

## ePassport online applications start August 26

MANILA – The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will accept applications for ePassport through the online appointment system starting August 26, Wednesday.

In a statement, the DFA Office of Consular Affairs advises interested applicants to set an appointment through the DFA website.

Until the DFA's ePassport system has achieved full capacity, only 100 ePassports will be issued daily, on a first-come-first-serve basis. From August 26 to September 30, only passport applications for renewal will be accepted.

Before submitting their online appointment application, applicants are requested to fill up the required fields on the online appointment page at the DFA website. Otherwise, the online appointment process will not proceed. After internal verification, the DFA will inform the prospective applicant of his/her sched-

ule by electronic mail. Subsequently, the applicant will confirm his/her availability by sending a reply.

Personal appearance is required for prospective ePassport applicants. Until an announcement is made, all ePassport applications during this period shall be filed by the applicant personally to the exclusion of third parties.

Interested applicants will be required the following: old passport, one photocopy of old passport data page, a valid identification card, and the duly accomplished passport application form.

An applicant may use the current machine readable passport (MRP) application form for this purpose, which is also available in the DFA website.

Current MRP holders are firmly advised that their MRPs remain valid and are compliant with global standards. ■

## Hawaiian Punch to Defend...

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sky is the limit for Vilorio.

He sees Vilorio as a multi-divisional fighter.

"We talk about him unifying the title," said Garcia. "He's ready to do that. We're talking about moving up in weight. He's ready to do that. I'm telling him three different weight divisions he can be champion."

"I told him I want to see him in the top ten pound for pound [list] and he's got the skills to be there and I'm pretty sure he will be," he added.

But Garcia and Vilorio know in order to reach their goal; they'll have to take it one fight at a time.

**Garcia on Concepcion vs. Luevano Rematch**

When Robert Garcia heard the bell ring then saw Bernabe Concepcion land a solid one-two punch on his fighter Steven Luevano during last weekend's Pinyon Power undercard, he immediately jumped in the ring to care for his knocked out fighter.

"I just told Steven to stay down," said Garcia.

The 21-year-old Concepcion was immediately disqualified losing a chance to capture Luevano's WBO Featherweight title.

Garcia said he was initially upset about Concepcion's foul but didn't blame the fighter.

"It happens in boxing," said Garcia. "I think he was so frus-

trated. He wasn't even throwing punches because he couldn't. Steven was just keeping him on the outside, using his reach. I know the fight wasn't very exciting but hey, Steven was fighting the way I told him to fight. He was following instructions. That's what I wanted. I wanted to win and he was well on his way to a good unanimous decision."

Roach called out Luevano after the match, saying Concepcion would be ready "tomorrow."

Garcia said he and Luevano would be willing to do a rematch anytime. He said Luevano's manager Cameron Dunkin and Top Rank President Bob Arum are negotiating for a rematch with Concepcion sometime in December.

Garcia knows that they'll have to come up with a better game plan than the one they executed last Saturday night (August 15).

"I know Freddie Roach," said Garcia. "He's been known to call it and make perfect plans for a fight so I know after this fight he's going to come in with a better strategy to beat Steven. I think whatever strategy they had wasn't working because Bernabe couldn't and wouldn't throw punches. He couldn't. As soon as he thrown a punch, he would miss and Steven would catch him so I think next fight will be a little bit of challenge for me also." (Joseph Pimentel/AJPress)

## Health care endgame...

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overreaching by Obama and his allies. But it would energize the president's liberal base.

**A handful of Republicans**

Even if the negotiations involving Grassley collapse, it's possible that a tiny number of GOP senators will join nearly all the Democrats in passing a bill that includes most of Obama's priorities. Maine's Republican senators, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, are mentioned most often.

But they would face enormous pressure not to break ranks and provide the crucial 60th vote to overcome an otherwise solid GOP opposition. And if they did, the resulting bill still would be seen as a Democratic creation, undermining its acceptance by many Americans.

Handicappers give this scenario a less than 50-50 chance.

**Strong-arm tactics**

If they're willing to play true hardball, Senate Democrats still

could pass a health care bill without amassing 60 votes on some contentious points.

The "reconciliation" process lets the 100-member Senate pass budget-related items, under tight restrictions, with a simple majority of votes. But items that arguably are unrelated to the budget could be challenged and possibly subjected to the 60-vote threshold.

Democrats could submit one big bill and fight to keep as many provisions as possible from falling victim to a 60-vote requirement. Or they could split the package in two:

One bill, dealing with spending questions, could pass under reconciliation rules with as few as 50 votes. The other bill would require 60 votes, and it would be subject to mischievous amendments. But it might include widely popular provisions such as protecting insurance buyers who have pre-existing condi-

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