

LBC USA gives its costumers the 'Power of Choice'

Lowers money remittance service fees to as low as \$3

"We understand what our customers are going through. We know that it has not been easy for them to send money with the many problems caused by our weak economy," notes Hugo Bonilla, LBC USA's president and CEO.



SOUTHSANFRANCISCO – Everyday the numbers rise - jobs lost, foreclosed homes in almost every block, prices of goods and services. Plus, more and more companies close and workers lose their jobs.

By the end of March 2009, the total number of unemployed persons in the United States has reached 13.2 million or 8.5 percent of the nation's workforce, up from the 8.1 percent or 12.5 million, the previous month. From April 13 to April 18 alone, the Department of Labor received 640,000 first-time claims for unemployment insurance.

These record unemployment figures give proof that US employers continue to be hit by the recession and are forced to let go of their workers. It is inevitable now for American consumers to hold on to their hard-earned cash, especially as their buying power continue to fall.

Mindful of this worsening situation, the South San Francisco-based money remittance and cargo firm LBC Mundial Corporation (LBC USA) is offering its customers a respite from the economic turmoil.

LBC USA is empowering its customers to make choices on how to spend their hard-earned money.

Starting May 1, every money remittance customer can choose how much to pay in service fees through LBC's first-ever tiered pricing plan for its money remittance services.

Family ties
LBC USA understands that, despite the dismal situation of the economy, Filipinos in America who have family connections in the Philippines will continue to nurture their roots.

They do this through regular financial support for their loved ones back home, albeit in smaller amounts in recent months.

For many US-based Filipinos who are grappling with the effects of a distressed economy like rising mortgage payments, or worst jobs loss, this continued financial support for their loved ones in the Philippines has not been easy.

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New pricing

Through the new tiered pricing plan, LBC costumers can now enjoy lower service fees for the company's money remittance services.

Beginning May 1, LBC USA customers in the US can send money to anywhere in the Philippines for as low as \$3 per transaction. The \$3 transaction fee applies only to remittance \$100 and below. For bigger amounts, the sender can choose from the various levels available from LBC.

Below are the service fees and the corresponding amount of money remittance

AMOUNT	SERVICE FEE
\$ 00.01 to \$100.99	\$3.00
\$ 101.00 to \$ 200.99	\$6.00
\$201.00 to \$500.00	\$8.00
\$501.00 to \$3,000.00	\$10.00

\$3,000.00 and UP \$5.00 for every fraction of \$1,000

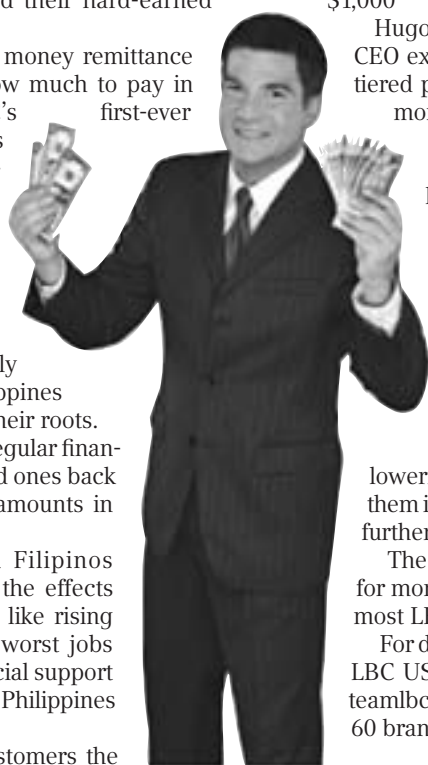
Hugo Bonilla, LBC USA's president and CEO explains that the lower fees and new tiered pricing are aimed to make sending money home less of a strain.

"We understand what our costumers are going through. We know that it has not been easy for them to send money with the many problems caused by our weak economy," notes Hugo Bonilla, LBC USA Mundial's president and CEO. "Filipinos in the US will continue to send money to their family and loved ones in the Philippines regardless of their own money woes. We hope that by lowering our fees, LBC USA is helping them in helping their families," Mr. Bonilla further explains.

The new tiered pricing and lower fees for money remittance are now available in most LBC USA branches in the US.

For details on the new pricing, please call LBC USA at 1-800-3385424 or visit www.teamlbc.com for the location of LBC USA's 60 branches in the US.

(Advertising Supplement)



Donald Thrasher named President and Chief and Chief Operating Officer, Circus Circus Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren has named Donald Thrasher as President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Circus Circus Las Vegas. Mr. Thrasher's new title is effective April 20, 2009. A longtime executive at Circus Circus Las Vegas, Mr. Thrasher has been serving as Vice President and General Manager since April 1998. "Don has been elevated to this new title because of the exceptional skills and outstanding commitment he has demonstrated in creating a memorable experience for each and every visitor to Circus Circus Las Vegas," said Mr. Murren. "He is a talented leader and a valued member of the MGM MIRAGE family."

Circus Circus was formerly owned by Circus Circus Enterprises, Inc., which was later renamed Mandalay Resort Group (MRG) and then merged with MGM MIRAGE in 2005.

As President and COO of Circus Circus, Mr. Thrasher is responsible for overseeing all aspects of property and casino operations for Circus Circus and Slots-of-Fun.

Mr. Thrasher joined the Company in 1984 as Assistant Controller at Circus Circus. Throughout his tenure, he has held key management positions including roles as Vice President and General Man-

ager for Edgewater Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nev., a former MGM MIRAGE property, and Assistant General Manager for Excalibur in Las Vegas.

Thrasher received a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Circus Circus Las Vegas has 3,767 hotel rooms and is home to AdventureDome, Nevada's largest indoor theme park with more than 3 million visitors annually. The property hosts The Steak House, which has been voted "Best Steak House" a record 20 times by Las Vegas Review-Journal readers.

Rich in history and known worldwide for its iconic clown marquee, Circus Circus led the way for themed casino entertainment in Nevada when it opened its doors in 1968.



David Thrasher

(Advertising Supplement)

Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) in Las Vegas

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT/AJPress

THREE Filipino-American basketball players have been chosen to join the Philippine national team that is training for a possible spot in the 2012 London Olympics.

Philippine-born Japeth Aguilar, and Filipino-Americans Chris Lutz and Sean Anthony were chosen during a basketball training camp held in Las Vegas last week.

We were able to pick three players from the tryouts which is already an achievement in itself, Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) Executive Director Jose Emmanuel Eala told Las Vegas Asian Journal.

Of the three players, Japeth Aguilar is the only one born in the Philippines. He is the first Filipino basketball player to be recruited to the Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in the United States.

The 6'9-tall Pampanga, Philippines native currently plays center at the Western Kentucky University. While in his native country, he played for alma mater Ateneo de Manila University at the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines. His father, Peter Aguilar, played for the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

Half-Filipino Chris Lutz is a 6'3 point guard for the Herd, the basketball team at Marshall University in West Virginia. Lutz, whose mother is Filipino, is a business management major at this school. He has been playing basketball since his high school days at Brewster Academy Prep School. He also played for the Purdue University team, prior to his transfer to Marshall.

Sean Anthony, also half-Filipino, is a native of Vancouver, Canada, who has been eyeing the PBA for a while. The 6'4 forward of the McGill Redmen basketball

team has actually sent game-tape compilations early this year to the professional basketball association in the Philippines. He was hoping to play professionally in the Philippines where his mother was born.

SBP's Mr. Eala said that he is pleased with three chosen players as well as others who joined the three-day basketball training camp in Las Vegas.

SBP, the national sport association for basketball in the Philippines, organized the three-day training camp they named SBP-PLDT Global Basketball Training Camp.

Mr. Eala said athletes with Filipino lineage are eligible to join the team.

SBP came from the Philippines to target athletes in Northern America.

The camp was designed to bolster the initiatives of the SBP to further discover new and exciting talents who can help the long term program of the Philippine National Basketball Team, SBP said in a statement.

Players who were selected from the camp will be included in the national training pool, particularly of the Smart Gilas Pilipinas Men's National Team that is training to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics, it added.

It was almost 42 years ago when a basketball team from the Philippines competed in the Olympics. This was at the 1972 Munich games in Germany. The SBP hopes to once again bring Philippine team to the multi-sport event three years from now.

The Las Vegas training session included physical fitness examinations, personality evaluation and hard court sessions to determine basketball skill, intelligence and fitness for the National Team. ■

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