

Robredo as drug czar: Are you ready for me?

BY JHESSET O. ENANO

Vice President Leni Robredo on Wednesday accepted President Rodrigo Duterte's offer of a lead role in his brutal war on drugs, even though, she said, she expected his administration would try to make her fail.



Vice President Leni Robredo is being surrounded by residents of Sitio Macantog, Barangay Tandang Kutyo in Tanay, Rizal, where she led the ceremonial turnover of solar kits from One Meralco Foundation Inc. The Office of the Vice President, in partnership with Meralco, installed 29 units of solar kits in each household at Sitio Macantog, in which 60 families have no access to potable water and electricity.

Announcing her decision at a news conference, Robredo, 54, said she would use her position as cochair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs to stop the killings in the President's crackdown on narcotics and bring the killers to justice.

"Even if we say this offer is playing politics and that agencies will not follow me and they will do everything for me to fail, I am ready to endure all this because if I could save at least one innocent life, my principles and my heart are telling me, I should give this a try," Robredo said.

Taking a chance

She said she was skeptical about the President's motives but would take a chance.

"I am against the killings of the innocent, I am against abuses committed by officials. He knows my criticism. He knows what I plan to fix," Robredo said.

The President appointed Robredo to the interagency committee against illegal drugs on Oct. 31, but Malacañang announced the appointment only on Tuesday. It came after the President blasted Robredo for saying in an interview with Reuters on Oct. 23 that his war on drugs had overwhelmingly targeted the poor and that police were being allowed to abuse their power.

Robredo said the crackdown was obviously not working, as the drug problem remained prevalent.

The Philippine National Police acknowledges the killing of more than 6,000 mostly poor users and peddlers in antidrug operations, but human rights groups say the real figure could be as high as 20,000.

In the Reuters interview, Robredo said international

help, including from the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, should be sought if the government refused to change tack.

Nothing to lose

On Wednesday, she said she had nothing to lose.

"In the end, the most important consideration for me is simple: If this is the chance to stop the killings of the innocent and to bring to account those responsible, I will take upon this challenge," she said.

"Mr. President, only two and a half years remain in your administration. It's not too late. We can still work on this together," she said.

She added: "They are asking me if I am ready

Continued on page 3

Celebrating Filipino-American History Month



Photo by Dale Esperante

On 19 October 2019, the Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity (FCSV) hosted a celebration of their cultural history month at the Jose Rizal Community Center.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Event Chair Edna de los Reyes introduced a brand-new idea recommended by Bicolandia's Jess Velasco--the showcasing of regional or organizational Filipino cuisine. This evening, the new concept sprouted with eight participating organizations.

Before the showcase of the evening, emcees Mercy Guerrero, Joe Gonzalez, and Dick Mazon introduced the official program. Remy Solomon and Mia Gaerlan sang the Stars Spangled Banner.

Continued on page 9



My Sister's House 16th Annual Run for a Safe Haven



My Sister's House, a private nonprofit organization that serves the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander women impacted by domestic violence.

Everyone deserves a family like yours. BECOME A MENTOR.

California MENTOR Family Health Agency

Ask about our Referral Program!

California MENTOR is seeking loving families with a spare bedroom to support adults with special needs.

Receive ongoing support and \$1,075-\$3,820 a month to help cover the cost of care.

Call Olivia Today! 916.383.9785 ext. 17

www.MentorsWanted.com

The Law Office of **ALEX BRAVO**

PERSONAL INJURY & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Tel. 916-684-4432 Fax 916-684-9332

2230 Longport Ct., Ste. 100 Elk Grove, CA 95758

Law Office of **Michael P. Karr & Associates**

1275 Halyard Drive, Suite 200 West Sacramento, CA 95691

916.443.2595 Fax 916.443.2515

MkarrAssoc.com

Helping people with their Immigration needs since 1991

EAST LAWN EST. 1904

Daniel Lam Unit Sales Manager

Cell: 916-895-6878 FDR Lic# 4255 Cemetery Lic# 54336 CA Insurance Lic# 0M10574 9189 E. Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95624

Heavenly Food Creations "A Full Catering Service" Tel. 916.690.4513

www.heavenlyfoodcreations.info heavenlyfoodcreations1@hotmail.com

Five D's Arts, LLC Custom Screenprinting & Design Photography & Fine Arts

916.835.1450 916.708.3462 dave@fivedsarts.com

Come Dance With Us!

RIZE ALL ARTS CENTER

2232 Longport Ct. Ste. 120 Elk Grove, CA 95758 916.538.3255 or Dance@RizeAll.com

Duterte's way of admitting failure

BY RANDY DAVID

Even on the assumption that he wasn't just being sarcastic, or worse, misusing the Filipino language, President Duterte's statements the other day are the clearest admission that his much-touted war on drugs has failed. He has run out of ideas. And so, he is asking Vice President Leni Robredo, who has been critical of the government's approach to the problem, to take charge of the campaign.



Pres. Rodrigo Duterte

"Sabihin mo sa kanya tanggapan niya. Sisikat siya diyan. Hindi ko nakayanan, baka kaya niya (Tell her to accept it; she'll be famous. I couldn't do it; maybe she can)."

People may recall that Mr. Duterte had boasted during the 2016 electoral campaign that he could end the drug menace within his first six months in office. But one year after becoming president, he began to say that the drug problem was bigger than he thought, and asked for more time. Later, secure in his high survey ratings, he acknowledged that it might take him till the end of his term to lick the drug problem. Now, he is openly saying the problem will likely persist beyond his term.

But that is exactly what serious analysts of the drug problem have been saying from the start. Calculated to create shock and awe, the brutal killing of drug suspects by the thousands did not end the problem. The bulk entry of illegal drugs through the country's ports continued unabated. Convicted drug lords at the national penitentiary are still dealing in drugs, unhampered by their detention.

The offer to Vice President Robredo to be the Duterte administration's "drug czar" has to be taken in the context of this grudging realization that, despite the killings, there has hardly been a dent on the problem. It remains so complex and multidimensional that there is no shortcut to solving it. Mr. Duterte knows this. But the public that adores him and continues to believe in the efficacy of quick fixes backed by political will is only starting to see this complexity.

What is bringing about this realization is the criminal involvement

of high-ranking police officers in the drug trade—an element whose dimensions have not been fully revealed. The exposés at the recent Senate hearings, leading to the resignation of Philippine National Police chief Oscar Albayalde a few months before his retirement, have been, so far, the biggest blow to police credibility.

Albayalde was shown to have interceded for rogue police officers who were under him when he was Pampanga provincial police chief. These men were investigated for recycling confiscated illegal drugs and for extorting money from arrested drug dealers in exchange for their release. Though briefly suspended, none of them spent even a day in jail. When no one was looking, they were quietly reinstated and assigned to other units — in stark contrast to the summary way in which suspected drug offenders from the ranks of the poor are dealt with.

No doubt this scandal has riled Mr. Duterte. Until now, he has not been able to appoint a suitable replacement for the resigned Albayalde. Whom can he trust to head the PNP? But, he gleefully muses, this won't be his problem anymore if Vice President Robredo accepts his offer.

"Pagka tinanggap ni Leni... If anything that has to do with drugs and criminality, you ask her. Siya ang ilagay ko. Tingnan natin. Hindi na ako makialam (The moment she accepts... Anything that has to do with drugs and criminality, you ask her. I will appoint. Let's see; I won't interfere anymore)."

This supposed offer sounds like one totally uttered in pique, originating from wounded machismo

and being criticized by a woman he has dismissed as an unworthy successor to the presidency. Still, in his typical mocking style, Mr. Duterte goes on to paint a scenario of what he is prepared to do to allow the Vice President to solve the drug problem in her own way, and thereby earn some fame. Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo, ever on cue to dress up his boss' naked utterances in policy garb, chimes in with his version of the presidential offer.

"The President renews his offer to the Vice President to become the anti-illegal drugs czar, with all offices, bureaus, agencies or government instrumentalities involved in the enforcement of the law on prohibited drugs placed under her command and supervision with a Cabinet secretary portfolio, to ensure her effectiveness in combating the drug menace."

No self-respecting vice president can conceivably take this as a serious offer. Mr. Duterte might as well step down from the presidency and let Vice President Robredo succeed him if he were half as serious as Panelo makes him out to be. Then, perhaps, in the remaining time of less than three years, under the leadership of Leni Robredo, something meaningful might be achieved. It is time we distinguished data-based programs from populist bluster.

An objective analysis of the drug problem as it exists in the country has to be the starting point of any serious antidrug effort. How many of our countrymen, more or less, are hooked on illegal drugs? What social factors underlie their addiction? What will it take to free them from this pernicious habit? Where are these drugs coming from? How are they brought into the country and by whom? What kind of networks are involved in their distribution? What is the role of the police and of politicians in the maintenance and protection of the drug networks? What kind of reforms are needed to make the police and other antidrug agencies effective instruments in the control of the drug problem? What realistic and measurable goals must be set so that it becomes possible at any point to determine whether we are gaining or losing in the effort to wipe out this social problem?

China vs US: Choosing side

BY EFREN CRUZ

A recent visitor to the Philippines was celebrity author of the book *When China Rules the World*. He presented two arguments — one debatable and the other one disturbing. I found the title of the book disturbing since I have no desire to be ruled by another country, even by China. We have gone through periods of colonization by Spain, America and Japan. None of them were pleasant experiences — to say the least.



During Jacques' public forum, Eddie Yap, Filipino business leader and MAP National Issues committee chairman was in the reaction panel. Here is his reaction to the first Jacques assertion:

"Celebrity author Martin Jacques argued in his global bestseller that China will overtake US as major economic power and will overturn the world order with its own hybrid civilization-cum-. His second thesis rest on the first...China's surge levelled off in 2015 and since then is just running almost parallel to the United States." Yap then showed that since 2016 the US share of world GDP has remained constant at 24% while China's share has also remained constant at 16%. The trend does not indicate crossover in the foreseeable future. In other words, the percentage share of world GDP of the two nations will remain the same in the foreseeable future.

The other assertion that China will rule the world, Eddie Yap had this analysis:

"On a geopolitical topic relevant to us... if one believes Martin Jacques's argument that China will rule, overturn the world order, you may be disturbed by his other assertion — (China will) 'rapidly reassume its traditional place at the center of East Asia, the old tributary system will resurface in a modern form, contemporary ideas of racial hierarchy will be redrawn China's age old sense of superiority will reassert itself.'

Is Jacques articulating China's thinking? Tributary system? It helps China if we buy Jacques's narrative of China domination, as it could ease the neutering process. Could Finlandization be the modern form of the 'old tributary system' they are contemplating? Recall that in times past, the Sultan of Sulu was said to have visited the emperor of China and paid tribute."

During the presidency of Deng Xiaoping, China pursued an external strategy of "hide and bide" Deng pursued a policy of keeping a low profile and looking for "win-win" solutions. During his term, there was no crisis in the South China Sea. This policy changed in 2013 when Xi Jinping became president. He began a policy known as "peripheral diplomacy" or "neighborhood diplomacy." Its stated goal was to turn China's neighborhood areas into a "community of common destiny". Publicly, this "community of common destiny" would be inclusive and win-win cooperation. However, this "neighborhood of common destiny" was and is bound to be dominated by the sole superpower in the region. It also seemed to be

designed to integrate neighboring countries into a Sino-centric network of economic, political cultural, and security relations. Some observer compare this to the tributary system of Imperial China.

China has been asserting its influence through its infrastructure lending program and by flexing its military muscle especially in the South China Sea.

Several news reports have shown that China's economic influence has generated unease with several countries in the region like Malaysia, Pakistan and the Maldives. Concerns have grown over contract terms, corruption and possible debt traps exemplified by Chinese investment in the Hambantota International Port in Sri Lanka. In the Malaysian elections last year, former Prime Minister Mahathir defeated Najib Razak, in part, by openly campaigning against Chinese influence. He then cancelled a \$20 billion railway project funded by China, called the East Coast Rail Link, citing his inability to pay. But now Malaysia has renegotiated with Beijing, reduced the cost by about a third and the project is back on.

Indonesia is another example. It aims to channel multi billion BRI investments into four economic corridors — North Sumatra, North Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, and Bali. Before projects can move forward, however, the Indonesian government is now requiring Chinese investors to comply with four conditions: utilize environmentally friendly technologies, maximize the use of local labor, transfer technological knowledge to local investors; and create added value for upstream and downstream industries in Indonesia.

The increasing rivalry between China and the United States is posing a major geopolitical problem for most ASEAN countries who do not want to take any side in this rivalry. In a speech last May, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong encouraged Washington and Beijing to work together, reconcile their differences and refrain from creating conditions that will force countries to choose between the two superpowers. While he acknowledged that it is natural for China to aspire to become a maritime power, he said China should resolve maritime disputes in accordance with international law rather than by force or the threat of force. He also warned that China's Belt and Road Initiative should bring long term benefits to the countries in the region and does not turn the region "into a closed bloc centered on single major economy."

Trump has adopted a policy of trying to force US companies to leave China. The current trade war has already resulted in more than 50 companies leaving China. This is the greatest challenge for ASEAN countries who would prefer not to choose sides.



Editor's Note

Thanksgiving is around the corner! I know we all have a lot to be thankful for. First thing on my list, is being thankful of Dave's devotion in making this issue to print. We just got back from a week's vacation in the Philippines, but he did not waste time to put the files together for printing. We apologize for being a week late. You will see, in this issue though, several fun coverage of past celebrations and future events that will happen in our community.

This is to extend an invitation, in behalf of the Bayanihan Club, to their upcoming concert to be held at St. Charles Borromeo Church Social Hall on November 30. Do not miss Dave's part at the concert, as he entertains everyone with his onstage painting.

Take part on the Census 2020, come join the Elk Grove City Hall's first Christmas festival on December 7, and participate in the FCSV and the East Lawn Memorial Services' joint fund-raising project for the Filipino community.

With you in celebrations,
Dinnah San Pedro

Robredo as drug czar: Are you ready for me?

From page 1

for this job? My question is: Are you ready for me?"

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said Robredo would be welcome in the Cabinet.

"Her acceptance shows she is smarter than her colleagues in the opposition," Panelo said in a text message.

In blasting her for her criticism last month, President Duterte said he would turn over his law enforcement powers to Robredo and make her lead the crackdown as his drug czar.

But her allies noted on Tuesday that her appointment was not as drug czar but as cochair of the inter-agency committee headed by Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) chief Aaron Aquino.

Her spokesperson, Barry Gutierrez, also said the position mentioned in her appointment was nonexistent, as the executive order that established the committee had no provision for a cochair of the panel.

Panelo said there was no need to amend the executive order to create a position for a cochair of the committee because the President had continuing authority to reorganize the bureaucracy.

Gutierrez also pointed out that the appointment paper sent by Malacañang to the Office of the Vice President did not describe the responsibilities and powers of the committee cochair.

On Wednesday, Panelo, answering reporters' questions, said the scope of Robredo's authority and responsibilities would be discussed by the President and the Vice President.

Panelo referred to Robredo as "drug czar" and said she would be "on top" of the government's crackdown on

narcotics.

Equal rank with Aquino

Asked if Robredo and the PDEA's Aquino were equal in rank on the committee, Panelo replied: "If they are cochair, then they're the same."

Aquino was presiding over a meeting of the committee on Wednesday when Robredo announced her acceptance of her appointment as his cochair.

"Everyone was happy," he said, adding that all agencies on the committee gave assurance that they would support Robredo.

On Monday, Aquino said in a television interview that Robredo would fail as drug czar because she had no experience in law enforcement.

On Wednesday, however, he said he had wanted the Vice President to accept the job so they could "work together" to end the drug problem.

'How can she fail?'

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the talk that Robredo was being set up to fail should be dismissed.

"How can she fail? She cannot fail on her own. She is a member of the committee, she is cochair. So if all these illegal drug campaigns fail, then it is not her failure alone, it's the failure of the entire government," Guevarra said.

He said he expected Robredo to serve in the enforcement cluster that had oversight on actual antidrug operations.

"She'll probably sit there basically to see what's going on, to ensure that the campaign is being done in accordance with law," Guevarra said.

The officer in charge of actual operations, he said, is

another presidential appointee — the commander of the National Task Force on Illegal Drugs.

"The Vice President is not being appointed to that position of overall commander. She is being appointed as cochair of the interagency committee and that spells a lot of difference because that includes policy-making as well. That's where the Vice President can help, being a lawyer," Guevarra said.

The PNP also welcomed Robredo's acceptance of her appointment.

"As a member of [the interagency committee], the PNP will extend to her utmost courtesy, cooperation and full support toward the attainment of a drug-free Philippines by 2022," said Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac, the PNP spokesperson.

Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, the former PNP chief who pursued the drug war at the peak of the killings, said he was optimistic that Robredo would be able to contribute to the effort to eradicate the drug problem.

'Not bed of roses'

But he warned that deaths could not be avoided in the fight against drugs.

"War is not a bed of roses. You cannot go into it by just looking cute," he said.

Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go, President Duterte's former longtime aide, said he wanted Robredo to succeed. "We will help you as long as we save the innocent (victims)," he said.

He said, however, that "[w]e need to kill the drug lords."

In a statement, the Liberal Party, which is headed by Robredo, said that if the Vice President is given the powers she needs, the drug war can become part of the war against poverty.

Dela Rosa tells Robredo: 'This is war... hindi ka pwedeng pa-cute dito'

BY CHRISTINA MARIE RAMOS

MANILA, Philippines — "This is war, giyera ito; you have to fight, hindi ka pwedeng pacute-cute dito (you can't play cute here)."

Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa gave this piece of advice to Vice President Leni Robredo, who recently accepted an additional task from President Rodrigo Duterte as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD).

Dela Rosa, also known as the architect of the Duterte administration's bloody drug war, said Robredo "has to be tough" now that she has joined the anti-drug campaign.

"Ang sinalihan niya is war on drugs at ang kalaban mo diyan ay mga siraulo, ang kalaban mo diyan ay malalaking sindikato. So how can you wage a war without fighting? So, she has to fight," Dela Rosa told reporters at the Senate.

(She joined the war on drugs and the enemies there are crazies, the enemies are big syndicates. So how can you wage a war without fighting? So, she has to fight.)

"She has to be tough," he added.

Robredo, in a press briefing, said that one of the things she considered in accepting the position was the lives she could potentially save if she would be involved in efforts to fight the proliferation of drugs in the country.

"Kung maiwasan ang killings, iwasan (If we can avoid killings, avoid). Pero (But) how do you... war na



Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa

ito eh (this is already a war), kalaban natin eh mga siraulo (we are against kooks), kalaban natin mga aramado (we are against armed people). Kita mo 'yung pulis (Look at the police), 120 plus policemen namatay sa (were killed in this) war on drugs, so mamatay ba 'yun kung walang lumalaban (so would those cops be killed if there's no resistance), may lumalaban talaga (but there's resistance)," Dela Rosa went on.

As he welcomed Robredo's decision to accept Duterte's offer, the senator also advised the Vice President to treat the drug problem as a social problem and not a political one.

"You look at the problem, not as a political problem. 'Wag mo siyang tignan na politika itong problema na ito, tignan mo talaga ito as a social problem (Do not look at it as a political problem, you should really look at it as a social problem)," he said.

Asked to explain why he thinks Robredo could taint the anti-drug campaign with political color, Dela Rosa said: "What do you expect? She comes from the other side of the fence."

"Sa opposition siya so sana pagpasok niya diyan sa giyera na 'yan, i-assume

niya ang role niya as 'Ako'y isang Pilipino, gusto kong linsin ang aking bansa sa droga.' Hindi papasok na 'Ako'y isang opposition, bantayan ko 'yung mga ginagawa ng administrasyon na ito, kung anong mali haharangin ko'," he added.

(She's from the opposition so hopefully as she enters the war on drugs, she assumes the role as 'I am a Filipino, I want to rid the country of illegal drugs.' Not as 'I am an opposition, I will be guarding against what this administration is doing, whatever is wrong I will block'.")

Nevertheless, Dela Rosa said he is optimistic that the drug war would become "more successful" with Robredo "on board."

"Isipin mo, number two highest official in the country sumama sa ating war on drugs. So, I'm so happy. From the bottom of my heart, I thank her for joining in this fight," he said.

(Come to think of it, number two highest official in the country joined in our war on drugs. So, I'm so happy. From the bottom of my heart, I thank her for joining in this fight.)

"I'm very optimistic, mas lalong magiging successful 'yung ating war on drugs with her on board dahil additional perspective on the war on drugs, the more the merrier," he added.

(I'm very optimistic that our war on drugs will be more successful with her on board because she could give an additional perspective on the war on drugs, the more the merrier.)



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

916.443.2595 Fax 916.443.2515

MkarrAssoc.com

Helping people with their Immigration needs since 1991

Adjustment of Status
Family Visa Petitions
Citizenship
V-Visas
Fiance Visas

Deportation Defense
Hardship Waivers
Battered Spouse Petitions
Asylum
Work Permits

Labor Certification/Immigrant worker Visas
World-Wide Visa Processing
Appeal to Board of immigration Appeals
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
Consultations on Criminal Defense of Aliens

Speak Spanish, English, Tagalog and Cebuano

Call now for an initial consultation!

The Richest and 'Poorest' Senators of the Philippines in 2019

Billionaire senators Villar and Pacquiao retain the top spots.

BY ANRI ICHIMURA

Based on the latest statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALNs) released by the Senate of the Philippines, Senator Cynthia Villar continues to hold on to the top spot of wealthiest senators in the Philippines.

According to her latest declared SALN, as of June 30, 2019, Villar's net worth is currently at P3.5 billion, making her the richest Philippine senator, after the second richest senator, Manny Pacquiao, whose declared net worth is posted at P3 billion.

For seven years running, Villar has been the richest senator since she assumed office in 2013.

THE RICHEST AND POOREST PHILIPPINE SENATORS			
Senators Ranked Based on Their Latest Declared SALNs			
Rank	Senator	Net Worth	
1.	Sen. Cynthia Villar	P3,534,412,797	
As of June 30, 2019			
2.	Sen. Manny Pacquiao	P3,005,808,000	
As of Dec 31, 2018			
3.	Sen. Ralph Recto	P555,324,479.82	
As of Dec 31, 2018			
Rank	Senator	Net Worth	As of
4.	Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri	P 182,851,570.34	December 31, 2018
5.	Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.	P 164,203,379.38	June 30, 2019
6.	Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara	P 139,026,597.00	June 30, 2019
7.	Sen. Franklin Drilon	P 97,729,758.00	December 31, 2018
8.	Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian	P 96,210,607.14	December 31, 2018
9.	Sen. Grace Poe	P 95,693,450.37	June 30, 2019
10.	Sen. Pia Cayetano	P 82,308,227.36	July 01, 2019
11.	Sen. Richard Gordon	P 71,120,700.30	December 31, 2018
12.	Sen. Vicente Sotto III	P 70,120,700.30	December 31, 2018
13.	Sen. Manuel Lapid	P 69,910,000.00	June 30, 2019
14.	Sen. Francis Tolentino	P 62,482,000.00	June 30, 2019
15.	Sen. Nancy Binay	P 59,911,019.00	June 30, 2019
16.	Sen. Panfilo Lacson	P 42,442,341.00	December 31, 2018
17.	Sen. Imee Marcos	P 29,970,467.00	June 30, 2019
18.	Sen. Koko Pimentel	P 29,934,635.00	June 30, 2019
19.	Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa	P 28,258,908.00	June 30, 2019
20.	Sen. Joel Villanueva	P 26,921,555.00	December 31, 2018
21.	Sen. Francis Pangilinan	P 16,695,176.04	December 31, 2018
22.	Sen. Risa Hontiveros	P 15,627,176.04	December 31, 2018
23.	Sen. Bong Go	P 15,508,370.82	June 30, 2019
24.	Sen. Leila de Lima	P 7,706,392	December 31, 2018

Villar's husband and former senator Manuel Villar is currently the richest man in the Philippines, according to Forbes.

Pacquiao has followed close behind as the second richest senator since 2016, when he was elected into office. The two are the only billionaires currently serving as senators. Villar's wealth stems from her family's billion-dollar property and housing businesses, while Pacquiao amassed his wealth largely from his career as a professional boxer.

After Villar and Pacquiao, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, and Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. close the top

five richest senators, with P555 million, P183 million, and P164 million in net worth, respectively.

Meanwhile, the "poorest" senators based on their declared SALNs are Senators Leila de Lima, Christopher "Bong" Go, and Risa Hontiveros. De Lima's declared net worth is posted at P7.7 million, the lowest of all sitting senators; Go's net worth is declared to be P15.5 million; while Hontiveros' net worth is P15.6 million.

According to Joint Resolution No. 1 of the Constitution, members of the Senate receive a monthly salary of P35,000, while the Senate President receives a monthly salary of P40,000.

The updated SALNs, most of which are dated June or July of this year, come from the 12 newly elected and reelected senators of the 2019 midterm elections. The SALNs of the remaining 12 senators who were elected in 2016 are still dated December 2018.

Newly elected and reelected senators

Despite being among the senators with the lowest net worth, Go spent the most during the 2019 General Elections, according to the Statements of Contributions and Expenditures (SOCEs) released by the Commission on Elections last June.

After Go, Tolentino and Poe spent the most during the elections with P159 million and P156 million in expenditures, respectively. Villar, currently ranked the richest senator in office, did not receive any contributions, despite spending P135 million during the campaigns. The amount is suspected to have come out of her own pocket.

However, the SOCEs of the elected senators in the 2019 elections show a disparity between the declared expenditures of the candidates and reports from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, an independent poll watcher and media organization, which claims that some senators spent as much as P400 million during the campaign period.

See you in court: Marjorie dares Claudine to prove claims she'd hurt mom

BY CHRISTINA MARIE RAMOS

MANILA, Philippines — The feud between the controversial Barretto sisters appears to be far from over and seems to be even further heating up.

This as an ostensibly fuming Marjorie has dared Claudine to prove her allegations that she tried to "physically hurt" their mother, Estrella "Inday" Barretto.

"My Heart breaks for my mom. Although this didn't surprise me bcoz she does this all the time. Earlier this year she was going to hurt my mom physically & in so many more times. Now that my

Dad is not around I promise on my father's grave that this will never happen again," Claudine wrote on Instagram over the weekend.

"This was the argument my mom & Marjorie had regarding Julia's 500k hospital contribution (in exchange for my parents Subic home) #gooddaughter," she added.

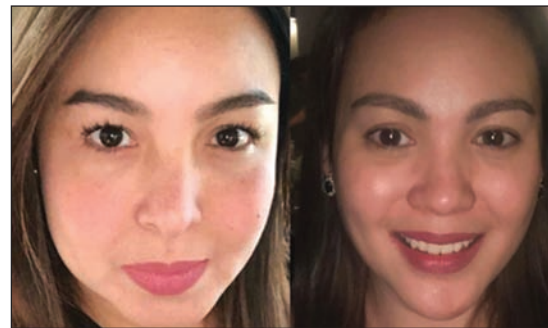
Commenting on her younger sister's Instagram post, Marjorie refuted Claudine and challenged her to prove "this twisted story of yours in court."

"Prove that I have ever tried to physically hurt my Mother. And PROVE this was the argument that my Mom and I had about Julia giv-

ing 500k in exchange for the Subic home. PROVE it. Because it was only when Dad was dead that Julia paid the 500k and so much more than any of us," Marjorie's comment further read.

"And how we repeatedly Made it clear Julia was not buying the Subic house, long before Dad died, that was clear to all, all siblings knew that you wrote it down in your paper, and you were recording it from your phone without our consent," she added.

Marjorie then accused Claudine



Marjorie and Claudine Barretto.

a video where Marjorie could be heard saying: "Hay nako, we're leaving na, super drama to death si ano... Inday... baka masapak ko." (We're leaving, super drama to death... Inday... I just might hit her.)

However, in an earlier statement sent to PEP.ph, Marjorie said she was not referring to her mom when she said "Inday" in the now-deleted video, noting that she was in good terms with her mother.

of "making up this story."

"I will See you in court, the rest of the family (will) stand by me as witnesses," she added.

Before this, Claudine had posted

Time to Re-roof

Best Service! Best Price!

CAPITOL ROOFING COMPANY



We do all types of roofing.

Joseph E. Stayner
(President)

License No. C39-794669

6205 48th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95828

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!
Tel. 916.381.2863 Fax 916.381.7557



What It Means to Evacuate

How do you pack a go bag when you might be leaving everything behind for good?

BY LILI LOOFBOUROW

Deb Smith and her mother, Sandy, had been forced to evacuated before. That time, they hadn't been together.

In 2017, Sandy, 78, a stroke survivor with close-cropped hair, had been in a nursing home in the Fountaingrove neighborhood of Santa Rosa recovering from bronchitis when she'd been woken up at 3 in the morning. "They woke us up," Sandy said, "and said 'Hurry up, get up, and come. Don't pick up anything, just come.'" She was loaded up into the front of an ambulance and watched as other patients were taken out of their wheelchairs and loaded into vehicles, too. "I watched the flames shooting up as high as you could see." ("Right there, on either side of the street," Deb interjects.) "I understand they melted," Sandy said of the wheelchairs that were left on the sidewalk. "That's what I'm told."

Two years later, they've had to evacuate again.

Evacuations are alarming in their own right, even when the wheelchairs don't melt



A firefighter walks through a burned property after the Kincade Fire tore through Healdsburg, California.

and you return to a thankfully unburned home. Residents become something else—evacuees—and that nerve-racking, provisional redefinition of one's place in the world seems poised to become a more common aspect of California life. Fires have never been rare here, as many Californians are quick to point out; still, it's concerning that even places that burned just two years earlier

are once again at risk. Being an evacuee—in California for fires, and elsewhere for other disasters influenced by a changing climate—is a limbo state that more and more Americans are regrettably learning to occupy. And it's hard in ways that even the happiest outcomes don't quite paper over.

I hadn't appreciated what evacuating really means.

This time, when they received the evacuation warning on Oct. 26, Deb and Sandy were together, as they have been for most of the last 11 years. I met the pair at an evacuation shelter in Petaluma, where they'd spent four nights after leaving the double-wide they own in a Santa Rosa mobile home park for people over 55. "This time we found it was a really different experience," Deb, a former hospital chaplain, told me. "We were going to bed, and Mom picked up her iPad and just looked at where the fires were. ... So I called to see if there would be a warning the next day because we didn't smell smoke or anything, and they said 'You are not on a watch, you are on a warning, you need to have your car packed and be ready to go on 5-minute notice.' And it was just accident that we happened to know that. We're both disabled ... and all of a sudden we're loading up things."

long been proud of my ability to travel light. "That's it?" he said when he saw my tote. "That's all you want to save?"

I realized, then, that I'd misunderstood my own assignment. I thought we were packing only what we needed to survive a few nights away from home. I hadn't appreciated what evacuating really means: saying a provisional goodbye to everything but what you can carry. And figuring out what the discrepancies are between what you must bring and what you can.

What things? I asked. It's something I'd been thinking about myself. A day or two earlier, the Lafayette Fire had been within a few miles of my home. We were in no immediate danger, but the East Bay hills have burned before and it's possible they'll burn again. So I'd suggested to my partner that we pack as an experiment, just to get used to the idea. We had an emergency kit we'd assembled in case of earthquakes; on top of that I threw in some underwear and socks, chargers, a backup drive, and a toothbrush, with a bag of dog food and some leashes. I've

"Took us about an hour and a half to get everything packed and to get the car loaded," Deb told me, ticking off things she was trying to remember that night—her mother's medical equipment, medicines, everything the cat needed. "And just after we got the necessary things, there was room for one box for things we wanted, sentimental, to put things in the trunk. That was kind of hard." She chose some pictures and a few mementos. "And I put my mom's great aunt's beautiful dish in the freezer, because if it burns then the freezer would protect it."

FUN RUN * PARADE * TREE LIGHTING * HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE * EXHIBITS

illumination
Holiday Festival

Experience the season with sparkle and shine at the inaugural IllumINATION Holiday Festival, a new multicultural family celebration at District56. Elf yourself and join a holiday fun run or enter the beloved Holiday of Lights Parade at its new location.

Bring your family and friends to the City's first official tree lighting and shop amongst the holiday peddlers and get into the holiday spirit!

SAT DEC 7

RUNNING OF THE ELVES
3:00pm registration/check-in
4:30pm run

PARADE OF LIGHTS
6:00pm

FESTIVAL
4:00pm holiday marketplace
7:30pm tree lighting

Many Cultures, One Celebration
Visit elkgrovecity.org/illumination for details.

If you are being abused physically, sexually, emotionally, or financially...help is only a phone call away.

My Sister's House (free) services:

- 24/7 Multi-lingual Help line (916) 428-3271
- Safety planning, information and referrals
- Outreach, training, and education to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking
- Shelter for abused women and children

Source: gettyimages.com

24/7 Multilingual Crisis Line (916) 428-3271
www.my-sisters-house.org
info@my-sisters-house.org

My Sister's House
A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children

mysistershouse (Facebook)
MySisters_House (Twitter)
my_sisters_house (Instagram)

EMPIRE OF DEBT China 'colonising smaller countries by lending them massive amounts of money they can never repay in bid for world domination'

BY GERARD DU CANN

Defaulters have been pressured into surrendering assets and territory or allowing military bases on their land

CHINA is "colonising" smaller countries by lending them massive amounts of money they can never repay, it's been claimed.

The country is accused of leveraging massive loans it holds over small states worldwide to snatch assets and increase its military footprint.

Developing countries from Pakistan to Djibouti, the Maldives to Fiji, all owe huge amounts to China.

Already there are examples of defaulters being pressured into surrendering control of assets or allowing military bases on their land.

Some are calling it "debt-trap diplomacy" or "debt colonialism" - offering enticing loans to countries unable to repay, and then demanding concessions when they default.

Sri Lanka provided a prime example last year. Owing more than \$1billion (£786million) in debts to China, Sri Lanka handed over a port to companies owned by the Chinese



China has the world's largest military by personnel

government on a 99-year lease.

And Djibouti, home to the US military's main base in Africa, also looks likely to cede control of a port terminal to a Beijing-linked firm.

America is eager to stop the Doral Container Terminal falling into Chinese hands, particularly because it sits next to China's only overseas military base.

Last March ex-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Beijing encouraged "dependency using opaque contracts, predatory loan practices, and corrupt deals that mire nations in debt and undercut their

sovereignty".

Chinese tourists flock to Scotts chippy in North Yorkshire after then president Xi Jinping visiting with PM David Cameron in 2015

A report from The Center for Global Development offers some insight into the spreading China debt.

It shows how infrastructure project loans to the likes of Mongolia, Montenegro and Laos have resulted in millions or even billions in debts, which often account for huge percentages of the countries' GDPs.

Many of these projects are linked to the "Belt and Road" initiative - a

bold project to create trade routes through huge swathes of Eurasia, with China at the centre.

Participating countries often undertake work on roads and ports with part-funding from China.

More recently, China's debt empire has been rearing its head in the Pacific, prompting fears the country intends to leverage the debt to expand its military footprint into the South Pacific.

Beijing's creation of man-made islands in the disputed South China Sea for use as military bases suggests the concern may be warranted.

In April China made these intentions more obvious - approaching Vanuatu about setting up a military base.

Australia expressed alarm at this move, which would effectively increase Chinese military presence on a key gateway to Australia's east coast, The Times reports.

Vanuatu owes £191million to China, according to one think tank.

Among the projects this money funded was the largest wharf in the South Pacific - considered capable of accommodating aircraft

carriers.

China's futuristic new 'laser AK-47' assault rifle that can incinerate targets from 1,000yds away

Tonga also carries some big debts and has already admitted to struggling with repayments.

Tongan PM Akilisi Pohiva said on Wednesday that he was concerned Beijing was preparing to seize assets from his country.

He urged other Pacific islands to join voices in calling for loan write-offs.

Two loans from China's Export Import Bank totalling more than £91million equal a quarter of the country's GDP.

He told Australia's ABC: "It has become a serious issue. We have debt distress."

Pohiva said with China debt becoming so prolific, it was no longer a problem to be dealt with individually.

He added: "I think these small countries will eventually come together to find a way out."

China defended its lending practices, saying they were "sincere and unselfish", and insisting it only lent to countries that could repay.

Tonga is one among a list of South Pacific countries that have taken on debt in recent years.

'People of Hong Kong' nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

The initiative is likely to displease China, which was already angered by the Nobel Committee's 2010 decision to give the award to imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who has since died

Agence France-Presse

Oslo, Norway - A Norwegian politician has nominated the "people of Hong Kong" for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, in a move which risks drawing China's ire.

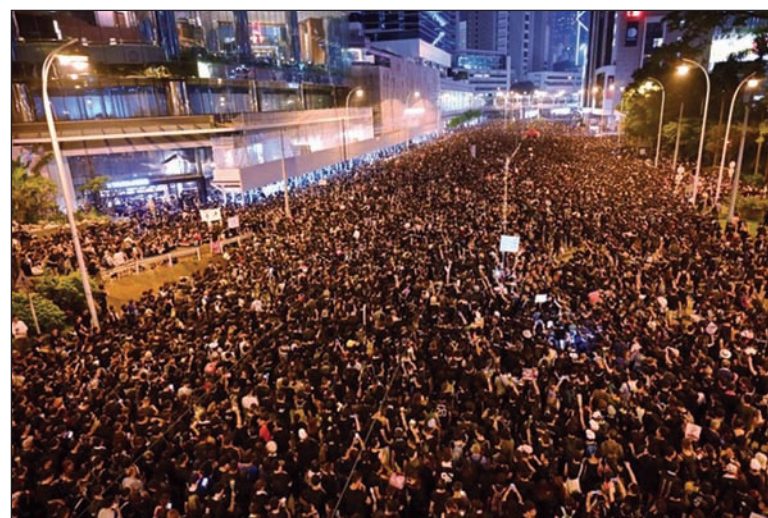
"I have nominated the people of Hong Kong, who risk their lives and security every day to stand up for freedom of speech and basic democracy, to the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020," Guri Melby, a member of Norway's parliament for the liberal party, said in a Twitter post on Tuesday, October 15.

In an interview published by newspaper Aftenposten on Wednesday, October 16, Melby explained that "what they do has an impact far beyond Hong Kong, both in the region and in the rest of the world."

The former British colony is going through its worst political crisis since its return to China in 1997.

Millions have taken to the streets of Hong Kong, initially against a now-dropped bid by its leaders to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

But after Beijing and Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam took a hard line, the movement snowballed into a broader push for democracy and police accountability.



HONG KONG PROTESTS. Thousands of protesters dressed in black take part in a rally against a controversial extradition law proposal in Hong Kong on June 16, 2019. File photo by Hector Retamal/AFP

Activists say freedoms are being eroded by Beijing, contrary to a deal that outlined Hong Kong's 1997 return to China from British colonial rule.

froze its relations with the Scandinavian country, suspended negotiations for a free trade agreement and blocked imports of Norwegian salmon.

Melby's initiative is likely to displease China, which was already angered by the Nobel Committee's 2010 decision to give the award to imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who has since died.

Although the Nobel Committee is independent from the government in Norway, Beijing

Relations between the countries did not normalize until December 2016, after Oslo committed to not "support actions that undermine" Chinese interests.

Nominations are however common and this year the Nobel Committee had to pick from 301 candidates.

In the end the prize was awarded to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his work in resolving the conflict with bitter foe Eritrea.

Five Ds Arts
Screenprinting and Design

Pinay

916.835.1450 / 916.708.3462

Leni buckles down to work; Ping ready to share anti-drug strategy

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Vice President Leni Robredo has buckled down to work as the government's new drug czar by sending invites for a meeting with the members of the anti-drug body.

Robredo, who is the leader of the opposition, said her meeting with member-agencies of the Inter-agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) is set tomorrow afternoon at the Quezon City Reception House.

She will now head the ICAD, with Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director-General Aaron Aquino, who is expected to brief Robredo on the status of government's war on drugs.

"Iyong number one na concern natin 'yung patayan, kasi naniniwala ako na kaya nating ituloy ang laban with the same vigor, na within the bounds of rule of law, human rights, 'yung standards of procedure so iyong ang aalamin natin (Our number concern is the killings, because I believe we can continue the fight with the same vigor, within the bounds of rule of law, human rights, standards of procedure so that's what we would find out)," she said.

"Ang iibahin talaga natin, iyong manner by which ginagawa ito (We will change the manner how it is being done)," Robredo stressed.

As this developed, Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson confirmed on Thursday that Robredo has formally expressed her interest in seeking his suggestion and expertise in law enforcement to help her in her new role as co-chair of the government's anti-illegal drug task force.

Lacson said they are arranging their schedules so they can sit down and discuss the matter, following her decision to accept the position of co-chair of ICAD.

"Yes. We are fixing our schedule to sit down," Lacson said in a text message to reporters.

"I am grateful and humbled by her gesture. More than that, it shows her sincerity and seriousness in tackling her new task," added Lacson.

Robredo noted there is much work to be done following her acceptance of the ICAD post. Among these include studying the enforcement side of the



Vice President Leni Robredo

campaign against illegal drugs.

"Iyong minamanager ko lang kasi sa opisina maraming kaming ginagawa, iyong minimum disruptions sa ginagawa namin pero dadagdagan namin 'yung oras ng araw namin para maasikaso 'yung lahat ng problema sa bagong assignment (We just have to manage it because we have much work in the office, the minimum disruptions on what we do, but we will add more hours in our day to deal with the problems on the new assignment)," she added.

The Vice President said she is ready to meet Duterte and attend Cabinet meetings as long as she is invited.

"Kapag pinatawag ako, pupunta naman ako (When I'm called, I'm going to attend)," she told reporters.

Robredo was not able to attend the Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday evening.

Asked about her working relationship with Aquino, Robredo said she was not taking it personally after the PDEA chief had earlier doubted her capability to lead the campaign.

"For me, I don't take it personally. I'm not affected, because for me this is work. I don't take the comments personally. There is no space for emotions in our job,"

Meanwhile, President Duterte welcomed the decision of Robredo to accept his offer to be the government's drug czar, saying this will give the latter the opportunity to know the realities on the ground, especially with the so-called extrajudicial killings.

"The President mentioned it was good that Vice President Ma. Leonor Robredo accepted his formal offer to co-chair the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD)," Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said after a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang Wednesday evening.

"With the Vice President

at the helm of the anti-narcotics campaign, President Duterte expects that the former would see the realities on the ground, particularly with respect to the government's position against extrajudicial or state-sponsored killings, and understand that deaths occur due to the violent reactions on the part of agents of the illegal drug trade against the strict enforcement of the law," he added.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said the Vice President had already called for a meeting in the ICAD. Panelo said this move by the Vice President did not surprise him.

"Ibig sabihin (It just means) she is very dedicated to assume her new job," he said.

However, while the Palace is yet to formally invite the Vice President to Malacañang, Panelo said it would now be up to Robredo if she would still want to talk to the President about her new role.

"Palagay ko dapat si VP Leni ang mag-request. Member of the Cabinet na siya, eh. Palagay ko pupunta si VP Leni dito (I think it's the Vice President who should request for a meeting with the President since she's now a Cabinet member. But I think she'll come here)," he said.

"Depende kung ano pa ang gusto niyang malaman kay Presidente. Ibig sabihin nagtatrabaho na siya (It's up to her if there are still things she wants to learn from the President. But it means she's already working)," he added.

President Duterte offered the post of drug czar to Robredo in late October after she criticized that the drug war was a failure and needed reassessment.

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary and spokesman Jonathan Malaya on Thursday said Robredo can provide fresh ideas now that she is the ICAD co-chairman.

Malaya said the Vice-President may impart alternative strategies since the administration is one with her in curbing the illegal drug trade in the country.

Robredo had earlier called for a reassessment of the Duterte administration's strategy in combating illegal drugs in the country.

Vietnam might pursue legal action over South China Sea dispute

BY PATRICIA LOURDES VIRAY

Amid rising tensions with China, Vietnam is considering pursuing legal action over the maritime dispute in the South China Sea.

Earlier this year, the two countries were involved in a standoff after China deployed coast guard vessels and survey ships at Vanguard Bank.

Beijing called on Hanoi to respect its claims on the region while the latter asked China to immediately withdraw its ship.

While Hanoi prefers negotiations to settle the maritime dispute, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung said the country has other options, according to a Reuters report.

"We know that these measures include fact-finding, mediation, conciliation, negotiation, arbitration and litigation measures," Trung said at a South China Sea forum in Hanoi.

Trung told the forum that maintaining peace and stability, as well promoting cooperation in the South China Sea are also



Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung said Hanoi preferred negotiations with Beijing to settle the South China Sea dispute but noted that Vietnam also has other options.

interests of the international community.

"The UN Charter and [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea] 1982 have sufficient mechanisms for us to apply those measures," he said.

2016 Hague ruling

In July 2016, the UN-backed arbitral tribunal issued a landmark ruling in favor of the Philippines, invalidating China's nine-dash line claim over the South China Sea.

More than three years since the arbitral ruling was announced, Beijing continues to ignore the arbitration and insists indisputable sovereignty over the region.

The Philippines, under the Duterte administration, also set aside the ruling in exchange of seeking stronger ties with China.

President Rodrigo Duterte said he would invoke the arbitral ruling with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their last meeting in August. The two leaders, however, agreed to continue dialogue and work on a code of conduct on the disputed sea.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said Duterte and Xi agreed to disagree but their opposing views on the issue should not "be a reason for them not to talk and continue with the dialogue to peacefully resolve the conflict."

DFA chief to protest China's warning flares vs Philippine military planes

BY PATRICIA LOURDES VIRAY

The Philippines' top diplomat is awaiting confirmation on China's firing of warning flares against Philippine military aircraft patrolling the West Philippine Sea.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said he will fire a diplomatic protest against China when the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) confirms the report.

"I don't trust civilian sources they lie as they breathe. When NICA confirms I fire protest. We can trust only the Armed Forces to tell the truth," Locsin tweeted Wednesday.

The report, however, came from Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Maj. Gen. Reuben Basiao.

The general reported to the House Committee on National Defense and Security that Beijing had been making "significant



Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. will file a diplomatic protest against China's firing of warning flares against Philippine military aircraft patrolling in the West Philippine Sea when the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency confirms the report.

improvements" on its expansive claims in the South China Sea, including the West Philippine Sea.

"Recently, Beijing has also issued flare warnings against Philippine aircraft covering these areas, and from January to June 2019, there have been six flare warnings against Philippine maritime patrols have been noticed," Basiao told the House panel Tuesday.

According to Basiao, China also deployed 17 research vessels in Philippine waters

from January to June.

This move from Beijing sought to hinder the Philippines' patrol, rotation and re-provision missions in the West Philippine Sea, the military general said.

Basiao also reported to lawmakers that China has been the "most aggressive" among South China Sea claimants while other claimants are also undertaking efforts to safeguard their claimed territories.

Count Yourself In: Why the 2020 Census is Crucial to the Filipino Community

BY ALEXA MARK

2020 will be a big year for civic engagement here in the U.S. with the highly anticipated presidential election as well as the 2020 census on April 1st, 2020. Every ten years, we have a nationwide census to get a count of who is residing in the United States. However, there are many communities that remain underrepresented in the census because of a lack of participation.

Filipinos are one of those underrepresented groups. In order to receive the government funding and resources that we need for our community, we all must participate. The government allocates funding based on the census, so if they see that there is a sizable Filipino population in a particular area, we receive more support for our community.

It's just like if a school district were to count how many students

attended a school, and only 50% of the students were counted. The school would only receive the funding for half of the school supplies and programs that it needs and would lack resources for students from underserved communities. The same principles apply to the census.

For Millennials and members of Gen Z, the Census may seem a tad outdated and weird. Due to the fact that the Census is typically counted through mail or by people knocking on doors, Millennials and Gen Z are less likely to participate. While the Census Bureau is trying to find an alternative way to increase Census participation among these two generations, such as through social media, it is important to know why it is so crucial for the younger adults of America to participate in the Census. Census participation can result in gaining seats in Congress, which would allow room for more younger, progressive Congressmembers that speak for a majority of Millennials and Gen Z. If young adults do not participate and are undercounted, we risk losing millions of dollars in funding as well as seats in Congress because we

would allow ourselves to be virtually invisible.

As for the Filipino Community specifically, we have been historically underrepresented in the Census. There is a very sizeable Filipino community here in the Sacramento region, but the resources and organizations that we have available to us are not enough and do not reach a large percent of the Filipino population. In order to have more for our community, everyone can take a few minutes to fill out the Census for their household. If you have roommates or do not know all the information needed, it can be a great way for everyone to get together and fulfill their civic duty by completing the Census.

Anyone can be counted in the census! You do not have to be a citizen nor do you have to have a permanent residence or own any property to participate in the census. As long as you are living here in the United States, you can participate and raise awareness about the Census to gain more support and resources for yourself and your community.



Be A Census Taker

- ✓ Extra income
- ✓ Flexible hours
- ✓ Weekly pay
- ✓ Paid training

Apply Online
[2020CENSUS.GOV/JOBS](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020

Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

D-1522 | April 2019

Shape
your future
APPLY NOW >

United States
Census
2020

All Souls Day



Candles offering to honor and remember the deceased loved ones.




The Filipino Community of Sacramento and other organization.



An annual event by the Filipino Community and hosted by East Lawn Elk Grove Memorial Park and Mortuary on November 2, 2019, in remembrance of the departed loved ones.

It was another successful event and mass celebration followed by partaking of food and entertainment made possible through the joint effort by several community organization and the representative of East Lawn.



EAST LAWN
MEMORIAL PARKS • MORTUARIES
CREMATION • PREPLANNING

Filipino Garden




East Lawn now has a new area of 500 plots dedicated to the Filipino community in partnership with the Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation.

- Natural water front properties
- Close access to the Vista Point Pavilion
- Filipino events such as All Saints Day and All Souls Day
- Saint statue inside the garden
- Best Feng Shui spaces (All East Facing)
- Space starting at *\$6,989
- 6 year no interest payment plan

Free Lunch Seminar August 31st 2019, 11:00 AM
East Lawn, Elk Grove
9189 E Stockton Blvd
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Contact Daniel Lam
Phone: 916-895-6878
Email: Daniell@eastlawn.com

*\$6989 flat marker plot and \$7948 upright marker plot. Plus 12% Endowment care fund and \$895 interment fee pay directly to Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation.

 www.eastlawn.com
 facebook.com/eastlawninc
 instagram.com/eastlawninc

Celebrating Filipino-American History Month

From page 1

Followed by the Bayanihan of Sacramento delivering the Lupang Hinirang. The dinner invocation was sung by Lilia Rivera (Filipino Fiesta President) and friends to the tune of “Edelweiss.”

During dinner, Philippine Fiesta’s Dinnah San Pedro delivered a special number by singing a Filipino song titled, Bituing Walang Ningning. After the applause, FCSV President Mercy Guerrero delivered her Welcome Address with a hint of a farewell speech at the end of her current term. President Guerrero excelled as FCSV’s president during these past 4 years. Thank you Madame President.

The song “Ako Ay Pilipino” led by Remy Solomon and joined by some flag-waving folks familiar with the lyrics, produced an exhilarating moment because of Remy’s powerful and touching rendition. After the song, Part I of the new concept started—Showcase of Filipino Cuisine. First up, Cabalen’s President Felipe Lumbang explained the history, source, recipe, and various techniques required for cooking Sisig. The interesting history included Clark AB food services, American air force base, in



Angeles City giving away butchered pig’s unwanted hog heads to the local populace outside the gates of the air base. The entrepreneurial locals turned the American throw away pigs

parts into Sisig, an international acclaimed sizzling dish, thanks to Anthony Bourdain’s famed television program. When Clark AB discovered the popular tasty dish, they started sell-

ing the now much in demand hogs heads. Thank you so much Cabalens for sharing this piece of history! Our taste buds will always be grateful to the ingenuity of those who created this legendary dish.

Next came the Pangasinan dish as explained by Aurora Ramos, the Puto Bong Bong. Based on the appearance and taste, it was excellent! The taste and name invite one to try more than one piece. Josie Patria and the Filipino Women’s Club’s collaboration with Kapitbahay followed with their presentation. The group sashayed up and down the dance floor as they proudly displayed their sweet desserts. Their Kakain and Kalamay didn’t get a chance to reach some of us because they were so in demand. The Red Group wearing top hats came next. Red was the appropriate color for the group because their cuisine has always been known to be spicy, saucy, and hot—The Bicol Express. Jess Velasco, the man who sizzled the interest to have this “food war” belongs to Bicolandia. When ten members removed their top hats, they showed every letter of their organization. Together it reads Bicolandia. With their spicy red hot colors, their miniature Bicol Express train, and the unveiling of their Top Hats, this group showed fun creativity indeed!

Another colorful group came up next, the San Estebanians of Sacramento & Vicinity headed by Leila Pereira. This group rolled out their Pinakbet cart complete with signage touting their main dish “On A Stick” (just for fun), “In A Bowl”, and “With Rice.” Individually they walked around “selling” their delicacy, and at the end, they stood together as a team. Speaking of teams, the veterans’ representatives came next. The Filipino-American Veterans Association, with Chef Ernie Pangilinan donning his cowboy hat and posing next to his dishes set in coconut shells, seemed ready for the taste battle. Since the veterans belong to various provinces, they decided to showcase a Visayan cuisine. Rose Delacruz and Carmelita Pangilinan explained the recipe and cooking tips for their various entries. Overheard was someone who had a chance to taste the dish before the presentation, exclaiming, “Sarap!” Last but not least, D’ Dreamgirls presented their specialty, “Ukoy.” Their trayful of Ukoys was already half consumed because of an earlier program break. Uncontrolled crowds gathered around their tray and almost finished off the still unjudged Ukoy dish. Perhaps next time we should have guards next to the dishes before they are presented and judged.

The new concept was well

received as evidenced by the reaction of the audience and their swift consumption of the showcased dishes. Part 2: The difficult decision now laid in the hands, or taste buds, of the judges: Dr. Joe Villarica, Jay Paular, Murray Navarro, Lorena Arca, and Jacqueline Bringas. The criteria of judging: Best Presentation (70%) and Food Display (30%). Decision made, the judges asked the participants for their group rep to stand with them for a presentation and for the announcement of the winners. For the presentation, every organization received a certificate of appreciation for their participation. Part 3 was for the announcement of the winners...drum roll please:

Third Place: Bicolandia
Third Place Prize: \$50 donated by Maria Bahoric
Second Place: Filipino Womens’ Club/Kapitbahay
Second Place Prize: \$75 donated by Mercy Guerrero for FCSV
And the Ultimate Winner this year: San Estebanians of Sacramento & Vicinity
First Place Prize: \$100 donated by MildredGo
The Donors presented the prizes to the winners. Congratulations to all the participants, especially to the top three winners! This contest came to fruition because of the recipe Mr. Jess Velasco presented to Ms. Edna delos Reyes, i.e., the recipe of success-fun-fulfillment-entertainment-cooperation-community.

Entertained and filled with satisfaction, the community’s recipe for the rest of the evening was dance-dance-dance. Congratulations to the organizing committee members: Overall Chair Mercy Guerrero, Event Chair Edna de los Reyes, Co-Chairs Leila Pereira-Remy Solomon-Joe Gonzalez-Mina Guerra. Mabuhay to The Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity along with other Filipino Community Organizations in Sacramento who tastefully showcased the spirit of unity, community, and more specifically—Bayanihan (with emphasis on the Bayan).

Host a

COFFEE TALK

and you could receive \$250



It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3

- 1.** Contact a recruiter to set up a date and time.
- 2.** Invite family, friends and neighbors who would make a great Mentor.

- 3.** Have fun and let guests know why you love being a Mentor! One of our recruiters will be there to answer any questions and provide additional information.



PLUS you will receive an additional \$250 for each new Mentor who becomes certified after attending your event.

For more information, please contact Olivia Cerda at:
(916) 383-9785 ext 17
www.MentorsWanted.com

Dr. Frank Marasigan's One Year Memorial Anniversary

BY DALE ESPERANTE

At Magellan Hall, on 18 Oct 2019, the family of Dr. Frank Marasigan brought family and friends together for the first -year anniversary of his passing. Dr. Erlinda Marasigan, with the help of her children (Lynn, Frank Jr., and Lorraine) smiled and greeted all the arriving guests.

Reverend Brian Atienza, Roman Catholic Priest-Diocese of Sacramento, officiated the rosary hour. The assembly of family and friends reverently followed and listened to his prayers and inspirations before, during, and after the rosary. The completion of the rosary opened the dinner hour; but beforehand, Father Atienza formally invoked the prayers to thank The Lord for the food that we were about to receive.

The dinner hour gave family and friends a chance to reflect, among themselves, on their memories of Dr. Frank Marasigan. Everyone knew that Dr. Frank was an influential member of the Sacramento Filipino-American community, joining charitable organizations whose mission focused on providing assistance within and beyond the borders of Sacramento. He travelled on a mission with Mabuhay Foundation every two years. The mission: to provide medical care to areas of the Philippines where access to proper medical care was lacking. The generous doctor would leave his lucrative private practice for a lengthy period of time to provide resources and his professional expertise. Improving the quality of medical care for those in need was enough to fulfill and reward Dr. Frank and his mission associates.

As for the celebratory memorial anniversary, the youngest daughter



Photos by Dale Esperante

of Frank and Erlinda Marasigan, Lorraine, explained: "Before my dad passed away, he would tell us how much he didn't like sad memorial services with people crying. He said he wanted his to be like a party, complete with all of his favorite things – food, music, dancing and of course his favorite, ice cream! He wanted it to be fun. That's why, last year when he passed, we did all those things, and many Pilipino organizations came together to honor him (Mabuhay provided food, FAVA and American Legion Post 604 conducted a moving tribute, FCSV and Filipino Women's Club provided and served ice cream). We had several life-sized cardboard cutouts of my dad so that it would feel like he was there too (yes, this was his request, too). And for his one-year death anniversary, we decided to create the same setting as last year...food, music, dancing, family, friends and ice cream! The



table decorations were succulents from my dad's garden and calamansi branches from his thriving tree in our backyard. My dad was generous and whenever people came over to visit he would give them plants and fruit. It was nice to continue this tradition."

So after the dinner hour, the Doctor's last prescription became tradition. The music provided by Hi Tech Zounds (Ed Cordero) invited all to move it on the dance floor.

Cha-cha-cha, the electric slide, line dancing, disco hustle, swing, and even the twist dominated the rest of the evening. Lorraine danced cha-cha with her mom, Erlinda, elegantly leading her to do the crossover steps for the New York pose. Mom kept up with her youthful daughters, Lynn and Lorraine, throughout the evening. The presence of the ballroom (social) dancers encouraged others to join in. The Marasigan daughters

led the dancing with their talented ballroom dance partners. Clearly, the lively ambiance contributed to the happiness and exercise for everyone!

Author Robert A. Heinlein wrote, "Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." Even the little girl in a red dress – granddaughter, Elin Francesca, named after Drs. Erlinda and Francisco (again, Dr. Frank's request) had a smile so sweet to last the evening. This proves that it is wise to listen to your good doctor's advice. On behalf of the community, thank you Dr. Erlinda, Lynn, Frank Jr., and Lorraine—the family of a humble, generous, kind, fun, and funny man, Dr. Frank Marasigan.

Thank you for sharing your beloved Frank's happiness with us all!



Come Dance with Us!



CONTEMPORARY - HIP HOP - JAZZ - BALLET - TAP - HULA - BALLROOM & MORE

2232 LONGPORT COURT SUITE 120
ELK GROVE, CA 95758

Dance@RizeAll.com

916.538.3255



Wolfpack Performing Arts proudly presents Welga by Conrad Panganiban in November

Elk Grove, CA – This November, Wolfpack Performing Arts will present the high school premiere of Conrad Panganiban’s Welga, a Filipino American coming-of-age story of a high school teen, Johnny Montalban, whose dreams of becoming a famous musician clash with his mother’s dream of him first earning his diploma. Set in San Francisco’s SOMA Neighborhood, the play explores family conflict against the back-

drop of today’s educational system, ongoing community pressures, and the legacy of Filipinos in the farm labor movement that sparked the 1965 Delano Grape Strike.

Wolfpack Performing Arts is the award-winning performing arts company of Cosumnes Oaks High School and Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School. Each year, the company produces four instrumental and

Birthday celebration of Perry Diaz



Perry Diaz and wife Dolores



Perry with his loving family

On October 18, 2019, Perry celebrated his 75th birthday at Hongkong Islander’s Restaurant in Sacramento, with his beautiful family and friends in the community.



UNLUCAI potluck quarterly meeting on October 26, 2019 at the residence of President Dickie and Marilyn Bernal held at Vallejo, California. Present were Dickie and Marilyn Bernal, Jun and Josie Pabros, Edgar and Charity Avena, Chit Delmendo, Erna, Jane and Tina Bambao, Zaldy and Lydia Estepa, Estnelle Dumaguig, Ador and Weveline Aragon, Fely Esplana, Eligio Floresca, Florence Nonog and Tessie Gardugue

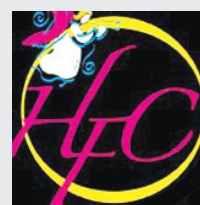
vocal concert series, a mainstage dance production (HYPE Dance Co), and four mainstage theatrical productions each year. Our company strives to provide students with a professional experience in the performing arts. To achieve this goal, WPA employs professional teaching artists who serve as directors, choreographers, and musicians during our musical season. Our company is one of the few companies in the region that

continues to perform musicals with a full, live orchestra of 25+ members.

Opening night for Welga is Friday, November 8 @ 7 PM.
November 14 @ 6 PM
November 8 & 15 @ 7 PM
November 15 & 16 @ 2 PM and 7 PM



Having a Special Celebration or a Company Party?
Heavenly Food Creations
“A Full Catering Service”



Call 916-690-4513

Rhuena Buentipo
Owner/Operator

heavenlyfoodcreations1@hotmail.com
License No. 12-00010606

Trump administration wants to take away parole program for Filipino WWII veterans

BY AKEMI TAMANAHA

Just as it looked like Filipino WWII veterans began to receive the recognition and respect that they deserved, the government wants to take away a program intended to help the elderly veterans in their waning years.

“The same government that recognized the ‘bravery, valor, and dedication’ of the Filipino World War II veterans and announced that it was ‘forever indebted’ to them is now turning its back on them once more,” wrote retired Major Gen. Antonio Taguba in his oped for *The Hill* published Nov. 5.

Taguba received national attention for his investigation and report, released in 2004, on the abuse of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

Taguba retired after a career in the US Army that spanned over three decades, he became involved in helping the WWII veterans in their long battle for citizenship and military benefits promised to them for fighting for the US during WWII. He is now the chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project.

The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program (FWVP) allows family members of Filipino World War II veterans who have approved I-130 family-



The Filipino World War II Veterans

based petitions to enter the United States while they wait for their visas to become available, at which time they can file for permanent resident status. This parole program was announced in November 2014 by President Obama enables these eligible family members to provide support and care to their aging veteran family members who are US citizens or lawful permanent residents.

This year, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services issued a notice that it intended to terminate the Parole Program.

This action is part of the Trump administration’s drive to limit immigration of any kind, even legal immigration.

“Two years ago, I stood in the Capitol as Filipino Veterans of World War II were awarded one of the highest honors of our country, the Congressional Gold Medal. It was a proud moment as the United States recognized, ‘The Filipino veterans of World War II fought alongside, and as an integral part of, the United States Armed Forces. The United States remains forever in-

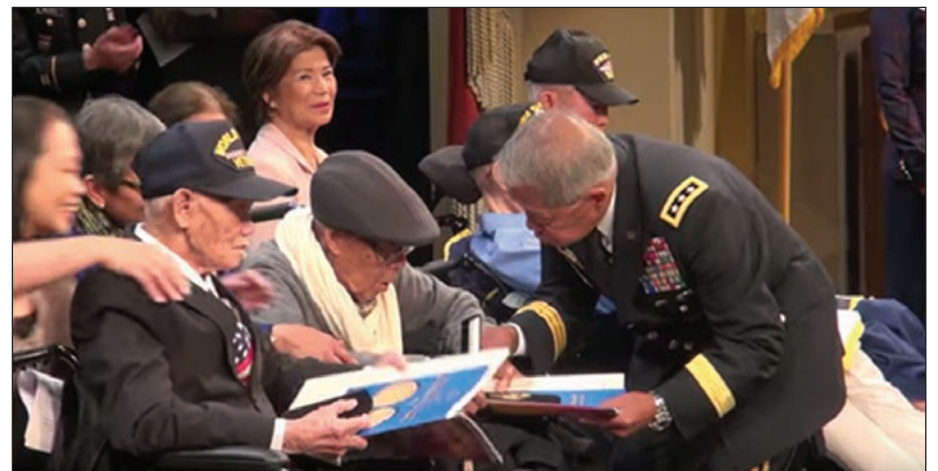
debted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Filipino Veterans of World War II displayed,” wrote Taguba. “But it seems those words were hollow.”

The Congressional Gold Medal and the Parole Program were the latest victories in recent years for the Filipino veterans.

“We wanted to achieve a small victory for the 90- and 100-year-old veterans who had waited and had almost given up not getting recognized — a ‘thank you’ from our country,” said Taguba, who was also involved in a similar campaign for Chinese-American World War II veterans.

“The United States must honor the commitment made to these veterans and their families,” Taguba’s opinion piece continued. “Our remaining veterans are now in their nineties, and some have passed the centennial mark. The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program was created to support those who bravely defended the United States during the war. There is no honor in ending it.”

Filipino WWII veterans honored with congressional gold medals in San Francisco



Six Filipino World War II Veterans honored with Congressional Gold Medals

BY ROMMEL CONCLARA

San Francisco In front of a packed audience, six Filipino WWII veterans were honored for their bravery and sacrifices made over 70 years ago.

Aniano Triunfo will be turning 101 years old on November 17th, which is why he cherishes this occasion.

“I’m very happy because it’s a unique opportunity that I receive, at my age, an honor like this.”

Triunfo, along with his fellow veterans, were given the nation’s highest civilian award — the congressional gold medal by high ranking U.S. personnel.

“This is one of the last ones are in my opinion because as we all know, there are not too many of

them left. And as you’ll see in today’s ceremony there’s just a handful of them. So if we just wait a few more months, I would just see probably the next of kin receiving this Congressional Gold Medal,” said Atty. Lou Tancinco.

Representatives from the city of San Francisco and the Philippine Consulate express their gratitude to the Filipino veterans.

“Recognition and respect should have been given the moment that the veterans moved here, and their families. Our government should have done everything in the power to make that happen. Luckily the veteranos had the support of the Filipino community to write this wrong and it was their advocacy to make this event possible,” said Sup. Matt Haney.

“You represent the best of the Filipino nation. And your heroism shall forever be remembered and hon-

ored. Thank you all for your service. Pinoy ako. Proud ako!” said Con Gen Henry Bensusanto.

According to the Bayanihan Equity Center, more than 67 ceremonies like this one have taken place in the U.S. and the Philippines.

For veteran advocates, each ceremony has been a long time coming, but special nonetheless.

“I saw in the face of one of the veterans when he was holding that medal, I think it’s a priceless moment. To them it was an embodiment of who we are and what we have done for this country. So somehow it’s a closure for them, and I’m glad we have done it as a community.”

Families of surviving or dead Filipino WWII veterans — who have yet to receive the replica of the congressional gold medal are encouraged to apply at filvetrep.org.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2019 One Moment to Remember

By Glenn D. Carrasca
USAF Retired

We are a nation so free that we sometimes take this privilege quite for granted. The hard edge of gratitude has given way to soft, single-minded pursuits of happiness. We gleefully pick the fruits of freedom, often without pausing to tend or pay tribute to the roots which bare them. We should be able to say, “I know why I am free and know who sacrificed their lives for me.

During this Veterans Day we direct all attention in one great moment to those fallen in service to this country - giving the ultimate sacrifice to establish and preserve our freedom and privileges



Veterans Day

BY FAINA E. ABAYA

On the 11th Hour of the 11th Day in the 11th Month, in 1918, the world celebrated the end of World War I. After four years of the war, a truce was signed ending what was called the “War to End all Wars”.

November 11 was named “ARMISTICE DAY” in the U.S. to remember the sacrifices those male and female service members made, during the war for peace. It was a joyous occasion in cities all across America, families and friends celebrated the rerun of their loved ones. Those who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns on that day, politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won. Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years later after the war ended. Unfortunately, the “War to End All Wars was not the last one. World War II erupted in 1939, setting off another struggle for world peace. After the war, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

Ironically, the name “VETERANS DAY” did not originate in Washington or from any congressional leaders. Residents in the small town of Emporia, Kan., localized the holiday by renaming it “VETERANS DAY” to pay homage to the veterans in their town. Congress later followed suit and passed a bill that was “VETERANS DAY”.

To this day we continue to give thanks for peace and remember the men and women in uniform who have served and sacrificed for it. In keeping with the spirit of tradition, there are ceremonies and speeches and many Americans will observe a moment of silence at 11:00 AM, the 11th Day of November.

On November 11, 2019, when you meet a veteran, greet them with a simple “THANK YOU”.

Why Are There So Many Filipino Nurses in California?

After Filling a Nursing Shortage in the 1960s, Immigrant Caregivers Have Changed the Practice and the Politics of Health Care

BY CATHERINE CENIZA

In California hospitals today, immigration has diversified not only the state's patient population, but the demographics of its caregivers as well.

It is now commonplace to be cared for at the bedside by a Filipino immigrant nurse. According to the 2016 Survey of California Registered Nurses, Filipinos make up the second largest group of the state's active RN workforce, nearly 18 percent. Among younger nurses, they're even more predominant, with Filipino nurses representing nearly a quarter of nurses between ages 35 to 44 years and more than one-fifth of RNs 45 to 54 years old.

In the process of becoming essential to California, Filipino nurses have changed the definition of what we describe as care by bringing their own cultural practices and sensibilities to the bedside. At the same time, they have contributed to the research, business, and politics of American health care as directors of research centers, as entrepreneurs of health care institutions, and as leaders of labor unions and professional organizations.

The presence of Filipino nurses in California is not new; indeed, the nurses are part of a larger and more complex story of a medical field where cultural ideas and practices are frequently exchanged.

The predominance of Filipino nurses was catalyzed by three big changes in the United States during the 1960s. First, the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid resulted in an increased need for nurses, while, in a second major change, the women's and civil rights movements resulted in new job opportunities for American women. At around the same time, a more equitable immigration law, called the Hart-Celler Act, was passed. As the increasing demand for nursing services became difficult to fill domestically, American hospital recruiters looked abroad.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, high rates of domestic unemployment and political instability pushed Filipino nurses to emigrate overseas. The devaluation of the Philippine peso against the U.S. dollar made the United States a highly attractive destination. By the early 1970s, a Filipino nurse in the Philippines needed to work 12 years to earn what she could make in the United States in one year.

Some Philippine government officials initially criticized Filipino immigrant nurses for abandoning their home country. But, in the early 1970s, after observing the

demand for Filipino nurses in the United States, then-President Ferdinand Marcos shifted the country's development towards a labor export economy. The Philippine government began aggressively promoting the outmigration of Filipino nurses and other workers, eventually touting them as the new national heroes for the billions of dollars they remit annually in foreign currency.

There was another, more historic reason why the Philippines specifically became the leading exporter of professional nurses to the United States: U.S. colonization of the Philippines from 1898 to 1946 had led to the creation of Americanized professional nursing training in the archipelago. In the early twentieth century, American nurses trained Filipino students in courses such as practical nursing, the use of pharmaceuticals, and bacteriology. Philippine nursing licensure examinations included testing in the English language as well as in nursing-related subjects. Although intended to prepare Filipinos for Philippine self-government, these U.S. colonial policies inadvertently prepared Filipino nurses to work in the United States.

But change and influence don't move in just one direction. Just as American nurses indelibly influenced Philippine nursing, so too have Filipino nurses changed the practice of health care in the United States.

In the U.S., Filipino nurses integrate Filipino cultural values and beliefs into their caregiving practices. Among these core values are a high regard for elders and authority, an emphasis on group harmony and interpersonal relationships, and the significance of modesty, sensitivity, and spirituality. Such values shape Filipino nurses' renowned compassion and work ethic at the bedside. As one nurse stated: "I see my patients as my relatives and this influences the way I care for them. I feel that my upbringing helps me see people and care for them."

Filipino immigrant nurses also bring experience with Philippine traditional therapies such as hilot, faith healing, and the use of medicinal plants. Hilot is a traditional form of massage therapy or chiropractic manipulation that relieves aches and pains. This knowledge of Philippine healing modalities is important not solely because the use of alternative therapies in the U.S. has become more mainstream, but also because a growing number of Americans are of Filipino heritage. Between 1980 and 2016, the Filipino immigrant population in the United States nearly quadrupled. California is home to the largest Filipino-American population in the nation with over 1.6 million of Filipino descent.

In the process of becoming essential to California, Filipino nurses have changed the definition of what we describe as care by bring-



Photo of Nursing class of 1929, St. Paul's Hospital, Intramuros, Manila, Philippines: Misses Yadao, Fink, Andaya, Abuan, Peralta and Tapaoan. Photo courtesy of University of Southern California Libraries/J. Tewell.



Philippine Nurses Association of Southern California

ing their own cultural practices and sensibilities to the bedside. At the same time, they have contributed to the research, business, and politics of American health care as directors of research centers, as entrepreneurs of health care institutions, and as leaders of labor unions and professional organizations.

As educators and researchers, Filipino nurses are at the vanguard of creating new knowledge relevant to Filipino Americans who have been generally underrepresented in health care-related research. For example, Felicitas dela Cruz is a professor at Azusa Pacific University's School of Nursing and the director of its Center for the Study of Health Disparities. In her research with Carmen Galang, Dr. dela Cruz has found that, like other ethnic groups, Filipino Americans avail themselves of folk medicine as well as Western medicine to address illness. In the case of high blood pressure, they have utilized hilot and religious activities to lower their blood pressure.

Filipino nurses' experience in health care has led to their ownership of health care businesses. The research of Jennifer Nazareno spotlights the growing number of Filipino immigrant nurses in Southern California who have become private owners and operators of small government-subsidized businesses in the long-term care industry, providing care to some of the most impoverished—as well as cognitively and physically disabled—elderly populations. While this group of Filipino

and skills through professional development programs, and to contribute to health care and society. Immigrant nurses initially created these organizations in order to address their isolation, loneliness, and educational needs, but they have also played a part in making Filipino nurses visible within the larger system.

As Filipino immigrant nurses have taken up positions of leadership in labor unions and professional organizations, they have addressed the politics of health care in the U.S. In 2015, Zenei Cortez was the first Filipino to be elected president of the California Nurses Association/National Nurse Organizing Committee, a labor union and professional association of registered nurses that has advocated for lower nurse-patient ratios and health coverage for all. Cortez is currently a president of National Nurses United, and a prominent advocate of Medicare for All.

While research has suggested that Filipino cultural values may contribute to Filipino nurses' reticence and submissiveness, their encounters with discrimination have motivated them to fight for justice in California workplaces. Earlier this decade, a group of Filipino nurses—who claimed that they suffered from harassment and humiliation when they spoke Filipino dialects in break rooms and in the cafeteria, and that they were ordered to speak "English only"—won a landmark settlement against a Central California hospital. Although officials at Delano Regional Medical Center insisted they did nothing wrong, the hospital had to conduct staff training on diversity as part of the settlement.

And for all the power of Filipino immigrant nurses today, the story we've seen so far may prove to be just a small beginning. The American population is rapidly aging. Forecasts show dire shortages in the U.S. health care workforce by 2025. As important as Filipinos have been to developing the health care system today, their contributions will become even more critical in the decades ahead.

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
Sarah T. Enloe

Faina Abaya
Jose Abaya, Jr.

R. Carado Dizon
Gabriel Ortigoza

Nancy Bautista
Perry Diaz

Cynthia G. Garcia
Dale Esperante

Subscribe to Philippine Fiesta Newspaper and receive by U.S. mail,
12 issues of a true Filipino-American community newspaper for only \$20.00 a year.

Name: _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to Five D's Arts and mail payment to 2745 Elk Grove Blvd #270, Elk Grove, CA 95758 or charge to VISA/Mastercard No. _____

Signature: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Ballet Philippines battles Disney, typhoons and poverty to endure

BY CECIL MORELLA

Manila, Philippines — From fierce typhoons and tight budgets to losing its dancers to cruise ships and theme parks, Ballet Philippines has weathered almost every type of storm, but as it celebrates its 50th anniversary the renowned arts organisation is determined the show will go on.

Funding is difficult to secure and there is little money for necessities such as dancer's salaries or even shoes -- but more than 30,000 people watched the troupe's productions last year, no mean feat in a nation where millions live on less than \$2 a day.

One of the biggest challenges is keeping the dancers it has trained -- some go on to join world-class organisations such as Stella Aberra who is now a principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre and West Australian Ballet soloist Candice Adea.

But many leave after being poached to perform on cruise ships or as characters at Disneyland, who can offer 50-100 times what they make at Ballet Philippines.

"The only thing I'm not happy about is when Disney gets them as Mickey Mouse.... That's happened a lot and it's still happening," Ballet Philippines President Kathleen Liechtenstein tells AFP.

Principal dancer Denise Parungao, who started out as an \$40-a-month-apprentice at the troupe, says she relied on family to help



Ballet Philippines dancers perform during a dress rehearsal at the Cultural Center in Manila. From fierce typhoons and tight budgets to losing its dancers to cruise ships and theme parks, Ballet Philippines has weathered almost every type of storm, but as it celebrates its 50th anniversary the renowned arts organisation is determined the show will go on.

pay her rent and understands why others left.

"It's really hard because the salary before was really low and most of the dancers are not well off," the 25-year-old explains. "Filipinas have more heart"

Part of the success of Ballet Philippines has been the determination of its performers.

In 2014, a fierce typhoon knocked out power and floods left the orchestra stranded miles from the venue, but with two hours before the show started -- the organisation decided to carry on so as not to disappoint audiences who had travelled for the show.

"The lights came back on as the

people started to fill the Cultural Center of the Philippines lobby. It was a harrowing experience," recalls Liechtenstein, who says they had to use recorded music in place of live musicians.

"The dancing was exquisitely unforgettable," she says, adding that the audience agreed -- giving a rousing standing ovation.

The same grit is evident down even when it comes to the use of dancing shoes.

In big name companies a performer might go through four pairs of ballet slippers in the course of a single performance.

"In Ballet Philippines, a dancer wears (a pair) for a whole month.

They put glue, they varnish, do everything just to make them last," Parungao says.

She buys an extra five pairs a year out of her own pocket to make sure her footwear does not disintegrate during a live performance.

"Filipinas really have more heart in doing this... we give our whole selves to it," Parungao adds.

Unlike in Russia and the West, there is no national programme for spotting dancing talent in the Philippines and few get an early start -- those that succeed must battle to make their mark.

'Love to entertain'

Carlo Pacis, a former senior soloist at the Hong Kong Ballet who briefly returned to Manila to choreograph "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for Ballet Philippines, believes its dancers' strengths are not just physical.

"We do not only dance: we embody the roles that we are tasked to portray. We love to act, we love to entertain," he says.

Ballet Philippines declined to give its annual funding, but sources in the arts world said its four to six productions per year cost at least \$100,000 each.

Though it has always had free use of the national cultural centre's facilities, the company only

gets about \$40,000 a year in government backing.

For the rest it must rely on seat sales and sponsorships, as well as donations: The board of directors, a who's who of the country's wealthiest families, collectively put up 30 percent of the company's annual budget.

Founded in 1969 by pioneering Filipina contemporary dancer and choreographer Alice Reyes with help from Imelda Marcos -- whose husband Ferdinand ruled the country as a dictator until his ouster in 1986 -- the company was one of Asia's first.

With Reyes still with the company as artistic director, it remains on a short list of developing nations that have their own ballet troupes including Vietnam, China, Cuba and Brazil.

To open its 50th season in August, principal dancer Evgeny Ivanchenko and first soloist Elena Evseeva of Russia's famed Mariinsky Ballet, previously the Kirov Ballet, starred alongside local dancers in the Filipino troupe's "Swan Lake" gala night.

The production evoked the glitter of Ballet Philippines' first decade, when the likes of legends Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, Natalia Makarova and Patrick Bissell danced for the company in Manila.

The troupe's reputation continues to pack a punch.

Chris Millado, Cultural Center of the Philippine's artistic director, says: "It is one of the best in Asia."



A New Study Shows Having a Dog Leads to a Longer Life

Finally, some good news

BY PAOLO CHUA

Dogs have proven once again that they're really man's best friend. Along with helping with depression, now, having a dog has been associated with longer life.

According to a new study by the American Heart Association, dog ownership reduces factors that "contribute to cardiac risk and to

cardiovascular events." It's great news for both heart attack and stroke survivors.

The researchers also found that compared to non-owners, dog owners experienced 24 percent reduced risk of death, 65 percent reduced risk of death after a heart attack, and 31 percent reduced risk of death due to cardiovascular-related issues.

Over 3.8 million patient data of

people were reviewed for the 10 studies.

"Having a dog was associated with increased physical exercise, lower blood pressure levels and better cholesterol profile in previous reports," said assistant professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and an Endocrinologist and clinician scientist at LeaderShip Sinai Centre for Diabetes at

Mount Sinai Hospital Caroline Kramer, M.D. Ph.D. "As such, the findings that people who owned dogs lived longer and their risk for cardiovascular death was also lower are somewhat expected."

That said, however, having a loving dog also helps in terms of social isolation which is another strong factor for health and premature death.

LIFES DIFFICULTIES. WE CAN BEAT IT!

BY MEREMEL ASIS HECHONA

You're young, energetic, full of zest. With all the energy and positivity, you have the world in your hands, in full command, in full authority. Seems to you with all the power, you can change the world, in one click, in one wave. Just like that. Easy maneuver. Easy drive. Life is way easy..Or so you thought..

Life poses a challenging phase. Life, as we start it, bubbly, unknown to many, unbeknownst of what lies ahead. You start fresh

and clean and as you go through life, you learn good, bad and a mixture of everything in between that will shape you and will decide of what you will become as an adult by mind, by heart, by association. But the strength should be unchange as one goes through lifes stages which is the key as you carry out roles and responsibilities a human creates to create own identity and personality.

We strive hard in this lifetime, cautiously creating our own self, our own us. We wanted to create our own mark, striving unique-

ness in the hopes of building a symbol that will create our own distinct mark, separating us, creating unique differences.

We only pass each stage once. Be aware, grab the opportunity, get hold of the chance, use it. Be useful, be productive. Each of us wanted to succeed so as to leave a legacy behind for our children and childrens children to enjoy. Lifes normal



circumstances/trials/ difficulties may hinder, slow self advancement and growth but persistence, determination can overcome trials and tribulations.. Move forward, dont hesitate, use resources along the way and slowly catch, cultivate and improve yourself.

Each stages presents different approach and presentation, maturity, depending on lifes influences but

acceptance should be the same, goal and planning and execution should be presented and meet with fierce determination and belief. Strong and firm.

We came to this world with unknown outcome. Whatever will become of us lies solely on us, what we do, how we decide and create our destiny. Life is a choice. Choose wisely. Act firmly. Get up, create your own you. Whatever you do, always choose success. It will be your driving force not to give up, not to back up. Whatever the outcome. Hold your head high. Carry on...

Angelina Jolie gets honest with Boy Abunda about love and loss

BY DENI ROSE M. AFINIDAD-BERNARDO

MANILA, Philippines — Hollywood star Angelina Jolie took a moment before answering Filipino TV host Boy Abunda's questions about love and loss.

In a recent interview for Abunda's talk show "Tonight With Boy Abunda," the "Maleficent" star seemed to be holding back tears when answering questions about the pain of loving, a theme in the now showing sequel of the Disney film, "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil."



Angelina Jolie being interviewed by Boy Abunda for her movie "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil."

"Why does love always come with pain?" Boy asked Angelina.

"I think when love is right, it's a good kind of pain. It's growing. It's a pain where your heart is stretching, your feelings are stretching," the "Tomb Raider" star explained.

"The greater the love, the greater the loss, is true," enthused the mother of six who recently got divorced from husband Brad Pitt.

"Love doesn't always end well. Why, Ms. Jolie?" Abunda asked as a follow-up.

"Just take a minute for that," she said, laughing.

"It doesn't always end well because maybe one kind of love is mistaken for another," she replied while seemingly holding back tears.

Abunda then turned to Jolie's co-star Sam Riley, who plays Maleficent's sidekick, the raven who turns into a man, Diaval.

"Do you believe in 'happy ever after'?"

Boy asked Riley.

"I think so. You have to work for happiness," Riley responded.

"You have to work in relationships."

Jolie, who has Maddox, 18; Pax, 15, Zahara; 14, Shiloh, 13 and 11-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, admitted in a separate interview with People magazine that she had to gather some strength to reprise her role as Maleficent because she was "feeling pretty broken."

"It was a tough time. I'd been coming off a few years of difficulty, and I was not feeling very strong. In fact, I was feeling pretty broken. It took me a moment to feel the strength of (Maleficent) again."

Jolie is reportedly training for her next film, "Eternals," about a race of immortal aliens created and set to Earth to battle the Deviants. Jolie is set to star alongside Salma Hayek and "Game of Thrones" Kit Harington.

FilAmStory: Filipino American History Month Roots from Pangasinan...Liza Soberano

"I was born and raised in America for half of my life and have currently been living in the Philippines for the other half.



Liza Soberano

Growing up I was always asked what my nationality was, when I would tell them I was half American and half Filipino they would say 'What's that?' or 'Where's that?' I had another instance in which I had to choose what ethnicity I was on our yearly exams at school. I would always look to see if there was a Filipino option, but usually there wasn't. Growing up, not a lot of people had knowledge about the Philippines and neither did I despite living with Filipino grandparents. I knew some Ilocano words and some of the food but I didn't really know what it meant to be Filipino.

When I was 10, I moved to the Philippines and was immersed in to the reality and culture by moving to Pangasinan. When I was 12, I moved back to Manila to pursue a career in acting and till now I still continue to do it. What makes me proud is that Filipinos are slowly paving their way, making a name for themselves and making their country proud around the globe no matter what industry it may be.

I equally love and respect both countries and cultures. What I love about being half Filipino and American is I'm able to pick traits I like from both countries and combine them to make me uniquely me. I have grown a wider perspective on life and people by living in both countries. When either country achieves something great it makes me extremely proud and grateful because I get to experience the best of both worlds."

Paulo Avelino speaks up on struggle with suicidal thoughts, calls for use of crisis hotline

BY NINA V. GUNO

Paulo Avelino got real about his mental health struggles as he advocates the use of a crisis hotline for help. Image: Instagram/@rjdelacruz



Paulo Avelino

Paulo Avelino spoke anew of a "dark period" that he experienced, when he battled "depression and suicidal thoughts."

The actor previously spoke of his mental health struggles last August when he admitted having a suicide attempt years back. He previously denied in 2013 that he had tried to take his own life.

Avelino posted on Instagram today, Nov. 5, a personal account of how he shut himself out from help. He also gave a trigger warning as he shared an old picture of his slit wrist that had been stitched up. He said he was speaking up now for others who may be suffering as he did.

"I want you to know that everybody has issues and sometimes you seeing other people have them will help you cope with your own," he said.

"Years back I found myself in a place where I only saw one way out. I went through a [spiraling] journey of depression and suicidal thoughts. Where everything seemed like nothing [mattered]

anymore. Locked myself at home, turned down almost every job that came in and shut myself off from work, friends, family, the world," he revealed.

Avelino said being an introvert, he has a tendency to keep thoughts to himself and "didn't know how to voice out all these feelings and thoughts inside me."

"Please, don't be afraid to reach out to your friends, family, and loved ones," he appealed. "Don't be scared to voice out what you feel no matter how hard it is. Never lose HOPE."

He advised the use of the suicide prevention hotline, Hopeline, "[i]f you aren't ready to open up to the people closest to you."

Hopeline can be reached through 804-HOPE (4673), 0917558-HOPE or 2919, which is toll-free for Globe and TM subscribers. The crisis line was created by the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation, a nonprofit which advocates mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

This year, Hopeline lost funding from the Department of Health after the government developed its own crisis hotline numbers, 0917899-USAP (8727) or 989-USAP. Hopeline decided to continue operations through donations.

Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli now engaged?

BY KRISSEY AGUILAR

It seems like long-time sweethearts Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli are now engaged.



Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli

Congratulatory messages flooded Guidicelli's Instagram post on Thursday when he shared photos of him with Geronimo, whose left hand's ring finger displays what appears to be a diamond ring.

"I love you my love, now and forever," Guidicelli wrote as the caption.

Celebrities poured comments on Guidicelli's post congratulating the couple, leading fans to speculate the two are already engaged. However, no direct, official word

confirming their engagement has so far been issued by either Guidicelli or Geronimo, as of posting.

However, a cryptic post by Guidicelli's brother Paolo seemed to confirm the couple's engagement.

"Nobody found out," Paolo wrote in an Instagram story alongside a ring emoji.

"Congrats. It was a secret," he captioned in a separate post showing Guidicelli's Instagram photo with Geronimo.

The two have kept their relationship under wraps until their confirmation in 2014. Nevertheless, they also managed to maintain it away from the limelight since.

They reportedly marked their sixth year as a couple in September.



PERSONAL INJURY and IMMIGRATION

Law Office of

ALEX C. BRAVO

Bus. 916.684.4432
Fax 916.684.9332

Alex C. Bravo
Attorney

2230 Longport Ct., Suite 100 Elk Grove, CA 95758



Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA & Friends

ALWAYS AND FOREVER

"Ngayon at Kailan Man"

An Evening of Songs and Dances of Love

Saturday, November 30, 2019

6:00 pm Dinner / Donation \$25 / Semi-Formal / Music by DJ Cyrus Angels

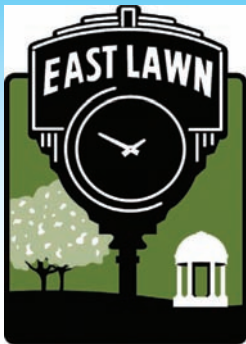
St. Charles Borromeo School Gymnasium

7580 Center Parkway, Sacramento CA

Info: Remy 916.995.2563 / Leila 916.955.8147

**Sponsored by: Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA • Philippine National Day Association
Philippine Fiesta Newspaper**

Funds raised will go towards the support of the youth of St. Charles School and Parish, Concordia Children's Services in Old Santa Mesa, Manila and the Philippine National Day Association's Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards Scholarships here in Sacramento. This year Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA will also put funds raised towards a Music & Arts Scholarship for the deserving young artists in our community.



EST. 1904

EAST LAWN

MEMORIAL PARKS • MORTUARIES
CREMATION • PREPLANNING

Now is the time... tomorrow might be too late.

Advance Funeral Planning gives you peace of mind that comes with knowing your funeral arrangements are taken care of, which will lessen the burden of those you leave behind. By pre-planning your funeral, you will save money and can make payments over time; something you cannot do at the time of death. You can guarantee that what you pay today will fully cover future needs. Planning ahead insures your wishes are followed exactly and that your entire family can be together in the same place. And most of all, it will eliminate stressful decision-making during a time of grief.

Come take a tour of our locations and see our beautiful parks, funeral homes, as well as our new cremation gardens, burial areas for both flat and upright monuments, mausoleums, crypts, glass-front or granite niches and a variety of other choices to be customized specially for you.

Daniel Lam
Unit Sales Manager

Cell: 916-895-6878

FDR Lic# 4255

Cemetery Lic# 54336

CA Insurance Lic# 0M10574

9189 E. Stockton Blvd.
Elk Grove, CA 95624

