

**IMMIGRANT LIVING:  
101 AND BEYOND**



**MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA**

If you want anything done, give it to a busy person. But perhaps, this is true only up to a point. One's carrying capacity can be maxed out. Anyone who is both efficient and effective has mastered many times by trial and error over some length of time that fine blend of mixing the art and science of planning his work and working his plan. How? By thinking things through, prioritizing, sequencing and when necessary, improvising to stay within timetables and resources and keeping a laser-like focus on the goal while keeping your balance. It's a tall order yet doable. Anyone, determined enough, can get things done.

Nowhere is this life skill more put to the test than here in America where a person's worth, whether you like it or not, is measured by his productivity, his creativity, and his results. It is a skill needed to navigate a person's day-to-day life. The major strides in technology have

enhanced man's capability to multi-task. Picture the modern version of Everyman running on a treadmill juggling multiple roles. No matter how much you want to buck the system, there is no way you can get around the fact that in order to thrive, let alone survive at this time and in this place, the life skills one needs to acquire and develop some level of competence in, are in the areas of planning and working the plan.

You know what a delight it is to work on a project that has been well conceived and well planned. And when a plan comes together in seamless fashion, everything is as smooth as silk. On the flip side of the coin, you know how aggravating it is to be involved in one that is a mess from the beginning conceived by one who seems to be running around like a headless chicken. History bears out that most of the great leaders of all time, whether in politics, in industry and in business are supreme planners. And contrary to common belief, these planners see the big picture but do not feel that it is beneath them to roll up their sleeves and work

on the nitty-gritty themselves. God is in the details. So is the devil.

Planning helps you to see the goal very clearly. Planning makes it possible to signal your intentions to others so adjustments can be made in the early stages of the project. In freeway driving, it is not only courteous to signal your intention when changing lanes to let other drivers either speed up or slow down to make room for your move, it is the safe and prudent thing to do. Planning, like your left and right turn signals on your car, is a communication tool that gets feedback from within the team.

Henry Ford, who had a hand in perfecting the assembly line production technique once said, "Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs." As you flesh out the details of a project, the number of sub-tasks and the sequence with which these smaller tasks need to be done becomes clearer. Assigning who does what further breaks down the job to smaller and manageable bite sizes. Of course as the overseer, your task is to monitor progress of each component of the project and see that each one contributes to the overall goal. Inspect what you expect. Never assume. Ultimately, the value of planning brings you full circle as it helps you stay focused on the goal and get the job done on time and within budget. Getting things done and looking back at a job well done is gratifying for it somehow validates your self-worth.

Here's a caveat. Lest we think that planning is foolproof, remember that "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Even with all the seemingly perfect planning that brainiac scientists at NASA do and even with the use of cutting edge technology, the agency still experiences monumental failures - sometimes.

Things may not work out as planned. Consider the recent tragedy of the Air France plane

crash over the Atlantic where no one survived. All told, 228 lives were lost. That flight was the result of expert plans that worked over and over in the past. It will be some time before aviation experts figure out exactly what went wrong on what could have been a routine flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. They say a small Airbus part, called the Pitot tube responsible for reading the plane's speed iced up and malfunctioned giving wrong readings of air speeds, as it flew directly into the belly of a severe thunderstorm and was never heard from again as it broke apart and plunged to the Atlantic. Sometimes you wonder if given all the sophisticated modern technology at our disposal, we should still have the option of a manual override for human operators of machines thrust in dire emergency conditions.

There are absolutely no guarantees that something will work out because of a great plan. Man proposes, God disposes. There will be curve balls thrown in our path. When things don't work out as planned, try to accept it. Perhaps, there is a much better plan from a higher frequency and perspective. This is when you go deep inside and plumb the depths of your being and ask for the inner strength to accept things humbly. For the most part however, it has been proven that unless mighty cosmic forces are conspiring against something from happening, chances are stacked heavily towards transforming an idea to reality because of the simple act of planning and tenaciously working the plan.

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# Getting Things Done: A Redux

*"If it's going to be, it's up to me."*

— Robert H. Schuller

# Showbitz!

From PAGE B1

His involvement with *Manila* inspired Piolo to produce *Kambal sa Kiyeme*, starring sought-after comedienne Eugene Domingo and Kimmy Dora, with Dingdong Dantes as Eugene's leading man. Piolo is also looking forward to produce more films in the near future.

"Walang duda, gusto ko makapag-produce ng iba't ibang klaseng pelikula," adds the actor.

## Aiko Melendez, excited to be doing films again

Actress and politician Aiko Melendez has not exactly been out of the showbiz limelight after she was elected councilor at the 2nd District in Quezon City as despite her busy schedule, she still manages to appear as guest in TV shows and has even produced shows and *teleseryes*. Now, Aiko is raring to go back to appearing in films again, and her comeback film is *Angelina, Spoiled Brat: The Movie* starring top comedians Ogie Alcasid and Michael V. and also pair her with her former flame, Jomari Yllana.



"Siguro yung fun na magka-trabaho kaming muli. Kasi for so long, yung team-up namin talaga, hindi yun nakita nang matagal, e. Ang damping offer sa amin before to do a movie together. *Kaya lang, parang natatapat kami sa script na parehong hindi namin gusto. Hindi naman natin maipagkakaila na kahit papaano, si Jomari masarap din namang katrabaho,*" she relays to *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*.

Even if she's on the comeback trail, Aiko is not turning her back at her political career as she admits to having plans to run as Vice Mayor of Quezon City, and there is no stopping her.

"As of now, buo ang puso ko at buo ang loob ko na 'yon ang landas na gusto kong tahakin," she says.

## Rufa Mae Quinto on missing the GMA-7 Anniversary Special

One of the most hardworking actresses and TV hosts today, Rufa Mae Quinto, took a much-deserved break recently in the US. Now, she is fully recharged and is aiming to go back to work. The two-week trip was also her birthday gift to herself, and it was something she truly enjoyed.



"Nitong pag-alis ko, talagang bakasyon galore," she shares with *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*. "Umalis ako noong May 29 right after my birthday. Matagal ko naman nang pinaalam 'yon sa mga shows ko sa GMA-7. Gusto ko talagang makapagpahinga at gusto ko kasama si Lola Luchi. Heto na nga kapalit ng bakasyon ko, sunod-sunod na trabaho."

However, she is quick to deny reports that she snubbed the recently concluded GMA-7 anniversary special last June 19 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Gusto ko talagang um-attend," she clarifies. "Kaso, kakarating ko lang a week before the US. Eh, may memo na ibinigay sa aming mga artists na kung sino ang mga manggagaling sa ibang bansa, kailangan mag-self quarantine for at least seven days dahil nga sa A(H1N1) virus."

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# Gov. Vi: Is she or isn't she?

From PAGE B1

was not deliberate on my part, and I sincerely apologize for my error. I will not make the same mistake again. Very truly yours, **MARILETTA T. SUBONG aka POKWANG**. (Laguardia also advised Pokwang against using the nickname Pokey on the air, but it's okay to do so somewhere else.)

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It's a big NO and it doesn't mean "why not" or "maybe."

For the nth time, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos said during an exclusive interview with *Funfare* that, despite the "feelers" and "tempting offers" from some of the presidential candidates for her to run as vice president in the 2010 elections, she is sticking to her decision not to.

"Basta, I'm not entertaining any 'offer'," she was emphatic, adding that her focus is on her projects in Batangas where she's running for reelection. "I served as mayor of

Lipa City for three terms and now, as the province's governor, *ang dami ko pang projects na dapat tapusin.*"

The interview was done at the provincial capitol last Friday before Vi presided over the turn-over of 6,000 scholarships among Batangas' 34 municipalities (two of them cities, Lipa and Batangas), courtesy of Ricky Reyes (in cooperation with TESDA and DSWD). The ceremonies were held at the *kapitolyo's* auditorium where some of the scholars (200 in each municipality, free everything including allowance) were presented.

"The scholars will have several vocational courses to choose from," said Ricky who assured Vi that he will help the scholars find jobs after graduation or put up businesses of their own.

Said to be "winnable" hands down in 2010, Vi shares part of the credit for the province's progress with her husband, NEDA chairman Ralph Recto who is reported to be running again for senator.

"I asked Ralph's advice before making any decision," said Vi.

Likewise, when before she agreed to do the Star Cinema movie *In My Life*, Vi said she had to ask the permission of her constituents who have been missing her on the big screen. Her last movie was Regal Films' *Mano Po 3: My Love*, shown five years ago.

The three-week shoot of *In My Life* in the tri-state of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut gave Vi and Ralph a chance to spend a family vacation with sons Ryan Christian and Luis Manzano who plays Vi's son in the movie (with John Lloyd Cruz as Luis' lover).

"Christian was off from school, so the timing was right," added Vi who said that it was "unfair!" because while she was neck-deep with work, shooting from early morning till night for almost three weeks, Ralph and Christian, along with Luis who finished his US scenes earlier, had all the time to make *pasyal*.

By the way, who among the presidential has been sending her "feelers?"

Vi only smiled, making no comment.

But your guess is as good as anybody's. ■

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