

NBN whistleblower arrested

PAGE A1 ◀

perjury, Lozada said he was prepared and would not post bail. Reporters have been camped out on campus since Tuesday, April 28. Security is tight and media can enter the school only with the permission of Lozada's security. Lozada briefly appeared to watch one of his young sons play on the football field. Lozada was the Senate witness who blew the whistle on the alleged bribery and overpricing in the aborted \$329-million National Broadband Network deal between the government and China's ZTE Corp. Lozada, wearing a black shirt with a picture of national hero Jose Rizal and the words "Pepe goes to market," was whisked away in a waiting mobile unit was on his way to the Manila Police District for processing after he was read his Miranda rights by arresting officer Alfredo Valenzuela of the Manila Police District. Lozada was flanked by a group of supporters, including his lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, Sr. Mary John Mananzan and other nuns of the AMRSP, and Carol Araullo and Renatos Reyes of militant group Bayan when he was read his rights. The same supporters followed the mobile unit carrying Lozada in a van bearing the markings of the AMRSP. ■

Consumers give spark of new hope for econ revival

by JEANNE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON—Consumers are snapping back to life, kindling springtime hopes that the recession is losing steam. Even though the economy shrank again in the first three months of the year—and by a lot—Americans stepped up their purchases of cars, furniture and appliances. The surge in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of the economy, could set the stage for a rebound later this year. Hopes for revival depend on those consumers, who have been fortified by fatter paychecks from

tax cuts and smaller mortgage payments from refinancings. If they keep buying, businesses will need to boost production, feeding yet more economic activity. Against that backdrop, many analysts think the economy is sinking less now than it did from January through March. Most believe it could start growing again by summer or, more likely, by the final quarter of this year. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues, opting against further action Wednesday to shore up the economy, detected glimmers that the recession might be easing.



A pallet with bags of California rice is moved in the warehouse at the Farmers' Rice Cooperative in West Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The US economy shrank at a worse-than-expected 6.1 percent pace at the start of this year as sharp cutbacks by businesses and the biggest drop in US exports in 40 years overwhelmed a rebound in consumer spending. AP Photo by Rich Pedroncelli

Swine flu spreads in 10 US states, Europe

PAGE A1 ◀

She repeated the administration's position that questioning of people at borders and ports of entry was sufficient for now and said closing borders "has not been merited by the facts." Dr. Richard Besser, the acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control, said in Atlanta that there are confirmed cases now in ten states, with 51 in New York, 14 in California and 16 in Texas. Two cases have been confirmed in Kansas, Massachusetts and Michigan, while a single case has been reported in Arizona, Indiana, Nevada and Ohio. In a possible outbreak north of the Mexican border, the commandant of the Marine Corps said a Marine lieutenant in southern California might have the illness and 39 Marines were being confined on their California base until tests come back. Marine General James Conway told a Pentagon briefing an initial test indicated the sick Marine—who was not identified—might have swine flu but his illness did not appear life-threatening. Obama said he wanted to extend "my thoughts and prayers" to the family of a nearly two-year-old Mexican boy who died in Houston, the first confirmed US fatality among more than five dozen infections. Health officials in Texas said the child had traveled with his family from Mexico, to Brownsville on April 4 and was brought to Houston after becoming ill. He died Monday night.

"This is obviously a serious situation," and "we are closely and continuously monitoring" it, Obama said of the spreading illness. Meanwhile, Egypt's government ordered the slaughter of all pigs in the country as a precaution, though no swine flu cases have been reported there. Egypt's overwhelmingly Muslim population does not eat pork, but farmers raise some 300,000-350,000 pigs for the Christian minority. The disease is not spread by eating pork, and farmers were to be allowed to sell the meat from the slaughtered animals. In fact, officials appeared to go out of their way on Wednesday, April 29, to not call the strain "swine flu." Obama called the bug the "H1N1 virus." "The disease is not a food-borne illness," Rear Adm. Anne Schuchat, CDC's interim science and public health deputy direct, told the Senate Homeland Security Committee. She said the strain is particularly worrisome because "it's a virus that hasn't been around before. The general population doesn't have immunity from it." People have various levels of protection against other more common types of flu because they are exposed to it over time, and that protection accumulates. She suggested that some older people might have more resistance to this particular strain than

younger people because its traits might resemble outbreaks of decades ago. Germany became the latest country to report swine flu infections. It reported four cases on Wednesday, April 29. New Zealand's total rose to 14. Britain had earlier reported five cases, Spain four. There were 13 cases in Canada, two in Israel and one in Austria. Obama said it is the recommendation of public health officials that authorities at schools with confirmed or suspected cases of swine flu "should strongly consider temporarily closing so that we can be as safe as possible." He was underscoring advice that the CDC provided earlier to cities and states, and that some schools—most prominently in New York City—already have followed. The president advised people to take their own precautions—washing hands, staying home if they are sick, and keeping sick kids home. Obama said the federal government is "prepared to do whatever is necessary to control the impact of this virus." He noted his request for \$1.5 billion in emergency funding to ensure adequate supplies of vaccines. CDC for days has said people with flulike symptoms should stay home—but now also is stressing that other family members should consider staying home or at least limiting how much they go out until they're sure they didn't catch it. (AP)

"The pace of contraction appears to be somewhat slower," Fed policymakers said in a statement a few hours after the government released its report showing a second straight big quarterly drop in the nation's gross domestic product. On Wall Street, stocks jumped higher. The Dow Jones industrials gained nearly 170 points. In remarks prepared for the start of his news conference last Wednesday, April 28, President Barack Obama praised recent gains but said much was left to do. "Even as we clear away the wreckage of this recession, I have also said that we cannot go back to an economy that is built on a pile of sand—on inflated home prices and maxed-out credit cards, on overleveraged banks and outdated regulations that allowed the recklessness of a few to threaten the prosperity of us all," he said. The American consumer is still a wild card in any recovery scenario. Though the Federal Reserve noted that spending "has shown signs of stabilizing," it also said people's buying is still constrained by rising unemployment, falling home values and hard-to-get credit. Those negative forces—or the emergence of new ones, like the swine flu outbreak—could cause consumers to do an about-face and ratchet back spending, throwing the economy into another tailspin. "The recession is definitely not out of the woods yet," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight. But, he added: "The good news... is that the most severe phase of the recession is behind us." The economy logged a worse-than-expected 6.1 percent annualized drop in the first three months of the year despite the rebound by consumers, the Commerce Department reported. The culprits behind the poor overall performance: sharp cutbacks by businesses, especially in inventories of unsold goods, and the biggest drop in US exports in 40 years. The decline was nearly as sharp as in the final three months of last year. That's when the economy shrank at a 6.3 percent pace, the worst showing in a quarter-century. The biggest pullback by consumers in 28 years figured prominently in that downward spiral. All told, the economy logged its poorest six-month performance since the late 1950s. The bleak picture underscores the damage caused by the housing, credit and financial crises—the worst since the 1930s. The recession, which began in December 2007, has battered the national economy and wiped out a net total of 5.1 million jobs. ■



REEVES & ASSOCIATES

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

The Leading & Most Trusted Immigration Law Firm in the U.S.



JEFF L. KHURGEL

FLOMY J. DIZA

NANCY E. MILLER

MAY ZHANG

JOSEPH I. ELIAS

JEREMIAH JOHNSON

ROBERT L. REEVES

THE FIRM'S PARTNERS

* CHOSEN BY THEIR PEERS AS SUPER LAWYERS FOR 2006, 2007, 2008 AND 2009

15 Attorneys Devoted Exclusively to the Practice of Immigration Law
It Doesn't Have to Cost More to Hire the Very Best.

free in-office consultation

(702) 227-9888
www.rreeves.com

LOS ANGELES - SAN FRANCISCO - LAS VEGAS - MANILA