



ASIAN JOURNAL

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THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Ruben Nepales elected to board of Golden Globe award-giving body



Volume 21 - No. 2 • 2 Sections - 18 Pages

JUNE 11-17, 2009



Filipina receives award from the World Cocoa Foundation in Washington, DC



Assistant Agriculture Attaché Josyline Javelosa, Operations Manager of the Cocoa Foundation Philippines, Inc. Josephine Ramos, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa, Agriculture Attaché Victoriano Leviste and Economic Officer Angelito Nayan 2009-0602.jpg - Assistant Agriculture Attaché Josyline Javelosa, Operations Manager of the Cocoa Foundation Philippines, Inc. Josephine Ramos, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa, Agriculture Attaché Victoriano Leviste and Economic Officer Angelito Nayan.

AMBASSADOR Willy C. Gaa congratulated Ms. Josephine Ramos (2nd from L), Founding Member and Operations Manager of the Cocoa Foundation Philippines, Inc. (CocoaPhil), who received an award from the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) for her "commitment and passion" in promoting development

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DATELINE PHILIPPINES

All set for 2010 poll automation

by ANNA VALMERO Inquirer.net

MANILA—After a month-long bidding, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has awarded the poll automation contract to its lone qualifying bidder, ensuring that the 2010 elections will be computerized.

"After due deliberation, the Comelec resolves to approve report of Special Bids and Awards Committee confirming Total Information Management-Smartmatic as bidder with lowest calculated bid and award contract to them for the automation of elections on May 10, 2010," Comelec chairman Jose Melo announced, quoting an *en banc* resolution.

"Upon SBAC's recommendation, the bidder has the lowest calculated responsive bid after it passed the bid evaluation of its eligibility, technical and financial proposal of P7.2 billion and has complied with all 26 technical criteria

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Filipinos flock to Philippine Independence Day celebration in LV

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT AJPress



In Las Vegas, Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike enjoy native food traditionally served at Filipino fiestas during the Philippine Independence Day celebration aptly billed Fiesta Filipino.

LAS VEGAS—Some 5,000 Filipinos flocked to the first annual celebration of Philippine independence in this city last Saturday June 6, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) said.

"With over 5,000 people in attendance throughout the day there were no negative incidents, just many praises on how much fun they all had," Noel Casimiro, project chair said.

Filipinos and non-Filipinos from Las Vegas, California, Arizona and Utah came to attend the whole day event.

The festivity has so far been the biggest celebration in this city to commemorate the 111th Independence Day of the Philippines. The Philippines marks its Independence Day on June 12.

NaFFAA Nevada had said it aims to hold the Las Vegas event annually every month of June. The event is expected to unite Filipinos to make them "more visible" in the community, it added.

"We have just exemplified what a true unity with one voice in a community of one is all about," NaFFAA Nevada state chair Jing Espiritu told the *Asian Journal*.

NaFFAA is a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-

American institutions and umbrella organizations. Its core mission is to empower Filipinos in the United States.

It has been one of its aims to unite the various Filipino groups in each city in the United States and help integrate it with American society.

Casimiro noted that the Fiesta celebration should mark the start in creating an atmosphere of unity among Filipinos in Las Vegas.

"We must build from the momentum of this event. We must continue to communicate to our community how important it is for us to unite and we must continue to work together for us to have one voice," he said.

Filipinos are one of the largest cultural groups in Las Vegas, numbering close to 100,000 residents. The Filipino people were at the center of celebrations at City Hall last May 6 during the celebration of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in this city.

NaFFAA was also recognized for empowering the Filipino-American community in Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, NaFFAA will hold a gala night on June 20th at the Treasure Island Hotel to give recognition to ten outstanding Las Vegas residents who have contributed to the promotion of Filipino culture and issues in this city. ■



The Filipiniana Cultural & Arts Foundation -led by Myrna Alforque- presented dance numbers from different Philippine regions during the Fiesta Filipino celebration in Las Vegas last June 6th.



Always present during Filipino events, the Philippine USA Motorcycling Club graced the Fiesta Filipino celebration at the Sammy Davis Festival Plaza in Las Vegas last Saturday, June 6th. AJPress Photos by Robert Macabagdal

Sen. Villar ready for 2010 campaign, elections

by JOSEPH PERALTA AJPress

"I AM my own man and nobody else's. What you see is what you get."

Thus declared Sen. Manny Villar in an exclusive interview with the *Asian Journal* during the Senator's East Coast swing where he answered questions on his presidential bid in the 2010 Philippine national elections.

Equally adept at business and politics, Sen. Villar is a self-made real estate mogul who



Sen. Manny Villar

rose from the slums of Tondo, Manila to become one of the most successful businessmen in the Philippines. His rags to riches story is so phenomenal that writers have labeled him as "The Brown Taipan."

Sen. Villar may very well become the first man with an accounting education and background to

become Philippine President if he is successful in his bid in the

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The Nacionalista Party: 100 Years and Beyond

by MOMAR G. VISAYA AJPress

TWO years ago, the Nacionalista Party celebrated its first 100 years with a grand celebration held at the Philippine International Convention Center. The event, which gathered Nacionalistas from past and present generations, commemorated the dreams of the founding fathers who were guided with the burning desire to achieve immediate, absolute and complete independence through peaceful means.

Renowned political leaders Sergio Osmeña, Manuel L. Quezon, Rafael Palma, Leon Ma Guerrero and others formed the Nacionalista Party in 1907 as they gathered together to face insurmountable odds to unite the country to freedom from the clutches of its colonizers. The venerable Claro M. Recto provided the clear vision of what a nation should be at a time when certain sectors were agitating for being simply a federal state.

The Nacionalista Party is an organization brought to life with a vision of promoting love of country among Filipinos. The motto "*Ang Bayan Higit sa Lahat*" (*The Nation Above All Else*) has always been the fundamental and basic guiding principle of the party in its programs, advocacies and undertakings.

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Group wants NV Rep Titus to be spokesperson for Asian American issues in US Congress

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT AJPress

LAS VEGAS—Because of her focus on Asian American issues in this state, Nevada Rep. Dina Titus the Asian American Democratic Caucus (AADC) wants her to be the group's spokesperson in Congress.

"Congresswoman Dina Titus is attentive to the Asian American population in her constituency," AADC said. "She will be our spokeswoman in Congress on issues such as immigration, housing, education and healthcare," it

added. "Through our caucus, we have always done our best to provide (Titus) with the opportunity of meeting the Asian Americans and to understand (our) culture, way of life and (our) problems," the AADC said in its statement.

The AADC had supported Titus run for the House of Representatives last November. She was honored by the group last May 30, during the closing of the Asian American Heritage

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