

## Ted Failon taken into police custody

PAGE A1 ◀

Supt. Gerardo Ratuia, deputy chief of the Quezon City Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit. The popular news anchor was accompanied by his eldest daughter, Kaye, and his lawyers.

Senior Supt. Franklin Moises Mabanag said that Failon was arrested for tampering with evidence and obstruction of justice.

Failon had rushed his wife to the New Era General Hospital, where she was fighting for her life with a gunshot wound in the head at press time.

The circumstances of the shooting of his wife, Trinidad Arteche Etong, 45, remained unclear. She was still in critical condition, radio reports said.

Mabanag said it had not been established if Failon (born Mario Teodoro Failon Etong) was involved but that foul play was not being ruled out.

"We found inconsistencies in his statement and the statement of the maid," said Mabanag, chief of the QC CIDU. Failon ordered that the bathroom where his bloodied wife was found be cleaned, he said.

The maid and the houseboy who did the cleaning were arrested early evening of April 15, but police were yet to take Failon into custody in his house, where Vice President Noli de Castro, a friend and former broadcast colleague, and lawyers were keeping him company.

A police source said a paraffin test showed that Failon was negative for powder burns.

In an interview over ABS-CBN late night of April 15, Failon said his wife had left him a letter, saying she was sorry but gave no details.

In his statement sent earlier by his home network ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Failon said in Filipino that he did not complete his program over dzMM radio in the morning of April 15 after speaking with his wife on the phone.

"I immediately went home and saw that the bathroom door was locked. I had the door opened and I found my wife bloodied, so I rushed her to the hospital," he said.

### 'It's a tragedy'

Police have found a purported suicide note, in which Trinidad Etong allegedly sought forgiveness.

The handgun, a Walther PPK .380, was found in the bathroom, which, according to Mabanag, had been cleaned.

Mabanag said Failon had been administered a paraffin test, and that the broadcaster had admitted quarreling with his wife on the night of April 14.

Failon was overheard saying that "it's a tragedy," and that "the media should let it be" because "it's a private matter."

Mabanag said that despite the suicide note, police were not considering the shooting a suicide attempt because of the position of the gun and the gunshot wound.

"It appears to be a clear shot—through and through *ang tama*," said a resident physician at the New Era General Hospital. "The entry point is the left side of the temporal area..."

Mabanag said Failon had requested the police not to take him to the police station and to continue the investigation at his house.

### Noli worried

Vice President Noli de Castro, a colleague and close friend of Failon's, and businessman Delfin Lee arrived at about 6:30pm at the broadcaster's house upon his request.

De Castro is also a resident of the Tierra Pura subdivision.

In an interview on the phone, De Castro said he went to see Failon because he was worried about his friend and the latter's family.

"I was able to speak with him, but I will not speak for him. It's not what many think. But the police are now talking with him," De Castro said in a mix of Filipino and English. ■

## US to pay off all Pinoy World War II veterans within a year

by JOSE KATIGBAK  
Philstar.com

WASHINGTON—The United States is in a rush to pay off by February 2010 all Filipino veterans who can rightfully claim they served Uncle Sam during World War II, a senior Veterans Administration official said.

Retired US Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba last April 15

awarded the first lump-sum payment of \$15,000 to 98-year-old Alberto Bacani in recognition of his military service and said the amount, while modest, carried with it "our deepest gratitude for your faithful service to the nation."

Although called to serve in the military at a time when the Philippines was still a territory of the US, Filipinos who fought under the command of

Gen. Douglas MacArthur were stripped of their recognition as US veterans for purposes of VA benefits under the 1946 Rescission Act.

Taguba, the son of a Filipino veteran himself, authored the investigative report about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners held by US forces at the Abu Ghraib prison in 2004.

In the presence of Ambassador Willy Gaa, he presented

checks to Bacani and Adela Roldan Bugarin, a nurse who cared for US wounded during the battle of Bataan, at an awards ceremony at the Philippine embassy in Washington.

Taguba said as of the first week of April some 26,000 applications for payments had been received in Washington and Manila, considerably more than the 18,000 veterans thought to be still alive. ■

## The Golden Boy retires

PAGE A1 ◀

he made the announcement at a noon press conference in Nokia Plaza LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. "I've been doing this since I was five years old. This is the love of my life. Boxing is my passion. When I can't compete at a high level, it's not fair to me, not fair to the fans, not fair to anyone... I've come to the conclusion that it's over in the ring for me."

De La Hoya is one of the most decorated and financially successful boxers in the history of the sport.

The former 1989 Golden Gloves winner, and US gold medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, De La Hoya captured 10 world titles in six different weight divisions during a 17-year professional career.

He's also been the most successful pay-per-view fighter, his fights netting over \$660 million in revenues.

Still, after losing a very lopsided victory to Philippine champion Manny Pacquiao in December, he knew he had enough.

## Pacquiao: Speed will be the key

PAGE A1 ◀

Neri and other members of Team Pacquiao, are expecting an easy Pacquiao victory.

"You know how Manny usually wears white shorts [during the fight], I already told Manny to wear red shorts that night," said Roach during the media day workout on Wednesday, April 15. "There's going to be a lot of blood, and it won't be from Manny."

"All Manny has to do is fight smart," added Neri. "Hatton is easy to hit."

For Team Pacquiao, there's a lot to be confident about. After an undefeated 2008 campaign that ended with the dismantling of The Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya last December, Pacquiao is on top of the boxing world. He's arguably the pound-4-pound boxing king and now, fans of all type are flocking to him more than ever.

All that one has to do is to watch that fight against De La Hoya to see how quick, elusive

and impressive Pacquiao was during that fight.

It's the same blueprint that Roach and Neri expect from Pacquiao come fight night against Hatton.

For the record, Hatton has said in a number of different interviews that he will be just as fast or even faster than Pacquiao when the two meet on May 2 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hatton said that he would be faster, stronger and bigger than any man Pacquiao has ever fought.

But that's all talk, said Roach.

"Speed is a God-given gift," he said. "You can improve it if you relax, but talk is talk we'll see on the night."

Pacquiao told the *Asian Journal* that he's not underestimating Hatton like many of those around him.

But Pacquiao does believe that speed will be his advantage against Hatton.

"I've been going back and forth with this retirement decision," said De La Hoya. "I'd say to myself I can do this one more time. I can still train and compete, but when you're an athlete who has competed in the highest level... when you're body doesn't respond, you can't do anything about it."

De La Hoya said that he's going to focus on his business endeavors. Besides Golden Boy Promotions, De La Hoya is active with many charitable and cancer organizations.

"That's what I have to do now," he said. "Be the best that I can

"I think the speed will be the key to this fight," said Pacquiao to the *Asian Journal*. "I'm not underestimating the speed of Ricky Hatton, but I think I am faster than him."

Roach and Neri both agree that the key for Pacquiao is to not stand in front and trade toe to toe with Hatton.

Neri said that all throughout training camp they have been working on Pacquiao's jab to neutralize Hatton's forward aggressive style. Neri, who admitted to watching all of Hatton's previous fights, said that Pacquiao has to prepare for any roughhouse tactic Hatton might do.

Hatton has a history of grabbing and then punching [during the clinch], pushing, and head butts, said Neri.

"That's why it's important when Hatton comes forward, Manny needs to throw that jab, then move to the side," said Neri.

"He has to land those combinations and go side to side. It's all about footwork," said Roach.

"The jab is very important in

be outside the ring. I believe I can leave a legacy outside the ring, and that's just as important to me."

"This is truly a bittersweet day for boxing and its fans throughout the world as Oscar's name has been synonymous with sport for nearly two decades," added Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. "It has been a privilege and honor for me to work with this amazing champion and watch the brilliance of his career both in and out of the ring."

De La Hoya retires from the ring with a 39-6, 30 KO record. (*Joseph Pimentel*)

this fight," added Pacquiao. "Hatton is not too fast so the jab is very effective in this fight."

Pacquiao also added that he is preparing for a possible dirty fight.

"We're preparing for that style that's what we're focusing on right now," he said.

Pacquiao wouldn't give a prediction on the outcome of the match but Roach and Neri are expecting an easy victory.

"Probably early," said Neri. "Watch for Manny's left hook."

### On De La Hoya's retirement

Pacquiao reiterated what he told De La Hoya after winning their December match.

"He's still my idol," said Pacquiao.

Pacquiao said that De La Hoya has been good for the sport of boxing but that it was also time for him to hang up his gloves.

"I think he made a good decision," said Pacquiao. "He's already made a lot in boxing and whatever happens, people won't forget him. He's a great fighter and he's still my idol." (*Joseph Pimentel*)



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