

## Puno defines 'green' challenge

**B**AGUIO CITY—Chief Justice Reynato Puno has called for greater resolve in enforcing the country's many environmental laws as he raised concern over an estimated 3,000 unresolved environment-related cases.

"Today, we can say we have enough domestic laws to protect the environment," in addition to "more than 100 environmental treaties," Puno said at the Supreme Court-hosted Forum on Environmental Justice.

"The big challenge is how these hard and soft laws can be effectively implemented."

He issued the challenge at the start of the forum, the third extraordinary "consultative" conference he has convened since 2007.

Puno said the 3,000 unresolved cases were in part due to the failure of prosecutors to gather evidence.

Puno specified three "problem areas that confront our courts" which formed the background of the forum:

\*Whether the threshold of legal



Chief Justice Reynato Puno

standing for environmental lawsuits should be further liberalized.

Citing one case pending before the high court, Puno defined the "underlying issue" as "whether a whale or a dolphin can sue a petroleum exploration company."

\*How to minimize delays in the resolution of environmental cases.

\*How to improve the procedure for "procuring evidence and crafting effective remedies, all with a view to easing the burden of proof." (*Inquirer.net*)

## It's a gift to me, says new envoy to Vatican

by DONA PAZZIBUGAN  
*Inquirer.net*

**M**ANILA—The new ambassador to the Vatican, Ma. Mercedes Reinas Arrastia-Tuason, disclosed last April 16 that she was told of her appointment to the post when she received a call from Malacañang last March 30.

"I called my children because I had to ask them. I wanted to see the (appointment) papers first because I couldn't go (to the Vatican) without them," Tuason said in an interview over the Catholic Church-run Radyo Veritas.

She said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo knew her because her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, was the cousin of her late husband.

She scotched reports that her appointment was politically-motivated. "I don't know, I don't think so. I will first try to get through the Commission on Appointments," she said.

She was, however, thankful for getting the post. "It is a gift to me and I will try to do whatever to be of service to God and to the country," she said.

Some bishops interviewed last April 15 expressed surprise at Malacañang's appointment of a new envoy to the Vatican to replace Cristina Ponce-Enrile, who resigned after only six months in the post, citing chronic fatigue syndrome.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and other Church leaders protested Enrile's appointment last year and said they were not consulted before Malacañang sacked long-time envoy to the Holy See, Leonida Vera.

Lagdameo said the news of Enrile's resignation did not come as a complete surprise because "even before, I was already told she was quite sickly in Rome."

According to the CBCP, which cited records from the Philip-

pine Embassy in Rome, Enrile's term is the shortest of the country's 14 envoys to the Vatican since diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Philippines were established in June 4, 1951.

Enrile presented her credentials to Pope Benedict XVI last Oct. 27, 2008.

Bishops appear to be also miffed that Malacañang had not consulted them before appointing Tuason.

However, Lagdameo said he was "pleasantly surprised" to find out about Tuason's involvement in several Church organizations and charitable activities for which she has received citations, including one from her alma mater, St. Scholastica College.



Ma. Mercedes Reinas Arrastia-Tuason

She was also inducted as a Dame of the Order of Malta, whose members provide care for the sick, medical services for the poor and distribute relief goods to disaster-hit areas.

## LORETO & MEDINA, LLP

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS



Ellaine Loreto, Esq.

If your loved one was *deported* and you're hoping to bring him or her back to the U.S., let us show you how to do it!

If you have any *crimes*, committed any *fraud*, *overstayed* in the U.S. or committed any other immigration violation and you now wish to apply for a green card or citizenship, we might be able to help you overcome these obstacles to your application!

If your case was *denied* by the *USCIS*, *AAO*, *BIA* or *Ninth Circuit* and you don't know what to do next, allow us to explain your options!

We offer unique solutions to your complex immigration problems. We do:

H-1B • TN • O • P • J-1 waivers • PERM • Nurses • Employment-based Family-based • Naturalization • Derivative citizenship I-601 waivers of inadmissibility • Motions to re-open • Appeals

### Free Initial Consultation

1430 E. Chapman Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Orange, CA 92866  
Telephone: 714-288-0574 • Fax: 714-288-0577 • Email: [Inquiry@loretomedinalaw.com](mailto:Inquiry@loretomedinalaw.com)



## ALL IMMIGRATION LAW GROUP, PC

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS WITH INTEGRITY, TENACITY AND PERSONAL SERVICE

We are a full-service boutique law firm devoted solely to the practice of immigration and naturalization law. We deliver expert legal representation in all areas of immigration law including:

- Removal / Deportation Defense
- BIA and Federal Court Appeals
- Family & Employment Sponsored Petitions
- Citizenship & Naturalization

Diligent preparation, aggressive representation and compassionate personal service account for our success!

Call today for a free consultation.

13525 Ventura Boulevard Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Tel: (818) 783-8033

Email: [orit@allimmigrationgroup.com](mailto:orit@allimmigrationgroup.com)



ORIT LEVIT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

# visit Thailand



Escape the recession blues

**Thailand Getaway**  
**\$999**  
8 days land & air

**Thai Paradise**  
**\$1170**  
10 days land package

**Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia**  
**\$1235**  
11 days land package



[www.charmingasiatours.com](http://www.charmingasiatours.com) Toll Free 1.888.607.8555

## How would you like to give yourself a nice raise?

## Join Our Vocational Nursing Program



Bring a friend to join with you, get additional \$250 off!

Join our next VN class and get a **\*\*\*FREE LAPTOP\*\*\***  
Must bring this ad to avail of this promotion

**GLENDALE LOCATION OPENING SOON!**

- BENEFITS OF HOMESTEAD:**
- ✓ Small classes
  - ✓ Individual attention
  - ✓ Computer for each Student
  - ✓ Experienced instructors
  - ✓ Free NCLEX review

Classes are forming now. So hurry! Remember, we only have a limited number of openings for the class. You can take either the day or evening classes and keep your present job.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

- CNA
- Medical Assisting
- Pharmacy Technician

Special Offer! **FREE LAPTOP!**  
**CALL US NOW TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT**



## HOMESTEAD SCHOOLS

23844 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 200  
Torrance, CA 90505

**(310) 791-9975 • (800) 253-0088**

[HomesteadSchools.com](http://HomesteadSchools.com)

Now Accepting Applications for our **GLENDALE** Location  
**PLEASE CALL GEORGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!**