

# US Filipino citizens urged...

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Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said in a recent interview in Manila, Philippines.

OAV was made into law in 2003 through Republic Act 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act. Under this law, Filipinos who have re-acquired their Filipino citizenship can participate in Philippine elections via OAV.

Similarly, the law allows Filipino citizens living abroad to participate in elections in the Philippines even without going back to the country.

With OAV, ballots are sent to voters by mail. Voters need to mail the ballots back to the Consulate where he or she registered.

This is the third OAV registration for overseas Filipinos after the law was passed in 2003 in time for the 2004 Philippine presidential elections. Registration period this year, for the 2010 elections, started last February and will end in August.

"All OAV registrants during this period can vote for the president and vice president, 12 senators, and party list representatives during the May

2010 general elections," PCG LA Vice Consul Reyes also said in the interview.

Consular outreach programs will be initiated by PCG LA on May 16th in Panorama City, CA; in Las Vegas, NV on May 23rd and 24th; in Walnut CA on May 30th; and in Chandler, AZ on July 18th.

This consular office has jurisdiction over the areas of Southern Nevada, Southern California, Texas and Arizona.

For its part, the Philippine Consulate General New York (PCG NY) will hold outreach programs in Rochester, NY on May 16th; in Philadelphia, PA on July 11th and in Massachusetts on July 18th.

PCG NY covers Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Both NY and LA consular offices have been trying to reach out to more Filipino voters via outreach programs in their respective jurisdictions. This is to make registration faster and more convenient for Filipinos. (*Dymphna Calica-La Putt*)

# The upside of a downturn

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growth areas and opportunities, best practices and strategic solutions for small and minority businesses in today's challenging marketplace. The 24th Anniversary CelebrAsian Business Opportunity Conference will be held at the New York Marriott at The Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn, New York.

"USPAACC Education Foundation has been at the forefront of education, training and nurturing Asian American suppliers and business owners since 1984, and CelebrAsian, our flagship event, provides valuable access, puts the spotlight on innovation, and sharpens their competitive edge to sustain growth in today's challenging times," Allen added.

The conference theme, *Business beyond Boundaries: Turning Challenges into Opportunities—Follow the Money*, highlights how businesses could thrive in an economic downturn, where to find opportunities in the federal initiative on "green" energy, and strategy to win a piece of the Obama Administration's \$787 billion economic stimulus package.

"We started USPAACC because we wanted to create an organization that would help improve each community's economic standing so we, as Asian Americans, can collectively raise our voice," Allen shared.

As the oldest and largest pan-Asian American business opportunity conference in the country, CelebrAsian connects hundreds of top-caliber Asian American suppliers and business owners with buyers from Fortune 500 corporations, the federal government, and the small and minority business community, through pre-scheduled one-on-one matchmaking meetings, informative summits, workshops and networking events.

Featured speakers this year include PepsiCo International Vice Chairman and CEO Michael White, New York City Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Robert Walsh and Steve Tappin, co-author of the bestselling book *The Secrets of CEOs*.

Tappin, who will be the featured speaker at the International CEO Forum on May 20, will share his unique insights based on his personal interviews with 150 global CEOs.

Sessions also include Follow the Money: Expand through the Stimulus Plan; Successful Marketing; Strategy for Growth; Guanxi Business Opportunity Fair (Guanxi is a commonly used business term meaning "connections" or "relationship"); Go Green: Opportunities for Green Suppliers; Strategic Alliances with Corporations and the Federal Government, among others.

"It is a little known fact that federal contracting is one of the largest in the world, with the federal government spending \$500 billion in contracts a year," Allen said.

The spotlight will also be placed on the success and achievements of outstanding Asian American businesses, through several special events during the conference, including the USPAACC Education Foundation/Wells Fargo Asian Business Leadership Awards, the Business Leaders and Scholarship Awards luncheon and the Excellence Awards Gala Dinner presenting the "Fast 50 Asian American Businesses."

For more information about CelebrAsian, visit [www.uspaacc.com](http://www.uspaacc.com).

# 'Emong's' rampage a wake-up call

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tion, in case they would have to move people.

Celeste also sent home all local government employees living in island villages because the sea was expected to get rough in the afternoon and they might get stranded.

But both officials would later realize that no amount of disaster preparedness would have mat-

tered with a typhoon as strong as "Emong."

When the skies cleared the following morning, on Friday, May 8, the two mayors could not believe that there was so much devastation in their towns.

**Overwhelming**  
"The destruction was overwhelming. We were like in a war zone," said Pulido, whose town's aquaculture industry was almost

wiped out. Two persons died and 95 percent of all the houses on the island lost their roofs.

Pulido said had they not been prepared, thousands of people in his town could have gone hungry the following day.

While a team distributed food, other groups cleared the roads of fallen trees and other debris. The clearing operations turned out easier said than done. ■

# RP is ok thus far, says New York Times

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sectors—is in call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) which should keep growing, albeit more slowly, it said.

Business outsourcing absorbs some educated labor but does little for the unskilled, the NYT article said.

Another boost will come from government spending in badly needed infrastructure, health and education which have been made possible by stabilizing fis-

cal position over several years that brought interest rates and the cost of debt servicing down, it added.

Even agriculture, long a drag on the economy, has been achieving steady growth of 3 percent a year with increased investment and higher prices, the NYT reported.

In his article, Bowring said the bottomline in the Philippines' good economic performance is that it did not depend on export

manufacturing, which, however, was also a weakness in that the country failed to use its abundant labor force.

Industry accounted for only 33 percent of output and has been declining for three decades. Philippine infrastructure is poor because of low budget revenues and the dominance of a few big groups in its commercial life has become a disincentive, the NYT report said. ■

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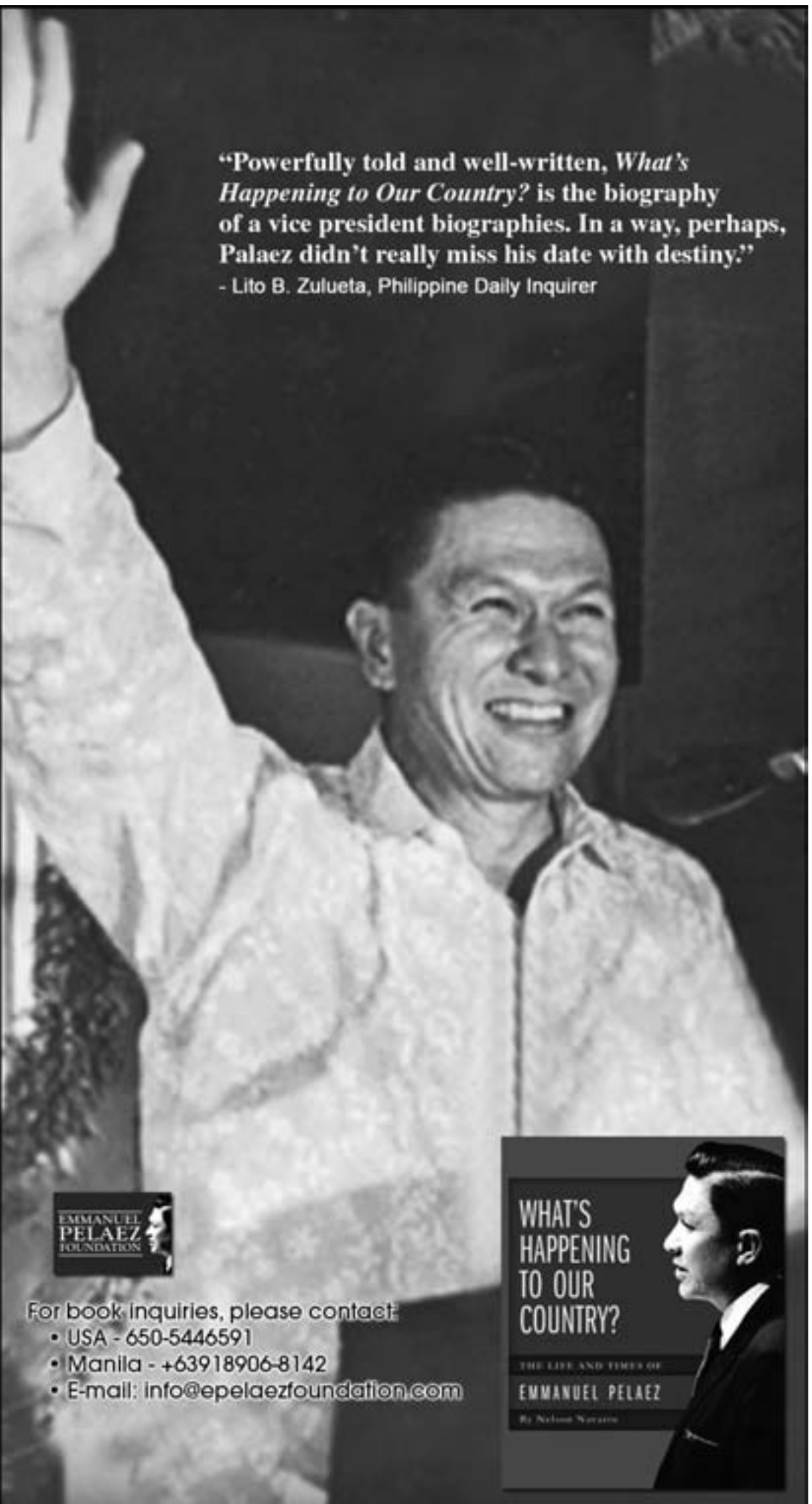
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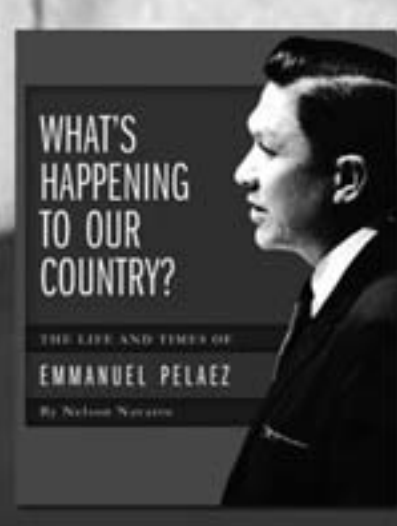
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WHAT'S  
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COUNTRY?

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF  
EMMANUEL PELAEZ

By Nelson Nazario

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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">IMMIGRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Citizenship</li> <li>• Green Card</li> </ul> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Marriage Petitions, Realtive Petitions Employer Petitions, PERM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visa</li> <li><i>H-1B Temporary Worker Investor's VISA</i></li> <li>• Deportation Defense</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">PERSONAL INJURY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Auto Accidents</li> <li>• Rear Enders</li> <li>• Injuries from defective products</li> <li>• Serious injuries from premises accidents</li> <li>• Fractures &amp; brain injuries from accidents</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FAMILY LAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Property Division</li> <li>• Child Custody and Visitation</li> <li>• Child and Spousal Support</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Restraining Order</li> <li>• Legal Separation</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">CIVIL LITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Disputes</li> <li>• Real Estate Disputes</li> <li>• Breach of Contract</li> <li>• Partnership Dissolution</li> <li>• Business Dissolution</li> </ul>
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