

PNPA topnotcher: Public service knows no gender

by CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE
Philstar.com



Class valedictorian Roan Marie Bascugin stands at attention during the 30th commencement exercises at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite.
Philstar photo by Manny Marcelo

CAMP CASTAÑEDA, Silang, Cavite—"Public service knows no gender," this year's topnotcher at the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) said in her valedictory speech.

Inspector Roan Marie Bascugin graduated valedictorian of the 304-strong, male-dominated class of PNPA-Kaisang Bisig and will join the Philippine National Police (PNP), which is also a male-dominated organization.

"All men and women in service to the people are driven by the same passion to lead by serving others. Giving ourselves in our profession knows no bounds. Whatever bureau we may be in, we are bound by the same oath."

Bascugin also thanked President Arroyo, who was the guest of honor and speaker at the graduation ceremony here, "for being a good model and inspiration."

"You are the epitome of a strong-willed woman in the service of the people. The traits you have manifested in leading the nation inspired me to aim for greater heights," said Bascugin.

The valedictorian, one of the 266 PNPA graduates to join the PNP, said "achieving this coveted plum proves that through hard work and perseverance, women are also capable of doing and achieving things that men have done before."

Addressing the President, Bascugin said, "I also understand that what you want is to have good, efficient and effective leaders and I am proud to say that in front of you are 304 adept and virtuous leaders. With more training and schooling, we shall work our way up towards the realization of our shared vision—peace."

In an earlier interview, Bascugin, daughter of Superintendent Rustico Bascugin, currently assigned to the Police Community Relations Group at Camp Crame, said she would be assigned to Central Luzon Police Regional Office (Region 3).

Meanwhile, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the DILG and the PNP have been trying to discipline members of the police force. ■

ARROYO DECLARES No Independence Day parade this year

by JEFFREY M. TUPAS
Inquirer.net

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo declared here last March 27 there would be no Independence Day parade on June 12 in light of the difficulties brought on by the glob-

al economic downturn. Speaking before some 1000 local legislators during the 18th national assembly of the Provincial Board Members' League of the Philippines, Arroyo said that instead of

the traditional parade at Rizal Park, which the government funds with about P30 million each year, a mega jobs fair would be held during the next Independence Day celebrations.

"In this challenging economic time, we must tighten

our belts and live within our means—just like the average household. At the national level, we have made necessary ways to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending and these measures can be replicated by the provincial governments," Arroyo said. ■

International Labor Organization...

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professionals in Lebanon.

A group of Lebanese nationals yesterday said their country is in need of Filipino workers to fill the vacancies in the hotel, construction and other sectors.

Kader Al Jadid, Filipino-Lebanese Friendship community president, called on the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to allow the deployment of other types of workers to Lebanon.

Al Jadid said Lebanese companies prefer Filipino workers because of their fluency in English and renowned brand of service and hospitality.

But Labor Secretary Mariano Roque said the Philippine government will not resume the deployment of workers to Lebanon until the Lebanese government complies with the new hiring policy.

Roque said the Philippine

government already submitted to the government of Lebanon the proposed policy that would ensure the protection of Filipino workers.

Among others, Roque said the DOLE is demanding compliance with the \$400 minimum monthly salary for Filipino household workers.

Al Jadid, however, urged DOLE to allow the deployment of professional workers while awaiting the approval on the hiring of household workers.

A majority of the Filipino workers currently employed in Lebanon are household workers.

DOLE imposed the deployment ban to Lebanon in 2006 after war erupted between Israeli and Hezbollah forces. Thousands of OFWs were repatriated but many opted to sneak back to Lebanon despite the ban. ■

Senator Roxas ready to engage reform group

by CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO
Inquirer.net

SEN. Manuel Roxas said he was willing to join efforts to come up with a standard bearer for a political reform movement in the 2010 presidential election.

"I am willing to engage *Kaya Natin* and all other reform groups so we can find ways to unite everyone who believes in the promise of change and a nation of worth which are the real issues in the 2010 elections," Roxas said in a statement as he thanked the group for considering him in its "array of choices for a reform president."

Roxas, president of the Liberal Party, said his party was seeking to unite with groups wanting real change to happen in the country.

Kaya Natin had asked Roxas Thursday to join in a US primary-



Sen. Manuel Roxas

style selection process for the 2010 elections.

Aside from Roxas, the group is also prodding Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca to take part in the proposed selection process akin to the US Republican and Democratic Party primaries. ■

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