



PANDEMIC. World Health Organization Western Pacific Region spokesman Peter Cordingley gestures as he explains the factors for declaring a pandemic during an interview with the Associated Press Television News Thursday, June 11, in Manila. Cordingley pointed out that the WHO is in near decision to declare a pandemic or alert level 6 on swine flu but they are still waiting development to some countries on the spread of the said virus.

AP Photo/Pat Roque

Rizal Park to rise in Australia

by PIA LEE-BRAGO
Philstar.com

MANILA – A 2.2-hectare property in the city of Campbelltown in New South Wales will be developed into the Rizal Park in Australia, according to an embassy report.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Consul General Eva Betita of the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney said the Rizal Park will rise in what used to be an empty reserve owned by the city government.

In 1988, a group of Filipino-Australians and friends petitioned the city council of Campbelltown to name it Rizal Park.

The project is the brainchild of the Rizal Park Movement, a group of five Filipino-Australian associations that banded together in 2006 with the common vision of making the reserve into a park.

In June 2007, Campbelltown formally designated the reserve as a park to be funded by the

city council.

The Philippine Consulate General in Sydney has been assisting the Rizal Park Movement's project through endorsements and gathering support from other Filipino-Australian associations throughout the state of New South Wales.

The Rizal Park project received A\$120,000 Federal Government grant from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, to be used for the initial construction of the park, including a playground and picnic facilities for use by the general public.

In addition, the Campbelltown city council will provide another A\$140,000 for further improvements.

The construction plan for the park was presented to Campbelltown Mayor Russell Matheson, Consul General Betita, Rizal Park Movement chair Lourdes Kaiser, Knight Commander Maximilio Lopez of the Knights of Rizal, and members of the Filipino-Australian Community in Campbelltown last May 29.

The Rizal Park Movement plans to further improve the park with landscaping, shade structures, barbecue facilities, car park, and a cycle way.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal in New South Wales has also committed to commission a statue of Dr. Jose Rizal to be placed prominently in the area.

Campbelltown is a prosperous industrial-agricultural city and hosts the third largest concentration of Filipino-Australians numbering 4,108. ■

Ted Failon: I should've communicated more

MANILA – “I am a communicator [by profession], but I have to admit there were instances when I failed to communicate,” broadcaster and TV news anchor Ted Failon said of his relationship with his wife, Trinidad “Trina” Etong, who committed suicide in April.

Failon reported back to work on Monday as host of the morning news/commentary program *Tambalang Failon at Sanchez* on ABS-CBN's TeleRadyo dzMM. The first half of the two-hour show turned into an emotional recounting of the events following his wife's hospitalization and subsequent death.

On May 22, the National Bureau of Investigation concluded its probe of the case with an announcement that a major depressive disorder had driven Etong to put a gun to her head on April 15 at their Quezon City home. She died the next day at New Era General Hospital in Quezon City.

In on Monday's broadcast, Failon rued that he'd been so engrossed in his career and looking after his family financially that he didn't spend enough time with his wife.

Speaking alternately in English and Filipino, his voice breaking intermittently, Failon explained: “You become too comfortable with each other sometimes. You think all is well... you'll make up for lost time when you retire... [The truth is] constant communication from the start is required [and] preparation for future comforts and financial well-being should not always take priority.”

His situation has changed vastly, he said. “There's so much missing now... In my shoes another person may have broken down. Without all the support I received, I myself may have ended up at the National Center for Mental Health.”

The broadcaster paused to drink some water (something he would do throughout the program) and continued: “This morning was my youngest child's first day in high school. You watch your

daughter walking away in her new uniform... wouldn't you think of someone who should also be there, watching with you?”

Failon and Etong were married 25 years. After rushing his wife to the hospital on that fateful day, Failon said he directed his attention to breaking the bad news to his daughters Kaye, 23, and Karishna, 13. Kaye was in Cebu at the time, where she's enrolled at the American-run International Academy for Film and Television.

Failon also resumed his anchor job on dzMM's 7 am newscast on Monday, 53 days after he filed for a leave of absence.

Clad simply in a white round-neck T-shirt and blue jeans, and wearing dark glasses, Failon arrived at the newsroom around 6 am. In one corner hung a streamer that read, “Welcome back, Ted!”

Related writer Shiela Marcelo: “He asked for his script and rehearsed by reading it aloud. He looked very excited to be back.”

Later, before he went on air for *Tambalang*, Failon met with the staff. “He said he'd like to talk about his experience for a bit, if it was okay with us,” Marcelo said. “We all agreed. Everyone was expecting to hear something from him anyway.”

Words of support from listeners came in the form of text messages, said Marcelo. “He asked us to have all the messages printed out. We gathered some 30 pages and he said he would have them framed.”

Failon's *Tambalang* co-host, Korina Sanchez—currently on leave from the program—phoned from Japan. She said she had hoped to join him for a week upon his return, but ABS-CBN rules forbade it.

For himself, Failon said, the tragedy was a “period of cleansing.” On the bright side, the broadcaster said, “This was the time I [learned] who my true friends were.” (*Inquirer.net*)

UNICEF condemns killing of Filipina worker

by CYNTHIA BALANA
Inquirer.net

MANILA – The United Nations Children's Fund on Wednesday said the killing of its Filipino staff member in the bombing of the Pearl Continental Hotel in Peshawar, Pakistan Tuesday was “reprehensible and unacceptable.”

Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF executive director in New York, in a statement said the UN body was greatly saddened by the death of Perseveranda So and extended condolences to her family and relatives here, as well as the Philippine government.

Persy, as she was known to her colleagues, had worked for UNICEF since 1994.

“She was a dedicated and highly committed staff mem-

ber, who worked with grace and determination as Chief of Education in Pakistan, earning the respect and admiration of all those with whom she came into contact,” Veneman said.

“She was in Peshawar, a dangerous and difficult environment, helping implement programs to assist girls in gaining access to the education they so desperately need,” she added.

So said that at the time of the bombing, the hotel was housing many humanitarian workers there to provide life-saving assistance to Pakistan's most vulnerable people.

“This is an attack on the very humanitarian principles to which Persy was dedicated, and it is reprehensible and unacceptable,” she stressed. ■

Sponsorship for RNs

Learn the facts. Make an informed decision.

Find out your options, call our Immigration Services Section
212.685.5866

putting people first.

JUNO HEALTHCARE STAFFING

www.junohealthcare.com

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

JUNO Healthcare California, LLC / JUNO Healthcare Registry, Inc.
4929 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 328, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Accredited by The Joint Commission
TEL 323.937.7210 | FAX 323.937.4947 | EMAIL angelenos@junohealthcare.com

NEW YORK | NEW JERSEY | CALIFORNIA | ARIZONA

NELSON & ASSOCIATES
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

Your Professional
Choice for Quality
Legal Services

IMMIGRATION LAW TODAY A NEW HOPE A NEW BEGINNING



Attorney Franklin W. Nelson

CA Bar Lic. #146433

Son of Senior 9th Circuit Judge and retired Superior Court Judge

Received Juris Doctorate Degree from USC – one of the top law schools in the U.S.

More than 14 years of experience in all aspects of immigration law

Argued landmark cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court

Member: American Bar Association (ABA), American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Los Angeles Bar Association (LACBA), and California State Bar

“Getting my H1B visa was not easy, but Nelson & Associates was with me every step of the way. Because of a status gap I had to go back to the Philippines for consular processing. Attorney Nelson walked me through what I would have to do and his staff prepared the visa application package. Even though I didn't do anything wrong, the Embassy denied my visa application so I contacted Nelson and Associates right away. They contacted the Embassy and the Department of State and a few months later, I am back in the United States and legally employed in H-1B status.”

Mark Chester Carlos, Systems Analyst, Approved H1B Visa, U.S. Consulate, Manila, Philippines

“I hired Nelson & Associates to do my greencard case, which needed to be filed within 180 days. Nelson & Associates kept my timeline as a strict priority. Thankfully, my labor certification was approved on the very last day I was able to file my greencard application! Nelson & Associates helped me all the way to the last minute, making sure my greencard application arrived the same day at Nebraska Service Center. My adjustment of status was approved in less than a year.”

Genevieve Dean, General Accountant, Los Angeles, California

“I am a national champion in the sport of Taekwondo in the Philippines and had heard about an O visa for aliens of extraordinary ability. I was not sure what the requirements were or if I qualified. Attorney Nelson explained the complicated requirements in a manner that was easy to understand. I was approved right away without any requests for additional evidence!”

Robert L. Vargas, Senior Instructor of Taekwondo, O1 Status Approved, Quest Taekwondo, Inc.

1-877-IMMIG-LAW • 1-877-466-4452
www.nelson-immigration.us

70 South Lake Avenue, Suite 1110 • Pasadena, California 91101
phone 626.683.3451 • fax 626.683.1151

*Any testimonials or endorsements included in this advertisement do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or prediction regarding the outcome of your legal matter.