

Post-election reactions: Fil-Ams react to Obama elected as President

by AJ STAFF WRITERS

LAST Tuesday night was a night to remember. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), an African American, was elected to the highest post in the United States of America. Thousands of people nationwide gathered in the streets to celebrate. There was a sense of change in the air. Many had tears in their eyes. Others just simply enjoyed the moment. Fil-Ams nationwide were part of that celebration.

A few Fil-Ams reacted after Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States of America. We asked them two questions: 1) What was your initial reaction to Obama winning the election?; and 2) What are some of the difficulties and challenges he will face while in office?

Winston Emano, board member of Fil-Am Arts

"It's funny I was texting people all night. People from everywhere New York, the Philippines and Europe, they were all feeling like the sun is shining again. I felt emboldened by history and to witness this in our lifetime, it's a great feeling to experience something this profound is so special.

As an immigrant and child of an immigrant to see someone else of color get the highest position in

the greatest country in the world speaks volumes about this country. It is truly a land of chance and opportunity. His election illustrates it right there."

Difficulties

"We are a divided nation, whose stature has dimmed. Our economy is down but like he [Obama] said [in his speech] a unified team can do superhuman things. It's going to take a collective effort by all to climb over the mountain and it really is."

Jon Ibay, 30-year-old, LA City employee

"I was excited and happy. I was thankful that we're not going to go through another four years of the same ol' same ol' that we have a chance at change, that we have someone more in touch with our generation. I think with [John

McCain] I was worried it would just go even more downhill."

Difficulties

"Living up to expectations already placed upon him. The nation is in bad shape. He and his regime have a lot of work to do from the economy, to the troops in Iraq, the reliance on foreign oil. Those are all big things. The American public chose him because they think he can turn all of this around. His first 100 days in office are going to be key."

Cecile Ramos, President of Historic Filipinotown Council

"I wished that McCain won. But I think it's time for Obama. There is a long history of African Americans having a chip on their shoulder. It shows that it is possible to have a minority as President. It's positive for America. Because

of Obama, now, it is my dream to have one of my lineages to be President. With the election of Obama, I think in the future there will be a Filipino American as a president of the United States.

Difficulties

"The economy and war. I think those are the two major issues he has to deal with. [But] I think he's surrounded with a lot of smart people and he can make it happen. I know at the end it doesn't matter what politics we belong to. As McCain said America comes first."

Rick Respicio, New Jersey

"When I got home from work, I immediately turned on the TV and I was elated when I heard the results. I started to text people and I wanted to share that feeling. It was a moment of happiness and relief. I've never felt this good from previous elections not just because it was different but it meant something to me. I've been a Republican as far as I can remember. I have admired Republican Presidents such as [Abraham] Lincoln, [Theodore] Roosevelt, [Dwight D.] Eisenhower and [Ronald] Reagan but I couldn't say the same when it came to McCain.

Difficulties

"As we live in the midst of a worldwide financial crisis, two costly wars, a planet in danger

and so forth, President-elect Obama faces a daunting task ahead of him. First and foremost, he has to quickly assemble his transition team that will help him with these challenges that are enough to define any presidency. He has to appoint a Treasury Secretary that will be responsible for spending \$700 billion in buying distressed mortgages to help fix the housing and banking industries that includes reforms to adapt to the changing financial system... additional billions will be needed to help the automotive industry and for states to create employment in the various sectors.... These are just some of the issues and there are other issues as well but it is crucial in addressing, supporting and implementing the pressing ones and once stabilized, which might take some time, we will then proceed with other matters as well and by doing this together we can, yes we can."

Ian Ave, Elmhurst, New York

"I was at home. First thing that came to my mind when he won the presidency was 'There's going to be a change here in the States.'

Difficulties

"On that case, first would be on how to restore back the failing economy. Second, would be on tax cut. Third, would be on

immigration. It's going to be a long road for him to accomplish all those things, but I'm very optimistic that he will do his job to change it."

Andy Gaston, Chicago, IL.

"I was at home filled with pride and joy that history was made in American politics. It is the very first time I felt very proud to be an American.

Difficulties

"He will face the challenge of having his new administration with newly appointed cabinet members set agreeable and realistic expectations with domestic and international leaders. This should set an important tone for him during the next 4 years of his term."

Dulce Aysip, mother, Daly City, CA

"I was at home, waiting for confirmed news—but we always knew that he had a big chance to be elected. When McCain conceded, I felt that it was a historic moment for the United States."

Difficulties

"He is starting his term in the most difficult of times—it will take more than words to straighten things out. Obama, as president will for sure, be spending all his time, energy and actions to make this country get up on its feet again." ■

Fil-Ams among appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to Los Angeles County Superior Court



Benny C. Osorio




Ricardo R. Ocampo

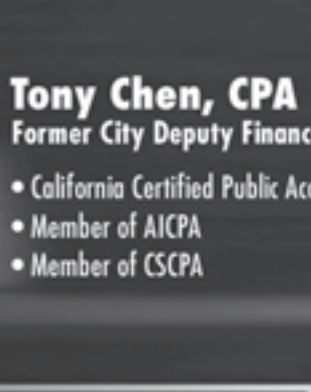
TWO Filipino-Americans were among the 17 appointed to judgeships in the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Ricardo R. Ocampo, 43, of Rancho Palos Verdes, has served as deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 1995. From 1993 to 1995, he was a research attorney for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Ocampo earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the Southwestern University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from San Francisco State University. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Elena J. Duarte. Ocampo is a Republican.

Benny C. Osorio, 42, of Castaic, has served as deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 1995. Previously, he was a sole practitioner from 1994 to 1995. Osorio earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Irving S. Feffer. Osorio is a Republican. ■



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