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Makati Mayor Binay welcomes Puno as rival in 2010

by JOSE RODEL CLAPANO
Philstar.com

MANILA—Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay welcomed last May 27 the declaration of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno that he will run for vice president in the 2010 national elections.

Binay said the tandem of Vice President Noli de Castro and Puno that was proposed by the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) is a welcome development.

"Whether it's Secretary Puno or any other administration personality running for vice president, and regardless of whom President Arroyo will anoint as her presidential bet, they will have to contend with the people's dissatisfaction with the Arroyo administration," Binay said.

Binay said the 2010 elections would be a referendum on the Arroyo administration.

"What matters to the people in 2010 is whether or not a candidate can offer them a better government than what we have now and could assure that the government will work to put food on their table and provide jobs," Binay said.

He said the country reached record pov-

erty and hunger levels under the administration of Mrs. Arroyo.

A majority of the people do not believe the Arroyo administration's claim that the economy is growing.

"The number of Filipinos suffering from hunger and poverty has increased and they did not benefit from the claims of economic growth of this administration," Binay said.

Under the Arroyo administration, government funds have not been used wisely and millions have been lost to large-scale corruption.

"Under Mrs. Arroyo, our national agencies have become notoriously injudicious in undertaking projects and implementing programs; and that's the kindest word I can think of. Worse, national funds are being allocated and disbursed as if they were the personal kitty of Mrs. Arroyo. This is the

record that the administration candidates will defend before the people. Good luck to them," Binay said.

Teodoro open to tandem with Puno
Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., hailed Puno's decision to announce his intention to run for vice president.

He said Puno is a veteran public servant and has vast experience in running the affairs of local governments and handling the country's security.

"This makes him the most qualified vice presidential candidate in next year's elections," Teodoro said during the graduation rites of the Naval Officers' Candidate Course (NOCC) held at the Navy base in San Antonio, Zambales.

On the possibility of a Teodoro-Puno tandem, the defense chief said this is very



Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay

Philstar.com Photo

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Nevadans to benefit from Obama administration's new 'home-saving' law

A NEW law allowing certain mortgage holders to lower interest rates on a loan is expected to bring relief to Nevadans struggling to escape home foreclosure.

Nevada Sen. Harry Reid witnessed the signing of the law, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, by President Obama in Washington, DC on May 20th.

"(This) brings real help to Nevada and hope to people who are on the brink of losing their homes," Reid said in a statement released after the signing.

The Nevada senator led the US Senate to the passage of both bills in which he included



provisions to provide help for Nevadans struggling to stay in their homes. Under the law, a judge is authorized to give an order allowing a mortgage holder, under foreclosure proceedings, to lower the interest rates on a loan.

At the same time, the mortgage holder is allowed to reduce his monthly payment by permitting

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'It's presidency or bust for RP Defense Sec. Teodoro'

Wife warns of Lakas-Kampi pullout if...

by PHILIP TUBEZA
Inquirer.net



Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro

MANILA—"Very powerful people" are prepared to back Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro if the administration coalition does not declare him its standard-bearer for the 2010 presidential election, his wife warned last Wednesday, May 27.

According to Tarlac Rep. Monica "Nikki" Prieto-Teodoro, certain members of the soon-to-be-merged Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), civil society and big

business have informed her and her husband of their readiness to support his independent run for the presidency if and when.

"If he is not the anointed, I'm going to tell you now truthfully that there are many very powerful people who are backing Secretary Teodoro. And they said that if it's not [him as standard-bearer], they will bolt their own party," Nikki Teodoro told reporters without naming names.

She added that without her asking,

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300 miles and counting

Pinay runner makes brief pit stop in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, NV—THE last time we saw Joy Rojas she was sprinting outside of Eagle Rock Plaza.

That was last May 10. The 44-year-old Pinay's goal was to run across America and 12 days later, she's made it to Las Vegas, NV.

"It's been the most colorful 12 days of my life," said Rojas in a press conference during Western Union's customer appreciation day outside of The Palace Station Hotel and Casino last Saturday, May 23. "It's a very difficult task to do but we have no regrets. In the 12 days since we ran from the Glendale, CA area to Nevada, we have seen and done things that we



Joy Rojas AJPress Photo by Robert Macabagdad

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RP eyes \$10B investments in renewable energy

by DONNABLE L. GATDULA
Philstar.com

MANILA—With the signing of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act, the Philippines would be able to generate up to \$10 billion in fresh capital from renewable energy development projects over the next 10 years, said Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes.

He said there are already a number of interested investors that have lined up for pre-qualification at the Department of Energy (DOE).

"Our objective is to double the power being generated from renewable energy sources from 4,500 megawatts to 9,000 MW in 10 years," he said.

Based on estimates, a renewable energy project may need a capital investment of \$1 million to \$2 million per megawatt.

Reyes said the Philippines has a capacity potential of 200,000 MW from renewable energy.

"Investors are aggressively coming in as they see the potential of RE development in the country," he said.

He said the IRR for Republic Act 9513 will also usher in a better

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Fil-Am activist's companion surfaces

by RUSEEL ARADOR
Inquirer.net

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac—The second of three volunteer health workers abducted by eight armed men on May 19 in La Paz, Tarlac was released Monday, May 25 the leftist group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said.

Dave dela Peña, chairman of Bayan Tarlac, said reports relayed by the relatives of Juanito Carabeo, 54, indicate that he has returned to the family home in Bataan.

On Monday, May 25 Bayan announced that Filipino-American activist Melissa Roxas has also returned to her family in Metro Manila after being taken by armed men along with Carabeo and John Edward Jandoc for six days (not seven as earlier reported).

But no statement was given by the family on what exactly happened to her and on the condition of her companions.

Carabeo, Roxas, and Jandoc were taken from a farmer's house in Barangay (Village) Kapanikian in La Paz town by suspected government soldiers last week.

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