

Pinoy poet to receive Italy's top prize

MANILA—Poet and critic Gémino Abad has been named this year's recipient of Italy's most coveted literary prize, the Prize Premio Feronia—Citta di Fiano 2009 under the foreign author category. The prize will be conferred on July 11 during the Nomination Ceremony at the historic Castle of Fiano Romano outside Rome.

In a letter from President of the Committee Filippo Bettini, Abad has been requested to personally attend the ceremony to receive his prize, which includes a cash award of 3,600 euros. Abad has also been invited to attend the Italian Festival Mediterranea in Rome.

Abad holds the highest rank of University Professor at the University of the Philippines (UP), and teaches creative writing at the College of Arts and Letters as Professor Emeritus. He also sits on the Board of Advisors of the UP Institute of Creative Writing.

Originally from Cebu, Abad earned his B.A. in English from the University of the Philippines in 1964 and his Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Chicago in 1970. He served UP in various capacities, as secretary of the university, secretary of the Board of Regents, vice president for academic affairs, while teaching English, comparative literature and creative writing. Abad co-founded the Philippine Literary Arts Council (PLAC), which published Caracoa, a poetry journal in English.

Among his many books of poetry and critical essays are *Fugitive Emphasis* (1973), his first book of poetry; *In Another Light* (poems and critical essays, 1976); *A Formal Approach to Lyric Poetry* (critical theory, 1978); *The Space Between* (poems and critical essays, 1985); *Poems and Parables* (1988); *Index to Filipino Poetry in English, 1905-1950* (with Edna Zapanta Manlapaz, 1988) and *State of Play* (letter-essays and parables, 1990). He



Poet Gémino Abad

Photo courtesy of Philstar.com

edited landmark anthologies of Filipino poetry in English, among them *Man of Earth* (1989), *A Native Clearing* (1993) and *A Habit of Shores: Filipino Poetry and Verse from English, '60s to the '90s* (1999).

The work for he has been cited is *In Ordinary Time: Poems, Parables, Poetics* (2004), his own selection of his poems and parables from 1973 to 2003. Ten each of these are arranged under six themes which suggest, generally, a possible terrain of signification: Things ("each thing's special signature"), Words ("not meaning but meaningfulness"), Self ("the imagination, the self's primary activity, creates our humanity"), Love ("the self's deepest moral sense"). (*Philstar.com*)

Bayani Fernando announces 2010 presidential bid

by JOSE RODEL CLAPANO
Philstar.com

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando declared last May 20 that he will definitely run in the 2010 presidential elections.



MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando

Speaking before the new officers of the Confederation of Filipino Consultants, Inc., or COFILCO, at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Fernando said if elected president he will inculcate to all Filipinos, especially the employees and officials of government, the true essence of "political will."

Fernando said the reason why corruption continuously exists in government is due to the lack of political will in government. "Now I have set my eyes on the presidency, and I hope you will rally behind my cause. I will govern with transparency and hold myself accountable to the people at all times," Fernando said. He said he is confident that he will get the anointment of the Lakas-Kampi party because he was the only one from Lakas who had expressed the intention to seek the presidency in 2010.

"I have the biggest chance of being selected by the Lakas-Kampi coalition because I am the only member of Lakas who has declared to run for president in 2010. Kampi has no candidate for president in 2010. I expect the commitment of the party to its party members," Fernando said. The MMDA chief said Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. is the only member of Lakas who has so far expressed his intention to run for vice president in 2010.

"But there are still many possibilities, right now. And I cannot say yet who will be my running mate," Fernando said. Fernando said if elected president, lazy government employees and officials will definitely lose their jobs.

No comment
Fernando refused to comment on reports that Vice President Noli de Castro is the only strong

presidentiable of the administration.

"To our people out there, whose dreams and aspirations have always been thwarted by bad governance, I promise to adopt a different approach to leadership, one that takes into account the longings of the people for a better life," Fernando said.

Fernando said he stands by his record and stand with his position always.

"The principle of governance is the same, whether you run a city, a metropolis, or an entire country. The same problems bedevil our towns and cities: Crime, corruption in government, degradation of the environment, unemployment and underemployment, access to education and health care and lack of economic opportunity," Fernando said.

Fernando cited that under his leadership as mayor of Marikina, it progressed from a second-class, sleepy municipality to a city that became the destination of choice for foreign investors. "Its annual tax collection rose from a mere P77 million in 1992 when I took over to P1 billion when I left office," Fernando said. He said he was able to do it through "discipline and civic spirit that I espoused that city residents willingly and enthusiastically embraced."

"Like most of the people here, I, too, am an engineer, and I take pride in my accomplishments as a builder. I think my most important achievement, however, was my success in instilling discipline among the city residents," Fernando said.

DOJ chief says Erap can no longer run for president

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez affirmed last May 20 the opinion of government lawyers that deposed President Joseph Estrada is no longer eligible to run for president in the 2010 elections.

"He is not qualified to run. The Constitution is quite explicit on this—an elected president cannot seek any re-election," Gonzalez explained when asked for his legal opinion on the issue.

He said the former president has the freedom to file his candidacy at the Commission on Elections but it would be futile once he is disqualified.

Gonzalez believes that Estrada would violate a condition in the pardon granted to him by President Arroyo after his plunder conviction in 2007 if he joins

the elections.

He cited the "whereas" clause in the pardon—stating that the deposed leader would no longer enter politics—was clearly a condition.

But Gonzalez took exception to a reported statement that only the Supreme Court can resolve the issue on Estrada's qualifications.

"The Supreme Court is not an advisory body that will issue opinion. At this point, there's no justiciable issue yet so the Court cannot rule. If they would seek declaratory relief, that would not be entertained in the SC," he stressed.

Comelec sees vague provision on term limit

A Comelec official said Estrada may have basis to run for president in next year's polls because of a vague provision in the Constitu-

tion regarding term limits.

The official, who refused to be identified, admitted that Article VII Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution states "the" president shall not be eligible for a re-election."

But the official said the provision seems to refer only to the incumbent president.

"The question there is who is 'the' president. I think this does not pertain to past presidents."

Estrada had threatened to seek the presidency if the opposition does not unite and come up with a common presidential candidate in the 2010 polls.

The official said though the Supreme Court had already ruled that Estrada could no longer run for president because he is considered to have "constructively resigned" when he left Malacañang

at the height of People Power 2 in January 2001, this decision might not hold water.

"Constructive resignation is a new term. You cannot find it in the law (books) except for that decision," the official added.

But the official said that Estrada should not yet rejoice because unless it was "expressly stated" in his pardon, his civil rights—like the rights to vote and seek public office—could have not been restored when President Arroyo pardoned him.

"It is not automatic that if you are given a pardon, your (civil) rights have been restored. It must be expressly restored in the pardon. He could have voted (in 2007 barangay polls) but, who knows, that could have been (illegal)," the official added.

Start a rewarding career as a LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE - LPN

Approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing, Departments of Education/Labor and Workforce Development Non-Profit Educational Organization

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Financial Aid available if qualified

FOR MORE INFORMATION Call - (201) 420-6020

Looking for RN with Bachelor/Masters degree to teach Practical Nursing Program Fax your resume: (201) 420-6040

METROPOLITAN LEARNING INSTITUTE
910 Bergen Ave, 3rd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306

Philippine Independence Day Council Inc. with the cooperation of the Philippine Consulate General of New York

2009 Grand Marshal Dr. Teofila Malanum-Santos invites you to join us on Sunday, June 7 as we celebrate the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence

Special guests include: Vice President Noli de Castro, Senator Manny B. Villar, Aljur Abrenica, Mylene Dizon, Paolo Duterte, Elfa Naras Dance Troupe and more...

The Filipino - American: "BAHAGI NG BAGONG BAYANI NG BAYAN"

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
12:00noon
Madison Avenue from 41st Street head South (downtown)
Isagani Puertollano (Committee Chair) (908)230-6468
Juliet Payabyab (917)557-7300
Elmer Abustan (845)352-8756
Rene Reniva (908)765-1953
Belen Castillo (973)393-8018
Linda Limcaco (609)903-1123
Rudy Mariano (860)848-7055

CULTURAL FESTIVAL
2:00pm to 6:00pm
Open Stage, Madison Avenue, North of 23rd Street
Dr. Bernie dela Merced (Chair) (973)699-1849
Vivian Velasco (Co-Chair) (917)623-3827

STREET FAIR
10:00am to 6:00pm
24th to 26th Streets
Gerry Austria (President) (201)238-1785
Isagani Puertollano (Committee Chair) (908)230-6468
Medy Tæza (646)415-3040
Tambi Wycoco (212)420-0145
Rev. Gaudencio Soriano, Sr. (201)947-2126/ (201)282-9341

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY / THANKSGIVING MASS
8:00am to 10:00am
Philippine Center
556 Fifth Avenue, between 45th and 46th Streets
Nida Cortez (646)644-4101
Lumen Castañeda (917)538-1702

email: pidci2009@yahoo.com • www.pidci.org

Legacy Travel

175 Boyd Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07304
E-mail: legacy_travel@yahoo.com
legacytravel5@aol.com

CHEAP TICKETS TO THE PHILIPPINES FROM ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.

CHEAPEST FARES!

CALL NOW: (201) 984-4269 (201) 793-7672

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday to Friday : 9AM to 9PM
Saturday: 10AM to 7PM
Sunday: CLOSED

Selling Cruise and Vacation Packages
International and Domestic flights Available