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Cezar Mancao extradited, arrives in RP



Former Senior Superintendent Cezar Mancao II
Photo by Percival Cuevas of ABS-CBN

LOS ANGELES—US Marshalls turned over former Senior Superintendent Cezar Mancao II to Philippine authorities at the Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday night, June 2.

In an unmarked tan Suburban, US Marshalls parked in front of the Tom Bradley International Airport where Mancao was served his travel documents by Attorney Claro de Castro Jr., chief of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Interpol Division.

NBI officers, who are escorting Mancao's arrival to the Philippines, briefly opened the car door where journalists saw a glimpse of Mancao seated in the backseat wearing prescription glasses, white dress shirt, blue jeans and shackles around his waist and wrists.

Mancao, another former police offi-

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NV Senator Ensign not inclined to support Filipino WWII Veterans in RP



Nevada Senator John Ensign
AJPress photo by Robert Macabagdal

NOT wanting to raise the standard of living of war veterans living in the Philippines, Nevada Senator John Ensign is not inclined to support a move to increase the federal benefits of these former soldiers.

"If they got the same amount of money as veterans here, we would basically allow them to live at a much higher level of standard of living than any veterans that we provide for in the United States," Ensign said.

The senator spoke during a monthly luncheon of the Asian Chamber of Commerce at the Palace Station Hotel, Las Vegas, last Friday, May 29.

Rozita Lee, vice chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, had asked Sen. Ensign what he would do with regard to the campaign for full equity for Filipino World War II veterans living in the Philippines.

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Former RP Pres. Ramos: No meeting with ERAP



Former RP President Fidel V. Ramos

MANILA—There won't be any meeting between former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada after all.

Ramos Wednesday, June 3 flatly denied reports that he would sit down for a dialogue with his successor as both administration and the opposition camp prepare for the May 2010 presidential elections.

"No such meeting is taking place," he tersely said in a statement.

Ramos, now the chair emeritus of the new Lakas Kampi CMD administration party, declared that he would never meet with Estrada despite constant overtures by some camps.

"The meeting with Erap (Estrada's moniker) has been brought up to me by some people over the past years, but I neither entertained nor encouraged them to pursue the matter. That has always been my position and it remains the same to this date," he said.

Ed Malay, coordinator for Ramos, had earlier told the *Inquirer* that a meeting between the two former leaders would happen anytime soon, and this would impact on the merged party. Ramos said he did not authorize Malay to issue the statement. (*Inquirer.net*)

Senator Villar tops SWS Survey

by MAILA AGER
Inquirer.net



Sen. Manny Villar

MANILA—Embattled Sen. Manny Villar has emerged as the leading presidential contender in the latest survey conducted by the Social Weather Station.

Villar posted a high 22 percent approval rating from 7,000 respondents polled nationwide by the SWS between April 16 and May 6, 2009.

Vice Pres. Noli de Castro followed Villar with 18 percent ; Sen.

Francis Escudero and deposed Pres. Joseph Estrada with 14; Sen. Loren Legarda with 10 percent; Sen. Manuel Roxas with 9 percent; Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson with 6 percent, Makati Jejomar Binay with 2 percent; MMDA chairman Bayani Fernando with 1 percent.

In a scenario with five candidates, Villar also topped the list with 27 percent, followed by De Castro with 22 percent; Escudero with 19 percent; Estrada with 16 percent; and Legarda with 13 percent.

Villar retained the top post with 31 percent even in a scenario with only four candidates. He was followed by De Castro 24 percent; Escudero with 23 percent; and Legarda with 18 percent.

If the 2010 presidential race would be a three-way contest among Escudero, De Castro and Villar, the latter would still win the election with 37 percent compared to De Castro's 30 percent and Escudero's 27 percent.

If it's a three-way contest with De Castro and Legarda, Villar would still win the presidency with 39 percent with De Castro getting only 30 percent and Legarda, 24 percent. ■

SPECIAL REPORT

The Signs of The Times

Internet views, outrage on Philippine Congress 'ConAss'

by LOUIE JON A. SANCHEZ
AJPress Manila

MANILA—In the Internet, remnants of the public coverage of the Philippine Congress' passage of the House Resolution (HR) 1109, which calls members of the House of Representatives to convene as a Constituent Assembly to revise the 1987 Constitution, continue to run, despite the resolution being passed in what was a marathon session by Tuesday midnight, with the minority objections quelled successfully through

a viva voce and an alleged "no cha-cha, no pork barrel" tall order from Malacañang circulating. All these unfolded with the president nowhere in sight, as she went on state visits.

The outrage of people conquered social networking sites like Facebook.com and Plurk.com. In the popular Twitter platform, journalists and watchdogs created timelines that comprehensively

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NP swears in Tamano and Laurel, opposes Con-Ass

MANILA—NACIONALISTA Party (NP) president Manny Villar swore in lawyer Adel Tamano and Arsenic Laurel as the newest members of the political party today at the Laurel House in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Tamano, the eighth son of the late Sen. Mamintal Tamano and civic leader Hadja Putri Zorayda Abbas Tamano, has resigned as spokesman of the United Opposition (UNO) to join NP.

Tamano said, "My family has deep roots in the Nacionalista Party and part of what I am doing is to honor my late father

and continue his work as a Nacionalista."

"Likewise, I have to make a stand as to who should be president in 2010: It is Sen. Manny Villar. Our biggest problem in the country is poverty and it will take someone who has really experienced poverty to redeem us out of it. That is why I choose him," he said.

He also emphasized, "I'm not entering Nacionalista Party with the expectation that I will be one of its senatorial candidates. If they believe that I have what it takes to be a good candidate, I will let

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Family of Pinoy on Air France flight still hope for a miracle

by DINO BALABO
Philstar.com

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—The family of the Filipino seaman on board the ill-fated Air France Flight 447 from Brazil to France are hoping against all odds that their relative is still alive after the plane disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean last May 31.

"I still believe that he is alive," said Miguela Jugueta, 41, wife of Arden Jugueta, the lone Filipino passenger of flight 447 that went missing hours after it took off from Rio de Janeiro.

Arden, 41, worked as a mechanic of Elburge Ship Management, an Italian shipping firm based in Brazil. He has worked as a seaman for the past 18 years.

Miguela said that she and Arden talked and saw

each other via Internet videophone in Rio de Janeiro, several minutes before her husband boarded the Air France jet last Sunday, May 31.

"Bago siya sumakay, sabi niya ay ite-text na lang niya ako pagdating niya sa (Before he boarded he said he would text me when he got to) Paris after 13 hours," Miguela said in an interview at their house in Barangay Buliran here.

But hours after her conversation with Jugueta, Miguela received a call from an official of her husband's company informing her that flight 447 went missing while crossing the Atlantic.

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Arden Jugueta, the lone Filipino passenger of the Air France flight that disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean, is shown in this undated photo sent to The STAR by his daughter Aleli last June 3. *Philstar.com photo*

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