

# Obama signs FY 2010 DHS Spending Bill

*Law ends widow penalty, includes to other petitions*

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL  
 AJPress

A NEW law signed by President Barack Obama on October 28 will provide relief to immigrants whose petitions were revoked upon the death of their petitioner.

The FY 2010 DHS Spending Bill, which passed the Senate on a 79-19 vote on October 27, includes an immigration measure that allows a spouse, child and other family members to receive a green card when their priority date is reached, even when the petitioner dies.

FY 2010 DHS Spending Bill puts an end to the "Widow's Penalty." According to the *New York Times*, the Widow's Penalty is "the government's practice of annulling foreigners' applications for permanent residency when their American spouses die before the marriage is two years old."

According to AILA Info Net, the new law "in-

cludes statutory authority for USCIS to complete processing of permanent residence applications for surviving spouses and other relatives of immigration sponsors who die during the adjudication process (section 568)."

In an interview with the *Asian Journal*, Immigration Attorney Robert Reeves explained that before the signing of the bill, the death of a petitioner or principal beneficiary usually results in an automatic revocation of the immigrant visa petition.

"This is fantastic news," said Reeves, whose firm has been lobbying Congress to pass this bill. "This is an incredible benefit for those who have previously filed humanitarian reinstatement. Now, we can file them for permanent resident status. This will benefit thousands of immigrants."

The new law does not allow widows/widowers to submit petitions for permanent resi-

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CUSTOM-MADE: Pacquiao holds his specially designed boxing shoe from Nike. See story below

AJPress Photo by Joe Cobilla

## Government urged to implement Climate Change Act

by CHRISTINA MENDEZ  
 Philstar.com

MANILA - Sen. Loren Legarda is urging the government to immediately implement the Climate Change Law to strengthen the country's defense against natural calamities.

"The passage of the Climate Change Act could not have come at a time more ideal than on today, and I am pleased to be with you again to further discuss this landmark legislation," Legarda, who chairs the Senate Committee on Climate Change, said at the national conference on climate change adaptation held in Manila recently.

The filing of this measure two years ago took inspiration from the Albay Declaration, the outcome document of the First National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation, as it called for "the passage of a policy prioritizing climate change adaptation in the national agenda."

"The ensuing discussions on the threats of climate change to our basic human rights - food, potable water, shelter, decent livelihood and life itself, have occupied us for some time now. In response to these impacts, vulnerable countries like the Philippines should ramp up efforts to enhance the resilience of our people," Le-

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## Economy growing but recovery could be at risk

by JEANNINE AVERSA  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Fueled by government stimulus, the economy grew last quarter for the first time in more than a year. The question now is, can the recovery last?

Federal support for spending on cars and homes drove the economy up 3.5 percent from July through September. But the government aid - from tax credits for home buyers to rebates for auto purchases - is only temporary. Consumer spending, which nor-

mally drives recoveries, is likely to weaken without it.

If shoppers retrench in the face of rising joblessness and tight credit, the fragile recovery could tip back into recession.

For the Obama administration, the positive report on economic growth is a delicate one: It wants to take credit for ending the recession. On the other hand, it needs to acknowledge that rising joblessness continues to cause pain throughout the country.

Millions of Americans have yet to feel a real-world benefit from

the recovery in the form of job creation or an easier time getting a loan. Even those with jobs are reluctant to spend. The values of their homes and 401(k)s remain shrunken.

President Barack Obama called the report "welcome news" in remarks prepared for a small-business group but acknowledged that "we have a long way to go to fully restore our economy" and recover from the deepest business slump since the 1930s-era Great Depression.

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## Pangasinan Brotherhood ships relief to typhoon victims

*Nike hosts typhoon benefit*

LOS ANGELES - More than 400 *balikbayan* boxes filled with clothes, canned food and medical supplies are on its way to the Philippines to help the victims of the worst typhoon in the country's history.

The boxes, stuffed the inside of a Forex 20-foot long shipment cargo container, were organized by the US-based Fil-Am organization Pangasinan Brotherhood, Philippine Emergency Disaster Relief Operation (PEDRO), and Forex, and will be received for distribution by the Pangasinan Association of the Court of Social

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## Pacman gets special 'Firepower' pairs from Nike

ON October 27, Nike gave Manny Pacquiao two pairs of specially-designed shoes for his Nov. 14 fight with Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas billed as "Firepower." The presentation of the shoes, which came in a distinctive big wooden box, was done right after Manny's grueling training at the Wildcard Gym in Hollywood.

The two pairs came in color variations of red and white, the color preferences of Manny.

"It will be up to Manny which pair he would like to wear during the fight,"

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PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS: Flower vendors arrange violet asters at the Baguio City market. Prices of cut flowers are expected to go up for All Saints' Day after typhoon 'Pepeng' affected the supply of flowers from northern Luzon.

Philstar.com photo by Andy Zapata Jr.

## Escudero junks NPC, Cojuangco Keeps options open on presidential bid

by MICHAEL LIM UBAC  
 Inquirer.net

MANILA - Opposition Sen. Francis Escudero Wednesday rearranged the political landscape ahead of the May 2010 elections by resigning from the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the party founded by business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"I am leaving my party because I believe that I can fulfill the role that I am bound to play in connection with the coming elections ... not as a member of any party or a

companion of any person, but as just me," Escudero announced at the historic Club Filipino in San Juan City.

The announcement came after Escudero failed to convince Cojuangco, NPC chair emeritus and chair of San Miguel Corp., to bankroll his presidential candidacy in talks early this week.

"This should be the first test of leadership of any putative candidate - for him to decide on his own and take full responsibility for the decision whether or not to run and

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## LA lawyer claims he is victim of false allegations in RP

by MALOU LIWANAG-AGUILAR  
 AJPress

LOS Angeles lawyer Joel Bander vehemently denies accusations of acts of lasciviousness filed against him in the Philippines more than three years ago. According to Atty. Bander, the supposed victim, identified as Cristina San Jose, is a fictitious person.

"I vehemently deny the allega-

tions of Ms. San Jose, if this person really exists. Our investigation reveals that the address given by this person who filed the charges against me is a warehouse. She did not even appear in the hearing. Hence, it is obvious, or should be, that this complaining person never had the intent to really come forward and complain but only to cause me problems," said Atty. Bander.

According to Atty. Bander, he was not aware of the charges until articles about the case were published in *Manila Standard* and in *People's Tonight*. Both articles, according to Atty. Bander, were full of false information with the *Manila Standard* article saying that Bander is a Filipino-American claiming to work in the US Consulate (Bander is of Eastern

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