

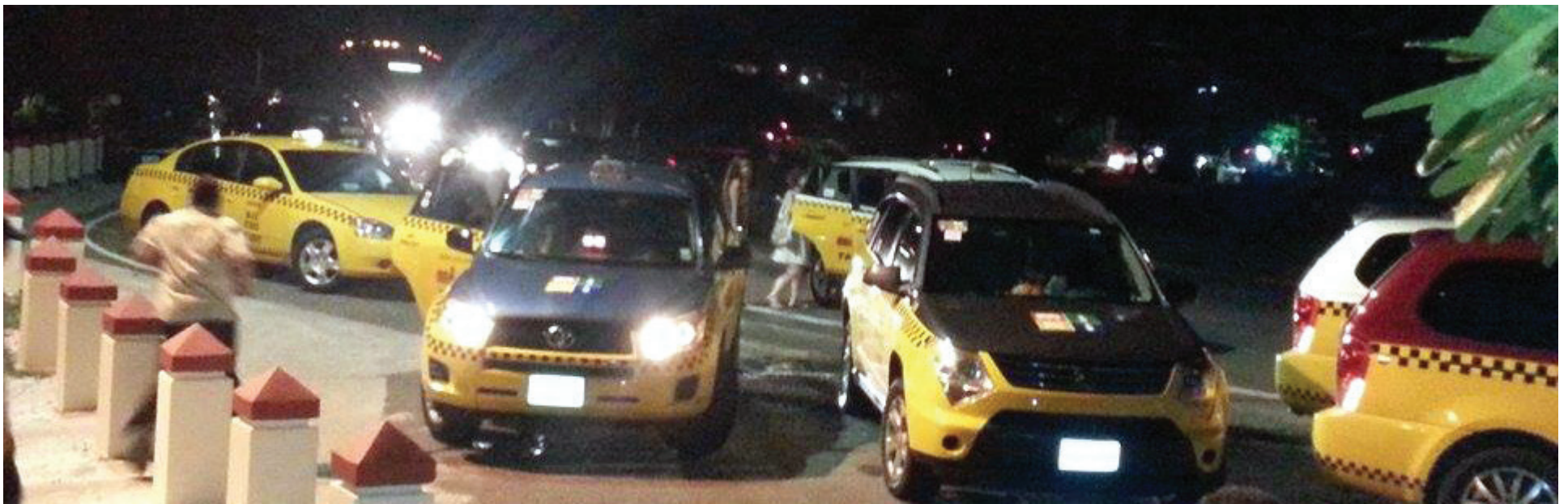


Mabuhay!!

God Bless America!!

Hafa Adai!!

# GMHA to increase rates by as high as 2,449%



Guamanians are looking at a whopping 12% to 2,449% rate increase for certain procedures and services at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

GMHA, the island's one and only civilian government hospital, in its Board Resolution on September 24, approved and adopted 14 new fees for Labor and Delivery, Pharmacy, and Operating Room. In another resolution though, GMHA wants to increase the rates of some 402 items in order "to meet its financial obligations, operating expenses, and capital improvement needs." The proposed rate increase would be from a low of 12% to as high as 2,449%. This rate increase exceeds the allowable 5% annual increase provided for under Public Law 22-66.

On August 21, GMHA conducted a Public Hearing on the 14 new fees. This was attended to by stakeholders to include representatives from health insurance companies. No attendees signed up for testimony, however.

On that same public hearing, the hospital's Board of Trustees provided the participants another list (402 items) of rate increase.

Frank Campillo of Selectcare stated during the hearing that the "huge rate increase would only affect the third party payers and not the non-payers that are the majority of the population." He added that the "impact would damage the system with less insured population and consequently increase the hospital's receivable."

On his August 26 letter to GMHA's CFO, Anthony Mendiola (VP of Staywell Insurance) states that "implementing the proposed 2015 Medicare APC fees at GMHA would lead to an average increase of 277%," further adding that "Increases in individual procedure code pricing ranged from 12% to 2,449%." He said that such increase would have a staggering financial impact. "For instance, the simple blood typing procedure that costs \$9.79 would be

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**SILA LANG BA ANG ANAK NG DIYOS?!?- What's wrong with this picture? First, these taxis (Mikki and Wave) reportedly do not have a permit to pick up passengers in this area at Chamorro Village. But aside from loading passengers, they even made this their waiting bay! This is to the detriment of the other taxi groups who are duly registered with the Chamorro Village office who maintain a loading area across the street every Wednesday. Sources say that a top official is the alleged protector of these taxis that have obviously made them to be above the law. How true???/ Photo by D.M. Romulo**

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Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D. - Humble  
Beginnings, Phenomenal Success

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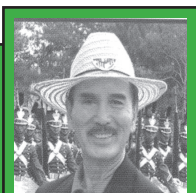
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Red Eye

Blame the brown snake

By: Ronnie Redila





# Guam Memorial Hospital in hot water over client's garnished tax refunds

Claiming that Guam Memorial Hospital Administration (GMHA) should collect from the Federal Government and not from her, an FSM citizen sued the hospital when the latter garnished her tax refunds to offset her unpaid hospital bills.

In the Class Action Complaint filed by a certain Tairin Asetom before the District Court of Guam on October 9, she states that she and her dependent children migrated to Guam as encouraged by the Compact of Free Association. She cannot afford to pay hospital bills as she is earning minimum or close to minimum wage, she was not offered health insurance by the companies she worked with, and she cannot afford private insurance. The complaint states that the Federal Government recognizes this plight as in the Compact, it obligated itself to reimburse the Government of Guam for the hospital bills. The Federal Government however, has not been reimbursing GovGuam as it should, causing now GMHA to garnish the complainant's (and other similarly situated) income tax refunds to pay their hospital bills.

"The Compact of Free Association is likewise intended, as stated in its preamble to help the people of FAS achieve economic advancement and self sufficiency. But what happens, instead, to many of these people when they migrate here to high-rent, high cost of living Guam and start from the bottom, is squalor, and take the available minimum wage jobs, is they find that was little economic boost they had to look forward to by way of EITC refund is garnished by GHMA because the Federal Government is not doing its part and fully reimbursing GMHA for undesired but at times unavoidable and inevitably too expensive hospital bills they may incur for themselves or their children."

The complaint further adds GMHA should be turning to



the Federal Government for the hospital bills "these people simply cannot afford to pay."

The complainant and the "proposed class members," the intended beneficiaries of the Compact "have migrated here in reliance upon the Federal Government's expected good faith and fair dealing in implementing that Compact," the complaint reads.

The complaint also alleges that GMHA did not observe basic due process of notification of and an opportunity to be heard before the garnishment. GMHA was said to have garnished the complainant's tax refunds for the past 3 years "purportedly pursuant to 26 U.S.C. section 6402(e) as mirrored in the Territorial Tax Code."

Asetom and the proposed "class members" seek for declar-

atory judgment on whether GMHA can garnish their tax refunds. They also want the hospital to stop garnishing their tax refunds. Also, Atesom claims that the hospital bills she allegedly owes were mostly from 2007 and earlier and GHMA never instituted any collection lawsuit, thus the 4-year statute of limitations for doing so has already expired before the offsets at issue.

Defendants to the Lawsuit are GMHA, and Mr. Theodore Lewis in his official capacity as the hospital's Administrator. GovGuam was not included as defendant.

In an interview, Lewis states that the hospital is just doing what they have been doing even before he came into the picture. He added that the Compact issue is new to him and he himself is trying to understand its intricacies as it relates to the hospital. *The Junction News Team*

## Guam Tax Commission to study delinking from IRC

Would the island benefit from delinking itself from the federal government's Internal Revenue Code (IRC)?

This is the question that the new Tax Commission has to find answers for as agreed upon by the members during their first meeting, October 13.

As there are too many concerns and issues that need to be addressed, the commission decided to take things one step at a time, and as Senator Mike Nicolas sitting as chairperson for the commission states, tax reform is a long and slow process. As such, the commission has not set a timeline as they want to make sure they want to accomplish something, learning from the mistakes of the previous commissions.

The commission decided not to take on tax reform issues just yet as they decided that the first step would be to determine the feasibility of delinking from IRC. Once this is issue is settled, then they can proceed on tax reform.

And just as the commission is starting with their long and arduous task,

there are already questions as to the impact of delinking. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is concerned about its effect on Section 30. As chairperson for Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication, he wants to make sure that he will have source of funds, Section 30 being the territory's one major source of funds. He is also concerned of its impact on the Guam's triple tax exempt status.

As the commission members agreed to tackle delinking issue, Joe Bradley, SVP of Bank of Guam (representing Guam Bankers Association) said that a very small fraction of the IRC applies to Guam, adding "IRC is not designed for us."

Senator Nerissa Underwood on the other hand, states that there would be a need for a third party research to which Roseann Jones of University of Guam agreed they can help with.

San Nicolas said that to start, committees will be



SAN NICOLAS

formed and standing rules shall be drafted by his office. San Nicolas' office earlier on, prepared Tax Commission Working Archive, a more than a hundred-page collation of Guam's tax history, and the works of the previous tax commissions among others.

Present during the first meeting were Joe Arnett, Joseph Bradley, Roseann Jones, and Gary Hiles (as ex-officio member). The commission agreed to meet every first Tuesday of the month. *The Junction News Team*

## Lawmaker wants list of contractors published

In an effort to promote consumer protection, Senator Tommy Morrison introduced Bill No. 188-33 (COR) which, if enacted, would require the Contractor's License Board (CLB) to publish a list of contractors authorized to conduct business on Guam. The list would be published in print and electronically in a newspaper of general circulation (as defined by local statute) and will include information such as the Contractor's Name and Phone Number, CLB License Number, Identification of Responsible Managing Employee, and the Classification(s) of Work Authorized. The bill if approved, would require the list to be pushed annually. Additionally, the measure requires that individuals and companies performing work under the guise of a licensed contractor, shall be ordered to cease and desist from the violation, be assessed 50% of the value of the project, of which half would be used to compensate individuals affected – in accordance with CLB rules.

According to Senator Morrison, Bill No. 188-33

(COR) was introduced in response to growing concerns among Guam's law-abiding contractors of a serious issue involving unlicensed contractors. From illegal utility connections to unlicensed air-conditioning installation services, "there are folks in our community performing various work without the proper review and endorsements of the Contractor's License Board," states Senator Morrison.

Since 2011, the CLB received 50 complaints involving unlicensed contractors. Guam law requires that no person within the purview of 21 GCA Real Property CH. 70 shall act, or assume to act, or advertise, as general engineering contractor, general building contractor or specialty contractor without a license previously obtained under and in compliance with this 21 GCA Real Property CH. 70 and the rules and regulations of the Contractor's License Board.

"I believe that the publication of a Contractors List is an additional way of helping our residents to navigate the difficult

and sometimes intimidating, process of choosing a qualified and experienced contractor. Moreover, the penalties proposed for unlicensed contractors will definitely contribute to ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring that our homes and other structures are built right, that people's hard-earned money are protected, and that illegal contractors are finally put out of business. People's lives are at stake," Morrison concludes.

Bill No. 188-33 (COR) is part of Senator Morrison's ongoing efforts to promote a level playing field for all law-abiding contractors. In anticipation of construction activity related to the military buildup, Senator Morrison says he is also in communication with Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar and her team regarding the application of local contractor laws to federal contractors performing work on non-military properties. *The Junction News Team*



Core tech through "The Daily Post" finally replied to this paper's questions regarding the acquisition of the former Marianas Variety. Below is their reply which did not answer any of our questions (posted on the right). What a disappointment -Ed.

# CORE TECH "REPLIES"

**THE WEEKLY JUNCTION GUAM EDITION**  
fearless | free | balanced | fair  
The Free Weekly Newspaper

Backed by 18 years of newspapering experience.

September 21, 2015

MR. HO S. EUN  
or the Concerned Officer In Charge  
CORE TECH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION  
300 South Marine Corps Drive, Suite 400  
Tamuning, GU 96913

Subject: Guam LLC acquisition of Marianas Variety now Daily Post

Dear Mr. Eun:

With all due respect, the Junction Guam weekly will soon be coming out with its maiden issue. In view of this, we would like to be clarified on your company's acquisition of the former Marianas Variety. The information you provide to us will be used on our forthcoming feature. We would appreciate getting your reply not later than September 25, 2015. You can e-mail your reply to the following email addresses: ed\_gu@junctionnews.com or junctionguam@yahoo.com.

1. What made you interested in acquiring the Marianas Variety?
2. It appears that your acquisition and entry in the business of media newspaper information dissemination is not part of your core business and/or related business(es) of yours which is construction and development. Why the interest to venture into media?
3. We have unconfirmed information that Marianas Variety was not exactly a profitable entity. If this is true, why did you still acquire it?
4. For how much did you acquire Marianas Variety, and how much capital infusion have you pumped in, and how much more do you intend to infuse?
5. Can you provide us with some information on the financial side of the Marianas Variety, now the Daily Post more so on the ROI and ROR, etc?
6. There is a speculation among some members of the business community that you had acquired the Marianas Variety in order to serve your business interests in relation to your numerous contracts with the government of Guam. What can you say to this?
7. Can you provide us with a brief background on start of Core Tech International Corporation to include the current number of contracts/developments/acquisitions it has dealt with in the government of Guam to date? Kindly include also the value of the projects.
8. Any other information you may want to provide to us, please feel free to do so.

Should we need to make any other further clarification, kindly inform us as to who we can get in touch with.

Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Benigna Dawang-Farres  
Publisher

9/21/2015  
473-8000

**THE GUAM DAILY POST**  
A Guam Times LLC publication

9/25/2015

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Hafa Adai Mrs. Dawang-Farres,

I received a copy of your letter to Mr. Eun dated September 21, 2015. Unfortunately, we are not at liberty to answer any of your questions. The acquisition of the Marianas Variety-Guam Edition is a private sale and will remain this way.

I understand you are embarking on a new publication for Guam. Best wishes and I look forward to someday meeting you. If you are looking for a local printer to produce your newspaper, we can offer you the best rates and quality on island.

Senseramente,

Amier C. Younis  
Publisher  
The Guam Daily Post

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## GMHA CEO Accused of Abusing Hospital-Paid Credit Card

Amidst the controversies involving the only government civilian in the island, the CEO of Guam Memorial Hospital Authority is now in direct rap.

This developed as Governor Eddie Baza Calvo issued a Memo to GMHA's Chairman of the Board Lee Weber asking the latter to conduct and investigation on the CEO's alleged misuse or abuse of his government issued credit card.

The October 12 Memo states that it was brought to the Governor's attention that Ted Lewis, GMHA Administrator/CEO allegedly dines using the hospital-paid credit card "almost every work day." It further adds that while the Governor understands "the need for a CEO to dine and entertain associates, especially investors or those he or she is dealing with, government administrators must be mindful of their fiduciary responsibilities. This is a more heightened concern for the hospital, which runs at a constant deficit because of its open-ended mandate." The Governor adds that "No one at GMH should be racking up thousands of dollars in

monthly restaurant charges on a government credit card."

Lewis for his part explained that it is necessary for his job to bring out his colleagues, mostly the doctors for dinner because these doctors are so busy and by spending an hour or two with them over dinner is an investment, most especially so with the presence of a competitor (referring to Guam Regional Medical City). He further adds that it is a practice that CEOs should build rapport with the doctors as they are a key asset to the hospital.

Lewis however belied allegations of "almost" daily dining as this is practically not possible, stating that he

is busy and the doctors are busy as well. On the average, he states that he dines with his doctors twice a week.

On the "thousands of dollars" restaurant charges a month, he states this is bloated. While there may be a month when the bill reached two thousands or thereabouts, that was when there were delegates that he needs to go out for dinner with.

Lewis, however, surprisingly does not know his representation expense cap, thus he does not also know if he spending within the budget./

The Junction News Team

## Corruption Targeted by the UOG MPA Program

The federal and local government agencies of Guam is now under tight scrutiny by the watchful eyes of the Guam community and its residents, to measure, monitor and put an end to the level of internal and political corruption for both local and federal government of Guam and in the neighboring Federal States of Micronesia or FSM.

The community people were recently invited by the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration (SBPA) Master in Public Administration (MPA) to participate in a 2-part survey program that aims to get public's view of corruption in their respective local areas.

Bribery, under the table deals, and abuse of power, is just a few of the corruption-related problems that was said to have been going on for many years since the early time of Guam's governance was established. These problems are now being hunted and targeted by the UOG survey program followed after with the same and in accordance to the Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer standards.

Transparency International is a non-government organization and a separate commission that works with local government, public or private business firms, and the community to put a halt on the political and corporate corruption through their Global Corruption Barometer or GCB which is relevant to the objective of the UOG MPA survey program.

The public's calling to unmask the culprit or the corrupt begins with answering the survey inquiry that consists of corruption-related questions, government and its regulations towards corruption,

and analytical examination devised to obtain the profile of a survey respondent.

"We hope the survey results will allow the Island community to put these important issues in proper perspective and quantify residents' views on these issues. We want our community to engage in a reflective and productive dialogue on how to improve upon our current situation, whatever it might be," said Dr. Maria Claret Ruane, University of Guam Professor of Economics.

Victims of corruption who have had witnessed and who are still experiencing corruption at first hand will be leading the march in naming or nominating the grandest of all corruptions, followed by the civil society or community citizen who will take part in the UOG MPA survey program.

This program will simply tell the people about the cancer growing within our own society that can definitely impact Guam and its neighboring islands directly.

Survey application is available and the applications towards corruption,

continued on page 5

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

For issues, concerns of social relevance and of public interest that you may wish to be published or exposed, send us an e-mail at [junctionguam@yahoo.com](mailto:junctionguam@yahoo.com) and/or [ed\\_gu@junctionnews.com](mailto:ed_gu@junctionnews.com), providing us with as much information as you can. We entertain information, leads, tips from anonymous sources. Publication is subject to editorial discretion.



# Is the press free, dynamic, and vibrant on Guam?

In common everyday discussions this paper and some its members and staff have been asked if what is our opinion on whether or not the press (media) is free, dynamic, and vibrant on Guam. Can a simple and humble Guamanian speak his mind and if need be, criticize the powers that be?

Often, our answer is, "we don't now," which we follow up with a comment or question that goes this way. "Based on our experience with the governor's

## Editorial

complex at Adelup wherein this paper was rudely banned from being distributed there, you tell us if the press is free, dynamic, and

vibrant on Guam?" To date, despite our earlier email request to be provided with the legal basis for us to be banned for distribution at Adelup, we still have not been provided with our request. At any rate, who are we to insist on getting this paper distributed over there? Why bother to add to their trash?

However, on a final note, before we move on to other more important issues like finance, land acquisition, government debt, alleged corrupt shady deals and others, we are hoping that the concerned officer at Adelup whose name we need not mention can kindly e-mail to us a copy of the legal basis for forbidding us to distribute newspaper copies at Adelup.

To the question above on the following adjectives, dynamic is defined as characterized by constant change, activity, or progress; whereas vibrant is defined as full of energy and enthusiasm. Free on the other hand means not subject to arbitrary interference by a government.

Now, let's put things in perspective. Press freedom certainly includes the whole news gathering and delivery mechanism intended for the market which is every Tom, Dick, Harry, and Jane. Perhaps the question often asked to us is too technical and would need a lengthy verbose to dissect and answer. Why don't we instead try to simplify matters? Cut to the chase and get to the point. The way we see things and the question to this could be, are the Guamanians being provided with factual, in depth, transparent information more so when the news concerns governance and government affairs?

In a nutshell, that is the question we prefer to be asked. Unfortunately, at this point, we are not yet competent enough to answer it, but instead we throw the question to the Guamanians, let it sink in and you tell us.

While at the subject of press freedom, allow us to leave you with the following wise words:



The Free Weekly Newspaper  
Published Sundays by Junction Guam

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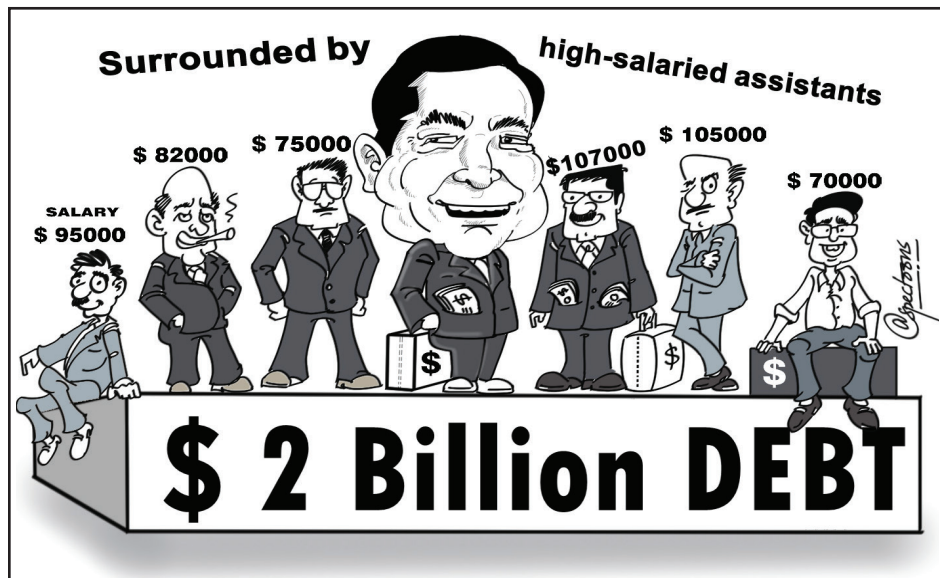
Rolly Zabala Leo Macaraeg

Printed in the Philippines by

Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc.

[www.junctionnews.com](http://www.junctionnews.com)

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### The Truth Matters

- What does Coretech, Daily Post, Gov Calvo have in common?
- Guam politics copying Pinoy Politics!

By: Rolando Zabala



To those of us who have a pretty good idea on the nuances of Philippine Politics, I would like to ask you as to how one can describe Philippine politics, and for those who have no idea, Philippine politics is basically politics of patronage. The elections season starts off with goons, guns, and gold (mostly gold). Turncoatism among politicians is a common as seeing flies in a rotten trash heap, more so that the Philippines has a multi party system. The patronage aspect exercised by political families or even clans is simply amazing. It is not surprising to find in some provinces practically a whole family holding elective positions.

In La Union for example, the governor is an Ortega, his brother is the Congressman, the wife is Mayor, another brother is a City Councilor, another brother is a Provincial Board Member and down the line are a long list of relatives who are holding key positions within the province. They say it is a classic case of a political dynasty. If you ask me if I agree with the term dynasty, my answer is yes and no, which unfortunately will be too lengthy for me to explain. While there are term limits in place, the political family in power simply does a rigodon among family members on who will run for a particular position come election time, and this is happening every 3 years.

I am thankful that the political culture in the island has not and cannot duplicate the Philippine system. However, my observation during the time of Gov Carl Gutierrez, there were a good number of Filipinos who were holding pretty good positions in government, which unfortunately, that is not the case with the Calvo administration. During the Gutierrez administration, meritocracy was given its due which is not the case with the Calvo administration. During the Gutierrez administration, the Governor was highly accessible and he did not have a cordon as is the case now.

Anyway, my column is not about comparing the former and current governor. To each

his own style, and to which my beloved Guamanians will decide who is worthy come 2018, still a couple of years from now, but time flies, and whether we like it or not 2018 is now just around the corner.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have been asked, why, what is the problem if Coretech had bought the former Marianas Variety, now turned it into the Daily Post? My answer always is, on the surface there appears to be nothing wrong as this is a free country or an island where democratic principles reign supreme. My often retort to this question often is, are you aware on the extent and magnitude of dealings Coretech has with the current administration? Most often, the person(s) I am talking to would give some general answers as to yes they have done this, they have done that, they have been awarded this or that, mostly also general responses. When I am given that response, I normally say, there you have it, that is where the problem lies. We all want an independent media, free to say or write things even though they may be critical of the current administration - that is the fundamental role of media which is to inform the public as truthfully as possible on the hard and cold facts, no more no less. Anything less would put a media person or outfit in the category of a PR Man (paid hack) or PR firm.

I now ask you, do you think the Daily Post can be critical of at least the Governor and

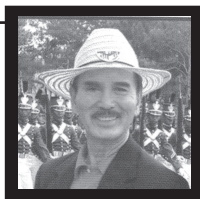
• The administration of government has become more complex, the opportunities for malfeasance and corruption have multiplied, crime has grown to most serious proportions, and the danger of its protection by unfaithful officials and of the impairment of the fundamental security of life and property by criminal alliances and official neglect, emphasizes the primary need of a vigilant and courageous press, especially in great cities./Charles Evans Hughes, (Near v. Minnesota, 1931).

• Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost./Thomas Jefferson, letter to Dr. James Currie (28 January 1786) Lipscomb & Bergh 18:ii.

• The freedom of speech and of the press, which are secured by the First Amendment against abridgment by the United States, are among the fundamental personal rights and liberties which are secured to all persons by the Fourteenth Amendment against abridgment by a state. The safeguarding of these rights to the ends that men may speak as they think on matters vital to them and that falsehoods may be exposed through the processes of education and discussion is essential to free government. Those who won our independence had confidence in the power of free and fearless reasoning and communication of ideas to discover and spread political and economic truth./Frank Murphy (1940). Thornhill v. Alabama. Supreme Court of the United States. pp. 310 U.S. 88, 95.

continued on page 5



**Fighting for a Cause & More****Medicare Law  
a Disservice to Seniors**By: **Pat Duque**

The Medicare problem is one of the three most important things to resolve in 2006, though it should have been done years ago for the health and lives of Social Security (SS) members.

Here's a vivid story of a 65-year-old lady whose husband died last year. She's an SS retiree and is now living alone.

Her plight is of great human interest because she could be anyone. She's my good friend, Rose. Last week, she called from Manila where she is vacationing.

"Pat, I read through the PDN Web site that Medicare will reduce next year its support for Guam and 38% of doctors there may refuse to see us while others will do it as an act of charity."

"This will adversely affect 10,560 members and increasing on Guam," I replied.

"It pains me, Pat, because when they introduced Medicare in the 1960's, I was only 25 then and for 40 years I contributed 3% of my lifetime income. Now, I'm sickly and alone in life. Where's justice in America?"

"I'm so sorry, Rose. I wrote an article in the PDN seven months ago and followed up with series of articles in Mabuhay News calling for the amendment of the obsolete 40-year-old Medicare Law, but up to now all our politicians are silent on this."

"You know except for one or two, all politicians are created equal. They're known for their varied interest – people's interest, self-interest or supporters' business interest," Rose said.

"You're right."

"How I wish I got other private health insurance then because Medicare covers emergencies arising in Guam only. It's unfair; this should be changed."

"Yes. Besides, medical and dental costs in Manila are five and eight times cheaper respectively than in Guam and the mainland. Medicare and patients could save millions of dollars there. It's now globalized pricing for goods and services. Why are medical/dental services excluded?," I added.

"Got to hang up now, Pat, I have chest pains and must rest. I'll return to Guam in two days to get a doctor's referral there, then fly back to Manila again for my hospitalization."

She started to sob.

"Go now to Makati Medical Center. You're sick, Rose."

"I can't because I don't have enough money. Medicare won't pay for it because it requires that I be in Guam. Please continue working for the revision of Medicare's impractical provisions on emergency cases. That's one of our leader's promises, isn't it?"

"Yes, take good care of yourself. I pray that nothing wrong happens in your travel. I'll continue pursuing justice for SS members."

A week had already passed by.

No call or news from Rose yet. May God protect and bless my friend.

(First printed in 2006 [Pat in the Back]. Where are we now in this plight? We haven't moved a bit. – Ed.)

## The Truth Matters from page 4

Lt. Governor, never mind the cabinet for now as some of them may be treated as shock absorbers? You tell me. Do you think that Coretech, which is a favored contractor of the Governor has taken a hands off policy and allowed the Daily Post the editorial liberty and independence to write about things that may be critical about the Governor and/or Lt. Governor? If your answer to my two questions is Yes, then perhaps you were just born yesterday to which I was not (lakayakon dinak ma-allilaw or in tagalog – matanda na to lokohin n'yo lelong n'yo). Or perhaps you are among those favored and benefitting from the current administration.

Ang dasal ko lang, sa aking mga kababayang Pinoy, kailangan na magka-isa tayo at buksan ninyo ang inyong mga mata at huwag kayo mag tanga-tangahan o mag bubulag-bulagan. Gusto ba ninyo na mangyari sa Guam (at nangyayari na ito) at matulad sa Pinas ang mga talamak na pandarambong ng napakaraming mga kawatan na nasa posisyon

**Punto de Vista**

- PDN giving out free copies
- Audit for fund raising BINGO operations

By: **Leo Macaraeg**

While I am no longer a member of the Pangasinanse Bingo-HA!HA!HA! organization, I am compelled to comment on that organization out of my honest and sincere desire for whoever is the supposedly beneficiary organization of the Bingo games, that is after all the essence of the Bingo games being conducted which is to raise funds for the beneficiary organization(s).

As I understand, around 90% or more of the players are my fellow senior citizens. Of course most of us seniors are merely relying on our hard earned and well deserved pensions to allow us our much needed entertainment and a chance to be lucky and take home a little something through Bingo. A lot of my fellow seniors whom I believe are not as naïve as some others have told me that they hope that the intended beneficiaries are getting their due share of the proceeds of the Bingo games.

If you will recall, some years back the Pacific Daily News (PDN) had featured the Pangasinanse organization Bingo games in a headline story on the issue of some kind of missing funds or un-accountable funds to the tune of a cool 7M (seven big big big ones, huge ney!!!). I now wonder what had happened with that issue and I can only hope and pray that the concerned leaders of that organization are not taking the players, their fellow members and beneficiaries for a ride. Hay naku, ang buhay nga naman. Tumatabo ka na nga, di ka pa nakuntento at gusto mo pa ng drum drum.

At any rate, I am a firm believer in the law of Karma and I thank the Almighty God for having given me quite a good health at my age (never mind my age), but one thing I am certain is that sooner or later, good or bad Karma will come into the picture, assuming it has not yet.

\*\*\*\*\*

By the way, with the new trend of the Bingo games nowadays wherein a lot of the new technology is being used, I somehow am not comfortable with this new and modern system. Truth to tell, I still prefer the good old fashioned hard copy cards. As some of you might not be aware of, in the Philippine elections where they use this computerized PCOS machines, there has already been proven studies of high-tech voters manipulation. Imagine if they can manipulate voters ballots, you tell me what else can they manipulate, in fact hackers are everywhere and these hackers are capable of hacking even highly secured soft and hardware. In fact, I will do more research on the subject in terms of who is/are in charge of regulating the Bingo gambling games and of course the high tech gadgets involved. I am simply very much concerned with the hard-earned money being spent by my fellow seniors. Pinag-pawisan po natin ang ating mga pensyon, papayagan na lang ba natin na maloko tayo ng teknolohiya?!? And of course, with the supposed to be beneficiaries, how sure are we that the beneficiary organization(s) is not being short changed, are the necessary safety measures (transparent at that) in place? Just asking!

\*\*\*\*\*

The PDN is now distributing FREE complimentary copies at the GCIC Bldg. This is great news. I hope the PDN is also being given out for free at other buildings and/or public places. In fact, I hope that the PDN will follow this paper and becomes a free paper instead. I happened to drop by the GCIC Bldg early morning of Monday and I saw copies of the PDN neatly rolled inside plastic bags left right out the doors of the numerous offices in our floor. Immediately, I told myself GREAT, now I no longer have to drop by the Kings Restaurant or some other restaurant. Keep up the good work, PDN. You guys should seriously consider becoming a free paper. ADIOS!

**Red Eye****Blame the brown snake**By: **Ronnie R. Redila**

The Manila Electric Company recently announced that it will reduce its overall rates for its residential customers by 13 centavos per kilowatt hour. That's six straight months that Meralco's overall rates have declined.

It's a welcome news for Meralco customers.

Guam Power Authority customers face a contrast reality.

There's an imminent increase of power rates.

Two power plants, the Cabras 3 and 4, in Piti were severely damaged as an explosion ripped off the roof shielding the two power plants.

It was reported that the damage caused by the outburst and fire could be at \$100 million. The agency says it could go as high as \$150 million.

The two power plants were constructed two decades ago. The power agency spent \$300 million in building these plants.

Although it has not been independently examined, GPA has stated that one of the power plants might have been extremely damaged and could no longer be repaired.

It would mean that it could cost the agency about \$200-\$250 million to replace the un-repairable power plant.

We should expect that the cost will be passed on to the consumers.

GPA doesn't need to lay the predicate. Historical pattern has it.

But before the power agency asks for a power rate increase, it should first conduct an in-depth, rigorous investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. And take action against those responsible for this unbearable situation.

No whitewash.

No script.

Just the facts.

And, hopefully the power agency would not blame the brown snake. The public would no longer bite this excuse. It has been overused.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Dededo Senior Citizens Center. Elected were: Hilda Pellicani, president; Vicky Callagan, vice president; Nelia Dulay, secretary; Helen Meneses, treasurer; and Julie Caguioa, ENPC officer

## Corruption Targeted... from page 3

tion is on-going and open to interested participants at least 18 years old and currently residing in Guam and the neighboring Island of Federal States of Micronesia or FSM.

Participants are assured that the survey and all given information written will be treated as highly confidential and strictly anonymous.

Find more information about the survey program by logging on to: <http://www.uog.edu/sbpa/mpa-survey> or visit the University of Guam

or UOG SBPA Dean's office to fill out a printed survey form.

Interested parties may also find out more about the program by contacting any of the following project researchers directly and get the information directly from Dr. John J. Rivera at [jrivera@triton.uog.edu](mailto:jrivera@triton.uog.edu), Dr. Ansito Walter at [ansitowalter@gmail.com](mailto:ansitowalter@gmail.com), and the UOG SBPA Dean Dr. Annete Tajeron Santos at [santos@triton.uog.edu](mailto:santos@triton.uog.edu). *The Junction News team*



# Catastrophic Leave Act Tax Cheat Gets One-Year Imprisonment

## Bill Signed Into Law

Legislation authored by Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. that would create a Catastrophic Leave Pool Act has been signed into law by the Governor.

Public Law 33-76 is known as the "Catastrophic Leave Pool Act of 2015" and establishes a sick-leave pool for government employees who've been diagnosed with a catastrophic illness. Blas said this would allow an employee who has a catastrophic illness to receive sick leave from a pool, which would be an accumulation of donated sick leave time.

"This provides an opportunity to create a pool for those who want to donate their sick leave, but don't have a specific person to donate to," Blas said, adding that the law requires the Department of Administration to establish rules, regulations and definitions. The department will also maintain a "Catastrophic leave Pool" where donated sick leave hours will be deposited. There shall be no limits to the number of hours that can be donated to the pool.

The policy will go into

effect once the rules are completed.

Meanwhile, the Governor last month also signed Public Law 33-68, which is legislation Blas introduced regarding island Mayors and the zoning process. The law now allows municipal planning councils to review projects proposed to the Guam Land Use Commission and authorizes the Director of the Department of Land Management to include the mayors in the GLUC zoning and construction forms.

## OPA Dismissed Maeda Pacific's Procurement Appeal against GSWA

Doris Flores Brooks, public auditor of Guam of the Office of the Public Auditor or (OPA), recently signed the order of dismissal on the procurement appeal made by Maeda Pacific Corporation (MPC) against Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA).

The decision was made after almost three months of deliberation, appeals, motions and extensive review of the case of both parties (MPA and GSWA). Brooks finds the appeal presented before the OPA has something to do with money owed to or by the government of Guam and therefore the OPA lacks jurisdiction of the said appeal and that both parties were advised to seek a judicial review of the case to the Superior Court of Guam.

Maeda Pacific Corporation (MPC) is a private contractor that was awarded with the Harmon Residential Transfer Station by Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA) in November 2012 under contract number GSWA-12-02 with contract amount of \$2,410,000.00 and to be completed after 308 days upon signing the agreement.

The dispute started when both parties (MPC and GSWA) are claiming breach of contract over the Harmon Residential Transfer Station. The MPC asserts that it is owed by GSWA the amount of \$506,483.39 as payment for the project. GSWA however assessed \$663,000 of liquidated damages against the MPC and asserts that the

difference between the said amounts of \$156,516.61 is payable by the Maeda Pacific Corporation to Guam Solid Waste Authority.

The MPC which is represented by Phillip Torres of the Torres Law Group, appealed over the validity of the contract and the liquidated provision last August 17. The liquidated damages deemed by the GSWA has a total of \$3,300 per day for the breach of contract against the MPC for failing, refusing to finish the work in the time as specified in the contract. Under the same provision, the liquidated damages are assessed for each calendar day the contract took effect, that resulted in the amount of \$663,000.00 being demanded by GSWA.

The appeal to void the liquidated damages was filed before the OPA by MPC; however, hearing officer/public auditor of Guam, Doris Flores Brooks said OPA does not have jurisdiction over the matter since there is money disputed by both parties involving the government of Guam.

Brooks in a resolution, advised both parties (MPC and GSWA) of their right to judicial review in the Superior Court of Guam of a decision of the Public Auditor under 5 G.C.A. Chapter 5, Article 9 of the Guam Procurement Law. Both parties were given fourteen (14) days to either resolve the dispute on their own or present the case before the Superior Court of Guam. *The Junction News Team*

## GMHA to increase rates...

*from page 1*

billed at \$76.07." Mendiola cited more examples such as code 31500 for insertion of emergency airway for which the current rate is \$5.09, will be increased to \$129.72 which is a 2,449% increase.

"As we all know, the changes will significantly impact the private payers and the consumers as well. Earlier this year, the hospital already implemented an adjustment in its fees. A gradual, rather than a sudden steep adjustment, is the approach that the community can work with.

"On the other hand, we question the appropriateness of applying the 2015 Medicare APC rates on

Guam at this time. APCs or 'Ambulatory Payment Classifications' are the government's method of paying facilities for outpatient services for the Medicare program. This component of the Outpatient prospective Payment System (OPPS) for hospital outpatient services is analogous to the Medicare prospective payment system for hospital inpatients known as 'Diagnostic Related Groups' or DRGs. From our recollection, this system – including its required coding systems, rules and processes – has never been used at GMHA. Medicare itself may not use such a scheme with GMHA

For failure to file income tax returns, supply information and pay required taxes for 3 years, a highly paid consultant of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport was sentenced to 1 year jail time, pay a fine amounting to \$22,500, and another \$343,950.00 in restitution.

Francisco Roberto Santos, on April 14 was charged with 5 counts of willful failure to file returns, supply information, and pay required tax. The information filed by the Attorney General's Office in behalf of the Government of Guam states that on 2008, Santos had a gross income of \$247,077.85. On 2009, Santos had a gross income of \$254,238.54. His income for 2010 on the hand was \$251,967.86; on 2011 was \$249,600; and on 2012 was another \$249,600. In all instances, Santos did not file for tax returns and he failed to pay taxes.

On July 9, Santos entered a guilty plea to counts III, IV, and V (years 2010, 2011, and 2012 respectively). He said his gross income for 2010 was \$232,622; for 2011 was \$230,137; and for 2012 was \$229,682. As such, for each count, he was facing a one-year imprisonment, fine of \$100,000 (maximum), \$25 mandatory special assessment fee, and one year

supervised release. He also agreed to pay restitution of \$343,950.00

Before the sentencing, high profile members of the community including two senators gave their support to Santos appealing that he was remorseful of his crime, and that the court should be lenient on him. Some even suggested community service in place of imprisonment.

Prosecutor Joseph McDonald in his Sentencing memo reiterated the 3-year imprisonment. He said that Santos' tax crimes spanned 19 years. "From 1994 to 2012, Defendant willfully failed to file his income tax returns." "Defendant was first investigated in 2003 for failing to file returns for the years prior. When questioned, it was apparent that his failure was willful, in violation of a known legal duty. Defendant at that time made representations to DRT agent that he would file his taxes, alluding to his hiring a CPA for assistance, and asked that DRT afford an exception and provide business license to him so that he could file and pay his GRTs. However, Defendant failed to abide by his own representations. He never followed through with his CPA to file returns and never filed nor paid GRTs. In 2013, DRT tax agents ques-

tioned Defendant again. It was clear that Defendant took no action to remedy his own failures. He explained that he was too busy for the last 19 years to file his tax returns and that it was a burden on him.

"The Defendant had the use and enjoyment of his money while the Government did not. While many low bracket taxpayers paid then waited months for their refunds, Defendant had full use and enjoyment of his money.

"In a time when the Government is fiscally tight, his crimes had significant impact, and other scofflaws' tax crimes have, too.

"Almost every islander is directly affected by the Guam Territorial Income tax Law. Congress recognized this and demands the highest *mens rea* found in the law before a citizen can be convicted of a tax crime: willfulness, that is, the intentional violation of a known legal duty. Unlike any other crime, even murder, ignorance of the law is an excuse. Tax crimes, therefore, involve a deliberate flouting of the law and obligations of citizenship.

"It is crucial ... that taxpayers believe that everyone is paying their fair share; they must perceive the

**continued on page 7**



at this time," Mendiola explained in his letter.

In the August 21 GMHA public hearing, Benita Manglona (GMHA CFO) emphasized that the cost of delivering healthcare has significantly increased over the years while GMHA rates have not kept pace of the increases. She said that the hospital "has not adjusted its rates since early 1990s" and that "current fees are not

sufficient to cover operating costs," citing from the 2014 Office of the Inspector General report.

On October 12, GMHA submitted the proposed rate increase (and the new fees) for Legislative action. Senator Dennis Rodriguez, Jr. being the chairman for the Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security, and Senior Citizens filed Bill

No. 189-33 (COR) for such purpose. Rodriguez announced that a public hearing will be conducted on October 22 at 5:30 pm in the Public Hearing Room of I Liheslatura.

The hospital's rate adjustments can be downloaded at the hospital's website, [www.gmha.org/](http://www.gmha.org/) The Junction News Team



# UOG-PALS Hosts Harassment Prevention Program

Prominent community leaders are set to gather before the students, attendees and participants of the Harassment Prevention Program that will be hosted by The University of Guam Public Administration and Legal Studies (UOG-PALS) program.

The workshop presentation will take place on Wednesday, October 21st, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at

the Multi-Purpose Room #129 of the Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Administration Building at the UOG, where refreshments and light drink awaits the student attendees.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barret-Anderson will be leading the workshop program discussion by covering the Civil Rights act of 1964, the government regulations and ruling with

respect to harassment-related incidents and other definition or form of the malicious intent of harassment.

The main purpose of the presentation of the harassment prevention program is to deliberately increase public awareness most especially among the university students by providing them

with valuable information from professional studies to distinguish harassment and its other forms and to have a prompt and appropriate response to it.

"The outcome we hope to achieve from this workshop is creating awareness among our students to help them identify and prepare to respond to harassment situations in their professional and personal lives," said Dr. Annette Taijeron Santos, Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration.

The event was made possible by the solid and continuous commitment of the University of Guam Public Administration and Legal Studies (UOG-PALS) through the efforts of the PA 304 Public Information class on its aim of having a harassment-free campus.

Senator Benjamin Cruz of the Guam's legislature will also be there as the workshop programs vice speaker, to discuss the ordeals associated by and with different harassment situations. Procedures and processes in investigating/resolving

Tax Cheat....

from page 6

system to be fair and scofflaws must be seen to be punished. Meaningful sentences in criminal tax cases are necessary to ensure the integrity of the tax system. This offence should be seen for what it is: a serious financial crime with a very large monetary loss."

He further added in his 56-page Memo that a 3-year incarceration, combined with a criminal fine and restitution, will send the message that cheating on your taxes is simply not worth the risk."

But the court decided to be lenient and gave him a 1-year imprisonment instead./The Junction News Team

harassment cases on the other hand will be shared by the University of Guam's very own assistant professor Atty. Ronald Aguon of the School of Business & Public Administration.

Other Speakers are Associate Professor Dr. Ron McNinch, Associate Professor Dr. Ansito Walter, and Assistant Professor Dr. John Rivera who will present learning, considerations, and avoidance of any harassment related incidents. Capping the harassment prevention program discussion are the representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation with their department response techniques in dealing with the many forms of harassment.

Light drinks and refresh-

ments will be served to all students and attendees for free.

This event is free and sponsored by UOG PALS, PA 304 Public Information class on a "first come first served" basis due to limited seating capacity and space of the venue. Interested parties are advised to come early to get a slot before the start of the harassment prevention program.

For more information, contact the School of Business & Public Administration or SBPA Dean's Office at 735-2501 or email Nicole Cornelison at nicole\_cornelison@hotmail.com to get the updates and other information about the harassment prevention workshop program./The Junction News



## Join Nerissa for Sunday Brunch!

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Senator

**Nerissa Bretania  
UNDERWOOD**

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# Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D. - Humble Beginnings, Phenomenal Success

Because of my faith in God, support from my family, opportunities afforded to me by publicly funded programs and fair treatment from the people of Guam, I was able to achieve the highest position of my profession. I believe that everyone has the potential to succeed and contribute to Guam's success.

Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood is a ophy and her life story has an unseen force powerful and the universe. - Faith in GOD and family.

But before even a PhD, Senator simply Nerissa own share of "ups stumble and fall" made her what she is she is right now.

## Humble Beginnings

Senator Nerrisa was Province of Iloilo, Philip-family migrated to Guam was only 4 years old. Even she recalls her memories "Barrio" in Iloilo where her has to go to the rice field some "pantat" (catfish) and for their meal and together siblings. They will enjoy every the catch with their favorite (preserved anchovies in salt)

It was really a humble beginning for Dr. Nerrisa as she was raised by her mother who, like herself has been a school teacher and her father as a Contractor in the Navy (that paved the way for family's migration to Guam. Here on Guam, her mother still made it a point to speak with her (and her siblings) in "Ilonggo" at home.

## Life Didn't Come Easy

Life did not come easy for Dr. Nerrisa. The truth is, it was really a struggle for her and maybe for anyone in the same situation as she goes through her life. She married early perhaps being young, her wisdom was really not composed yet to understand the dynamics of having a family and many of the married-life sacrifices that resulted to her failed marriage. At a young age, with little kids, Nerissa divorced her first husband.

Back in college, while she was taking up her Elementary and Special Education degree at the University of Guam, Dr. Nerrisa has already had 2 kids, and was pregnant with her 3rd child when she graduated.

## Leaning to Her Family

It was the most difficult years of Senator Nerissa's life settling in the small community of Guam during the late 70's where people were not yet so open about moral and cultural differences. She suddenly became the talk of the town by being a single parent to three Afro-American children.

At that time, her children were not so well accepted, most especially so coming from divorced parents. She leaned so much to her family of whom she has gotten most of her strength to face her everyday life challenges.

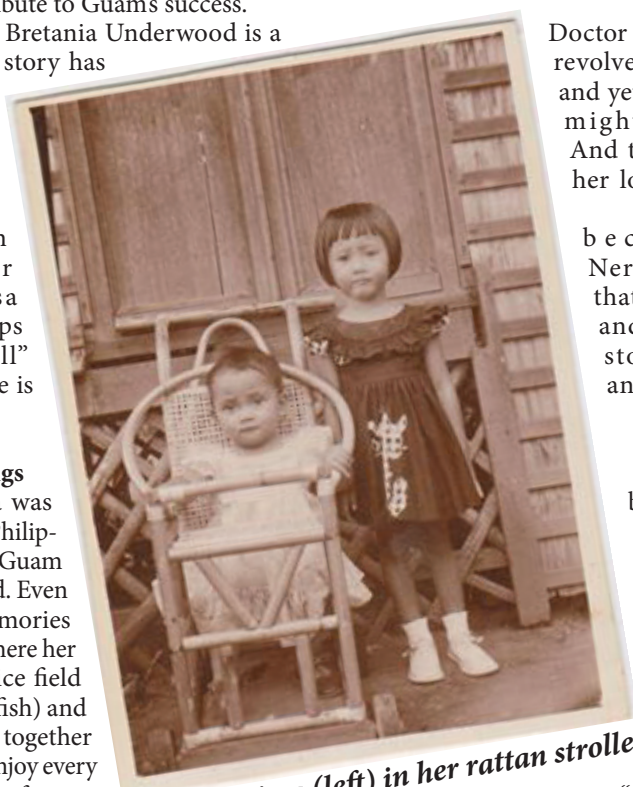
## Comes the Glory

She managed to survive through the help of her family, much of her strength has gone down but her faith in GOD almighty became stronger. Despite her difficulties juggling motherhood and her schooling, in 1981 she finally graduated as Magna Cum Laude at the University of Guam.

She was later on offered a full scholarship at the University of Oregon where she took her Masteral and Doctorate Degrees simultaneously. You read it right, SIMULTANEOUSLY. She never entertained the word "difficult" as her 3 small kids were with her while in the University. Soon enough, all her sacrifices both in personal life and in her studies paid off as she graduated from her doctorate degree.

## The Homecoming

She went back to Guam after acquiring her title of Ph.D. For Senator Nerissa, Guam will always be home. Her family is here, and she is very grateful to the Chamorro people's support to her through times.



Baby Nerissa (left) in her rattan stroller.

Doctor of Philos-revolved around and yet the most mightiest in And that is her her love of her

becoming Nerrisa was that had her and downs-story, that and who is

born in the pines. Her when she as a child, of the family to catch "puyo" with her bit of "ginamos"

on the side, and rice.



Dr. Nerissa is one of the leading educators in Guam. She is known for her intellectual and spiritual ways in dealing with difficult issues in life. Her significant contributions are countless to the practice of education in Guam. She had dedicated her whole life in teaching and served as the Superintendent of Education where her expertise has been widely recognized in Guam for more than 30 years that earned her as the first and only Filipina who made it to the Department of Education's top post.

## Retirement Plan

In 2011, she retired as an excellent facilitator in the field of education. Just when you think that she is set to travel the world to enjoy the fruit of her labor; she became a freshman senator of the 33rd Guam legislature with the help of her husband, Dr. Robert Underwood who is currently the President of University of Guam.

"I believe that public service should be about providing opportunities for success. This means that services should be provided as needed, fairly and equitably. When individuals need assistance, we provide it not just because it is right, but because it makes us all stronger. We will be able to use the God given talent that we have and reach our potential. Extending that opportunity will strengthen our economy, our community and ultimately reduce crime, family violence and reliance on public assistance as people develop fulfilling lives."

continued on next page



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## Kabayan Pinoy

- Mga PINOY dapat magka-isa!
- Crab Mentality at INGGITAN!

By: Ben Tufo

E-mail: bentofu\_guam@yahoo.com



Mga PINOY sa Guam dapat na magka-isa!!!- Ano ba namang klase talaga tayo dito sa Guam, napakaraming asosasyon at samahan ng mga Pinoy kung saan ay meron pang isang Filipino Community Guam (FCG) na siyang overall umbrella association daw. Ano ba talaga ang silbi ng FCG pag-dating sa pakay o layunin na pag-isahin or to unite ang mga Pinoy sa Guam, yan ang matagal ng katanungan na bumabagabag sa akin. Bagama't marami rin akong nakausap na mga kababayan na hindi sumasapi sa kahit na anumang grupo o asosasyon ng mga Pinoy sa kadahilan na ayon sa kanila ay wala rin namang silbi ang pagsama sa mga grupo-grupo na yan.

Ayon pa sa isa nating kagalang-galang na kasamahan na si Ginoong Zabala ay meron daw tatlong samahan ang mga taga Aklan. Wow o wow naman. Ano ba yan mga kabayan ko??? Hindi ako nagmamamarunong ngunit kung ang isang maliit na lugar na katulad ng Aklan ay may tatlong grupo, aba eh mabuti na lang at ang BASTA (Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association) na isang napakalaking lugar ay iisa lang ang samahan.

Ang punto ko ay, kung gusto natin mga Pinoy na galangin sa lugar na ito, ay kailangan natin na magkaisa sa pagpili ng ating iboboto na kandidato sa darating na halalan sa 2016 at 2018. Hindi ko po sinasabi na mag block voting tayo katulad ng INC. Ang aking lang suhestiyon ay magkaroon tayo ng unity sa pagpili ng ating mga liderato at huwag natin basta-basta hayaan na lang ang kung sinu-sino na lang diyan ang mamuno sa atin. Nakalulungkot sapagkat mismong ang mga kandidatong politiko ay hindi tayo gagalangin sapagkat alam nila na tayo mismo ay watak-watak, samantalang kung tayo ay magka-isa at hindi maging maka-sarili at ating gawing layunin na matulungan ang ating mga kababayan na nanga-ngailangan ng tulong lalong lalo na ang mga Pinoy na empleyado sa gobyerno ng Guam, aba eh sigurado ko na sila ay ating matutulungan. Tulong na katulad halimbawa sa kanilang mga promotions sa rangko, na kayang ibigay nang mga politikal leaders ng Guam sa mga karapat -dapat

## Galing Pinoy....

from page 8

"My life has been shaped by the challenges of family life and participation in a new society as an outsider. But I received a helping hand and opportunities when it made the difference between independence and success or being dependent on others. My faith in God, family, public assistance and fair treatment by many on Guam made the difference for me and I want to pass that along to future generations."

For someone like Senator Nerissa, life is all about choice, faith in GOD, and love of family. Even sometimes it seems she thought that life was unfair to her, she just thought of other people who have far more difficult situation than she has.

The most important thing is, Dr. Nerissa Bretania Underwood held on, made that choice to be happy and do what she does best with the guidance of God almighty and her family.

Mabuhay ka! And continue to inspire more.

Galing Ilonga! Galing Pinoy!



## Bongbong Files Certificate of Candidacy for Vice President

## Vows to Wage 'Revolution' for Unity and Change

Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr., October 13, filed his certificate of candidacy for vice president in the May 2016 elections at the main office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Intramuros, Manila.

In a statement, Marcos said this marked the beginning of his fight to eradicate poverty, clean the streets of illegal drugs and other vices and crimes, eliminate graft and corruption in the government, boost the economy, and unite the Filipino people in nation-building for a progressive society.

Marcos, accompanied by his family and several supporters, walked to the Comelec after he prayed at the San Agustin Church.

On October 10 he formally proclaimed his vice presidential bid and vowed to wage a "revolution" for unity and change for a better Philippines.

"Sa tulong ninyo at ng bayan, pamumunuan ko ang isang rebolusyon sa puso, isip at gawa tungo sa isang tunay at makabuluhang pagbabago. Pamumunuan ko rin ang isang kampanya upang makamit natin ang ating mga pangarap sa buhay. Hindi ako makapapayag na mawala sa atin ang ilang bahagi ng ating bansa. Ipaglalaban ko ang integridad ng ating bayan," he said in a speech.

He said that in his 30 years in public service, he had seen the sufferings of the people and the inability of the government to extract families from abject poverty, selective justice, and blatant connivance of corrupt government officials and greedy private individuals to siphon off the country's wealth.

"Hanggang ngayon, naghihintay pa rin ang taumbayan atumitingin at umaasa sa ating mga lider na may gawin upang mabawasan man lang ang kanilang dinaranas na hirap at panganib. Wala pa tayong naririnig na sagot. Ingay lamang ng mga opisyal na nag-uunahan sa pwesto...Ingay lamang ng mga nang-aabuso at nagnanakaw sa kaban ng bayan," Marcos said.

Marcos is an incumbent senator who was elected in 2010, placing 7th overall. He currently chairs the Senate Committee on Local Government and the Committee on Public Works.

Marcos is banking on his extensive experience in the executive department as one of his main qualifications to convince voters in the May 2010 elections that he is the right man for the job as the country's next Vice President.

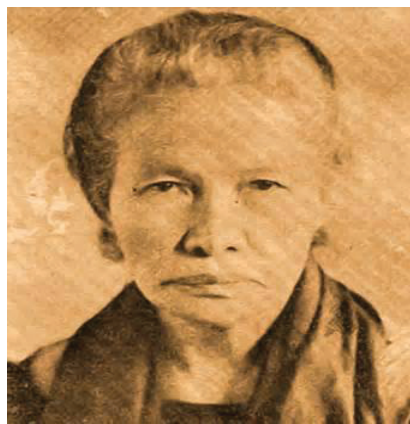
"I know most of them and certainly they are qualified to run for the post. But I'm the only one who served as an

continued on page 12

## This week in Philippine History

## HISTORY OF REVOLUTIONS

## FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY



On October 13, 1868, Teresa Magbanua y Ferraris, the only woman to lead Revolutionary combat troops against Spanish and American forces, was born in Pototan, Iloilo.

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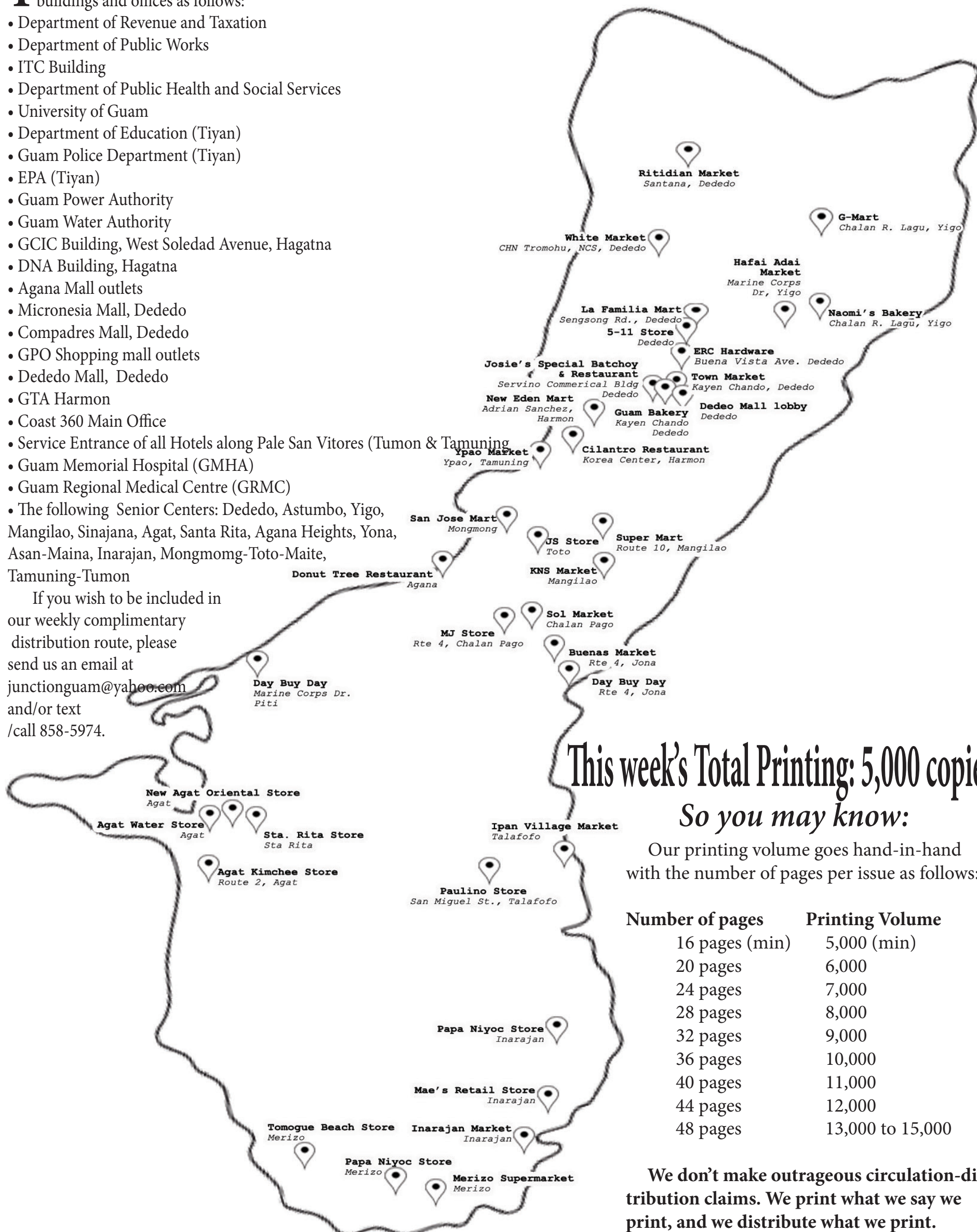
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- Guam Police Department (Tiyan)
- EPA (Tiyan)
- Guam Power Authority
- Guam Water Authority
- GCIC Building, West Soledad Avenue, Hagatna
- DNA Building, Hagatna
- Agana Mall outlets
- Micronesia Mall, Dededo
- Compadres Mall, Dededo
- GPO Shopping mall outlets
- Dededo Mall, Dededo
- GTA Harmon
- Coast 360 Main Office
- Service Entrance of all Hotels along Pale San Vitores (Tumon & Tamuning)
- Guam Memorial Hospital (GMHA)
- Guam Regional Medical Centre (GRMC)
- The following Senior Centers: Dededo, Astumbo, Yigo, Mangilao, Sinajana, Agat, Santa Rita, Agana Heights, Yona, Asan-Maina, Inarajan, Mongmomg-Toto-Maite, Tamuning-Tumon

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Our printing volume goes hand-in-hand with the number of pages per issue as follows:

Number of pages	Printing Volume
16 pages (min)	5,000 (min)
20 pages	6,000
24 pages	7,000
28 pages	8,000
32 pages	9,000
36 pages	10,000
40 pages	11,000
44 pages	12,000
48 pages	13,000 to 15,000

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**Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK)**

The Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK) of Guam is in the process of organizing. Those from the Cordillera Region (CAR) including Baguio City who wish to help out or join the group are encouraged to please send an email to [bbibak\\_guam@yahoo.com](mailto:bbibak_guam@yahoo.com) with your contact details

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## Imelda pulls off a surprise in COMELEC by wearing red dress with yellow sash and embroidered designs says it's a symbol of national unity

Former First Lady and Ilocos Norte 2nd District Representative, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, surprised candidate supporters when she arrived at the main office of the Commission on Elections yesterday wearing a red dress accentuated with yellow sash and embroidered designs.

Mrs. Marcos went to the COMELEC to show her support for her son, Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr., who filed his certificate of candidacy for the position of Vice President in the 2016 polls.

Red is the traditional color associated with the political life of the Marcos family while yellow has been tied to the family of incumbent President Benigno Aquino III.

When asked by members of the media why she was wearing something with yellow, Mrs. Marcos said it symbolizes the unity of the Filipino nation.

"Talagang maraming colors, including yellow ang (ating) flag," she said.

It could be recalled that when he formally



declared his intention to run for Vice President, Senator Marcos said the central theme of his candidacy revolves on his quest for unity of all Filipinos.

Marcos had lamented that adversarial politics and the policy of going after political enemies adopted in the previous administrations have caused a plethora of problems that until now is plaguing our country and making life more difficult for our people.

Senator Marcos came to the COMELEC wearing a blue shirt with a white collar, while the sleeves and front pocket had yellow and red lines.

For her part, Mrs. Marcos said she fully supports the vice presidential bid of her only son and that she is willing to do her share to help realize his vision for our country.

"Basta lahat ng kolor gagamitin ko para sa kapakanan at kabutihan ng bayan," Mrs. Marcos said.

Pagudpud windmill farms.

The growth of tourism not only generated new jobs for the residents of the province but spawned other tourism-related industries, spurring the growth of the local economy.

In formally declaring his intention to run for the post of Vice President Marcos outlined his top priorities, which included jobs creation.

"I have a vision, I have a plan, and I have the knowledge and experience to carry out such plans," Marcos said.

## Deadline for Reactivation of Overseas Voting Records

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS) announced on October 12 that COMELEC has extended the period of filing for Application for Reactivation from 31 Oct to 09 Dec 2015.

In addition, COMELEC-OFOV has also simplified the process of the Application for Reactivation (OVF No. 1G) by allowing appli-

cations to be filed by either:

1. Sending a copy of the duly accomplished OVF No. 1G, including its attachment, if applicable, via e-mail to overseasvoting.reactivation@comelec.gov.ph or through facsimile to (0632) 521-29-52; or,

2. Sending through mail or personally handing a copy of the duly accomplished OVG No. 1G and any attachments necessary to the

nearest Embassy, Consulate, Mission, MECO or at the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV) in COMELEC, Manila.

The form for Application for Reactivation is available at any Embassy, Consulate, Mission, MECO or may be downloaded from the COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) and DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) websites.

## Mandaue City is APEC's latest low-carbon model town

Considered the sixth smallest government unit in the Philippines in terms of land area, Mandaue City is now far bigger than anyone realizes.

On Tuesday, during the 12th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Ministers' Meeting, Japan announced the selection of Mandaue as the APEC's latest Low-Carbon Model Town. (LCMT), besting two other nominees -- Krasnoyarsk City in Russia and Subang Jaya in Malaysia.

This entitles Mandaue City to a feasibility study grant that will determine policy program measures to realize its targets for green technology opportunities, particu-

larly in buildings, urban planning, and transport sector.

Mandaue City was chosen as the newest LCMT for having a clear target for reducing its carbon dioxide emissions and for crafting measures to establish a sustainable city to address air pollution and traffic congestion.

Its proposed project consists of developing green growth areas and interconnecting these areas within Metro Cebu. An ordinance will also be proposed to promote disaster-resilient buildings in the city.

The LCMT project of the APEC Energy Working Group (EWG), launched in 2010, is part of the APEC's Green Growth initiative, which involves upgrading policy initiatives; expanding capacity building and public-private teamwork to promote green industries through finance, trade promotion, green jobs education and training; and

facilitating the development and spread of green technology.

In 2011, the Yujiapu financial district in Tianjin, China was chosen as the test case for the LCMT project. Other previous winners include the city of Da Nang in Vietnam, which implemented an innovative system of electric motorbikes and charging facilities.

Samui Island in Thailand also got support for its feasibility study to utilize solar, wind and small hydropower; for its reliance on electric vehicles; and for its reforestation efforts and protection of existing forests.

The island also adopted green technologies for resort and hotel developments, such as solar water heaters, solar panels on rooftops, biomass power generation of kitchen waste, and increased ventilation for natural cooling.

## Bongbong Files...

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elected official in the executive department, for one," Marcos replied, when asked by reporters on what sets him apart from his major rivals.

Marcos began his career in public service when he was elected as Vice Governor of Ilocos Norte in 1981. Three years later, he was elected as Governor of the Province.

After his stint as Representative of the Second District of Ilocos Norte from 1992 up to 1995, he served again as Ilocos Norte's Governor for two terms, spanning the period from 1998 to 2007.

He returned to the Legislative Department as a member of the House of Representatives, again representing Ilocos Norte's Second District from 2007 to 2010. It was at the end of this term when he ran and won as Senator.

"I've seen first hand how local government works and the problems and challenges facing them. I believe this experience has prepared me to handle the responsibilities of a Vice President," Marcos added.

As three term governor of Ilocos Norte, Marcos was credited with transforming the province to a first-class province by harnessing and developing its potential and embarked as well on his pioneering project for alternative energy source through the now famous Bangui and

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12nn-3pm PnP: The Afternoon Shift  
with Arnold  
3pm-6pm Flipside Happy Hapon Show  
with Migz  
6pm-9pm Radio On Demand with DJ Cure  
9pm-12mn (M-Th) The Late Night Show  
with Raffy  
9pm-12mn (F) im radio with Johnny Z

### Saturday:

8am-10am Damdaming Pinoy  
with Ate Sam, Ate Beth and Kuya Roy  
10am-2pm Saturdays with Rolly M.  
2pm-6pm Showtime Saturdays with Initial V

### Sunday:

8am-10am Sunday Inspirations  
10am-2pm Dear Heart with Gloria Diaz  
5:30pm-7pm Kumusta, Kabayan with Mr. Z  
7pm-12mn Retro OPM



## United Nations Affirms Appointment of Filipino Auditor as Oversight Chief

The United Nations General Assembly today unanimously approved the appointment by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of COA Commissioner Heidi S. Mendoza as Under-Secretary General of the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Ms. Mendoza is the first Filipino ever to be appointed as Under-Secretary General in the UN Secretariat.

Ambassador Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN, welcomed the appointment and thanked the regional groups of the UN for their endorsement and the Member States for their affirmation of the appointment. Under UN rules, the appointment by the Secretary General is submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Ambassador Yparraguirre said, "It is a great honor for the Philippines that a highly-qualified woman from the developing world was chosen to serve in a senior position in the United Nations." She added that Commissioner Mendoza's "qualifications and wealth of experience, coupled with her commitment to excellence and integrity, make her a wise choice for the job. Her qualifications are crucial at this juncture in the history of the UN which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, moving forward with an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pursuing a platform of reforms in various fields of UN work."

She also stressed that "good governance, rule of law, and effective, accountable and transparent institutions within the UN itself are necessary for ensuring that the UN continues to be a credible champion in the global fight against corruption and achieves its lofty goals."

The United States and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden also hailed the appointment. Speaking on behalf of the United States, Ambassador Isobel Coleman, Ambassador for UN Management and Reform, said that they "look forward to working with Ms. Mendoza" and are "committed to ensuring a strong OIOS to carry out robust audits and effective investigations to ferret out waste, fraud and corruption."



MENDOZA

In a similar vein, Sweden, speaking for the Nordic countries, said they "are confident that Ms. Mendoza will lead the OIOS effectively and efficiently" and noted that "an operationally independent OIOS is key to ... rebuilding the confidence among the Member States that the office can play its role in protecting the integrity of the United Nations and promoting accountability within the organization."

Earlier, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario hailed the announcement of the UN Secretary General's intention to appoint Ms. Mendoza, saying that "the appointment of Ms. Heidi Mendoza as

UN Under-Secretary-General of an important office that aims to be an agent of change to promote responsible, accountable, and transparent administration of UN resources, is a true testament of her skills and integrity as a public accountant."

Ms. Mendoza is expected to begin her term on 15 November 2015. As per UN regulations, her appointment is for a fixed term of five years without renewal. As the UN's Under-Secretary General for Internal Oversight, she will be responsible over the resources and staff of the organization through internal audit, monitoring, inspection, evaluation and investigation services

## Duterte's daughter, executive assistant, councilors shave head to convince him to run

DAVAO CITY - Former city mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio posted a photo of her with a shaven head with several hashtags on Instagram, stirring netizens to believe it could be a sign of bigger things to come.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's executive assistant as well as city councilors followed suit.

Sara's hashtags posted on her Instagram account are: "Nagpa upaw nalang ko samtang naghulat (I have shaven while waiting). #Duterte2016. #kalboparasapagbabago (shaven for change). #NohairWecare bisan walay kwarta, bisan way makinarya, bisan mapildi (even without money, even without machinery, even if we lose). #justDUit," earned 1,770 likes.

In her Instagram post the previous day (October 13), Sara posted the following hashtags "indaysaradutertesending #goodvibes to #Digong #Duterte2016 #pussyfooting."

Joining the skinhead trend are Duterte's executive assistant Lawrence "Bong" Go, Councilors Al Ryan Alejandre and Danilo Dayanghirang.

Alejandre also confirmed barangay captains and other incumbent and former councilors will sport the new hairstyle. They are Councilors Louie John Bonguyan, Bong Advincula, Bernie Al-ag, Karlo Bello, and former councilor Dante Apostol.

Go confirmed in a text message he shaved his hair in support to a possible presidential bid of Mayor Duterte.

In his Facebook account, Go posted his photo having a shaven head with a caption: "Getting ready for filing of my boss. Hoping for a miracle. Thanks to all."

Alejandre said they shaved their hair as last ditch effort

## Drilon honors Joker Arroyo's "exceptional humility" at Senate Centennial launch

"He dazzled the nation not only with his brilliance, but also with his high sense of duty and strong commitment to defend the underprivileged." This was how Senate President Franklin M. Drilon honored the life and works of the late Senator Joker Arroyo during the start of the Senate's centennial anniversary celebration on, October 12.

Speaking before Senate employees and officials, Drilon said that Arroyo, who reportedly passed away in the United States last October 5, "led a life of integrity, good character, diligence and with a profound love for the masses that are dearest to his heart."

"It was a great honor

to work with him; first in the Executive department under the administration of President Cory Aquino, and later in the Senate. I attest to Joker's exceptional humility and simplicity as a public official," Drilon said.

Arroyo and Drilon were both Cabinet members during the Aquino administration, with Arroyo as Executive Secretary, and with Drilon first appointed as Labor Secretary but later served as Executive Secretary and Justice Secretary.

Drilon stressed how the late senator kept a small office and hated luxury and extravagance, despite Arroyo's many achievements as a lawyer and public official.

"With his frugal and prudent ways, he will always be fondly remembered for being the 'Scrooge of the Senate,'" Drilon said.

According to Drilon, Arroyo's passing "is the nation's collective loss, but his life will always be an inspiration to every Filipino."

"With deep sorrow, we remember him in our prayers and condole with his family. We join the whole nation in mourning the loss of a gem of a public servant whose achievements as a lawyer, human rights defender, lawmaker and public servant are unparalleled," the Senate chief said.

"Farewell Joker, and thank you for everything," Drilon lastly said.

## Manila RTC orders Sulpicio to pay Php 242 M to families of victims of M/V Princess of the Star sea mishap

MANILA - A Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) has ordered the former Sulpicio Lines, Inc.'s, now Philippine Span Asia Carrier Corp. (PSACC), to pay Php 241.7 million in damages to the families of the victims of the sinking of its M/V Princess of the Stars at the height of Typhoon Frank on June 21, 2008.

Public Attorney's Office (PAO) Chief Atty. Persida

V. Rueda-Acosta, lawyer of the victims, has shown to the media the 87-page decision dated Sept. 18, 2015 of the Manila RTC Branch 49, which ruled in favor of Celerna Calayag, et al., victims and heirs of the victims of the tragedy.

M/V Princess of the Stars sailed for Cebu from the Port of Manila on June 20, 2008 with 849 individuals, 709 of whom were passen-

gers, 29 contractors and 111 crew members.

It capsized in the Sibuyan Sea at 21:30 p.m. the next day and only 32 people survived; 227 died and 592 were reported missing.

The RTC ruled that Calayag and the other victims were able to prove by preponderance of evidence the negligence of Sulpicio Lines/PSACC, owned by the Go family, namely Enrique S. Go, Eusebio S. Go, Carlos S. Go, Victoriano S. Go, Dominador S. Go, Ricardo S. Go, Edward S. Go, and Edgar S. Go.

"Wherefore, judgement is hereby rendered in favor of the plaintiffs and against the defendants Sulpicio Lines, Inc. (now Philippine Span Asia Carrier Corporation), Enrique S. Go, Eusebio S. Go, Carlos S. Go, Victoriano S. Go, Dominador S. Go, Ricardo S. Go, Edward S. Go, and Edgar S. Go, ordering them to pay jointly

**continued on  
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SARA DUTERTE



## Ombudsman indicted Taguig mayor for 'padlocking' session hall

The Office of the Ombudsman (Ombudsman) on Wednesday filed charges before the Sandiganbayan against Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano for allegedly conspiring with another city official to prevent the city council from holding session in August 2010.

In the case filed before the Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman also charged then Officer-in-Charge City Administrator Jose Luis Montales for violation of Article 143 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC).

The Ombudsman recommended bail at Php12,000 for each of the respondents.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales approved last August the filing of charges against the Taguig

City mayor for the alleged premeditated and deliberate locking of the city government's session hall in 2010.

In a resolution, the Ombudsman found probable cause that Cayetano and Montales violated Article 143 of the RPC by allegedly ordering the city hall's personnel to padlock the session hall in time for the maiden assembly of the City Council or Sangguniang Panglungsod (SP) in August 2010.

Article 143 of the RPC penalizes persons who, "by force or fraud, prevent or tend to prevent the meetings of local legislative bodies."

The Ombudsman noted that because of Cayetano and Montales' act, the SP was forced to hold its maiden assembly and its next 14

sessions in the city hall's staircase as the smaller city auditorium cannot accommodate the number of SP members.

Morales dismissed the respondents' explanation that the move was part of the city's re-engineering and re-organizational plan, noting that the respondents failed to present any project plan nor a semblance of a project study "that would validate the necessity of effecting immediate change in the layout of the city hall offices."

"[The] documentary evidence, as well as respondents' own admissions, belied their claim that any 're-organizational or re-engineering plan' with respect to city hall offices actually existed," the resolution said.

## BIR files Php312.14-M tax evasion rap vs. importer

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Thursday filed before the Department of Justice (DOJ) a Php312.14-million tax evasion case against a Tacloban City-based importer.

Charged was Lymwel Requirio Villegas, sole proprietor of Conwell Express Marketing, which is engaged in the business of importing motor vehicles, motor parts and other miscellaneous items.

In the complaint, the BIR charged Villegas for willful attempt to evade or defeat tax and deliberate failure to file his Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the years 2012 and 2013, all in violation of

Sections 254 and 255 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997.

Applying the expenditure method of investigation, the BIR established that the undeclared income of Villegas was Php58.78 million in 2012 and Php476.94 million in 2013.

According to BIR Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares, as a result of his acts and omissions, Villegas was assessed an estimated total income tax liability amounting to Php312.14 million, inclusive of surcharges and interest.

## Manila RTC...

*from page 13*

and severally," the RTC ruling said.

The RTC ordered Sulpicio and the Go family to pay a total of Php241,761,256.34, which include the Php230,248,815.56 damages plus Php 11,512,440.78 worth of attorneys fees.

The victims were able to establish that there was a contract of carriage between the passengers and the said shipping line, as proven by the Passenger's Manifest and by the Releases and Quitclaims which serve as express admission on the part of Sulpicio/PSACC that the recipients of the amounts covered therein were victims and survivors of the said tragedy.

"In these cases, the plaintiffs presented evidence to prove that their loved ones had the earning capacity. There has already been a computation submitted by the parties as contained in their individual complaint. However, this court, guided by prevailing jurisprudence, rules that in the computation of the loss of earning capacity of the deceased relatives of the plaintiffs, the amount of 50-percent must be deducted from the same, to arrive at the net earning capacity," the RTC ruling said.

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## British firms to invest in PH telecom, media

The UK government is committed to lead the development of 5G mobile technology, British Embassy Manila says. These British firms can provide telecommunications solutions that would help address the growing needs of the Philippine market, British Embassy Manila says.

MANILA, Philippines – The country's telecommunications market – which is controlled by a virtual duopoly of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Globe Telecom, Incorporated – seems to be an oasis for some British firms, with 11 of them exploring projects and partnerships in the sector.

"There are 11 British companies that are now here to invest in the Philippines' telecoms and media sector. These companies can provide telecommunication technologies and solutions that would help address the growing needs of the Philippine market, including IT (Information Technology)-enabled industries and service sectors," United Kingdom Trade and Investment (UKTI) Director Iain Mansfield told reporters on the sidelines of a trade mission in Makati City on Thursday, October 15.

These firms are:

- Argosy Broadcast Asia
- Brandwatch
- British Telecoms Global Services
- Cambridge Broadband Network Limited
- Case Communications
- Electronic Media Services Limited
- Infobip

- Television Systems Limited
- Television Versioning & Translation (TVT) Limited
- The Bridge 8 Limited
- TSL Professional Products Limited

UK is the second-leading destination in the world for foreign direct investments in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – only next to the US.

Its ICT sector contributed around 7% to the UK's gross value added (GVA) in 2013.

Global spending on telecoms service, according to British Embassy Manila, is projected to reach £1.64 trillion (\$2.54 trillion) by the end of 2015.

The UK government is committed to leading the development of 5G mobile technology, British Embassy Manila said in a document given to reporters.

"This will double the contribution to the UK economy of spectrum (the airwaves over which all wireless communications devices communicate) to £100 billion (\$154.90 billion) by 2025," the document read.

### Seeking partnerships

Two of the British firms visiting the country hope to secure partnerships with Globe or PLDT.

For Kurian Manjakkal, vice-president of Cambridge Broadband Networks, "[the] Philippines is a good investment destination because of its geographical location and population."

"Look at how it's scattered in multiple islands. And

look at your large population and the massive use of mobile phones. We can make the most of the situation because linking fiber cables across the country becomes a big challenge," Manjakkal explained.

Cambridge Broadband Networks' services include "mobile backhaul, small cell backhaul, enterprise access, and Internet Service Provider networks."

"Particularly, we are looking at providing infrastructure for the telecom sector at a much lower rate – mainly linking offices, cell towers through microwave technology," the Cambridge Broadband Networks said.

Manjakkal said his

**continued on page 15**



Filipino tenor Juan Alberto Gaerlan files his Certificate of Candidacy (COC) for a Baguio City Council post in style on Wednesday (Oct. 14, 2015). Gaerlan arrived at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Baguio Field Office in a calesa (horse-drawn cart).



## President Aquino appoints Caguioa Secretary of Justice

President Benigno S. Aquino III has appointed Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel since 2013, as ad interim Secretary of the Department of Justice.

The President appointed Chief Presidential Legal Counsel (CPLC) Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa as ad interim Secretary of Justice on October 12, 2015. Caguioa will be occupying

the position previously held by Leila de Lima, who resigned to seek a senate seat.

Secretary Caguioa earned a degree in Economics (Honors Program) from the College of Arts and Sciences of Ateneo de Manila University in 1981, and graduated with honors from the Ateneo Law School in 1985, ranking fifth in his



class. He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1986 after placing fifteenth in the 1985 Bar examinations.

them. At the same time, we also want to focus on certain set of products – conferencing solutions for audio and video Web, international toll fee, as well as contact center platform security,” BT Global Sales Manager David Medallo said.

According to Medallo, his firm has already presence here in the Philippines and has secured deals with corporations like “Unilever, DHL, and Proctor & Gamble.”

“BT is focused on growing the business in the Philippines, so that’s the reason they wanted a local salesperson to take care of the business here. We’re looking towards growing our existing base and attract multinationals coming to the Philippines,” Medallo said.

During the British firms’ visit here, UKTT’s Mansfield said they will meet with government and private sector officials to learn more about the Philippine business environment and economy.

“They will also engage with top executives from the ICT and broadcast industries, including prospective distributors and local business partners, government regulators, and communication project implementers,” Mansfield said. – *Rappler.com*

## British Firms to Invest..

*from page 15*

company hopes to secure partnerships with local telcos and system integrators. “[We’re] in talks with Globe Telecom, we’re pretty much in an advance level discussions.”

For managed network IT services provider BT Global

Services, the company plans to secure deals with business process outsourcing firms and partner with local telcos.

“We’re already engaged in conversation with the local telcos for different services. We’re still exploring what are going to be interesting for

## Private-Sector Led...

*from page 16*

being organized by the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington D.C., in cooperation with the Philippine Consulates General and Philippine Trade and Investment Centers in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Private sector partners from the United States include the Allegheny Conference on Economic Development, Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce (DFW), World Affairs Council DFW, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest, Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and Puget Sound Regional Council./*Phil Embassy, Washington*

## Guam Marks All-Time...

*from page 16*

students, and the retirees or the senior citizens who visit the Island.

Japanese tourists still top the visitor count posted as 779,405 for FY2015.

As part of GVB’s way of saying “thank you” or “Si Yu’us Mā’ase” to their friendlies in Japan, GVB had launched the “Tell Toshi-chan Campaign – Chika Vacation” during the Tourism Expo that was held in Tokyo, Japan last September 24-27, 2015 at the Tokyo Big Sight to further promote the island’s inviting vibe with “only in Guam” experience to the Japanese travelers and the rest of the world.

“We’re proud to team up with Toshi-chan to connect with potential Japanese visitors in a different way. He visited Guam again earlier this month to get to know our island home and unique culture a little better. This is just one of the ways that GVB is pursuing to improve our visitor arrivals from Japan and strengthen the ties we have with our top visitor market,” said GVB General Manager Nathan Denight.

The other tourist market that contributed in the growth of Guam’s tourism in terms of increase or growth percentage in FY2015 are from Hong Kong with 13.3%, Philippines 20.6%, Europe by 29.2% Palau by 54.9% and Canada with 72.4%.

### Future Plans

The GVB’s strategic plan is to transform Guam into a world-class destination of choice where tourist are accommodated by the warm and hospitable people of Guam to be treated with the beautiful scenic view of the sands and beaches to clear skies at night as they wait for the festivities of 2016.

The Guam Visitors Bureau has already made its plans as early as now by creating the blueprints of 2020 tourism campaign that will be launched fully by next year 2016./*The Junction News Team*

## 15 things you did not know about Grace Poe

*Rappler compiles this list from the senator’s previous interviews, news articles, and stories from family and friends*

MANILA, Philippines – Much has been said and reported about Grace Poe as a senator, politician, and even as an adopted daughter. But what else don’t you know about the presidential polls front-runner?

Rappler compiled this list from the senator’s previous interviews, news articles, and stories from family and friends.

Check which of the 15 things below you do not yet know about Poe:

1. Senator Grace Poe wears white in most occasions. This has been her trademark since the 2013 campaign – a habit which originated from her father, the late action star, Fernando Poe Jr during the 2004 campaign. Asked how many white polo shirts she has, Poe said she currently has 10 that fit her. While people give her white shirts, she said these no longer fit her. Even her gowns in the State of the Nation Addresses are white. The sports utility vehicle she uses every day is also white.

2. Poe starred in movies with FPJ when she was a kid. She was the daughter of Paquito Diaz in the film *Durugin si Totoy Bato* and was one of the kids in the neighborhood of Max Alvarado in *Dugo ng Bayan*. She said her parents did not really encourage her because they wanted her to finish her studies.

In *Durugin si Totoy Bato*, Poe said veteran actor Diaz was the blind character but she thought it was she who was supposed to act blind the whole time.

“Akala ko ako ang bulag sa role, yun pala si Paquito. (I thought I should be blind in my role, but it turned out it should be Paquito.) Many years after we were still laughing about it. Miscommunication,” Poe told Rappler.

3. Despite her fine demeanor, Poe was into sports when she was a kid. She was a black belt in taekwondo and a tennis player. She also loved the outdoors.

4. Poe has two half-siblings sired by her father: Ronian Poe, born to actress Ana Mari, and celebrity Lovi Poe, born to model Rowena Moran. She said she first met Lovi during the wake of FPJ. Since then, they have come to know each other better.

5. She got married at the age of 22 right after college over FPJ’s opposition. FPJ wanted her to have a career first but Poe decided to leave everything for her husband, whom she met when she was 14 years old.

6. In school, she was active in extracur-

ricular activities. She was a debater in high school at Assumption College, chairperson of the UP Manila College freshman assembly, and a co-founder of the Filipino Cultural Club at Boston College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree major in Political Science.

7. Poe, in a *Pep.ph* interview, said she finds planting and landscaping therapeutic.

8. While in the US, she worked as a preschool teacher for 3 years at the Montessori School of Cedar Lane. She later worked as a procurement liaison with the United States Geological Survey in 1998. From 2001 until 2004 before she came back to the Philippines, she was a product manager for CSC Scientific, a local company producing scientific equipment.

9. Poe at the age of 47 has 3 kids – Brian, 23, Hanna, 17, and Anika, 11. All her kids are citizens of both the US and the Philippines.

10. Poe is a believer of feng shui, a Chinese Practice. She believes in ghost months and Mercury retrogrades. A feng shui master, a source said, approved the date of her proclamation. When asked, Poe said: “Feng Shui is about the proper positioning of things to harness positive energy. But my mom (Susan Roces) said that the best Feng Shui is to do good and help others.”

11. Poe loves to read: she has read all the books of David Baldacci, who, she said in an interview, is her favorite author.

12. In July this year, Poe thought talent manager and columnist Lolit Solis’ designer Prada bag is an ecobag. The senator called Solis and apologized for the mistake, saying she really is not familiar with designer bags. Solis, on the other hand, shrugged it off and found the incident funny.

“It was a nice bag naman being fair. I was just not conscious of the brand,” Poe told Rappler.

13. Poe, the topnotcher in the 2013 senatorial race, spent P123,605,341.27 during her campaign, based on her statement of expenses and expenditures submitted to the Commission on Elections. Since she got 20,337,327 million votes in 2013, this translates to P6.07 spent per voter.

14. It was during her watch as MTRCB chair that the new classification of TV and movie ratings was implemented.

TV: GP (general patronage), PG (parental guidance), and SPG (strict parental guidance) became classifications for local TV.

Movies: GP (general patronage), PG (parental guidance), R-13 (restricted to audiences 13 years old and below), R-16 (restricted to audiences 16 years old and below), and R-18 (restricted to audiences 18 years old and below) were applied.

15. Poe, last August or a month before her expected declaration, visited Sister Agnes, a Carmelite nun, in Zamboanga, the same nun consulted by President Aquino before deciding to run in 2009. – *Rappler.com*



**Ifugao Dance; Senator Loren Legarda joins members of the Ifugao community led by Ifugao Governor Denis Habawel in dancing traditional Ifugao dance during the Summit of Conscience for the Climate held on 9 October at the Senate of the Philippines. During the Summit, the Ifugao community was commended by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as Champions for DRR for keeping their traditions alive and preserving their disaster risk management practices.**



## Guam Marks All-Time High in Tourist Arrivals

The Fiscal Year of 2015 is definitely a great year for Guam Visitors Bureau or GVB and the beautiful Island community, as it marks the all-time high in tourism arrivals after nearly twenty (20) years, with 1,372,531 Million visitors recorded since 1998 and now became the second highest in the history of GVB tourism arrivals following the record breaking year of 1997 that had more than 1.4 million visitors.

The "Wow factor" is of course made possible through the seamless efforts of "Team GVB" for the Fiscal Year 2015 headed by

their mentor, the General Manager of GVB Mr. Jon Nathan Pangilinan Denight, who assumed GVB office in 2011 and made it all happen in 4 years.

### The Perfect Formula

Early arrival statistics of GVB released in the month of April already reported a 27.9 percent increase in tourist arrivals as compared to 2013 data and has been steadily climbing from previous year's record starting from Denight's coming to the office of GVB.

The upswinging tourists' arrival is only another sign of the departmental growth

as well as with Guam's economy, indicating that the GVB found the perfect working formula to promote tourism in the Island, as they set another milestone and standard for success.

"We are going to continue to push ahead," said Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio. "We are preparing to host the Festival of Pacific Arts in 2016, the PATA annual summit, and our other signature events and activities."

The Guam Visitors Bureau is continuously strategizing to target the market segments of group travelers,

**continued on page 15**



## Private Sector-Led Business Roadshow to Showcase PH as Asia's New Emerging Tiger

WASHINGTON, D.C.— With growth rates of 7-10% possible in the next decade and an HSBC Global Research Report predicting the country to be the 16th largest economy in the world by 2050, a private sector business delegation from Manila is set to showcase the Philippines as Asia's new emerging tiger.

On 19-23 October, Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and prominent Filipino economist Dr. Bernardo Villegas will lead a Private Sector Delegation to the United States in business forums to be held in Pittsburgh (19 October), Dallas/Fort Worth (21 October), and Seattle (23 October).

The delegation will be composed of senior executives from various sectors such as Energy, Transport & Logistics, Real Estate, Banking & Financial Services, H.R., and IT/BPO/KPO.

Dr. Villegas, who is the Director of Research at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Manila, will lead

off the presentations with an overview of the Philippine economy, and will focus on the positive trends in growth and development. He will also speak on the weaknesses and challenges of the economy, while identifying the key industries for investments.

Mr. Jose Mari Mercado, President and CEO of the Information Technology & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), will speak on the IT/business process boom and opportunities in the Philippines. Mr. Ronaldo R. Elepano Jr., First Vice President for Business Development of DM Consunji Inc. will describe the real estate industry and the property boom that continues to characterize the sector at this time. Mr. Engelbert Camasura, Partner of ZMG Ward Howell – an international consulting firm—will make a presentation dealing with business process management including contact centers, IT services, and shared services. Mr. Juan Olondriz

Pena, President and CEO of International Gateways & Port Management Services will lend his expertise in real estate, marketing, port and transport operations.

"Since our flagship private sector-led investment roadshow in the US in 2011, I have experienced firsthand the success of hosting these roadshows. The wave of optimism and business confidence in the Philippines continues today, and to further capitalize on this momentum, the Embassy, together with Dr. Bernie Villegas and our Consulates and Trade Offices are again hosting a series of roadshows in three important American cities. Through these annual events, we are connecting not only prominent Filipino businesses, but also great Filipino minds, with American partners in promoting the Philippines' improving business image in the United States," Ambassador Cuisia said in a statement.

The business roadshow is **continued on page 15**



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