

# DATELINE PHILIPPINES

## DOH assures public RP still free from H1N1 virus

by SHEILA CRISOSTOMO  
Philstar.com

THE Philippines remains free from the Influenza A(H1N1) virus despite the increase in the number of travelers kept under observation for possible infection, the Department of Health (DOH) reiterated last May 13.

"The DOH will continue to intensify its surveillance in ports, airports and community so that cases are detected early and appropriate control measures are implemented immediately," said DOH Assistant Secretary Nemesio Gako.

According to DOH Undersecretary Mario Villaverde, one of the eight patients – a 14-year-old female traveler from the US – had turned out negative for the virus.

He noted that the results of the laboratory tests on the seven others are "still pending."

The youngest of the seven patients is a three-year-old girl from Japan while the oldest is a 69-year-old foreign woman who came from the US.

The rest are a 47-year-old Filipino male from China; a 27-year-old female foreigner from Australia; a 26-year-old Filipino woman from the US; a 38-year-old Filipino woman from US and a 44-year-old foreign male from the US.

Villaverde said the DOH would start distributing anti-Influenza A(H1N1) medicine to regional offices nationwide to ensure that

they are prepared in case of an epidemic.

He added that each office stands to receive 5,000 capsules of the anti-viral drug Oseltamivir.

Oseltamivir will also be given to doctors, nurses and other health workers who will handle infected patients.

Infected patients will have to take two capsules everyday for five days but Oseltamivir must be given on the second day or once the symptoms of A(H1N1) come out.

Villaverde had advised the public to observe a healthy lifestyle to strengthen their immune system to ward off the virus.

"Get enough sleep, eat nutritional food and drink lots of fluids like water and fruit juices that are rich in Vitamin C. Avoid stress because it could weaken our immune system," he added.

## No stopping probe of Villar

by CHRISTINE AVENDANO  
Philstar.com

ENOUGH is enough. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said he will not stand for any more delays in hearing the ethics case filed by Sen. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal against Sen. Manuel Villar and will begin the preliminary inquiry into the charges by the Senate acting as a committee of the whole.

"All my life I have been a lawyer and was trained in the courtroom. I know when proposals are not intended for delay and when they are intended for delay and I'm going to stand my ground even to the point of being unseated if they have the numbers to do it. Enough is enough," Enrile told reporters.

At the preliminary inquiry, the senators will look at the evidence submitted by Madrigal to prove her allegations that Villar was behind the double funding and rerouting of the P200-million C5 road extension project so as to benefit his real estate business.



HOW SWEET IT IS Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. busses Sen. Pia Cayetano at the Senate session hall on Wednesday, May 13. On Thursday, May 14, he faced a grilling by the Senate committee of the whole on an ethics case filed by Sen. Jamby Madrigal (behind). JESS YUSON

Fair treatment  
If they find the evidence to be "credible and substantial," they will proceed with the investigation of Villar.

"The only way they [the minority allied with Villar] can stop the preliminary inquiry is to go to court and get an injunction," he said.

He said it was "very obvious" that the minority bloc—which said the inquiry cannot go on last May 13 as scheduled as the group intended to ask for yet more amendments to the rules—was delaying the proceedings.

## Teachers to get P6,500 pay hike

by JESS DIAZ  
Philstar.com

PUBLIC school teachers will receive a P6,500 salary increase under the compensation adjustment program that the House of Representatives was scheduled to approve last May 13.

considered as working 24 hours a day.

Under the proposed program, the President would have a salary of P120,000, up 100 percent from P60,000; while the

Vice President would receive P103,000, which also represents a 100-percent increase.

The pay adjustment program is contained in Joint Resolution 36. ■

The program calls for increasing the teachers' basic monthly pay to P18,549 over four years from the present P12,000.

The first installment of the adjustment would be paid on July 1 this year.

Teachers' groups are demanding an immediate increase of P3,000.

For Representatives Carlos Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya and Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro City, P6,500 spread over four years is not enough.

"This is not equal pay for work of equal value," Padilla said, noting that teachers, unlike desk-bound bureaucrats, work long hours.

And yet, high-ranking bureaucrats such as undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors will get an increase of 100 percent of their basic pay, excluding allowances, he said.

Unlike teachers, he said these officials receive additional compensation in the form of fat allowances.

Padilla proposed that teachers who hold salary grade 10 under the 33-grade government compensation scheme should be adjusted to grade 15 with a monthly salary of P24,878.

Rodriguez, on the other hand, took up the cudgels for the more than 100,000 soldiers.

He said under the proposed pay adjustment program, soldiers would receive an additional P4,000 over four years, or P1,000 a year.

Since the first installment would be given on July 1, the lowest-paid members of the Armed Forces would be getting only P500 for this year, he said.

He said soldiers, like teachers, work long hours and can even be

**Marking our 20th Year!**  
We're here to serve.  
Maraming Salamat Po.

**Topnotch International Services, Inc.**  
DIA TOPNOTCH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**TOPNOTCH CELEBRATES WITH FRIENDS**

**Decisions, Decisions... We've got the solutions!**

- Controllers
- Accountants
- Full Charge Bookkeepers
- Administrative Assistants
- Legal Secretaries
- Medical Secretaries
- General Office Clerks
- Warehouse Managers
- Sales/Territory Managers
- Computer Specialist/Consultants
- Technical Support
- Engineers (Mechanical)
- Electrical, Civil/Structural
- Interior Designers
- Educators
- Facilities Planner
- Tool Designers

**520 So. Lafayette Park Place, Ste. 500, Los Angeles, CA 90057**  
**Tel: (213) 380-8151**  
**Fax: (213) 380-4019**

We retain highly qualified immigration lawyers to represent cases involving Working Visas, Green Cards and H-4 Visas.  
**Visit our website: topnotch-intl.com**

**SAMSON LAW CORPORATION**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**PRACTICE AREAS:**  
**IMMIGRATION LAW**  
**FAMILY LAW**  
**BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 7**

Atty. Samson specializes in business immigration, particularly the temporary worker (H), intra-company transfer (L) and investor (E) visa classifications. She obtains immigrant visas for nationally and internationally acclaimed artists through extraordinary ability visas (EB1). She also obtains employment-based immigrant visas for executives and multi-national managers (EB1), advanced degree holders (EB2), professionals and skilled workers (EB3), and healthcare workers (Schedule A).

Ms. Samson has also been successful in obtaining immigrant visas for clients under VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). Ms. Samson handles family-based immigrant visas, including fiance(e) visas, and non-immigrant applications, particularly visitor (B1/B2) and student (F) visa classifications. Her other responsibilities include immigration cases involving deportation/removal defense and asylum cases. Ms. Samson also practices family law cases, including divorce, child custody and child support. Ms. Samson is a member of the State Bar of California, the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Beverly Hills Bar Association.

**RHEA V. SAMSON, Esq.**  
Juris Doctor, Ateneo de Manila University,  
Author, "Working With Labor Laws,"  
Published by Ateneo Press and University of Hawaii Press  
Professor, Ateneo de Manila University

Visit our website: [www.samsonlawcorp.com](http://www.samsonlawcorp.com)  
3550 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1765, Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone: 213.249.1605 • Fax: (213) 637-5637  
Email: [info@samsonlawcorp.com](mailto:info@samsonlawcorp.com)

**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE INITIAL OFFICE CONSULTATION.**

**DS & A**

**Darren Silver & Associates**

ONE OF THE NATION'S PREEMINENT AND MOST RESPECTED FULL SERVICE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRMS

**Looking for Alternatives?**  
**We Offer Solutions for difficult cases.**  
**We provide you with unique Immigration options.**

**"WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO CANADA IN 1 YEAR!**  
• ALBERTA H1B PROGRAM  
• FEDERAL SKILLED WORKER  
**NO JOB OFFER NECESSARY!"**

**WE PROVIDE:**

- Removal/ Deportation defense
- High Success rate with Immigrant and non-immigrant waivers
- Intercompany Transfer Visa (L-1A and L-1B)
- Difficult H1B and other Professional Visas
- Investment based immigration
- Labor Certification and non-Labor Certification Green Cards
- Family Immigration
- Consular Processing in All Major Consulates with emphasis in Manila.
- And All Other Canadian & US Immigration

**DARREN B. SILVER, ESQ.**  
PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY  
FORMER USCIS OFFICER

**PARDEEP SINGH, ESQ.**  
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR ATTORNEY  
LICENSED CANADIAN & US ATTORNEY

**ANIBAL F. SANCHEZ, ESQ.**  
ATTORNEY

**WE CAN SPEAK TAGALOG, KOREAN, SPANISH, HINDI, PUNJABI & URDU**  
**CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION!**

**213.384.1900**  
Fax: 213.384.8285 • Toll Free: 1.800.971.7013  
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90010  
[info@darrensilver.com](mailto:info@darrensilver.com)

Visit our website and sign up for our Newsletter to learn about latest news in immigration [www.darrensilver.com](http://www.darrensilver.com)