



China our friend? By what logic? - Page 2

# PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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60 Years of Missionary Presence - Page 11

## Super majority won't impeach Duterte - Palace



President Duterte answers questions from reporters at Malacañang yesterday.

BY CHRISTINA MENDEZ

With a pro-administration super majority occupying key posts in the upcoming 18th Congress, President Duterte need not worry about being impeached over his policies toward China, according to his spokesman.

Salvador Panelo said yesterday that the President is not afraid of impeachment since he knows where he

stands.

"How can the President be scared of impeachment? An impeachment is a numbers game. We have the super majority in Congress," Panelo said.

He said an impeachment complaint might be junked as soon as it reaches the House of Representatives.

A grumpy Duterte on Thursday dared critics to impeach him, warning that

he would put all of them behind bars.

He also said the constitutional provision on the country's exclusive economic zone is for the "thoughtless and the senseless" as he claimed that the Charter would become a mere piece of paper in case war erupts over the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Continued on page 3

## Albayalde: PNP to obey Duterte if he orders arrest of impeachment backers

BY CATHRINA GONZALES

The PNP chief, however, assured a proper probe will be conducted against filers

The Philippine National Police (PNP) will arrest those who will file an impeachment complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte if the Chief Executive would order it to do so and if it sees

a violation of the law.

PNP chief General Oscar Albayalde made this assurance on Monday but was also quick to say that the President so far has not given them instructions about his earlier jail threat against those planning to file an impeachment complaint against him.

Continued on page 4



Gen. Oscar Albayalde

## Filipino Fiesta 2019



Photo by Dale Esperante

The Honorees Dave and Dinnah San Pedro with SMUD Board President Dave Tamayo, California Assembly Member Rob Bonta's mother Cynthia Bonta, Philippine Consul General Henry Bensurto Jr., and Stephanie Nguyen, Council Member, City of Elk Grove. Continued on page 10

## Santa Cruzan Flores de Mayo

On May 26, 2019, the Filipino Family Fraternity celebrated Santa Cruzan Flores de Mayo at St. Paul's Catholic Church on Florin Road, Sacramento.



Julie and Rey Oineza

The procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary started at the Social Hall where all participants were assembled to walk accompanying the carosa around the compound praying and singing up to the church for Eucharistic celebration.

Continued on page 11



Participants of the Flores de Mayo Festivities.

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# China ‘our friend’? By what logic?

BY SOLITA MONSOD

**P**resident Duterte, in his latest pronouncements, has magnanimously decided that he would allow Chinese fisherfolk to fish in disputed Philippine waters because they are “our friends.” Let us parse this statement—in the sense of examining or analyzing it minutely—starting with these last two words, and going backward.

“Our friends”: China is our friend? By what logic does he come to that conclusion? If China is our friend, we don’t need any more enemies.

Does a friend betray us? China did. We had a standoff with China on Panatag Shoal in 2012, and the United States brokered an agreement that required both parties to leave the shoal. The Philippines did, but China stayed and brought in warships and now acts like it owns it.

The Philippines filed a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which ruled in our favor in 2016, declaring China’s nine-dash line (the basis of its claim over the South China sea) to be without legal or historical basis. But China is still in possession of seized islands, and is even harvesting giant clams and jeopardizing our natural resources. That’s friendship?

Does a friend lie to us? China has. The most recent in-your-face example is the hit-and-run incident in the Recto Bank, which is, like Panatag, within our exclusive eco-



Xi and Duterte

nomie zone. China’s version of the hit-and-run is ridiculous and belied by evidence that China cannot refute—satellite pictures of the area at the time, which showed that China’s fishing boat was not “besieged” by eight Filipino fishing boats. Worse, our fisherfolk were abandoned. No help. Friends?

Does a friend diss us? China did, ignoring the diplomatic passport the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) gave to former ambassador Albert Del Rosario, and deporting him from Hong Kong out of hand (proof that Hong Kong officialdom are puppets of China).

What has been the Duterte administration’s response to this betrayal, this ignoring of a judgment by an international body, this lying, this dissing by China? Complete brownnosing on our part. China is exculpated, she is still our friend, and we were apparently at fault.

Example: Salvador Panelo saying there is no evidence of a US-brokered agreement in 2012, and even if there was, Del Rosario was naïve. And Del Rosario is at fault again, because he should not have used a diplomatic passport to which he was not entitled.

The DFA then canceled all courtesy diplomatic passports. As if that were the solution. And when Vice President Leni Robredo opined that that was beside the point, that we should be defending our citizens rather than blaming them

(and canceling their passports), she was excoriated as being “boba.”

In sum, China may be your personal friend, Mr. President, but in no way can you say that she is a friend of the Philippines.

“Disputed Philippine waters.” I’m sorry, President Duterte, but the issue has already been resolved by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016. Recto Bank and Panatag Shoal have been declared part of the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines (see B, above). Only China has been “disputing,” and she has no legal basis for doing so. That you make so little of our country’s victory in The Hague, instead of making an international issue of it—isn’t that a betrayal of public trust?

“Allow Chinese fisherfolk to fish.” That’s not your call, Mr. President. As Associate Justice Antonio Carpio has pointed out, the Constitution is very clear: “The State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens” (Article XII “National Economy and Patrimony,” Section 2).

What part of “exclusive” don’t you understand, Mr. President?

You said early in your presidency that the Constitution was just a piece of paper, but you did take an oath to “preserve and defend” it. That you now ignore this provision is not only a betrayal of public trust, it is also a culpable violation of the Constitution. Both impeachable offenses.

BY JOEL BUTUYAN

**T**he Philippine government has pre-cooked the ingredients of investigation, and the resulting dish is a “lutong makaw.”

I’m referring to the supposed investigation of the incident involving 22 Filipino fishermen who were abandoned drifting in open sea after their boat was rammed by a Chinese vessel. Our own government has made it utterly useless to do an investigation because it has corrupted the fishermen’s statements and ruined their credibility before an independent panel.

Shortly after they were rescued, our fishermen said that it was a Chinese fishing vessel that rammed their boat in what they emphatically declared as an intentional act. It was an outright accusation of a despicable crime bolstered by two undisputed facts—their boat was gravely damaged, and they were appallingly abandoned holding on to debris in the open sea.

With unabashed impropriety, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol met with the fishermen behind closed doors and with the area surrounded by policemen in intimidating full battle gear. Piñol gave the fishermen fiberglass fishing vessels, sacks of rice and thousands in loans and cash grants. An undisguised carrot-and-stick stratagem.

Immediately after the meeting, and while seated beside Piñol, the captain of the fishing boat changed his tune and declared that he was confused and he really didn’t know now if they were indeed intentionally rammed by the Chinese vessel. The boat captain was virtually made to admit that he concocted an outright lie when he earlier claimed the ramming was clearly intentional. He was further made to confess that his earlier statement accusing the Chinese of deliberately committing a crime was driven by an angry desire to exact revenge against the Chinese culprits, because he and his crew were abandoned at sea.

Of course, the body language of the boat captain spoke of someone being coerced to mouth a narrative force-fed by the government. But the legal impact of what the government did, through Piñol, is to render our fishermen’s capacity for truth-telling weakened by unreliability before independent investigators.

Piñol rammed down the boat cap-

tain’s throat an element of poison that will make every word that will henceforth come out of his mouth debased by adulteration.

By forcing our fishermen to backtrack on their claim that there was an element of intentionality on the part of the Chinese, the Philippine government has disingenuously padlocked the doors to an investigation of a crucially important issue: Was the Philippine boat rammed in furtherance of the Chinese government’s claim of ownership over the Recto Bank, which is an internationally established exclusive economic zone (EEZ) subject to the sovereign rights of the Philippines?

The resolution of this issue has enormous national security and sovereignty implications, especially for our fishermen who rely on our EEZ for their fishing livelihood—and the Philippine gov-



ernment has done the country an immense disservice by sweeping it under the rug.

As if gagging the fishermen were not enough, the highest of our government leaders—President Duterte, Senate President Tito Sotto, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo and Agriculture Secretary Piñol—all hastily rendered judgment refuting our fishermen’s tale of a dastardly crime committed in the high seas.

With the pronouncement of judgment rendered even before any investigation, which inferior government official assigned in any investigation panel would dare come up with a finding contrary to the verdict already pronounced by his superiors?

Things got even worse with Mr. Duterte declaring that Chinese fishermen are allowed to exploit our EEZ. This is a blanket license given to Chinese fishermen to trample upon our Constitution, which reserves our EEZ exclusively for Filipinos.

Meanwhile, the 22 fishermen were given boats that are incapable of reaching Recto Bank. Our poor fishermen must be reeling from this subliminal message by their own government: Leave the Chinese alone and never go back to Recto Bank.



## Editor’s Note

Last month of June was very eventful for Philippine Fiesta news, and for us personally. For one thing the Philippine Fiesta News was recognized for its many years of service to our Filipino community in Sacramento and surrounding areas, along with its writers, advertisers, and community friends. It happened during the annual celebration of Philippine Independence Day, at Jose Rizal community center on June 2, as hosted by the Sacramento Filipino Fiesta steering committee. We say, thank you to all!

This issue of Philippine Fiesta news is the first of its kind, being published online, without the newspaper hard copy that we used to print monthly. We hope that you find this work of service to our community equally meaningful. All we ask is for all of you to take the time to share it with friends through social media, or any means, and as much as possible. We have so much to be proud of in our Filipino American community in Sacramento. It is continuing on the Philippine Fiesta news’ mission to acknowledge everyone as our hardworking community leaders, community organization, and individuals with their accomplishments in the community, and in working together for a common purpose.

Summer has begun with so many planned activities and vacations in the horizon. Congratulations to all the graduates and other milestones celebrants. Please be safe, especially with the 4th of July celebration.

Lastly and wholeheartedly, we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family of Jose “Joe” Rivera, especially to his wife Lilia and children Brian and Eloisa and her family. He has done a lot for our Filipino community, as a worshipful master of masons and as a member of the Filipino American Veterans Association and other community organization. He will be missed!

With love always,  
Dinnah San Pedro

# Super majority won't impeach Duterte

From page 1

Explaining Duterte's remarks, Panelo said, "He was incensed because he cannot understand why these people who are against his policies cannot understand and even visualize that what he is doing is for the good of the country."

Panelo said Duterte is exerting all efforts – mentally and physically – but critics do not appreciate this. "Which is why he is so brash and angry," he said.

More than having allies in the House of Representatives and the Senate, Panelo expressed belief that any complaint won't stand scrutiny in the House.

"Of course, it will not (prosper). First to know if there was culpable violation. How can he even be violating? He's even going beyond the provision (of the Constitution)," Panelo said.

"The provision says you protect the mineral, the maritime assets, all of those things. What else do you want? It's not only those things but the whole of the Philippines the President is trying to protect. If the country is gone what else is there to protect? That's what the President is trying to do," he said.

As a lawyer, the President knows where he stands in the realm of the constitutionality of his actions related to the protection of the country's marine wealth,

Panelo said, stressing the President is on the right track.

"He won't do it"

Senators, on the other hand, dismissed Duterte's threats of jail time in retaliation of impeachment moves.

"The President knows he can't do it and we know he won't do it. His problem



Pres. Rodrigo Duterte

is when one-third of the members of the House of Representatives feel more challenged than afraid of his threat," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

"A bigger problem is when 16 senators are convinced by the evidence presented during the trial. Everything of course is hypothetical," he added.

In an impeachment process, the House acts as prosecutor in filing a case against an impeachable official before the Senate, which hears it as an impeachment court.

Lacson said Malacañang may have a messaging problem on the issue as allowing foreigners to fish in the country's EEZ is different from not being able to prevent them from entering and fishing.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan scoffed at Duterte's threat, saying "impeaching a President is not a crime."

Detained Sen. Leila de Lima said she was not surprised by Duterte's remarks, saying the President always resorts to diverting public attention on crucial issues.

"Instead of mustering the courage to defend Filipino fishermen and the dignity of our country against China, Duterte instead threatened imprisonment against those who will file impeachment cases against him," De Lima

said in a statement.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra believed Duterte's threats should not be taken seriously. "I don't think he meant it," he said.

Guevarra said anyone could file an impeachment complaint against the President, but they would have to

prove that the Chief Executive acted against public interest.

"Remember that unlike an ordinary action in court, impeachment is not a strictly legal proceeding. It involves a whole gamut of political, economic and other considerations," Guevarra said.

"In the end, the question is, did the President act against the general interest of the entire Filipino nation," he added.

### Del Rosario saddened

Former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario said Duterte's pronouncement in allowing China in the country's EEZ because of "friendship" would worsen the situation.

"I am deeply saddened. It is my hope that we will endeavor to do what is right and we will work to give primacy to our people over China," Del Rosario said.

Panelo said Duterte is being true to his mandate to serve and protect the Filipino nation when he agreed not to force the 2016 arbitration ruling with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Duterte has regarded as "thoughtless and senseless" the claim of critics that he could be violating the Constitution, particularly on the provision that the state shall

# Senators start filing their bills

BY DAPHINE GALVEZ

Senators in 18th Congress opened Monday, Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III led his colleagues in the 24-member Senate in filing the first 10 bills with one refiled measure that seeks to lower the age of criminal liability from the current 15 to 13 years old.



in 2016, which was nine years old. Psychologists, pro-child groups, and social workers opposed this, saying a child's brain has not yet fully developed at adolescence and that the problem is the law's implementation.

Majority of Filipinos are also against the lowering of the minimum age of liability. According to Pulse Asia's March 2017 survey, 55 percent of Filipinos believes that the age should be kept at 15 years old.

The nine other Sotto-authored bills follow:

- Medical Scholarship Act
- Anti-Drug Penal Institution Act
- Presidential Drug Enforcement Authority Act
- Dangerous Drugs Court - Prevention of Terrorism Act
- Hybrid Election Act
- Increasing the Penalty for Perjury
- Anti-fake news/Anti-false Content Act
- 14th Month Pay Law

Other senators who filed their bills Monday morning included Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph G. Recto, Francis N. Pangilinan, Panfilo M. Lacson, Pia Cayetano, Nancy Binay and Bong Revilla.

Sotto, former chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), said his bill is consistent with President Duterte's goal to curb criminality in the country.

As early as the 2016 campaign, Duterte had sought the amendment of Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice Act of 2006 to lower the minimum age.

Sotto cited viral videos of minors committing crimes.

He also cited a study by the Child Rights International Network, which states that other countries have lower minimum age of criminal liability while some federal states in the United States have set none, which "theoretically [allows] a child to be sentenced to criminal penalties at any age."

In 2017, Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon filed a similar bill, seeking to lower the minimum age to 12 years old. It was referred to the Senate justice and human rights committee but no committee hearing has been conducted to date.

The proposals of Sotto and Drilon are higher than the original proposal of the House of Representatives

protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, when he did not force the issue with Beijing.

"When you force the issue, you will bring your armed ships to the area, and that will necessarily trigger, precipitate hostilities from the other side then war will break out. They are talking as friends, 'we will not talk about it. We'll just help each other,'" Panelo said.

He said the President could use the 2016 arbitral ruling as leverage against China.

"What we cannot get from

the arbitral ruling by force or through enforcement, we can get through friendly negotiations," he said.

Panelo said he does not see anything wrong with the President's pronouncement allowing Chinese fishermen to venture in the country's exclusive economic zone.

The spokesman said he saw the logic of Duterte's pronouncement in allowing the Chinese, notwithstanding the constitutional provision.

"He is even going beyond that provision. That is why he said 'I'm looking for the welfare of the 110 million

Filipinos,'" Panelo said.

He said the President is baffled why the Filipino people, particularly his critics, do not see the reason why his administration is choosing to talk with China regarding maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Duterte admitted the Philippines could not afford to initiate activities that might trigger a violent response from China. He even compared the Philippines' defense system to a fire-cracker as against Beijing's missiles.



Fabiola Vera, Legal Assistant  
Estefania Aceves, Legal Assistant  
Michael P. Karr, Attorney

Lizbeth A. Galdamez, Attorney  
Yesenia Silva, Legal Assistant  
Anna Agoncillio, Legal Assistant

## Law Office of Michael P. Karr & Associates

1275 Halyard Drive, Suite 200 West Sacramento, CA 95691

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## China rejects third party in Recto Bank joint probe – Panelo

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo says the Philippines will still ‘suggest’ the inclusion of a neutral country in the joint inquiry, if China and the Philippines have conflicting findings on the Recto Bank incident

BY PIA RANADA

MANILA, Philippines – China has rejected President Rodrigo Duterte’s suggestion of involving a “neutral” third party in the Philippines-China joint investigation into the sinking of a Filipino boat by a Chinese ship, Malacañang said on Monday, July 1.

Quoting the report of Philippine Ambassador to China Chito Sta Romana, Panelo said, “Ang sabi naman nila (China), huwag na ‘yung third party, kailangan tayo lang mag-usap doon (China said, no more third party, let’s keep the discussion between us).”

“For them, it’s not necessary because if you already agree, then what’s the point? They have a point,” Panelo said in Filipino at a Malacañang news briefing on Monday.

Panelo said Sta Romana based his report on his discussions with China’s foreign ministry. The Duterte spokesman said he received this report on Sunday, June 30.

What China now wants, said Panelo, is for the Philippines and China to continue their current separate investigations and then form their own “task forces” which will “meet” to compare the findings and then “resolve all the issues raised.”

It was Duterte himself who suggested the inclusion of a representative from a neutral country in a “joint investigating committee.” Apart from the neutral member, the committee the President suggested was to be composed of “3 groups of highly qualified and competent individuals,” with the Philippines and China to have one representative each.

‘Kaya mahirap na joint investigation, kasi hindi natin sigurado kung iyong totoo talaga iyong lalabas,’ says



**GEM-VER SAGA.** The story of the F/B Gem-Ver crew’s ordeal in Recto Bank continues to make headlines.

Vice President Leni Robredo on the planned joint probe with China into the Recto Bank incident

**Panelo says Duterte can’t be impeached over PH fishing rights**

‘You cannot stop the President from doing measures or steps that, to his mind, are the correct way to obey the constitutional command to him to protect and serve the Filipino people,’ says Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo

Despite legal issues, former senator Gringo Honasan takes his oath as Cabinet member, 7 months after his appointment was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte

What’s Philippines’ stance? The Philippines, however, will still “suggest” a third party if there would be conflicting results of the countries’ separate probes.

“We will suggest. If the findings are not consistent, can we look for a third party?” Panelo said.

Panelo downplayed the possibility of a clash in findings of the two governments. “I think there will be no serious disagreement because they said we need to resolve this right away,” he said.

The Duterte spokesman echoed the Chinese foreign ministry’s supposed words that were dismissive of the need for a third party.

“But they (China) said, we don’t need that (third party). There’s nothing we can’t resolve,” said Panelo.

Panelo reiterated that the Philippine government still expects China to impose sanctions on the captain and crew of the Chinese ship for abandoning the Gem-Ver fishermen at sea.

“I trust the assurance of the Ambassador of China that they will not allow that. If there was irresponsible behavior, they will sanction that,” said the Duterte spokesman.

Panelo described the boat sinking incident as an “ordinary nautical navigation incident,” in contrast to his repeated assertions that Filipinos should be more “circumspect” when making conclusions about the controversy pending the results of an official investigation.

The findings of the joint probe of the Philippine Coast Guard and Marina was submitted to Malacañang on June 20 or 11 days ago. Malacañang has yet to make its findings public.

The military’s Western Command (WesCom) has its own probe into the incident.

## Lacson: PhilHealth documents show clear plunder case

BY VINCE NONATO

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday floated his plan to make a case of plunder out of the alleged misuse of P154 billion in Philippine Health Insurance Corp. funds over the past five years.

“Maliwanag na plunder. Isang dokumento na lang hinihintay ko (It’s clearly plunder. I’m just waiting for one more document),” he said in an interview with radio station dzBB.

He said it would be his “bigger” bombshell against Health Secretary Francisco Duque III who is also PhilHealth ex-officio chairman.

Lacson last month asked why Duque was not forced by Malacañang to submit his resignation alongside the other high-ranking PhilHealth officials following reports of a kidney dialysis center’s collection of insurance payouts for services to patients who turned out to be dead.

Lacson said documents in his possession were provided by PhilHealth “insid-



Sen. Panfilo Lacson

ers” whom he hinted were involved in irregularities in the state agency.

“Kasi sa tinagal-tagal ng panahon, nakikita nila ang namumuno sa PhilHealth, pinaglalaruan ang pera. Ang kwenta nila for the last five years lang, P154 billion ang nalustay (Because for the longest time, they’ve seen the PhilHealth leadership mess with the money. They estimate that just for the last five years, P154 billion was wasted),” he said.

He said he would reveal more information once he gets hold of the one last document he is waiting for.

Lacson began his tirades against Duque on June 13 when he rehashed al-

legations that Duque, as PhilHealth chair under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was involved in the misuse of funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for cards bearing Arroyo’s picture in time for the 2004 elections.

Lacson was Arroyo’s rival presidential candidate that year, placing third behind the late action star Fernando Poe Jr.

On June 19, Lacson accused Duque of conflict of interest, as PhilHealth’s Ilocos regional office leased a building of his family corporation in Dagupan City.

## Duterte’s threat to arrest critics saddens former DFA Secretary Del Rosario

BY ROY MABASA

Former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario on Friday said he is “deeply saddened” by President Duterte’s threat to arrest critics who will try to impeach him over his perceived pro-China stance on the recent sinking of a Filipino fishing boat in the West Philippine Sea.

“I am deeply saddened. It is my hope that we will endeavor to do what is right,” Del Rosario said in a text message.

The former DFA chief, a staunch critic of Beijing, assured that he will continue to work to “give primacy to our people over China.”

Del Rosario was the For-



Former Phil. Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario

12, 2016, the international court ruled in favor of the Philippines and invalidated China’s nine-dash line claim.

On Thursday, Duterte reacted sharply on the statements made by several politicians and former government officials, including Del Rosario, who raised the specter of impeachment after the Chief Executive said he allowed Chinese fishermen to fish in Philippine waters because “we’re friends”.

“Impeach me? I will arrest all of them. I dare you to do it,” Duterte said during an oath-taking ceremony in Malacañang

Foreign Affairs secretary when the Philippines filed an arbitration case against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in January 2013. On July

## Albayalde: PNP to obey Duterte if he orders arrest of impeachment backers

From page 1

“Of course, kung talagang pinag-utos ng Presidente at may nakita tayong (if the President really ordered it and we saw) violation of the law, why not?” Albayalde said in a press conference in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

He further assured that the PNP will hold a proper

investigation on those suspected to be planning to unseat Duterte.

“There will be an investigation. Hindi mo naman pwedeng basta-basta kunin ‘yung tao dahil tinuro at kunin mo (You cannot just grab a person because someone pointed at him). There will always be an investiga-

tion before you can make an arrest,” Albayalde said.

Asked what laws will apply to those who would file an impeachment complaint against Duterte, the PNP chief said it will depend on what violation the police will find out against the filer.

“Kasi ‘yung pag-impeach sa kanya, it’s not covered

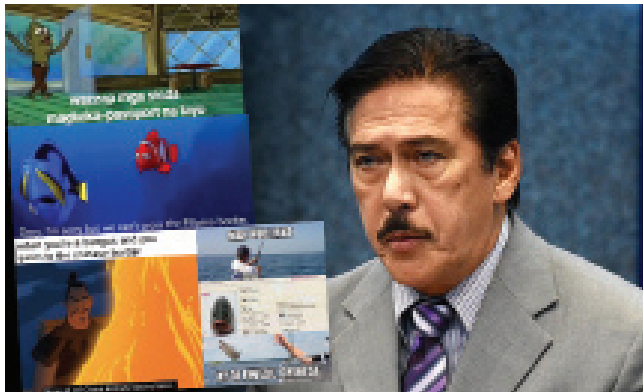
by the law, but violations, depende kung meron, either sedition or libel. Depende kung among makita natin na violation ng batas,” Albayalde said.

(Impeachment of the President is not covered by the law, but if there are violations, it could either be sedition or libel. It depends on which violation of the law we see.)



## Sen. Tito Sotto wins Nobel Fish Prize (satire)

Senator Tito Sotto has won the prestigious Nobel Fish Prize for his “mind-boggling contribution” to maritime science, his alma mater announced Friday.



Senate President Tito Sotto

Sotto was honored for his “deep, incisive, gagological examination of the complex nautical, aqualegal migratory patterns and rights in the West Philippine and South China Sea,” according to a statement from Wanbol University, where Sotto is revered as the institution’s most respected alumnus.

Sotto was particularly praised for his profound analysis and deconstruction of the maritime exclusivity rights as they pertain to the waters claimed by the Philippines in the context of the Duterte government’s policy of offering generous access to China.

“It’s very difficult to say that there is exclusivity when it’s underwater,” Sotto said in an interview with ANC. “The fish could be coming from China. And the fish

from the Philippines could be going to China if we want to be technical about it and relate it to the constitutionality of what should be owned by us.”

The brilliant senator continued (again this is not satire):

**“There are exclusive types of fish that are only found in China, but can be found here because of migration perhaps. It could be a very good test case that it is a constitutional violation.”**

“The entire Wanbol community is so very proud of Senator Sotto,” Wanbol President Vic Ungasis said during a press conference. “Tito Sotto is indeed an intellectual giant, a bold

thinker with one of the formidable brains in world history.”

President Duterte himself congratulated Sotto, one of his staunchest allies and defenders.

“Tanginang Tito — er I really want to congratulate the honorable and distinguished Senate President who truly, absolutely, definitively deserves the Nobel Fish Prize,” Duterte told reporters. “I mean who would come up with an explanation like ‘the fish could be coming from China’? Tangina, talo pa si Panelo ha.”

Sotto will receive the Nobel Fish Prize next month in Oslo, Norwegia. *Inquirer.net*

## House freshman Paolo Duterte floats speakership bid

BY PATRICIA LOURDES VIRAY

Manila, Philippines — Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte, the president’s son, appears to have changed his mind on vying for the top spot at the House of Representatives.

Citing talks on possible term-sharing for the House speakership, Duterte, who is a first-term congressman, said he might consider running for the post.

“The House is divided, I might be able to help unite it. Pareho lang kaming binoto ng tao. Kung term-sharing, term-sharing na kaming lahat,” Duterte said, according to a report from News5.

The president’s son said he will ask lawmakers from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the party-list bloc to elect their speaker for their own term share.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier said he would resign if his son Paolo will seek the speakership.



Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte initially said he had no interest in vying for the House speakership post.

“If you run, let me know. Mag-resign ako. Marami na tayo,” the president said in May.

Paolo was quick to douse rumors he would seek the top House post, saying in a Facebook post: “Puede ba tubag ani (Could I reply to this)? PULONG TO PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I DID NOT SAY I WANT TO BE SPEAKER.”

The Palace played down the younger Duterte’s pronouncement. “Plano pa lang naman ‘yun, di pa alam kung itutuloy niya o hindi

(It’s still just a plan, we don’t know if he’ll go through with it or not),” presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo told Palace reporters.

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano (Taguig), previously Foreign Affairs secretary and the elder Duterte’s running mate in 2016, has been insisting that the Rep. Lord Allan Velasco (Marinduque) agreed to a term-sharing scheme for the speakership of the lower house of Congress.

Cayetano said there was a deal for him to sit as speaker for the first 15 months while Velasco will take over the next 21 months. President Rodrigo Duterte himself confirmed that there was a term-sharing deal.

Velasco had rejected this proposal, saying it would divide members of the House. He has been endorsed by the Duterte-led administration PDP-Laban party as the next House speaker to serve for the full term of the 18th Congress.

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# Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club Installation Dinner and Awards Night



BY CARLE & SARAH ENLOE

On June 22, 2019, the Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club held its Installation Ceremony of the newly elected Officers, Dinner, and Awards Night at the Fransinetti Winery and Restaurant, a local winery located in South Sacramento.

Past District Governor James "Andy" Anderson from Elk Grove Lions Club was the Installing Officer.

The Installation of Club Officers is a long-time Club tradition. Outgoing President Joe Stayner expressed his gratitude to the previous board members as they completed their term of service for serving the club; also to honor the transfer of authority and responsibility from current leaders to the newly elected directors and officers at the beginning of each fiscal year. Outgoing President Joe Stayner also recognized club members who had provided excellent leadership and service to the club the previous year. This year, we are proud to share that Lion Vickie Debord was awarded the Club's Lion of the Year. Congratulations Lion of the Year Vickie for a job well done!



PDG James Andy Anderson installed Myrna Agbunag as the new President of Maharlika Lions Club.



Outgoing Pres. Joe Stayner and incoming Pres. Myrna Agbunag



With Lion Malu Mier-bautista, Lion Cristina Garcia, Lion Danette Brown, Lion Lito Bautista and Lion Victoria Tagatac- Debord and Lion Teofila Javier.

Incoming President Myrna Agbunag gave a very moving acceptance speech and shared the club's goals and chosen program of service for the upcoming year to inspire the club members to commit to making its community a better place to live. We would like to express our gratitude and congratulation to the Outgoing Officers for their dedication, service, and leadership.

We would like to also extend our congratulations to the Incoming Officer 2019-2020 and wish them all the best! The 2019-2020

Officers are: President – Lion Myrna Agbunag; 1st Vice President – Lion Mark Bamba; 2nd Vice President – Lion Maria Theresa "Trish" Pascua; Secretary – Lion Vickie Debord; Treasurer – Lion Lynn Ventura; Tail Twister – Lion Christina Garcia; Lion Tamer – Lion Ben Cu; Lion Vannie Powers – Club Membership Chairperson; Lion Bing Ventura – Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairperson; Lion Maria Theresa Pascua – Club Service Chairperson; PDG Bert Melliza – Club Marketing and Communications Chairperson; Two-

Year Directors - Lion Rey de Jesus; Lion Pete Lumbang; Lion Dee Brown; Lion Aleli Townsend; One-Year Directors – Lion Les Duldulao; Lion Efren Diaz; Lion Bing Ventura; Club Advisors - PDG Bert Melliza and Lion Lynn Ventura.

We want to thank the outgoing President Joe Stayner and Partner in Service Lion Fely Villanueva for a job well done and wish all the new officers continued success in all your upcoming projects this year.



Bobby Roy, Dave Tamayo and Assemblymember Rob Bonta, 18th District.

### API Legislative Caucus

At the State Capitol, in celebration of the 121st Anniversary of Philippine Independence Day, hosted by Assemblymember Rob Bonta & the API Legislative Caucus, with representatives from the Filipino community in Sacramento.



Dick Mazon, Myrna Agbunag, Nilda Valmores, Chris Mateo and Dinnah San Pedro

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## Keep the faith: Religion on front lines of Hong Kong protests

By Agence France-Presse

But it also illustrated the prominent role Christians are playing in the movement against a proposed bill to allow extraditions to mainland China.

Most churches in Hong Kong tend to shy away from political involvement.

But the now-postponed extradition bill struck a nerve with local ministries, many of which support underground churches in China.

"Everyone is worried about crossing the red line," Elton Lo, one of a group of pastors who initiated a week of fasting and prayers in support of the movement, told AFP.

Unlike in mainland China — where faiths are strictly monitored by the state — HongKong still has religious freedom.

From the influential colonial-era Catholic and Anglican communities to evangelical mega churches, Jehovah's Witnesses handing out leaflets and Hare Krishnas parading through parks, the city is a riot of faiths.

But how long that remains the case is a source of intense nervousness.

### Sliding Freedoms

Under the handover deal signed with the British, China agreed to maintain HongKong's unique freedoms and judicial system until 2047.

Yet many fear Beijing has already started reneging on that deal in recent years.

The plan to allow extraditions only heightened those concerns within faith communities, who feared the long arm of China's opaque and politicized law might start crossing the border.

This was especially true for Hong Kongers helping underground faith groups on the mainland where a recent clampdown has seen churches shuttered, crosses removed and Bible sales restricted.

"The Chinese Government could say that these ministries are illegal activities sponsored by the churches of Hong Kong. (Church leaders) could be arrested," said Chan Shun-hing, an expert on religion at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Father Stephen Chan has hosted an outdoor mass near the city's parliament each Sunday since the 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Move-



Christians are playing a prominent role in the movement against a proposed bill to allow extraditions to mainland China. Christians are playing a prominent role in the movement against a proposed bill to allow extraditions to mainland China.

ment protests failed to win any concessions from Beijing.

"They (Catholics) know that if Hong Kong becomes Communist China, then there will be no more (religious freedom)," he told AFP after a service last weekend.

Lo and Chan both said more church leaders and congregations were now participating in the anti-government demonstrations compared with 2014.

Even though many of the Umbrella Movement's older leaders are devout Christians, it never had an openly religious feel.

"After the Umbrella Movement, within many churches there have been discussions about what the relationship between the church and society should be, especially among young people," said Lo.

Throughout this month's protests, religious leaders organised prayer meetings and hymn sessions — often aimed at defusing tensions between protesters and police — as well as opening their doors to let demonstrators rest and pray.

### Conservative Concern

Christians make up some 11 percent of the population but they remain influential, especially among the elite — pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam is herself a devout Catholic.

But Lam has found even her natural religious allies criticize her extradition plan.

Earlier this month the pastor of a usually pro-government mega-church said he could not support the bill, while the Catholic diocese and an umbrella body of 21 churches urged Lam to with-

draw the bill altogether.

Cardinal Zen, an octogenarian former Bishop of Hong Kong and staunch critic of the Vatican's recent rapprochement with Beijing, has been a regular at the protests.

"There is no choice but to protest," he told AFP.

"We don't talk much about 2047. What will happen then depends also on what we try to do today. I hope some radical change of situation will happen in China before 2047."

One pastor — who works with youths at one of the city's most conservative churches and only gave his surname, Tam, said he did not agree with the more radical tactics used by protesters.

But he attended the protests with about a dozen young church members on June 12, and was swept up in crowds escaping tear gas and rubber bullets fired by police.

He said his church — which counts police officers and government officials among its congregation — held prayers calling for Lam to hold the bill, warning that attempting to push it through the legislative process would be "very dangerous."

"It would totally tear society apart and many things would cease to function."

He expected freedom of religion to worsen as 2047 approaches but he remained hopeful.

"I can only expect it to get worse, but no matter how bad it gets, as long as we can speak out we should speak."

## Trump becomes 1st sitting US leader to enter North Korea

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PANMUNJOM, Korea — With grins and handshakes, President Donald Trump welcomed North Korea's Kim Jong Un at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone Sunday, seeking to revive talks on the pariah nation's nuclear program in a bid for a legacy-defining accord.

President Donald Trump meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea, Sunday, June 30, 2019. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Trump then became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea.

The brief photo-op, another historic first in the yearlong rapprochement between the two technically warring nations, marks a return to face-to-face contact between the leaders since talks broke down during a summit in Vietnam in February.

But it does little to erase significant doubts that remain about the future of the negotiations and the North's willingness to give up its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Trump's brief crossing into North Korean territory marked the latest milestone in two years of roller-coaster diplomacy between the two nations, as personal taunts of "little rocket man" and threats to destroy the other have been ushered out by on-again, off-again talks, professions of love and flowery letters.

"I was proud to step over the line," Trump told Kim as they met in a building known as "Freedom House" on the South Korean side of the village. "It is a great day for the world."

Kim hailed the moment, saying of Trump, "I believe this is an expression of his willingness to eliminate all the unfortunate past and open a new future." He added that he was "surprised" when Trump invited to meet by a tweet on Saturday.

Peering into North Korea from atop Observation Post Ouellette, Trump told reporters before meeting Kim that there has been "tremendous" improvement since his first meeting with the North's leader in Singapore last year.



President Donald Trump steps into the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea, as North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un looks on, in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) on June 30, 2019.

Trump claimed the situation used to be marked by "tremendous danger" but "after our first summit, all of the danger went away."

But North has yet to provide an accounting of its nuclear stockpile, let alone begin the process of dismantling its arsenal.

The meeting at the truce city of Panmunjom also represented a striking acknowledgment by Trump of the authoritarian Kim's legitimacy over a nation with an abysmal human rights record.

Trump's summit with Kim in Vietnam earlier this year collapsed without an agreement for denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

He became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with the leader of the isolated nation last year, when they signed an agreement in Singapore to bring the North toward denuclearization.

North Korea's nuclear threat has not been contained, Richard Haas, the president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted Sunday. Haas added that the threat of conflict has subsided only because "the Trump administration has decided it can live (with) a (North Korean) nuclear program while it pursues the chimera of denuclearization."

Substantive talks between

the nations have largely broken down since the Vietnam summit. The North has balked at Trump's insistence that it give up its weapons before it sees relief from crushing international sanctions.

The U.S. has said the North must submit to "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" before sanctions are lifted.

Every president since Ronald Reagan has visited the 1953 armistice line, except for George H.W. Bush, who visited when he was vice president.

The show of bravado and support for South Korea, one of America's closest military allies, has evolved over the years to include binoculars and bomber jackets.

Trump, ever the showman, sought to one-up his predecessors with a Kim meeting.

The leaders met at a time of escalating tensions. While North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S., last month it fired off a series of short-range missiles. Trump has brushed off the significance of those tests, even as his own national security adviser, John Bolton, has said they violated U.N. Security Council resolutions.

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# Can't afford war with China

BY ROAN REY TOMBADO

**T**he sinking of FB Gem-Ver 1 by Chinese ship Yuemaobinyu 42212 is the fieriest issue in the disputed waters since the 2012 deadlock between Philippine and Chinese vessels in Scarborough Shoal, which provoked Manila to file a case against Beijing.

Aggression has been China's mark in the past years, and it has become increasingly annoying. It doesn't want to respect any law and continues to test our sovereignty by encroaching on our territory. It seemingly covets the entire area because of its economic prospects.

China's objective is clear: To build up its military capabil-



ity to pursue its economic interests. If only China could show maturity in dealing with its rival countries in territorial disputes, it would gain more respect not only from its rival claimant-nations and Asian neighbors, but also from the whole world.

Instead, China is consolidating its power in the South China Sea, showing off its might and ability to control the disputed territories, as well as the flow of commodities for its own economic gain.

But it should exercise self-

restraint and refrain from using force in accordance with universally recognized declarations and international laws, instead of being stubborn in laying claim to the islands that are not even within its territorial boundaries.

The Philippines does not want war but peace, and it will always say no to conflict. I'd like to believe that President Duterte wants to focus on avoiding a full-scale war with China because we all know we cannot afford it.

# Steep cost of hospitalization

Most Filipinos cannot afford the cost of hospitalization, according to a recent study. The 2nd Philippine Wellness Index, initiated by hospital maintenance organization and insurer PhilCare, showed 40 percent of 1,350 respondents from across the country expressing uncertainty over their capability to pay medical bills.

About 30 percent of the respondents were not sure if they could afford regular medical checkups. To pay medical bills, 37 percent said they use their savings while 25 percent seek help from relatives. Some 15 percent used personal health insurance while 63 percent relied on the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

Even without a survey, a visit to any government hospital will illustrate this problem dramatically. In birthing centers, new mothers share not just free wards but even beds, lying with their heads on opposite sides of the bed just so they can fit. The overcrowding in some hospitals has sometimes led to disease outbreaks and even infant sepsis.

Universal health insurance coverage will certainly help, especially with the expansion of the ailments covered by state subsidies. But even the additional resources allocated to PhilHealth are still not enough to cover the cost of hospitalization under most circumstances.

Health care is a problem even in advanced econo-

mies, but even more so in developing countries where large segments of the population live below the poverty line. State subsidies are limited and governments can only do so much.

Preventive measures and programs to promote healthy lifestyles can best augment those limited resources. Merely stopping or cutting down on smoking as well as moderating alcohol consumption can improve health, reduce health care costs and add years to one's life. Current laws regulating smoking need to be enhanced to include vaporizers or e-cigarettes. With the steep cost of medical care, every effort must be made to be healthy enough to stay out of hospitals.

# Bully Boys in the West Pacific

BY JoeAm

**D**emocracy is an idealized form of government that has proved hard to manage because most 'leaders' are inept or crooked. Dictatorships or other forms of authoritarian rule are better understood by people who are not educated or who are lazy, crooked, or brutal themselves. They can't conceptualize freedom and link it to inspiration. They are inspired by a leader who squashes others like bugs and lies to them in ways that makes them feel like big shots.

Thus we see the character of China and the Duterte government, and the reasons for their successes.

Democracy requires four things that a whole lot of people don't have:

- \*National principles, to establish right from wrong.
- \*Knowledge, to be able to select capable and honest leaders.
- \*Sacrifice, to be able to set one's own ways aside for the betterment of the nation.
- \*Compassion, to help the disadvantaged become equal, under law.

In China and in the Du-



The kind of leader Filipinos adore? Ivan the Terrible

terte government, national principles are founded on entitlement, not fairness. Knowledge is controlled. Dedication is to the entitled, not the nation. And the disadvantaged are there to be used, not cherished.

If people can't grasp the wholeness of freedom and self-determination, democracy is sure to fail, as it has in the Philippines. Citizens possess no passion to be free. They undertake no street protests demanding to be equal. They are happy being told what to do.

Business leaders and educators dare not speak out lest they become outcasts among the self-dealers. As long as they are obedient, their future is unruffled. There is security in hiding out.

Thus we can see the social framework in which the powerful thrive. Apathy. Vengeful self-justification among the disadvantaged that attaches to siding with leaders who squash others. Absence of the determined kind courage that drives freedom-lovers to risk their lives for a cause.

The Philippines is dead of soul, in the main, it's hopes

attaching to a few educated people who see the destruction that is occurring but can do little about it. It is the perfect social storm. A base of anger and ignorance propping up a large set of criminally minded leaders and citizens.

One could accept the demise of this wretched state if it were not China promoting it, smirking and ready to pick up the pieces to add to its power pack.

China is just more of the same. More authoritarianism. More ruthlessness. More impunity. More lies and nonsense.

The Philippines is reaching a state of despair for caring and knowledgeable citizens who don't want to become stick-men doing as they are told by cruel, greedy, and uncivil leaders.

Who understand the joy of living in a world of equality, responsibility to others, and freedoms that offers success to those who works hard, intelligently, and earnestly.

Not just those who are favored because they bow like brainless zombies to the entitled.

# Children deserve to live in peace

The punishment inflicted on children in times of armed conflict goes beyond the immediate risk to their safety and health. Aside from having to dodge bullets and explosives, children must also survive the consequences of the violence they encounter, including hunger and malnutrition, homelessness, separation from significant others, interruption if not elimination of formal education, and the psychological and



emotional trauma of danger and deprivation.

Indeed, though they may not wear uniforms or bear arms (though many are forced to do so as child soldiers),

children make up a large portion of the civilian casualties in times of war and conflict. And the damage done to their psyches can be expected to last well beyond the cessation of hostilities.

The opportunities lost, the scars on their mental and emotional health, the lingering nightmares and mistrust—these may very well last a lifetime.



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# Is good government possible in the Philippines?

BY CHEMROCK

“In defeat, malice; in victory, revenge” quote from the TV series “Yes, Minister” characterizes the perennial political battles in the Philippines. There is no ideology, no platforms. A senatorial candidate admitted he does not know what is the job of a senator. It’s all personal, very personal. And so, as often the case, it gets very ugly. Long after an election is over, losers continue to dig and chip away at the winners’ credibility. Winners invest time and effort to neutralize the influence of the failed opponents. The administration gets distracted, projects get derailed, and the press harvest the spectacle of mudslinging, escamotage, slime and muck that is trending the normalization of Philippines politics. More insidiously, the animus injuriandi spawned from politico-dynastic feuds intoxicate the majority of an electorate easily persuaded by populism, leading to generational support of tainted trapos.

This mid-term election saw democracy-inclined candidates suffer a big defeat while those linked to or supported by Duterte won big time, especially the Senatorial race where not a single opposition bet was elected. This time round, even though Comelec has to explain lots of inconsistencies, there were no sour grapes like Bongbong Marcos and Tolentino to cry ‘stolen votes’. To some, it

seems the good guys lost. And so in 2019 there was no malice in defeat. Good guys, being good guys, harbor no malice.

On the other hand, victors drunk on the hubris of ballot boxes, destined for neophyte Senatorial seats, demand chairmanship roles in preferred committees. Incoming governors demand incumbents to stop funding ongoing projects that are destined to be scrapped by a new crop of officials. In social media, DDS army cock a snook at dilawans. Absence the magnanimity and graciousness of a cultured society.

Good government can only come about from the election of good officials, not people who ask “What are we in power for?”. Psephologists will be challenged to explain how this cohort of newly elected officials can add positive values to governance when two plunderers, a lead player in the extra-judicial killings, and 9 personalities without a single strand of independent muscle in them, can get elected into the Senate.

I survey four main criteria for a country to work to develop and progress, and weigh and measure the Philippines against these. From my vantage point, the likelihood of Philippines producing a good government leading to economic development and betterment of the people, is very remote in the short to medium term. In the longer term, it’s best not to speculate since the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley.

## Leadership:

At the apex of good governance is the leadership, a corp of strong and fair-minded individuals who has untainted moral background that can command respect and has visionary prowess. This leadership must be solidly united, free from public bickering so that they send clear signals to the market and the people.

Malacanang, at the moment, is populated by people who can’t

see beyond the next presidential rape joke. The political landscape presents an absence of depth of potential leaders in the country who are gifted with the kind of vision necessary for one to lead a country. Hardly has there been anyone who has articulated or has canvas-painted a big picture scenario for the direction of the country. It is a fact of life that all countries live under the shadows of games that the superpowers of the day play. Today these are US, Russia and China. The crème de la crème of Philippines society display a pathetic absence of any sense of the greater geopolitics at play in the region and how national policies need to be crafted to strategically manage this. Ferdie Marcos had it in him, Pnoy seemed to grasp it. Outside of politics, Richard Heydarian occasionally articulates it somewhat. Beyond this, the knowledge bank seems to be a blank. Two examples to illustrate this.

Immediately after the US exit Saigon in 1978, Soviet naval vessels were at the Cam Ranh Bay and their fighter jets in Danang. The Soviets were poised to expand their influence via their client state Vietnam which, with sky high confidence after defeating the French and Americans, immediately invaded Cambodia and Laos. It looked like the domino theory was rolling. Yet the Philippines started on a national discourse to get the US to leave Subic and create a power vacuum. The good fortune for the SE Asian countries at the time was events in Afghanistan and Poland diverted Soviet attention and hardware away to that part of the world closer to their borders.

All countries start their quest for economic success with a low-wage industrialization strategy. The Philippines have forever focused on political dynastic wars and has never been able to get its act together. It failed to see the rise of the Chinese economy which by the 1980s was the factory to the world. It became too late for the Philippines to embark

on low-wage industrialization.

Without capable leadership with visions beyond the horizon, the country fails to plan strategically.

## Clean government:

A clean government is a good government. It is the holy grail that many young new states fail to achieve. Post colonial era, Africa was full of new states of the Commonwealth that started off well building on the good institutions inherited from the British. Kenya, Tanzania, etc, were poster boys. Invariably, a cesspool of dirty political families dragged these states to the ground.

The Philippines has the ignominy of 2 presidents in the list of top 10 plunderers in world history. It is a country where corruption is not only endemic, but culturally ingrained. What hope is there when the greatest thief in the world is given the honor of lying in a cemetery reserved for national heroes, a first lady who has been sentenced by the Supreme Court for graft but never spend a minute in jail, a custodian of billions of dollars plundered by her father gets elected in the Senate.

The majority of people seeking elected office is not driven by a calling to serve but for the opportunity to build wealth and dynastic power. The political leadership is sorely lacking in people with honor and a sense of trusteeship who ensures the people around them are equally trustworthy.

Corruption has a national cost and inhibits development. What hope is there when a presidential daughter, who is priming herself for a presidential run one day soon, declares dishonesty is not an issue in an election? Indeed, what hope is there when corrupt officials are viewed by the electorate as electables?

## Effective Civil service:

What makes a good civil service? It has to be honest, efficient, competent, impartial and most importantly, apolitical. One of the greatest qualities of administrators of the civil service is a fine acumen in character assessment that facilitates the selection of good and capable staffers. Career advancements are on the basis of merit.

It’s not fair to criticize the individual civil servants for most of them are probably just ordinary Filipinos trying their best to make a living. If the wheels are not grinding well, the fault lies in the thousand core top civil servants responsible for the efficient running of the government.

In the Philippines, these positions are unfortunately highly politicized and career advancements

rely heavily on connections. Blind loyalties get in the way of impartiality and conflicting goals. Practically every office in town is graft ridden with the top of the heap of decadence being the unmanageable Bureau of Customs.

The present administration practices Executive interference regularly, and positions are often given as otang na loob – reward for favors rendered. This practice has seen the corrupt, rabblemongers, scalawags and bartop dancers entering public service. There is temptation to wonder if the pivot to China is one such otang na loob.

Cleansing a government requires a disciplined leadership and the scrub is top down. It would be difficult to find leaders with such strength and moral authority derived from unquestionable integrity. Hard qualities to come by anywhere in the world, what more to expect from Philippines.

## National Unity:

Nations fail because of social divides. Without unity or solidarity, development is impossible.

A majority of countries of the world are pluralistic. With multiculturalism, fault lines are along race, ethnicity, religion, class, regional, and issue-based. These problems have germinated civil wars, torn countries apart, balkanized countries.

The Philippines have been blessed with no such fault lines, except maybe in certain areas in Mindanao in the Muslim strongholds. Yet it has never been able to rise above levels that others do, even those with deep fault lines.

The Philippines has no fault lines in the traditional sense, but it is terribly divided by what I call cult lines. Patronage politics, tribal loyalties, and a proclivity for personality worship has worked to ensure that rationality no longer resides in the minds of the electorate. The political culture of “in defeat, malice; in victory, revenge” feeds right into this setup, fueled by the mass communication capabilities of social media. It is impossible to disentangle this social mess when leaders feed the frenzy as their very political standing depends on it.

## Conclusion:

It’s not nice to be a pessimist, but it’s my ultimate Boeing 747 gambit that in the short and medium term, it is unlikely the Philippines can have the economic success to modernize and uplift the people. A one-man-one vote system leads to the tyranny of the majority. If the majority prefers tainted politicians to lord over them, then democracy is dead, long live democracy.

## Philippine Fiesta

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

E-mail: philippinefiesta@fivedsarts.com

Website: philippinefiesta.net

Five D's Arts, LLC (Publisher)

Web Designer: Rees Retuta

Managing Editor

Editorial Assistant

Layout and Design

Photographer

Dinnah S. San Pedro

Dane San Pedro

Dave San Pedro

Dave San Pedro

CONTRIBUTORS

Carleton Enloe

Faina Abaya

R. Carado Dizon

Nancy Bautista

Cynthia G. Garcia

Sarah T. Enloe

Jose Abaya, Jr.

Gabriel Ortigoza

Perry Diaz

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# Filipino Fiesta 2019

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Annually, on the first Sunday of June, the Jose Rizal Community Center and the adjacent Woody Hampton Park become home to the Filipino Fiesta and the Filipinos of Sacramento and Vicinity for the celebration of the Philippine Independence Anniversary. This year marks the 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. According to the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines San Francisco, Henry S. Bensurto, Jr., the Philippine government's theme for the 121st Independence Day celebration is "Tapang ng Bayan, Malasakit sa Mamamayan" or roughly, "The courage of a nation, concern for the people."

The Filipino Fiesta is also an opportunity for the organizers and community leaders to celebrate citizens and organizations who have contributed consistently to the spread and advancement of the Philippine culture. For 17 years, news of the motherland as well as our local community were made available through this local media. We react as we leafed through pages of photo-filled stories depicting varying degrees of Filipino experiences. We learn of important functions and milestones by simply turning to the Community Calendar of Events page. We may have visited business establishments because of ads that drew our attention. Thus, the Fiesta leaders and committees have decided to recognize those who continue to serve by contributing, participating, and most importantly, reporting the major accomplishments as well as the ordinary that may also be dear to our hearts.

Congratulations to the 2019 Filipino Fiesta Honorees: Dave, Dinnah San Pedro and their children, and the staff of their community newspaper, Philippine Fiesta News! Dave and Dinnah's children, (Dino, Dane and Deidra), also contribute to the completion of the PF News.

To start off the celebration, the Honorees participated as Grand Marshalls of the community parade. The ORDER OF THE PARADE is as follows: COLORS – Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) – Dick Weitzenberg, President > FILIPINO FIESTA OF SACRAMENTO Banner



> GRAND MARSHALLS – Dave and Dinnah San Pedro > Philippine Fiesta News Staff > Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity – Mercy Guerrero, President > Mrs. Philippines Royal Court > Filipino Fiesta Royal Court > Filipino Women's Club – Zenny Yagen, President > Filipino Family Fraternity – Aida Azurin, President > Freedom Equity Group of Elk Grove > Family of Santo Nino Group > Aklan Association Ati-Atihan Band and Members – Danny YapDiangco, President > Stockton Multi-Style Excrima > Kapitbahay Dancers > Do Terra Wellness Advocate > LGBT Community Center – Marcy Basila >



Photos by Frank Ayran and Dale Esperante

International Karate of Sacramento > Kumarehood > United Federation of Filipino American Education – Murray Navarro, President > Sinag-tala Filipino Theater and Performing Arts Association –

Dick Mazon, President  
 Parade Contest: Most Colorful, Most Enthusiastic, Most Participants, Most Creative, Most Historical, Best Costume, Most Unique, Best Representation of the Fiesta Theme – Grand Prize.  
 Parade Donors: Mina Guerra, Raul Cupino, Josie Patria, Placida Butcher, Pinay Pictures, Aurora Vasquez, Mr. & Mrs. Russel Thompson, Lovie Rivera, Herminia De Guzman.  
 Parade Judges: Vince Sales, Raul Cupino, Ryan Reyes.  
 The parade culminated with the Opening Ceremonies at the Park

West Lotus Casino Stage. The program included the following: Advance of Colors by the Color Guards: Jess Belasco, Dick Weitzenberg, Lito Pabon, and Peter Delacruz (all FAVA veterans), Military Service Flags Bearers: Bill Bostock, Rob Lewis, Mike De Mayo, Elmer Dy, Ruben Panganiban (also FAVA veterans) > National Anthems – American and Filipino – both sung by Remy Solomon > Welcome Address by Lilia Rivera, President of Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento > Acknowledgement of Special Guests > Introduction of Guest Speaker, Chris Mateo, Project Coordinator, Office of CA Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon > Special Guest Speaker – Steve Magagnini, Retired, Senior Reporter, Sacramento Bee > Presentations of Certificate of Recognition – Cynthia Bonta representing her son Assembly Member Rob Bonta, and Consul General Henry Bensurto, Jr. > Plaque – Dave Tamayo, President, SMUD Board, Stephanie Nguyen, Council Member, City of Elk Grove. > Recognition of Philippine Fiesta News Staff > Brief Remarks from Special Guests > Announcement of Parade Winners (Several organizations received multiple awards). The VIP Reception Luncheon was held inside the Rizal Center.

2019 Filipino Fiesta Participating Filipino Organizations: Aklan Association of Sacramento and Vicinity (AASV) – Danny Yap-Diangco, Frank Zabal (Website and Community Parade); Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club (SMLC) – Sarah Enloe (Souvenir Program); UC Davis – Bayanihan Clinic – Christina R. Musngi (Health Screening); Roseville Volunteers – Cora Paulo (First Aid); United Federation of Filipino American Educators, Sacramento Chapter – Murray Navarro (Main Stage Decoration); Eskwela Natin – Dolores Diaz (Children's Activities); MUMP Ministry of the Poor – Klint Robins (Golden Sun Run); Filipino American Veterans Association – Dick Weitzenberg (Flag Detail); LGBT Community Center – Marcy Basila.

2019 Filipino Fiesta Activities and Entertainment Schedule: PARK WEST LOTUS CASINO STAGE, PA System provided by Rolly Wagas. PERFORMERS: Jordan Segundo (Good Day Sacramento), Janet Tavora, Sinag-Tala, Judith Javier, Makamae Melia O'Polynesia, Apoll Reyes and Tin-Tin Garcia, The Alex Dedal Project, Lawrence Jeremiah "LJ" Matias, Rogeniv Mamaug, Kababayan Band, Mary Ann Shaw, Sacramento LGBT Community Center. SMUD STAGE PERFORMERS (Amphitheatre) MC & Stage Manager – Dick Mazon and Wilma Volcano, DJ Ed Cordero: Face Painting, Vinyl Scratching Demonstration, Carnival Games.

Continued on page 12

# 60 Years of Missionary Presence in Sacramento



The Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, the oldest and largest Filipina Catholic religious congregation, was the first all-Filipina religious congregation for women in the Philippines, founded in 1684 by the Filipina Venerable Mother Ignacia del Espíritu Santo. On May 25, 2019, at St. Paul Parish Church with community leaders with different organization, the RVM sisters celebrated their 60 years of Missionary presence in Sacramento.

## Santa Cruzan

Filipino Family Fraternity Religious May Festival



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

The procession went around the parking area of the church led by Black Cross carrier followed by the Hermanos and Hermanas while the RVM sisters led the recital of the rosary and just behind them were the angels personified by children wearing white dresses.

Crowning of Virgin Mary by Imperatriz Santa Elena Julie Victorina Soohoo.



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# Filipino Fiesta

From page 10

SEAFOOD CITY STAGE Indoor Activities with Dick Mazon & Joey Fortes, PA System provided by Rick Pasalo. PERFORMERS: DA Sounds of Almighty Band, Filipino Youth Group Got Talent Singers (Mhiko and Mika, Zena IRA, Kesy Libid, Mia), Miss Republic of the Philippines Fermina Diane Ramos, D'Dream Girls, Janet Tavora, Lara, Tai Chi, Kapitbahay Line Dancers, Zumba led by Z Crew with Zenny Cusick, Tinikling Exhibition by Sinagtala Ensemble, Joshua Eusebio (Singer), Hip Hop Number by Master "Peace" Dance Company, Karaoke Time hosted by Sarah Jo.

Parade, speeches, and entertainment filled the day, but also with numerous vendors offering food, merchandise, and/or service for the public to enjoy. The most blessed condition of the day was the beautiful weather that cooperated with the wonderful Filipinos on their Fiesta day in Sacramento.

Top Philippine Government Officials who conveyed their congratulations on the program of The Filipino Fiesta: Leni Robredo, the Vice President of the Philippines, and Henry S. Bensusanto, Jr., Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines, San Francisco.

The list of illustrious leaders who congratulated the Honorees were Rob Bonta (Assembly Member, 18th District), Lilia Rivera (President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604 and Filipino Fiesta), Carle and Sarah Enloe (Contributing Writers), Jun and Faina Abaya (Contributing Writers), Gabriel Ortigoza (Contributing Writer), Josie Patria (Past President of FCSV, Filipino Women's Club, and Filipino Fiesta), Tony Daquipa (Editor, Philippine Review, Blogger, The Disruptors), Cynthia Bonta (Founding Director



Photos by Frank Ayran and Dale Esperante

of Philippine National Day Association), Mercedes V. Guerrero & FCSV (President Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc (FCSV), Zenny Yagen & FWC (President of Filipino Women's Club), Alex Avera & IFC (President Ilocano Foundation of California), Joe Gonzalez & PRHF (Chairman Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation), Philippine National Day Association, Sinagtala, Antonio T. Solomon & BoS, USA (President

Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA), Joe & Carina Gonzalez & Family, Henry & Cristina Bambao (Past Presidents of United Naguilian, La Union Circle of America, Inc), Mercy Guerrero and Mina Guerra, Kapitbahay Friend, American Legion Auxiliary, Lourdes Belasco, Maharlika Lions, Mildred-Leila-Remy-Edna, Cabalen Club Ning Sacramento, Filipino Family Fraternity.

Mabuhay to the Filipino Fiesta Organizers and Congratulations to the Honorees, Dave and Dinah San Pedro and their Philippine Fiesta News! We hope to see you all again next year, along with more of your family and friends, on the 122nd Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence! America is the greatest country in the world and we are all blessed to be living here, therefore we must strive to add our best to

the American experience. One of the best things that we can offer is our Bayanihan cultural spirit – referring to the spirit of communal unity, work and cooperation to achieve a particular goal (online: themixedculture.com). Home is where we are now, but the land of our birth will always be a piece of home in our hearts. Mabuhay to all of us!

## Anniversary



DAN and JINKY DOLAR  
27th Wedding Anniversary, June 27



RHUENA and MANNIE BUENTIPO  
37th Wedding Anniversary, June 12



SEGUNDO and AIDA AZURIN  
37th Wedding Anniversary, June 16



DINNAH and DAVE SAN PEDRO  
38th Wedding Anniversary, July 24

# Birthdays



## Eva Evalle

Eva Evalle, a former coworker at Kaiser Hospital and has been long retired as a registered nurse, celebrates her 70th Birthday on June 29 at her residence in Elk Grove, CA. It was a lovely evening of partaking delicious food and fun dancing with family, friends, and former coworkers.



MICHELLE ABAYA  
July 15



AUDREY ABAYA  
July 6



DAVE TAMAYO  
June 24



JOEY ABAYA  
July 29



JOSE P. ABAYA, JR.  
July 28



AYEWAN LAUTENGCO  
July 29



Birthday celebrations for Dinnah San Pedro at the Chuidian residence in Folsom, CA with friends, coworkers and Filipina nurses at Kaiser Hospital for over 30 years.



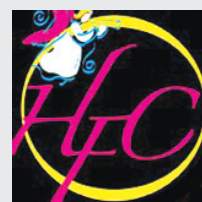
LYNNE MITCHELL and family  
June 27



CAROLINE KANG  
June 24



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## Congratulations to the 2019 – 2020 Magellan Post 604 Officers



BY DALE ESPERANTE

Commander -	Thomas Amaba
1st Vice Commander -	Gualberto (Bobby) Aglubat
2nd Vice Commander -	Fred Calindas
Adjutant -	Richard Weitzenberg
Finance Officer -	Ato dela Cruz
Chaplain -	Ato dela Cruz
Judge Advocate -	Richard Weitzenberg
Assistant Sgt-at-Arms -	Bill Bostock
Service Officer -	Howard Williams

Directors -	Alfredo Amper
	Glenn Carrasca
	Andy Tancioco
	Howard Williams
	Will Williams

Post Installing Officer - Lionel Williams  
 American Legion District 6 Area-1 Membership Chairman



## Korean Veteran Marcelo Ortigoza, Sr.

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

My 91 years old Korean Veteran father Marcelo Ortigoza, Sr. is one of the guests at the 70th Philippine-Korean Diplomatic Relation held at Cultural Center of the Philippines on Tuesday, 25 June 2019. Other guests are South Korean Ambassador Han Dong-Man, US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim, Sen. Franklin Drilon, Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, national artists for music Ramon Gonzales, etc. My father who is a member of PEFTOK (Philippine Expeditionary Force To Korea) that fought toe-to-toe against communist North Korean and Chinese during the 1950-1954 Korean War said he was very much happy with the honor given him and it was his best birthday gift as he celebrated his 91st birthday June 24th. Upon seeing my father entering the door at CCP, South Korean Ambassador Han Dong-Man approached and escorted my father to his chair. It was a



South Korean Ambassador Han Dong-Man salute Veteran Marcelo Ortigoza, Sr.

humbling experience knowing the ambassador himself showed genuine hospitality and welcomed my father that night. On June 27th he will fly to Korea with other

vets and family for Revisit Tour sponsored by South Korean government. Hereunder is a short video and photos from GMA News.

## Jose Dante Rivera

BY DALE ESPERANTE

You gave all of yourself for the people Joe.

We've watched you at numerous formal flag ceremonies. We've watched you as the bearer of the Coast Guard flag almost yearly for the Filipino Fiesta parade. We've seen you in your handsomely tailored Barong Tagalog at Filipino American Veterans Association's (FAVA) Filipiniana. We've admired you leading the ladies to a line dance in the ballroom, to liven up the party. We've seen you stand so handsome and proud in full uniform beside the national flag. We appreciated your company during fundraising dining-ins. We liked the way you stood with us boys in order for all the ladies to be seated. We've seen you taking a photo break after a long evening of partying. We appreciated your assistance in all our veteran and community affairs. We appreciated your contributions when necessary in catering fine dining cuisines for hundreds of guests. We've watched you ladling bowls of New Year's Eve soup to serve the midnight guests of the American Legion Magellan Post 604.

You were everywhere our dear friend. You were there when we needed you. We



Photos by Dale Esperante

will miss you JOE RIVERA. Our loss is Heaven's gain. May you rest in peace Comrade Joe.

On behalf of the whole Filipino American Community of Sacramento and

Vicinity, Philippine Fiesta News wish to express our condolences to Lilia and the Rivera Family. As of this press date, memorial information has yet to be received.



### FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. Filipiniana 2019 & Scholarship Awards Dinner and Dance

Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 6pm to 11:30pm

Jose Rizal Community Center, 7320 Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento, CA

Donation \$40 / Attire-Barong-Filipiniana Dress

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## 90th Birthday Dinner Celebration of Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr.

BY CARLE & SARAH ENLOE

Recently, we were invited to the 90th Birthday Dinner Celebration of Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr. at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, CA on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The invitation requested the pleasure of our company at this special celebration sponsored by the entire the Aducayen Clan. The Aducayen Clan and Friends had come from far and wide to honor and celebrate Ambassador Aducayen's special night. It was interesting to note that Ambassador Aducayen preferred a traditional 90th birthday celebration. This gave a hint of a special night filled with happiness, love, and a lot of memories. We knew we wouldn't be disappointed.

The main ballroom was elegantly decorated for the evening. The Emcee (MC) for the evening was George Edward "Eddie" Aducayen, their son. Following the hospitality hour, the main event began with the Grand Entrance of the Aducayen Clan led by their Son, Eddie and Kristine, his wife. They were followed by their daughter Caroline and Francis Kang, her husband, along with their four children: Dominic; Maria; Christine; and Angel. The next family to enter was another daughter, Dianne and Xavier, her husband, along with their two daughters: Brigitte and Loraine and their families. The final daughter to enter was Linda and Wes Greenway, her husband, along with three of their five children: Chris; George; and Wesley and their families. Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for – the Grand Entrance of the Birthday Celebrant: Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr. and Mrs. Caridad Aducayen, his wife. They and their entire family were met with a rousing round of applause from the guests.

Once the Aducayen Clan took their seats, Mrs. Caridad Aducayen gave a very moving and emotional welcome to the guests. She recalled how she and Ambassador Aducayen met and briefly recounted their years together, to include some of the more fun anecdotes of their long-married life together. The invocation was given by the Reverend Father Leon Juchniewicz, Pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Elk Grove, CA, the Parish of the Aducayen Clan.

As would be expected of such a prestigious occasion, a delicious dinner was served. The guests had their choice of three entrees for dinner. The first was the Double Tree Trio, which was Filet Mignon; Seared Salmon; and Garlic Prawns served with Port Wine, Mustard Tarragon, and Garlic Basil Sauces. The second entrée choice was Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breast with Blackened Mahi Mahi served with Chipotle



Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr. at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, CA on Saturday, February 2, 2019

Pesto Beurre Blanc and a Lemon Zest Butter. The final delicious entrée choice was Baked Eggplant and Vegetable Ratatouille Wellington with a Fire Roasted Red Pepper Sauce. Prior to and during dinner, DJ Brian Tedlos was spinning some groovy tunes for the guests' enjoyment.

As dinner was ending, MC Eddie announced that he had the honor and pleasure to read his Father's, Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr., biography, which follows.

"Hello everyone, my name is Eddie, and I am the youngest and the favorite son of the celebrant. It is with great pleasure and an honor to share with you the biography of my beloved father, Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr. Before I tell you the story of his life, I would like to say that as a son of a diplomat and at a very young age, I had lived a very fortunate life, a life so extraordinary, that I feel very blessed. I am truly grateful to have been able to experience the travels and the different cultures around the world together with my parents, and, I had the opportunity to meet the most interesting people.

When I think about my younger years and the relationship I had with my father, I would say that it was different compared to the average father/son relationship. Don't take me wrong. We have a very positive relationship. What I mean is, when I was born, he was 41 years old, and by the time I was a teenager, he was in his mid-50s. So, we didn't play outdoor sports together and stuff like that, which neither of us were really into anyway. However, while I was more into music, entertainment and the fine arts, he was into politics, current world events and watching the news. He always watched CNN, listened to radio talk shows and always read the newspaper. There was also about seven years of my life where I didn't live with my parents. While they were



Special birthday cake

overseas, I remained living here in the United States. Nevertheless, I have become who I am today, because of my parents and because I am indeed my father's son.

Twenty-four (24) years after his retirement, my father, Ambassador George G. Aducayen, Jr., is still proudly experiencing and enjoying the fundamental elements of a satisfied life – his relationship with his friends and family; the contribution he has made to others' lives; and the celebrated events of his life. He believes that a person is neither better nor worse for the kind of car he drives; the size of his home; or the performance of his mutual funds. What really matters is one's life and how he enjoys it.

After 33 years of a distinguished career in the Philippine foreign diplomatic service, my father retired in 1994 and has since established his residence in Elk Grove with my mother; and me and my

wife, Kristine. He has become assimilated into the Filipino community, attending and gracing social and civic occasions, not only in Sacramento and Vicinity, but all over California and Nevada. He supports all associations of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans for the good that they do in enhancing their lives and in improving their community. Being respectful, friendly and accommodating, my father has been very much sought for as a guest speaker in many community functions.

During the past two decades, my father and I have become much closer than we've ever been. Anything that has to do with food and eating out is something we have in common. We've also had several opportunities of spending quality times together, such as, long distance drives and of course eating out. It's during these times when I take the opportunity to ask my father to tell me stories of his childhood; life during the 50s and 60s; our family history; his career; and even family secrets. And each time he shared his memoirs, I would always picture them in my mind like a black and white motion picture. Oh, I have to say, I'm so grateful for the good health that my father has. It's amazing that at the age of 90, he is still alert and going strong. He even drives long distances, believe it or not.

My father was born on January 8, 1929, in Claveria, Cagayan, Philippines. He is married to my mother, Caridad Almonte Viernes, for almost 70 years and blessed with four children, 11 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. The youngest of four siblings, he is the only one still alive. Considering the place where he was born and the limited opportunities available to children born in the countryside, it would make one appreciate the fact that he is the epitome of the countryside boy who made good.

In his early years, my father did

not grow up with his father, because at the time he was still in his mother's womb, his father, whose name was Gregorio Aducayen, left the Philippines for the United States to live the American dream. His father worked as a building contractor in Montana and continued to support the family in the Philippines. So, from that desolate corner of Cagayan province, my father, with an obvious thirst for education, climbed the ladder of success. He started his elementary education in 1936 which was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II, when the Japanese occupied the Philippines in 1941. Schools were closed in Claveria during the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1946. After the liberation, he resumed his education and received his high school diploma in 1949.

After graduation from high school in 1949, he continued his studies in Manila and finished his Associate in Arts (Pre-Law) at the University of Manila. He continued his studies at the San Sebastian College of Law finishing his law degree in 1954 and passed the bar examinations the same year. My father finished his preparatory law studies and law degree in five years, from 1949 to 1954.

In 1955, my father came to the United States. Do you know how he got here? Not by airplane, but by boat... and do you know how long the travel was? Well, with stops at Hong Kong, Japan and Hawaii, it took him 21 days to arrive in the United States. And yes, my father was literally one of those who you would call "fresh off the boat". As soon as he stepped foot on American soil, it was at the age of 26 when he traveled to Montana to finally meet his biological father for the first time. According to my father, meeting his father was one of the happiest and most emotional experiences of his life. Soon thereafter, his father went back home to the Philippines to reunite with his wife (my father's mother). Where they lived the rest of their lives happily together. One more significant event of my father's life was when his uncle Henry Aducayen (his father's brother) legally adopted him as his son. Later, supported by both his father Gregorio and Daddy Henry, my father took up graduate studies in law and business administration at the University of San Francisco in California. After four years in the United States, he felt very lonely for his family.

A friend at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco suggested that he join the Philippine Foreign Service so that he could bring over his family. Since he was already a lawyer and a member of the Philippine bar, and had attained post graduate studies in

## 90th Birthday Dinner Celebration of Ambassador George G. Aducaen, Jr.

From page 15

the United States, he easily qualified for a position at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.

As a young man, Foreign Service was nowhere in his plans as he wanted to be a corporate lawyer and earn plenty of money as fast as he could. Nevertheless, he reported for duty at the Philippine Embassy in November 1959 and his wife (Caring) and daughter (Linda) arrived the following month on time for Christmas. My sister Dianne was born in San Francisco, and Caroline and I were born in Washington, D.C. My father rose fast through the ranks. In the 11 years that he worked in the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., he served about eight ambassadors. While at the Embassy, he was awarded the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Fellowship in Diplomacy and studied at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, for two consecutive years from 1962. In 1964, he was a grantee of the United States Department of State to study and specialize in all aspects of protocol and diplomatic etiquette.

After a successful stint in Washington, my father was transferred to the Philippine Embassy in Mexico City. From Mexico, my father was assigned to the Home Office in Manila in 1973. In 1976, my father was given the delicate task to establish the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand. This was his first assignment as a full-fledged diplomat and a career consular officer. In 1982, he was next assigned as Consul General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, one of the most important posts in the Foreign Service, because of the large number of Filipino overseas workers there. In 1984, the Philippine Embassy in Jeddah was shifted to Riyadh, and my father was ordered to go to Riyadh to establish this vital post.

In 1986, he was once again assigned to the Home Office in Manila where he was appointed Career Minister and later, Ambassador (ad interim) and Special Assistant to the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs. In October 1988, he requested that he be assigned to Chicago. In 1991, the top position for the Philippine Consulate General in Guam was given to him. In 1994, my father retired after 33 years of illustrious service in the Philippine foreign service.

Over the years, Ambassador Aducaen has received various awards, commendations, citations, and plaques and certificates of appreciation during his tenure in the Philippine government service and after his retirement. In 1999-2000, he was awarded as one of the Twenty Outstanding Filipino Americans in the United States and Canada for Fil-Am Image.

My father's career reached great



The Aducaen Clan



Ambassador Aducaen Birthday Banner



Special birthday cake

heights because of the invaluable help he received from my mother. It has been said that a diplomat without a wife is like an eagle with clipped wings – he can fly but he cannot soar. She was of great help to him for his success as a diplomat. As his wife, being the first Filipino Lady at the post, she set the tone and lead by example.

In 2003, led by my father, the family established the "Aducaen Family Foundation" in our hometown, Claveria, Cagayan. We constructed a multi-purpose building on our ancestral home on which to house a Day Care Center, a Public Library, and a Band (The Michael Aducaen Greenway Memorial Band). Our Foundation's Mission is to be able to help those children who cannot afford to go to school and will aid in preparing them for a brighter future.

In 2007, our family established "The Aducaen Family Charitable Corporation," a registered non-profit corporation in California, to finance the projects of our Foundation in the Philippines. We provide scholarship grants to deserving high school graduates. This school year, thirty (30) pre-grade school children have graduated from the Day Care Center and eight (8) of their college scholars are pursuing their degrees in various colleges and universities in the Philippines.



1929 photo memorabilia

My father's vision is to be able to help the people of Claveria improve their quality of life through education and to continue this living legacy of family giving in perpetuity.

You're the best:

- Driver – 90-year-old driver. He drives as far as San Francisco and Los Angeles
- Mathematician – He still plays mahjong with his friends.
- Multitasker – Surfs laptop, texts, and watches TV at the same time.
- Facebook Friend – likes every post and answers every comment

on his timeline.

- Husband – Grocery shopper and runs errands for Mom. He also has "Ask Ma"!

- Father-in-law – He loves Kristine like she's his own daughter.

- Father – He is always proud and always praising me. Last night, he was so excited about this celebration. He asked me if I needed my shoes polished, and he said that he would polish them for me."

The evening's tributes and entertainment continued with two video greetings from Miss Sweetzel Villa (AFCC

Scholar, who is now a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)) and Mr. Reynald Tomas (AFCC Scholar, who is now a CPA). Following their video tributes, Ms. Sarah Sy performed a song for the Celebrant and his Clan. The entertainment kept getting better as the Kapitbahay Dancers, (consisting of Lilia Rivera; Julie Vergara; Jellyn Ferranil; Nympha Solis; Gigi Perez; and Rosalie Crandall) performed one of their special routines.

Afterwards, Miss Bella Greenway, great granddaughter of Ambassador Aducaen, performed a

beautiful song this special occasion. Following her performance, there were four more tributes to the Celebrant from: Mrs. Maria Kang-Casler, another granddaughter; Mrs. Dianne Xavier, a daughter; Attorney Rene Santiago (a colleague and Past President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines California Chapter); and Engineer Perry Diaz (Family Friend and Community Leader).

Additionally, MC Eddie invited the guests to give their tributes to the Celebrants. The following guests provided their special tributes to the Celebrant: Mr. Joe Stayner, President, Maharlika Lions; Father Edgardo Garcia, Parochial Vicar; Mrs. Juanita Baier, Parishioner; Attorney Derek Leda, MD4 Past Council Chair, Lions Clubs International; Mr. David Casler, Grandson; Dr. Pacita Aducaen, Niece of the Celebrant; and Miss Bella Greenway, Granddaughter of the Celebrant.

Following the tributes to Ambassador Aducaen, Mrs. Remy Solomon and MC Eddie performed a beautiful rendition of the song – "The Prayer". After their performance, MC Eddie made a special presentation to his Father, Ambassador Aducaen.

Then MC Eddie introduced his Father Ambassador Aducaen who gave a very profound speech and thanked all the guests for their attendance and honoring him with their presence. Following his speech, it was time to cut his special birthday cake!

The birthday cake was a beautiful colorful three-tiered specialty cake from Ettore's European Bakery and was designed by cake designer, Merebeth Bajar. The top tier was round covered with fondant with purple, turquoise and white paisleys, which represented Countess Mara neckties, which the celebrant wore lots of. The middle tier was round covered with purple fondant wrapped around with a Rolex Presidential Yellow Gold with diamond bezel and diamond dial. The bottom tier was hexagon shaped, and the 6 sides were designed with the flags of 6 countries which the celebrant was stationed – Philippines, USA, Mexico, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Guam. The cake topper was a custom-made Bobblehead that looked exactly like the celebrant in a black tuxedo. It stood inside a 3-dimensional gold Countess Mara crown. Two other cakes were served, one with the Mercedes Benz emblem and the other with the Salvatore Ferragamo logo. Afterwards, the dance floor was opened for the guests to dance the night away.

Congratulations and Happy 90th Birthday to a very deserving and distinguished Gentleman, our very own Ambassador George G. Aducaen, Jr.





BY CYNTHIA GARCIA

## Filipino Women – A Profile in Caregiving

When I arrived in Canada in the early '70s and started my roots in Toronto, one particular aspect of those early years for me that I found rather fascinating was the caregiving institution that was quite prevalent at the time. It was an established organization and was dominated then by what was popularly known as the British Nanny. Most families that required this special assistance would always seek one through an employment agency.

A British nanny was the most employable among all the other members in her service community in those days. She was a professional childcare provider specially schooled and rigidly trained and there was just no one at the time that could compete with her in the hiring process. She was the most sought-after home support provider particularly in the upper crust segment of society.

But as in any industry, things change and trends take a different path according to a family's requirements and priorities. The economics side of it as well created an important shift in the entire system from its inception to where it is currently at play.

As the years progressed in the caregiving industry, starting in the '80s and well into the 2000's, the significant change had sprung from the other side of the world – caregiving now has women of Asian background attending to the needs of families that require their services. They are the women who find caregiving as a rewarding experience even in overwhelming and exhausting moments because they treat their charges like they are their own families.

It is in this light and through this platform that I will speak of our women kababayans who are now the dominant force in the caregiving system spread all over the globe. I make no apologies for highlighting an area in their situation if some of our readers will contend that I am somewhat biased in choosing them for undoubtedly other nationalities in

the caregiving community are also out there everywhere giving their devoted and wholehearted assistance to those in need.

These selfless, hard-working Filipino women are wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, girlfriends who have chosen to leave their home bases back in the Philippines to work in foreign lands and care for other people's children, the sick, the elderly and those with physical disabilities. The enormous amount of sacrifice that these women experience every single day that they are apart from their own children, their parents and siblings, childhood friends, their neighbourhoods rests at the very heart of the inability and ineptitude of the Philippine government, past and present, to provide jobs with living wages and salaries for them so that they may remain footed in their homelands and do what they do best.



Toronto, Canada

They are degree-holders, professionals, mostly nurses who by simple principle of economics have to go outside of the Philippines to seek work for their own fulfilment and to provide for their family back home. To my knowledge, their work contracts overseas will start off for one year that can be extended depending on the working relationship with the family. Imagine a year of being apart from their loved ones back home – it must seem like eternity to them. It is a huge emotional sacrifice on their part particularly mothers to go abroad and work at the expense of not seeing their children blossom before their eyes. They take care of other people's children while their own are under the care

of other members of the family.

In the Greater Toronto Area, oftentimes I see these young women in the park or on cobblestone sidewalks pushing baby carriages for their afternoon break especially during the summer months and I would sit down and strike up a conversation with them out

of sheer curiosity as well as empathy. And I would always walk away feeling both sad and happy for them, sad because they are apart from their loved ones which is the first thing they are willing to share and talk about in length even showing pictures of their grade schoolers back home and happy because they take pride on what they do. They are comforted by the fact that their children are doing well in spite of their absence in their daily lives. It is like a double-edged sword of living that they do but they focus on the favourable side of things. They persevere with dignity and out of love for their children.

In the condominium complex

where I live and where a sixty percentile of residents are senior citizens (yours truly included), more often than not, I get asked if I knew of a Filipino caregiver who is also willing to do housework on top of the caregiving duties provided to an elderly resident. On these chance encounters, the conversation often leads to other topics indicative that the resident only wants some form of interaction with another resident and subjects about Filipinos and the Philippines are always a wholesome conversational piece. Some have even expressed their desire to travel to the Philippines as a result of other residents with live-in Filipino caregivers who clearly have impressed their elder charges. Good word always gets around about our kababayan caregivers.

Another advantage of Filipino women as ideal caregivers is their ability to converse with anyone in English. This is a fact that is never lost in Canadian society or anywhere around the world. Filipinos from all walks of life can speak English, the most universal of all languages, hence they can interact with anyone they meet. They do very well in the caregiving profession because of their communication skills. A fundamental principle in giving care is for the caregiver to be a good communicator with the person receiving care.

As Philippine customs and traditions have it, we take care of our own families. We do everything to give comfort and care when our children, spouses, brothers and sisters have fallen ill or in distress. We rally around each other and give support in whatever way we can. We care for our aging parents



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SAN PEDRO

and grandparents. We are there for one another in good times or bad. It is not in our makeup, when our elders can no longer fend for themselves, to place them in community nursing homes or retirement facilities and be cared for by other people.

It is this national trait so ingrained in our consciousness that Filipino women have established that goodwill and trust among those who receive their care because they do treat them like their own. Not only are they hard-working members of the caregiving sector of the Canadian society and diligent in their re-

sponsibilities but they are friendly, never complaining and always cheerful in going about their daily childcare and/or eldercare routines.

In Canada, the one advantage available to our kababayans is the option to apply for permanent residency once they have met the eligibility requirements under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP). An established permanent residency is their conduit to petition their immediate family members from the Philippines, settle with them in Canada and enjoy the social benefits that come with the residency. This is THE ONE incentive that is paramount in the minds and hearts of our Filipino women caregivers especially those with young families hence the sacrifice they make in the process. They believe that in the long and short run of the choices they make, a greener pasture is in the horizon for them, a future for their children that they feel is not within their reach back home in the Philippines.

Filipino Women. True Brave-hearts. Indeed, they are.

*Cynthia Garcia continues to enjoy her role as a contributing writer to Philippine Fiesta. She likes watching old movies and network television series with FBI, The Good Fight and Elementary to name a few of her favourite shows. She is an avid reader and is now on her fourth book, "Shelter In Place" by Nora Roberts. She walks for half an hour, which is about 2.7 km, every day at mid-day as a form of exercise in tandem with an old friend.*

*She is still a Toronto, Canada resident.*

# Filipino cuisine gaining popularity in the US

BY BABE ROMUALDEZ

**M**ore people in the United States are now interested in tasting Filipino cuisine. This escalating interest was evident during the first-ever, extremely successful “Taste The Philippines: D.C. Filipino Food Festival” held recently at the District Pier at The Wharf in Washington, D.C.

The event attracted over 12,000 visitors who enjoyed the activities that included cultural and musical performances as well as martial arts demonstrations. Foodies relished samples of Filipino dishes from participating restaurants that include Kaliwa, Kuya Ja’s, Purple Patch, Daikaya, The Game Sports Pub, Ekiben, Timothy Flores and Tigerfork.

Our Philippine embassy booth showcased the best of Philippine coconut products such as Magnolia macapuno ice cream, coconut water, coconut wraps, jam, cereals and buko pancit, with free samples of virgin coconut oil in ready-to-go packs also given to festival goers.

Participating restaurants also presented dishes that made use of coconut, such as the lobster laing from Kuya Ja’s and pastry with coconut and ube from Kaliwa. National Coconut Day is actually celebrated in the US every 26th

of June, so the event was very timely in terms of elevating awareness about the availability of coconut products in the US market. In fact, the US government also recently gave the green light for young coconuts from the Philippines to be exported through all ports in the US.

Actually, because of the growing number of Americans of Filipino descent, more Americans are enjoying Filipino cuisine. Newly elected Congressman TJ Cox (whose mother is Filipina) of the 21st Congressional District of California is one of those. I invited him, his wife Kathleen and their children over at the Philippine embassy residence for a Filipino lunch.

We’re happy to see more Filipino restaurants coming out and taking part in cultural activities such as Filipino Restaurant Week (FRW), a gastronomic festival participated in by 24 restaurants and pop-ups from several states. The FRW was started by the Philippine consulate general in New York in 2015 seeking to highlight Filipino restaurants, with 13 of them initially joining.

The recent FRW showcased various culinary offerings that feature flavors of the Philippines, covering a wide array of Filipino dishes. And for the first time ever – through the efforts of the Public Diplomacy team of the Philippine



Marinated, deep fried pork belly



Chicken Barbecue, Lumpia and Pancit Bihon

embassy in Washington, D.C., new restaurants from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. joined the mainstay restaurants from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Hawaii also held a Filipino Food Week a few weeks ago, with 19 restaurants on Oahu and Maui presenting Filipino-inspired dishes using coconut – the ingredient which was also highlighted during the FRW.

No less than the late American celebrity chef and “Parts Unknown” host Anthony Bourdain foresaw the rise of Filipino cuisine in the consciousness of Americans, even saying that sisig (chopped pig’s head or cheek served sizzling in a skillet and usually with an egg on top) is “perfectly positioned to win the hearts and minds of the world as a whole...”

Bourdain – who said Filipino dishes are among the most underrated but delicious cuisines – was convinced that sisig is the “gateway dish” that will hook the in-

terest of people who have had no prior exposure to Filipino food to look further and beyond. In fact, sisig was our embassy chef Abie Sincioco-Mateo’s winning dish during the 2018 Embassy Chef Challenge that bagged top honors in both the Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice categories.

A National Geographic online article published last month also acknowledged the rise of Filipino food as well in the UK, with lechon, sisig, and adobo among the favorites and must-try dishes. And so, while Thai food and Japanese food have previously captured the imagination of foodies, the buzz about Filipino food is now getting louder, and perhaps this can be attributed to an emerging new generation of chefs.

One of those who easily comes to mind is Filipino-American chef Tom Cunanan of Bad Saint, which is one of the top restaurants in Washington, D.C. Cunanan

– who was born in Olon-gapo and migrated to the US when he was three years old – bagged the Best Chef in the Mid-Atlantic Category during the prestigious 2019 James Beard Awards which is dubbed as the “Oscars” of the world of cuisine, with awardees chosen by more than 600 culinary professionals.

Bad Saint opened in 2015 and immediately caught the attention of food critics, and named the following year by Bon Appetit magazine as the No. 2 best new restaurant in the US. I haven’t tried eating at the 24-seat restaurant yet because I’m told there are very long lines of people waiting to be seated – some as long as three hours. I am told the only one who didn’t have to line up was Barack Obama. But then again, he was the president.

Another Filipino restaurant that is also getting a lot of traction is Ma’am Sir in Los Angeles by young chef Charles Olalia which was included in GQ magazine’s list of Best New Restaurants in America for 2019. Brett Martin, who wrote the review, was especially wowed by the lumpia (deep fried spring roll) and the sisig, describing the latter’s “layer after layer of alternating flavor and texture that I’ve thought of nearly every time I’ve been hungry since.”

It is no exaggeration to say that Filipino cuisine is coming of age in America, and we at the Philippine embassy will surely build on this cultural asset in promoting the Philippines.

## Filipina is named one of ‘RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2019’

BY CAMBIO & CO.

TORONTO, Ontario — Gelaine Santiago, Filipina founder of Cambio & Co., was named one of RBC’s Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2019. Santiago received the prestigious award at a ceremony at One King West Hotel on June 25.

The RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards is a people’s choice awards program that recognizes inspirational immigrants who have made a positive impact on their communities since arriving in Canada.

As the first Canadian national award program, the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards recognizes the achievements of all immigrants including community advocates, volunteers, successful entrepreneurs, and cultural icons.

“These awards not only showcase the richness and diversity that newcomers add to the fabric



Gelaine Santiago speaking at the Fair Trade Fashion event in the Philippines two years ago.

of our communities but also the important role they play in making Canada the success it is today and will continue to do so in the future,” said Ivy Chiu, Senior Director, Newcomer Strategy, RBC.

Santiago was born in Bulacan,



Gelaine and her partner Jérôme Gagnon-Voyer with Filipino artisans whose crafts they retail.

Philippines and moved to Toronto, Canada when she was three years old. In 2015, Gelaine and her partner Jérôme Gagnon-Voyer founded Cambio & Co., an ethical retailer that specializes in “conscious fashion” designed and handcrafted in the Philippines by

talented Filipino artisans. Their aim is threefold: to connect Filipino entrepreneurs and artisans to the global market; to give consumers the opportunity to make an impact through their purchases; to create a space for Filipinos in the diaspora to recon-

nect with their roots by learning about Filipino traditions and history through contemporary, ethical fashion.

Cambio & Co. has grown to include 2,000 customers in the U.S., Canada, and internationally with 10,000 social advocates across the world. It amplifies the work of 12 partners in the Philippines, across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

“I’m thankful to receive this award, not only on behalf of my parents who made the courageous decision to pursue a life in Canada, but also on behalf of the larger Filipino community,” says Santiago. “With Canada’s first ever Filipino Heritage Month, I’m proud to be one of the many Filipinos who are sharing our heritage and culture loudly, fiercely, and unapologetically.”

# FULL LIST: Winners, PMPC Star Awards for Movies 2019

Sarah Geronimo and Kathryn Bernardo tie for Best Actress, while Ogie Alcasid wins Best Actor

MANILA, Philippines —The Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) held its awards night for movies on Sunday, June 2, at Resorts World Manila.

Sarah Geronimo and Kathryn Bernardo tied for the Best Actress award for their respective roles in Miss Granny and The Hows of Us.

Ogie Alcasid picked up the Best Actor trophy for his role in Kuya Wes.

The movie Rainbow's Sunset won Best Picture and Best Director for Joel Lamangan, while Citizen Jake took home the Best Picture in the Indie category and also Best Director for Mike de Leon.

Some of the country's veteran actors and actresses led by Gloria Romero, Ramon Revilla Sr, Tirso Cruz III, Christopher de Leon, Phillip Salvador, and Eddie Garcia were also given special recognition during the event.

**Here is the list of winners:**

**Movie of the Year**  
 Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes – Star Cinema, Quantum Films, The Idea First Company  
 Buy Bust – Reality Entertainment and Viva Films  
 Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral – TBA Studios and Globe Studios  
**WINNER:** Rainbow's Sunset – Heaven's Best Entertainment  
 Signal Rock – Regal Entertainment and CSR Productions  
 The Hows of Us – Star Cinema  
 Through Night and Day – Viva Films, Octo Arts Films, MavX Productions

**Movie Director of the Year**  
 Cathy Garcia-Molina – The Hows of Us  
**WINNER:** Joel Lamangan – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Erik Matti – Buy Bust  
 Jun Robles Lana – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Chito Roño – Signal Rock  
 Jerrold Tarog – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Veronica Velasco – Through Night and Day

**Indie Movie of the Year**  
 Bakwit Boys – T-Rex Entertainment Productions  
**WINNER:** Citizen Jake – Cinema Artists Philippines  
 Distance – Cinemalaya Foundation, The Idea First Company, CMB Film Services  
 Hintayan ng Langit – QCinema, Project 8 Corner San Joaquin Projects, Globe Studios  
 Kung Paano Hinihintay ang Dapithapon – Cinemalaya Foundation, Cleverminds Inc, Cineko Productions  
 Liway – Cinemalaya Foundation, VY/AC Productions, Exquisite Aspect  
 ML – Cinemalaya Foundation, Lonewolf Films, CMB Film Services

**Indie Movie Director of the Year**  
 Carlo Enciso Catu - Kung Paano Hinihintay ang Dapithapon  
**WINNER:** Mike de Leon – Citizen Jake  
 Perci Intalan – Distance  
 Jason Paul Laxamana – Bakwit Boys  
 Benedict Mique – ML  
 Kip Oebanda – Liway  
 Dan Villegas – Hintayan ng Langit

**Movie Actor of the Year**  
**WINNER:** Ogie Alcasid – Kuya Wes  
 Nonie Buencamino – Distance  
 Paolo Contis – Through Night and Day  
 Dingdong Dantes – Sid And Aya: Not A Love Story  
 Eddie Garcia – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Coco Martin – Jack Em Popoy  
 Daniel Padilla – The Hows of Us  
 Piolo Pascual – Ang Panahon ng Halimaw  
 James Reid – Never Not Love You  
 Vic Sotto – Jack Em Popoy

**Movie Actress of the Year**

**WINNER:** Kathryn Bernardo – The Hows of Us  
 Iza Calzado – Distance  
 Anne Curtis – Buy Bust  
 Glaiza de Castro - Liway  
 Alessandra de Rossi – Through Night and Day  
**WINNER:** Sarah Geronimo – Miss Granny  
 Nadine Lustre – Never Not Love You  
 Gina Pareño – Hintayan ng Langit  
 Gloria Romero – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Judy Ann Santos – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes

**Movie Supporting Actor of the Year**  
 Art Acuña – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
**WINNER:** Arjo Atayde – Buy Bust  
 Joem Bascon – Double Twisting, Double Back  
 Tirso Cruz III – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Gabby Eigenmann – Citizen Jake  
 Teroy Guzman – Citizen Jake  
 Tony Labrusca – ML  
 Joel Lamangan – School Service  
 Jeffrey Quizon – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Aaron Villaflor – Mamu and a Mother Too

**Movie Supporting Actress of the Year**  
 Ria Atayde – The Hows of Us  
 Angeli Bayani – Walwal  
 Max Collins – Citizen Jake  
 Sunshine Dizon – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Jean Garcia – The Hows of Us  
**WINNER:** Cherie Gil – Citizen Jake  
 Therese Malvar – Distance  
 Aiko Melendez – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Daria Ramirez – Signal Rock  
 Nova Villa – Miss Granny

**New Movie Actor of the Year**  
 Atom Araullo – Citizen Jake  
 Darren Espanto – The Hows of Us  
**WINNER:** Dancel Fernandez – Otlum  
 Dennis Garcia – Hapi ang Buhay  
 Tony Labrusca – ML  
 Iyah Mina – Mamu and a Mother Too  
 Donny Pangilinan – Walwal  
 Ricci Rivero – Otlum  
**WINNER:** Ryle Santiago – Bakwit Boys  
 Brandon Vera – Buy Bust

**New Movie Actress of the Year**  
 Iana Bernardez – Gusto Kita With All My Hypothalamus  
 Garie Concepcion – The Lease  
 Kisses Delavin – Walwal  
 Mai Fanglayan – Tanabata's Wife  
 Ali Forbes – Rainbow's Sunset  
**WINNER:** Sanya Lopez – Wild and Free  
 Winwyn Marquez – Unli Life  
 Gabby Padilla – Billie and Emma  
 Heaven Peralejo – Harry and Patty  
 Mia Suarez – Hapi ang Buhay

**Movie Child Performer of the Year**  
 Harvey Almoneda – The Lease  
 Noel Comia, Jr. – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Jill Demski – The Lease  
 Mackie Empuerto – Bakwit Boys  
 Miel Espinoza – Pan de Salawal  
 Alessandra Malonzo -Distance  
 Kenken Nuyad – Liway

**TECHNICAL AWARDS**

**Mainstream**  
**Movie Screenwriter of the Year**  
 Noreen Capili and Alessandra De Rossi – Through Night and Day  
**WINNER:** Eric Ramos – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Carmi Raymundo, Gillian Ebreo, Cathy Garcia-Molina – The Hows of Us



Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla accept the award for Loveteam of the Year.

Jun Robles Lana and Elmer Gatchalian – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Rodel Nacianceno – Jack Em Popoy: The Puliscredibles  
 Rody Vera – Signal Rock  
 Rody Vera and Jerrold Tarog – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral

**Movie Cinematographer of the Year**  
 Neil Daza – Signal Rock  
 Neil Derrick Bion - Buy Bust  
**WINNER:** Pong Ignacio – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Shayne Sarte – First Love

Noel Teehankee – The Hows of Us  
 Noel Teehankee – Through Night And Day  
 Rain Yamson, II – Rainbow's Sunset

**Movie Production Designer of the Year**  
 Jay Custodio – Rainbow's Sunset  
 Michael Español and Roma Regala – Buy Bust  
 Marxie Maolen Fadul – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Roy Lachica - Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Erik Manalo – Through Night and Day  
 Mark Sabas – Signal Rock  
 Norico Santos – The Hows of Us

**Movie Editor of the Year**  
 Mai Calapardo - Rainbow's Sunset  
**WINNER:** Jay Halili - Buy Bust  
 Marya Ignacio and Noemi Paguiligan – The Hows of Us  
 Carlo Francisco Manatad - Signal Rock  
 Maynard Pattai - Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Jerrold Tarog - Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Noah Tonga - Through Night and Day

**Movie Musical Scorer**  
**WINNER:** Len Calvo – Miss Granny  
 Jessie Lasaten – The Hows of Us  
 Jessie Lasaten – Through Night and Day  
 Erwin Romulo and Malek Lopez - Buy Bust  
 Jerrold Tarog – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Emerzon Texon – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Emerzon Texon – Rainbow's Sunset

**Movie Sound Engineer of the Year**  
 Lamberto Casas Jr and Aian Louie Caro – Through Night and Day  
 Lamberto Casas Jr and Albert Michael Idioma – Ang Dalawang Mrs Reyes  
 Albert Michael Idioma – Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral  
 Albert Michael Idioma – Signal Rock  
 Albert Michael Idioma and Alex Tomboc –

Rainbow's Sunset  
 Allen Roy Santos – The Hows of Us  
**WINNER:** Steve Vesagas and Whannie Dellosa – Buy Bust

**Movie Ensemble Acting of the Year**  
 Buy Bust – Reality Entertainment and Viva Films  
 Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral – TBA Studios and Globe Studios  
**WINNER:** Rainbow's Sunset – Heaven's Best Entertainment  
 Signal Rock – Regal Entertainment and CSR Productions

**Movie Theme Song of the Year**  
 "Akala" – From the movie The Day After Valentine's / Composed, arranged, and interpreted by Marion Aunor  
 "All Tonight" – From the movie Exes Baggage / Composed and arranged by Len Calvo, interpreted by Midnight Meetings  
 "Dahil Kasama" – From the movie Fantastica / Composed by Obra Maestra, arranged by Theo Martel, interpreted by Vice Ganda and Obra Maestra  
 "Sa 'Yo Na" – From the movie Rainbow's Sunset / Composed and arranged by Emerzon Texon, interpreted by Ice Seguerra  
 "Tropa" – From the movie Walwal / Composed by Mark Robin Ortiguero, arranged by Joaquin Santos, interpreted by Mark Robin Ortiguero, Karlo Maglasang, Adrian Mojado, and Mark Anthony AtiENZA

**Movie Loveteam of the Year:** Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla  
**Indie Movie Screenwriter of the Year:** Mike de Leon, Atom Araullo, and Noel Pascual, Citizen Jake  
**Indie Movie Cinematographer of the Year:** Neil Daza, Kung Paano Hinihintay ang Dapithapon  
**Indie Movie Ensemble Acting of the Year :** Citizen Jake  
**Indie Movie Original Theme Song of the Year:** "Hapi Ang Buhay"

**Indie Movie Sound Engineer of the Year:** Lamberto Casas, Albert Ichael Idioma, Aian Caro, ML  
**Indie Movie Editor of the Year:** Gerone Centeno and Tim Estera, III, Citizen Jake  
**Indie Movie Musical Scorer of the Year:** Paulo Protacio, Bakwit Boys  
**Ulirang Aunor Ulirang Artista Award:** Dante Rivero  
**Ulirang Alagad ng Pelikula Sa Likod ng Camera:** Laurice Guillen

**Mga Natatanging Bituin ng Siglo:**  
 Nora Aunor  
 Tirso Cruz III  
 Christopher de Leon  
 Joseph Estrada  
 Eddie Garcia  
 Anita Linda  
 Niño Muhlach  
 Ramon Revilla, Sr

Susan Roces  
 Gloria Romero  
 Philip Salvador  
 Vilma Santos



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 Fax 916.684.9332

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What are the changes this time around? Share your ideas to motivate others in making everyone is counted.

**RSVP: SacFilipinoCount@gmail.com**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**

Contacts:

Mercy Guerrero  
916-266-1923

Chris Mateo  
916-317-9468

Josie Patria  
916-392-6252

Lilia Rivera  
916-524-8008

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