and Pio del Pilar, both former allies of Bonifacio, convinced Aguinaldo to withdraw his order and proceed with the execution. They believed that as long as Bonifacio were alive, there would be no unity. On May 10, 1897, Aguinaldo's soldiers executed the Bonifacio brothers at the foot of Mt. Tala. They were buried in shallow graves without markers.



Execution of Andres Bonifacio

Bonifacio precede Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo as the acknowledged Father of the Philippines?

Postscript

It's been more than a century since Bonifacio was betrayed and murdered by his enemies. Many believed that had he lived and ruled the First Philippine Republic, the country today would be different from the colonial past in so many ways. It would have been different from the Las Islas Filipinas that Rizal had dreamed about. It would have been different from what Quezon wished the Philippine Islands were 50 years later. It would have been different from what our present-day political leaders have crafted the government of the Republic of the Philippines into. But one thing would have happened for sure: It would have been a free country governed by the people, of the people, and for the people.

(Perrydiaz@gmail.com)

On June 12, 1898, Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of the Philippines and installed a "Dictatorial Government" that would be temporary in nature until peace is achieved at which time it may be "modified by the nation, in which rests the principle of authority."

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NEW LEADERSHIP USHERS IN NEW ERA IN PNDA

By Cynthia Bonta

After 25 years of community youth work in the Greater Sacramento area Philippine National Day Association (PNDA) can boast of a new set of Board of Directors who are dedicated to PNDA's mission and have new, young and creative eyes for PNDA's vision.

The Board are made up of young professionals, many of whom are alumni of PNDA's projects, namely, the Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards (OFYA) and the Filipino American Youth Leadership Conference (FAYLC) either as a recipient, participant, counselor, or leader. From a founder's perspective whose vision it was to develop leaders who were concerned about empowering the community through education, through active involvement in addressing issues, through change-making service - this is the dream come true - to be able to gather a group of leaders that understand the rationale for developing PNDA's particular concept of 'leadership that empowers the community.' With such basic understanding they will come up with their way of doing things that communicates to the present times.

PNDA's older generation of leadership can freely share past experiences that the new generation of leadership will transform to be applicable to the present and the future. PNDA sees intergenerational leadership as very vital to be able to see their community work all-sidedly. To include community leaders who have knowledge and experience about the Filipino community in Sacramento is an inevitable part of the plan. This means that PNDA needs the support and wisdom of the longtime community leaders. To open up a Director's seat to a high school and/or college student is part of



the intergenerational leadership commitment, as well.

PNDA's programs are actually showing signs of success after so many enduring years of consistent work and unwavering attention to its goals. PNDA's leaders now know to continue to develop leaders who will be key in empowering Filipinos in order to harness their talents, skills, and resources so as to "wake up the sleeping giant" to be contributing members of the community at large.

As a collective, this new PNDA Board is power-packed with talent and skills that will benefit the youth and the community as a whole in the following areas: Filipino American History and Experience; Youth Psychology; Youth Mentoring Strategies; Civic Engagement; The Educational System; Current Social Issues

and Human Trafficking, College retention; Financial Health.

The professions in the Board include Lawyer, Medical Doctor, Doctor of Philosophy, Financial Adviser, Governmental Analyst, Teacher, Educational Counselors, Political Managers/Directors, Community Leaders.

Yes, power-packed, and high in enthusiasm and energy. The OFYA project will reach out to an updated list of schools with high concentrations of Filipino students and strive to get a larger number of schools represented. Initial steps are already being made to see about holding FAYLC this year during the usual first weekend of August. Much chatter is evident in Facebook. Many are stepping up to be involved. LahiArts is exploring art outside the realm of dance, song, and theater. We are in for a BIG surprise. Do not miss out. We are gearing up for a Mentorship Program.

We know the content of the beginning of the New Era. But we will know the soul of it and its dynamism as it unfolds this year and into the years to follow.

This is a call to all of you who are interested in being involved with PNDA's projects and/or getting to know the Board of Directors. Take the opportunity to work with such a unique leadership collective as this PNDA Board.

They are Charles Panadero, Megan Sapigao, Bobby Roy, Justin Delacruz, Paolo Soriano, Chris Mateo, Jennifer Berdugo, James Fabionar, Leila Pereira. If you wish to contact the PNDA Board, you may email the President at cpanadero.pnda@gmail.com or visit the PNDA website at www.pndaempowers.org. If you have any comments about this article, email Cynthia at cbonta@comcast.net.



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Enrile blames President for SAF 44 massacre

From page 3

"I am doing this so the people will know the national leaders who failed them because of ineptness and lack of leadership. I am doing this for truth and for no one else," he said.

In his opening remarks, Enrile said Mr. Aquino:

Actively and directly participated in the planning and preparation of Oplan Exodus.

Deliberately compartmentalized the operation to himself and Purisima.

Was the approving authority of Oplan Exodus.

Was fully aware of what was going on during its execution. Want only disregarded the command system of the PNP and the AFP.

Intentionally and actually and directly dealt with a person who before and at the time of the Mamasapano gruesome massacre was not an active part of the command system of either the AFP or the PNP.

Did not make any effective decision or issue any effective order or an effective action as President of the Republic of the Philippines to prevent barbaric slaughter and slaying of PNP troopers whom he knowingly sent in a dangerous mission to capture Marwan and two other targets.

Facilitator

Enrile was able to confirm from Napeñas that Mr. Aquino, along with Purisima, Napeñas and Marquez, had discussed the details of Oplan Exodus, including the capture of Marwan dead or alive, on Jan. 9 at Bahay Pangarap.

Napeñas also said the President did not object or comment to his proposal on the usage of time on

target or the manner of cooperation of the SAF with the military. He confirmed to Enrile that he asked Mr. Aquino that they would coordinate with the military only after the assault force was on the target location and that the Chief Executive did not object or comment.

Based on the text messages that Purisima sent the President on the police operations, including the groups that the SAF groups were engaged with at that time, the Chief Executive was "fully informed about the ongoing operations," Enrile said.

Napeñas, for his part, told reporters that Enrile was able to show President Aquino's role in the police operation as he insisted that the Chief Executive had the final say in the approval of Oplan Exodus.

Enrile told Napeñas that President Aquino "compartmentalized" or agreed to compartmentalize Oplan Exodus to himself and Purisima and Napeñas agreed.

"When I say compartment of Oplan Exodus, I mean the President intentionally, deliberately and actually confined and arrogated unto himself full knowledge, command and control and strategic decisions. The President excluded all others, including members of the Cabinet... he left it to himself and his trusted men," he said.

Enrile asked Purisima if he understood what he meant by compartmentalization that the President did on the police operations. He replied by saying that Oplan Exodus was "crafted by the PNP SAF and our part is informatory."

"That's your defense," Enrile said of Purisima, adding that President Aquino "excluded everyone else."

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Mercedes Guerrero Takes Leadership of Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity

By Faina E. Abaya

The Filipino American community in Sacramento is very fortunate to have handful of men and women who have the sincerity of purpose to define what kind of leaders they are and skill to run their respective community organizations.

Suffice to say, these community organizations being led by competent leaders are very dynamic and robust that make our place vibrant, progressive and united to achieve varied missions for the betterment of our community and beyond.

Undoubtedly, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity is one among the more than a dozen community organizations that we have such high degree of expectations.

In fact, it is even safe to conclude that the FCSV is our premier community organization having given the task to raise funds to build our Filipino Cultural Center. It will be a place where we will conduct our important events to bring into fore noble practices and the richness of our cultural heritage.

In its long history, many of those who held the mantle of responsibility of the FCSV tried to fast tract the establishment of such cultural center, but time and again they miserably failed.

There was an incongruous suggestion to solicit funds from high income Filipino professionals in the community to raise the amount of 3 million dollars, the estimated cost of the cultural building. Of course, this outrageous suggestion existed only in the minds of the day dreaming proponents, because it was never put in action.

In the passing of many years, our community leaders, usually, initiated by the leadership of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity have tried to find ways and means to generate the much needed funds for our cultural center.



The new FCSV officers for 2016-17 with the 9th District of California Assembly member Jim Cooper.



Aida Azurin and Mercy Guerrero

Today, despite our continued failures to find the best way to fulfill our desire to build our own cultural center, our efforts still geared to raise funds for such purpose. We have outstanding leaders who held the helm of FCSV leadership whose efforts and sincerity to attain our dream are, undoubtedly, tried their best but sad to say they too failed.

On December 18, 2015 at the Jose Rizal Community Center along Florin Drive, Sacramento, CA we again witnessed the turn over of leadership of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.

Aida Azurin, the outgoing President of FCSV said on her farewell speech that she was thankful to the community for showing their assistance and cooperation every time the organization held com-



The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity newly inducted officers.



Line Dancing led by the Kapitbahay dancers.



The Supremes (Lanie, Estela, Rosie) with Elvis (RJ Mata).

Photos by Faina E. Abaya

The Assemblyman who was also the Guest Speaker of the evening said in his speech that he will always work for the best interest of the State of California. He said that California being a diversified State will work for the welfare of the minority, promote their cultural practices and will always emphasize the education of the children to become useful and upright citizens of the community.

The unique part of the evening program mceed by Remy Solomon and Leila Perreira was the messages of the Advisory Board members composed of past FCSV Presidents who were in unison in assuring the newly inducted officers of their full cooperation in all meritorious and commendable activities of the organization. The members of the Advisory Board who were present and delivered their respective messages were Lilia Rivera, Aida Azurin, Dr. Fred Aquino and Josie Patria.

The newly inducted President, Mercedes Guerrero said in her acceptance speech that she was very thankful to all the prominent community leaders who encouraged her to take the leadership of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity naming such personalities like, Josie Patria, Memmie Weitzenberg, Dr. Fred Aquino, Ann Viernes, Edna de los Reyes, Ambassador George Aducayen and Aida Azurin.

The President also personally thanks Josie Patria who suggested the creation of the Advisory Board composed of past Presidents who will help the FCSV leadership in all facets of community activities for a more productive FCSV.

Mercedes Guerrero candidly said, "I will not talk much about building the Filipino Cultural Center because you and I know that it is not going to happen in the next two years of my term" She added further that, "I can only promise that the new set of officers will support and cooperate to our best to raise money for the future building".

The President of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity was born in Concepcion, Rosario, La Union where she spent the happy years of her young life with family and close friends. She was a graduate of the University of Baguio with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

She immigrated to the United States in the late 1970. She took up Vocational Accounting at Cosumnes College in Sacramento.



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mendable activities. She likewise expressed her profound gratitude to all her officers for their usual cooperation in all the years that she held the leadership of FCSV. She further said that she will become, as always, an active participant of the community and will

support any meritorious activities of the FCSV that will redound to the best interest of everyone.

The incoming officers for 2016-17 term led by Mercedes Guerrero took their Oath of Office before 9th District of California Assembly member Jim Cooper.

Parishioners Pick Nathaniel Yamamoto and Andrea Rodriguez as Mister and Miss St. Paul for 2015-16

By Faina E. Abaya

Pope Francis in his pastoral sojourns to many countries has always in his vision and prayers the present and future of the youth. He is deeply concerned with their religious upbringing, education, economic condition and the many challenges for their bright future.

Indeed, the youth of today must be well educated and properly guided to become upright and useful citizens of their country. If the youth of today are left with all the influences and temptations around them, they will become like swelling waters of flood that could destroy anything and everything in its course.

This grim picture of our unguided youth is echoed and reverberated in every nook and corner of the world to all people regardless of religious belief, race and social status. The parishioners of St. Paul Catholic Church on Florin Road, Sacramento aware of such situation lunched a fund raising event to strengthen the Youth Ministry of the Church to meet its varied programs and missions, especially, geared for the youth.

Reverend Father Joyle Martinez said that the fund raising was dubbed as Mister and Miss St. Paul involving our young generation parishioners together with their families and friends. Father Martinez also added that the Mrs. Saint Paul Contest of last year fund raising was the precursor of the Mister and Miss Saint Paul Contest of the same purpose. Both events have generated the necessary funds that greatly helped the Youth Ministry program of the parish.

The fund raising for the Mister and Miss St. Paul Contest finally concluded on December 20, 2015 held at Saint Paul Parish Hall, 8720 Florin Rd., Sacramento, CA when the parishioners declared the winners of the contest. The winners of the Mister and Miss St. Paul will be crowned as Prince and Princess respectively.

The ten Candidates who were all declared winners in different categories are: Mr. Saint Paul, Nathaniel Yamamoto; Miss Saint Paul, Andrea Rodriguez; Mr. Charity, Jacinth Tran; Miss Charity, Alexia Cervantes; Mr. Hope Jose Miguel Torres; Miss Hope, Stephanie McClean; Mr. Faith, Ivan Michael Carino; Miss Faith, Apollross Reyes.



Andrea Rodriguez and Nathaniel Yamamoto



The ten candidates who were all declared winners in different categories.



Mrs. and Miss Faith



Mrs. and Miss Hope

The Saint Paul Parish Hall which can accommodate more than 200 guests was fittingly decorated with freshly cut flowers of different species as well as red and white helium balloons. The decorations were meticulously and artistically arranged to capture the glitter and grandeur of the coronation ceremonies for Prince Nathan Yamamoto and Princess Andrea Rodriguez with their Royal Court entourage.

The Coronation Ceremony program was ably emceed by Joe

Monteagudo and Mercy Guerrero who immediately opened the program with an invocation delivered by Rev. Fr. Felipe Paragoya, the residence priest of the Church. Thereafter, dinner was served with sumptuous combination of American and Filipino cuisines. As an expression of gratitude to the parishioners and their supporters all the winners named above have brought with them their cake of choice with varied flavors for all to partake.

Edna Clegg, one of the chairper-



Mrs. and Miss Charity

Photos by Faina E. Abaya



Sonny and Letty Alforque with Sinag-tala.



The FAVA members and guests.

sons of the Coronation Committee delivered the Welcome Address who expressed her thanks to the ten young candidates for Mister and Miss Saint Paul 2015-16 as well as to their "parents, relatives and families for their generosity and commitments in this fund raising" Likewise, she also expressed her profound gratitude to the "participants, guests, committees and volunteers for their support and cooperation as well as to their tireless sponsors for their continuous support".

At this juncture, the entrance of the Royal Court entourage was announced led by Mister and Miss Joy personified by Joseph Ash and Mae Nakajima wearing their best evening attires. They were followed by Mister and Miss Charity in the persons of Jacinth Tram wearing black suit with matching necktie and Alexea Cervantes who was so elegant in her strapless pink and white evening gown.

The entrance of Mr. Hope Jose Miguel Torres in his gray suit and his lady counterpart Stephanie McClean who was outstanding in her dark colored evening gown was met with thunderous applause. Following them was Mr. Faith in the person of Ivan Michael Carino in his dark suit with matching red necktie and Miss Faith Apollross Reyes in her red evening gown. All the members of the Royal Court entourage exuded the energy and

Continued on page 12

Mercedes Guerrero Takes Leadership of Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity

From page 10

With her knowledge of Accounting she was able to land a government job with the Employment Development Department in 1973 until she retired as an Accounting Specialist in 2004.

Mercedes Guerrero is one of the most energetic, skillful and outstanding community leaders in the Filipino American community in Sacramento. She started her community participation with the Speak Ezee Toastmasters International as Secretary and later on became a charter member of the Sampaguita Toastmasters.

She became President of "The Ilocanos of America" for 16 1/2 years and six years First Vice President of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity. Currently Treasurer of the Filipino Family Fraternity and Treasurer of Sacramento Camellia City Lodge 618, Secretary of Pangasinan Association of Northern California, Secretary of Filipino Fiesta and First Vice President of Ilocano Foundation of California. She is also a member of Filipino Women's Club.

Mercy as she is fondly called by close friends has a son Jerel who is currently enrolled in college taking up Accounting Major.

Mina Guerra, the outgoing Vice President delivered the closing remarks who expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all of those who graciously accepted their invitations to witness the turn over of leadership of the FCSV. Likewise, she also expressed her high hopes that the incoming officers will be successful during their term for the good of the community.

Entertainment was provided by the sensational community performers "Supremes" composed of Estela Rabara, Roselie Crandall and Lanie San Luis. The audience was also regaled by



FCSV President Mercy Guerrero

the professional like singing of the Rock and Roll King impersonator "Elvis" RJ Mata and thunderous applauds were also received by Bayanihan Club of Sacramento and the Kapit Bahay Dancers for their performances. All night music and dancing followed until closing time.

The inducted officers are: President, Mercy Guerrero; 1st Vice President, Joe Gonzales; 2nd Vice President, Estela Rabara; Secretary, Nellie Umali; Assistant Secretary, Linda Gibson; Treasurer, Margie Pasalo; Assistant Treasurer, Maria Bahoric; Auditor, Rick Rafanan; Assistant Auditor, Aurora Ramos; Peace Officers, Alex Avera, Segundo Azurin, Melchor Munar and Richard Sexton; Board of Directors: Estelita Avera, Rose Basos, Divina Borromeo, Bembet Borromeo, Steve Coloma, Carlos Cordero, Lucina Daclan, Edna de los Reyes, Rose DeLa Cruz, Mina Guerra, Carol Munar, Bella Nidoy, Ray Oineza, Alice Pambid, Rick Pasalo, Leila Perreira, Cleo Sabarre-Ner, Remy Solomon and Edna Villanueva. Advisers are Aida Azurin and Lilia Rivera.

Parishioners Pick Nathaniel Yamamoto and Andrea Rodriguez as Mister and Miss St. Paul for 2015-16

From page 11

enthusiasm of the youth as they showed the grace and elegance of their generation.

The young men in all categories have received boutonniere, sash, plaque and certificate of appreciation. Likewise, the ladies in all categories also received tiara, sash, bouquet, plaque and certificate of appreciation as they proceeded towards the stage where the Mister and Miss Saint Paul will be crowned as Prince and Princess respectively.

To the tune of Royal march, the entrance of Mr. Saint Paul Nathaniel Yamamoto was announced as everyone stood up and gave him a thunderous applause. Aside from his Parish title, Nathaniel will also be crowned as Prince, thus, he received Boutonniere from Edna Clegg, Sash from Lennie and Clara Helmericks, a Plaque was also presented by Dale and Kit Yamamoto and received a Certificate of Appreciation from Rev. Father Joyle Martinez and Katrina Quidlat.

Immediately thereafter, emcee Monteaugudo announced the entrance of Miss Saint Paul Andrea Rodriguez led by well dressed flower girls and escorts who scattered fresh petals of flowers on her way towards the stage. The members of the group were; Alison Roper and Jaren Azores; Ava Aguilar and Lorenzo Azores; Nikki Del Toro and Isaac Roper; Mia Del Toro and Jordan Del Toro.

Crown Bearer was Angela Clair while the Scepter Bearer was Abraham Lirio. Scepter was presented by Sr. Ma. Katrina Quidlat, RVM; Donning of sash was made by Lennie and Clara Heimericks; Bouquet was given by Tony and Florence Nual; Plaque was made by Rev. Fr. Joyle Martinez and Mrs. Elizabeth Rodriguez, the mother of Miss St. Paul while the Certificate of appreciation was presented by Vivian Luz Guenthoer and Solett Smith.

As soon as Mister and Miss Saint Paul took their reserved seats at the stage and their Royal Court entourage was in their designated places respectively, the coronation ceremonies started. Nathaniel Yamamoto gloriously crowned as Prince by Dale and Kit Yamamoto while Andrea Rodriguez was crowned as Princess by Elizabeth Velasco, Mrs. Saint Paul 2014 assisted by Fr. Joyle Martinez.

All of them showed the beauty, grace and elegance of our present young generation. Their willingness to commit themselves for commendable and meritorious fund raising for the betterment of their community and parishioners have defined them as to who they are in the community where they live. Indeed, our youth of today when properly guided will become useful and productive citizens ready to hold the mantle of responsibility in the Church and country.

Nathaniel Yamamoto was born and raised in Sacramento by his caring and loving parents Dale and Shirley Yamamoto. He graduated from Sheldon High School and he is currently enrolled at Consumnes River Community College. His goal is to finish his college education with a bachelor's degree in Art Graphic Design possibly at the State University of Sacramento. He plans also to study photography, marketing and social media to branch out his knowledge



Joe Monteagudo, Edna Clegg and Father Joyle Martinez



Photos by Faina Abaya

The Kapitbahay with Lilia Rivera.

and possibilities. Nathan is also an active parishioner and laity of the church, member of the Youth Ministry, brother in the Knights of Columbus and many other activities that redound to the best interest of the community and church.

Andrea Rodriguez was born and raised in Sacramento. She finished her secondary education at Monterey Trail High School. She is an alumna of California State University Chico where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with minor in Child development. She is currently working at Isabelle Jackson Elementary School as a Para Educator for the after school program SAIL.

Andrea as she is fondly called by close friends is well traveled having had the opportunity to travel in Europe visiting such countries as France, Italy and Malta, she was a student ambassador together with other students who represented their country in many countries to experience diverse cultures. When she was in high school and college, she was active in extracurricular activities learning the noble practices and cultures of other nationalities.

Andrea said that, "Growing up at Saint Paul Catholic church has been a very significant part of my life. I was baptized, had my first communion and confirmation while attending there. My faith is important to me and I truly believed being part of Saint Paul community has helped shaped me to the person I became".



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Eyebrow & Lips Tattoo

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\$50 per person

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Women - Black Gown Evening Dress

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Get together at the residence of Joel Mercado with Mon Veridiano, Jun Abaya, Ramon Nudo, Rudy Dayag, Umberto Rose and Amel Tuliao on Sunday-January 17, 2016.



UNLUCAI quarterly meeting held at the residence of Edgar and Charity Avena on January 9, 2016



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Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary James and Aurora Foresee!



James and Aurora with family and friends

On 9 Jan 2016, the renewal of vows started at noon in the lovely home of Jim and Aurora's. Reverend Father Roland of Auburn performed the ceremony witnessed by family and friends.



Aurora and James Foresee

The harmony of the celebrants' relationship may be best described in the lyrics of a love song. The theme song of the movie Ice Castles was written by the film's composer, "Marvin Hamlisch, with the lyrics written by Carole Bayer Sager." The song is also known as "Looking through the Eyes of Love" performed by a frequent collaborator with Sager, Melissa Manchester. It goes like this:

"Please don't let this feeling end. It's everything I am. Everything I want to be. I can see what's mine now. Finding out what's true. Since I found you. Looking through the eyes of love. Now, I can take the time. I can see my life. As it comes up shining now. Reaching out to touch you. I can feel so much. Since I found you. Looking through the eyes of love."

(Refrain)
And now, I do believe. That even in a storm we'll find some light. Knowing you're beside me, I'm all right.

Please, don't let this feeling end. It might not come again. And I want to remember. How it feels to touch you. How I feel

so much. Since I found you. Looking through the eyes of love.

(Repeat Refrain)
Now, I can take the time. I can see my life. As it comes up shining now. Reaching out to touch you. I can feel so much. Since I found you. Looking through the eyes of love."

If one looks through the eyes of love, one may see a spectrum of colors. Like the northern hemispheres' spectacular blaze of lights aka Aurora-Borealis, the special love of Jim and Aurora shines brilliantly. A toast to Mr. and Mrs. Foresee for their endless affection! Thank you for being a great glow of inspiration for your family and friends.

Family Vacation



Rhuena Buentipo with her amazing family, all aboard the Norwegian Jewel cruiseline to Mexican Riviera. She will be celebrating her birthday on February 1.

Elna's birthday celebration



Elna Dicipulo with friends and co-workers, as she celebrates her birthday, held on January 28, 2016 at Pho RU in Sacramento, Ca.




Family Dentistry

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Birthdays



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JANUARY 23



ANTHONY MERCADO
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JANUARY 24 & JANUARY 28



LEILA PEREIRA
REMY SOLOMON
JANUARY 29 & FEBRUARY 17



CRISTINA BAMBAO
JANUARY 26



SHERYLYN NAZARENO & hubby Edmond
JANUARY 28



Anniversary

JUN and FAINA ABAYA
52th Wedding Anniversary
January 26

In loving memory of...



Josefina A. Dela Cruz
Nov. 26, 1950 - Nov. 28, 2015

You are loved and missed by many.
Rest in peace.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 6, 2016 (Sat)
Filipino American Veterans
Association, Inc.
26th Anniversary Ball
& Installation of Officers
Joe 916.396.7863
Double Tree Hotel
2001 Point West Way,
Sacramento, CA



FEBRUARY 12, 2016 (Fri)
Maharlika Lions Club &
National Alliance of Women Veterans
Cupid's Ball
6 pm - 11pm
Lions Gate Hotel
3410 Westover St. Sac 95852
Lyn 916.798.4423



MARCH 19, 2016 (Sat)
Social Dinner & Dance
6 pm - 11pm
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By Dale Esperante

Magellan Hall's Happy New Year 2016!

Not even the wintry chill of New Year's Eve could stop the warmhearted revelers from arriving into the festive confines of Magellan Hall. The new and familiar lined up at the reception hall to sign in for the American Legion Magellan Post and Unit Auxiliary 604 New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. Beyond the reception desk, guests lingered and mingled amongst new and old friends. Word came down later that we were the only Fil-Am New Year Eve's social function in the area. It was The Place to be on New Year's Eve. Masaya talaga for only \$30!

Mistress of Ceremonies (MC1) Rose Delacruz started the official program by introducing Apol Reyes, one of Sinag-tala's Filipino Theater and Performing Arts leading singers. Apol sang the Star Spangled Banner and the Bayang Magiliw. Next, Commander Rick Rafanan addressed the guests to thank them for their continued support of the only American Legion property in Sacramento managed and owned by the Filipino-American veterans. Chaplain Ato Delacruz followed the commander to deliver the invocation. For dinner service, MC1 Rose invited the guests to form an orderly line to the buffet table. She announced that anyone needing assistance or with medical condition (diabetic et al) may go to the head of the line. Tasty feast, thanks to the volunteer dining staff of Chairman Bill



Versoza, Chef Joe Rivera, Chef Fred Amper, Yasko Floresca, Aida Calindas, Bella Anderson-Nido, Malou Amper, Linda and Lolit Cordero, Meding and Helen Mangosing.

Music by Hi-Tech Sound System (HTSS) enticed the after dinner crowd to swarm the dance floor with stretches of freestyle, cha-cha-cha, and line dancing. Having satiated the dancers, MC1 Rose proclaimed the start of the Ms. New Year Contest. Yours truly as Master of Ceremonies (MC2) introduced the reigning queen, Ms. New Year 2015 Carmelita Calindas. Escorted by her dapper husband, Fred Calindas, Ms.

NY 2015 Lita waved to the cheering crowd as she did her farewell walk. MC2 presented the 2016 candidates next: Letty Abero & Jocelyn Banag & Aurora Foresee. As the candidates' names were announced, cheers of encouragement boomed from their respective friends and supporters. MC1 Rose read a short bio of each candidate during their introductory promenade.

The DANCE of the candidates followed the introduction. Just to be clear, Contest Chairman Bill Versoza stressed the rule emphasizing the 3 minute dance time limit. Letty Abero danced the first 3 minutes with her loving group, followed by Jocelyn Banag's 3 minutes with her attentive well-wishers, and then Aurora Foresee danced the last 3 minutes with her circle of support. After the candidates' dance, the evening's accounting firm of Tancioco O'Quinn (Andy Tancioco and Letty O'Quinn) assumed the responsibility of tabulating the votes. Then some more dancing.

MC2 took time to acknowledge the participating community leaders: American Legion District 6 Commander Will Williams; FCSV President Mercy Guerrero; UNLUCAI President Henry Bambao; FFF President Nelly Umali; Kapitbahay Director Lilia Rivera; Pangasinan Association President Rey Oineza; Philippine Fiesta Newspaper Owners and Editors Dave and Dinnah San Pedro.

Next, Chairman Bill announced the results of the Ms. New Year 2016 contest. The winners: MS. HOPE 2016 Letty Abero; MS. FAITH 2016

Jocelyn Banag; and MS. NEW YEAR 2016 Aurora Foresee! Ms. New Year 2016 Aurora Foresee will be the reigning queen. Definitely no Steve Harvey moment occurred! MC2 formally introduced the winners for their official promenade across the room. They were followed by their core of presenters.

Presenters for MS. HOPE Letty Abero: Flowers by Frennie and Will Williams—Sash by Olive Jackson and Fred Aquino—Crown by Malou and Fred Amper.

Presenters for MS. FAITH Jocelyn Banag: Flowers by Virgie Lana and Carlos Cordero—Sash by Oyen Abad and Tom Amaba—Crown by Lerma and Tom Amaba.

Presenters for MS. NEW YEAR 2016 Aurora Foresee, the reigning queen: Flowers by Rose and Pete Delacruz—Sash by Ched Descargar and Manny Ramos—Crown by Lita and Fred Delacruz.

After the presentations, the winners and escorts posed for the paparazzi.

The three winning couples then swayed to the rhythm of Apol Reyes' song, a CD-worthy rendition of the song Sway. Following the dance, the group promenaded one last time before returning to their place of honor for another photo session, this time with their families and friends. Congratulations to all three ladies who participated in the annual New Year contest. Because of them, Magellan Hall received a windfall of donations for its preservation.

To complement the donations, a tireless and charming young lady named Emilee Vergara spent almost the whole evening carrying a basketful of raffle tickets to sell. Her winning personality contrib-

uted greatly to the sales of the raffle tickets. MC1 Rose officiated the drawing of the winning raffle tickets. A few lucky folks started the New Year with more in their possession, thanks to the raffle program.

About 3 more hours to go before the clock strikes twelve for New Year, so the music volume turned up and the lights glimmered low. The salubrious atmosphere added to the pizzazz of the festive crowd. The dancers occupied the floor until a few minutes before the midnight hour. MC2 and Emilee Vergara teamed up holding their mics to count down the seconds starting with 30-20-10-9-8-7-6-then Emilee emphatically uttered 5-4-3-2-HAPPY NEW YEAR! MC2 and Emilee toasted, then both parted ways as Emilee searched for her mom while MC2 switched to being a paparazzi attempting to capture the special moments of newly born 2016. Hugs, shakes, and clinking of glasses all around!

As expected by the now early New Year crowd, Joe Rivera served everyone some steaming hot arroz-caldo from a cauldron fresh out of the kitchen. Meanwhile, Bill Versoza and company laid out a tableful of individually portioned rice cakes/puto (self-serve style). Weary and hungry from celebrating, the after midnight diners enjoyed the nourishment as they listened to Auxiliary President Olive Jackson expressing the Legionnaires' appreciation to all who participated.

On behalf of the Veterans of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 and Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604, Thank You All for the Support and May We All Have a Prosperous and Joyous 2016!

SOCIAL DINNER/DANCE AFICIONADOS!

The Filipino-American Veterans of American Legion Magellan Post 604 and the Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 invite you and friends to join us again!



WHERE: MAGELLAN HALL
AT 8831 GERBER ROAD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95828
WHEN: March 19, 2016
COST: \$15 per person
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Joe: 916-396-7863
Dale 916-524-9287
Howard: 916-761-0384

Please let us know you're coming, so we can guarantee your participation in the social dining and dancing.

No official program. There will be a DANCE CONTEST. Prize will be a surprise. RECOMMENDED WEAR: Green Attire. Partying 2 days after St. Patrick's Day



By Nancy Cristi Bautista

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

As Frances looks out the window, the surroundings are back to the normal, quiet and less brighter streets. Most of the colorful and glittering Christmas lights are gone and the happy people gathering on the streets are back to their houses or places of work.

Frances looks up the sky while the full moon shines over her curly and short gray hair, while her bespectacled light brown grayish eyes gaze at the radiant moon. She is trying to reminisce her younger days, much, much, younger than her seventy year old body. She has thought of the days when she used to have some suitors, but none of them has filled her pure heart, except for a particular man who actually left her with a broken heart. Now, that she never has gotten married, she feels that her only regret is that during the time like this, she has no one to share the beautiful evening and that nobody is by her side to keep her warm. Frances just laughs off this thought and instead, looks at the full length mirror in her bedroom.

She sees a slim and yet strong woman, whose skin is still naturally smooth, thanks to her mother's genes. Frances gets closer to the mirror and finds some thin lines on her face, which, reflects the always smiling face that people usually comments about her beautiful attitude. She picks up the container of the face lotion which she applies routinely after washing her face. She is set aback and wonders if she needs to continue doing such routine since she has reached this age already. "Oh, well, maybe I will just finish this jar and after that, I won't buy a new one anymore."

The next day, as soon as she gets up, she says her prayers and asks God to continue to guide and protect her. She, then takes a shower and dresses up to go to the children's hospital where she is a volunteer since her retirement from being a nurse in the same hospital. Since she does not have any family nor relative in this foreign land, she finds comfort in this institution, which she has worked since she arrived from the Philippines at the age of twenty one.

Upon arriving at the hospital, the joyful voices of some children welcome Frances. "Good morn-

ing, Ms. Frances!" The new septuagenarian volunteer returns their cheerful greetings with a bright smile and hugs to the tykes. The volunteer manager happily tells Frances that the children have been so eager to see her again, especially after this past Christmas break.

Frances starts to gather the kids and she starts to ask them how their Christmas and New Year were. Everyone has expressed their happiness and joy about the toys they have received from Santa Claus, except one ten year old boy, Eugene. Frances calls him to come to her side, holds his hand and just smiles at him. Eugene smiles back at her, but, it lacks the usual luster and excitement that he usually showers to everyone in that hospital. Frances feels that something serious has been bothering Eugene, but, she tries to ignore any issue yet and continues to have a cheerful discussion with the other children in the circle. When the kids are singing, she excuses herself and approaches the volunteer manager.

Frances has just found out that Eugene has to be transferred to an orphanage since he has already reached the age limit of when a child can still stay in the institution. Frances glances back at Eugene, and she feels the tremendous hurt in the boy's appearance, not joining the other kids singing, sadly looking down, and his body sitting in an almost fetal position.

The other volunteers lead the kids to the dining hall to have a feast. However, Eugene asks permission if he can just go back to his bedroom. Frances follows Eugene and calls his name. The boy recognizes that voice and looks back at Frances, without the normal smile that he has used to give her. Frances hastens her steps to catch up with Eugene. She stretches her arm, holds his hand and asks him to go with her to the library. Eugene respectfully follows Frances.

As soon as Frances and Eugene sit down, the young boy hugs her and sobs. "Ms. Frances, I am soon leaving all of you," as Eugene's tears run down his cheeks. Frances hugs him back and gently turns his face to look at her.

"Eugene, look at it this way. When you live at the orphanage, you will have a good chance that you would meet a really good family whom you would love and will love you back. We all love you here, but, we will go back home to our own families, but, when a family adopts you at the orphanage, you can pick whom you want

to live with. Also, if for some reason that you do not like to live with the family you have chosen, you can discuss it with the mother superior and she will find another family for you." Frances explains clearly the adoption procedure to Eugene, as she lovingly runs her fingers through his thick hair. The boy, in return, gives Frances a sincere warm smile and hugs her.

The following day, when Frances returns to the hospital, she does not hear the routine cheerful voices of the kids. She looks around and she realizes right away that someone is missing. Before she can ask someone, the manager approaches her and says, "Frances, Eugene is missing! He runs away and leaves a letter addressed to you. I was not able to contact you this morning when it happened, because we were so frantic looking for him."

Frances does not hear the other words the manager is telling her because she is focusing on the letter that the young boy has left her. "Dear Ms. Frances, I am sorry that I left without saying goodbye to you. Since I do not have my mom and dad anymore, I am going to look for my uncle, myself. Hope to see you again. Love, Eugene."

Frances asks the manager if the police and the adoption place are notified. She runs to check Eugene's room to find any clue on where he might be going. In the room, she finds clippings of pictures of happy families and the province of Bulacan. She remembers that Eugene kept on mentioning that his parents, although they were already dead were from Bulacan. Frances asks the manager if she knows what part of Bulacan Eugene's parents were from. Upon finding the details, Frances decides to go to where she thinks the young boy would be.

Upon arriving at the said province, Frances starts using all the high technological resources needed to find Eugene.

Frances is so ecstatic realizing that Eugene is with his father's only living relative. She calls him on the phone right away and so happy to find that Eugene is in good hands. Frances makes an appointment to see the young boy right away.

When Frances finds the right house, Eugene is waiting at the door with his uncle. The young boy runs to give Frances a hug and appreciates that somebody else aside from his uncle loves

him. Eugene introduces Frances to his uncle, Rudy.

"Ms. Frances, this is my father's only living relative, Uncle Rudy. Uncle, this is the most wonderful lady in the whole wide world, Ms. Frances." Eugene looks at both of them, and is so puzzled why both are not talking, but, just staring at each other.

"Excuse me, Ms. Frances, Uncle Rudy, what's going on?"

"Oh, hmm..." Frances utters. "I'm sorry, Eugene, uh..."

"Eugene, what Ms. Frances wants to say is that...uh..." Rudy is also caught finding the right words to explain to his nephew about their reaction. "We want to say that, uh.. I knew Ms. Frances before."

"Huh? What? How?" the young lad cannot believe what his

left you just like that. I was young and foolish and the thought of going abroad attracted me. I tried to contact you right away, but, you changed your address and maybe your name?"

A deep sigh, which is more indicative of a very hurt feeling is the only thing that comes out from Frances. She looks directly at his eyes and calmly tells Rudy everything that entrails her feelings towards him, "I have already forgiven you."

Rudy, probably with guilt, bows his head and weeps silently. "Oh, Franny, thank you so much. God knows how I regretted that decision leaving you behind. I would like to make it up to you, just let me know how and I will do anything you want me to do."

Frances lifts Rudy's head and firmly tells him, "Taking care of your nephew is enough for me. He needs a father figure in his very delicate life. Make a good person out of him. Pour your love on him and both of you will benefit from it. Make him love life and God." Eugene realizes that his life will change for the better with his uncle's and Ms. Frances' guidance. Eugene finally gives the precious smile that he used to share to all the people whose lives he has touched. Now, he knows that his future will be bright, having the two most important



Illustration by Dave San Pedro

uncle Rudy has just said.

Ms. Frances tries to explain to Eugene that they used to be schoolmates in college in Manila. However, deep in Frances' heart, she cannot deny that their relationship has been more than just being schoolmates.

Rudy asks Eugene if he can just let Ms. Frances and him have a private talk. The young boy nods his head and proceeds to go inside the house.

It took a few moment before Frances and Eugene break their silence. Eugene is the one who speaks up first. "Franny, I would like to apologize for what I had done to you. I should have not

most important

people back in his life. Rudy holds Eugene's hand and smiles back at Franny, who feels a different heartbeat at that moment. Franny feels that she and Rudy need to sit down to catch up for the lost time. Since Rudy and Franny are both single, there is a good chance that they can be Eugene's parents as of now or permanently? God only knows. He has a funny way of finding lost love together again, and this time, saving a young soul from getting astray.

"Happy Endings Happen To All Who Wait."

By Nancy Cristi Bautista



By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

The FAST in Stroke

Stress is one of the major causes of stroke. For a matter of six months I witnessed three of my coworkers got stroke.

Aside from personally seeing it happened, I am the first one to recognized it among others and called for help, not to mention I even detected my mother having stroke when I called her long distance in the Philippines. She was slurred. I told her, "Ma, you are having stroke. You need to see a doctor insigida. Tell Papa to bring you to the hospital now." I thank God for giving me sense to detect it while happening real time and was able to initiate first aid measure.

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of your brain is interrupted or severely reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. A stroke is a medical emergency (Mayo Clinic, 2015).

Mortality is high with stroke. The first one of my three coworkers was not able to make it. May she rest in peace. The second one said, "Gabe, I have severe headache and half of my face is numb." I said you are having stroke. I will send you to

the emergency department. She got stroke and have physical deficit and is not back to work yet. The third one told me, "Gabe, I am dizzy." I told her, "I will help you." And reassured her we will bring her to ED. Stroke alert was called. Appropriate treatment was done and the prognosis is promising. Praying for fast recovery.



Early recognition is the name of the game and treatment should not be delayed. Four important letters to remember to determine stroke: FAST. F for face. Look for facial assymetry. Let the victim make a smile and see if the face is balance. If not, the victim must have stroke. A for arms. Let the victim raise both arms straight at shoulder level and look if one arm drops before 10 seconds. S for speech. Let the victim speak and listen if there is slurring. T for time. As the saying

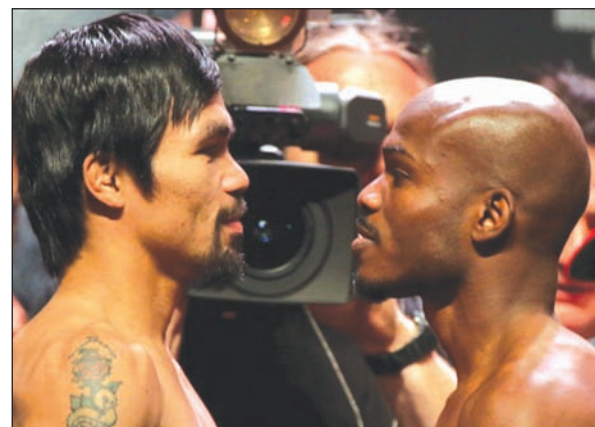
goes, "Time is gold." Call 911 or bring the victim to the emergency department ASAP.

Sharing information is one way of educating ourselves. I hope and pray that someday, if I am the victim of an impending stroke, somebody out there can proficiently detect STROKE and prevent major physical damage brought by this dreaded condition (gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

Roach predicts Pacquiao will KO Bradley in 9th round

By April Lastimoza

Freddie Roach is not worried Bradley is under a new trainer. He says Pacquiao is still the better fighter. He believes Pacquiao will KO Bradley.



Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley

Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach strongly believes his longtime ward Manny Pacquiao still has what it takes inside the boxing ring and predicted that the "Pambansang Kamao" will be able to knockout Timothy Bradley when they face each other on April 9 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Boxing Scene quoted him as saying: "Manny wants to go out with a bang and knock Tim out so I predict a knockout in nine."

Since this will be the third time the two fighters will face each other in the boxing ring, Top Rank founder and CEO Bob Arum aims to promote the fight as Pacquiao's fight against a different Bradley.

According to an article published by Boxing News 24, Arum said Bradley is a different guy than what he was during his first two fights with Pacquiao.

The 32-year-old boxer recently left trainer Joel Diaz recently and signed Teddy Atlas. Arum said this makes a lot of difference,

but Roach believes otherwise. "It doesn't change a little bit with a new trainer in camp. I got the better fighter, so I'm not worried about it. Manny isn't a hard to get up for fights. He knows he has to be at his best to win this fight. Once he's in the gym, he gives me 100 percent."

Roach told Los Angeles Times in a telephone conversation that Pacquiao has always been dedicated and hard-working.

He said: "One thing about Manny Pacquiao is once he walks in the boxing gym, all that other stuff goes away"

He's always dedicated, always works very hard, and I don't think that will change. Once he's in the gym, he knows what he's there for. It's still what he does best, and he knows that."

Jinkee on Manny Pacquiao's retirement: "I'm happy, it's an answered prayer for me"

Jinkee Pacquiao is happy that Manny Pacquiao has decided to retire from boxing



Jinkee Pacquiao

She says it's an answered prayer. She wants him to retire since 2012 after he lost to Juan Manuel Marquez

Jinkee Pacquiao couldn't hide her happiness after her husband, Manny Pacquiao, confirmed he will be officially retiring from boxing after his fight and third faceoff with Timothy Bradley on April 9 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Speaking to Inquirer.net, the Sarangani Vice Governor said: "I'm not sad [that he's retiring], I'm happy, it's an answered prayer for me."

She revealed she has been praying for her husband to retire since 2012 when he lost to Juan Manuel Marquez.

Jinkee said what her husband really wants now is to focus on his growing political career in the Philippines where he is running as a senator in the coming elections. She believes that her husband doesn't have

anything left to prove in boxing.

"I have so much faith in him whether as a boxer, a politician or a husband," she added.

Although Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum said they won't be selling the fight as Pacquiao's farewell match due to the possibility that the Filipino boxing icon may want to step inside the boxing ring and fight again one day, Pacquiao reiterated he will be retiring.

According to an article published by ESPN, the Pambansang Kamao said on Tuesday, January 19: "I'm so happy hanging up my gloves after this fight. I'm sure I'll feel sad after that, but that's life. It's time, I think."

He emphasized he will be retiring and focus on his political career instead.

"I know it's time to retire because after this, I have another big responsibility in the Philippines, which is serving the people. My family wanted me to retire before I fought Mayweather. I started this boxing just to help my mother, and I'll end my boxing career to help the country," he said.



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Pia Wurtzbach feels honored to see PNoy after Miss Universe win



Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach meets President Benigno Aquino III during a courtesy call at the Malacanang Palace on Tuesday. Pia is accompanied by her mother Cheryl Alonzo Tyndall and Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. Stella Marquez-Araneta.

MANILA, Philippines - Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach paid a courtesy call to President Benigno Aquino III at the Malacañang Palace on Tuesday.

Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. chair Stella Marquez-Araneta and Miss Universe president Paula Shugart accompanied Pia during the visit.

Aquino and Wurtzbach were reported to have dated shortly after the 26-year-old beauty queen won the Miss Universe-Philippine title last year.

However, Pia denied the rumors, saying she and Aquino are just friends.

Well, he congratulated me. And we talked about Miss Universe for a little bit," Pia said asked when asked by Palace reporters

what she and PNoy talked about during her Palace visit. "Also, with what he's been busy with lately. How he's been doing, how I've been doing. And he congratulated me. And I congratulated him for a successful term."

She said "it is an honor to be in the presence of the president, of course."

"Especially now that I'm here as Miss Universe, bringing back home the crown for the Filipino," Pia added.

During her news conference on Sunday, Pia said she is currently single.

"Tignan mo, kahit na Miss Universe ka, pwede ka pa ring maging sawi," Pia quipped, adding her crown is her boyfriend.

Pia Wurtzbach reveals her 'ideal man'

Newly crowned Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach poses for the media following a news conference Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016. Newly crowned Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach shows her crown during a news conference Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016 in suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines. Wurtzbach returned home to the Philippines for the first time since her crowning — and that awkward moment when host Steve Harvey mistakenly crowned Miss Colombia instead of her. Wurtzbach said her next dream is to become a "Bond Girl."



Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach

sense of humor. Those are the two qualities that are important to me," she said.

Do you have what it takes to capture the heart of the universe's most confidently beautiful woman?

On Tuesday, the reigning Miss Universe revealed in a press conference the traits she is looking for in a man.

Before answering the question, Wurtzbach who is wearing a beautiful neoprene terno by Albert Andrada, let out a soft giggle.

"Somebody who is smart...with a good

Days after being crowned the 2015 Miss Universe Philippines, reports about her dating the Philippine president emerged. The beauty queen quickly denied the rumors, and clarified that they are just friends and have only met through some social occasions.

She, however admitted in a talk show that she once dated a Filipino-British football player, who is allegedly Phil Younghusband.

Ang Probinsyano as today's idol

By Bibsy M. Carballo

Back then, we joined the hordes of fans filling up the seats of the nearest cinema in town.

The audience-drawer was a young man being introduced to a life of audience exposure, something he had never experienced at all.

The young man was Coco Martin and his discoverer was Brillante Ma. Mendoza.

Coco followed each and every lesson given him to the last detail which pleased Brillante very much.

Years later, Coco had become a big star but he hadn't changed in terms of being grateful to his mentor and everyone else who had helped him along the way.

In his current teleserye based on FPJ's Ang Probinsyano (Man from the Province), Coco plays twins and police officers Ador and Cardo de Leon.

While exercising their duties, one of the twins (Ador) was killed by a companion, for whatever reason has not yet been uncovered.

So Cardo uses this opportunity to imitate Ador to hopefully discover why his brother had been killed.

Cardo gets permission from his bosses to visit the house of some kidnapped girls on the basis of a trumped-up excuse.

Coco in disguise as a woman (Paloma) is determined to find out how one of the girls Carmen was kidnapped, but gets waylaid along the way by the taxi driver (Jason Francisco) who falls in love with him (as a woman) and keeps following him around.

The children in the house where Coco lives discover under the bed his disguise including hair and shirt. They put these on and start dancing. Meanwhile, Coco is fast asleep and has no idea of what has been happening. Until Susan Roces (in the role of Lola Kap) catches them and starts believing talk that Coco in reality is bi-sexual!



Coco Martin (right) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from prosecutor general Claro Arellano for his favorable portrayal of a cop

Cardo's mission gets more complicated as he tries to hide his identity as Paloma from his loved ones. The streets become more and more dangerous for women, and the mission becomes complicated as Cardo continues to disguise as Paloma.

It is therefore no surprise that Ang Probinsyano's pilot episode has reached a 41.6 percent nationwide ratings. Coco's return to primetime and being called the King of Teleseryes fits him completely.

FPJ's Ang Probinsyano makes so much sense in hitting issues of national relevance while telling the story of a young police officer.

The effect of Ang Probinsyano has always been compared to that of Manny Pacquiao's fight where the crime rate goes down while people at home watch the fight on TV.

For his encouraging portrayal of a cop, Coco was recognized by the Philippine National Police. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation by Prosecutor General Claro Arellano during the 63rd Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) founding anniversary at Camp Crame in Quezon City.



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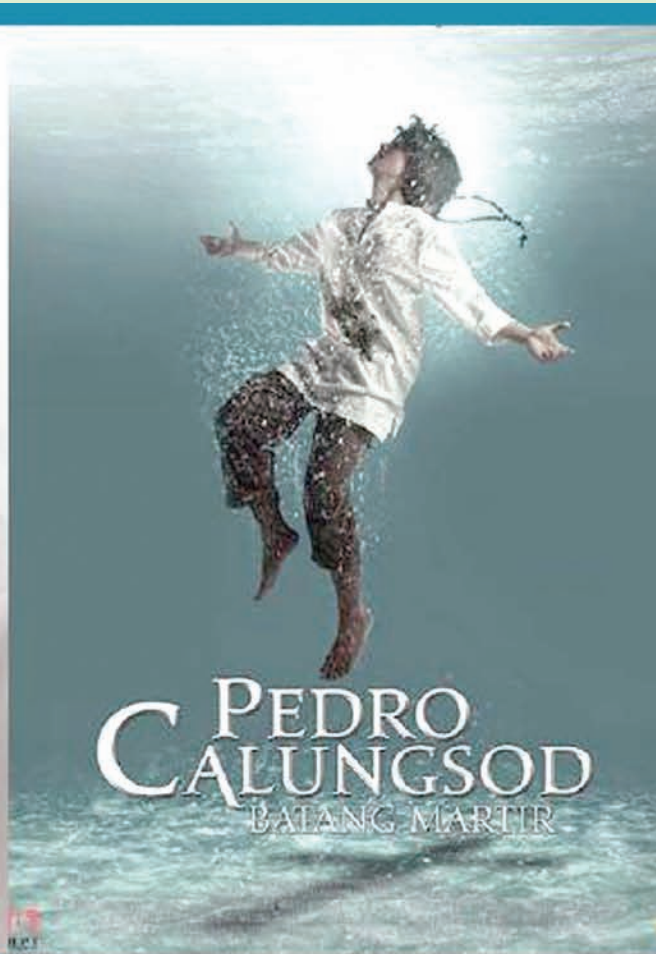
25th Ati-Atihan Festival and Dance

The Ati-Atihan is a festival in honor of Santo Nino, celebrated in the 3rd week of January. During the last three days of the week-long festival (fiesta), a celebrant paint their faces in many different ways and dressed in their exceptional costumes. The dancing on the rhythms of the drums makes this festival comparable with the carnival in Rio, Brazil.

The festival is celebrated in Kalibo on the island of Panay (Visayas). Nowadays it is a mix of parades, procession and dancing people on the rhythms of monotonous music of drums or the rhythmic tinkling of metal and stone on bottle, and the dancing never stops! (Ati-Atihan Sacramento program)



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-Joel Nava, Campus Ministry Volunteer, Asia Pacific College

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