

## LA schools face tough choices to cut \$131M

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles school officials say the results of May 19's special election will have a devastating impact on the nation's second largest school district.

School district Superintendent Ramon Cortines said last May 20 that voters' rejection of the budget propositions will force the district to cut \$131 million by July 1. In addition, he said the district will have to cut another \$404 million over the next two academic years.

Cortines said district officials are considering a number of alternatives, including furlough days, salary freezes, elimination of summer school, putting administrative employees on a 10-month work year and reducing after-school programs.

Most of the ballot measures, proposing a complex mix of spending reforms, higher taxes, borrowing and funding shifts to solve a \$42 billion deficit, were losing by wide margins. (AP)

## In praise of FASO

PAGE A1 ◀

its second magnificent encore number, the theatre rocked and swayed. Many thought the impressed and overwhelmingly excited audience were jumping and leaping with joy that caused the floor to rock. It was only later in the evening when we all learned that a 4.7 magnitude earthquake hit the city at the exact time the FASO was being cheered, rooted and applauded for its unforgettable debut performance.

May 17 was an unprecedented date for the Fil-Am community. Roger and Cora Oriol, together with Lito Cruz, were being congratulated by one and all for having the vision and the passion to form America's first Fil-Am symphony orchestra. Maestro Bob Shroder and his over 50-member orchestra truly gave a most outstanding performance proving to the world that the Filipino is truly world-class in its musical and artistic ability. Adding to the majestic performance of FASO was the superb singing of Joey Albert, Stephanie Reese, Pete

Avendano and Kit Navarro, plus the unbelievable power and grace of Ruby Karen. No one came out of the theatre who wasn't totally impressed and proud to be a Filipino.

The people who trooped to the Saban Theatre to watch the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra gala concert were all one in heaping praises for the evening's historical performance. Here are some special quotes from some special people:

"The concert more than met my expectations. They truly make us proud to be a Filipino. They've given added honor again to the Filipino American community here in Southern California. Not only in Southern California but throughout the United States because they are the first and only Filipino American Symphony Orchestra. So, I encourage everyone to come and support their future performances. It's a treat. Invite your friends here in the US to come and witness their great performance."—Philippine Consul General Mary Jo Aragon,

Los Angeles Consulate

"This is so phenomenal. I just think it's about time we have this. I'm so proud to be a part of this evening."—Jennifer Paz, formerly of *Miss Saigon*

"It was great and I'm so happy and proud that Roger and Cora had the FASO to show the world and the rest of the US that we have it too and to make use of our local talents and not have to import talents from the Philippines to do things here in the US."—Celia Defato, Kultura Philippines Folk Arts

"The orchestra was amazing. This one is specifically special because it's really showing the culture of the Philippines. I've never seen anything like it. I've seen people cry in the event. It's so emotional. I'm organizing an event with the Los Angeles mayor to get exposure for this orchestra. This is an amazing event."—Hogan Lee, Asian Professional Exchange

"I think this is the best thing the Filipinos have ever done and I'd like to say congratulations to Roger and Cora because I think this is going to be a nostalgic but very historical event."—Eddie Sotiangco, Chairman, Sotiangco

Group of Companies

"The concert is awesome. It's outstanding and right now, I'm speechless. FASO, you guys are like off the charts right now. I mean that!"—Edsel Godwin Sotiangco

"This is fantastic. You made history. You made the Filipino community very, very proud. This is immeasurable. Great show!"—Errol Santos, Business Development Consultant, Hollywood Presbyterian Center

"It's amazing how Filipinos are coming out and showing what we're really made of. It's so exciting. Filipinos are starting to show their talents and making it known to the rest of the world."—Rich Cabael, CEO, VuQo Inc.

"Very passionate. Very exciting. First of many, I hope."—David Benoit, Composer, Pianist, Conductor

"This is actually the first time I'm watching an orchestra and I'm actually speechless. It's just a

very exciting thing. I love it."—R. Santos, Los Angeles

"I think it's awesome. It's really, really nice."—Mary Ann Pagsibigan-Pimenta, Bander Law Firm

"We enjoyed it very much. Very good work!"—Dan Manuel/Glen Treibitz, Hollywood Piano

"I'm so happy this evening. Dreams really do come true, you know. Roger and Lito, congratulations! We keep doing big things for the Filipino. Yay!"—Cecile Ramos, president of Historic Filipinotown Neighborhood Council

"I think it's been an amazing performance. It's a pride and a pleasure to watch so many talented people of all ages perform. It's so great to be here."—Catherine Banales, Los Angeles County Music Center

"Quite exciting! Hopefully, there'll be many, many more concerts to see."—John Claude Gummo, The Cascades. ■

## RP gov't protests Alec Baldwin's joke, actor issues apology

PAGE A1 ◀

order bride' to achieve the goal of having more children in my life. I believe that most people understood that this was a joke and took it as such. (A dated reference, no doubt, and another sign of my advancing age.) However, I do apologize to anyone who took offense."

Huffington Post picked up the Associated Press news item two days earlier about the reaction that Baldwin's remarks have generated in the Philippines.

The AP story mentioned Philippine Sen. Ramon Revilla who said that Baldwin's comment was "insensitive and uncalled for" and an insult to millions of Filipinos. He also called Baldwin "arrogant" and said he is apparently unaware that the Philippines has a law against mail-order brides.

"Let him try to come here in the Philippines and he'll see mayhem," Revilla said, using a local idiom that implies the speaker will personally administer a beating.

"The comments of some Philippine government officials come as no surprise to me, either," Baldwin wrote in his blog post. "Even the one by a former action film star-turned-Senator who beckoned me to come to the Philippines so he could 'beat' me over my comment. Such anger and frustration about

the issue of sex trafficking is understandable."

A few readers defended Baldwin, explaining that what he said was a joke. "No one seems to get that he was making fun of himself," reader A Garcia commented. Others criticized Filipino government officials for being too sensitive. One commenter castigated Sen. Revilla for reacting this way.

"Of all the socio-economic, political, not to mention moral challenges facing my country, he somehow woke from his stupor to object to another actor's comments. What really gets to me is the hypocrisy of it all. A devote [sic] Catholic, he has actually fathered numerous love children. For him to be indignant about another man's intention to marry a Filipino, while he himself has had extra-marital affairs, is really shameful. Shameful!" commented reader sdelariarte.

### Protest

Consul General Cecilia Rebong of the Philippine Consulate General in New York sent a letter to Baldwin and the producers of the Late Show with David Letterman to express deep concern over the remarks made by the actor which were "derogatory, prejudiced, insensitive and stereotyped Filipino women negatively".

"The consulate shares the sentiments expressed by many others that although said in jest, the remarks displayed insensitivity and tactlessness," Rebong said in a statement.

"The Philippines is one of the leading countries in the effort to eliminate the trafficking of women and children," Rebong wrote.

The consul general said that the Philippine Congress passed Republic Act 6955 or "The Anti Mail-Order Bride Law of 1990" and the RA 9208: "The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act," which criminalizes the act of "introducing for money or other consideration any Filipino to a foreigner as a possible spouse."

"These laws were enacted in our country to protect Filipino women from being sold into marriage to a foreigner and being taken overseas where the ability of our government to protect her interests is severely diminished," she explained.

"Being an actor and a comedian it is understandable that you may not be aware of these matters," Rebong added. "However, as a public figure, it is incumbent upon you to be sensitive to discriminatory statements, especially in a multicultural society as colorful, rich and diverse as that of the United States." ■



**U.S. Census Bureau News**  
Los Angeles Regional Census Center  
9301 Corbin Avenue, Suite 1000  
Northridge, California 91324

**Managers Being Recruited for 2010 Census**  
**Tagalog-Speaking Managers Sought for 19 counties**

**Northridge, CA**

The Los Angeles Regional Census Center is actively recruiting managers for 27 Local Census Offices. 26 will be located in Southern California, and one in Honolulu, Hawaii. With the exception of the U.S. military, the nationwide recruiting effort for the decennial census is the largest peace time hiring of temporary federal employees.

In the fall of 2009, these 27 Local Census Offices will open to direct Field Operations for the region's population count on Census Day, April 1, 2010. These offices will be located in strategic areas of southern California and on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Managers' salaries range from \$19.25 to \$29.00 per hour depending on location and position.

The current focus and priority is on recruiting and testing to fill six key management positions for each Local Census Office before the openings in the Fall, 2009. The positions are: Local Census Office Manager, Assistant Manager for Field Operations, Assistant Manager for Administration, Assistant Manager for Recruiting, Assistant Manager for Quality Assurance, and Assistant Manager for Technology.

Testing will be ongoing in Local Census Office cities and their surrounding areas. To reserve a seat for testing, please call (866) 861-2010, enter zero: "0" and your zip code.

New offices will open in the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Fresno, Santa Barbara, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

For more information on Census 2010 jobs in the Los Angeles Region, please visit [www.census.gov/losangeles](http://www.census.gov/losangeles).  
Click on the link for "Regional Employment."



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