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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Historic Filipino-American meeting with Obama administration

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budget from \$1 billion to as much as \$30 billion so it could provide technical assistance and capacity building to small-, minority- and women-owned businesses. Another suggestion is to provide up to \$5 billion to microbusinesses which create one out of six private sector jobs. Mabuhay Alliance has been a leader among Asian American

organizations in this field. In addition, Mabuhay Alliance and NaFFAA criticized the federal government for failing to award 400,000 Filipino-American owned businesses and professionals. (Last year the government awarded \$650 billion in contracts with 97 percent going to giant white owned businesses.) And as part of the effort that

began in November 2007, as a result of the Desperate Housewives attack on the credibility of Filipino-American professionals, Mabuhay Alliance and NaFFAA raised the issue of Filipino American empowerment. One matter raised was the lack of Filipino-Americans on the board of directors of Fortune 500 corporations. (Only two of the 6,000 board members of these corporations are Filipino-Americans.) As a result of a Mabuhay questionnaire sent out to 10 prominent Filipino-American organizations last week, the community will be submitting the names of three prominent Fil-Ams to be on the board of directors of Citigroup.

The Secretary of Treasury, Chairman of the Federal Reserve and Chairman of the FDIC are part of the selection process for the board of directors of Citigroup since the government is now its largest shareholder. Mabuhay Alliance and NaFFAA also secured provisional interest from the FCC in holding a hearing in Los Angeles this fall on the discrimination against Fil-Ams and other minorities.

It will be co-hosted by the Fil-Am community to discuss the absence of minorities within the entertainment industry and the need to end racial and ethnic stereotyping. The

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. 7780 TRASH PICK-UP & REFUSE DISPOSAL PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles invites bids to provide the Authority Trash Pick-up and Refuse Disposal. Copies of the IFB may be obtained beginning March 16, 2009 online at www.HACLA.org/ncg or by calling (213) 252-1836. A pre-bid conference will be held on March 25, 2009, 9:30 a.m. local time, in the Board Room at 2600 Wilshire Blvd, 5th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90057. Bids will be accepted at the same location in the Authority's Purchasing Department, 3rd floor, until 1:30 p.m. (local time), on April 17, 2009.

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