

Ted Failon taken into police custody

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arrested early evening of April 15, but police were yet to take Failon into custody in his house, where Vice President Noli de Castro, a friend and former broadcast colleague, and lawyers were keeping him company.

A police source said a paraffin test showed that Failon was negative for powder burns.

In an interview over ABS-CBN late night of April 15, Failon said his wife had left him a letter, saying she was sorry but gave no details.

In his statement sent earlier by his home network ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Failon said in Filipino that he did not complete his program over dzMM radio in the morning of April 15 after speaking with his wife on the phone.

"I immediately went home and saw that the bathroom door was locked. I had the door opened and I found my wife bloodied, so I rushed her to the hospital," he said.

'It's a tragedy'

Police have found a purported suicide note, in which Trinidad Etong allegedly sought forgiveness.

The handgun, a Walther PPK .380, was found in the bathroom, which, according to Mabanag, had been cleaned.

Mabanag said Failon had been administered a paraffin test, and that the broadcaster had admitted quarreling with his wife on the night of April 14.

Failon was overheard saying that "it's a tragedy," and that "the media should let it be" because "it's a private matter."

Indeed, ABS-CBN corporate communications head Bong Osorio said in a statement: "We appeal to everyone to please respect the privacy of Ted Failon

and his family. His wife is fighting for her life."

Mabanag said that despite the suicide note, police were not considering the shooting a suicide attempt because of the position of the gun and the gunshot wound.

"It appears to be a clear shot—through and through *ang tama*," said a resident physician at the New Era General Hospital. "The entry point is the left side of the temporal area..."

Mabanag said Failon had requested the police not to take him to the police station and to continue the investigation at his house.

Noli worried

Vice President Noli de Castro, a colleague and close friend of Failon's, and businessman Delfin Lee arrived at about 6:30pm at the broadcaster's house upon his request.

De Castro is also a resident of the Tierra Pura subdivision.

In an interview on the phone, De Castro said he went to see Failon because he was worried about his friend and the latter's family.

"I was able to speak with him, but I will not speak for him. It's not what many think. But the police are now talking with him," De Castro said in a mix of Filipino and English.

According to the Vice President, his immediate concern is the monitoring of Failon's condition.

"As a friend, I am praying that Trina's life will be saved, and that the whole family will get through this," De Castro said.

He begged off from commenting further, saying: "The police have started their investigation. Let us allow them to do their work." ■

Assembly Member Mike Eng unveils report on unique health concerns for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress

LOS ANGELES—Surrounded by community healthcare advocates and medical professionals, Assembly Member Mike Eng of the 49th Assembly District, unveiled "The State of Asian, American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Health in California Report at the Chinatown Service Center on Thursday, April 9.

"Given the AANHPI community's ethnic and socio-economic diversity and the ever-increasing need to address the rising costs of healthcare, rate of the uninsured and underinsured, and healthcare disparities, it is imperative that policy makers at all levels of government have access to current data in order to formulate new and relevant healthcare policies," declared Assembly Member Eng, who represents the cities of Alhambra, El Monte, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, and South El Monte.

The report showed that some AANHPI ethnic groups are at higher risks of some illnesses compared to the rest of the population, while other AANHPI subgroups have been rarely studied if ever. The report sought to provide valuable healthcare information to local and state policy makers, primary and secondary care providers, as well as, for non-profit organizations. Some highlights of the report are:

AANHPIs in California today number over five million and comprise over 14 per cent of the population, making this minority group one of the fastest growing racial populations in the state. The report said that AANHPIs are the only racial group for whom the leading cause of death is cancer. Samoan children, the report also stated, have the



Assembly Member Michael Eng (holding a poster) with healthcare advocates and medical professionals at press conference held at Chinatown Service Center.

AJPress Photo by Rene Villaroman

largest percentage, at 54 per cent, of all children in the state whose body mass index (BMI) is not within the healthy fitness zone. The report added that Koreans have the highest rate of uninsured, at 33 per cent, of any racial/ethnic group in the state, far outpacing the state average of uninsured adults, which stands at 15 per cent; and

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Universal healthcare proposed for California

Bill to be considered by State Senate Committee

SACRAMENTO, CA—State lawmakers are set to consider a law being pushed by a San Francisco senator that would create a state-managed universal health care system.

With lawmakers returning from Easter recess this week, the Senate Health Com-

mittee is scheduled on April 15 to hear the health care proposal from Democrat Mark Leno.

Previous legislation on the matter has been vetoed twice in the past by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Lawmakers are also set to discuss a bill

by a San Diego lawmaker that would require all homes built starting in about 2020 to be so-called zero net energy buildings.

The bill by San Diego Assemblywoman Lori Saldana is on the agenda of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee for today. (AP)

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