



Filing and processing of Filvets claims remain on track - Gaa

AFTER recent consultations with the US Veterans Administration, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa said that the filing and processing of claims by Filipino World War II veterans remain on track.

"We are in constant consultation with the concerned officials of the US Veterans Administration and the filing and processing of our claims remain on track," Ambassador Gaa said, adding that the Philippine Embassy, particularly the Veterans Affairs Section, will continue to monitor the process.

"As of today, the 32,657 claims have been received," Ambassador Gaa pointed out.

Of these "2,834 have been granted," the Ambassador said. He said that 2,061 were payments to Filipino residents in the amount of US\$9,000 and 773 were to US residents in the amount of US\$15,000.

Ambassador Gaa also said that a total of 1,060 claims have been denied and that a total of 28,763 claims are pending.

"As we celebrate our Independence Day this

month, we must always remember the courage and sacrifice of our Filipino World War II veterans and rededicate ourselves to the ideals and values they fought for and to ensure that they continue to receive the recognition and benefits that they so justly deserve," Ambassador Gaa said.

"We must also take this opportunity to thank our many friends in the US Congress and in Filipino-American communities across the United States for all their efforts on behalf of our veterans," the Ambassador emphasized.

FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONAL UNITY

Binay considers running for VP

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress



Mayor Jejomar Binay

PASADENA - Makati Mayor and presidential aspirant Jejomar Binay said that he would consider running as Vice President if that would lead to national unity. Binay spoke before a gathering of Fil-Ams at a fundraiser held at Pasadena.

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Philippine Tatler invites Loida Nicolas Lewis to grace cover

THE Philippines' top lifestyle and society magazine, *Philippine Tatler*, invited Mrs. Loida Nicolas Lewis to be the cover story of their charity issue this June.

"We are elated to have Mrs. Lewis on our cover. She epitomizes glamour and grace, charisma and charity, ideals and influence. Most importantly, she never forgets to share her blessings. That is why she's the perfect cover story for our charity issue," said Anton San Diego, *Philippine Tatler's* editor-in-chief.

In the article, Lewis talks about the school she built in the province of Sorsogon. The Lewis College exists as

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Power women of Nueva Ecija adopt GK template

For prosperity and nation building



Mayor Sonia Lorenzo Mayor Gloria Congco

DURING the recently concluded 1st Global Summit of Gawad Kalinga in Boston, hundreds of delegates were inspired and motivated to embrace the GK Way for nation building. Among the many dynamic presenters who have adopted the GK template with impressive results were two outstanding female leaders from Nueva Ecija, the first female mayors elected in their towns - Mayor Sonia R. Loren-

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HONORED. Consul General Aragon with Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti (left) and Councilmember Jose Huizar (right). In the background are employees of the Los Angeles City Hall.

City of LA honors the Philippines

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Filipino Association (LAFACE), in cooperation with Los Angeles Councilmembers Eric Garcetti, Jose Huizar, Wendy Greuel, and the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, held activities celebrating the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence at the Los Angeles City Hall.

The celebrations were capped with a City Council Resolution, presented to Consul General Mary Jo A. Bernardo Aragon on June 12, 2009, proclaiming the week of June 8-12 as the Philippine Independence Week in the City of Los Angeles.

SWS: Race narrows down to Villar, Noli, Mar

MANILA - The race for the 2010 presidency is narrowing down to three choices, with Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. now taking the lead from Vice President Noli de Castro, a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II followed Villar and De Castro in the third slot in the survey conducted from April 16 to May 6.

Interviewers asked the question: "Under the present Constitution, the

term of President Arroyo is up to 2010 only, and there will be an election for a new

President in May 2010. Who do you think are good leaders who should succeed President Arroyo? You may give up to three names."

Twenty-nine percent of the 7,000 respondents named Villar, 21 percent chose De Castro, and 18 percent wanted Roxas as president.

Villar's ranking jumped from 18 per-

cent in September 2007 to 25 percent in June 2008 and 26 percent in February this year, an increase of 11 percent from Sept. 7, 2007.

De Castro dropped from 27 percent last February, while Roxas climbed from 15 percent to 18 percent.

Sen. Francis Escudero ranked fourth with 15 percent from 23 percent while Sen. Loren Legarda got 14 percent from 25 percent in the same period.

The other top 10 choices are former President Joseph Estrada, 13 percent; Sen. Panfilo Lacson, 12 percent; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, two percent; and President Arroyo, two percent.

Twenty percent could not give an answer and nine percent had no one to recommend.

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews of 7,000 +/-1.2 percent, the SWS said. (Philstar.com)

State spares ADHC, for now

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

LOS ANGELES - A state budget panel has spared the elimination of Adult Day Health Care centers, at least for now.

The California Legislature's joint budget conference committee rejected Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate Adult Day Healthcare Centers and the Healthy Families children's health insurance program as part of an effort to lessen the state's \$24 billion deficit, according to the LA Times.

Schwarzenegger had proposed to eliminate adult day healthcare programs, saying it would reduce state spending by \$170.5 million.

Instead, the committee voted to approve \$70 million in cuts to the program's budget, hoping that donations from philanthropic groups or other organizations

would cover the drop in state funding, according to the California Healthline.

Silver Lake ADHC

Many Filipino seniors were worried about the closing of adult day centers when they heard the governor's proposal earlier this week.

"If they close the center, what's going to happen to us? It's going to be hard for us seniors. Many of our kids are working and we are usually home alone," said 79-year-old Magno Dacayan during a press conference at the Silver Lake Adult Day Healthcare Center in Historic Filipinotown earlier this week.

Silverlake ADHC Administrative Director Angelo Pinto said that the closing down of ADHC's statewide would be catastrophic. She said that the governor's plan to cut spending temporarily would actually result to more spending by the

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TEAM TAKBONG PANGARAP AT THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL. Takbong Pangarap in Colorado. Staying on highway 160, Joy Rojas and Mat Macabe (whose run across America project called Takbong Pangarap has already seen successful crossing in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona) are now in Colorado, en route to a big event in Denver on June 23 hosted by major sponsor Western Union. On their way, Rojas and Macabe run past the historic Old Spanish Trail on Rio Grande, and the Continental Divide, which divides the flow of water from the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

Photo by Danny Titus

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