

Filipino in crashed flight identified

THE Filipino who was among the 228 passengers of Air France Flight 447 which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean has been identified, the Department of Foreign Affairs said last June 2.

Quoting the Philippine embassy in Paris, which was notified by the French foreign ministry, the DFA identified the Filipino fatality as Arden Jugueta, a seafarer whose vessel docked in Rio de Janeiro and who was to take a connecting flight from Paris to Manila.

In a statement, the DFA said the fatality's ship manning company also confirmed that Jugueta was on board Air France Flight 447.

The Paris main offices of Air France and the local shipping agency have also communicated with the Filipino seafarer's family.

DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo has extended the department's deepest condolences to Miguela Jugueta, the wife of Mr. Jugueta, and his family.

The DFA said it will continue to monitor the latest developments in the ongoing search and rescue operations by military and aviation authorities of Brazil, France and Spain near the island of Fernando de Noronha, about 1,500 miles east of Rio de Janeiro.

The department said it will also extend assistance to Jugueta's family.

Air France Flight 447 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on the evening of May 31 (Brasilia time) en route to Paris, France from the Galeao International Airport in Brazil.

Earlier, in his report to the DFA, ad interim Charge d'Affaires Christopher Montero said Brazil's military and aviation authorities have sent search and rescue teams near the island of Fernando de Noronha, about 1,500 miles east of Rio de Janeiro, but have yet to find the plane and its passengers. *(Inquirer.net)*

Mancao back in Manila

DOJ to start probe on Lacson

by TETCH TORRES
Inquirer.net

WITH the arrival of former police official Cezar Mancao Thursday, June 4 the Department of Justice (DOJ) is set to start its preliminary investigation on Senator Panfilo Lacson in connection with the death of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito.

State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez said her office will not wait for the arrival of Mancao's colleague, Glenn Dumlaog.

Lacson, who was Mancao and Dumlaog's boss at the time of the celebrated case, is facing a complaint for double murder, filed by Emily Dacer-Hungerson, Sabina Dacer-Reyes, Carina Lim-Dacer, and Ambaro Dacer.

Valdez, together with Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor, already went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and met with Mancao.

Mancao arrived at the NBI at around 6:30 in the morning on board a bulletproof van.

He reunited with members of his family who were waiting for him at the NBI. His mother Reynalda, sisters Ma. Glosary Mancao-Bautista, Engineer Estrellita Valera and Dr. Faith Mancao-Lim, and niece Gretchel Wong arrived from Davao. They brought spaghetti, pomelo, and durian, few of the favorite foods of Mancao whom they have not seen for eight years.

His family was allowed to stay with him overnight. NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said only his family and counsel will be allowed to visit him. Cellular phones and laptop computer are prohibited.

Mancao will stay in one office inside the NBI compound. His quarter is fully furnished with air condition, bed, refrigerator, television set, comfort room, and receiving area. But the windows in his room will be closed for security reasons.

More than 200 NBI security personnel were deployed along the route from the airport to en-



Members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) show their support for former police Senior Superintendent Cezar Mancao as they await his arrival from the United States. The members believe that Mancao is the key to pinning the mastermind in the killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Inquirer.net Photo by Tetch Torres

sure Mancao's safety.

There were two decoy convoys. The convoy with Mancao did enter through the NBI front gate, where members of the media are waiting for him. It entered through the NBI back gate.

Meanwhile, Mantaring said Dumlaog, who already expressed his intention to testify in the Dacer-Corbato case, will have the same protection accorded Mancao.

Justice Undersecretary Blancaflor said Dumlaog is scheduled to give his deposition on June 22. After that and the go-signal from the US court, he can also return to the Philippines.

Mancao arrived in the country from the United States at exactly 5:34 a.m. Thursday via Philippine Airlines flight PR103.

Escorted by NBI Anti-Terrorism Division chief Ricardo Diaz and NBI International Police Division chief Claro De Castro, Mancao was whisked away from terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 6 a.m. to a bullet-proof Ford Expedition van.

Mancao is expected to reveal all the principal suspects and the details on the killing of Dacer and Corbito in 2000.

The US court ordered Mancao

sent back to the Philippines after he presented a signed statement agreeing to his extradition. He had been staying in the US for seven years.

Aside from Mancao and Dumlaog, also charged in the double murder case is Michael Ray Aquino. Dumlaog and Aquino are both currently detained in the US.

Dumlaog is expected to be back in the country in 10 days while Aquino has a pending habeas corpus petition.

The three former police colonels served under the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), headed by then Philippine National Police (PNP) chief and now Senator Lacson.

Lacson served as PNP chief under former President Joseph Estrada.

The three former police colonels were among the 22 people charged in the double-murder case before the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 that issued a warrant for their arrest.

Before the warrants for their arrest could be served, the three separately fled to the US, prompting the Philippine government to invoke the extradition treaty to have them sent back. ■

77% of Pinoys say drive vs corruption ineffective

by MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN
Philstar.com

MANILA—Seventy-seven percent of Filipinos believe that the Philippine government's efforts to fight corruption are ineffective, according to a global public opinion report.

Transparency International's 2009 Global Corruption Barometer survey showed that only 21 percent believe that the government's actions against graft are effective, while only two percent say "neither."

The organization said the 2009 Global Corruption Barometer is a public opinion survey with more than 73,000 respondents drawn from 69 countries and territories around the world.

In the Asia Pacific region, the Philippines ranked second worst in terms of how effectively Filipinos believe their government

is fighting corruption.

Following the Philippines in the list of worst to best is Japan, with 68 percent saying their government's actions against corruption are ineffective; Malaysia, 67 percent; Thailand, 65 percent; Pakistan, 51 percent; India, 45 percent; Cambodia, 28 percent; Indonesia, 19 percent; Brunei Darussalam, 17 percent; Hong Kong, 12 percent; and Singapore with only four percent.

On a global scale, the survey showed 56 percent do not think their governments are effectively fighting corruption, while 31 percent think otherwise and only 14 say neither.

The report said based on overall survey results, "government efforts to tackle corruption are largely seen as ineffective by the general public."

"While comparing the overall barometer responses to this question in 2007 and 2009, it is noteworthy that there have not been any considerable changes in perception. At the country level, however, there is more variation," it noted.

"The perception of government effectiveness in relation to addressing corruption appears to have increased in Armenia, Cambodia, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway," the report said.

"While the perception of government effectiveness appears to have decreased in Bosnia, Herzegovina, Greece, Malaysia, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela," it said. ■

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RP business community 'very environmentally friendly'

DESPITE the global downturn, plenty of privately held businesses (PHBs) are still prepared to introduce 'green' practices, according to latest research from the Grant Thornton International Business Report (IBR), even if those green practices have a negative effect on the bottom line.

The results were released by audit, tax and business advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (PGA), the Philippine member firm within Grant Thornton.

Respondents were asked how environmentally friendly they consider their business community to be. The Philippines emerged at the top, with 78 percent of local PHBs, saying they consider their business community to be 'very friendly' or 'friendly' to the environment.

"This is a very encouraging sign, that the Philippine business community is taking the 'green movement' seriously as opposed to just treating it as a fad or a trend," said Greg Navarro, managing partner and CEO of PGA.

"I think that more and more business leaders are embracing the idea that environmentally friendly practices do not have to be in opposition to their business strategies. They can actually incorporate these practices into their mission and build a sustainable business," Navarro said.

At last year's Carbon Forum Asia, a two-day conference that focused on initiatives against global warming, a study showed that Asia Pacific countries are making significant inroads towards achieving carbon neutral status: Of the total 1,186 clean development mechanism (CDM) projects registered with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 65 percent are from Asia Pacific.

According to a spokesperson for the forum, China, India, Thailand and the Philippines are some of the countries that have built up a strong portfolio of projects.

The IBR survey also asked respondents if they would establish environmentally friendly projects even if these were to negatively impact their bottom line. Sixty-four percent of Filipino business leaders said they would, compared to 34 percent

who said they would forgo such practices.

Examples of companies that have worked to balance business and environmental needs are Megaworld and Ayala Land.

Both property developers have set aside significant areas of their developments for open space and greenery, a major portion that could easily have been used for additional residential or commercial units.

Megaworld even started animal or pet friendly establishments, which were soon followed by other developers.

Petron Philippines is likewise putting an emphasis on 'green' practices. In its first sustainability report, which details the oil giant's efforts at environmental stewardship, among others, Petron announced its commitment to "integrate environmental responsibility into [its] decision-making process."

Although it already complies with the Clean Air Act of 1999, the company is continuing to work on reducing its greenhouse-gas emissions. And it recently completed a hydrology study that would inform its future water conservation projects.

Even local companies outside the top 1,000 are putting their greenest foot forward. A Cebu-based real estate development company recently completed what is dubbed as the country's first green IT building. Part of the facility's design allows it to reduce power consumption and recycle wastewater.

Chit Juan of Ecostore and the Coffee Board has long been an advocate of environmentally friendly and profitable business models.

"Despite the downturn, profit is clearly not the only factor driving PHBs, which makes sense," Navarro said.

"At this point, adopting 'green' practices is becoming a self-rewarding decision, since consumers are also more conscious about patronizing companies that work at being environmentally friendly. It is heartening to know that consumers may be willing to pay premium prices for free-trade products or services rendered by green companies," he added. *(PNA)*



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