

# Nurses may be trained abroad to get jobs

TO help ease the surplus of Filipino nurses, recruiters have expressed willingness to send them to their client-hospitals abroad for "apprentice training" to enhance their employment opportunities. But they said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration should first forge a bilateral agreement with host-countries.

"This agreement is very crucial for the protection of our

nurses. It will provide a clear-cut policy on how this should be done. We want everything to be legalized," said recruitment consultant Manny Geslani.

He said many Filipino nurses are highly qualified, except for not having a two-year experience in 250-bed hospitals required by some foreign employers.

Jackson Gan, vice president of the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters, said his group intends to work for a

system in which the foreign hospitals will give these nurses allowance for board and lodging and shoulder the cost of deployment.

The training program, he added, is expected to pave the way for eventual employment of the nurses.

Gan said foreign employers are turning many nurses away because they did not undergo training in 250-bed hospitals lacking in the Philippines.

He said recruiters could help nurses undergo training in hospitals in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Middle East, Singapore, Belgium, Finland and Norway.

He said hospitals are willing to accept foreign nurses to fill the gap in their manpower.

Gan said such a scheme could become a "stop-gap" measure until the country resolves its oversupply of nursing professionals. (Philstar.com)

## ACROSS THE ISLANDS

### Eagle's home saves an island

BACOLOD CITY—Environmentalists wanted to save a tree where an eagle had built its nest but ended up doing so much more. They bought the entire island where the tree stands and created a marine and wildlife sanctuary.

Gerry Ledesma, president of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI), said the Montes family, who owned the Danjungan Island in Barangay Bulata, Cauayan, Negros Occidental, intended to sell the eagle's tree for P40,000. His group decided that the only way to save it and the biodiversity-rich place was to buy it all.

Before 1994, the island had suffered from varying degrees of abuse as venue for several failed business ventures.

So he and the other activist members of the PRRCFI, a nonprofit foundation, launched the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Project. The international fund-raising endeavor aimed to raise P4 million to purchase the 43-hectare uninhabited island.

With the help of the World Land Trust (WLT) and the Coral Cay Conservation Ltd. (CCC) in the United Kingdom, PRRCFI Green Shares were created and sold at £25 or \$40 each to pay a bridging loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines. (Carla Gomez / Inquirer.net)



The eagle's nest was the reason environmentalists bought the island.

## SC dismisses CA justice in bribery case

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that Sabio had "unusual interest in holding on to the Meralco case" and that this "seemed to indicate that he may have been actually influenced to 'help GSIS'" as his brother and PCGG chairman Sabio had advised. This constituted a violation of the code of judicial conduct, it added.

It also said the PCGG chairman's phone call to his brother Justice Sabio to convince him of the GSIS stand showed that they both violated the Code of Professional Responsibility.

In the case of Roxas, the panel found him "dishonest and untruthful" since he attached a fabricated transcript of deliberations. There were also falsehoods in the supposed transcript, he added.

Roxas also showed "undue interest and unseemly haste" in light of his "rush to judgment."

The panel said Roxas prepared a decision even before the parties had filed their memoranda, and added that he "cheated the parties' counsel of time, effort and energy they invested in the preparation of their ponderous memoranda."

"He made a mockery of his own order for the parties to submit memoranda, and rendered their compliance a futile exercise," it said.

The panel also found "completely false" Roxas' account on why he brought a copy of the decision to Vidal.

As for Vasquez, the panel said he was indecisive in handling the dispute between Reyes and

Sabio on which division should decide on the Meralco case. It also criticized his silence, inaction and indifference to the alleged bribery attempt.

The panel found Reyes discourteous to Vasquez for ruling on the case even though the presiding justice had yet to hand down his opinion.

As for Vidal, the panel said she was "too compliant" when she signed the Meralco decision without reading the memoranda and without deliberation.

The panel also found that Roxas violated the Code of Judicial Conduct when he failed to resolve several motions before deciding on the case.

The high court also it was not the first time Roxas failed to resolve a pending motion.

It cited the case of Orocio v. Roxas where Roxas failed to act on a motion despite the promulgation of the main case. He was fined P15,000 and warned that future commission of act of impropriety "will be dealt with more severely."

Roxas is the third Court of Appeals Associate Justice who has been dismissed from service.

Justice Demetrio Demetria was removed from the bench in 2001 after he was found guilty of interceding on behalf of alleged drug queen Yu Yuk Lai.

In 2007, the high court sacked Justice Elvi John Asuncion for gross ignorance of the law and delaying motions of consideration filed before his division. Asuncion was also accused of accepting bribe money.

## Compostela Valley spreads health care through books

NABUNTURAN, Compostela Valley—The provincial government on Wednesday, Sept. 3, launched a family health book under a special program aimed at helping mothers and families learn and understand proper health care, officials said.

"The book, written in English and Cebuano, was launched as an innovation in the campaign to empower mothers and as a response to the high number of mothers and babies dying due to preventable health causes in the province," Gov. Arturo Uy said.

Compostela Valley has been pouring massive resources on health care but Uy said these deaths still occurred.

He said the provincial government has come out with the book, with the help of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Center for Health Development of the Department of Health in Southern Mindanao, to teach and remind families about the importance of good health.

"After this program, we're hoping to see happy families and a healthy province," she said. (Inquirer.net)

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