



**Uncle Sam or Xi Dada:  
A question of trust**  
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# PF NEWS

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## Duterte admits hundreds killed while he was mayor

By Alexis Romero

President Duterte yesterday denied forming a task force to kill criminals, even as he admitted that hundreds of them died while he was mayor of Davao City.

Duterte said he does not play favorites with the security forces and that he relays his directives to police chiefs.

"There is no task force. You can see that I give the orders to the chief, to Bato (nickname of Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa). Wala akong bata-bata na ganoon (I don't play favorites). Even in the military," the President said.

"Didn't I say it? Every now and then, do not create a cult or rido (clash). I do not need it. I said, I do not need it, I do not like it," he

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Photo by Edd Gumban

President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday denied forming a task force to kill criminals, even as he admitted that hundreds of them died while he was mayor of Davao City.

## De Lima's arrest shows gov't winning vs drugs - Bato

By Julliane Love De Jesus

The arrest of Senator Leila de Lima is an indication that the Duterte administration is winning the war on drugs, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa said, echoing fellow presidential ally Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

"She was charged with drug offenses. That's criminal. So meaning nagtagumpay tayo (we are



Senator Leila de Lima

winning)," Dela Rosa said in a press conference at Camp Crame on Monday.

Alvarez said the arrest of De Lima was a "victory of the war against drugs." "It shows justice is working in our beloved nation," the Speaker added.

Dela Rosa, meanwhile, insinuated that had the government failed to prosecute De Lima, the "drug em-

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## Sayyaf uploads video of German's beheading

By Roel Pareño and Michael Punongbayan

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — The Abu Sayyaf yesterday released a video showing the beheading of German captive Juergen Gustav Kantner.

The brief video, circulated on the internet by the SITE Intelligence Group that monitors jihadi websites, was the first sign that the militants proceeded with their threat to kill Kantner.

On Feb. 14, the Abu Sayyaf threatened to execute Kantner if P30 million in ransom was not paid by 3 p.m. of Feb. 26.

The video showed the 70-year-old Kantner sitting in a grassy



The brief video, circulated on the internet by the SITE Intelligence Group that monitors jihadi websites, was the first sign that the militants proceeded with their threat to kill Kantner. SITE Intel Group via AP

clearing and saying, "Now he kills me," shortly before a masked

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## VACC to file contempt charges vs Robredo, LP senators



The group's lawyer says Vice President Leni Robredo, Senator Francis Pangilinan, and Senator Franklin Drilon have been making statements that disrespect the court

By Lian Buan

MANILA, Philippines – The Volunteers Against Crime and

Corruption (VACC) will file contempt of court charges against Vice President Leni Robredo as well as

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PerryScope  
By Perry Diaz

## Uncle Sam or Xi Dada: A question of trust



One of the most quoted maxims in politics is: “There are no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, only permanent interests.” But regardless of whether you’re dealing with a friend or an enemy, the one that could earn dividends is the mantra: “Don’t burn your bridges because you’ll never know when you would need them.” American presidents since the beginning of the 19th century were good at following this mantra. Not only did they not burn bridges, they built bridges for their former enemies. Yes, indeed. Look at post-World War II Germany and Japan.

At the end of World War II, the U.S. initiated the Marshall Plan – officially the European Recovery Program – to aid Western Europe from the ravages of war. More than \$12 billion (approximately \$120 billion in current dollar value) were given in the 1950s and 1960s. The reunification of West Germany and the former communist state of East Germany in 1990 created Europe’s biggest economic power. Today, the U.S. continues to maintain a strong military force to protect Germany and 25 other European countries – collectively the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) — from the threat of Russian aggression.

In the case of Japan, the American occupation of Japan provided a smooth transition to economic recovery. With the presence of American bases and troops, Japan allocated only one percent of her Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for her self-defense force; thus, giving her more to spend on economic recovery. By the 1960s, Japan became the world’s second largest economy after the U.S.

Today, Germany and Japan join the ranks of America’s most dependable allies. Germany, together with her World War II adversaries — United Kingdom and France — form the bulwark of NATO while Japan partners with the U.S. and South Korea in keeping China and North Korea at bay.

### Rise of China

China-rise With the rise of China as the world’s second largest economy after the U.S. – displacing Japan who moved down to third place — there is a great deal of anxiety among her Asian neighbors who are fearful of China’s imperialistic design in the South and East China Seas. Thus far, Vietnam and the Philippines have lost territories to China. In 1974, China grabbed the

Paracel Islands after engaging Vietnam in a fierce naval battle. In 1994, China occupied the Mischief Reef, which is within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and built permanent fortifications on it.

Scarborough-Shoal-aerial-view. In 2012, China took possession of the Philippines’ Scarborough Shoal after four months of standoff between Chinese and Philippine coast guards. To break the impasse, the U.S. mediated for both parties to withdraw their vessels from the shoal. Both countries agreed. Well, the Philippines withdrew her ships but China didn’t. Since then, China cordoned the only opening to the shoal’s lagoon; thus, preventing Philippine ships and fishing vessels from entering what was once Philippine territory.

In 2013, China started building artificial islands on seven reefs in the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea (SCS). When the U.S. confronted China about those artificial islands, China said she had no intention of militarizing them. However, satellite photos show runways, harbors, and structures that appear to be missile emplacements. When asked again, China said that she has the right to build and install defense equipment on her sovereign territory.

### Can China be trusted?

The representations that China made when she was building the artificial islands were different from what she’s saying now; she’s fortifying these islands to defend them from external forces. It manifests China’s propensity to lie. In other words, China can’t be trusted.

In a survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) in the Philippines last September, 76% of the respondents had “much trust” in the U.S. compared to 22% about China. What is interesting is that the survey was conducted at a time when Digong was vociferously expressing his anti-American tirades.

Duterte continued his verbal assaults on the U.S., particularly against then-President Barack Obama whom he called “son of a whore” and told him to “go to hell.” But Duterte seemed to be attracted to then President-elect Donald Trump who talked

to him on the phone telling him that he was doing the “right thing” in his war on drugs.

As an expression of goodwill towards Trump, Duterte sent his Communications Secretary Martin Andanar and National Security Adviser Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to attend Trump’s inaugural last January 20. Although there were no news reports of the two attending the inaugural ball and having a seat at the VIP section at the inauguration, they were at the pre-inaugural reception at the Philippine Embassy, which was mostly attended by Filipino-Americans.

### Change in Duterte

Something must have happened since then because Duterte seemed to have a change in his attitude towards Uncle Sam.

Recently, it was reported in the news that Duterte had given Defense Secretary Gen. Delfin Lorenzana the go-ahead for the U.S. military to build barracks and fuel depots in designated Philippine bases where American forces are allowed to temporarily station under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). This is a far cry from last month when Duterte threatened to terminate EDCA. He said then that he didn’t want his country to get entangled if a Sino-American war erupted. Lorenzana identified three bases where the U.S. is supposedly bringing weapons, including Palawan, which is just within 100-200 miles from the militarized artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago in the SCS.

### Realignment



Obviously, Duterte is realigning with the U.S., just a few months after he announced during his state visit to China that he will “separate” from the U.S. His 180-degree about-face surprised the Duterte watchers.

Last February 5, Duterte announced that he had terminated the peace talks with leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF). He also lifted the “ceasefire” with the New People’s Army (NPA). In a media conference, Duterte said that the CPP-NDF-NPA triumvirate was making unreasonable demands including freeing hundreds of prisoners whom NPA claims to be “political prisoners.” Duterte had initially released 18 prisoners but their number was increased to 23 upon the insistence. After releasing them, the rebels demanded the release of another 400 prisoners. It was then that Duterte ordered the arrest of jailed leftist leaders who were allowed to join the peace talks.

Duterte then branded the CPP-NDF-NPA as a terrorist group, which didn’t dwell too well with Chinese President Xi Jinping. It’s a big blow to Xi whom the Chinese people affectionately call Uncle Xi or Xi Dada. Xi had expected Duterte to turn the Philippines into a vassal of China and terminate EDCA including the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). And with a navy without warships and an air force without warplanes, the Philippines would helplessly be at the mercy of a militant China. What a shame!

At the end of the day, the defensive umbrella that Uncle Sam provides over the Philippines would ensure that the country remains sovereign and independent. Unlike Xi Dada, Uncle Sam has no imperialistic design in the Philippines. However, America has vast national security interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and thus has to remain a power in the region to keep the strategic shipping lanes in the SCS and other bodies of international water open to all nations.

Ultimately, it all comes down to a question of trust. Whom can Duterte trust: Uncle Sam or Xi Dada?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

## De Lima’s arrest shows gov’t winning vs drugs – Bato

From page 1

pire” inside the New Bilibid Prison would continue to thrive.

“Kung hindi naaksyunan ‘yung problema sa droga, lalong lumaki ‘yan ngayon. Sobrang laki na kung hindi natin giniba ‘yung drug empire sa loob ng Bilibid. Napakalaki na ng empire na ‘yan,” he said.

(If the drug problem has not been addressed, this could be a big problem today.)

De Lima, who staunchly opposed the killings in the Duterte administration’s drug war, is facing illegal drug charges for alleg-

edly profiting from the drug business inside the national penitentiary when she was Justice secretary.

The senator is currently detained at the PNP Custodial Center located inside Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Dela Rosa, however, appealed to the President to bring back the war on drugs because dealers and users are resuming their illegal activities.

Duterte’s bloody campaign against drugs has claimed lives of over 7,000 individuals, at least 2,000 died in legitimate police operation.



### Editor’s Note

It’s March already! We finally have a break from the heavy rains that flooded most areas in Sacramento and around. Although nothing has stopped our Fil-Am community from having all the usual gatherings, celebrations, and parties, especially published in this issue of PF News.

First and foremost, as parents of Dane with his partner Amanda, we are grateful to those who have made their presence to support Rize All’s first fundraising. Beginning this first week is their free dance classes, with a grand opening celebration on March 4. Please stop by if you haven’t visited yet and see what fun dance classes they are offering for our community of all ages and dance levels. Rize All is a non-profit organization, established to promote the physical well being through dance. Besides, it’s a fun way to learn and have fun at the same time. If anyone is interested, individual or by couples, to attend the Wednesday ballroom lessons at 7:30 PM, please let us know.

There are upcoming events for this month but we would like to especially highlight the Philippines Consular on Wheels event, that is scheduled for March 18, at the Magellan Hall in Sacramento. It can be a lengthy process and there are specific requirements. It’s better to plan ahead. Please call the Bayanihan Club of Sacramento for more information.

Politics aside both in the Philippines and here in America, may we all find happiness and peace in our heart. Let’s spend the most precious time with our families and friends around.

With all of you in celebrations,  
Dinnah San Pedro

# No turning back from war on drugs

By Genalyn D. Kabling

The President said there was “no turning back” in his anti-drug efforts, adding that human rights and due process could not be used as an excuse to allow drug traffickers and their protectors in high places to destroy the country.

“Do not rely on due process and human rights. It won’t pass, we will still see each other in hell,” Duterte said during the recent turnover of a drug rehabilitation facility in Davao del Norte.

He even warned that he will show no mercy to drug pushers and their protectors as the government continues its campaign against the narcotics trade.

“You think that those two basic principles can protect you. Well I’ll tell you, I’m sorry. It cannot,” he added.

The President said he is determined to “catch” the drug pushers and “preserve” the Filipino nation from the enormous drug problem without resorting to the declaration of martial law.

“Martial law? Mine is to preserve the Filipino nation. I don’t think I need to impose Habeas Corpus, suspension, martial law. It is given that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the Philippines and protect the Filipino people,” he said.

“There’s no turning back because it is my job. When I took my oath of office, I have to protect the Filipino people,” he said.

Duterte also said he was ready to die, go to prison or be removed from office amid the government’s deadly campaign against the narcotics trade.

He also reaffirmed his vow to protect law enforcers performing their duty, saying he will take full responsibility if they are forced to kill criminals to defend their lives.

“Do not scare me because I am not scared to go to prison or face the firing squad. It actually feels good to die knowing that you have protected the nation,” he said.

“I am willing to be assassinated for whatever reason or you sabotage the plane I am than die while using illegal drugs. I will be glad to die for my country,” he added.

The government has drawn criticisms for the soaring death toll linked to its deadly war on illegal drugs. Some groups have deplored the alleged human rights violations from the spate of killings since the administration started.

But the government has repeatedly argued that it was not behind the alleged extrajudicial killings in the country.

Duterte, in the same Davao speech, took another swipe at some members of the clergy critical of his anti-drug campaign. He said they should contribute to the campaign by going to communities and convincing people to stay away from illegal drugs.

He said the country’s drug problem has become enormous with the suspected involvement of government officials and lawmen.

He said 6,000 police and 32 municipal mayors were allegedly involved in illegal drug trade while 40 percent of the country’s barangay captains are into the drugs.

### RELAUNCH PNP’S ‘TOKHANG’

At Saturday’s pro-Duterte rally at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano urged the Duterte administration and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to relaunch their anti-drug campaign that came to be known as “Oplan Tokhang.”

“Ako’y nakikiusap sa ating Pangulo at sa PNP na irelaunch ninyo ang inyong (I am urging the President and the PNP to relaunch the) anti-drug drive. Simula sa araw na ito February 25, araw ng rebolusyon at pagbabago, hindi na ito (Beginning this day of February 25, the day of revolution and change, this is no longer just) Duterte’s war on drugs, it will be the people’s war on drugs dahil po kasama tayo sa paglaban sa droga (because we are part of the fight against drugs),” Cayetano said.

The senator said that for 31 years since the EDSA Revolution, people go out and clamor for change and cited how the Duterte administration’s war on drugs has brought change in the communities.

“Hindi pa tapos ang pagbabago, pero mas safe na ba ngayon sa inyong mga lugar? Kahit papaano, ang mga pusher sa inyong lugar ay may takot na rin (Change is not yet complete, but aren’t your communities safer? Drug pushers in your communities now have fear),” Cayetano said as he addressed the crowd.

The senator pointed out how illegal drugs play a factor in 60 percent of the crimes committed in the country.

### WIN BACKS ‘TOKHANG’

For his part, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian said yesterday he has no qualms over the proposal for President Duterte to re-launch his intensive war on drugs, but that rogue cops within the PNP should first be taken out.

“I’ve served in the local government for a long time and I know what really needs to be done by our police and this administration is to cleanse the ranks of the PNP. That should be the priority,” Gatchalian said in an interview over Radio DZBB.

Duterte suspended his drug campaign after the killing of Korean



President Rodrigo Duterte

businessman Jee Ick Joo whom members of the PNP’s Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG) “arrested” supposedly for being a drug suspect.

Jee was strangled to death on the same day of his abduction last Oct. 18, 2016 right inside the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame. Business groups, particularly the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines condemned the brutal killing.

Gatchalian said there is no doubt the Duterte administration’s intensive war on drugs was effective even though his program of change, particularly his fight against illegal drugs, “raised a lot of eyebrows.”

The senator said it is essential that the government finds an effective strategy and the right balance to counter the illegal drug trade, which he noticed is also slowly seeping back in unsuspecting communities.

### DUTERTE’S FOLLOWERS

Thousands of pro-Duterte groups from Metro Manila and nearby provinces converged at the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park to show support for the president’s war on drugs, poverty, and corruption as the nation commemorated the 31st

People Power Anniversary.

At 10 p.m. Saturday, the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCR-PO) announced a crowd estimate of 215,000.

Sultan Yusoph Impal Guinto of the Muslim Center in San Miguel, Manila, who came to the event together with 500 others, said they came be-

cause they are willing to sacrifice their life for Duterte.

“Handa kaming itaya ang buhay namin para sa pagsuporta namin kay President Duterte,” he said. “Wag nating harangan ang pamalalakad niya sa Pilipinas, kundi dapat ay suportahan natin siya.”

He said that the Muslim Center has become more peaceful since Duterte started the war on drugs.

“Sa amin sa Muslim Center, ngayon ay tahimik na. Nawala na ‘yung mga drug lord,” he said.



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## Sayyaf uploads video of German's beheading

From page 1

militant beheaded him with a curved knife.

A few gunmen muttered "Allahu Akbar," or God is great.

The executioner placed the head beside the body after the beheading that occurred in an undisclosed area believed to be in Sulu.

Intelligence reports that circulated on Sunday said the militants led by Muamar Askali alias Abu Rami executed Kantner in Sitio Tali-bang, Barangay Buanza after the deadline for ransom payment lapsed. Presidential peace process adviser Jesus Dureza confirmed that the bandit group had beheaded Kantner. Dureza said the bandits' barbaric activities must be stopped, noting terrorism has no place in the country.

He said he had always been in contact with the German government in an effort to save Kantner.

Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa also confirmed the beheading, but the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) refused to

do so. The military said the video is not enough proof, as it insisted on finding the victim's body to confirm the execution.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said he would not dignify the video by watching it. Col. Cirilito Sobejana, chief of the Joint Task Force Sulu, said his men were searching for Kantner's head and body.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said they were still verifying the report and have yet to receive confirmation on the ground. Año said there should be proof such as the identifiable remains of the victim, body parts that can be subjected to DNA and confirmatory testing or a reliable eyewitness account. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana issued a similar statement, saying: "We cannot confirm unless we see the body."

### Operations continue

Capt. Jo Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command, said reports of Kantner's

beheading have not slowed down the military operations to crush the Abu Sayyaf and rescue all remaining hostages.

The military fired mortar rounds on Abu lairs in the mountains of Al-Barka yesterday morning. Troops from the Joint Task Force Basilan bombarded the hideout of Abu Sayyaf leader Nurhassan Jamiri in Barangay Makalang at around 3 a.m., Petinglay said.

Reports from ground forces said several mortar rounds hit the bandits' camp, where about 70 Abu Sayyaf followers led by Jamiri were reportedly encamped.

Al-Barka Mayor Darus Lajid confirmed the bombardment, saying residents from nearby villages fled their homes for fear for their lives. At least 14 battalions of soldiers are pursuing the militants who have been holding captive seven Filipinos and 20 foreigners, excluding six Vietnamese seized in a recent Tawi-Tawi pirate attack.

## Ouster planned in Pacman's house

By Marvin Sy

MANILA, Philippines - The move to expel Liberal Party members from the super majority in the Senate was inevitable and done out of sheer common sense, according to the lawmaker who hosted the meeting during which the move against the LP was planned.

Sen. Manny Pacquiao said that 15 to 16 senators met last Monday night at his Forbes Park home where they discussed the move against the LP senators, among other things.

Led by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, members of the majority bloc, except for the LP stalwarts and Sen. Risa Hontiveros, were present during the meeting.

Pacquiao said there was an agreement among all of them to oust the LP senators from the majority bloc.

"We cannot do our work here. The President has nothing to do with this. We cannot do our jobs here at the Senate if we don't do this," Pacquiao said.

Even before the meeting, a number of senators belonging to the majority bloc had been airing their displeasure over how the LP senators were voting as a bloc against some issues important to the administration.

Pacquiao, who initiated the move to remove the committee chairmanships of the LP senators, said that there was general agreement among members of the Senate majority that there was a need to draw the line.

They also were unhappy over how the LP senators



(Sen. Manny Pacquiao said that 15 to 16 senators met last Monday night at his Forbes Park home where they discussed the move against the LP senators, among other things.)

were holding some major committee chairmanships as members of the majority but at the same time were critical of the administration.

Sen. Cynthia Villar said that the majority bloc reached a consensus on the matter some time ago and felt they'd had enough of the same petty issues.

Villar said that there was always some confusion among the majority bloc before when some of its members could not seem to agree on a number of issues.

In a statement issued Monday night, Pimentel said "the work in the Senate has been hampered by the blurring of lines between the majority and the minority to the detriment of public interest."

LP president Sen. Francis Pangilinan, in a statement issued yesterday, refuted the claim of Pimentel, noting that almost 70 percent of the bills on its way to being approved were shepherded by LP senators.

"It is simply untrue that LP senators hampered the legislative agenda. How is this possible when two out of the administration's three priorities - death penalty and the lowering of criminal age of responsibility - are with the justice committee and not our committees?" Pangilinan said.

The justice committee is headed by Sen. Richard Gordon.

Pangilinan pointed out that the senators who voted against the 2017 national budget, namely Sens. Panfilo Lacson and Sherwin Gatchalian, are not members of the LP.

The 17th Congress has so far passed only one law, which was the postponement of the October 2016 Sangguniang Kabataan elections, and this was secondarily referred to the committee on electoral reforms and people's participation chaired by Sen. Leila de Lima.

"The only instances we were divided in the majority were on the issues of the Marcos burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the extrajudicial killings, the investigation of corruption in the Bureau of Immigration and the Lascañas testimony," Pangilinan said.

"In these instances, the LP asserted the independence of the Senate and it was in these instances that senators allied with Malacañang opposed our efforts," he added.

Pangilinan said that it was "inaccurate and factually erroneous" for any senator to say that the reorganization was due to hampered work.

## VACC to file contempt charges vs Robredo, LP senators

From page 1

senators Francis Pangilinan and Franklin Drilon.

VACC's lawyer Ferdinand Topacio told Rappler that they are now preparing a complaint against Robredo, Pangilinan, and Drilon, who have been vocal in opposing the arrest of their fellow Liberal Party (LP) member, Senator Leila de Lima. Topacio said De Lima's allies continue to make statements that disrespect the court.

He said that Robredo, for instance, issued this statement: "These efforts to smear Senator De Lima are a strong indication that the charges against her arise from a political agenda and are not the result of an independent, unbiased legal process."

Pangilinan and Drilon have also labeled De Lima's arrest over drug charges as political persecution. (READ: De Lima's fate: Karma or political persecution?)

They echoed the arguments of De Lima's camp, saying the issuance of an arrest warrant was rushed because the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court (RTC) has yet to hear the senator's motions to quash. (READ: Who is the judge who ordered De Lima's arrest?)

"They are insinuating that the court is biased even without grounds. That's improper conduct. Of course you can always criticize the court, but not in a disrespectful way," Topacio told Rappler in a phone interview.

The lawyer said they will file charges for violation of

Section 3(d) of Rule 71 of the Rules of Civil Procedure which penalizes "any improper conduct tending, directly or indirectly, to impede, obstruct, or degrade the administration of justice."

Topacio added that De Lima may have committed forum shopping when she filed separate petitions before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Forum shopping refers to the multiple filing of petitions or motions to increase the odds of a court ruling in one's favor.

If one is found guilty of forum shopping, it would constitute direct contempt of court and the multiple petitions or motions could be dismissed.

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# 'Bongbong likely pick for prime minister in Duterte's federalism

Veteran journalist draws parallels between Duterte, Ferdinand Marcos

By DJ Yap

Who is the most likely candidate for President Duterte's Prime Minister and successor under the parliamentary-federal government being hatched by his administration?

It is former Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., according to veteran journalist Raissa Robles.

Speaking at a forum at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, Robles, a correspondent for the South China Morning Post and author of the book "Marcos Martial Law: Never Again," said the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was the likely choice of Duterte, a "Marcos loyalist and admirer of the strongman."

"Who do you think Duterte's Prime Minister and successor is likely to be? Most probably Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos," she said on Friday.

Robles cited a remark made by Marcos during the vice presidential debate in April last year, in which he disclosed something that he said Duterte had told him.

"Mayor Digong said, if the problem of crime is not solved in three to six months, he will give the presidency to Bongbong. He didn't say he will give it to Senator Alan (Cayetano)," Marcos said. Cay-



"Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

etano was then Duterte's running mate.

Marcos, who lost to Vice President Leni Robredo but is contesting her electoral victory, was the running mate of the late Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Robles drew parallels between Duterte's and Marcos' brand of leadership, noting how the President seemed keen to undermine the legacy of the 1987 People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

"Why does the Duterte administration look at Edsa that way? Perhaps because Edsa is all about making abhorrent leaders accountable and booting them out if they abuse their power. Perhaps because President Duterte is a Marcos loyalist, and an admirer of the strongman," she said.

It seems the President's dream is "to bring back various aspects of the Marcos rule," she added.

Under the planned parlia-

mentary-federal model that was presented recently to Congress leaders, the government would have a "dual executive," Robles said, quoting University of Santo Tomas assistant professor Edmund Tayao.

This means the President would be directly elected by the people for a five-year term and be able to run for reelection for another five-year term.

"At the same time, there would be a Prime Minister who is a member of Parliament who will serve as head of government. He will be elected by fellow members of Parliament. He will run the day-to-day operations of government," Robles said.

She said such a setup was a copy of the Marcos-Cesar Virata tandem, "where Marcos was a strong president and Virata was the workhorse Prime Minister who ran the government."

"Under such a setup, what you will have is a very strong President without checks and balances," she said.

Under the Duterte administration's plan, there will be no Vice President, Robles said.

"Marcos was allergic to Vice Presidents, having quarreled with his Vice President, Fernando Lopez, whom he accused of plotting against him," she said. "Sounds familiar?"

the President said.

Duterte lamented that some policemen pocketed the money given to them to buy illegal drugs for their sting operations.

"It so happened that, some policemen f\*\*\*\*\*d up, because you know you have to give the police money, because if they go out and hunt for trafficking of drugs, there must be a selling and a buying, otherwise there is no trafficking," he said.

Malacañang has dismissed Lascañas' statements as "vicious politics," orchestrated by sectors affected by reforms made by the Duterte administration.

# Timeline: Duterte, De Lima's duel over drugs, deaths

Agence France-Presse

Senator Leila de Lima, arrested Friday on drug trafficking charges, has waged a decade-long crusade to expose President Rodrigo Duterte as the leader of death squads that have killed thousands of people.

She insists Duterte's government has manufactured the charges to silence her investigations into the killings allegedly orchestrated by Duterte during his time as mayor of Davao city, then for the past eight months as president.

Here are key moments in the battle between De Lima and Duterte:

March 2009

De Lima, then head of the government's Commission on Human Rights, flies to Davao and begins a public inquiry into the alleged death squads.

"I am bothered by statements attributed to him (Duterte)... which tend to condone this phenomenon of illegal or vigilante-style killings," De Lima says at the inquiry.

Duterte responds: "If there is an iota of evidence that we are involved in the killings, I will submit to you, at the end of the day, my resignation as city mayor."

June 2012

The commission, after De Lima has stepped down to become justice secretary,



President Rodrigo Duterte and Senator Leila de Lima

finds that "there was a systematic practice of extrajudicial killings" in Davao.

De Lima orders the National Bureau of Investigation, which is part of her justice department, to launch a probe into the alleged death squads.

May 2016

Duterte is elected president after pledging during the campaign to kill 100,000 criminals. De Lima separately wins a seat in the Senate.

Days after the election, the justice ministry announces it has closed its investigation into the death squads because the last witness had fled a safe house run by the ministry's witness protection program.

August 2016

Duterte accuses De Lima of running a drug trafficking ring with criminals inside the nation's biggest prison to help fund her Senate election campaign.

De Lima, as head of the Senate justice and human rights committee, launches public hearings on alleged extrajudicial killings in Duterte's drug war. A

self-declared Davao Death Squad assassin testifies that he and others killed about 1,000 people from 1998-2013 on Duterte's orders. Duterte allies in the Senate depose De Lima as committee head days later.

September 2016

Several gang leaders at the country's main prison testify at the House of Representatives and repeat Duterte's allegations that De Lima and her driver-bodyguard engaged in drugs trafficking.

December 2016

The Senate drug war inquiry, now chaired by a Duterte ally, concludes the president and the state are not responsible for extrajudicial killings.

February 17, 2017

The justice department files drug trafficking charges against De Lima. Four days later she brands Duterte a "serial killer" and calls for people to show courage and oppose him.

February 24, 2017

De Lima is arrested./rga

# Duterte admits hundreds killed while he was mayor

From page 1

added. "I do not believe in favoritism. Whatever I give to other units, I also give to the rest."

Earlier, retired policeman Arthur Lascañas accused Duterte of operating the so-called Davao death squad and ordering the execution of criminals while he was still mayor of Davao City.

Lascañas' claim was a departure from his previous statement last October that the death squad did not exist.

Asked to react to the self-confessed hit man's decision to recant his previous statement, Duterte said: "Oh, well ... There might be another one coming after recant of the recant. I'm

sure."

"I did not deny that hundreds of criminals died in Davao City. In my 23 years? Eh talagang naubos (They were really eliminated). But, you know, I'm an employee of the government, I built a city and I will build a nation," he added.

Asked if he knows Lascañas, Duterte replied: "Well, as a policeman, yes. I saw him once, twice a year."

Duterte said his directives to law enforcers as mayor of Davao City and as president did not change.

"(My orders were) just the same. Do not destroy my country, do not deprive us of our young people. You will die. They're the same orders that I'm giving here,"



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## Trump on the mind at the Oscars in jokes, protest

By David Bauder

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump was on people's minds — if not on everyone's lips — at the Oscars on Sunday night.

He was the subject of a protest non-appearance by an Academy Award-winning director, an oblique introduction by last year's supporting actor winner and several of host Jimmy Kimmel's jokes. But the president's name was kept out of most of references.

Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, winner of the Oscar for best foreign film, boycotted Sunday's ceremony, citing Trump's travel ban of several predominantly Muslim countries, including his own. He sent Iranian astronaut Anousheh Ansari to read a statement for him.

"Dividing the world into the 'us and our enemies' categories creates fear," Ansari said, adding it's "a deceitful justification for aggression and war."

All six directors nominated in the category issued a statement two days before the ceremony criticizing the "climate of fascism" in the U.S.

Kimmel referred to Trump specifically in a joke that brought in the Academy Awards' past controversy over a lack of diversity in nominees. "Remember last year when people were saying the Oscars were racist?" he said.

He made an elaborate show of talking about the "overrated" Meryl Streep, who was given that tag by the president in a tweet after she criticized him in a speech at the Golden Globes last month. Kimmel joked about her dress, saying "by the way, is that an Ivanka?"

And Kimmel also alluded to White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer's banning of some reporters from a briefing on Friday, saying that reporters from CNN, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and others needed to leave.

"We have no tolerance for fake news," he said.

As he introduced the nominees for the best supporting actress award, last year's supporting actor winner Mark Rylance said there should be an award for people who can oppose things without hatred. Trump wasn't named, but the context seemed clear.

Kimmel said about audience members, "some of you will get to come up on stage here and give a speech that the president of the United States will tweet about in all caps during his 5 a.m. bowel movement."

Marlon Brando's decision to send American Indian Sacheen Littlefeather to accept his best actor award in 1973 essentially began the modern marriage of Oscar and politics. But it was still so unusual that when docu-

mentary producer Bert Schneider talked about the Vietnam War two years later, Frank Sinatra later read an apology on-air.

Since then an Oscars podium has been used several times for political causes: Vanessa Redgrave on behalf of Palestinians in 1978, Michael Moore to denounce President George W. Bush in 2003, Sean Penn to boost gay marriage in 2009, Patricia Arquette to advocate for equal pay for women in 2015 and Leonardo DiCaprio to talk about climate change last year.

If Trump is watching, only Twitter may tell. Asked last week whether the president plans to tune in, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said he didn't know. But since there's a governor's ball on Sunday, "I have a feeling that's where the president and the first lady are going to be focused on on Sunday night," he said.

Something that did draw Trump's attention was the announcement that The New York Times would run an advertisement during the ceremony. The president tweeted Sunday that the Times was trying to "save its failing reputation." He encouraged the Times to "try reporting accurately & fairly" in a tweet that had its own inaccuracy: it's not the first time, as Trump had tweeted, that the Times has advertised its wares.

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Source: gettyimages.com



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## Trump's promise to ramp up deportations spreads fear — among California businesses

The news that President Trump ordered an aggressive crackdown on 11 million undocumented people sent a chill through immigrant communities. California businesses that employ lots of immigrants are shivering too.

Two memos released by Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly on Tuesday directed immigration officers to broaden the scope of their enforcement, conduct more raids of immigrant communities, and detain people living here illegally regardless of whether they had a criminal record.

Those marching orders could hit the California economy particularly hard. Many of the industries that depend heavily on immigrants already were experiencing a labor shortage.

Undocumented workers make up 10% of the labor force in California, USC researchers have estimated, and form a large chunk of the employment that drives massive industries such as agriculture and construction.

Undocumented people account for 45% of agriculture employment in California and 21% of construction workers, according to the USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. Smaller but significant portions of the workforce in food service, manufacturing, hospitality and entertainment are undocumented.

California is particularly dependent on immigrants and on undocumented workers not only because of its southern border but also because the state is such an expensive place to live and do business in, economists say.

"In the urban, rich economies of California, the high-end jobs are for U.S. born [workers] and the service, low-end jobs are for immigrants. Immigrants have adjusted to the high-cost environment, and that's a way for them to absorb this cost," said Giovanni Peri, an economist at UC Irvine.

Immigrants tend to live in tight quarters and move around a lot in order to cushion the blow of expensive real estate in California's biggest cities, something that native-born Americans may be less willing to do, Peri said.

"Americans won't live three people to a room in San Diego," Peri added.

There are an estimated 2.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the state, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Kicking them all out would "decimate" California farms,

construction sites and hospitality businesses, Peri said. He estimated that could reduce California's economic output by 9%.

Jesse Sandoval, a labor contractor based in Stockton who supplies nearly 500 workers to farmers in the Central Valley, said Trump's policies are already putting growers on edge. California growers have been dealing with a persistent lack of qualified laborers for years, he said, partly because of President Obama's tough immigration policies and the recession of 2008, which appears to have prompted a wave of Mexicans to return home for good.

There's also a dwindling supply of field hands in Mexico. The birth rate has dropped to just over two children per mother — about the same rate as in the U.S., and about a third of Mexico's rate in 1970. A recent study found that the country produced 150,000 fewer farmworkers every year from 1980 through 2010.

"We aren't getting the influx of people like we have in the past. Now, on top of that, it's going to get even smaller," Sandoval said.

Sandoval, who insisted that all of his employees have shown proper documentation, said agriculture workers are generally terrified about Trump's new approach.

"People won't even go out. They want to work and get back and stay home. People are afraid to be out in the streets," Sandoval said. "One day into this and they are already changing their lives." People are afraid to be out in the streets. One day into this and they are already changing their lives." — Jesse Sandoval, Stockton-based labor contractor

There's also a lot of confusion among immigrants, Sandoval said. People have begun to assume that any police checkpoint is a Customs and Border Protection checkpoint designed to detain undocumented workers. Others have begun carrying around their tax documents to "prove that they are working and being productive," Sandoval said.

Under federal law, employers are required to ask people they have hired to present identification that shows they are authorized to work in the United States, including a passport, green card or Social Security card. After that identification is presented, the employer only has to verify to the federal government that they believe the documents are legitimate.

"If it's a really good fake green card, it's a really good fake green card," said Richard Green, a partner at Carothers DiSante & Freudenberg in Orange County. "Employers aren't immigration officers."

Sandoval, the contractor, predicted that growers are going to face an even tighter labor market

because some immigrant workers will voluntarily head for home.

"People just aren't going to want to deal with it, and are going to want to go back to Mexico," he said.

Restaurants in Southern California also are grappling with a labor shortage, and owners say the new immigration policies may make things even tighter.

George Abou-Daoud, who owns seven restaurants in Los Angeles, including Farida and Bowery Bungalow, said that about every month since the start of 2016 one of his line cooks has gotten a new job offer. He has had to either raise their pay to keep them or scramble to find a replacement, he said.

That's good for the chefs of Los Angeles, but it is putting a lot of pressure on their bosses.

"There is a massive shortage of talent from immigrant communities in the Los Angeles restaurant industry," he said. "People are competing.... Ask anyone in Los Angeles, and they will tell you it's more difficult to find a good cook."

The restaurant industry depends on Latino workers to fill open positions, and the new deportation rules could make it "more challenging" to find qualified employees, said Selwyn Yossowitz, co-founder of Marmalade Café, which operates seven restaurants in the Southland and an outlet at LAX.

"We rely on the Hispanic employment force, and we are definitely a huge employer," Yossowitz said. The rules have "created a sense of fear in the economy, which is not really healthy."

Madelyn Alfano, president of Maria's Italian Kitchen, which operates nine restaurants and employs 400 workers, said anxiety about deportation had spread throughout her workforce.

Alfano, who emphasized that she hired documented workers, said her employees still worry about family members who are in the country illegally.

People wonder "what's going to happen if my wife or my child or someone else in my family is taken away?" Alfano said.

Alfano supports a road to legalization for immigrants already in the country, including a route for people to get work visas. She said she helped many of her workers obtain proper documents during the 1980s, after President Reagan passed a sweeping immigration reform bill that made immigrants who came to the U.S. before 1982 eligible for amnesty.

"The system should allow for people to get documented and document everyone in their family so that they can continue to live and work legitimately," she said.

—Natalie Kitroeff

## Kansas shooting: Hundreds attend funeral in India

BBC News

Hundreds of people have gathered in India for the funeral of a man killed in the US in a possible hate crime.



Grieving family and friends cried as the body of Srinivas Kuchibhotla was cremated in the southern city of Hyderabad, where he was from.

He and another Indian man were drinking in a bar in Kansas when they were shot by a man who reportedly yelled "get out of my country" as he fired at them.

Authorities are investigating if the attack was racially motivated.

The man's uncle, PL Narayana, described his family's agony upon learning about the violent attack.

"It is so cruel. He was such a kind soul, very friendly."

"He was so excited that he and his wife were going to start a family soon. Now this has happened," Mr Narayana said.

The body of Kuchibhotla, an engineer who worked for GPS-maker Garmin in Kansas City, arrived in India on Monday.

His widow, Sunaina Dumala and his brother, Sai Kiran, who studied in the US, both returned to India for the funeral.

Nearly 200 people came to the the cremation, which was also attended by Bandaru Dattatreya, the union minister of state for labour.

Hours after his arrival, his flower-laden body was carried from his family home in the state of Telangana to a crematorium where he was burned on a wooden pyre, in accordance with

Kuchibhotla's mother hopes her other son, who studies in the US, will now return to India

Hindu tradition.

Kuchibhotla's mother wailed as the body was taken for cremation.

"I had asked him to return to India if he was feeling insecure there. But he used to say he was safe and secure," she said through tears.

"Now I want my younger son Sai Kiran and his family to come back for good. I will not allow them to go back.

"My son had gone there in search of a better future. What crime did he commit?"

Kuchibhotla and his friend, Alok Madasani, were both shot at Austin's Bar and Grill in Olathe, a Kansas City suburb, last Wednesday evening.

Mr Madasani told the BBC that the gunman had demanded to know if they were in the country legally.

The suspected attacker, Adam Purinton, 51, was arraigned in court on Monday on charges of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted first-degree murder.

He fled the scene after the shooting, and later told a bartender that he had "shot two Iranians".

The suspect, a US Navy veteran, is being held in the Johnson County Jail on a bond of \$2m (£1.6m).

His next court appearance is on 9 March.

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PerryScope

# US-Japan powerhouse in the Pacific

By Perry Diaz

It is said that when the bully in the neighborhood is harassing you, you seek the aid of a bigger bully. And that's precisely what Japan did who is being harassed by China over the Senkaku Islands, an unpopulated group of islets in the East China Sea. Both countries claim ownership of the Senkakus but Japan has administrative control over them.

In November 2013, China declared an Air Defense Identification zone (ADIZ) covering most of the East China Sea, which restricts air traffic over the area. Japan refused to recognize the ADIZ and continued to fly over the islands. With Chinese warships sailing around and aircraft flying by the islands, Japan was constantly on guard, scrambling her fighter jets each time Chinese aircraft approach the islands.

In April 2015, the U.S. and Japan finalized a new set of defense guidelines for bilateral defense cooperation and envisioning a more global role for their alliance. As reported in the Defense News, "The new guidelines take into consideration Japan's revised defense posture, including the Abe government's decision to reinterpret a constitutional provision to allow for Japanese participation in collective self-defense." "The changes reflect Japan's worries over China's rise and enduring concerns over North Korea's nuclear program," the report said.

### Security partnership

Recently, the U.S. and Japan have increased the amount of real-

world operations conducted together to further strengthen their partnership. This includes developing an integrated air and missile defense network to deal with the growing threat of hostile ballistic missile activity in the region.

As the two nations conduct joint operations more frequently, China is put on notice that a newly revised U.S.-Japan defense pact is ready to face China if China attempts to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas.

But as both the U.S. and Japan know it, China's ultimate goal is to break out into the Western Pacific by way of the Miyako Strait (between Japan and Taiwan) or Bashi Channel (between Taiwan and Batanes island). These two waterways are the weakest points in the First Island Chain that links Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Borneo, Malaysia, and Vietnam. If China penetrates these waterways, she'd be able to project naval power in the Western Pa-



U.S. and Japanese troops march together.

cific. However, without a forward operating base in the Philippine Sea, China would have difficulty in providing logistical support to maintain permanent presence in the Western Pacific.

But once China breaks out into the Philippine Sea, she would be able to deploy her growing fleet of ballistic missile submarines within striking distance of American territory, including the full length of the U.S. West Coast, from Alaska down to California. The specter of



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump

Chinese missiles raining down on the West Coast is making America's defense planners nervous.

### Interceptors

Right now, the only defense the U.S. has against missile attacks on the West Coast is the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD). It is a major component of America's missile defense strategy to counter incoming ballistic missiles. Known as "interceptors," 40 of these missiles are based at Fort Greely, Alaska and another four at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

Formidable as it might seem, the GMD is the "last line" of defense to protect America from missile attacks. However, any defense planner would conclude that this "last line" of defense should never come to use; the incoming enemy missiles should be stopped at the First Island Chain, which is much closer to China. And this is where the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system comes into play. THAAD provides the critical capability to defend against short and medium ranged ballistic missiles. In other words, THAAD could defend America and her Asia-Pacific allies by installing it as close as possible to potential adversaries, particularly China and North Korea.

With THAAD already installed and operational in Guam, it would soon be installed in South Korea before the end of 2017. Japan is also considering purchasing THAAD and so does Taiwan. For this reason, China is building ballistic missile submarines round the clock. She's also building two or more aircraft carriers in addition to the one that is already deployed to the East China Sea.

With the ultimate goal of projecting blue water naval power in the Western Pacific, China's problem is how to provide logistical support to her naval assets. Wouldn't it be ideal for China to take control of the undefended Bashi Channel and establish logistical support bases on the west

side of Luzon facing the Philippine Sea?

### Flirting with China

Indeed, the prospect of having Chinese naval bases

in western Luzon must be in the Chinese military planners' minds. And this begs the question: What does it take for China to bring the Philippines to her side? Sad to say, with the current President Rodrigo Duterte flirting with China and threatening to terminate the Philippines' defense agreements with the U.S., China might not even have to fire a shot to turn the country into a vassal state... or territory.

Just a few weeks ago, Duterte threatened to declare martial law and form a revolutionary government, presumably with the aid of the local communist movement that includes the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front (NDF), and New People's Army (NPA).

### Abe-Duterte understanding

But something happened that changed the dynamics. Last January 12-13, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the Philippines at a time when Duterte was contemplating an alliance with

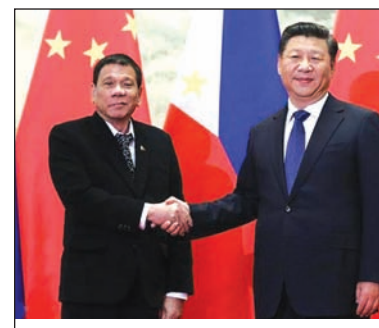


Duterte meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during Abe's state visit to the Philippines.

China and Russia. But Abe's visit changed all that. The two leaders signed various memoranda of agreement on economic and defense assistance including agriculture, transportation, small and medium enterprise, infrastructure, counter-terrorism, drug-rehabilitation projects, and security cooperation. Abe also promised to give the Philippines \$8.66 billion (1 trillion yen) in aid, which would be spread over five years. However, Abe emphasized the significance of enhancing cooperation between Japan, the U.S.,

and the Philippines. Duterte then acknowledged the importance of the Philippines' alliance with the U.S. He also assured Abe that he did not enter into a military alliance with China and that he would insist on the rule of law in the South China Sea. Abe agreed that the role of the U.S. remains vital for stability in the region and that the territorial disputes in the South China Sea should be resolved under the rule of law.

Recently, newly inaugurated U.S. President Donald Trump said "it might not be such a bad thing if South Korea and Japan were to develop their own nuclear weap-



President Rodrigo Duterte meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing during Duterte's state visit.

ons in self-defense." Japan might just take on Trump's suggestion. After all, she has the capability to produce nuclear weapons on her own.

In an editorial I wrote on January 12, 2016, I said: "What is interesting to note is that Japan, who doesn't possess nuclear weapons at this time, could produce them if she wanted to. She has 47 metric tons of weapons-usable plutonium, which is enough to make nearly 6,000 warheads like the one the U.S. dropped on Nagasaki. This huge cache was the by-product from reprocessing of spent uranium and plutonium used in Japan's nuclear plants, which makes one wonder: Would Japan make nuclear warheads and use them if she were threatened with nuclear extinction by North Korea [or China]?"

In the final analysis, what we're seeing today is a seamless fusion of the most potent security partnership between the U.S. and Japan. Seeing the two former World War II enemies forge a unified force to maintain the status quo in the region goes far beyond the wildest expectations of the geopolitical crystal-ballers. Yes, the U.S. and Japan will be the powerhouse in the Pacific for years to come.

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# Protest rallies mark Edsa celebration

Show of resistance against threats to democracy, among them the brutal war on drugs and the arrest of staunch Duterte critic Sen. Leila de Lima

By DJ Yap, Jaymee T. Gamil, Jhesset O. Enano

Opposition forces led by former President Benigno Aquino III and Vice President Leni Robredo gathered on Saturday at the site of the historic 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution in a show of resistance against the Duterte administration over what they described as threats to democracy, among them the brutal war on drugs and the Friday arrest of staunch Duterte critic Sen. Leila de Lima.

Although he did not address the crowd, Aquino said the Edsa celebration this year should go beyond “mere remembrance.”

“Perhaps this is a reminder to all of us that the fight is not over,” Aquino said, adding that “those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.”

Robredo, who also did not address the crowd, said in an interview that celebrating the Edsa event should remind the people of the power they wield.

“We should not forget that power is with the people. Whatever we want to fight for, we can do it if we stand united,” she said.

## Solidarity

Wearing black to show solidarity with some 6,000 protesters at the People Power

Monument in Quezon City, Aquino also rejected allegations by Duterte spokespersons that supporters of the previous administration were part of destabilization moves.

“How can we be causing destabilization when we are actually offering to help?” Aquino asked.

But the former President denounced the government’s shabby treatment of De Lima, a staunch critic of the drug war, who was arrested on Friday on drug charges based on testimonies by drug convicts.

De Lima, Aquino’s former justice secretary, said the arrest was an act of “political persecution” and revenge for her decade-long efforts to expose Mr. Duterte as head of the Davao Death Squad during his term as city mayor.

On Saturday morning, some 1,000 demonstrators trooped to Camp Aguinaldo to warn that the crackdown on drugs could foreshadow a repeat of the Marcos dictatorship that was toppled in a bloodless “people power” revolt 31 years ago.

“We are taking the matter seriously. We are warning our people about the threat of rising fascism,” said protest leader Bonifacio Ilagan of the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses in Malacañang.

Ilagan, a playwright who was tortured for over two years in a police prison under Marcos’ martial rule in the 1970s, cited the “culture of impunity” arising from the extrajudicial killings because of Mr. Duterte’s total war on drugs.

Mr. Duterte, 71, won



the presidential election last year on the campaign promise to eradicate illegal drugs by killing tens of thousands of people. Some 7,000 drug suspects have been killed in police operations and under murky circumstances, sources said.

Across the city on Saturday, hundreds of Duterte supporters began gathering at Rizal Park in Manila for a planned overnight vigil to demonstrate public backing for the President’s drug crackdown.

One of the banners at the site identified its owners as “Friends of Bongbong Marcos,” the dictator’s son and namesake whom Mr. Duterte had introduced as “possibly the country’s next Vice President” during his China visit last year.

The younger Marcos had lodged an election protest against Robredo, claiming fraud in the computerized vote.

## Genuine change

Thousands of left-wing activists meanwhile marched on the main highway in Manila to demand “genuine change” promised by the President, calling for the

resumption of peace talks with Maoist-led rebels and release of more than 400 political prisoners.

Former President Fidel Ramos and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, hailed as the heroes of the 1986 revolution, attended a Mass at the main army base in Manila to mark the anniversary, which Mr. Duterte skipped.

Earlier on Saturday, riot police had hosed down a group of at least 100 people protesting the drug killings at the US Embassy in Manila, though no one was seriously injured.

At La Salle Green Hills chapel in Mandaluyong City on Saturday afternoon, an ecumenical Mass on Saturday to mark the Edsa revolution’s 31st year ended with the “Oratio Imperata” (obligatory prayer) to end extrajudicial killings. The prayer is usually invoked for calamities.

The Mass, celebrated by Fr. Jose Ramon Villarín, was attended by the laity and members of civil society groups who later proceeded to the People Power Monument.

“Let us express our opposition against violent

ways which do not recognize our human rights. At every turn, let us protest all forms of authoritarianism. Let us make a stand for the return of people power, of our faith in our ability to change and better our country through peaceful and humane means,” the De La Salle Philippines president, Brother Jose Mari Jimenez, said during the homily.

## Blues, greens, yellows

A group of nuns led by Sr. Regina Kuizon of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Women in the Philippines also read a statement calling for political unity: “Today, there are blues, there are greens, there are yellows, and God gave us a multitude of colors to celebrate ... a God who tells us to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Several opposition political figures affiliated with the Liberal Party also attended the Mass, among them Robredo and Senators Bam Aquino, Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan and Risa Hontiveros.

## Civic ignorance

Meanwhile on Friday, constitutional expert Christian Monsod warned students at a forum at the University of the Philippines School of Economics against “civic ignorance” that breeds tyrants.

“[If] we do not do anything about it and prefer to live with our frustrations about who is accountable for things that go wrong, someone will eventually come and say, ‘I will solve all your problems if you give me total power,’” the former Commission on Elections chair said.

“And we will give it to

him. That’s when democracy dies,” Monsod said, paraphrasing the words of former US Supreme Court Justice David Souter five years before US President Donald Trump and Mr. Duterte came into power.

“We are told by the present government that the problem of our country is imperial Manila, hence the need to shift to federalism,” he added

But Monsod acknowledged: “I submit that we have failed in development not because of the Constitution, but because we have not fully implemented it, especially its provisions on social justice and on local autonomy. The Constitution is not the problem, it is part of the solution.”

Monsod described Mr. Duterte as an enigma because of “inconsistent messages and behavior, language that the civil society does not accept, inability to dialogue because he is not a good listener and muddled governance because of ad hoc or case-to-case decisions.”

Even so, he said he was convinced that the President’s heart “is with the poor.”

“His propoor agenda is correct, but the means he wants to use are wrong,” Monsod said, referring to drug-related killings.

For all the promise of a new social order that the 1986 Edsa revolution represented, Monsod said it ended in failure. “[As] we went our separate ways with our separate causes, we lost something of the dream of a nation and the significance of interconnected lives,” he said.

“You may ask—have we failed Edsa? My answer is yes,” Monsod said.

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## Community members gather for LGBTQIA discussion



The Filipinx LGBTQIA community of Sacramento.

Photos by Dave San Pedro

By Daniel Domaguin

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA) -identified Filipinx[1] Americans and their allies gathered for a discussion hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento Coalition (APIQSC) on February 19, held at 916 Ink's Imaginarium in South City Farms. The event was designated as a safe space, which allowed for those who don't normally feel safe to talk about their experiences and identities in the outside world to know that what they said would be held in confidence by the attendees.

Nikki Abeleda, one of the event's organizers and a local of Sacramento County, felt that it was crucial to provide a space for queer and trans Filipinx in the area. "The event was important because it was an initial step into providing a safe space in uplifting the identities of the Filipinx LGBTQIA community in Sacramento," said Abeleda. "Growing up in Sacramento, as a Queer Filipinx, I had no resources to turn to and it was difficult to express my identity. This is where my vision for the Filipinx LGBTQIA group for the Sacramento Community stemmed from." After partaking in potluck items brought by attendees and introductions, Abeleda and others shared their stories of isolation, struggle and perseverance. Attendees commented on how the environment made it comfortable for them to talk about issues of being queer or trans in the Filipinx community.

While the discussion rightfully elevated the voices of queer and trans Filipinx people, straight and non-Filipinx allies also spoke in a show of support and solidarity. Two allies explained how generational and cultural differences with family elders

showed that identifying as queer or trans is still seen as negative among many members of the Filipinx community. Continued discussion noted that traditionally, identities that would now be considered part of the LGBTQIA umbrella were considered venerated and revered before the arrival of the Spanish to the archipelago.

APIQSC, the main organizers of the event, have been supporting the visibility and



Nikki Abeleda

growth of queer and trans people in the vast "Asian/Pacific Islander" communities, including the Sacramento Hmong LGBTQIA organization, which served as an inspiration for the organizers of the Filipinx event. Other sponsors included Barkada Sacramento, Philippine National Day Association, APINxt, PF News and the APIs Rise Fund.

The organizers hope that the conversation will serve as momentum to continue a safe space for LGBTQIA-identified community members. "I am so glad that I connected with APIQSC because they strengthened the courage and passion I had to advocate for [the community]," said Abeleda. "This event started off with my vision that did not seem attainable, but it is because of APIQSC that it is coming to life. Without the support of APIQSC, none of this would be possible."

# Rize All's Inaugural Ball

By Dale Esperante

Promising entrepreneurs, Dane San Pedro and Amanda Newsum, hosted an elegant soiree attended by supportive friends to celebrate the opening of their very own Rize All Arts Center (dance and arts). The linen covered tables and chairs, ceiling adorned with beautiful sheer fabrics in red, mirrors lining the wall, and flooring befitting its purpose caught the theme of the evening—the celebration of dance.

To start the festivities, a dance instructor named Josh invited the guests to stand up and join him for a sampling of ballroom dance moves. Happy to oblige, a majority rose to the occasion. The tall and upright Josh immediately earned the confidence of the ballroom enthusiasts. His courtly manners gained him the undivided attention of dance followers. The followers enjoyed the entertaining manner Josh led the group to introductory steps of waltz, rumba, salsa, swing,



Photos by Dale Esperante and Dave San Pedro

and other dance genres.

For dinner, guests enjoyed a delicious serving of salad and lasagna dinner prepared by a former Mikuni-class chef, Ryan Rivac, and as assisted by Irene Rosales. Dane San Pedro took this time to welcome all and

introduced Amanda Newsum and the instructors of Rize All. When someone asked about the arts center's many programs, Dane gladly shared the availability of various dance and art programs. He also invited all to follow Rize All's website online.

More dancing followed dinner with Josh leading again. Couples soon enthusiastically exhibited their best ballroom dance moves interposed with some line dancing enjoyed fully by everyone. Rize All's smooth new flooring is indeed made for dancing.

The studio is located at 2745 Elk Grove Blvd #270, Elk Grove, CA, in an eclectic business zone. Anyone wishing to "Rize & Dance," either visit the Rize All Arts Center or check out their website online. Rize All is a nonprofit organization.

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Monday, February 27	age levels	time	Tuesday, February 28	age levels	time
Ballet	7 to 10	4:00-4:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	11-11:30am
Jazz/Contemporary	7 to 10	4:30-5:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	11:30-12:00pm
Ballet	10 to 13	5:00-5:30pm	Ballet	5 to 7	4:00-4:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 13	5:30-6:00pm	Jazz	5 to 7	4:30-5:00pm
Contemporary/Jazz	13 to 18	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	5:00-5:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	13 to 18	6:30-7:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	5:30-6:00pm
Contemporary	18+	7:00-7:30pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	7 to 10	6:00-6:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	18+	7:30-8:00pm	Ballet	10 to 13	6:30-7:00pm
<b>Wednesday, March 1</b>	<b>age levels</b>	<b>time</b>	Contemporary/Jazz	10 to 13	7:00-7:30pm
Kid and Play	6mnt to 3 & 18+	10:00-10:30am	<b>Thursday, March 2</b>	<b>age levels</b>	<b>time</b>
Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	4:00-4:30pm	Ballet	5 to 7	4:00-4:30pm
Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	4:30-5:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	5 to 7	4:30-5:00pm
Jazz/Contemporary	10 to 13	5:00-5:30pm	Ballet/Contemporary	7 to 10	5:00-5:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 13	5:30-6:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	7 to 10	5:30-6:00pm
Jazz	5 to 7	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet	13 to 18	6:00-6:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	5 to 7	6:30-7:00pm	Jazz/Contemporary	13 to 18	6:30-7:00pm
Contemporary/Jazz	13 to 18	7:00-7:30pm	Contemporary	18+	7:00-7:30pm
Ballroom	10+	7:30-8:00pm	Hip-Hop	18+	7:30-8:00pm
<b>Friday, March 3</b>	<b>age levels</b>	<b>time</b>	<b>Saturday, March 4</b>	<b>age levels</b>	<b>time</b>
Hmong	5 to 10	5:00-5:30pm	Ribbon Cutting	all ages	10:30-11:00am
Hula	5 to 10	5:30-6:00pm	Register/Capezio	all ages	11:00-1:00pm
Hula	10 to 18	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 10	11:00-11:30pm
Hmong	10 to 18	6:30-7:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 10	11:30-12:00pm
Master Class	all ages	7:00-8:00pm	Ballet/Jazz/Contempor	10 to 17	12:00-12:30pm
Freestyle Games/Snacks	all ages	8:00-9:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 17	12:30-1:00pm

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## Edna Fabriga Villanueva Glorious Birthday Celebration

By Faina E. Abaya

Most of us have witnessed or even attended many memorable events in our lifetime such as customary Filipino tradition like marriage, baptismal and birthday celebrations. However, among such events, there is always one celebration that always linger in our memory, because the occasion has been celebrated so remarkably exceptional that it can stand and endure the test of time.



Edna Fabriga Villanueva

The almost 200 invited guests, closest of friends and relatives of Edna Villanueva who celebrated her 60th birthday on February 5, 2017 at the Grand Ballroom of the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton on Arden Way, Sacramento will agree without any iota of doubt and mental reservation that the occasion was so magnificently celebrated and, indeed, a night that will always be remembered for those who have attended.

The birthday celebration of Edna Villanueva was transformed into a masquerade ball, a form of costumed festivity which was popularized in Europe in the early 13th century to celebrate important events for the elite and royal families.

As expected, most of those who attended the celebration brought their own masks or provided by the celebrant at the entrance of the Ballroom where they were allowed to choose the color and design of the mask that fits their personal taste.

The Grand Ballroom of the hotel was majestically and luxurious decorated with multicolored sequences of reflecting miniature beads placed as a back and front drops of the presidential table where the family and relatives of the celebrant were seated.

Few feet from the main entrance of the Ballroom at the right side wall was a handmade illuminating red and silver cascading like curtain with oversized mask where the celebrant will stand with her guests for picture taking. All the tables and chairs were covered with colorful gold and black linen cloth and as a center piece for each table is an elongated crystal vase containing artistically crafted paper like multicolored flowers. Well placed spotlights and a revolving crystal ball emitting colorful lights added to the fabulous setting.

When the ballroom was filled up to capacity, Estela Rabara acting as the Emcee of the evening announced the arrival of

the celebrant who was immediately greeted with sustaining enthusiastic applause as everyone stood up. Undoubtedly, Edna Villanueva, has the innate strong personality projecting the image of grace and elegance as she walked around escorted by her son Michael to greet her admiring guests. Indeed, the celebrant, so stunningly beautiful as she exudes confidence on herself with her silver queenly crown and matching earrings to complement her red floor length evening gown with intricate well designed sparkling upper part.

At this juncture, community leader Anne Viernes delivered the invocation imploring the blessings of the Devine Providence for the well beings of all the attendees as she wishes the celebrant a happy and more birthdays to come.

Just immediately after a sumptuous dinner, the enthusiasm and celebratory spirit of everyone heightened as the blare of music both the old classic and the new craze were played by DJ Rolly Wagas showcasing the gracefulness and virtuosity in dance of the diversified visitors of the celebrant. Favorite group dancing such as line and circle dances were joyfully performed by both the young and those gracefully aging.

In between of continues dancing, entertainments were also performed by the D' Dream Girls with their colorful outfit and



Photos by Faina Abaya

well-choreographed dance number which received thunderous applause especially when the celebrant joined them in their graceful movements. And to the tune of "Girls on fire" Estela Rabara, Fe Alvarez and Janet Tabora regaled their audience with their colorful attire and synchronized dancing while the celebrant wearing beautiful blue evening gown was seated in the middle isle of the ballroom.

A dancing group dubbed as 30 roses which was participated in by the celebrant with 30 gentlemen holding freshly cut roses composed of community leaders, closest friends, relatives and the celebrant son alternately danced with her to the tune of such classical songs as "Tennessee Waltz" and "Close to You". Indeed, such number received deafening applause with their elegant movements as the celebrant danced with them gracefully receiving each flower one at a time. Accordingly, the entertainment part of the gathering was well managed by Fe Alvarez, the best friend of the celebrant.

The 30 Roses dancers were: Michael Villanueva, Kelly Acacio, Mikee Gumasing, Austin Acacio, Ivan Nguyen, Ryan Pa'u, Fred Favis, Dr. Tony Solomon, Dale

Esperante, Eddie Aducayen, Segundo Azurin, Alex Avera, Gary Perry, Dave Pevny, Edgar Almazan, Frank Reyes, Curtis Morelli, Eric Avera, Benjie Dario, Bebot de Vera, Ray Padlan, Dick Mason, Pete de la Cruz, Fernando Rigonan, Maxi Tavora, Jeff Alvarez, Carlos Cordero, Bong Palomares, Dave Soriano and Melchor Munar.

Other dances presented were the "Bailando Sway dance" performed by Edna Villanueva, Alvin, Fe, Janet, Estela, Marinelli, Marian and Annabel followed by a special number performed by the "Kapitbahay Dancers", both performances captivated the admiration of the audience receiving several applauses.

As the finale of the dance number participated in by the celebrant was the presentation of the Cotillion by six well-dressed couples symbolizing the 60 happy years of Edna Villanueva's life. Incidentally, the cotillion dance has originated in France as a country dance and its popularity spread in Europe which was later on introduced in America. However, this dance evolved in the passing of years and this can be danced from two couples to as many numbers depending on the occasion being celebrated. And to

the tune of "Can I have this Dance" all the dancers dazzled their audience with their elegant and graceful movements especially the celebrant who was wearing a white knee length dress simply mesmerized them all enhancing her beauty and charm. The cotillion dancers were Edna Villanueva and Alvin Sisayan, Janet and Maxi Tavora, Fe and Jeff Alvarez, Estela Rabara and Carlos Cordero, Betty and Fernando Rigonan, Marian Kronemeyer and Dick Mason, Gloria and Ray Padlan, Annabelle Pimentel and Marinell Carrido Soriano. The cotillion dance was credited to Alvin Sisayan who choreographed the dance.

No one can dispute that the 60th birthday celebration of Edna Villanueva is a night to be always lingered in the memory of those who attended the gathering and it will take many other celebrations of the same kind to top it, if ever. Music and dancing continued without let out until closing time.

Edna F. Villanueva was born and raised in Manila by her late parents Alfredo and Amparo Villanueva. She spent her happy young life with her loving parents and two siblings, an older sister Tessie is now the

Continued on next page

# Edna Fabriga Villanueva Glorious Birthday Celebration

chief nurse at the Ilocos Sur Provincial Hospital and youngest brother Gil is a retired US Navy who lives in San Diego, California. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines.

She is happily married to Stanley Villanueva, Jr. for 39 years and the marriage is blessed with three children, Sherwin, Michael and Eloise. Sherwin is married to Marilyn Cruz and have four kids (Garin, Gabriel, Gian and Gianah) and Michael is married to Bernalyn Reyes with two kids (Lulu and Hannah). The youngest Eloise is a graduate at Sacramento State University with the degree of BS Psychology.

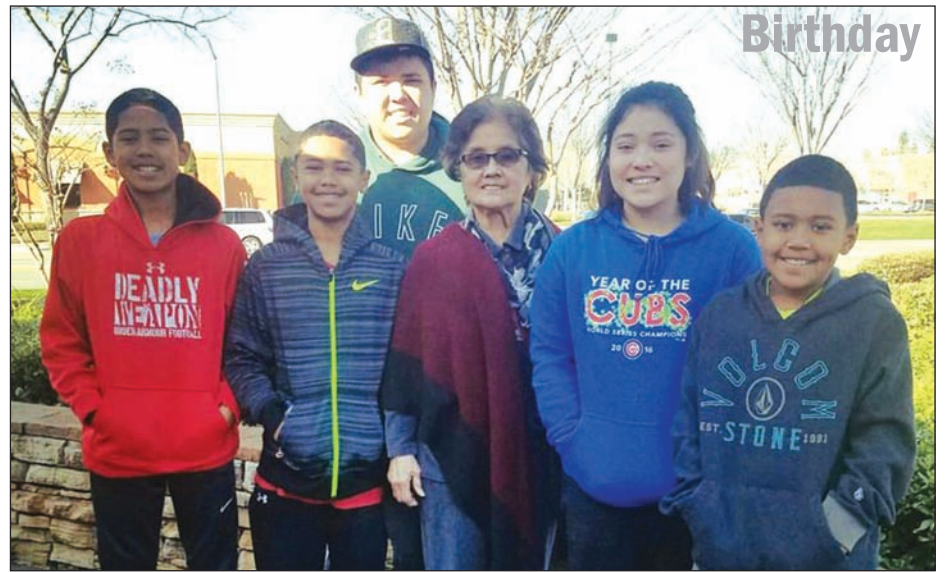
The celebrant is also active and outstanding in community activities, especially, to raise funds for the betterment of the Filipino American community in Sacramento and beyond. She won the Mrs. Philippines contest of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity in 2010 and also Mrs. Valentine Day which contributed good causes for the community.

gratitude to all who attended and greeted her on her birthday especially former classmates at Ilocos Sur National High School Class 73 who came all the way from different places to enjoy the night with her, namely; Eric and Chita Averin, Ray and Gloria Padlan, Bebot de Vera, Teresa Racadio, Benjie Dario and Rollie and Marissa Light.

Edna Villanueva expressed her profound



UPAASV- Valentine Celebration at Fats Asian Bistro & Dimsum Bar on Feb. 18, 2017



Mercedes Rodrigo Descargar birthday on February 28, 2017 with grandchildren.



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 10:30 am  
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**March 18, 2017 (SATURDAY)**  
**COW - Consulate on Wheels**  
 9:00am to 4:00pm  
 Filipino American Veterans Hall  
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**March 18, 2017 (SATURDAY)**  
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## Birthdays



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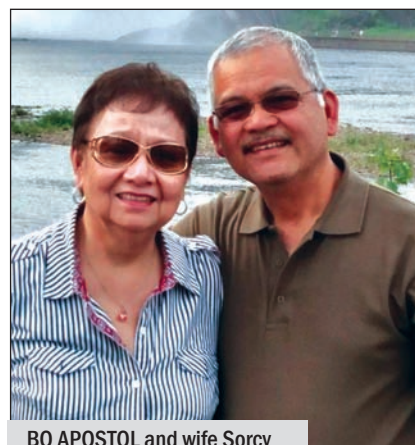
KRYSTLE P. JONG  
 MARCH 26



ESTELA RABARA  
 FEBRUARY 25



BOBBY ROY  
 MARCH 21



BO APOSTOL and wife Sorcy  
 MARCH 5



MARIA A. ERESPE with mom Norma  
 MARCH 15



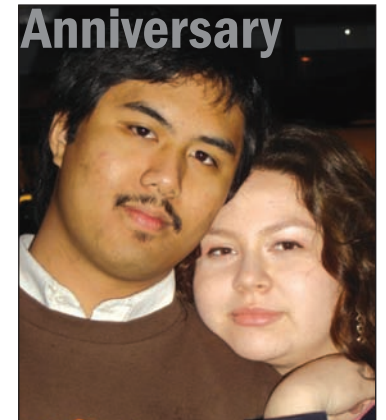
RAY ONEIZA with wife Julie  
 MARCH 4



JOJO FRANCISCO and Family  
 FEBRUARY 27



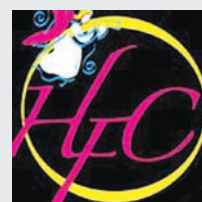
NANIE A. SANTIAGUEL and husband Necie  
 FEBRUARY 28



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By Dale Esperante

# Post-Valentines Party at Magellan Hall

The spirits of those who built Magellan Hall must have been dancing on the stage as they witnessed the support garnered from the community on 18 Feb 2017 for the Post-Valentines Fundraising Dance. The simplicity leading to the occasion added to the remarkable turnout for the festivities. No tickets were printed and distributed. Invitations were extended via word of mouth, emails, and of course Facebook. The post-valentines timing and the inviting \$12 per person including food and beverage may have also contributed to the rewarding enterprise.

As promised, no official program dominated the evening, if any at all. The party rolled along in an impromptu manner. The resulting line up of the evening started with preparation by the Magellan folks, welcoming started at 6 p.m., Rumba basic fan moves practiced by the Kappa Psi Epsilon (KPsiE) volunteers with a little nudge from the Post chaplain, reception desk started receiving steady flow of guests at 6:30 p.m., the chaplain said the invocation at about 7 p.m., KPsiE delivered and served dinner to guests seated at their table, the chaplain and all KPsiE volunteers exhibited Rumba footwork for dinner entertainment (per chaplain's request), dancing ensued with short breaks for public service announcements, raffle drawing, games, birthday acknowledgements, dance, dance, conga dance, fun and more fun!!!

The chaplain became the emcee aka public service announcer. Aurora Foresee, one of the birthday celebrants, became the Games Director, KPsiE sold raffle tickets with KPsiE Janina leading the way, Rosie Sloan gifted us with a song, Lilia Rivera led a Todo line dance class, good times prevailed all evening long.

The games must be explained. For the first game, Aurora asked for 9 couples to participate. Each couple received a newspaper page to place underneath their feet.



Photos by Dale Esperante

They must do their dancing within the boundaries of the newspaper. Once their feet touched the floor beyond the newspaper, they were asked to drop out of the contest. At first, they danced on a full page. Then each couple had to fold the page in half. Then the half had to be folded in half again. Until the female partner had no choice but to stand on her partner's feet

to continue their dance. The winning couple ended up to be Carlos Cordero and Julie Vergara. Julie received a premium set of bed sheets for her prize. Gentleman Carlos escorted his partner back to her seat.

For the second game, Aurora called for ten courageous men to play a game of "dropping a potato." The strategy of the game was

for each man to carry a potato, not by hand, but squeezed between their legs. They must walk about ten feet to a waiting glass vase where they must drop the potato in. The ten men who participated were: Jorge Santana, Bill Tyson, Jim Foresee, a man in orange, Joe Rivera, Joe Gonzalez, Rey Ado, Carlos Cordero, Dick Mazon, a man in red. Only four men out of

ten accomplished to walk and then drop the potato in the vase. The four: Rey Ado, Carlos Cordero, Joe Gonzalez, and Dick Mazon. The audience decided the grand winner was Carlos Cordero. Carlos received a \$20 gift certificate courtesy of Ginelle's Bakery at 9015 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758, phone: (916) 627-2993. Enjoy the divine pastries from Ginelles's, Carlos!

One of the highlights of the evening, the chaplain invited all February birthday celebrants to line up front and center. Eleven celebrants came up: Mercedes Descargar, Aurora Foresee, Luz Molina, Frank, Sherylley Lomboy, Remy Solomon, RJ Oineza, Elmer, and Ding De La Rosa (apologies to the unnamed celebrants). The chaplain asked the name and the birthday of each celebrant. Everyone's exact birthday fell in the month of February this year, except for one. Luz's birthday is February 29. Luz along with all the other February celebrants were serenaded by the festive well-wishers with a birthday song that resonated within the confines of Magellan Hall. Games Director Aurora then led the birthday celebrants to

a conga-line dance. The eleven celebrants were immediately followed by the well-wishers forming an expanded circular line pulsing around the dance floor to the beat of the music.

Magellan Post 604 wish to extend appreciation to all who came supporting the Post Valentines Fundraising Event. Special thanks to the members of the organizing team starting with Commander Tom Amaba, Chairwoman Adjutant Luz Molina, Auxiliary members Aurora Foresee-Bella Nido-Malou Amper-Lerma Amaba-Linda Cordero, Jim Foresee, Joseph Ventura, Carlos Cordero, Marcos Evangelista, Fred Amper, the Chaplain, DJ's Paul and Edward Cordero, the KPsiE sorority sisters, and all the unsung heroes and heroines who made this an event our predecessors would be very proud of!

Maraming Salamat Po!

# Magellan Hall Updates

By Dale Esperante

Magellan Hall is used for gatherings by the Filipino-American members of the American Legion in Sacramento. This branch of the American Legion is officially called Magellan Post 604. Magellan Hall and the acres around the building are properties owned by Magellan Post 604.



On 18 Feb 2017, Commander Tom Amaba invited Kappa Psi Epsilon (KPsiE) Community Action Co-Chairman Sherylley Lombong to come forward to share information with the veterans. Sherylley came to the general membership meeting of the veterans to explain KPsiE's plans to visit as a group along with Sac State's fraternity Chi Rho Omicron (XPO) next month to interview and video the veterans. Sherylley asked the veteran attendees of the 18 Feb meeting to raise their hands if they were interested in participating in the planned interview. The interview will give each veteran a chance to share a brief memorable military or life experience for a set time while being videoed. After which, a panel may ask the veteran some questions. Approximately 19 veterans raised their hands. Those who raised their hands included WWII Veteran Gilmore Perla and Korean War Veteran Pastor Engkabo. The rest were veterans of Vietnam and later conflicts.

After KPsiE Sherylley's presentation, Commander Tom asked the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort WWII Veteran Gilmore Perla to centerstage for a special presentation. Comrade Gilmore received an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation from Magellan Post 604 for his 49 years of continuous service as a member of The American Legion. In addition to his 49 years of American Legion service, Comrade Gilmore recently contributed the most generous donation to Magellan Post 604 via GoFundMe for the preservation of Magellan Hall.

The GoFundMe donation of Comrade Gilmore was made offline, meaning no service charges were deducted from the donation by GoFundMe. Comrade Gilmore occasionally attends monthly meetings whenever possible, assisted by Post 604 Service Officer Howard Williams. Being the Service Officer, Comrade Howard always takes it upon himself to keep in touch with veterans who may need special assistance, fulfilling one of the promises by the American Legion's Magellan Post 604 Filipino-American Veterans—Camaraderie.



Photos by Dale Esperante  
 Guests of Magellan Post 604's general membership meeting on 19 Feb 2017: First is Kappa Psi Epsilon community relations representative, Sherylley Lombong who briefed the veterans on their upcoming visit next month to video veterans during a talk and interview session. Second is Veteran Gilmore Perla who has been a member for 49 continued years. Comrade Perla received a Certificate of Appreciation for his continued support of Magellan Post 604.

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By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

## Rare Privilege to Teach PMA Cadets

**B**ecoming a teacher. While working at PMA Station Hospital as a military nurse I decided to go back to school to pursue post graduate studies. I enrolled at Management Science Division of the University of the Philippines in Baguio. At MSD I met military officers from PMA who were into post grad schooling. Some of them became my classmates. At grad school we do reporting (student presenting topic(s) of the day for the course).

When it was my time to report I did it for compliance. I have no plan of finishing the degree. It means I was not serious with my studies. I went back to school to ease my boredom at work. I finished my master in management in two years' time. Back to reporting. My report went out well and interactive full of comedy which made my classmates and professors loved it. One of the students at UP in Baguio was a military instructor at PMA named Mario Lacurom (PMA 85). He was then a captain in the army now a brigadier general in the AFP. Lacurom's department was looking for a military instructor in management. I was invited to teach the cadets and I grabbed the opportunity.

Joining Corps of Professors, PMA. I had been teaching the Cadet Corps as guest instructor when I was offered to join the Corps of Professors. I filled up the form and submitted it to the academic group. There were four of us who faced the academic screening committee. The first one was then Major Casis (PMA 82), Captain Rommel Del Mundo (PMA 91), Captain Hector Tagata



I thought it was the last job description assigned to me but another job enlargement was added to my already heavy load and that was ministerial aide of the dean of the Corps of Professors.

I loved the last job because I had the rare privileged, that many others don't have, to ride that 2nd military topdown vehicle used in military honors in trooping the line of the Cadet Corps AFP.

(DS), and myself. I was accepted and was assigned initially as administrative officer then deputy head of the Department of Languages. My department head that time was Colonel Carlos Canilao Prof. (Atty. Carlos Canilao is the current city administrator of Baguio).

I was assigned at Dept of Languages but I was teaching management courses (subjects) under Department of Management. The courses I taught were Public Policy Making in a Republican State, Human Resources Management, Principles of Management, and Economics. When Col. Canilao assumed as executive officer of the academics group, I assumed his position at Department of Languages. I was later assigned another position as deputy head of Social Science Department and was assigned to teach International Relations and Philippine Constitution. Another position was added to me and that was administrative officer of PMA Research and Development Center.

Contribution to PMA. Aside from quality education imparted to the cadets in which I was given 96% approval ratings on my teaching performance as evaluated by the cadets, I was able to write, finish, and donate copies of my dissertation to PMA. Some of my book copies are at PMA library.

Concluding military career. On 18 September 2003, after 8 years and 4 months at PMA, I resigned my regular commission in the Armed Forces of the Philippines to join my family in Sacramento, California. I got fulfillment at teaching knowing I was influencing the minds of the future leaders of the nation who are expected to do the right things for the Filipino people but I have to be with my wife to start a family. Presently, I am working as a registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento for 12 years now.

Looking back, I am glad and honored to serve PMA as military instructor, a rare privilege.

## The Filipino Sense of Time

By Edgar Lores

**M**any have observed that the Filipino has a different sense of time. There is a term for it — Filipino Time.

As far as I can see, there are four main dimensions to this unique sense of time:

Alacrity is “cheerful readiness” and everybody knows Filipinos are ever ready and come quickly.

You invite people to a *chibugan* — a family gathering, a party, or a wedding reception — and they come quickly. And they not only bring themselves but also their *kamaganak*.

In contrast to alacrity, Filipinos are insensitive to duration. What do I mean? We love to dawdle. It seems to me that we have little sense of the precious passage of time. Unlike Westerners, we do not respect the value of our time as well as that of others. We do not realize that time is money.

Our casual attitude to time can be seen in the office, where we will chatter endlessly, only half paying attention to work. In Congress, we will fritter away time in pointless hearings and pass just two bills in a six-months' session. After coming quickly to a party, we tend to stay for a long time. A long time, *basta* happy. Not that we necessarily overstay our welcome.

Convivial gatherings are a hallmark of our society, from the *tagay* lizards at the *carinderia*, to the family *Noche Buena* at Christmas, and to the lengthy food celebrations come *fiesta* time. And after staying long, guests cannot be sent off empty handed; no, usually there is a *pabaon*, which in its way is a time-saving tradition. It saves us time cooking when we get back home.

With unpunctuality, we have overextended the art of being fashionably late to a dismal habit. You set a party for 6:00 p.m. and everybody understands you mean 8:00 p.m. You set a date with a girl for 7:00 p.m. and she knows you won't get mad at her for being 30 minutes late.



Usually, the degree of tardiness is in direct proportion to her appeal, her edibility.

However, I have known other girls to be late just to test you. I mean me, to be exact. Of course, the girl was not testing my patience or the accuracy of my faux Swiss watch but the depth of my feelings for her.

Ahaha, the joke's on her.

Making me wait is not really a good test of my patience or sincerity because I am an introvert (an INTJ). For me waiting is not waiting. I am never bored. I can happily sit still and occupy and entertain myself with a thousand thoughts — or none at all by simply observing the passing life. At any rate, this is how I used to justify my insecurity at some of my dates' insecurity.

To overcome such tardiness, I remember I used to set the time for dates at non-5-minute intervals. I would tell my date, let's meet at 4:37 p.m. or 6:12 p.m. This quirkiness indicated to my date that I was cranky about punctuality and would not countenance tardiness. No, no, no. And surprisingly, each date made it and came on time — and even before time — with an amused smile.

(Or was that a smirk? And, yes, I am a Virgo. Why do you ask?)

In my work experience, unpunctuality is connected to other faults such as procrastination, missing time targets, and cost overruns if not outright project failures. We say, “Eh, *bukas* na yan.”

And, “Ma-extend naman yung deadline, ‘di ba?’”

And, “Kahit lampas sa bud get, maganda naman ang resulta, ‘di ba?’”

And, “Minadali kasi, ‘di ba?’”

“‘Di ba?’” makes all of us divas — self-important people who are here to please themselves.

The last much-observed aspect of our sense of time is our foreshortened time horizon. Our collective temporal orientation is to the present. We do not care for the past and for the future. To paraphrase a recent post here, where the Chinese think in terms of decades and Westerners in years, we Pinoys think in terms of months.

One could say this fourth dimension of a short horizon is the opposite of the third, which is a stretching of the time horizon.

In economic theory, there are two concepts of “inter-temporal choices” that, I think, are intertwined with our time orientation as it relates to decision-making.

Temporal discounting (or time preference) refers to “our tendency to want things now rather than later.” We prefer “immediate but modest rewards” instead of “future but sizeable rewards.” Remember the Marshmallow Test? We would be absolute failures. Like we wanted the Change marshmallow — and, boy oh boy, did we get it.

Temporal myopia is “the inability to consider the long-term outcomes of an action when making a choice.” This myopia is most evident in our voting choices at election time. With rare exceptions, the Executive, Cabinet, and Congress would make a complete rogues' gallery.

In short, a short time horizon influences us to make short-sighted decisions. It is a huge factor in our judgmental disability.

## Kings find easy points elusive

By Jason Jones

The Kings would love to run more and score in transition. Their opponents know it, too.

In their first game since trading DeMarcus Cousins, Sacramento came out running with 11 fast-break points in the first half Thursday against the Denver Nuggets. The Kings have three fast-break points in the six quarters since.

The Kings have struggled to score in transition all season. Entering Sunday, they were 26th in the NBA in fast-break points with 10.4 per game. Improving that mark

will be difficult because opponents realize the Kings will try to run as much as possible while adjusting their halfcourt offense minus Cousins. We've got to be a good halfcourt offensive team. ... They know we want to run. They know guys who can try to get out in transition. (The Hornets) did a good job of getting back in transition, clogged the paint on us, so we've got to do a better job of trying to move the ball and having better spacing.

Injuries and new players make it difficult to reconfigure the halfcourt strategy. "I know we have a lot more plays that coach wants to put in, but we're still trying to work the new guys in," guard Darren Collison said. "Once we work that in, we can go into a variety of sets instead of just being simplified. It's tough right now."

The Kings have plenty of wing players, with at least three more (Arron Afflalo, Garrett Temple and Malachi Richardson) due back from injuries at various times.

Coach Dave Joerger must rely on younger players while asking everyone to assume a bigger role on offense.

The Kings can expect opponents to mimic what the Charlotte Hornets did in beating the Kings on Saturday – get physical with the younger players and flood the lane with defenders to reduce easy scoring chances.

10.4 Kings' fast-break points per game,



Kings' Darren Collison drives to the basket while being defended by Charlotte's Kemba Walker (15) and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (14) on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, Calif. Andrew Seng aseng@sacbee.com

26th in the NBA

Joerger said part of his job is to get players more comfortable with expanded roles.

"It's harder to go the other way – from when you think you're a feature guy to your coach saying you should dial it back here a little bit," Joerger said. "Our job is to try to get better every day, and we saw some improvement ... We get back and watch some tape and see some of the things that (Marco) Belinelli and (Nicolas) Batum and those guys that have more experience that do certain things to our younger guys where you're like, 'OK, now I just need to try to keep getting better,' and you keep trying to learn."

Collison said the Kings must create more transition points with their defense. But teams will get back on defense as quickly as possible to force the Kings to execute their halfcourt offense.

"We've got to be a good halfcourt offensive team," Collison said. "... They know we want to run. They know guys who can try to get out in transition. (The Hornets) did a good job of getting back in transition, clogged the paint on us, so we've got to do a better job of trying to move the ball and having better spacing."

## Pac ditches Horn for Khan

By Roy Lvarca

Manny Pacquiao values what the fans want. Giving in to his Twitter followers' clamor, the Fighting Senator announced Thursday that his team is negotiating with the camp of British fighter Amir Khan for his next fight set April 23 in the United Arab Emirates.

"My team and I are in negotiations with Amir Khan for our next fight," Pacquiao said on his Twitter feed. "Further announcement coming soon."

The new development, which effectively quashed Australian Jeff Horn's aspirations to tangle with the eight-division world champion, was corroborated by Pacquiao's adviser, Michael Koncz, and longtime promoter, Bob Arum.

Koncz, who negotiated for Pacquiao's next fight to be held in either Abu Dhabi or Dubai, was quoted as saying that both sides are closed to concluding negotiations and that he's confident of getting the fight done.

In a sudden turnaround from his earlier pronouncement that Pacquiao fighting Khan in the United Kingdom is absurd, the 85-year-old Arum admitted that negotiations are indeed going on between the two parties.

As to the final outcome, the Arum sounded skeptical.

"Whether it will happen or not, I just don't know because they have to come up with a



Manny Pacquiao and Amir Khan

large amount of money," Arum told ESPN.com. "Manny seems to believe they will come up with the money. I have some reservations whether it will happen or not."

Pacquiao-Khan reportedly involves a deal worth \$38 million, which dwarfs the under \$10 million being offered by Duco Events to stage Pacquiao-Horn in Australia.

"If it's (UAE offer) real, we will assist putting on the event, but I am not holding my breath, and I'm not making plane reservations," Arum said.

The 30-year-old Khan emerged out of the shadows after he topped the survey participated in by 44, 815 of Pacquiao's Twitter followers as to who they want Pacquiao to fight next.

Khan, a former sparring of Pacquiao, garnered 48 percent of the votes, followed by Kell Brook (24 percent), Terence Crawford (21 percent) and Horn (7 percent).

Although Khan was knocked out by Canelo Alvarez in the sixth round in his foray to the middleweight division last May, the 30-year-old is still popular in UAE, owing to his Pakistani descent and Muslim faith.



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## Lea concert a celebration of mothers' unconditional love

By Allan Policarpio

Songs from the Stage" had all the key ingredients one would expect from a show by Lea Salonga: impeccable singing, engaging banter and an astute understanding of the material at hand. But as the night wore on, it became increasingly apparent that the concert was more than a mere showcase of musicianship. Perhaps, more importantly, it turned out to be a celebration of a mother's unconditional love.

"Of all the roles I have portrayed, my favorite right now is that of being a mother," Lea said from the stage at the Philippine International Convention Center's Plenary Hall, before introducing her 10-year-old daughter, Nicole, whom the acclaimed singer-actor described as a curious child who loves drawing, dancing and, yes, singing.

"This will sound biased, but she's really quite amazing," she added. Nicole looked understandably anxious as she walked toward her mother—giggling, putting her hands over mouth and throwing her head back.

Holding hands and looking into each other's eyes, Lea and Nicole did a duet on the whimsical "Pure Imagination" (from "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"). But despite the nerves, you could readily discern the sweet, pure tone coming out of the child's mouth.

By the time she delivered a solo performance of "Ring of Keys" (from "Fun Home"), Nicole seemed to have fully settled in. She didn't just sing—she performed. Every so often, she paused, to emphasize important moments in the song.

Nicole's eyes constantly wandered, as if gauging the crowd's reception. Whenever everyone erupted into resounding cheers, her face would light up with excitement. And once the final note was sung, she promptly raised her fist in triumph, much to the audience's delight.



From left: Gerard Salonga, Nicole Chien, Lea Salonga

"That was the best you have performed that song!" said Lea, who watched Nicole with keenness from a stool behind her. "My job requires me to be away a lot... But this one is quite the trouper!"

As she reveled in the precious moment, Lea was reminded of her own mother, Ligaya. Now that she has her own kid, she said, she has developed a deeper appreciation for the things her mom did in raising her and her brother, Gerard, who conducted the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra.

Lea saw her mother, who sat in the front row, as a "hero" and "survivor"; a "life-smart and self-made" woman, whose "instinct is such a divine gift." "I would not be standing here before you today if it was not for her," she said. "She is the most selfless woman. The devotion my mom has poured onto me and Gerard was more than I could ever give back in 10 lifetimes."

Then, in one of the program's most moving portions, Lea paid tribute to her mother, with a song that was most apt for the occasion: "Wind Beneath My Wings."

While her singing is never not emotionally connected, Lea's rendition of the Bette Midler classic was easily the night's most impassioned. Behind her, a montage of old family photos flashed on the screen; before the singer, Ligaya could not help but shed tears.

"She raised us as a single mother. She did it all. She just took care of everything. And while she would complain about things and other people from time to time, she never complained about us," Lea recalled. "And that is still true today. A mother's love is unconditional. She made sure we became the best versions of ourselves."

## Academy Awards 2017 registers many firsts



Ebony and Ivory: Best Supporting Actor Mahershala Ali and Best Supporting Actress Viola Davis; Best Actor Casey Affleck and Best Actress Emma Stone Associated Press

By Deni Rose M. Afinidad-Bernardo

LOS ANGELES — The 89th Academy Awards lists many firsts, including perhaps, a first wrongfully announced Best Picture winner.

The first winner to be announced at the Academy Awards 2017 was Mahershala Ali, who was awarded Best Supporting Actor for "Moonlight." He is reportedly the first Muslim to win the award. It was also his first Oscar nomination.

Likewise, Hong Kong superstar Jackie Chan got his first Academy Award. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award for doing Hollywood and Hong Kong movies since the 1960s.

Viola Davis, who won the Academy for Best Supporting Actress for "Fences," is the first black woman to be nominated for three Oscars.

Meanwhile, Achievement in Costume Design for "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" is the first

Academy Award ever won by a J. K. Rowling film.

"Manchester by the Sea" lead actor Casey Affleck got his first Academy Award for Best Actor. The flick also got him the Best Actor distinction from Golden Globe and BAFTA.

"La La Land," which swept the Oscars with 14 nominations, also has the most wins in Oscar history with seven awards. The musical movie also got the first Oscar nomination and win for its director, Damien Chazelle. The movie also won Best Original Song for "City of Stars," as well as Best Production Design, Cinematography, Best Original Score and Best Actress.

Best Actress winner Emma Stone bested veteran actresses Meryl Streep, Isabelle Huppert and Natalie Portman. This is Stone's first Oscar and second nomination.

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