

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

[TheWeekthatWas]

Outsourcing in RP to thrive despite global crisis

Despite the global financial crisis, the business process outsourcing in the Philippines will continue to thrive as it expects a growth of between 35-40 percent on revenues of around \$7 billion and office space to be leased this year to accommodate this industry has had a 52 percent increase compared to last year, reports say.

"We are part of the solution, not part of the problem," Oscar Sanz, the chief executive of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) said. "Judging from the investor meetings we've been having recently, our clients will want to ramp up their outsourcing activities in order to accelerate cost savings," he added.

The Philippines has greatly benefited from the outsourcing business as it has created jobs and provided much-needed revenue. About 85 percent of the outsourcing business in the country involves bank companies and comes mainly from the US.



RP peacekeepers in Haiti rescue praised by AFP chief

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief General Alexander Yano was in praise of the Philippine peacekeeping contingent to Haiti played an important part in the rescue of those affected by the collapse of La Promesse School in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince in last Nov. 7, which left 30 people dead.



"It is my honor to recognize you for your selfless dedication to help the victims buried in rubble in Haiti. Your efforts are incomparable. Your sacrifices are priceless," he said.

He added that the AFP and the entire Filipino nation is proud of the peacekeepers assigned to other parts of the world as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission. The Philippines, as part of its commitment to UN peacekeeping efforts, has been sending troops to Haiti since 2004.

Bolante clears Arroyo

by MAILA AGER
Inquirer.net

FORMER agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante has cleared President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of any involvement in the P728 million fertilizer fund scam.

At the same time, Bolante denied the disbursement of the money, which he is accused of diverting to Arroyo's 2004 campaign kitty, was a scam.

Bolante was grilled for almost eight hours during the hearing, which ended a little past 7 p.m. and showed little signs of flagging, prompting Senator Panfilo Lacson to comment that the former agriculture official "is not sick."

"As far as I know, the P728-million farm input and implementation program funding of the Department of Agriculture was not a scam," but a legal, valid and proper use of government money, Bolante said in response to questioning from Senator Loren Legarda.

"Your Honor, President Arroyo was not involved in this particular project of the Department of Agriculture. The implementation of the P728 million farm input-farm implementation program was approved by the DBM [Department of Budget and Management] without the approval of President Arroyo," Bolante said in response to a question by Senator Manuel "Mar" Roxas at the start of the Senate investigation into the scandal Nov. 13.

But Roxas countered that Bolante's answer was hard to believe.

"That's hard to believe, Mr. Bolante because we know the President as a micromanager, she dips her hands into everything in government. For you to say that she did not approve this is hard to believe," Roxas

said in Filipino. Pressed by Senator Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, Bolante reiterated that the President had nothing to do with the release of the fertilizer fund.

"Wala po [Nothing]," he said. "We did not have to [get the President's approval because it's a regular activity of the Department of Agriculture."

"It's part of the budget of the Department of Agriculture. The source of the fund is the regular budget of the Department of Agriculture," he added.

"It was legal, valid and proper funding," he told Legarda.

Bolante said there are records to prove this, including a memorandum of agreement indicating the recipients of the money and how it was used.

He also cited a report to the Commission on Audit that 91 percent of the fund had been liquidated.

Bolante said the project had been approved by the DA and did not require the approval of the President.

He also admitted that it was his office that prepared the list of project proponents of the fertilizer fund.

"The list was prepared by my office, tasked by the DA to put together all pending request from different units," he said.

At the same time, Bolante described as "very unfair" and "railroaded" the Senate's move to arrest him.

"In all honesty, I really feel that the decision to cite me for contempt and the consequent warrant of arrest was very unfair and railroaded," he said.

He said the Senate, during the 13th Congress, had indicted him and branded him as the "architect" of the fertilizer fund scam.

Bolante said, "No," when



Former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante testifies at the Senate Thursday on the alleged P728 million fertilizer fund mess. Photo by Thea Alberto/Inquirer

asked by Estrada whether the money was meant for administration candidates in the 2004 elections.

He said the records of the DA would show that most of these projects were implemented in June and July 2004 or long after the election.

Before this, Bolante has said that he has nothing to hide and apologized to the Senate for "whatever inconvenience" his absence has caused in the course of its investigation into the multimillion-peso fertilizer fund scam.

"I would like to apologize for whatever inconveniences my non-appearance to this august body has caused...I assure you, it's not out of respect [to the Senate as a whole]...nor I have something to hide," said Bolante.

Bolante faced the upper chamber for the first time since he was implicated in the controversy in which he has been tagged as the alleged mastermind.

"It's not our duty here to prove your guilt but to find the truth," said Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, chairman of the blue ribbon committee that is presiding over the case.

At the same time, Cayetano

said that while Bolante was "fit" to testify, the Senate medical doctor informed him that the former government official was suffering from chronic ulcer and therefore, should be allowed periodic snacks.

Bolante arrived at the Senate Thursday more than an hour before the hearing that started at 9:51 a.m.

Students from the Pasay North High School carried white and red roses for the senators as they sat at the gallery of the session hall to listen to the hearing.

Bolante has been accused of being the brains behind the alleged transfer of P728 million in fertilizer funds to the campaign kitty of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the 2004 election.

He has not issued a statement since his arrival from the United States where he fled shortly after the expose and tried but failed to seek political asylum.

Bolante arrived in the country last October 27 but before an arrest order could be served by the Senate was brought immediately to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City where he stayed for more than two weeks until Nov. 13.

Donaire severs ties with dad

by JOAQUIN HENSON
Philstar.com

IBF flyweight champion Nonito Donaire, Jr.'s manager Lager Cameron Dunkin said last Nov. 12 it's in the best interest of the Filipino Flash to move forward in his career without father and trainer Nonito Sr. in the team.

Donaire Jr. confirmed that he will no longer work with his long-time trainer because of personal differences.

Donaire Sr., who flew in from the US last weekend, has publicly denounced his son's wife Rachel for causing the split. He said his son was sluggish in his recent fight against Moruti Mthlane because he never kept away from Rachel during his training.

Dunkin told *The Star* in a long distance phone call that "it's time for Nonito to go off and do his own thing." He said Top Rank chairman Bob Arum supports the decision and is now arranging for Donaire Jr.'s next fight in Manila or Macau this March.

"I think Nonito's father was upset and emotional when his son got married," said Dunkin. "I don't think he really meant what he told the press about Rachel. Nobody hates Rachel. Top Rank and I appreciate what Rachel does for Nonito. We certainly don't hate her. It's ridiculous for anyone to even insinuate she has taken over Nonito's training."

Dunkin said he couldn't understand Donaire Sr.'s bitterness towards his son.

"I really don't know where this is coming from," said Dunkin. "Maybe, emotions are getting the better of a father who lost his son to marriage. Nonito's father is a good guy, and we're all fine here. Nonito had a great training camp and made the weight easy. I don't know why his father is upset. Nonito's been winning. There's really no reason to be upset."

Dunkin said Arum wants to put an end to the word war launched by Donaire Sr. in media.

"We want Nonito to be focused," said Dunkin. "We've got big plans ahead. But when emotions get in the way, logic sometimes goes out the frigging window. As far as Nonito and Top Rank are concerned, everything is fine. As to whom Nonito will fight next, it could be Jorge Arce, Fernando Montiel or somebody else. Arce doesn't seem to be too keen on fighting Nonito now and might just take on Vic Darchinyan instead. Montiel is also hesitant. But for sure, we'll have a worthy opponent for Nonito in March."

Donaire Jr. said he could never imagine a father trying to ruin his son's career by spreading lies.

"Just before the (Luis) Maldonado fight, my father wanted me to sign a contract giving him 20 percent of my endorsement fees and 12 percent of my purses," said Donaire Jr. "Why would he do that? I was



really bothered. Then, before the Mthlane fight, he asked Cameron what would happen if I lose. I'm not sure if he wanted me to win or lose."

A source in Donaire Jr.'s camp said his father wanted too much money. He took half of the \$10,000 training money for Donaire Jr.'s cancelled fight in Dubai from Gary Shaw and advanced another \$5,000.

"It's all about money," said the source. "He was paid \$1,500 a month and his lodging was paid for, too, during the two-month training in addition to his share of the purse. When his advance of \$8,500 was deducted from \$30,000 as his share of the purse for the Mthlane fight, he complained. He still got about \$21,500 plus the monthly allowance and even got the food money of some of the guys in the team. He even asked for a \$5,000 advance from the next purse after the Mthlane fight."

Donaire Jr. said his father has lost his focus as a trainer.

"I can't work with him anymore," said Donaire Jr. "I'm a grown man. I don't think it's right that he disrespects Rachel. I know what's good for me and he knows I'll never do anything to ruin my career. I'm thankful to Rachel for everything she does. When Top Rank calls, I send Rachel because I only want to focus on boxing, nothing else. Rachel gets me ready to train, to run, fixes my things, cooks my food. I can't see why he's so angry with her."

Donaire Jr. said for his next fight, he will likely tap former junior welterweight champion Morris East or Honolulu trainer Bobby Villaver to assist in his corner.

"My father and I are all squared," said Donaire Jr. "I don't owe him anything. He doesn't owe me anything. He's my father and I respect him but he should respect me, too. He shouldn't try to turn the world against his own son by badmouthing me and my wife. I'll never disclose the things he did to my mom and our family because no matter what, he's still my father."

Donaire Jr. said he'll be back in the gym next week. The splint and cast on his broken left pinkie will be removed in a month. He will spend the Christmas holidays in Manila with his mother, wife and in-laws.

St. Anne's Special Fundraising Committee presents

HOTDOG BAND CONCERT

Annie Batungbakal, Miss Universe, Manila
Pers Lab, O Lumapit ka

Nov 23, 2008 SUNDAY 4 - 7 p.m.
@ Landmark Loews Theater
54 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07306

Special guests Appearance

Ocean of Money Club
Jersey City, NJ

JRRDOECHO RED BAND
Queens, NY

Ticket Prices \$20 | \$25 | \$30 | \$35

For more information or reservations, please contact:

Vicky Aguilon	201-622-8836	Rick Rivera	201-673-8679
Celia Morales	201-963-5030	Be Jensen	201-653-8964
Gemma Silva	201-658-9790	Dolly Nacario	201-456-3000
Aniway Olaya	201-792-3759	Virgie Cuatros	201-876-1919 (eve)
Tina Edelmann	201-653-4785	Weng Yaptangco	201-993-2843

Parking available @ Square Ramp Garage 50% Discount on parking fees with tickets.
Entry to the garage via Magnolia Ave. at the back of the theater.

For the benefit of St. Anne's Church