



AMBASSADRESS OF BEAUTY EXPERIENCES SEIZURE TWICE AT US CUSTOMS! Nip & tuck guru to top Pinoy celebrities, society's creme dela creme, and even ordinary individuals Dr. Vicki Belo (center) shares with TFC viewers her traumatic encounters with US Customs and how she learned her lesson that ignorance of the law is never an excuse. Join hosts attorney-to-the-stars Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) and broadcast personality Gel Santos-Relos (left) as they bring you this week's encore episode of Citizen Pinoy on Sunday at 5:40 pm (PST), with a replay on Tuesday, at 11:20 pm (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Saturday at 5pm, with replays on Sunday at 9am, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 8am, with replays at 12 midnight on Mondays.

# ABS-CBN: A story of excellence, fortitude and creativity

BEVERLY HILLS— Fourteen years ago, who would ever imagine that Filipinos outside of the Philippines would ever have the chance to connect to their country of origin? It has been over 14 years now when ABS-CBN launched The Filipino Channel (TFC), installed and built a strong foundation in North America, specifically at 150 Shoreline Drive, Redwood City in Northern California. And the world was never the same again. "The launch and eventual worldwide expansion of TFC made ABS-CBN the first and most successful international Filipino media broadcasting company," according to Rafael Lopez, Chief Operating Officer of ABS-CBN Global. ABS-CBN International, under the stewardship of Raffy Lopez, is the North America operating arm of ABS-CBN Global, a wholly owned subsidiary of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company, the largest broadcasting media network in the Philippines. "And, like the history of its parent company, ABS-CBN International has been a story of

excellence, fortitude and creativity in the face of great odds," according to an article featured in the *Kalayaan News Magazine*, which this columnist put up and edited last June to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence. TFC, distributed by major cable operators as well as satellite operators throughout the United States of America, and throughout the world, watching the Tagalog-language premium programming service 24/7 in North America. "We have always remained steadfast in our commitment of bringing the best of the Philippines to Filipinos wherever they may be. Our program contents in TFC have kept our customers informed, entertained and in touch to what's happening back home, including Filipino news and entertainment programs to its subscribers. Not only that. Filipino on Demand, Cinema One, and MYX offer programs that help 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Filipino Americans feel closer to their culture," reveals Lopez. For over 14 years, TFC has

grown bigger and better—reaching and touching more Filipino lives worldwide. From an eight-hour programming on weekdays and 12 hours on weekends to cabled homes in California, TFC is  
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# Free Health Services at Community Health Fair

## St. Vincent Medical Center, Sept. 27



(From left) Dr. Ed Bañez, Ambassador Willy Gaa and Pedro Ramirez, MHAP Director

THE Filipino community is invited to get free medical check-ups at the 6th Annual Community Health Fair at St. Vincent Medical Center (SVMC), located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, on Sept 27 from 11am to 4pm at 2222 Ocean View Ave (by 3rd St and Alvarado). A project of the SVMC Multi-cultural Health Awareness & Prevention Center, the health fair is a significant community outreach and benefits program of the 152-yr old hospital.

The director of the MHAP is a Filipino, Pedro Ramirez. He is encouraging his *kababayans* to take advantage of the free health services SVMC is offering during the Health Fair: mammogram and pap smear, low cost or free health coverage for children, vision and hearing, cholesterol, lead screenings, dental, diabetes, acupuncture and massage therapy, blood pressure screenings, prostate cancer exam, anemia screenings, foot exams,

and chiropractic services. "This is an opportunity for members of the Filipino-American community of all ages to benefit from the world-renowned medical expertise of the hospital physicians and staff. Many times people defer going to a doctor for a medical check-up due to the expense involved. These services are available at no cost to anyone on that day, with or without any insurance coverage," Ramirez stressed. Filipinos will surely feel comfortable and "at home" at St. Vincent, where many of the health care professionals are fellow *kababayans*. "Dito sa St. Vincent, maraming mga Pinoy," one SVMC employee said. "Para kang nasa PGH," he added. Established in 1856 by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul as the first hospital in Los Angeles, SVMC has both a strong history and a glorious future serving people from a wide variety of ethnic groups. In 2002, the hospital established its Cancer Awareness and Prevention Center, using the Filipino community as the model. The center educated women in the Filipino community about breast cancer and the importance of mammograms for early detection and treatment. By building linkages with physicians, community leaders, local service groups and health care organizations, the center has made successful inroads in the Filipino community. In over 2 years' time, more than 3,500 Filipinas were served, with a number detected with breast cancer who were then able to seek treatment. This success enabled the center to expand its efforts to other ethnic communities; thus the  
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### Peñafrancia Festival Fluvial Procession on DVD

Watch the coverage of the Peñafrancia Festival Fluvial Procession on DVD. If you are a Bicolano or Bicolana and you have not seen or missed this colorful annual celebration in Naga City, now is your chance to see it in this 1 1/2 hour video in the comfort of your home in front of your TV. The video includes the Traslacion - the procession transferring the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lady of Peñafrancia) from the Basilica to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, and the colorful fluvial procession on the Bicol River in Naga City returning the image to her home in Basilica Minore. The nine-day festival is held every 3rd Saturday of September.

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