



Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, who demolished IBO light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton of Britain, makes his way inside a church to attend mass in Quiapo, Metro Manila May 8, 2009. Pacquiao has knocked down an order by Philippine health officials to delay his return home due to influenza A (H1N1), formerly referred to as swine flu.
 Reuters Photo

Still Pacquiao's Day

Sunshine breaks thru, and nation celebrates

by MARLON RAMOS, ALCUIN PAPA & JEANNETTE ANDRADE
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Josie Piñera, a *sari-sari* store owner, wanted to see Manny Pacquiao so much she didn't care if he might be carrying the deadly wine flu virus that experts say could infect up to 2 billion people in a global outbreak.

That seemed to sum up the feelings of the thousands of other people who dropped whatever it was they were doing to cheer Pacquiao at the airport, in Quiapo, at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), at the offices of San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and at the Mall of Asia, where Pacquiao held a free concert.



Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao (R) who demolished IBO light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton of Britain, carries his daughter Princess, 2-1/2, upon arrival from Los Angeles, at the international airport in Manila May 8, 2009. Pacquiao has knocked down an order by Philippine health officials to delay his return home due to influenza A (H1N1), formerly referred to as swine flu. On left is Pacquiao's wife Jinkee and their son Michael.
 Reuters Photo by Romeo Ranoco



Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, who demolished IBO light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton of Britain, waves to his fans as he arrives to attend mass at a church in Quiapo, Metro Manila May 8, 2009. Pacquiao has knocked down an order by Philippine health officials to delay his return home due to influenza A (H1N1), formerly referred to as swine flu.
 Reuters Photo by John Javellana

Fil-Ams crave for good news about RP

They showed up despite bad weather, A/H1N1 threats



Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan

SAN FRANCISCO—Filipino-Americans braved thunderstorms, flash floods, and even the threat of swine flu to hear good news about the Philippines from a government team that recently visited key cities in the United States as part of an information road show.

"It was a pleasant surprise to us to see how enthusiastic Filipinos in the United States were in wanting to hear the good news about the Philippines rather than the bad," said Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, Presidential Adviser on External Affairs, who led a government team that presented positive developments taking place in the country that overseas Filipinos know little about.

Pamintuan, who is concurrently chairman of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council (SCADC), said Filipino-American community leaders in Houston still came to listen to him and his team despite a heavy thunderstorm that triggered flash

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Fr. Peyton sculpture by Pinoy priest unveiled in Ireland

by PATRICIA ESTEVES
Philstar.com



Filipino artist Joey Velasco with the 7-foot sculpture of Fr. Patrick Peyton
 Photo courtesy of Philstar.com

MANILA—A seven-foot bronze sculpture of Irish priest Fr. Patrick Peyton was unveiled last April 27 in Attymass, Ireland as part of Peyton's yearlong 100th birth anniversary celebration.

Peyton, a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, founded the Family Rosary Crusade, a global ministry to families and prayer, for which he coined the famous slogan, "The family that prays together, stays together."

Peyton, known as the Rosary priest, lived in the Philippines for a long time, promoting family recitation of the Rosary.

He died on June 3, 1992 and is now

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US celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

MAJOR cities of the United States kicked off the celebration of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a wide array of events: from lion dances and martial arts exhibitions to concerts, film showings and poetry readings.

The White House started the ball rolling with a presidential proclamation. "The vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continues to strengthen the fabric of American society," the Proclamation read, "From the arrival of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants 150 years ago to those who arrive today, as well as those native to the Hawaiian Islands and to our Pacific Island territories, all possess the common purpose of the fulfilling the American dream and leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

President Barack Obama signed the proclamation Friday, May 1 and called "upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities."

"As the 111th Congress passes the 100-day mark of legislative business, I reflect on the contributions we have been able to give back to the AAPI community. In February, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to

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'HappySlip' campaign reaps dividends for RP

by DAXIM LUCAS
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Seeking to capitalize on the global travel boom in the years ahead of the global economic crisis, the Department of Tourism (DOT) last year enlisted the help of Filipino-American Internet video blogger Christine "HappySlip" Gambito to encourage *balikbayans* to visit the Philippines.

A year later, the HappySlip online marketing campaign has been hailed as a success in highlighting the country as a tourist destination, especially to traditionally big-spending Filipinos residing in North America.

According to the DOT, while an exact correlation between the HappySlip campaign and actual tourist arrivals during the period cannot be established, there was a substantial increase in Internet traffic to the department's site

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Christine Gambito

Who's afraid of Manny Pacquiao?

by MARLON RAMOS
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Who's afraid of getting close to Manny Pacquiao?

Certainly, not his fellow passengers or the hordes of supporters who waited for him at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II in Parañaque City early Friday morning, May 8

"I think there's really nothing to fear," said veteran actor Eddie Gutierrez, who was with Team Pacquiao on board Philippine Airlines Flight 103 from Los Angeles, California.

"I feel okay. I don't think any of us are infected with the virus," he told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.

Gutierrez, who was with his wife Annabel Rama and son Rocky, said he personally watched Pacquiao end the reign of British champion Ricky Hatton via a second round knockout in their title fight in Las Vegas, Nevada dubbed as *Battle of the East and West*.

"Since he beat Marco Antonio Barrera, I've always personally seen Pacquiao fight in the US," Gutierrez said.

Despite the warning from the World Health Organization, some 200 individuals waited outside the northwing area of the airport, eager to catch a glimpse of the Filipino boxing legend.

Rustico Villegas, 36, said he left his house in San Mateo, Rizal as early as 4 a.m. to make sure that he would be able to see his idol.

If he had the chance, Villegas said he would shake the hands of and embrace Pacquiao, adding that he was not afraid of contacting the deadly viral disease from the boxing superstar.

"Baka halikan ko pa siya [I might even kiss him]," he said with a laugh.

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