

# DATELINE PHILIPPINES

## Arroyo bares package for retrenched OFWs

by JOEL GUINTO  
Inquirer.net

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has unveiled a "payback package" for overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who have been retrenched as a result of the global financial crisis, even as she belittled the layoffs as a "trickle" of the entire OFW population.

Last Dec. 5, Arroyo distributed PhilHealth insurance, certificates for skills training, and referral letters for alternative employment to 102 of more than 1,000 recently laid off OFWs from Taiwan, at the Rizal Hall in Malacañang.

"We will implement programs to show our gratitude for our expatriate Filipino workers, who are forced to return home because the country where they are working in is hit by the economic crisis. The DoLE [Department of Labor and Employment] and the OWWA [Overseas Workers Welfare Administration] will lead the government's payback programs for expatriate Filipinos," she said.

"Even if it is only a trickle of our workforce that is coming back, the government will not sit idly and do nothing for our modern day heroes in this time of great economic uncertainty. We assure you of full and unequivocal support," she said.

The "payback package" includes:

Setting up a P250-million livelihood support fund, which Arroyo had announced in October; • Cutting red tape so that OFWs could access the P250-million fund easily; • Identifying business opportunities; • Identifying employment opportunities here and abroad; • Skills training to avail of in-demand jobs in other parts of the world; • Setting up of DoLE and OWWA desks in every province to match OFWs' skills with available jobs; • Setting up of an online resource for job vacancies, and; • Holding a "marketing blitz," through the OWWA, for OFWs. ■

## US demand for Filipino nurses still high

by VERONICA UY  
Inquirer.net

DESPITE the global financial crisis and deepening recession in the United States, demand for Filipino nurses remains high,

representatives of two recruitment agencies said Friday.

Philip Leonard, a British who chairs the St. Georges Re-

cruitment International Inc., said representatives of the Maryland-based Cambridge Healthcare will be in the country in January to interview applicants for 600 vacancies for registered nurses, and physical and occupational therapists to work in the United States.

Last year, the American Hospital Association said more than 5,000 community hospitals nationwide have a need for 116,000 registered nurses. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics also projected a shortage of more than one million registered nurses by 2010.

Leonard said that the demand is so high that aside from immediate departure to the US, selected applicants can enjoy the following benefits: relocation bonus, have their spouse and two children under 21 join them, 36-hour work-week in 12-hour shifts, "lucrative" over-time pay, US standard benefits and options and paid legal, licensing and testing fees.

He said the minimum salary is \$48,192 a year or higher depending on the experience and qualifications of the selected applicant.

NCLEX stands for National Council Licensure Examination; IELTS for International English Language Testing System; and NPTE for National Physical Therapy Exam. ■

## Pinay swept to sea during proposal on Oregon coast

NEKOWIN - A romantic marriage proposal on the Oregon coast turned deadly for the bride-to-be when a wave swept her out to sea. Scott Napper had taken 22-year-old Leafil Alforque to Proposal Rock near Neskowin Beach to pop the question at a place that got its name from couples ready to marry. Napper and Alforque had been dating since they met on the Internet in 2005.

But Alforque had arrived in Oregon on a visa from the Philippines just three days before the fateful trip to the coast.

Napper said the tide had receded around Proposal Rock on Saturday when the couple began to walk to it. He planned to propose and give her the ring he carried in his pocket.

About 10 feet from the rock, a wave about 3 feet high suddenly came toward them.

"I turned into it to keep from getting pulled under it," Napper said. By the time he turned to find Alforque, only 4-foot-11 and 93 pounds, she had been caught by the receding waters.

"She was about 30 feet away, getting swept away," Napper said.

The 45-year-old Silverton man tore off his jacket to get rid of any extra weight, and when he looked up again she was gone.

"That's the last I saw of her," he said in an interview Wednesday, breaking into tears.

Emergency personnel called by a someone on the beach arrived within minutes. His own phone no longer worked after being exposed to the water.

Along with rescuers, he searched for any sign of Alforque. "I yelled for her," he said. "I was praying to God."

At one point, he saw someone wearing red - the color of her jacket - on the shore signaling for him. But he quickly realized it was a rescuer.

Thick fog and dangerous water conditions hampered the rescue efforts before the search was suspended on Monday.

Her 25-year-old sister, Nova Alforque, said the family hopes the body can be recovered.

"My mother is always crying, day and night," Nova Alforque said by telephone from the Philippines. "She wants my sister back. Even if she is dead, she wants her body to bury."

The Tillamook County Sheriff's Office is routinely checking the beach and looking for possible witnesses, said Sheriff Todd Anderson.

Police don't suspect foul play, he said. (AP)

**1ST INNOVATIVE FINANCE GROUP**



- PURCHASE AND REFINANCE WITH BEST RATES OFFERED
- HELP WITH LOAN MODIFICATION
- PROLONG YOUR LOAN TERMS
- ADVISE ON FUTURE CREDIT CONSEQUENCES

**SPECIAL**

**WE NEGOTIATE WITH LENDER SHORT SALE EXPERT**



**KEN GO**  
20 YRS EXPERIENCE  
CALL 888-822-5363

- **FHA 3% down loan**
- **Help raise credit score within 3 days**
- **Call now for free consultation**

**"MURA NA-MABILIS PA"**

**A.C.E.**

ASSOCIATED CONSOLIDATORS EXPRESS  
**BALIKBAYAN BOXES DIRECT**

NVOCC #17753NF

**METRO MANILA** (Kalookan City, Quezon City, Malabon, Pasig, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Muntinlupa, Makati, Marikina, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Navotas, Pateros, Valenzuela, San Jose Del Monte)

**\$49** **SUPER SALE** **REGULAR BOX** (20" X 20" X 20")

**LUZON 1&2** **LUZON 1** (Rizal Province, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon Province, Bataan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, San Mateo, Antipolo, Angono, Cainta)

**LUZON 2** (Baguio, La Union, Benguet, Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Cagayan Valley, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Bicol, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Albay, Marinduque, Catanduanes)

**\$55** **REGULAR BOX**

**ANYWHERE IN VISAYAS & MINDANAO** **JUMBO BOX** (22 X 22 X 22) **MANILA \$65**

**For Outside Metro Manila, Visayas & Mindanao Please Call For Pricing!**

**VALID UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2008**  
Pick-up (Everyday) + Free Strapping + Free Replacement Boxes

**CONTAINER SERVICES:**

- Returning Resident
- Door-to-door
- Port-to-port
- Commercial Cargo
- Motor Vehicles

**Call for immediate pick-up:**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY (323) 258-0087, (323) 258-0089 PALMDALE/LANCASTER (323) 258-0087, (213) 675-4973, (661) 274-1143

TEMECULA (951) 265-9956, (951) 764-9612 CARSON/LONG BEACH (323) 230-8608

RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO (951) 536-9116 SAN DIEGO (619) 384-6438

ORANGE COUNTY (714) 603-9669 LAS VEGAS (702) 471-8952, (702) 478-7255

HENDERSON (Joshua Filipino-Oriental Market) (702) 435-0031, (702) 332-2463

**OFFICE & WAREHOUSE : PHILIPPINE VILLAGE CENTER**  
4515 Eagle Rock Blvd. Ste. 133 Los Angeles, CA 90041 **1-877-327-8900**  
(323) 258-0087 • (323) 258-0089

Sub-agents and co-loaders are welcome - We accept credit cards. Subject to Terms & Conditions. Prices are subject to change without notice \* Subject to peace & order in some parts of the Philippines \* Subject to weather conditions, typhoons, floods & other calamities \* Palawan, Puerto Princesa & Mindoro, Calapan only.

**Las Vegas Bank-Owned & Pre-Foreclosed Homes!!!**  
**(Sellers & Banks Loss, your GAIN!!!)**

- Condos & Townhouses 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath **\$40K & up** (Why RENT? or Pay Hotel Accommodation when you can OWN!)
- Condos & Townhouses 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths **High \$50K & up**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath Homes, 2 Car Garage Homes **Mid \$70K & up**
- 3-5 Bedrooms, 3-4 Baths Homes w/ POOL!!! **High \$120K & up**
- Large Homes, 4-6 Bedrooms, 3-4 Baths, 2-3 Car Garages **From \$140K** (Great for Large Family or Ideal for Home Care or other Home-Business)

**BRAND NEW HOMES - PRICES ARE CONTINUOUSLY GOING DOWN STILL OFFERING LOTS OF INCENTIVES AND TONS OF UPGRADES**

**CYNTHIA S. JALECO**  
GOLDEN REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENTS  
4425 W. Spring Mountain Rd., Ste. 300, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89102  
Cell: (702) 285.3897 Fax: (702).541.8933

**BUY NOW & MOVE IN BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (Prices may change)

**WE OFFER PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY PLEASE!!!**

**CREATIVE Smiles**

**"Artistry in Dentistry"**

**Your Ultimate Smile Makeover and Teeth Whitening Center**

We create Celebrity Smiles!  
It's no longer just for the rich and famous  
We provide comfortable, affordable state of the art care in a friendly, Spa-like environment!

Almost anything can be done!

Do You have Missing Teeth? Implants might be the Solution for you!

**20% OFF** on Implants **FREE EVALUATION**

You've seen smile make-over on T.V. See one for yourself!

**FREE MAKE-OVER EVALUATION!**

818.893.1700  
16220 Nordhoff Street  
North Hills, CA 91343  
www.creativesmilesdental.com



Dr. Nelly Lyn Montilla