

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

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

PAGE A1 ◀

a judge to extend the repayment period of the home loan to up to 40 years.

"(Bankruptcy judges can) extend the repayment period for a period that is no longer than the longer of 40 years reduced by the period for which such loan has been outstanding) or the remaining term of such loan, beginning on the date of the order for relief under this chapter," Section 103 of the new law states.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act includes several provisions to promote homeownership and fight foreclosure while preventing the rampant mortgage fraud that has contributed to the current economic crisis, Reid noted in his statement.

"President Obama understands how difficult the current economic situation is for Nevada families," Reid said.

Nevada, once again topped the states with highest foreclosure rates last month, recent data from California-based firm RealtyTrac showed.

One in every 68 households in Nevada received a foreclosure filing, down 18 percent from March but still the nation's highest rate, the report showed. Las Vegas was the city with the highest foreclosure rate with one in every 56 households receiving a filing.

Last year, foreclosures in Las Vegas tripled to 31,416 from only 11,509 the previous year, prompting the National Federation of Filipino American Associations to hold foreclosure prevention seminars in the city. Las Vegas is home to some 100,000 Filipino residents.

Reid, in his statement, noted, "The two bills signed into law today take important steps to protect consumers by encouraging

modification of loans for homeowners who are upside down in their mortgage."

The second bill that the President signed on May 20th was the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act

"This law provides critical funding and new tools to let law enforcement prosecute and punish those responsible for the mortgage and corporate frauds that have hurt countless hardworking Americans and led to the worst financial crisis in decades," Reid said in his statement.

It also closes several legal loopholes that otherwise may allow individuals guilty of criminal conduct to evade prosecution. "I individuals who have engaged in corruption or deliberate criminal behavior should not be able to escape punishment on a technicality," Reid said. *(Dymphna Calica-La Putt)*

Makati Mayor Binay welcomes Puno as rival in 2010

PAGE A1 ◀

much welcome to him but stressed that this must first pass through the administration's political coalition selection process.

In the event he is chosen as the administration standard-bearer and Puno would be his running mate, Teodoro said the team will be very strong.

However, if he is not selected, Teodoro said he would abide by the decision of the majority.

Teodoro said that his decision to seek the presidential nomination was not solely his own but also the prodding of supporters from various political groups.

Asked if he is willing to slide down as the vice presidential candidate of De Castro, Teodoro said this matter should also be decided during the selection process.

Meanwhile, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago believes the Filipinos are experiencing "electoral chronic fatigue" that can explain why the coming elections do not seem to excite them at all.

Santiago said no one had also come out to be the "man to beat" despite the many personalities who had expressed intention to run. ■

Fil-Am activist's companion surfaces

PAGE A1 ◀

The abductors, all armed and wearing ski masks, arrived on two motorcycles and a Kia Besta van without a license plate, reports from the human rights group Karapatan said.

Dela Peña said Carabeo, 54, phoned his relatives at around 10pm Monday, May 25 to tell them he was in Bataan and that they should return immediately.

He said Carabeo's relatives had been staying in Tarlac since May 20, the day they received a text message from an anonymous sender, telling them that Carabeo was missing.

Dela Peña on Tuesday, May 26 said they have yet to receive details on the abduction of Carabeo's group and how he was able to return home.

The human rights group

Karapatan was informed by the family of Roxas that she was back and resting in her house in Quezon City.

Roxas, 31, an American citizen of Filipino descent, is a member of Habi Arts and Bayan USA, the Bayan chapter in the United States. At the time of her abduction, she was working as a volunteer health worker in Tarlac.

Dela Peña said they were still trying to determine if Jandoc, 16, had returned to his hometown in Aurora.

While relatives of the victims suspected the military of abducting the three, Major Rosendo Armas, information officer of the military's Northern Luzon Command based at Camp Servillano Aquino here, denied any military participation. ■

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PAGE A1 ◀

never thought we'd never see and do in our lifetime. We've crossed the Mojave Desert. We have climbed up Mount Baldy. We have seen snow for the first time in our lives and ate cactus."

Rojas said it's been an "extremely difficult" journey but "no regrets."

"California is huge. It is so huge," she added.

Since sprinting out of Eagle Rock Plaza on May 10, Rojas has had an adventure. The first day, she ran 33 miles to Ontario, CA. The second day, she continued eastbound to San Bernardino. However, on the third day, while in San Bernardino, the crew got lost.

"There was a route where we wanted to take through the San Bernardino forest," explained Chuck Crisanto, the TransUSA director, who along with Rojas' trainer Mat Macabe is accompanying Rojas in her journey. "They told us the road ends and it was like choosing between right and left. We went left. She ran for four hours until we were on top of a mountain covered with white. Mat said it was marble. Joy said 'that's snow.'"

After that brief set back, the crew was back on track.

During the press conference, Rojas thanked the good Samaritans for helping them get on their way.

"Maps, GPS, navigation and google maps are very helpful but ultimately, it's the people that we see and meet along the way who often point us to the right direction. That is why we are here today," she said.

Sylvia Elliot, Senior Marketing Director of Western Union said that Rojas is an inspiration not only to the Filipino community but also to everyone.

"This is just an example of the type of project and initiative we support," said Elliot. Western Union is one of Rojas' sponsors. "This is the first time ever that we have done an event in this magnitude where we are supporting a great cause and also build an awareness about a great service. In the future, you can expect to see us supporting more of these types of initiative. Again, we want to ignite the spirit of the Filipino community."

After resting all day Sunday, May 24 Rojas is back on the road.

Crisanto said that this week, Rojas would be running northwest of Las Vegas to Mesquite before going on Route 66 straight to Utah.

Rojas' is running across America for her beneficiaries: the Anti-Tuberculosis Program of the Inner Wheel Club of Quezon City District 738 and the Social Services Division of the Philippine Heart Center. *(Joseph Pimentel)*

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

PAGE A1 ◀

"there's a lot of bold statements being said to me to let people know that 'Look, if Gilbert is not the anointed one and somebody else is, then we will go [for] Gilbert Teodoro.'"

Her remarks were made in reaction to reports that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno was positioning himself as Vice President Noli de Castro's running mate in 2010, and that Lakas-Kampi was also considering a De Castro-Teodoro tandem.

Teodoro, who announced in February his intention to run for president in 2010, told reporters Wednesday that a Teodoro-Puno ticket would be a "very strong" combination for the country.

"If it will be based solely on our relationship with each other, it will be a very strong tandem and this will be for the good of our country because we have a good [working] relationship and we both have [sound] experience," he said.

He said he was "seeking the nomination for the presidency and nothing else."

Nikki Teodoro clarified that her husband was not yet thinking of striking out on his own and would join Lakas-Kampi and stick with its "selection process."

"So far, we are not considering [an independent run] ... But so many people have [approached] us. It's overwhelming, the people who come to us. And these people are very credible," she said.

She also said that while her husband "wants to be the anointed one," they would not put any pressure on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Nikki Teodoro said her husband—a former member of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) founded by tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, his

uncle—would join Lakas-Kampi "as soon as possible."

Only as No. 1

On the phone with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Teodoro said: "I'm only making myself available to be selected as a presidential candidate."

"I hope for a fair selection process where each member of the administration coalition will be able to express his or her own opinion [and] preferences."

Teodoro said he was "waiting to join" Lakas-Kampi.

He said the merger was a "very, very positive step" for administration unity and a solid coalition.

A three-term representative of Tarlac province, a Harvard-educated lawyer, bar topnotcher and the Philippines' youngest defense secretary, Teodoro was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony Wednesday, May 27 of naval officer candidates in San Antonio, Zambales.

Speaking later with reporters, he said it was good news that Interior Secretary Puno had declared himself in the running for the vice presidency.

Being a public servant "throughout his professional life" will allow Puno to make greater contributions to the country, Teodoro said, adding:

"He is a good interior secretary and we both have an understanding of security matters. So I am hopeful that he can do a lot being the vice president."

When asked if he would accept a De Castro-Teodoro tandem in 2010, the defense secretary said: "We will see. There should be a selection process."

"[Running] for the presidency is not merely my choice. I have many supporters, and they want that I be nominated for the presidency. So it is really up to them." ■