

Bar exam No. 2 standing up for Muslim women

by REX GODINEZ-ORTEGA
Inquirer.net



Mylene Amerol-Macumbal

MANILA—Mylene Amerol-Macumbal, the second-placer in the 2008 bar examinations, hopes her achievement will help to prove that the “veiled woman” is not repressed.

“She is actually capable of doing great things while staying within the bounds of her faith,” she said.

“I have never been prouder that I am a Muslim and a Moro,” said Mylene, 28.

A graduate of the Mindanao State University (MSU) College of Law Extension at the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, Mylene became the first Muslim woman to place second in the bar exams.

This is also the first time that the MSU law college in Iligan City has succeeded in placing a graduate on the top 10.

Iligan City was abuzz with the news of Mylene’s feat, especially resonant as it is also the home of the country’s first Muslim woman lawyer, Lindao Macarambon Boransing.

“There is still discrimination in this country against Muslims and Muslim women due largely to misconceptions,” Mylene said.

“I hope to help erase those misconceptions,” she said.

Mylene taught accounting at

board examinations in the 1970s.

It was her father who got Mylene interested in the law.

“He was a frustrated lawyer. He stopped during his first year at law school because he was so busy with work and he had me and my three brothers to always bother him when he was studying,” Mylene said of her father.

“His law books were just there in our home library, together with the encyclopedias I loved to read. So I could not help but open them, and the rest is history,” she said.

Mylene said her mother, Nora Amerol, also instilled in her the value of studying.

But she pointed to her husband, Arassad, as her inspiration and mentor.

“He really pushed me to study, since day one. He told me, ‘Don’t just study for class, study for the bar.’”

Mylene’s husband said he convinced her to study law in Iligan as he believed in the professors of the law college there. She wanted to apply to a law school in Manila.

“We use the same books and our teachers know the same laws. There really is no difference. Now, I guess my theory was proven correct,” the judge said with a smile. ■

14,000 workers get jobs back as firms rehire

by TONETTE OREJAS
Inquirer.net

UBAO, Pampanga—Around 14,000 employees displaced by the global crisis got their jobs back as companies hit by the economic slump started to rehire their workers, Labor Secretary Mariano Roque said last April 5.

“I’m saying that as of right now, companies are starting to get back their workers,” Roque told reporters here, when asked to assess whether or not the country has weathered the crisis.

In an interview after he attended the birthday mass for Presi-

dent Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo here, Roque said the 14,000 employees were rehired in the last two to three weeks.

Roque refused to talk about statistics on job losses, saying, “Job creation na tayo. Di na natin pinag-usapan ang displacements ngayon [We’re focused on job creation. We are not talking anymore of displacements].”

Months before, Roque said regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment were tasked to track down on a daily basis the layoffs, reduction of work hours and other flexible terms adopted by distressed companies.

“Let’s just hope for the better. We’re trying to maximize all the possible opportunities for the employment of our countrymen,” he said.

An additional 250,000 overseas jobs have been targeted for 2009, Roque said. About 50,000 local jobs are eyed to be given in a job fair scheduled on June 12, Independence Day.

Last February, the labor department estimated that around 40,000 workers, mostly in the electronics and manufacturing sectors, were displaced by the global crisis, which has affected export-driven economies such as the Philippines. ■

Tributes pour in for late ‘Time’ correspondent

MANILA—She partied hard, but she worked even harder.

Friends and relatives of Nelly Sindayen, who succumbed to a lingering illness last April 4, fondly remembered the woman perpetually clad in sarong (wrap) as someone who adored singing as she was passionate about her work.

“She’s very friendly to everybody... anybody who will invite her she will not say no to. We used to frequent the bars in Mabini where she sang *Girl from Ip-anema. Pero hindi yan magpapa-*

istorbo kapag may deadline siya [But she won’t allow anybody to disturb her when she has a deadline],” said Faida Careizo, a childhood friend.

Careizo, who also hails from Sulu, said Sindayen’s town mates in Siasi looked up to her as a “good media person” because she was objective and extremely hardworking.

“The people trust her. *Kung ano yung totoo, yun ang ilalabas niya* [she reports the truth]. *Gusto niya parati nandun siya sa eksena* [she always wants to be part of the action],” she said at the wake held at the home of Sindayen’s eldest brother Bon in Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

Sindayen passed away in her Magallanes home around 10:50pm Saturday, April 4 in her sleep, said her youngest child Junne. The *Time magazine* correspondent, who had diabetes and hypertension, suffered a series of stroke attacks in 2008 before she went into comatose in February.

Sindayen’s remains, wrapped in white cloth in accordance to Muslim tradition, were immediately buried past 4pm on Sunday, April 5 at the Imam Moh Kusin memorial park, also in Maharlika.

“I cried but what can I do? *Mabuti na rin yung ganito* [It was better this way] rather than have her like that. *Nung may sakit siya, ayaw niya ng kinaawaan siya* [When she was sick, she did not want to be pitied],” Careizo said.

Junne said her mother, who would have turned 60 on April 7, might have died the way she wanted.

“*Inantay niya ako makaalis.*

[She waited for me to leave the room.] I went out shortly for an errand but when I came back, she was already gone. Maybe it was because she knew I would do everything to save her,” she said.

“She was in pain... she could not talk but I think she was trying. The way she communicated to us was through her tears,” Junne said, adding that they lived on a “day-to-day basis.”

But at the same time, she was thankful for the experience that brought them closer as she personally took care of her mother’s needs.

However, her only sibling Tarchata, who is based in Canada, was only informed by phone and would be unable to return home in time for the burial.

“Nelly was generous. She was a good provider, and would always treat us during birthdays,” Bon said.

Bon said Nelly, who was fond of writing and reading, may have been influenced by their educator-father.

Sindayen studied in Sulu but went to Manila for college and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Philosophy and Letters at the University of Santo Tomas.

Junne, a college student, wished she could follow in her mother’s footsteps but then she had big shoes to fill.

“She contributed a lot to Philippine journalism. She stood up for what she believed in regardless if she’s going against the government. How I wish I could be like her but I just don’t measure up,” she said. (Inquirer.net)

SC rules Manotok, Araneta firms own Maysilo

MANILA—The Supreme Court has upheld the claim of Manotok Realty Inc. and the Araneta Institute of Agriculture Inc. over at least 100 hectares of the disputed Maysilo estate in the northern part of Metro Manila.

In a resolution penned by Justice Dante Tinga, the high court ruled that the other claimants to the property—CLT Realty Development Corp. and the heirs of Jose Dimson—have no valid claim based on their respective titles.

The Supreme Court, in effect, upheld an earlier ruling of a special division of the Court of Appeals that upheld the proprietary rights of the Manotok and Araneta groups to the piece of property.

“The certificates of title of the Dimsons and CLT, including other derivative titles issued to their successor-in-interest, if any, are declared null and void, thus invalidating their legal claims over the subject parcels of land,” the High Court said. (Inquirer.net)

Manny, Hatton will unload ‘big guns’—Donaire

MANILA—Current IBF-IBO flyweight champion Nonito Donaire dubbed the May 2 fight between Manny Pacquiao and Ricky Hatton “as the most exciting fight this year,” adding that he expects both heavy hitters to unload their “big guns” on fight night.

Donaire, who himself is seeing action on April 19 at the Araneta Coliseum when he defends his crown against unbeaten Raul “Cobra” Martinez, said the MGM Grand crowd in Las Vegas can expect an action-packed bout.

“They both have machine guns, I mean big guns, and for sure they will use them on fight night,” said the 26-year-old Filipino champ.

However, in terms of speed and skill the odds are stacked against the Hitman from Manchester, England, Donaire said.

Donaire noted that Hatton has a mannerism that might work in Pacquiao’s favor.

“He (Hatton) tends to throw combinations and then bob to the left,” observed Donaire.

That practice, according to him, will move the Briton away from Pacquiao’s pet left straight and force the Filipino to use his now-polished right hook.

“Hatton is also tall, Manny can very easily use his speed against him,” said Donaire.

Pacquiao’s trainer, Freddie Roach, said he plans to use the Filipino’s speed and quick footwork to stay out of Hatton’s range.

“Manny’s style doesn’t change a lot, but both opponents from these two last fights he is about to be or has been involved in—(Oscar) De La Hoya and Hatton—are both stronger, bigger guys, and we can’t stand in front of them,” Roach said.

Roach has packed his personal stuff and moved out of the Wild Card gym to give Pacquiao an exclusive training area. (Inquirer.net)



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