

PF NEWS

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Celebrating 14 Years of Philippine Fiesta



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Editor's Note

The month of May is very special to us and the Philippine Fiesta news. It was around this time, way back in 2002, while attending one of the meetings of the Sacramento Filipino Fiesta, when the idea of publishing a community paper came to mind. Limited in our ability to promote the said event with our previous affiliation and partnership with another Filipino news publication, a decision was made to come out with one. Hence, the title Philippine Fiesta, which promised to promote and celebrate every happenings in our community. Now, fourteen years later, we know this publication has kept its promise.

This issue is the first for Philippine Fiesta news' 15th year in our community. Take notice of the publication name, as we have simplified it to become only the PF News but with similar intended mission to always celebrate. With the upcoming issues, we will bring back the Ganda, Talino, and Talento page, as our way to highlight special persons or groups in our community, who may be possessing the beauty, brain (intelligence), and talent and become our community's pride and inspirations.

This first issue of Philippine Fiesta news, in its 15th year brings you once again to several events and celebrations in our community in Sacramento and surrounding areas. Don't forget the Philippine National Day (Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento) fiesta celebrations on June 5, to be held at the Jose Rizal Community Center. Also, congratulations to Beth Velasco as this year's Filipino Family Fraternity Emperatriz and to David Hai V. Yee as the Emperador Constantino.

See you at the fiesta,
Dinnah San Pedro

It's us who repeat history

By **Ambeth R. Ocampo**

Tradition dictates that an outgoing president descends the historic Malacañang staircase for the last time when he is fetched by the president-elect on the morning of June 30, the date fixed by the 1987 Philippine Constitution for the inauguration of—and transfer of power to—the new president.

After the inauguration, the new president takes possession of Malacañang by ascending the staircase marking the first day of his six-year term. When Rodrigo Duterte enters Malacañang the first time as president in the afternoon of June 30, he will encounter the portraits of his 15 predecessors in the main ceremonial hallway. All of them, from Emilio Aguinaldo to Benigno S. Aquino III, will quietly watch the coming and going of the Duterte administration.

Who will do the Duterte portrait? Ten of the 16 portraits were made by Fernando Amorsolo. If I were asked who can competently match these, I'd say, it would be the eminent Cebuano painter Romulo Galicano. If something more modern is desired, then National Artist BenCab would be ideal, except that he is from Luzon and it would be fitting to have a portrait by an artist from Mindanao or the Visayas for a change.

Fifteen portraits will have to be repositioned to make way

for the new one, and I wonder what will happen when the Malacañang ceremonial hall runs out of space for additional portraits.

As the new president gazes on his predecessors it will be timely for him to remem-

ber the first—the controversial Emilio Aguinaldo. It is not well-known that Aguinaldo, maligned as a power-hungry, power-grabbing president in history classes, considered resigning from the presidency and, in fact, offered his resignation in December 1898, asking his countrymen to accept it as a Christmas gift. To use the word Filipinos use for his request, Aguinaldo asked for this aguineldo in 1898.



Aguinaldo



Duterte

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But Aguinaldo was prevailed upon to stay, and his resignation letter was shelved and forgotten, till it formed part of the archive captured by the enemy during the Philippine-American War and shipped to Washington where it was dug up from the dustbin of history by Capt. J.R.M. Taylor, who published a selection of key documents that is known to historians as the five-volume "Philippine Insurrection

Against the United States" (Lopez Museum, 1971). Part of Aguinaldo's resignation is relevant to any new president. I have not seen the original of this letter, and I do not know if it was written in Spanish or Tagalog, but we have Taylor's translation:

"You are all aware that there is no office superior to that of the president of the nation; he is honored, he is obeyed, he is the superior of all, distinct from all other eminent personages, so that public order is dependent upon him; one can desire nothing better; if he is to perform his duty rigidly of watching over the welfare of the nation, no other office is to be compared with it; but if he uses it as a means to further personal interests, there is no better office by which to obtain great wealth in a short time."

To the Filipinos who are eligible to vote, Aguinaldo had this to say:

"Do deliberate thoroughly concerning the new president we are to proclaim. His previous history should be traced step by step, aside from his present behavior; our votes should not be cast for a candidate whose character has not been previously investigated and thoroughly known; and if we cannot refuse his solicitation, we can feign acquiescence and when the time for action comes, elect the one who deserves the office, for

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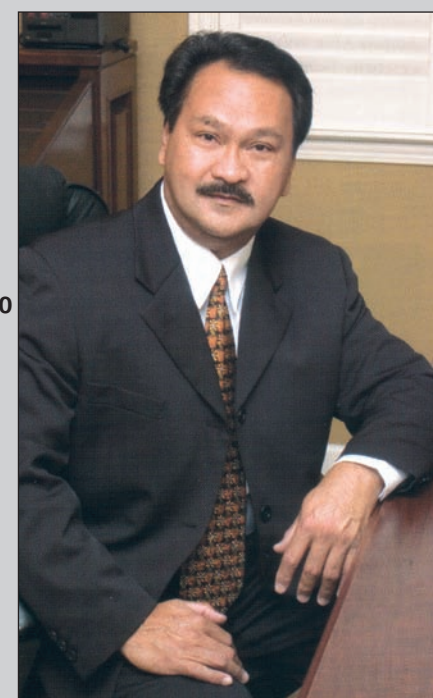
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'Death penalty back in one year'

By Erika Sauler

Applicants for jobs in the incoming Duterte administration should include potential hangmen. Plenty of them.

Successful applicants can expect to be busy a year after being hired, as the expected next Speaker of the House of Representatives, Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon

Alvarez, estimates the restoration of the death penalty to take only a year after presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte assumes office on June 30.

The revival of capital punishment is one of the top priorities of Duterte, who was elected on an anticrime platform, with a promise of wiping out criminality within three to six months of assuming the presidency.

Duterte has said he will hang criminals convicted of two heinous crimes twice: once to kill them, then again to "completely sever the head."

"There will be changes for the country as promised in the campaign. There are gargantuan tasks ahead of us," Alvarez, Duterte's right-hand man in the House, on Wednesday told a gathering of representatives from the Northern Luzon Alliance who had pledged to support the incoming administration.

"First of all is the advocacy of the incoming President to change the form of government from unitary to parliamentary system," he said.

Second priority

"Second on the agenda is the restoration of the death penalty. I



Incoming Davao Del Norte Rep. Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

know there will be opposition. But that is the beauty of democracy—we can discuss our views. At the end of the day, still the majority prevails," he said.

Alvarez, the PDP-Laban secretary general, later told reporters that he was confident that the death penalty would be passed by the 17th Congress.

"Within a year, we will strive to do it. We will make an effort to make it happen," Alvarez said.

The Roman Catholic Church, Commission on Human Rights and various groups have expressed objection to Duterte's plan, saying capital punishment is contrary to the rehabilitative purpose of criminal justice, does not deter crime, and unequally applied on the poor.

Amnesty International Philippines also said bringing back the death penalty would be an embarrassment, as the country was a party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights, which was aimed at the abolition of the death penalty throughout the world.

Duterte has swatted aside all objections, insisting on a merciless campaign against crime.

In comments to reporters in Davao

City on May 16, he said he would ask Congress to reimpose the death penalty for a wide range of crimes, including drug trafficking, rape, murder, robbery and kidnapping for ransom.

Executions by hanging
Duterte said he preferred executions by hanging than musketry because he did not want to waste bullets, and because he believed snapping the spine with a noose was

more humane.

He said he would use the military in the campaign against crime and he would give "shoot-to-kill" orders for those involved in organized crimes or those who would resist arrest.

"I need military officers who are sharpshooters. It's true. If you (criminals) fight, I will have a sniper shoot you," he said.

During the campaign, Duterte promised mass killings under his presidency.

He said he would kill tens of thousands of suspected criminals and dump their bodies in Manila Bay, where the fish would grow fat from feeding on the corpses.

On the plebiscite for the shift to federalism, Alvarez said the target was to hold it at the same time as the midterm elections in 2019.

He said there would also be a "major revision of the National Internal Revenue Code."

"Reduction of taxes for the poor, increase for the rich. But [the actual numbers are] up to Congress' computation," Alvarez said.

During the meeting with the Northern Luzon Alliance, Alvarez also mentioned plans to amend the juvenile delinquency law, ease Metro Manila traffic and end insurgency.

They're no 'balimbings,' they're with us for change

By Marc Jayson Cayabyab

Davao del Norte Representative Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez, the presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's pick for Speaker, defended the political bigwigs who defected to the Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), which is poised to become the ruling party.

In an interview after his meeting with the northern Luzon bloc lawmakers Wednesday afternoon, Alvarez said he would rather not call the newly minted PDP-Laban members as "balimbings" or political butterflies.

Alvarez said these newest members of the PDP-Laban — most of them leading the exodus from the outgoing administration's Liberal Party (LP) — only wanted to join the Duterte bandwagon's "coalition for change" in the House of Representatives.

"Alam natin lahat ng layunin ng ating Pangulo to institute meaningful change sa ating bansa. Yung pagbabago na sinabi niya nung kampanya, at kung kinakailangan natin ng suporta ng mga kongresista, para sa akin, hindi ko naman tinitingnan itong balimbing, kundi pagmamahal sa bayan," Alvarez said.

"Kasi kung naniniwala ka sa programa ng Pangulo, sumusuporta ka, walang ibang layunin kundi para sa kabutihan ng sambayanang Pilipino. Tinitingnan ko itong pagmamahal sa bayan," he added.

Flurry of oath-takings

In the afternoon, Alvarez himself led the oath-taking of three LP lawmakers from the northern Luzon bloc in the House who joined the PDP-Laban — Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, Abra

Rep. Joseph Bernos and Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas.

Alvarez was also able to get the support of some 22 lawmakers from the so-called "Northern Alliance" in the chamber, among them Singson, Ilocos Norte Rep. Rudy Farinas, and even Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos, the widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Former LP stalwart Farinas, who earlier took his oath as new PDP-Laban member, was chosen by Alvarez as his majority floor leader in the House.

In the morning, Alvarez administered the oath-taking of the following lawmakers jumping from the LP to PDP-Laban: Caloocan Rep. Along Malapitan, Cavite 3rd district Rep. Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and Nueva Ecija Rep. Estrelita "Ging" Suansing.

Former Metro Manila Development Authority chairman Francis Tolentino, who lost his Senate bid, was present for the oath-taking of his brother Bambol.

Earlier, the new PDP-Laban members who took their oath were Quezon City Rep. Bingbong Crisologo (from the United Nationalist Alliance), Malabon Rep. Ricky Sandoval (from the Nationalist People's Coalition), South Cotabato Rep. Ferdinand Hernandez (Nationalist People's Coalition) and Palawan Rep. Chicoy Alvarez (National Unity Party).

They are the latest to join the exodus of politicians to the Duterte camp. Without giving out names, Alvarez said he has counted at least 15 LP members who took their oath as new PDP-Laban members.

Alvarez said with Duterte's overwhelming number of votes in the recently concluded presidential elections, it was not difficult for him to invite lawmakers to his side as members of the majority or join

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Obama to China: Follow int'l law

US President Barack Obama on Tuesday called for territorial disputes in the South China Sea to be resolved peacefully and not through bullying as Vietnam balks at Chinese actions in the bitterly contested waters.

"Big nations should not bully smaller ones, disputes should be resolved peacefully," Obama told an audience in Hanoi, referring to the disputed maritime region.

His remarks won loud applause from more than 2,000 delegates including top Vietnamese leaders.

In Washington and Hanoi have been drawn closer together through their mutual concern at Beijing's increasing assertiveness in the strategic waterway sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes each year.

China, which claims almost all the South China Sea, has rattled neighbors with a series of reclamation and construction projects—including airstrips—on reefs and islets.

Vietnam and four other countries—the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan—also have claims to parts of the sea.

Freedom to fly, sail

The United States takes no position on the competing territorial claims but asserts freedom of navigation and flights in the sea and has sent warships near Chinese-held islets.

"As we go forward, the United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows and we will support the right of all countries to do the same," Obama said.

On Monday, Obama announced that he was scrapping a Cold War-era ban on weapons sales to Vietnam, a move seen as a major boost for Hanoi as it tries to bolster its defenses against its giant northern neighbor.

"Vietnam will have greater access to the military equipment you need to ensure your security," Obama told delegates, adding the United States would continue to train Vietnam's Coast Guard to "enhance maritime capa-

bilities."

'A very poor lie'

In Beijing, Chinese state media on Tuesday slammed the lifting of a decades-old US arms embargo against Vietnam, saying the move was aimed at China and calling Obama's assurances to the contrary "a very poor lie."

Obama announced the end of the 41-year-old ban on weapons sales to Hanoi, as Washington and Beijing jockey for influence in Asia and tensions mount in the strategically important South China Sea.

The lifting of the arms embargo "was not based on China," Obama said, but part of normalizing ties with its former enemy.

China's Global Times newspaper, which hews closely to the position of the ruling Communist Party, retorted on Tuesday that Obama's comment was "a very poor lie" and exacerbated "the strategic antagonism between Washington and Beijing."

According to the newspaper, Obama's "ultimate



US President Barack Obama

goal" was to cement US dominance in the area and that the United States was "taking advantage of Vietnam to stir up more troubles in the South China Sea."

3 nets

Similarly the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which includes Vietnam but not China, was one of "three nets that the US is knitting around China—ideology, security, economy and trade," the paper added.

The stance was echoed on the front page of China Daily, which is published by the government and whose front-page headline said the United States was charting a "clear course aimed at containing China."

In an editorial, the daily said that the move risked "turning the region into a tinderbox of conflicts."

"The former bitter foes have turned into friends and are seeking to boost their commercial, military and political relations," the editorial said, adding the move showed "there are no eternal allies or perpetual enemies, only eternal and perpetual interests."

Double-faced stand

Earlier, China said it welcomed the Obama administration's decision to lift an arms embargo on Vietnam, even though Beijing is apparently displeased to see warming relations between its southern neighbor and

chief regional rival.

Asked about the move, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that "as a neighboring country, we would be happy to see Vietnam develop normal and friendly cooperative relationships with all other countries, including the United States."

"And we hope those normal and friendly relationships are conducive to regional stability and development," Hua Chunying told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference on Monday.

Such embargoes are "a product of the Cold War, and should not have existed," Hua said.

She added that China hoped similar arms bans would also be lifted, a possible reference to the continuing weapons embargo imposed by the United States and the European Union following China's bloody military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrations centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. Reports from AFP and AP

Duterte in favor of continuing EDCA

By Alexis Romero

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – Incoming president Rodrigo Duterte is in favor of continuing the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the United States, citing the local military's limited capabilities.

"I have no problem with EDCA-sanctioned use of Philippine military bases by US troops because we don't have good external defense capabilities," Duterte said in a press briefing Monday night.

EDCA, signed on April 28, 2014, allows American forces to set up facilities at Philippine military installations. The Supreme Court upheld its legality in January after several groups tried to block its implementation on the grounds that it would violate Philippine sovereignty and that it was not ratified by the Senate.

The high court ruled that EDCA is a valid executive agreement that the president can enter into under the Constitution.

Some lawmakers, however, believe that Duterte can easily scrap EDCA because it is just an executive agreement, not a treaty approved by the Senate.

Some quarters believe EDCA is in response to

China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

The US has said it won't side with any party in the dispute but has repeatedly scored China's military buildup and expansion in the region.

China has built what are believed to be military structures on Panganiban (Mischief), Zamora (Subi), Kagitingan (Fiery Cross), Kennan (Chigua), Mabini (Johnson South), Burgos (Gaven) and Calderon (Cuarteron) Reefs.

Chinese envoy sees improved ties with Phl

In Manila, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said relations between the Philippines and China are seen to improve under the administration of Duterte.

"I am confident that the relationship will get better," Zhao said in an interview on the sidelines of an event at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

"We are looking forward to working with the incoming president and his team to explore the possibility of returning to bilateral talks over the disputes we have," he added.

Zhao was among the first diplomats who met with Duterte in Davao City when

the latter's election victory became imminent.

Asked about the meeting, the Chinese ambassador said their conversation was very good and that they exchanged views on the bilateral relationship between Manila and Beijing.

"My impression is that the president-elect is a very strong man, a man of principle and he's the type of leader whom we like to work with to improve our bilateral relationship," Zhao said.

"We're glad that the president-elect has already opened the door for direct bilateral negotiations and we welcome that," he added.

Zhao praised Duterte for his concern for Filipinos, saying the incoming president has personally raised the issue of Filipino fishermen being prevented by the Chinese from fishing at Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

"It demonstrates (that) he cares about the poor people, the fishermen. Let me put it in this way: the essence of diplomacy is about the interest of the peoples. I think it is the obligation for governments to engage in diplomacy in such a way that will contribute to the wellbeing of the peoples," said the diplomat.

Recent reports said the Chinese were no longer harass-

ing Filipino fishermen at Panatag Shoal.

'Seize the moment'

Asked about possible bilateral talks between the two countries, Zhao said Duterte had publicly stated it would likely happen in the next two years.

But quoting a passage from Mao Zedong, the ambassador said now is the opportunity to improve the relations between the two countries. "I would say two years are too long. Seize the hour, seize the moment," he said.

Sought for comment on the pending arbitration filed by the Philippines against China before the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, Zhao said he has not discussed the matter in detail with Duterte.

"We didn't discuss that issue in detail but I think we have shared agreement that the issue of South China Sea needs to be properly handled," he said, stressing it has to be through dialogue rather than confrontation.

He said an invitation to Duterte to visit China would be discussed once the next president assumes office.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Niger joined the ranks of "over 40 countries that have officially endorsed China's position" that maritime disputes should be settled through

direct negotiations, not international courts as done by Manila.

The South China Sea's being more than an ocean away from Niger has not stopped the landlocked African nation of 17 million people from adding its voice to a growing diplomatic chorus that Beijing says supports its rejection of an international tribunal hearing on the waters.

Others apparently singing from the same hymn sheet include Togo, Afghanistan and Burundi.

They are among the latest foot soldiers in "a public relations war" by China aimed at questioning international maritime rules, said Ashley Townshend, a research fellow at the United States Studies Center at the University of Sydney.

The tribunal case, brought to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague by the Philippines, is highly technical and hinges on such issues as how international law defines "islands."

"There will be more and more countries and organizations supporting China," Hua said.

Similar announcements have become an almost daily ritual at China's foreign ministry media briefings, as it steels itself for what is widely expected to be an unfavorable ruling by the tribunal that could come within weeks.

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the whole of the South China Sea, on the basis of a segmented line that first appeared on Chinese maps in the 1940s, pitting it against several neighbors.

But it is also a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Manila accuses Beijing of flouting the convention and has called for the tribunal, set up in 1899, to rule on the row.

"By cobbling together a group of nations that share its views, Beijing's aim is to show that there is a genuine debate over the legality of the Philippines' legal challenge," Townshend said.

"It is trying to build a counter-narrative to push back against the mainstream international consensus on maritime law."

Beijing did not provide a full list of China's backers on the issue. But other than its main diplomatic partner Russia, few heavy hitters have come out in support, with Beijing's neighbors – many of them unnerved by its increasingly assertive behavior – notably absent.

Many of those disclosed so far are poor African countries, and Bonnie Glaser, a senior Asia advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, described the names as "mostly composed of smaller, inconsequential nations."

Jail time: A Temporary Solution for a Sacramento County Health Problem

By Daisy Castellon

More than two decades ago, I had a patient with asthma who was homeless. In the winter, her asthma was uncontrollable because of the weather and her need to walk long distances for food. She had to spend the night outdoors because there were no shelter beds available. At one point, I remember asking her if she had any warrants out for her arrest and recommended that if there were, she turn herself in so that she could have a warm, dry place in which to sleep.

I had another patient who wanted to stop using heroin. He was having a very difficult

time doing so, and had been on a waiting list for treatment for over two weeks. It was frustrating for him, and also for me as his physician, because I knew that when an addict is ready to quit, treatment should be available immediately. Although the withdrawal would be painful, he suggested that if he was arrested, he would be able to stop while in jail, I knew that without real treatment, jail time would probably just lead to relapse.

Looking back, I am horrified that I would even think of jail as a solution for the health problems of my patients. Incarceration is not a social-safety net. Jailing those who are sick or homeless is inhumane. It is the most expensive way to address a problem that we should be able to solve in the community. For too long, we in California have incarcerated people with mental health conditions and drug abuse problems instead of offering them treatment or implementing programs to prevent "acting-out" behavior in the first place.

When proposition 47 passed in 2014, the hope was that prison spending would be fo-

cused on those who have committed violent and serious offenses, while the money saved by releasing many who had been incarcerated for non-serious crimes could be invested into prevention and support programs.

Eighteen months after the implementation of this proposition, what has happened in Sacramento County?



As of October of 2015, the number of people held in Sacramento jails on Proposition 47 eligible offenses has decreased by 42%. According to a recent study released by the Building Healthy Communities collab-

orative, this translates into a savings of at least \$22,992,080.

Where are these expected savings in Sacramento County and how are savings being invested? Has the jail population decreased in Sacramento County?

If it has, then the saved money should be spent on mental health and drug treatment and prevention programs. The most expensive way to treat mental health and drug abuse problems is through the criminal justice system. It is more humane and cost effective to do so by investing in community-based organizations that can address these problems effectively.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors will be approving the new fiscal year's budget in June. It is time to learn where these savings are and how Sacramento County will invest in supporting services that aim to address the various community health issues instead of continuing to consent to jail time as a temporary solution. We need to stop using our main jail as the largest mental health and detoxification ward in the county.

My Sister's House 15th Anniversary Gala

My Sister's House 15th Anniversary Gala with singing and dancing by community and civic leaders in support of Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children who fall victim to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.



Irene Cruz, ABC10 with Jim Martinez on keyboard singing "Stand Up for Love."



Chris Mateo, representing PNDA at this year's My Sister's House 15th Anniversary Gala! DONT STOP BELIEVING!— at Crest Theater Sacramento.

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Fil-Ams ‘feel the Bern’ at Sanders rally in Southern Calif.

By Florante Peter Ibanez

Carson California — An estimated 11,000 supporters, including several Filipino Americans, listened attentively to speakers extol the merits of Democratic Party presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders Tuesday, May 17, at the StubHub Center Tennis Stadium.

The crowd at “A Future to Believe in Southern California Election Night Rally” overflowed the stadium’s 8,000-seat capacity.

A self-proclaimed democratic socialist, the pro-labor Sanders, 74, favors greater economic equality among Americans. His supporters, including Hollywood celebrities like Danny Glover, Frances Fisher and Kendrick Sampson, touted his platform, which includes free higher education, gender equity, \$15 minimum wage, climate control and universal medical care.

“I think we have a real shot to



Nurse Vicky Perez Geaga (left) and friend on their way to Bernie Sanders rally in Carson, California.

win primaries in a number of states coming up,” Sanders said at the rally. “And don’t tell Secretary (Hillary) Clinton — she might get nervous — but I think we’re going to win here in California.”

The enthusiastic crowd represented the wide range of Californians who will be voting in the June 7 primary; it was a very di-

verse mix of ethnicities, ages and genders. Among them were Filipino Americans who make up a large population in Carson and the Los Angeles South Bay area.

Many of the Filipinos present were also supporting local progressive Democratic candidate Warren Furutani for State Assembly District 35, representing Car-

son and much of the Los Angeles South Bay.

SoCal Gas company engineer Daniel Ojeda Kimbrough had this to say: “It’s a packed house! Standing room only! I’ve never been so happy to have waited in such a long line. Seeing all these people here gives me hope!”

Sanders supporter Daniel Ojeda Kimbrough was cheered by the turnout at Sanders rally. Kimbrough added, “The Bernie Sanders rally was a fantastic event. It was great to see so many people supporting the basic idea that the government should look out and care for its people.”

Rose Estepa Ibanez, long time community advocate and Carson resident, admired Sanders’ outspoken message of “making major changes.” She also was hopeful that a new third political party would arise from his candidacy, citing other countries functioning beyond a two-party political system, such as Brazil and Finland. “We are behind the times and we need a change now,” she com-

mented. Some 11,000 supporters turned out for Bernie Sanders’ rally in Carson, California. “I went to the Bernie rally because he embraces the same concerns that I do. I’ve been a nurse for over 30 years, and I don’t want anyone to die because they couldn’t afford healthcare, couldn’t afford medications or didn’t have access to mental health services,” stated Fil-Am Vicky Perez Geaga who drove with friends the 20 miles from Echo Park in Los Angeles to attend the event.

“We need universal health care now, and he is the only candidate supporting it. Bernie, like Pope Francis, is striving for a moral economy, one that takes care of people first, not financial institutions or corporations,” Geaga added. “Just look around—massive homelessness, so many people living without savings, one paycheck away from catastrophe, massive student debts. We need a change and we have that chance with Bernie.”



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PerryScope

Duterte's brand of politics

By Perry Diaz

A week after his landslide presidential victory, Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte's cabinet is shaping up: a mixture of business leaders, leftists, communists, political allies, and personal friends. On the surface it looks like a broad-spectrum government reaching out to all sectors of the country. That's good... at least on paper. But at a closer scrutiny, it reveals a master chess player who is lining up his pieces adroitly to achieve "tunay na pagbabago" – real change – which he promised during the campaign.

Indeed, Duterte is already raising eyebrows in political circles. While there are the usual skeptics, the reactions are overwhelmingly positive with people hoping that he'd deliver on his promises, which detractors say are impossible to accomplish. But to the common people – the masa – they welcome the radical changes that he vowed to make, which begs the question: Can he deliver? Or are these just promises meant to be broken... just like what traditional politicians – trapos – do all the time? But the people have been too forgiving – and forgetful -- and continue to elect trapos year after year. But this time around, they demonstrated their frustration and anger at the political establishment by voting for a man who admittedly used unorthodox methods, to say it mildly, to rid Davao City of criminality during his term as mayor for two decades.

During a campaign rally, he vowed to kill criminals, saying: "The drug pushers, kidnapers, robbers, find them all and arrest them. If they resist, kill them all." And to emphasize his point, he told the crowd, "Go ahead and charge me with murder, so I could also kill you." At another rally, he promised to "take out" 100,000 criminals and dump them in the Manila Bay so "fish will grow fat." Ordinarily, people would

cringe at that kind of vulgarity. But to those who are fed up with the impunity of criminality and corruption, his blunt warnings give them hope that finally there is one fearless leader who was determined to do whatever it would take to protect the people.

Mandate

Indeed, if one has to characterize Duterte's landslide – nay, tsunami – victory over his four rivals, it's a protest vote against the corrupt government that the people believed had betrayed the sacred covenant of the EDSA people power revolution 30 years ago. The people see in Duterte someone who has the balls to do the unconventional way to achieve social justice.

While Duterte's overwhelming victory on Election Day may be deemed as a mandate to pursue the things he promised by whatever means he'd chose, there is the danger of failure, which could end his reign as dramatic as his rise to power. He promised early in his campaign that he would eradicate crime and corruption in three to six months, which the people bought hook, line and sinker. They pinned their hopes on this singular promise and expected him to deliver, not a day longer than six months! But what if he failed?

A failure six months into his presidency could wreck his administration beyond repair, just like what happened to his three predecessors, one of which was ousted and another one is currently in detention facing plunder charges, which makes one wonder: Short of declaring martial law, what's his game plan?



Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte

Blueprint for success

Recently, he unveiled an 8-point economic agenda. His plan includes: (1) Initiate reforms in tax revenue collections; (2) Set aside 5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) for infrastructure spending; (3) Attract foreign investors; (4) Provide support services to farmers to increase productivity, provide irrigation services to them, and promote tourism in rural areas; (5) Address bottlenecks in our land administration and management system; (6) Strengthen basic education system; (7) Improve tax system by indexing tax collection to inflation rate; and (8) Expand and improve implementation of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

It's a good economic plan and it is doable. However, its success hinges on the elimination of corruption. He promised that his administration would vigorously prosecute those who engage in corrupt practices. But isn't this what all his predecessors promised but failed to do? Can he fire and prosecute – no exceptions -- his cabinet members and their underlings, most of whom are his political allies or personal friends, if they engage in corruption? Can he stop jueteng, which he promised to do, and prosecute the jueteng lords who are protect-

ed by powerful politicians?

If he has the political will to punish erring subordinates, then he has won half the battle. If so, we should see some of his appointees' heads rolling within six months, because there will always

be those who would be tempted by the aphrodisiacal smell of dirty money. If not, he can then kiss his entire promises goodbye and govern the country just like some of his predecessors... that is, corrupt to the core.

It's interesting to note that Duterte has made at least 21 political appointees, most of whom have links to powerful political figures. Ten were appointees or allies of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, six are Duterte's personal friends or classmates, one is the son of Nacionalista Party stalwart Manny Villar, and four posts are reserved for members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) under Jose Ma. Sison.

Digong's gambit

And talking of communists, China's ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua paid Duterte a courtesy call in Davao City on May 16, a day after Duterte said he was open to "bilateral talks" with Beijing over the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). Zhao congratulated Duterte on his victory and expressed his country's expectation of working with Duterte's administration to "properly deal with the differences, deepen traditional friendship, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to bring the bilateral ties forward."

Although Duterte was open to

negotiating directly with China, he had made patriotic statements during the campaign about Philippine sovereignty over the disputed territories. To drive his point, he said he would ride a ski jet to the Scarborough Shoal and plant a Philippine flag.

The following day after Zhao's visit, U.S. President Barack Obama called Duterte personally to congratulate him also. Duterte told Obama that he is open to having bilateral talks with China on the disputed territories if the current efforts to resolve the issue failed. However, he assured Obama that the Philippines will continue her mutual interests and is allied with the Western World on the West Philippine Sea row.

During an interview with the media, Duterte said he will hold a steady course on the territorial dispute with China in the West Philippine Sea, and he is in no hurry to quit the multilateral approach pursued by President Benigno Aquino's outgoing administration. He said that if the multilateral approach stalls after two or three years, then he would proceed with bilateral talks. Is this a signal to Obama that if the U.S. cannot stop China in the West Philippine Sea, he'd unilaterally negotiate a settlement with China?

It's noteworthy to mention that during the campaign he suggested that he was willing to set aside the Philippines' claims if China agreed to build railways across the Philippines and hold joint exploration for resources in the disputed waters.

With all these mixed signals, Duterte seems to be playing his cards close to his chest. We can see his opening gambit but nobody knows how he's going to play the end game. And in between his opening gambit and end game, his brand of politics will manifest itself.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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'All Noy officials must go'

Massive revamp vowed at NBI, PNP, BuCor, PDEA

By Edith Regalado

Davao City, Philippines – There will be no room in the next administration for appointees of President Aquino, incoming president Rodrigo Duterte made clear yesterday.

"They have to go," he said, even as his transition team continues its search for people to fill the remaining positions in his Cabinet and other key offices.

"There are those we want to get, but the low pay in government discourages them from being part of my administration," Duterte said.

The president-in-waiting said he hopes to gather his Cabinet officials here next week as he ruled out going to Manila ahead of his inauguration as the country's 16th president on June 30.

The initial batch of Duterte's unofficial Cabinet ap-

pointees met in Manila for the first time last Wednesday.

At the meeting, among others, were Salvador Medialdea who will be the executive secretary; Hermogenes Esperon Jr., national security adviser; Perfecto Yasay Jr., foreign affairs; Vitaliano Aguirre II, justice; Arthur Tugade, transportation; Mark Villar for public works and Emmanuel Piñol for agriculture.

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Duterte also wants a massive revamp in the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Corrections and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency when he assumes office on June 30.

The plan stemmed largely from the death of five people, including an American citizen, in a concert at the Mall of Asia grounds on Sunday.

Authorities said these were due to drug overdose resulting in heart attack, kidney failure and dehydration.

Duterte did not hide his dismay over the incident.

"It was a failure of intelligence on the part of the police and other agencies concerned. How did it pass security?" said Duterte, who stressed that he was angry over how illegal drugs were distributed inside the concert venue and passed from one user to another.

The incoming president is also disappointed that nobody is talking about the incident that would have conveyed to the public the anger of parents.

"Where is the NBI and anti-drug, the police, local government and the national capital region? Where is PDEA? How come there were too many deaths? Had it been just one death, then it could be attributed to bad luck. But there were five, why did it happen?" Duterte



asked.

He said the incident shows how prevalent the illegal drug trade is in the country, adding that police officers themselves are the ones controlling it.

Duterte plans to reassign police officers in the NCR and Luzon areas to several Mindanao provinces, including Surigao, Compostela Valley, Maguindanao, Zamboanga and Sulu.

He also wants a massive reorganization in the BuCor

after hearing of reports on the manufacture of shabu inside the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa and Iwahig Penal Colony in Palawan.

If these law enforcers still would not reform after the reshuffling, then the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be asked to temporarily perform law enforcement duties in the fight against illegal drugs, he added.

Starting July 1, Duterte said he would also impose a mandatory drug test on all

law enforcement agents to ensure that they are not into illegal drugs.

Meanwhile, outgoing Sen. Sergio Osmeña III yesterday said Duterte has all the power to reorganize the executive department, including the bureaus of Customs (BOC) and Internal Revenue (BIR).

"The president has the power to reorganize the executive branch but he would need laws to establish new departments and appropriations," Osmeña said.

But reelected Sen. Ralph Recto said Duterte may not have meant it literally when he talked of abolishing some government offices.

Duterte also tagged the Land Transportation Office (LTO) as "most corrupt," adding that it might be better to simply disband all three agencies.

"I'm very sorry but the most corrupt agencies – BIR, Customs, LTO – those three... I might as well abolish them," Duterte said in a press conference in Davao City recently.

It's us who repeat history

From page 2

the choice must not fall on anyone by whom the country would be imperiled.

"To be wise is not enough; for a man may be wise and not be willing to share the fate of the country when in peril, either because he is wise, or rather, perhaps, because he may be called wise. To be rich is not enough—for there are rich men, and this is so in the majority of cases, who, although they see their country threatened by re-enslavement, are unwilling to aid with their wealth, just as though they did not notice the danger. And why? Because of these very riches and in case of any mishap they will repair to a foreign land. It is true that they have made contri-

butions of war and have subscribed to the national loan, but many have not given more than a thousandth part of their entire fortune, when they very well know that the strength of the archipelago is in their hands, and they are the very ones who can hasten the recognition of our government, when in the sight of other nations we are thus reinforced."

We will never know what made Aguinaldo contemplate this drastic step of resigning, but from the text one can get a sense that his trust and optimism had been misplaced in some of the men around him. He says that in: "the majority of revolutions in any nation the rich men (had) been the leaders in the struggle to at-

tain independence, but here the contrary has been true, for the poor men have taken precedence... The men of whom I am proudest are above all the poor men who, with little or no pay, know how to endure in order to prevent the country from being again enslaved, and I am prouder still of those who put forth their efforts in its defense regardless of self-interest..."

History may seem irrelevant to millennials, but anyone who reads texts like the ones quoted above may be misled into believing that Aguinaldo foretold the future, because in the end history does not repeat itself, it is us who repeat it.

They're no 'balimbings,' they're with us for change

From page 3

the PDP-Laban.

With the President na may malaking mandato sa eleksyon, hindi mahirap na mag-imbiba ng mga kongresista na sumuporta sa programa ng ating Pangulo," he said.

Alvarez said he was hoping that LP members would join the PDP-Laban, adding

that the request of outgoing Speaker and LP vice chair Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for LP members to remain with the party despite joining the majority would not look good.

"It's a bit awkward na mayroong minority na Liberal Party at saka mayroong majority... I would prefer those who wanted to join

the majority will either join the PDP-Laban and other political parties in coalition with PDP Laban in the majority," Alvarez said.

"I am just inviting them. I'm only expressing my view that it would be best if they join the PDP Laban," he added.

As a candidate for Speaker who is expected to lose to

No more cursing when I'm president - Duterte

By Dharel Placido

Davao City - Presumptive president Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday promised that he will stop cursing in public when he becomes president.

Duterte, known for lacing his speeches with curses and invectives, said he acknowledges the serious nature of his office and that he is only "enjoying" the remaining days before he officially becomes the president.

"There is a protocol to follow. Iyung speech ko, maybe yung speech ko I have to read it... 'Di na ako pwedeng magloko loko dyan. Kapag nandyan ako, 'di na talaga, swear to

God," he said.

"Hindi na talaga ako mag-p***** **a, p***** **a."

Duterte's gutter language was heavily criticized during the campaign. In November last year, he got flak for cursing the Pope for causing traffic jams during his papal visit in January 2015. His ratings in opinion polls fell after this incident.

There was also outrage over his statement that he "should have been first" in raping Australian missionary Jacqueline Hamill, who was taken hostage and then killed by prisoners.

Duterte apologizes for rape remark

At one point in the press conference on Thursday morning, he was told that his speech was being aired live after he uttered curses.

He said people should accept him for what he is, including his foul mouth.

"Mabuti, para malaman nila ang ugali ko. Pakita ko ang mga mura ko. Kasali 'yun sa buhay ko. Kapag nawala ang mura ko, patay na ako ibig

sabihin," he said. "Ganon ang lenggwahe ko, that is my universal identity."

'NOT ALL BISHOPS ARE MY ENEMIES'

Meanwhile, Duterte said not all Catholic bishops are his enemies. This, after he recently criticized anew the Catholic Church and some members of the clergy.

"Okay naman kami. Hindi naman lahat ng bishops kaaway ko. Iyung bishop dito barkada kami eh," he said.

"I'm a Christian, depende sa kausap ko. Eh kung gago ka sabihin ko wala akong relihiyon. Noon high school, sunud-sunuran kami; nung law school, sunud sunuran; ngayong president, sunud sunuran [pa rin] ako?"

Duterte is on a collision course with the Catholic Church with his recent pronouncements on some of its teachings. He has also criticized Catholic bishops who indirectly urged the electorate not to vote for him in the May 9 polls.

Last Sunday, he called the 2,000-year-old Roman Catholic church the "most hypocritical institution."



National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) Family Reunification for Filipino WWII Veterans

Washington, D.C. “Yesterday’s announcement from the Department of Homeland Security that family members of Filipino World War II veterans can now apply for parole visas and reunite with their parents here in the United States, is very heartening,” says NaFFAA National Chair JT Mallonga.

“Our courageous heroes, who have waited for up to 20 years, deserve the opportunity to be with their children. They must not suffer the pain of separation in the twilight of their years.” Last year, President Obama used his executive authority by establishing a parole visa program to reunite Filipino WWII veterans with their loved ones. Long visa backlogs, which have separated family members for decades, prompted the President to order an interagency task

force to look into this matter. But what spurred his action was a report issued by Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) calling on President Obama to grant parole for children of Filipino War World II veterans.

The Department of Homeland Security, which will administer this program through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), finally issued policy guidelines spelling out in detail who is eligible to apply. DHS will start accepting applications in June.

“We thank Sen. Mazie Hirono for pushing the Obama Administration to quickly implement this program and make children eligible for expedited consideration to come to the United States,” adds Mallonga. “We also appreciate the hard work of advocacy groups, like AAJC, the Filipino Veterans Equity Center (FVEC) and the Filipinos for Justice. Their diligence and persistence made it possible to move this policy for-

ward so our veterans and their families can be with each other without further delay.”

More information on DHS guidelines may be found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/09/2016-10750/filipino-world-war-ii-veterans-parole-policy>

NaFFAA National Office
Phone: 303-810-4666
Website: naffaa.org
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/NaFFAA.National>
Inquiries: inquiries@naffaa.org



Members of Filipino World War II Veterans

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan tax-exempt organization established in 1997 to promote the active participation of Filipino Americans in civic and national affairs. NaFFAA is the largest national affiliation of Filipino American institutions, orga-

nizations and individuals. Its thirteen-member regions cover the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, the Marianas Islands, and American Samoa. NaFFAA partners with local affiliate organizations and national coalitions in advocating for issues and interests of common concern to Filipino Americans.

Contact:
Bing Cardenas Branigin
bing.branigin@naffaa.org
Tel. 202-361-1024

Jon Melegrito
jon.melegrito@naffaa.org
Tel. 202-361-0296



By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

The Philippines was colonized by the Spain for over 300 years and by Japan during World War II but the Americans gave the Filipino freedom and independence.

Aside from teaching the Filipino to govern themselves, the structure of Philippine government and portion of the bill of rights were adopted from the United States of America.

On March 24, 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Tydings-McDuffie Law, otherwise known as the Philippine Independence Act. FDR empowered the Philippine legislature to call a constitutional convention to draft a constitution.

On March 23, 1935, FDR approved the constitution with a certification that it conforms to the stipulations of the independence law.

After the attainment of com-

Philippine Independence granted by Uncle Sam



US granted Philippines its Independence

plete independence of the Commonwealth Philippines, the country was named Republic of the Philippines. Republican in form, or representative government, was one of the provisions in independence law enacted by the United States government.

On July 4, 1946, the United States granted Philippines its independence.

Since the granting of independence, the Filipinos enjoy its diplomatic relationship with Americans. The Philippines has Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States which means that when the Philippines is attacked by foreign aggressor, the US is duty-bound to come into the picture and defend the Philippines.

Although, the Philippine constitution designates the Armed Forces of the Philippines to defend and preserve the integrity of the state, the Americans are obligated to defend the Philippines



Enhance Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)

from its aggressor.

On April 28, 2014, Enhance Defense Cooperaton Agreement (EDCA) was signed by Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador to

the Philippines Philip Goldberg.

On January 12, 2016, the Philippine Supreme Court upheld the agreement’s constitutionality in a 10-4 vote. EDCA is a supplement of the previous Visiting

Forces Agreement intended to bolster the US-PH alliance. Balikatan (Shoulder-to-Shoulder) is one of the activities under EDCA where military exercises between the US and Philippines are done in different parts of the Philippines. Because of EDCA, the Philippines enjoy the benefits of the agreement and the country is recipient of military hardware and infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and school buildings.

Lastly, I would like to use this opportunity to say my gratitude to Uncle Sam for the freedom and independence granted to the Filipino people.
(gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

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9880 Waterman Rd., Ste. 140, Elk Grove, CA 95624

(916) 708-3462 (916) 835-1450 (916) 215-7077

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Managing Editor Dinnah S. San Pedro	Editorial Assistant Dane San Pedro	Layout and Design Dave San Pedro	Photographer Dave San Pedro Frank Ayran
CONTRIBUTORS			
Carleton Enloe Sarah T. Enloe	Faina Abaya	Maria Kang Gabriel Ortigoza	Nancy Bautista Perry Diaz
		Glenn Carrasca Dale Esperante Dr. R. Carado Dizon	

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Henry L. Bambao Receives Naguilian Highest Award

By Faina E. Abaya

The town of Naguilian in the great province of La Union, Philippines is strategically located between two tourist destinations. Just 45 minutes up in the great ranges of the Cordilleras is the summer capital of the Philippines, Baguio City where one could enjoy its invigorating cool climate the whole year round. On the lowland and just few minutes away is the Pacific Ocean of the Western Philippine Sea where everyone enjoys its white sandy beaches, pristine waters to frolic and breathe refreshing sea breeze.

The people of Naguilian are known for being friendly, hospitable, religious and hardworking. The town is also known for having produced highly educated men and women in all fields of human endeavor. Most of these skilled professionals from this town are now working in the different parts of the world. With fertile soil, farming is the primary livelihood for most of the people and Basi, the fermented wine from sugar cane is their main product.

To win back the attention and expertise of these professionals who are now enjoying life in the places where they have found good fortune and built strong foundation for their families, the town of Naguilian established the 'SADIRI' Award. It is the town's Highest award to be given annually to "ITS SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD OF ENDEAVOR AND WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY".

The SADIRI Award, therefore, is only bestowed to deserving individual who has exemplified and had made a big difference in the town of Naguilian.

Many prominent residents in the town and names worldwide from different Naguilian organizations were submitted for consideration but only two were chosen for their outstanding achievements that greatly benefited the town of Naguilian. One of them is our very own, Henry Bambao, the current President of the United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Incorporated (UNLUCAI), the organization is based in Sacramento

where it was founded in 1982 by Alfredo and Adelaida Vita. (The other recipient of the same award is Paul Nonog, the CEO of the Naguilian Global Reunion Network).

The Sangguniang Bayan of the municipality of Naguilian resolution which was unanimously approved on the selection of Henry Bambao for the Sadiri award was based on the different projects that he has made which deeply affected the people of the town for their best interest.

Henry Bambao as member and later as President of the UNLUCAI has initiated a worldwide fund raising to change the pews, sound system and partial renovation of the town's more than century old St. Augustine of Hippo Church. He also encouraged and supported individual and family donors in the construction of elementary school buildings at the remote barangays of the town to benefit school children living in those places. With his tireless efforts, the UNLUCAI members and many good hearted individuals all over the world pitched in to send assistance for victims of natural calamities that hit the town on several occasions.

Through his initiative, some members of the UNLUCAI and good spirited individuals donated hundreds of eyeglasses for those who are in need. Likewise, the organization also participated in several medical and dental missions to benefit the health and wellbeing of their town mates. The organization also grants Scholarship to deserving high school students from five secondary schools within the municipality. Most members of the UNLUCAI have supported and attended the "Naguilian Global Reunion" to foster camaraderie and unity among Naguillanders living in different places the world over. All such projects and many others in the planning board will be put into action and reality as the time comes to benefit the people of Naguilian and beyond.

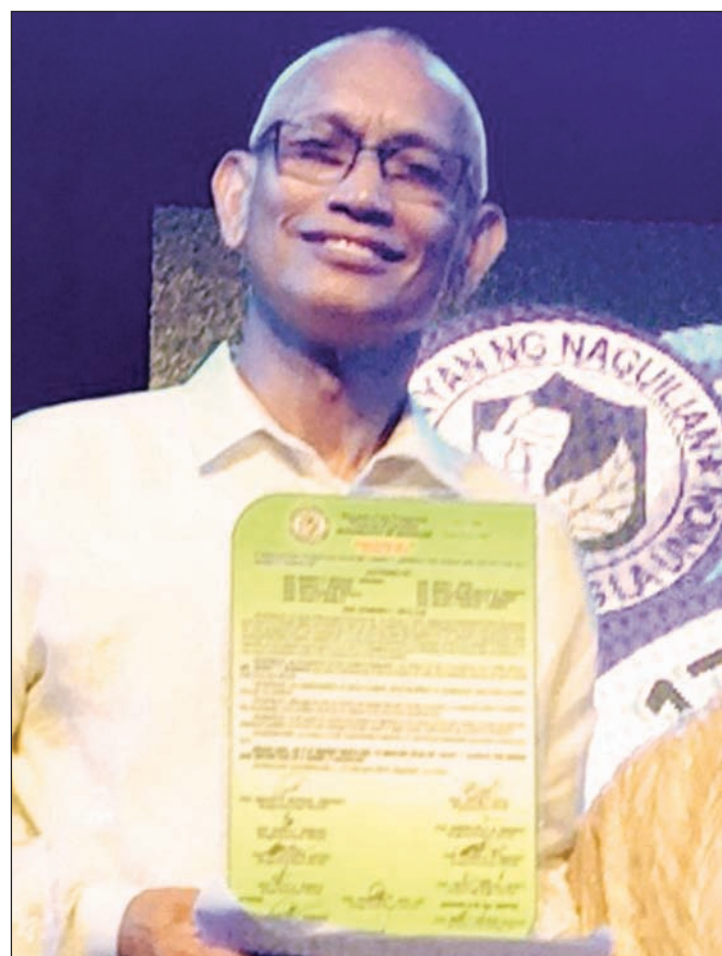
Henry Bambao received the Sadiri award personally in Naguilian in the presence of his wife, relatives, municipal government officials led by Mayor Reynaldo Flores and many of his town mates who directly benefited from the many

projects he personally initiated.

In his acceptance remarks, Henry expressed his profound gratitude to the officials of the municipality on behalf of his family, members of the UNLUCAI and selfless Kababayan all over the world who unselfishly shared their parts with his missions for the betterment of the town of Naguilian.

Henry Bambao further said that "This award has given more weight and significance to my life because it came from the same place where I was born and spent the best years of my life with my family, relatives and closest of friends."

Adding to that, he also said. "When I left Naguilian to pursue a noble objective, I vowed to myself to always return to my beloved town to share the enjoyments and sufferings of my town mates. For several times, I crossed vast ocean just to be with my town mates but every time, I am with them, I real-



Henry L. Bambao



Henry with Delia Vita



Welcome meeting of UNLUCAI for Henry Bambao

ized that they need some kind of assistance to alleviate their day to day living and to ease predicaments for their well beings". And, Henry concluded that, "rest assured that we will always be with you in all the circumstances that may occur in our beloved town".

Just barely out from his teenage life and a fresh graduate of the University of Baguio with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Henry Bambao left the place of his birth with heavy heart in 1971 to pursue his obligation as an American citizen by virtue of the citizenship of his father, Eugene Bambao Sr. a World War 11 veteran and a retired US Army of the United States Military Service. However, he vowed to return whenever important circumstances are needed for him to be with his neighbors, friends, and relatives and loved ones.

Following the footsteps of his

father, Henry enlisted with the US Army in 1971 and rendered duty with the military service for eight years. While in the service and during the Vietnam War, he was assigned in different military stations such as Korea, Fort Hood, Texas and Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. During his military service, Henry married his childhood sweetheart, Cristina Callao Bambao (now a retired Nurse from UC Davis Hospital) and their marriage union is blessed with a son, Cris Bambao. He was honorably discharged from the US Military Service in 1979 as Staff Sergeant Radio Teletype Operator Section Chief, Signal Corps.

Just after few months thereafter, Henry was employed with the US Postal Service in Sacramento where he retired in 2006 after rendering 25 years of government service. Henry enjoys travelling

with his wife, family and friends and he maintains a good health by playing regular tennis games with friends.

Henry Bambao is the third child of Eugene Bambao Sr. and Brigida Bambao. He has a sister Carole and five brothers William, (US Army, 7 years) Eugene Jr. (US Air Force, Retired), Rodolfo (US Army, Retired), Florante (US Army Retired) and Samuel. He is also the grandfather of Calena, Jodelle and Jazz (Bambao)

Aside from UNLUCAI, Henry is also an active member of the Naguilian Global Alliance Network, American Legion Magellan Post 604, Filipino American Veterans Association, Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA, Mabuhay Foundation International and Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.

Filipino Family Fraternity Presents 56th May Festival

By Faina E. Abaya

One of the most well attended socio-religious gatherings of the year in Sacramento's Filipino American community is the Filipino Family Fraternity 56th May Festival celebration where more than 320 invited guests of all ages are gathered in one roof at the Social Hall of St. Paul Catholic Church on Florin Road, Sacramento.

The event was held on May 21, 2016 as the culmination of the yearlong search for Emperatriz Sta. Elena won by Beth Velasco I and Emperador Constantino bestowed on David Hai V. Yee to start their 2016-2018 years' reign. The coronation ceremonies of both have all the trimmings of Royal grandeur and pageantry decorating the hall with varieties of freshly cut flowers, especially roses of different colors, to coincide with the celebration of the Flores De Mayo for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The crowning of Emperatriz Sta. Elena Beth Velasco I and Emperador Constantino David Hai V. Yee is actually a prelude to the holding of the Santa Cruzan procession, the great Filipino tradition which is one of the celebrations for the month of May devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As soon as the Hall was filled up to the capacity, the program was immediately started by prominent community leader Josie Patria who acted as the night's emcee. The presen-



tation of both the United States and Philippine colors were brought in by American Legion Magellan Post 604 commander Rick Rafanan and former commander Joe Gonzalez. The singing of the National Anthems of both countries was rendered by community chanteuse Maria Bahoric.

Sister Ma. Josielinda Tanudtanud, (RVM) the spiritual adviser of FFF delivered the invocation who invoked "the triune God and our blessed Virgin Mary on this grace filled occasion. We express our gratitude



to the legacy handed to us from the past of our own RVM Sisters of the congregation and the pioneers of the Filipino Family

Fraternity". She further prayed that, "peace and grace that flow from the Holy Trinity
Continued on page 12



Photos by Faina Abaya



Filipino Women's Club Mothers Day Luncheon

L-R: Memie Weitzenberg, Alice Pambid (Greatgreat grandmother of the year); Josie Patria, (Great Grandmother of the year); and Lee Ramirez (Grandmother of the year) and Remy Solomon.



Filipino Women's Club Mothers Day Luncheon held at Casa Ignacia RVM residence on May 7, 2016. The president of FWC is Memie Weitzenberg.



Golden Ladies performed Bulaclacan dance on the 25th Jubilee Anniversary of priesthood of Fr. Joel Martinez held at St. Paul Parish on April 30, 2016.

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Filipino Family Fraternity Presents 56th May Festival

From page 11

and the Blessed Mother Mary's intercession fill your hearts and homes".

As expected, delicious dinner of Filipino cuisine with variety of tropical fruits were served, catered by our favorite community Chef Carol Munar who showed her culinary expertise by serving such number of people with abundance of food.

While everyone was busy enjoying their dinner, entertainments were provided by "The Royal Court" dancers with their well-choreographed movements and colorful outfit. Our favorite "Kapitbahay" dancers masterfully arranged by Lilia Rivera regaled their audience with their usual graceful presentation. Both group of dancers received thunderous applause from their admiring audience.

The amiable and energetic FFF President Dr. Nellie Umali delivered her welcome address and expressed her heart felt gratitude to everyone who unselfishly supported the fraternity's 56th May Festival. She personally thanks Beth Velasco and husband Jess Velasco who supported his wife all the way to become the Emperatriz Reyna Elena. Likewise, she also thanks, Mr. and Mrs. David and Jessel Yee for allowing their son David to become the Emperador Constantino of the Festival.

President Umali expressed her sincere appreciation to the Hermanos and Hermanas Mayores of the Santa Cruzan naming Mr. and Mrs. Melchor Munar, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Oneiza and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Villanueva for their indefatigable assistance to make a successful festival.

Moreover, she also thanks the officers and volunteers of the festival for their usual support and cooperation to bring into fore the richness and beauty of our cultural heritage. Dr. Umali also said that Father Sonny Paguio, the Guest Speaker of the event has brought honor to the occasion.

Mercy Guererro, the President of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity took the honor to introduced the Guest Speaker. Father Paguio in his speech brought out several statistics about the lamentable social, religious and educational conditions of our youth. The statistics have indicated that the youth of today are more engrossed in their new found pastime of enjoying their modern conveniences such as personal computers, iPhones, iPads, videos and even watching television. Their parental relationship, religious obligations and educational concentrations have diminished in their day to day life. He appealed to all to help guide the youth of today to become useful and law abiding citizens and for them to become the future leader of our country.

Emcee Josie Patria presented the parade of past Emperatriz Santa Elenas and Emperador Constantinos



Photos by Dave San Pedro



for their Farewell appearance. The outgoing Emperador Constantino Kaleb Okane Sanjo farewell remarks was delivered by his father Brandon Sanjo on his behalf who said that, his son thanks the FFF for the opportunity of having been a Constantine in honor of Mother Mary. He further said that Kaleb is now 7 years old and enrolled in Grade 1 at California Montessori Project. He has excellent reading skills and he is being recognized by all to be respectful, kind and safe kid in his classroom. His son will always treasure his experience for having assumed such role as Emperador Constantino during his time.

Outgoing Emperatriz Reyna Elena Cora Ramirez I in her farewell speech said that "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to President Nellie Umali and the Filipino Family Fraternity officers and members for having confidence in me to carry the title for 2014-2016". She further said "I am confident that my successor Beth Velasco will do a great job as Ambassador of Goodwill for the Filipino Family fraternity. She further said, "I extend my profound thanks and appreciation to my loving husband Jose, my children James and Sarah as well as to my sister Li, cousin Josephine, Sinagtala Family and my friends and supporters for their undying support and selfless generosity".

Immediately thereafter, the pageantry of the Royal Coronation started with the entrance of Emperador Constantino David Hai V. Yee who was splendidly wearing a black suit with matching tie and a maroon cape with white lining. His entourage was composed of his Scepter Bearer, Dexter V. Yee, Crown Bearer, Chase V. Yee, Sash

Presenters, Lilia and Joe Gonzalez, Boutonniere Presenters David and Hessel Yee. The entourage proceeded to the stage where a chair exclusively for Emperador Constantino had been reserved for him. The rest of the entourage took their respective seats just below the stage. He was crowned by 2014-2016 Emperador Constantino Kaleb Okane Sanjo assisted by Sr. Josie Tanudtanud. The scepter Presenters were Rey and Juliet Garcia and the Trophy Presenter was Edna Clegg.

The grand entrance of the entourage of her Royal Highness Emperatriz Sta. Elena Beth Velasco I was announced as everyone stood up to show their utmost respect for her coming reign. Her Royal Highness was wearing a floor length white satin gown and a maroon cape projecting her beauty, grace and elegance with her equally handsome husband Jess Velasco as her escort who was also wearing a black suit with matching maroon bow tie. They proceeded to the stage where a chair exclusively reserved for her was well placed. They were followed by Scepter bearer, Janessa Velasco Garcia; Crown bearer, Eliza Velasco Yee; Flower girls, Jaelyn & Jacey Velasco Garcia; Sash presenters, Dr. Eloy Munoz & Nellie Umali; Bouquet Presenters, Ato & Yolly Dela Cruz.

The pomp and glitters only reserved for the coronation of her Royal Highness, Emperatriz Sta. Elena 2016-2018 was carried on by the outgoing Royal Highness who puts on the Crown for the reigning Queen assisted by Father Sonny Paguio, followed by the presentation Scepter performed by Ely and Annie Acedo while the Trophy was handed by Placida

Butcher and Mark Hopkins.

Well known community balladeer Eddie Aducaen serenades the newly crowned Emperatriz with his melodious voice singing "Just the way you look tonight" and "Light of my life". Thereafter, her Royal Highness and escort took the dance floor for their first Royal Dance as her subjects followed.

The "Golden ladies" composed of well-known community leaders and personalities who were aging gracefully mesmerized every onlooker with their elegant performance called "Bulaklakan" and a repeat performance of the "Royal Court" dancers received deafening thunderous applause from their admiring audience.

The closing remarks was delivered by FFF 2nd Vice President Vicky Johnson who expressed her profound gratitude on behalf of the officers and members as well as to all who supported the event and the Santa Cruzan that will follow on the next day.

Santa Cruzan is a Filipino great tradition that has been observed in the month of May which is sometime referred to as "Flores De Mayo" on time of the blooming of flowers especially roses before the coming of the rainy season. The celebration is to honor the finding of the Black Cross believed to be of Jesus Christ by Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, the 57th Emperor of the Roman Empire.

It is observed in every town and city in the Philippines and every Filipino Community the world over. The observance has religious connotations usually dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In the procession we usually find the prettiest ladies in their "most flamboyant gowns

and fineries representing notable biblical queens while handsome lads are chosen to escort them". There are lots of merry making such as games, social events, beauty contests and the likes during the festivities.

The President of FFF Dr. Nellie Umali led the celebration and the event was chaired by another prominent community leader Memmie Weitzenberg assisted by Rose Basos. The Santa Cruzan procession started from the Social Hall of St. Paul Catholic Church where all the participants assembled with their respective identifying attires. All the participants have freshly cut roses of different colors and varieties on their hands as some were holding the portraits of the Virgin Mary personally donated by Dr. Umali as give away together with some umbrellas to shade them from the heat of the Sun.

The procession which went around the parking lot of the church up the church proper was led by Black Cross carrier, Kenzo frazer who was assisted by Alex Avera followed by the Hermanos and Hermanas while the RVM sisters led the recital of the rosary and just behind them were the angels personified by children wearing white dresses namely Ena Blando, Eliza Yee, Janessa Garcia, Jaelyn Garcia, Mia Gaerlan and Kaelyn Polivka. The crown bearer was Solana Cordero.

The Cart (carosa) of the Virgin Mary was carried (or pushed) by Jovy Perez, Philip Cordero, Jr., Chad Cordero and Philip Cordero III followed by the Sagalas. Just behind them were the reigning Emperador Constantino David Hai V. Yee and Emperatriz Beth Velasco and escort husband Jess Velasco. They were being followed by community leaders and prominent residents with their respective symbols identifying saints and other pertinent names relevant to the procession. In the church, a mass was held officiated by Father Sonny Paguio where the offertory was made such as, Bread by Julie & Ray Oineza, wine by Edna & Stanley Villanueva, flowers by Carol & Melchor Munar, fruits by Lourdes Velasco, basket of bread by Linda Cordero, Basket of vegetables by Maria Bahoric and bottles of wine offered by Meding Mangosing.

Prominent personalities and community leaders who were present on one or both events were: Ambassador George Aducaen and Mrs. Aducaen, Dave and Dinah San Pedro, Alex and Ling Avera, Alice Pambid, Rey Oineza, Mercedes Guerrero, Joe and Lilia Rivera, Vicky Johnson, Segundo and Aida Azurin, Jun Abaya, Memmie Weitzenberg, Joe and Carina Gonzales, Rick Rafanan, Remy Solomon, Auring Ramos, Ebing & Nardo Rena, Eddie and Kristine Aducaen, Murray Navaro, Beatriz Alo and Dr. Fred Aquino.

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CAPIAA honored community leaders



Philippine National Day Association President Cynthia Bonta received the award of recognition from chairperson Cirian Villavicencio.

On May 9, 2016 the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs honored community leaders of different API organizations at the State Capitol, Sacramento.

Assemblymember Rob Bonta of the California State Assembly's 18th District was one of the guest speaker. He is the author of AB 1726, the Accounting for Health and Education in Asian Pacific Islander Demographics Act (the AHEAD Act).



The Asian and Pacific Islander leaders, members and guests.



L to R: Dr. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Memie Weitzenberg, Cynthia Bonta, Rosie Daus, Jinky Dolar and Lion Derek Ledda.

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Donato Torres Vargas, Sr.

Donato Torres Vargas, Sr. was born during WW I on August 17, 1917, in Asingnan, Pangasinan, Philippines. Donato married Marcela Tamana Asuncion on December 24, 1939, and they remained happily married until her death in 1972. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during his 1941-1960 tour with the Philippine Army. During WW II, Lt. Colonel Donato Vargas fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. He was a proud survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March. Years later when asked about his experience as a prisoner of war, he said "I was honored to be able to offer my last drop of blood for the country that I have always loved, The United States of America."

Donato moved to Stockton, California in 1974. Donato's daughter Virginia Reyes passed away in 2009, which still left ten grieving but very grateful children, twenty grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Always known for smiling, laughing and singing to the very end, "Erpats" peacefully passed away on April 16, 2016.

A viewing will be held Thursday, April 28, 2016, East Lawn Cemetery, 9189 E Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, California 95624. Mass of Christian Burial to be held Friday, April 29, 2016 at St. Pauls Catholic Church, 8720 Florin Road, Sacramento, California 95828. Internment after Mass: St. Mary's Cemetery 6700 21st Ave, Sacramento, Ca 95820.



The Vargas Family



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Birthdays



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DR. JOE VILLARICA
MAY 22



SONNY SANTIAGUEL & Aileen
JUNE 8



SHERYL ABAYA
JUNE 9



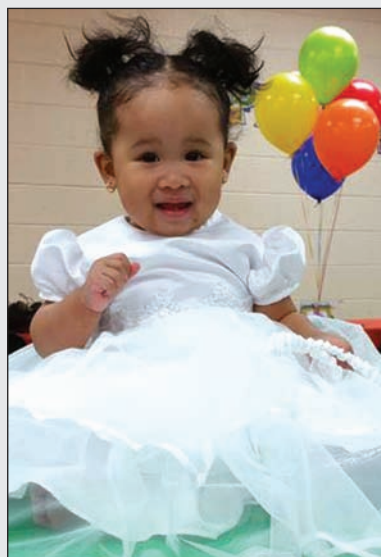
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MAY 12

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JULY 16, 2016, (SAT)
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By Dale Esperante

Warm-Hearted Filipinos in Alaska

The taxi drivers who drove us to and from Seattle airport were originally from Ethiopia. To pass the time, we engaged in small talk. The first thing they shared as soon as they found out we were Filipinos, “Seattle has a large Filipino community!” This was nice to know but it seemed like the Ethiopians cornered the taxi driving industry in the city of Seattle. As for the fare, it’ll cost approximately \$40 from the airport to downtown by taxi or around \$55 by limousine.

Onboard the Norwegian Cruise Line Pearl, we were told that Filipinos represented half of the crew members, approximately 500 of 1000. The Ship Doctor, the Executive Director of Guest Services, the Executive Director of Housekeeping, the Assistant Cruise Director, a professional dancer on the cruise extravaganza, the engine room technicians, maintenance crew, photographers, karaoke managers, security, restaurant and ship hotel crews were all Filipinos.

Our first port was Juneau, the capital of Alaska. We were aboard our tour excursion bus when we saw a Filipino Mart along the main road of the city. We weren’t able to patronize the store because our tour bus was non-stop to the Mendenhall Glacier. At Mendenhall, we met a Filipino family touring with the Holland Cruise Line. There were about 8 of them, seven were visiting from the Philippines. We also met a group of Filipino seamen from the Princess Cruise



Line. All nice and young Filipino men who shared that they work in the engine department. A half day away from the ship was like a vacation for them.

The second port was Skagway, a former miners’ kind of town, where there is a Filipino restaurant near the tourist center. Our new Filipino cruise friends from San Diego, Rez/Cynthia Sta Elena and JR/Dhel Gutierrez, had lunch there and they all gave it a thumbs up for taste and service. Getting a positive review from Ms. Dhel Gutierrez was special because she is the owner and head chef of Pinoy Fiesta Fast Food in National City. Our new friends were so nice to give us their contact numbers and an open invitation to visit them in southern California, accommodation and Chef Dhel’s specialties guaranteed.

At our third port Ketchikan, dubbed by some as the Salmon Capital of the World, we drove by a Filipino community- center. Again, we were on a tour bus which inhibited

us from exploring more of this Filipino facility. Yet it was a good feeling to know that our culture is represented here. The community center probably was built for the Filipinos who work the canner industry in town.

Aboard the Pearl, it was evident that our culture has rubbed off on the international crew members. Brazilian, Indian, and Indonesian crew members would greet or answer us in Filipino, such as kumusta po, salamat po, sandali lang po, opo, hindi po, Kuya and Ate. Then they would explain that their Filipino friends taught them how to speak Tagalog.

Even the tourists wanted to be part of the Filipino cultural wave.



slip past the singers and dancers.

The tourist season in Alaska, based on the schedule of the tourist guides, starts about April and ends around September. About the Filipino establishments we’ve seen in places, one wonders if they have the same schedule as the tourist guides. Surely at this time of the year, the Alaskan experience is pretty amazing. How about during the frozen months?

As for the wonders of Alaska, the glaciers are “advancing” assured one park ranger. However, at Mendenhall, it was evident that the glaciers had left their marks on smooth and polished boulders, where people could now stand and gaze at one of the remaining frozen valleys of ice. At Glacier Bay National Park, we’ve heard the thunderous cracks of glaciers calving. Calving means melting and toppling off of ice the size of buildings. For those who want to witness the glacial wonders, visit soon while they are still majestically there. The best way, and probably the safest way, to visit Glacier Bay is by cruise ship. You can be rest assured that the ship’s crew members, half of them Filipinos, will treat you warmly in Alaska.

The three Filipinos responsible for spraying the hands of the incoming diners with a hand wash became popular with the cruise passengers. Besides spraying, they were also singing, accompanied by one who plays the guitar. One guy and two gals with their excellent voices made this crew one of the most heard and admired. Diners would often pause for a moment to sing a verse or two or dance while the sprayers provided the melody. Good thing the threshold was wide enough for the hungry others to



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15 Memorable Facts About Filipino-American History You Should Know

“Forgotten Asian Americans” no longer.

By Kevin Nadal

To celebrate Filipino-American heritage in honor of AAPI Heritage Month, I asked Fil-Ams from all over the country to share what they want the world to know about Filipino-Americans — what makes them memorable rather than forgotten.

1. Filipino-Americans are the second largest Asian-American group in the United States.

There are over 3.4 million Filipino-Americans in the country, the 2010 U.S. Census reported. That’s about 20% of all Asian-Americans in the country!

2. Filipino-Americans are the largest Asian-American group in 11 out of the 50 states.

Filipino-Americans are the second largest Asian American group nationally, but they’re the largest Asian-American group in 11 states, including California (which has the largest total population of Asian-Americans).

3. Filipino-Americans are one of the fastest growing immigrant groups in the United States.

Filipino-Americans are one of the largest foreign-born groups in the U.S. — about 5% of all immigrants in the country.

4. Filipinos were the first documented Asian people to arrive in the United States.

The first Filipinos landed in Morro Bay, California, in 1587, three decades before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. These Filipino men escaped Spanish galleon ships en route to Spain. Some Filipinos migrated in similar ways and settled in the bayous of Louisiana in 1763, giving Filipinos deep roots in the U.S.

5. The Philippines is the only country in Asia to have been fully colonized by the United States.

After the Philippines gained independence from Spain on June 12, 1898, it was then colonized by the United States. The country did not regain its independence until July 4, 1946. As a result, American English is the second national language of the Philippines, and the U.S. has since maintained a military presence in the country.

6. A quarter of a million Filipino-Americans are veterans of World War II.

More than 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought under the American flag in World War II. They agreed to fight in the U.S. military on the promise that the government would grant these soldiers American citizenship and full veteran benefits. However, these promises were not granted until President Obama took office in 2009, and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos did not receive the benefits they were promised.

Today, activists are working for Filipino-American veterans to be recognized with the Congressional Medal, as they are the only ethnic group who served in World War II yet to receive this honor.

7. Filipino-Americans contributed significantly to the American labor movement, particularly with the United Farm Workers

movement in the 1960s.

While Cesar Chavez and Mexican farmworkers are often credited with leading the Delano grape strike of 1965, Filipino-American farmworkers were the first to strike. Filipino-American leaders Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz reached out to Cesar Chavez to fortify the union.

While internal power struggles resulted in Filipino-Americans distancing themselves from the United Farm Workers, many historians and activists like Dolores Huerta credit Filipinos with being the first to strike.

8. Filipino-Americans have been a part of many advocacy movements throughout U.S. history.

In the late '60s, Filipino-Americans were at the forefront of the fight for ethnic studies in San Francisco. In 2015, Filipino-Americans fought for the Alvarado Middle School to be renamed the Itliong-Veracruz Middle School after the Filipino-American labor leaders. The school was the first school in the country to be named after a Filipino-American. In 2016, Filipino-Americans successfully attained historical recognition for the South of Market (SoMa) district of San Francisco to be renamed SoMa Pilipinas.

9. Filipino-Americans have a significant presence in the arts and in hip-hop culture. Filipino-Americans have a significant presence

Lea Salonga was the first Filipina to win a Tony Award. Filipino-American musicians include Bruno Mars, Vanessa Hudgens, and Apl.de.ap of the Black Eyed Peas. In hip-hop, many Filipino-Americans have excelled as DJs and beatmakers, like DJ Neil Armstrong, DJ Q-Bert, DJ Icy Ice, as well as b-boys and dance crews — including members of groups featured on America’s Best Dance Crew like the Jabbawockeez, Super CR3W, and Quest Crew.

10. Filipino-Americans are more likely than other Asian-American groups to marry outside of their race.

Contemporary studies find that racial identity may influence Filipino-Americans who are in interracial and interethnic romantic relationships, in that those who are married to non-Filipino Asian-Americans tend to identify more as Asian-American, whereas those who are married to black Americans or Latinos are more likely to view Filipino-Americans as a distinct ethnic group and feel more connected with black and Latino communities.

11. One-fifth of the Filipino-American population is multiracial.

Nearly 22% of Filipino-Americans identify as biracial or multiracial — much higher than the 8% of the entire Asian-American population who are multiracial. This phenomenon, scholars have argued, may be due to shared histories of colonialism, experiences with colorism and racial discrimination shared with black Americans, and shared American values, customs, and language with white Americans.

12. Filipino-Americans identify as members of many different religions.

About 90% of people in the Philippines identify as Catholic, thanks to Spanish colonialism. Four to five percent practice another form of Christianity, and another

4–5% percent identify as Muslim.

13. Many Filipino-Americans also choose not to identify as Asian or Asian-American, often due to a history of exclusion.

Research supports the idea that many Filipino-Americans do not identify as Asian or Asian-American. Potential reasons for this include having a darker skin color (or identifying as “brown”), having similar experiences with racism, or feeling excluded or marginalized in the larger Asian-American community.

Scholars have described how Filipino-Americans have historically felt marginalized in pan-ethnic Asian-American organizations, particularly given their lack of representation or leadership opportunities in these groups. Other researchers have found that many Filipinos identify more with Latinos than with East Asian-Americans.

14. Filipino-Americans have unique experiences with racism.

Studies have revealed that Filipino-Americans experience a range of racial microaggressions, including that they are mis-

perceived to be members of other racial groups like Latino, multiracial, black, or Pacific Islander. Further, many Filipinos report being told that they are not “Asian enough” — by both Asian-Americans and non-Asian people.

Discrimination from other Asian-Americans results in a unique racial and ethnic Filipino identity: Filipino-Americans might reject a pan-ethnic Asian-American identity and develop a strong, ethnocentric, purely Filipino-American identity.

15. And while May is Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, October is Filipino-American History Month!

Because of the unique experiences of the Filipino-Americans, Fred and Dorothy Cordova of the Filipino American National Historical Society declared October as Filipino-American History Month in 1988. In 2009, both the U.S. Senate and Congress declared October as Filipino-American History Month. In 2015, President Obama recognized the month at a celebration at the White House.

Waiting

By Emmanuel Besa

As I wait for my turn
The room is starting to fill
Names and numbers are being called
Although time seems to fly by with all the commotion and noise,
I feel trapped in time, an outsider of this world looking in
Perhaps, I just wanted this time to stop
To be able to savor the moment I often missed
Like the sunrise in the morning
Like the white roses blooming in this season
Like the gentle wind that reminds you of your body
Like the friends and family who lingered despite my imperfections
I am still here waiting...waiting for the unknown.

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By Nancy Cristi Bautista

Teen Bullying

It's the season of happy memories, like spring, graduation, vacation, birthday and other celebrations. These are more vivid and profound experiences to the younger generations, especially the teens. There are more expectations about the gay moments to these group of children, maybe because of the things they see in the movies or in the internet. However, little do they know that there are unfortunate things lurking behind those fantasies, like bullying.

Recently, on a television news, this fact was exposed: "Half of teens in ER's {emergency rooms} are victims of violence/cyber-bullying.", and that is fifteen percent of teens, who are nearly fifty percent of high school teenagers. It was also stated that according to the victims, they were really very, very scared. Most of the time, they resulted with the case of post traumatic stress disorder, and unfortunately, some ended up in suicides. One of them is a very popular, then, ten year old girl singer, who is now scared to even show her picture in the social media for the fear of being criticized and ridiculed by peers again.

Most of us adults know how being a teenager is a very sensitive part of growing up. Things that might not be a big deal for some could be a life and death situation for them. Even a single pimple or a case of a bad hair day could mean a case of hiding from people especially from other teens, and could maybe lead to depression. Let's admit it that some could really be mean and hurtful to those sensitive and less confident children. They could smell blood when someone could easily be stepped on, and in this day and age, the social media is one of their best tools to accomplish their evil goals.

At an early age, a child must be taught what bullying is and how it affects everybody, how to avoid being bullied and most especially, how not to bully anybody. A child should be taught on the difference of being assertive, being defensive on one's right in a proper way and actually being a bully. One should not be meek that a bully can step on him or her.

It is most proper to educate a person who tends to be a bully rather than confront such a coward character. However, when noth-

ing is avoidable, one must think properly on how this mean person can be handled without getting hurt yourself. One is for the child to be taught to always inform a responsible adult like the teacher, a parent, or a police officer if someone is misbehaving towards another child. Hitting back on the bully might create a more serious incident and might reverse the blaming to the innocent child. It is also good to inform the child that running away from a trouble does not always mean being a chicken, but,



instead, one is brave enough to be able to avoid further problems, in which confrontation might likely end up in a very regrettable event.

It might sound natural for kids to tease other kids, but, bullies tend to take advantage of the situation, knowing that if the other kid does not respond, this child will feel stronger and would carry his or her bullying attitude. When other weaker kids become followers of this bully child, the more the bully find himself or herself the strong leader of this so-called little gang. Emphasize to your child to avoid joining this group led by a bully, and find instead an individual or a group who would positively build up her or his ego and character.

It is very important to constantly keep abreast on the activities, friends, internet, and organizations of your child. When a child feels that a concerned adult is guiding her or him, it is more likely that a bully will avoid this kid, knowing that somebody is watching them.

A child brought up being loved and cared for is one of the best, maybe, the best way of rearing a child to grow up avoiding bullies and not to be a bully herself or himself. This will give the child confidence and would carry such attitude until her or his adulthood.

Bradley trainer believes Pacquiao will return to the ring

By: Mark Giongco

Teddy Atlas was standing on the same boxing ring at MGM Grand Garden Arena when Manny Pacquiao stood by his decision to retire after beating Timothy Bradley in their third fight last month.



Manny Pacquiao, left, shakes hands with trainer Teddy Atlas, right, during a news conference to promote an upcoming boxing match Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, in New York. Pacquiao is scheduled to fight Timothy Bradley on April 9, 2016, in Las Vegas.

Atlas, Bradley's trainer, was also on the podium with Pacquiao when the Filipino boxing icon reiterated — although with a hint of reservation — he will hang up his gloves and put his family and political career as his top priorities.

But despite hearing Pacquiao tell reporters about his retirement plan over and over again, Atlas still feels after all that trending narrative, the former welterweight champion will only end up making a ring return.

"I think Manny's gonna wind up coming back, that's number one, I do think that he will come back," Atlas told On The Ropes Boxing Radio as posted on BoxingScene.com. "It was comical, they were putting this fight forward as his last fight, but even in the press conferences they were saying, 'Well maybe it's his last fight,' they were already hedging. If you know it's a guy's last fight, you're not saying that maybe it's his last fight."

"Obviously, there's an understanding there that it's probably not his last fight and if I was asked to bet on it, I would probably wager that it's not going to be his last fight," Atlas, who also works as

an analyst on ESPN, added.

The 37-year-old Pacquiao hasn't completely shut the door on a possible fight and he has been pushing for a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr., whose retirement came just seven months earlier than the newly-elected senator.

But Atlas feels a second bout with Mayweather isn't a good thing considering how the first meeting turned out.

"Having said that, I don't think there's any interest in a rematch with Mayweather. The way that fight went and the styles of the two fighters, one guy that can be aggressive and the other fighter who takes the air out of the ball," Atlas said. "Mayweather fights a defensive fight, he doesn't take chances, he's terrific. I love Floyd, but it is what it is, he fights a careful fight, he disarms you, he doesn't fight a TV friendly fight."

Mayweather, who has been hinting at coming back and fighting MMA superstar Conor McGregor, beat Pacquiao by unanimous decision in May of last year before scoring a one-sided victory over Andre Berto last September

"Mayweather doesn't fight the kind of fight where you want to pay seventy dollars for pay-per-view, or one hundred dollars for pay-per-view. Being that we already got a dress rehearsal of that, why would you want to go see it again? I just don't understand why people are even asking that question, or proposing the possibility of a rematch having seen what they've seen already."



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Dawn: Nothing wrong with May-December affair

By Dolly Anne Carvajal

LOVE knows no age, and the heart has no wrinkles. That is basically what Star Cinema's romantic comedy, "Love Me Tomorrow", is all about.

It is topbilled by Dawn Zulueta, Coleen Garcia and Piolo Pascual, whose characters in the film are entangled in a love triangle.

In this age of "cougars" and "hot mamas," Dawn's role is a celebration of woman power in matters of the heart.

Here's my tête-à-tête with Dawn: What's something about Piolo that surprised you during your shoot?

I saw how wacky he can get. The few times I spent with him prior to shooting, he was formal. Working with him made me see his lighter side.

What do you think of May-December relationships?

It's nice as long as both of you aren't attached to someone else. I don't see anything wrong with falling for someone despite your age difference. If you really love each other, go for it.

What's the craziest thing that you did for love?

I gave up something I really loved doing just to appease someone I loved.

When your son is old enough, what advice would you give him about love and women?

I will tell Jacobo not to rush. To make friends with a lot of different people so from there, he will become more discerning. I'll tell him to keep those with a positive outlook in life as friends.

Eventually, from that circle, maybe he can choose a girlfriend. I would advise him that in a relationship, they should both be assets to each other.

What makes your marriage work?

Honesty and trust, aside from the fact that my husband is super loyal to me. That's an A-plus.

What are your secrets for aging gracefully?

I refuse to feel my age. I'm 47, but I don't limit myself to dressing up or behaving a certain way.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who is free-flowing, fun-loving, who takes her work seriously, but doesn't



Dawn Zulueta

take herself too seriously.

Lana masterpiece

We gave Jun Robles Lana's masterpiece, "Anino sa Likod ng Buwan," a grade of A at the Cinema Evaluation Board. It's a raw and piercing depiction of love in the time of war. No wonder it reaped awards in festivals abroad and has nine nominations in the coming Gawad Urian.

Lead actress LJ Reyes shed her sweet image and went beyond her comfort zone. She more than deserves her best actress award at the Pacific Meridian International Festival in Russia.

But could it be true that it will be the last time that LJ will portray such a daring role, because she is now a devout Born Again Christian?

If so, maybe she can find middle ground between her art and faith, to be able to balance personal convictions and professional growth. Religion must not get in the way of maximizing her God-given talents.

Kapamilya awards

ABS-CBN bagged a total of 12 recognitions at the 14th Philippine Quill Awards, winning the most number among media and entertainment organizations that participated in the prestigious honor program of the International Association of Business Communicators Philippines.

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What if Kris & Baste meet?

Manila, Philippines – Will sparks fly?

That's the big question of Funfare readers who have been insisting that I put out side by side the photos of Kris Aquino (sexy in swimsuit) and new Crush ng Bayan Sebastian 'Baste' Duterte (oozing with sex appeal in a surfing outfit), youngest son of presumptive Pres. Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte. Request granted.



Kris Aquino and Sebastian "Baste" Duterte

What will happen if the two do meet, perhaps by chance?

That meeting might not be possible, not in the near future anyway, because Kris (and her sons Joshua and Bimby) are on a two-month vacation in Hawaii while Baste, the reluctant new media

sensation, said he'd rather stay in laidback Davao than in the traffic-clogged Metro Manila.

While Kris is fancy-free, Baste is vocal about having a girlfriend (unnamed) in interviews and honest enough to admit that he has two children.

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