

BSP SAYS:

## Disruptions to affect economic policies

WITH the global economy not even out of recession, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando Tetangco warned against the disruptive impact of

political events that could affect the country's economic policies.

Tetangco noted last June 9 that markets have been increasingly spooked over plans to amend the

Constitution leading to a possible change in the political system that critics said was an attempt to keep President Arroyo in power. Tetangco downplayed the po-

litical developments but admitted the market could be very sensitive to how the political situation would unfold in the coming months.

Tetangco said it was natural for the market to be edgy and watchful of how these political developments would unfold and impact on the country's economic policies, particularly the reforms that were already in place and needed to be completed.

"If the market will look at this, whatever is happening or is about to happen would be assessed based on its impact on the economic policies and therefore the performance of the economy," Tetangco said.

The unfolding events apparently frightened the stock market and posted losses for two days in a row as various groups threatened to organize massive protest actions to oppose amendments of the country's 22-year-old Charter.

Analysts said the developing conflict between the Arroyo administration and the opposition made investors nervous and they ultimately decided to cash in on gains rather than be stuck in a brewing political maelstrom.

The benchmark 30-company stock market index dropped 29.47 points or 1.175 percent while the all-shares index fell 1.3 percent.

## Ted Failon returns to work, airs side on wife's death for last time

by REINIR PADUA  
Philstar.com



News anchor Ted Failon resumes his broadcast duty with dzMM June 8 in this video grab provided by ABS-CBN. Philstar.com Photo

AN emotional Ted Failon, news anchor of ABS-CBN and radio dzMM, went back on air last June 8, the first time since the death of his wife Trinidad Arteche-Etong.

Saying this was the last time he would talk about his family's ordeal, Failon (Mario Teodoro Etong in real life) recalled the day his wife was found last April 15 with a gunshot wound to the head inside their house in Tierra Pura Homes in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, during the first half of the two-hour morning radio show co-anchored by Korina Sanchez.

Failon, a news anchor of ABS-CBN TV Patrol, claimed that his wife committed suicide due to financial problems, but the police continued the initial investigation as if there was foul play. Even Trinidad's relatives believed Failon's claim, which was confirmed by the house helpers. Trinidad died the next day at the New Era General Hospital in Quezon City.

The QCPD had also filed charges of obstruction of justice against Failon, his driver Glen Polan, houseboy Pacifico Apacible, nanny Wilfreda Bollester, housemaid Carlota Morbos, and Trinidad's sister Pamela Arteche.

QCPD investigators said the house helpers had cleaned the bathroom where Trinidad was found while the driver cleaned the Mitsubishi Pajero that was used to transport the victim to hospital. The house helpers claimed that they cleaned the crime scene on their own.

Failon's group denied that they committed obstruction of justice when they cleaned up the crime scene.

The prosecutors, however, dismissed the charges against Failon and the others. The National Bureau of Investigation took over the probe of the case from the Quezon City police, and concluded that Trinidad committed suicide, declaring the

case closed.

Returning to his radio program after more than a month's absence, Failon thanked his superiors and co-workers at the network who helped him and treated him not as a colleague but as a friend in need.

He said there were people who "toyed with the tragedy (that struck his family), made it a joke and took advantage of the situation."

Failon was emotional and drank water to clear his throat, as he said the tragedy of his family has taught him lessons as a father and a husband.

"I am a communicator but I admit there were instances that I failed to communicate," Failon said, apparently referring to the family problems that he earlier made public in maintaining that his wife committed suicide.

Failon said that just like any ordinary family, he and his wife and children go to church every Sunday, have family dinner and occasionally go out together — things that he said were apparently not enough.

He said the death of his wife has left a void in their family, noting that the latter should have been there as their youngest daughter was fitting her uniform in preparation for entering high school.

Failon said the situation of their family would now be different because of the passing away of his wife.

He later opened the second half of the radio program with an overseas telephone conversation with Sanchez who is currently in Japan.

Failon and Sanchez exchanged banter, including what Sanchez said was her plan of having Failon as part of her bridal entourage in her upcoming and much-publicized wedding with Sen. Mar Roxas, the presidential bet of the Liberal Party.

## 3 Ateneo High School students with H1N1; six more in DLSU

by SHEILA CRISOSTOMO  
Philstar.com

ATENEO de Manila High School suspended its classes for 10 days starting June 10 after three of its students were found positive for Influenza A(H1N1) virus.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III last June 9 confirmed the addition of eight new cases, but Ateneo's reported cases last night brought the new tally to eleven, bringing to 57 the total number of infected individuals in the country.

In an advisory posted on its website, Ateneo management announced that High School principal Fr. Raymundo Benedict Hizon received the report of the boy's infection in the afternoon.

"All three cases are mild. The three infected boys are in fact already feeling better, and are advised to rest at home and continue with their self-quarantine, with no need for hospitalization," the advisory stated.

Late in the night, the Ateneo Grade School was also reported to have suspended classes.

Duque earlier announced that there were six new cases at De La Salle University-Taft, one of them a 17-year-old American female, and a 16-year-old Filipino male student at DLSU-St. Benilde College.

The total number of cases for DLSU-Taft is now 13.

Another patient, a 44-year-old Filipino male, had a history of travel in the United States.

The DOH regional director in Pangasinan also confirmed that a patient who came from Hawaii was found positive for the virus but is already in good condition.

A female high school student of St. Andrew's School in Parañaque who just arrived from Canada also tested positive last June 9.

Classes in that school have been temporarily suspended.

**Racking up statistics**

Duque also clarified that while the Philippines is among the countries in the Western Pacific region with the highest number of cases, this is primarily because of aggressive contact tracing.

He said the Department of Health (DOH) is actively combing for possible infections and this is contributing to the continued rise in the number of cases in the country.

"The registered cases (in other countries) are low but we think it's because of surveillance," he claimed in a radio interview.

He said the Philippines does not close its airports to international travelers and that there are travelers who fail to heed DOH's call to observe a 10-day quarantine period upon arrival.

Records of the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region showed that as of June 8, Australia posted the highest number of cases at 1,051.

This was followed by Japan with 410; China with 134; South Korea with 47; Singapore with 15; New Zealand with 17; Vietnam with nine and Malaysia with five.

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