



Filing and processing of Filvets claims remain on track—Gaa

AFTER recent consultations with the US Veterans Administration, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa today said the filing and processing of claims by Filipino World War II veterans remain on track.

“We are in constant consultation with the concerned officials of the US Veterans Administration and the filing and processing of our claims remain on track,” Ambassador Gaa said, adding that the Philippine Embassy, particularly the Veterans Affairs Section, will continue to monitor the process.

“As of today, the 32,657 claims have been received,” Ambassador Gaa pointed out.

Of these “2,834 have been granted,” the Ambassador said. He said that 2,061 were payments to Filipino residents in the amount of US\$9,000 and 773 were to US residents in the amount of US\$15,000.

Ambassador Gaa also said that a total of 1,060 claims have been denied and that a total of 28,763 claims are pending.

“As we celebrate our Independence

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Foreclosure Moratorium takes effect

New law imposes a 90-day foreclosure moratorium if lenders don't modify loans

SACRAMENTO—Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) announced the California Foreclosure Prevention Act, ABX2 7 (Lieu), took effect last June 15. Beginning that day, a foreclosure moratorium will give distressed homeowners an additional 90 days unless the lender implements a comprehensive and systematic loan modification program designed to keep people in their homes.

“We must put a stop to the unending tidal wave of foreclosures that has crippled our economy,” said Assemblymember Ted Lieu. “This law will help people stay in their homes by giving lenders a serious incentive to modify loans.”

“We’re seeing signs that the economy may be stabilizing and I’m hopeful AB X2 7 can get more homeowners to the light at the end of the tunnel,” said Speaker Karen Bass. “This important bill by Assemblymember Lieu will keep more Californians in their homes and stabilize neighborhoods, which is a necessary step for economic recovery.”

The California Foreclosure Prevention Act is designed to force

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SWS SURVEY SAYS Race narrows down to Villar, De Castro, Roxas

by CHRISTINA MENDEZ
 Philstar.com



Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.



Vice President Noli De Castro



Sen. Manuel Roxas II

MANILA—The race for the 2010 presidency is narrowing down to three choices, with Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. now taking the lead from Vice President Noli de Castro, a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II followed Villar and De Castro in the third slot in the survey conducted from April 16 to May 6.

Interviewers asked the question: “Under the present Constitution, the term of President Arroyo is up to 2010 only, and there will be an election for a new

President in May 2010. Who do you think are good leaders who should succeed President Arroyo? You may give up to three names.”

Twenty-nine percent of the 7,000 respondents named Villar, 21 percent chose De Castro, and 18 percent wanted Roxas as president.

Villar’s ranking jumped from 18 percent in September 2007 to 25 percent in June 2008 and 26 percent in February this year, an increase of 11 percent from Sept. 7, 2007.

De Castro dropped from 27 percent last February, while Roxas climbed from 15 percent to 18 percent.

Sen. Francis Escudero ranked fourth with 15 percent from 23 percent while Sen. Loren Legarda got 14 percent from 25 percent in the same period.

The other top 10 choices are former President Joseph Estrada, 13 percent; Sen. Panfilo Lacson, 12 percent; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, two percent; and President Arroyo, two percent.

Twenty percent could not give an answer and nine percent had no one to recommend.

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews of 7,000 +/-1.2 percent, the SWS said. ■

GK GLOBAL SUMMIT IN BOSTON RP out of 3rd world status by 2024

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
 AJPress



Vice President Noli de Castro is flanked by Emma Ruth Yulo, director of the Department of Tourism in New York, Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto and Consul General Cecille Rebong of the Philippine Consulate in New York at the Philippine Independence Day Reception in Boston where GK paid tribute to the 700 patriots who gathered for the global summit.

AJPress Photo by Momar G. Visaya

BOSTON—“It is our dream at Gawad Kalinga to bring the Philippines out of the third world by 2024 through the collaborative effort of all sectors of the Philippine society in the Philippines and abroad,” Gawad Kalinga (GK) founder Tony Meloto announced to the media before the formal unveiling of the organization’s first global summit in this city.

The GK 2024 vision is a 21-year timeline to end the poverty of five million Filipinos and build a First World Philippines through community de-

velopment and people empowerment with engaged multi-sectoral and trans border partnerships.

“We are all here because Boston plays a great role in America’s history, and it will play a great role again in our history as a Filipino people. GK as an Asian model of development is now capturing global attention,” Meloto told the *Asian Journal* in a chat moments after the reception which also celebrated the 111th Philippine Independence Day.

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DATELINE PHILIPPINES US envoy confident 2010 polls will happen

by CYNTHIA BALANA
 Inquirer.net

MANILA—US Ambassador Kristie Kenney has expressed confidence that elections will be held in the Philippines in May 2010 and that any move to amend the Constitution should be for the Filipinos alone to decide.

Kenney was asked by reporters on Tuesday night what she thought of the controversy hounding the call in

the House of Representatives for a constituent assembly to amend the Philippine Constitution and a possible no-election scenario.

Kenney was in a chance interview with reporters during a farewell reception she hosted for Karen Schinerer, assistant information officer of the US embassy in Manila,

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Team Takbong Pangarap at the Old Spanish Trail. Photo by Danny Titus
 Takbong Pangarap in Colorado. Staying on highway 160, Joy Rojas and Mat Macabe (whose run across America project called Takbong Pangarap has already seen successful crossing in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona) are now in Colorado, en route to a big event in Denver on June 23 hosted by major sponsor Western Union. On their way, Rojas and Macabe run past the historic Old Spanish Trail on Rio Grande, and the Continental Divide, which divides the flow of water from the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

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