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ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

A time for giving thanks

letters telling me how you enjoy my articles and television show, *Citizen Pinoy*. I am happy to be of service to you, and I will continue to support Filipino events and causes.

Thank you to ABS-CBN, TFC, and the entire crew of *Citizen Pinoy*, who share my vision of providing a public-service program to the Filipino community concerning immigration laws, procedures, and information. It makes me so proud and happy when people come up to me, saying that they watch *Citizen Pinoy* every single week, and have learned so much from the real life stories and questions and answers presented. I thank all the crew of *Citizen Pinoy* for their hard work, dedication, and passion for this worthy public service.

Thank you to all of our friends in the media, who through their prestigious publications, enabled us to reach those who need our services and inform the Filipino community about news-worthy immigration information. You serve as an avenue to help "bring families together" and help "make the American dream come true."

Thank you to my staff. Your tireless efforts and dedication

to our clients are the main reasons we can continue to provide quality service to our many loyal clients.

Thank you to my wife, Milie. People say that behind every successful man, there is a Filipina wife. Now I know it's true. Words cannot express my gratitude for your help, support and dedication to our business. You are the "wind beneath my wings."

And most of all, thank You to the Almighty. Without His blessings, benevolence, and guidance, none of this would be possible. May He allow me to continue to be able to assist people with their problems, and allow the prayers of all people to be answered and fulfilled.

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All

immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of, an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different.
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(Advertising Supplement)

THANKSGIVING is a time for people to take a step back and reflect on all of the wonderful things and events to be grateful for, and to give thanks to those people who played a key role in helping us achieve them.

At this Thanksgiving, I would like to again give thanks to all of the people who have been so kind and supportive of me and my immigration law practice.

Thank you to all of my clients. I realize that you are the reason I am able to remain in business. I also know how important your immigration matter is in your life and in the life of your family. I appreciate your trust and confidence in my office, in allowing me to handle such an important matter.

Thank you to the entire Filipino community. I truly appreciate your warmth and support, and I thank you for all of your

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P5.8-B hotel-casino resort breaks ground in Subic

by BEBOT SISON JR.
Philstar.com

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A world-class 15-story resort-hotel costing P5.8 billion will soon rise along Waterfront Drive in this freeport to provide a landmark development complete with convention center and casino.

The world-class resort-hotel, which will be known as Ocean 9 Casino and Hotel Resort, broke ground Wednesday, with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator/Chief executive officer Armand Arreza and Moon-Sung Choi, chairman of the proponent-firm Grand Utopia, Inc., leading the ceremony.

The event was witnessed by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) chairman and CEO Efraim Genuino, Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr., Zambales Vice-Gov. Anne Gordon, and representatives of the Korean business community in Subic.

According to Arreza, the Ocean 9 resort-hotel complex is designed to be the most beautiful and world-class hotel in the Subic Bay Freeport.

"This promises to be a significant landmark that will transform the face of Subic Bay, making it the pride of Olongapo and Zambales," he added.

Choi, who presented a project brief during the ceremony, said the main facility will be a 15-story hotel that will occupy an area of 9,173 sq. meters, while the secondary building that will occupy 4,200 sq. meters will house a three-story casino.

The project, which is expected to yield more than 5,000 jobs, is scheduled for completion within two years, he said.

"We will do our best to develop the business under the direction of PAGCOR and SBMA, as we aspire to be at par with some of the world's best tourism and entertainment attractions," Choi said.

"The hotel and casino complex will be built using cutting-edge technology and advanced architectural systems in order to make a unique design that will blend comfort with entertainment," he added.

As planned, the Ocean 9 casino will feature a central stage for live entertainment and performances, as well as a lift-up type of walkway that could be used for fashion shows, said Choi.

The first floor of the casino, where some 500 gaming tables will be clustered, will also have an organic light emitting diode (OLED) system for visual effects, he added.

The OLED system could produce scenes like a waterfall or volcanic activity, Choi said.

The other side of the main hall, meanwhile, will have from 60 to 120 shops that will sell luxury brands, including premium items from Italy and France.

On the other hand, the world-class hotel-casino complex will also boast convention and business facilities to complement leisure activities intended for foreign and local tourists, said Choi.

The Ocean 9 Casino and Hotel Resort project is considered to be a critical infrastructure in Subic's bid to attract more foreign tourists to the growing number of holiday destinations in this freeport.

The hotel will be located near Subic's Alava Pier, which is being developed by another firm as a passenger terminal for cruise ships.

Alava is also being used for berthing by visiting US Navy ships that regularly dock in Subic during military exercises between the Philippines and the United States. ■

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