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# ASIAN JOURNAL

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



www.asianjournal.com

Volume 21 - No. 17 • 2 Sections - 20 Pages

APRIL 23-29, 2009

## 700,000 Fil-Ams may get housing rescue

by ISAGANI DELA PAZ  
Inquirer.net

**M**ANILA—More than 700,000 Filipinos in the United States belong to the tier that the United States government plans to rescue from a housing crisis, recent US census data bare.

According to the 2007 American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau, 45.6 percent of an estimated 1.7 million Philippine-born US residents say 30 percent or more of their monthly income goes to cost of ownership of a house, or mortgage.

As such, they may avail of the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan announced by US President Barack Obama last February.

In his speech at Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona, the US President said the plan aims to require participating lenders to reduce mortgage payments "to no more than 31 percent of a borrower's income."

The US Census Bureau said the ACS provides the latest detailed look at the nation's rapidly changing and diverse population with the release of new population profiles by race, ancestry, and age. These profiles were produced using the 2000 decennial census. The Census Bureau said it uses the term foreign-born to refer to anyone who is not a US citizen at birth.

"This includes naturalized US citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees), and persons illegally present in the US," the Census Bureau explained.

(It added however that questions "about legal (migrant) status of respondents in

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AP Photo

## Green Philippine passports no longer valid by 2010

FILIPINO citizens holding green Philippine passports will no longer be able to use these travel documents in most countries by April next year.



DATELINE USA FROM THE AJPress NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA

As such, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles has started accepting applications for machine-readable passports (MRPs), which is the new official travel document required by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

It will even be much easier for residents of Las Vegas to apply for MRPs, since consular officers will hold a consular outreach in the valley in May

to facilitate applications in the area.

"A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles will be conducting a Consular Outreach Program in Las Vegas, NV on 23-24 May 2009," the Consulate said a statement released last April 8.

The Philippine Consular Office in Los Angeles has jurisdiction over Southern Nevada, Southern California, Texas and Arizona. The Consulate normally requires Filipino citizens living in these areas to do consular transactions in person. MRP applicants, in particular,

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## Pacquiao throws ceremonial pitch at SF Giants Game

by JOSEPH L. PERALTA & MALOU LIWANAG-AGUILAR  
AJPress

**S**AN FRANCISCO—Boxing hero Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao became the first Philippine-born athlete to throw a ceremonial pitch before a Major League Baseball game in the Bay Area as the San Francisco Giants hosted division rival the San Diego Padres on April 21.

Pacquiao, who is deep in training in Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles for his junior welterweight bout against England's Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas on May 2, took time to visit his thousands of fans in the Bay Area during Filipino Heritage Night, an event sponsored by the SF Giants at AT&T Park.

Prior to throwing the ceremonial pitch to Fil-Am pitcher Tim Lincecum, Pacquiao held a press conference in the Giants' Interview Room where boxing promoter Bob Arum and coach Freddie Roach joined Pacquiao to answer questions from media.

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Top Rank promoter Bob Arum and Manny 'Pacman' Pacquiao trying on the jerseys given to them by the San Francisco Giants during the Filipino Heritage Night press conference.

AJPress Photo by Malou Liwanag-Aguilar

## Pacquiao's 'Gonna Run'—Mayweather Sr.



Ricky Hatton  
AJPress Photo by Robert Macabagdal

LAS VEGAS—Floyd Mayweather, Sr. is never at a loss for words. Ricky Hatton's loquacious trainer is outspoken and even poetic.

But when asked to reply to the many boxing pundits that predict a Manny Pacquiao victory against his boxing prodigy, Hatton, he just dismissed it.

"We can show it better than we can tell it," said Mayweather Sr. to the *Asian Journal*. "Those are foolish people and foolish thoughts."

With three weeks remaining in one of the biggest boxing events of the year, Hatton and Mayweather,

Sr. opened the doors to their training camp at the IBA gym to media from all around the world on Thursday, April 16.

The Pride of Manchester Hatton (45-1 32 KO's) will face the Pride of the Philippines Pacquiao (48-3-2 36 KO's) in an East versus West battle for Hatton's 140-pound *Ring Magazine* title on May 2 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao is coming off one of the most stellar performances in boxing when he defeated a bigger Oscar De La Hoya last December. The impressive performance is one of the reasons why many boxing experts consider Pacquiao the best pound-4-pound boxer in the world.

Hatton is also coming off one of his better performances. The British fighter stopped New Yorker Paulie Malignaggi by technical knockout in the 11th round of their match last November.

Both men have a lot to prove on May 2. A win for Pacquiao would lift him to greater heights as the man who may replace De La Hoya as boxings main attraction.

For Hatton, the match against Pacquiao is huge. This is the second time that Hatton will vie for the

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## Makati Mayor Binay names successor

### DATELINE PHILIPPINES

**M**ANILA—After being at the helm of Makati City for more than 20 years, Mayor Jejomar Binay has identified the man whom he wants to be his successor: Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado.

Binay said in an interview on Tuesday, April 21, over ANC's Strictly Politics that he chose Mercado because he would continue the city government's programs on education and health that have made Makati a progressive city.

"I have full trust and confidence in Vice Mayor Mercado. We have worked together for a long time and I know that he will be a good mayor," Binay said.

The president of the United Opposition also announced that his son, Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay, would be Mercado's running mate under the PDP-Laban Makati banner.

Mercado thanked the mayor for his vote of confidence.

"I am very grateful to Mayor Binay for his trust and confidence ... his statement shows that he values performance and



Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, right, and Vice Mercado Ernesto Mercado of the raise their hands as they were proclaimed winners last May 17, 2007.

AP photo

friendship," he said in a statement.

Binay has announced his plans to run for the presidency in 2010 but said he needed the blessing of deposed President Joseph Estrada. (*Inquirer.net*)

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