

RP Defense Sec. Teodoro sees 'good tandem' with Puno in 2010

by KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and himself would make a "very good tandem" in the May 2010 elections.

"Kung iba-base lang sa paguugnayan namin sa ngayon, malakas na malakas na tambalan na yun ano, at makakabuti para sa bansa dahil yung eksperyensiya naming dalawa at paguugnayan ay maganda. If we base it on our working relationship now, it is a very strong partnership, our experience, our cooperation will be good for the country," he said.



Defense Sec. Gilbert Teodoro Jr.



Interior Sec. Ronaldo Puno

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Presidency or nothing for Teodoro, says wife

by LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
Inquirer.net

MANILA—It's the presidency or nothing for Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., his wife, Tarlac Representative Monica Louise Prieto-Teodoro, said.

Mrs. Teodoro said "powerful people," businessmen, and members of civil society had been talking to her husband and had pledged to back him up in his bid to become the country's next president in the May 2010 elections.

"We're not trying to get popular overnight by doing the Senate or running for VP [vice president]. We're trying to do it right the first time around. If we can do it right the first time around [that's] great, if not, no problem, you know, we're business people anyway," she said.

"This is not a game to us. We're not trying to get *pogi* [brownie] points here by getting more popular for the Senate or for VP. This is a something we talked about that we want to make a difference," she told reporters in an interview at the House of Representatives.

She said the Defense chief had the credentials and was willing to make "sacrifices" for the country.

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Turning the economic crisis into opportunities

USPAACC Conference gives small and minority businesses strategic access, tools and solutions to sustain growth

BROOKLYN, NY—The message was loud and clear: in order to thrive and succeed in these difficult times, Asian American businesses must turn the current economic challenges into opportunities.

But how exactly does one do that? "Build relationships and forge vital business alliances," said Susan Au Allen, USPAACC Education Foundation National President & CEO at the 24th CelebrAsian Business Opportunity Conference '09 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge last week. "CelebrAsian '09 will also emphasize the importance of business connections—solidified by the value of "face-time" and the power of a handshake. Today, these relationships are more important than ever."



This year's theme *Business Beyond Boundaries: Turning Challenges into Opportunities—Follow the Money* couldn't have been more apt since the conference recognizes the travails of businesses in the current economic landscape and offers strategic approaches to thrive in the marketplace.

Allen is optimistic that the end of the recession is near.

"I see a bright spot on the horizon and I am confident that we can collect..."

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RP entry a finalist in Democracy Video Challenge of US State Department

by PIA LEE-BRAGO
Philstar.com

MANILA—A film produced by two Filipino artists has been chosen one of 18 finalists in a worldwide video contest initiated by the United States' Department of State, the US Embassy in Manila announced last May 26.

The entry *Long Live the Fearless Man* by Aissa Peñafiel and Miguel Ocampo was short-listed from over 900 entries from 95 countries that participated in the Democracy Video Challenge that the state department and its partners launched in September 2008.

The 18 finalists are Brazil (with two chosen entries), Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, India, Iran (with two chosen entries), Japan, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, the United States, Uzbekistan, and Zambia.

The videos may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/democrachallenge> or by searching on the Internet by title or on YouTube. Viewers may vote for their chosen video on the same site. Voting ends on midnight of June 15.

Each three-minute video entry attempted to define democracy by completing the phrase "Democracy is..."

The contest has resulted in more than 900 videos that provide an array of voices and visions about democracy from around the world.

A panel of jurors representing film, media, academia, democracy promotion and youth empowerment selected the finalists.

Michael Apted, president of the Directors Guild of America, and Hernando de Soto, president of the Institute for Liberty

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DATELINE PHILIPPINES

Fil-Am activist's companion surfaces

by RUSEEL ARADOR
Inquirer.net

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac—The second of three volunteer health workers abducted by eight armed men on May 19 in La Paz, Tarlac was released Monday night, the leftist group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said.

Dave dela Peña, chairman of Bayan Tarlac, said reports relayed by the relatives of Juanito Carabeo, 54, indicate that he has returned to the family home in Bataan.

On Monday, May 25 Bayan announced that Filipino-American activist Melissa Roxas has also returned to her family in Metro Manila after being taken by armed men along with Carabeo and John Edward Jandoc for six days (not seven as earlier reported).

But no statement was given by the family on what exactly happened to her and on the condition of her companions.

Carabeo, Roxas, and Jandoc were taken from a farmer's house in Barangay (Village) Kapanikian in La Paz town by suspected government soldiers last week.

The abductors, all armed and wearing ski masks, arrived on two motorcycles and a Kia Besta van without a license plate, reports from the human rights group Karapatan said.

Dela Peña said Carabeo, 54, phoned his relatives at around

10pm Monday, May 25 to tell them he was in Bataan and that they should return immediately.

He said Carabeo's relatives had been staying in Tarlac since May 20, the day they received a text message from an anonymous sender, telling them that Carabeo was missing.

Dela Peña on Tuesday, May 26 said they have yet to receive details on the abduction of Carabeo's group and how he was able to return home.

The human rights group Karapatan was informed by the family of Roxas that she was back and resting in her house in Quezon City.

Roxas, 31, an American citizen of Filipino descent, is a member of Habi Arts and Bayan USA, the Bayan chapter in the United States. At the time of her abduction, she was working as a volunteer health worker in Tarlac.

Dela Peña said they were still trying to determine if Jandoc, 16, had returned to his hometown in Aurora.

While relatives of the victims suspected the military of abducting the three, Major Rosendo Armas, information officer of the military's Northern Luzon Command based at Camp Servillano Aquino here, denied any military participation. ■

300 miles and counting

Pinay runner makes brief pit stop in Las Vegas



Joy Rojas Philstar.com photo

LAS VEGAS, NV—THE last time we saw Joy Rojas she was sprinting outside of Eagle Rock Plaza.

That was last May 10. The 44-year-old Pinay's goal was to run across America and 12 days later, she's made it to Las Vegas, NV.

"It's been the most colorful 12 days of

my life," said Rojas in a press conference during Western Union's customer appreciation day outside of The Palace Station Hotel and Casino last Saturday, May 23. "It's a very difficult task to do but we have no regrets. In the 12 days since we ran from the Glendale, CA area to Nevada, we have seen and done things that we never thought we'd never see and do in our lifetime. We've crossed the Mojave Desert. We have climbed up Mount Baldy. We have seen snow for the first time in our lives and ate cactus."

Rojas said it's been an "extremely difficult" journey but "no regrets."

"California is huge. It is so huge," she added.

Since sprinting out of Eagle Rock Plaza on May 10, Rojas has had an adventure. The first day, she ran 33 miles

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