



Obama gives RP early Independence Day greeting

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama greeted Filipinos on the 111th anniversary of the Philippines' Declaration of Independence.

"On behalf of the American people, I extend my warmest wishes to you and the people of the Philippines on the 111th anniversary of your country's Declaration of Independence, June 12," Obama's letter read.

"The United States and the Philippines share a commitment to peace, prosperity, and democratic values, which form the foundation of our strong partnership and alliance," he said.

"The United States looks forward to working closely with the Philippines

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Pacquiao to accept 'Fighter of the Year' award

MEMBERS of Team Pacquiao have confirmed to the Asian Journal that the pound-4-pound champion will accept the Boxing Writers Association of America (BWAA) "Fighter of the Year" award in person.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Friday June 12. There were reports that Pacquiao was going to be a no-show because he was scheduled to take a vacation with his family in Bohol.

But after a media backlash about possibly not attending, Pacquiao's advisors have convinced the champion to attend the prestigious boxing event.

This will be the second time Pacquiao has earned the award. He won the award in 2006.

AJ sources said that while in New York, Pacquiao would watch the Miguel Cotto vs. Joshua Clottey fight at the Madison Square Garden on June 13. Cotto is a possible future match up for Pacquiao, according to Top Rank President Bob Arum. (Joseph Pimentel/AJ Press)

'Shameless abuse of power'

Cory issues strongest message vs Con-ass

by CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
 Inquirer.net



Inquirer.net Photo

MANILA - It was the strongest message former President Corazon Aquino has so far issued, and it was roundly applauded in the largest rally against moves to revise the Constitution in three years.

Here we are again in the midst of the shameful abuses of the powerful that seek to destroy our sacred laws, she said in Filipino ("Subalit narito muli tayo, sa gitna ng walang-hiyang pang-aabuso ng mga makapangyarihang nagnanais na sirain ang mga pinakay-akap sa ating mga batas.")

"Over the years, I have learned to endure pain and sadness," said the cancer-stricken People Power icon in a statement read by her grandson Kiko Dee at the rally attended by thousands in Makati City Wednesday.

"But perhaps, there is nothing that causes me greater pain than to see our people betrayed again and again by those they have elected to lead and serve them. To those of us who fought long and hard to restore our democracy, the pain deepens at the thought that all our gains have so quickly been

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ConGen Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan during the flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the 111th year of Philippine Independence in Los Angeles.
 Photo by BertCJaurique

Message from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

TODAY is a day of remembrance and renewal.

We remember the heroism and sacrifice of our forebears who laid the foundations for the establishment of Asia's first Republic in 1898.

This is a democratic legacy which we—as a state and as a nation—should rightly be proud of and strive to further strengthen.

Likewise, we renew the pledge to continue doing our part in building a more peaceful, progressive and prosperous Philippines.

The Philippines has advanced steadily towards greater growth, guided by a common vision for a better shared future and powered by the sinew and might of the hardworking and dedicated Filipino.

As we commemorate the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the theme "Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan," underscores the challenges to and the responsibilities of our generation to bring to full fruition the ideals that animated our forefathers' noble efforts.

These are values that resonate with relevance

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NAM POLLS SAYS

82% of market reached by Ethnic Media

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
 AJPress

ATLANTA—Ethnic media in the United States continue to grow exponentially, according to a poll released last week by the New America Media (NAM) during its National Ethnic Media Expo and Awards held Awards at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Over the last four years, the ethnic media have picked up 8 million new readers, viewers and listeners, and now regularly reach 57 million people in the US. The increase comes as mainstream media, especially metropolitan daily newspapers, struggle to keep their audiences.

"The poll results demonstrate significant penetration for the ethnic media," said Sandy Close, NAM's executive director, noting they regularly reach 82 percent of African-American, Hispanic and Asian-American adults. "The

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Sergio Bendixen explains the reach of ethnic media.
 AJPress Photo by Momar G. Visaya

California to introduce digital textbooks

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
 AJPress

CALABASAS — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is saying goodbye to heavy textbooks and hello to the digital age.

Schwarzenegger announced plans to rid schools in the state of textbooks in favor of digital books, a measure he calls California's Digital Textbook Initiative.

"Kids, as you all know, today are very familiar with listening to their music digitally and online and to watch TV online, to watch movies online, to be on Twitter and participate in that and on Facebook and all of those kinds of things," said Schwarzenegger during a press conference earlier this week at Calabasas High

School. "So this is why I think it is so important that we move on from the textbooks. The textbooks are outdated, as far as I'm concerned and there's no reason why our schools should have our students lug around these antiquated and heavy and expensive textbooks. California is the home of Silicon Valley. We are the world leader in technology and innovation, so we can do better than that."

Schwarzenegger said that the digital books would not only help students but also the state, which faces a \$24-billion budget deficit.

Schwarzenegger said the state would save

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LIBERTY-SEEKING

Filipinos declared independence six times

by MONA LISA H. QUIZON
 Inquirer.net

MANILA - "Filipinos are, by nature and tradition, a liberty-loving people," according to historian Esteban de Ocampo.

Proofs are the struggles, uprisings, mutinies, revolts and insurrections that our forefathers waged from the time the Spaniards landed in our soil till the occupation of the Imperial Japanese. Filipinos had shed their life and blood for our freedom.

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