

# Santiago, Villar file most number of bills

by CHRISTINA MENDEZ  
Philstar.com

SENATORS Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Manuel Villar Jr. topped the list of senators who filed the most number of bills and resolutions since the start of the first regular session of the 14th Congress.

Records of the Senate's Legislative Bills and Index Service also showed that Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Joker Arroyo filed the least number of legislative measures.

Santiago filed 933 bills and resolutions while Villar recorded 579, followed by Senate President Pro-Tempore Jinggoy Estrada with 538 bills and resolutions, Loren Legarda with 299, and Francis Escudero with 288;

Senators Antonio Trillanes IV (261), Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. (238), Lito Lapid (196), Richard Gordon (148), Manuel Roxas II

(146), Edgardo Angara (140), Juan Miguel Zubiri (135), Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (117), Pia Cayetano (114), Rodolfo Biazon (107);

Senators Jamby Madrigal (93), Francis Pangilinan (87), Panfilo Lacson (83), Gregorio Honasan (73), Juan Ponce Enrile (70), Noynoy Aquino (39), Alan Peter Cayetano (24), and Joker Arroyo (11).

The Senate is now on its second regular session but the senators are currently on a month-long break from March 7 to April 12.

Santiago led the senators with the most number of measures filed even though she is on sick leave for chronic fatigue syndrome, which manifested last December, prompting the senator to file an indefinite leave of absence last January. ■

## WITH GLOBAL CRISIS

### RP notebook, desktop sales decline—IDC

THE desktop and notebook PC market in the Philippines saw a 12.8 percent market share decline in fourth quarter of 2008, research firm International Data Corp. said.

This is largely due to the decline in PC purchases, a recent report by the research firm showed.

Jaygan Fu Ponnudurai, IDC Market analyst for personal systems research, said in a statement that local channel partners of computer brands have shifted focus from chasing lucrative commissions to keeping their businesses afloat.

He said channel partners were also placing fewer inventories, which caused drop in shipments for the fourth quarter of 2008.

Ponnudurai also said netbooks—or low-cost notebooks—have also "cannibalized" the PC desktop market.

Many vendors have been aggressively lowering the prices of notebooks to target younger consumers, which further pushed for adoption of this low-cost notebooks than desktop or laptop computers.

As global economy remained uncertain, PC vendors and channel partners should be prepared for further challenges this year, the IDC analyst said.

"Vendors and channel partners should strengthen their partnerships and formulate strategies to target specific market segments to weather out the economic storm," added Ponnudurai. ■

### Gordon advises voters to validate poll registration

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ated registration record as its official certified voters list.

It likewise proposed the extension of the prohibitive period for the conduct of voter registration to give the poll body sufficient time to prepare and undertake post-registration activities such as hearing by the Election Registration Board and preparation and posting of the certified list of voters. "The automation law would help eradicate wholesale cheating. While we may be modestly successful in reducing irregularities in the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) elections, there is much work to

do," Gordon said.

"The existence of flying or ghost voters, or underage or other ineligible voters, has remained prevalent because of insufficient safeguards to reliably identify and separate between legitimate and illegitimate voters," he added.

Gordon stressed that cleansing the voters list would contribute to clean, honest and credible elections in 2010. "The Comelec should also intensify its efforts to purge the voters list by deleting double or multiple registrants," Gordon said. "All these efforts are expected to lead to credible, clean, and orderly presidential elections in 2010," he said. ■

# DOT grants fund for Malapascua project

by IRENE SINO CRUZ  
Inquirer.net

CEBU CITY—A project designed to help protect the environment and marine resources of Malapascua island in Daan Bantayan town, Cebu would soon be implemented with financial assistance from the Department of Tourism.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano on Tuesday, April 7, turned over P1.7 million to the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation and Barangay Logon as funding for the Malapascua Solid Waste Management project.

During the turnover, Durano said the project would ensure that Malapascua remain among the country's top dive destination.

He noted that the lack of sanitary facilities on the island, if not managed properly, would reach the sea and affect the marine resources.

Unless the situation would be corrected, Durano said Malapascua would face similar problems that Boracay had faced.

He said the DOT had to come up with a project that would address the adverse impact on the environment brought about by the growing number of residents, tourists and businesses.

The project in Malapascua would be similar to that implemented in Boracay Island that has led to livelihood generation, according to DOT project consultant Connie Padilla.

"The solid waste management project in Boracay has become so successful that it has provided livelihood on the island and has become a tourist attraction," Padilla said.

She said the project has become sustainable because it has started earning from the sale of products generated by the materials recovery facility (MRF), such as the vermin compost, organically grown herbs, pavement tiles made from used cooking oil and Styrofoam, construction blocks made from residual wastes and jewelry made from recycled materials.

The Boracay facility sells the compost fertilizer at P10 to P12 per



kilo and the construction blocks at P7 to P12 per kilo, Padilla said, adding that the income generated from the MRF products was way above the cost of the material and labor.

The MRF in Boracay also hosted several visitors from all over the Philippines and other Asia-Pacific countries, Padilla said.

It has also become a learning center and model for rural and urban renewal, particularly in solid waste management practices, she added.

Padilla said the immediate goal of the project was to implement Republic Act 9003 at the barangay (village) level.

The P1.7-million financial assistance from the DOT would partly finance the construction of "eco-sheds," a greenhouse, mechanical shredders, vermiculture composting beds, construction of eco carts, training of stakeholders and for the salary of a social worker who will stay at the island for a year to educate the residents on environmental protection.

Barangay Captain Rex Novabos of Barangay Logon, which has jurisdiction over Malapascua Island, welcomed the project.

"We hope we can clean up the island within the year," Novabos said.

Malapascua Island has three marine protected areas that offer world class diving: Monad Shoal, Gato Island and Lapus Lapus.

The Monad Shoal is home to rare thresher sharks that have drawn divers from all over the world. The Gato Island features soft corals and sea snakes while the Lapus Lapus has a wide array of coral and fish, Padilla said. ■



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