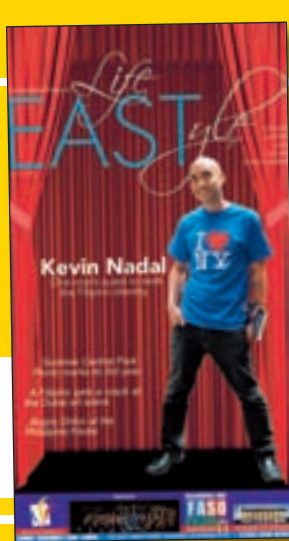




ASIAN JOURNAL

One man's quest to seek the Filipino identity



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Fil-Am group leads multi-sector meetings in DC

Options offered to prevent further foreclosures

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

WASHINGTON, DC—In yet another historic moment for the Filipino-American community, a pan-Asian group led by Faith Bautista, executive director of San Diego-based non-profit Mabuhay Alliance, met with top officials of various government offices in an effort to offer alternatives to solve the current housing crisis.

Bautista and her group, which also included leaders in the Hispanic and African American communities, met with key leaders in the administration who are working with each other

to solve the foreclosure crisis. These community leaders met with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, Chairman of the Financial Services Committee Barney Frank, among others.

"I am very happy and privileged to lead this group because this is the first time that a Filipino-American organization is spearheading something as big as this, and we are hoping that they get to listen to what we have to say," Bautista told the

▶ PAGE A2

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke met with members of Mabuhay Alliance, led by its executive director Faith Bautista (inset photo), last week in Washington, DC to discuss various issues, among them the other options for homeowners to avoid foreclosure. AJPress photo by Momar G. Visaya

Fil-Am community leaders join Obama, Corzine to work together for New Jersey



crowd was upbeat; some were dancing and waving posters that read "Obama/Corzine; Working together for New Jersey," to the music of Michael Jackson.

Governor Corzine said, "Real leadership is about taking on the hard challenges... and doing so in an honest and specific way... If a candidate won't be straight with New Jersey... If a candidate

HOLMDEL, NJ—It was a hot and humid afternoon last July 16 as New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine welcomed the 17,200 supporters who were intently waiting upon the arrival of President Barack Obama. Originally scheduled at Rutgers University, the rally was moved to the PNC Bank Arts Center due to the overwhelming response. During the wait, the



Gov. Jon Corzine with Pres. Barack Obama.

AJ contributed photo by Richard Reyes

▶ PAGE A2

Rising unemployment triggers more foreclosures

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress

ESCALATING unemployment in both Nevada and California has triggered an increase in home foreclosure rates, shrinking any hope that the housing crisis will end and the economy will recover.

Nevada has the highest home foreclosure rate in the nation at 6 percent while California is at the fourth spot with 2.94 percent, data from CA-based listing service RealtyTrac showed. A majority of foreclosed homes in Nevada, however,

are owned by California residents.

Home foreclosure problems in Nevada has gotten so bad that Sen. Harry Reid even opened a hotline in his office to help point people to the right agency to help with their status.

"We can't solve all the problems, but one of the things we found is people who want to get some help on their house (or) find out what the rules are can't get anyone on the phone. And we can direct people to the right party" he said in an interview with KVBC Las Vegas.

In past recessions in the US, the hous-

ing industry had helped get the economy back on track. Home builders built more lower-priced homes that enticed more buyers. Increased consumer spending had helped the economy recover during past downturns.

But a recent Associated Press (AP) analysis showed that such is not inclined to happen this time.

For one, continued unemployment in the country makes it difficult for homeowners to pay their monthly housing payments.

▶ PAGE A2

GMA, Obama to tackle substantive matters—Ermita

by PAOLO ROMERO
Philstar.com

THE meeting between President Arroyo and US President Barack Obama at the White House would tackle "substantive matters" and not about the country's internal politics as the opposition are claiming, a top Palace official said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was commenting on statements from critics that Mrs. Arroyo would be given

EXCLUSIVE TO THE ASIAN JOURNAL Jose de Venecia, Jr.: 'We must choose a transformational president who is a visionary'

by ROCHELLE C. PANGILINAN
AJPress



Former House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr. turns in a serious note when asked about the current administration in a recent exclusive interview with the Asian Journal. AJPress Photo by Andrew Tadalán

MANILA—Last July 21, Pangasinan Rep. and former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, Jose de Venecia filed a petition for the nullification of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD merger which he claims was illegal and violated the charter of the Lakas-CMD party.

The 20-page petition was filed at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) also called for the invalidation of the designation of Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as chairman of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, as well as the appointment of all other interim officers. Also named as respondents were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Speaker Prospero Nograles, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio.

"The founding fathers of the Lakas

▶ PAGE A3

Cory Aquino calls her 5 kids to bedside

by FE ZAMORA & TINA SANTOS
Inquirer.net

THE ailing Corazon Aquino called all her five children to her bedside on Tuesday, July 20 according to her youngest daughter.

"Last night, we were all here [at Makati Medical Center]. I called all my siblings after my mom asked for all of us to be together," TV host and actress Kris Aquino said last Wednesday, July 21.

The former President remains in stable condition, her spokesperson Deedee Siytagco told reporters after the third of five healing Masses was celebrated Wednesday at Manila City Hall.

"As far as I know, she's stable [and] her vital signs are okay. But her appetite has not improved," said Siytagco,



MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim has been holding a series of healing Masses for ex-President Cory Aquino at City Hall. Seen at the Mass on Wednesday, July 21 with Mayor Lim are US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and ex-Sen. Franklin Drilon who was Ms Aquino's executive secretary, among other positions he held in her Cabinet. The Aquinos' spokesperson says the iconic President Cory is stable and people should ignore "the nasty rumors."

Inquirer photo by Rem Zamora

who urged the public to ignore nasty rumors about Aquino's condition.

Siytagco said the Aquino family had promised to update her.

"They promised to call if anything changes," she said. "I know the public needs to know, but if there are rumors—I know there are—just ignore them. You [will hear updates] from us."

Letter from Hillary
Masses for Aquino's healing have been celebrated at Manila City Hall since Monday, July 20. US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Ambassador

▶ PAGE A3

Villar dominates SWS survey; Erap up to No. 2

by MICHAEL UBAC
Inquirer.net

DISLODGING Vice President Noli de Castro, Sen. Manuel M. Villar topped the survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) last month on the leader who should succeed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2010.

De Castro fell to fourth place with only 19 percent of the 1,500 respondents

polled nationwide rooting for him, down from 21 percent in May and 27 percent in February.

It was De Castro's lowest rating since September 2007.

Conducted from June 19 to 22, the survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percent.

Villar obtained the nod of 33 percent

▶ PAGE A3

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