



President Arroyo unveils a marker during the inauguration last Sept. 14 of the newly constructed Padada Bridge at Barangay Guihing, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur in this photo provided by palace close-in photographers. Behind her is Davao del Sur 1st District Rep. Douglas Cagas IV.

## Allow 4 nat'l artists' proclamation, SC asked

by NORMAN BORDADORA  
Inquirer.net

THE Cultural Center of the Philippines has asked the Supreme Court to order the proclamation of its four original choices as this year's national artists.

In a 31-page comment to the petition against the proclamation of Malacañang's four choices for the award, the CCP, through

counsel, said the Palace's candidates were either outrightly disqualified or were rejected early during selection process.

"[The] proclamation of the four other 2009 National Artists not recommended by the CCP and the [National Council for Culture and Arts] and the dropping of one of the National Artists named by the CCP and the NCCA was a surprise to the CCP as well," the CCP said in its

comment.

Following the selection process by the CCP and the NCCA, the two groups submitted the names of the following artists to Malacañang for its consideration—filmmaker Manuel Conde, visual artist Federico Alcuaz, novelist Lazaro Francisco, and composer Ramon Santos.

Malacañang, however, dropped Santos and proclaimed Conde, Alcuaz and Francisco and its choices NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote Alvarez, fashion designer Jose Moreno, architect Francisco Manosa and comics novelist and filmmaker Carlo Caparas.

The CCP argued that Guidote was disqualified because of her position in the NCCA while Moreno, Caparas and Manosa fell by the way side during various stages of the selection process.

"The list submitted by the CCP and the NCCA Joint Board was always regarded as the final list for confirmation and proclamation. There were very few exceptions to this," the CCP petition read.

"However, never was an artist's name removed from the list submitted by the CCP and the NCCA Joint Board until now," it added. ■

## SAYS GROUP

### 10,000 sign up as poll volunteers for Aquino

by NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA  
Inquirer.net

THEY are not merely pledging their votes to him.

Peachy Prieto, one of the conveners of the Noynoy Aquino for President Movement (NAPM), said 10,000 have so far signed up

as volunteers for the presidential campaign of Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III in the 2010 elections.

Right after Aquino declared his candidacy, the NAPM, who had gathered signatures of people wanting him to run for president, has shifted to mounting a "people's campaign."

"We were receiving calls and e-mails from people, mostly abroad, inquiring about Noynoy's campaign," he said.

Prieto said the volunteers could choose how they would want to help: recruit more volunteers, educate the voters on the automated poll, distribute leaflets, put up posters, attend mass actions, undertake secretarial work at the NAPM center, campaign for Aquino, serve as poll watchers and finance events or campaign materials.

The membership has been notably expanding with provincial chapters opening up in Baguio, Dumaguete, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Leyte, Bukidnon, and

Tawi-Tawi, she said.

"What is important to remember is that this is a people-initiated campaign," she said.

NAPM plans to host picnics and contests to produce campaign materials for Aquino and afterwards, mobile stores on wheels will roam around the country to sell products as a fund-raising project.

The movement is also considering selling "lugaw" (porridge) meals to raise funds.

Prieto pointed out that the since the NAPM was formed, they have not had to convince people too much to join their cause. "People just come and send their messages through text and e-mail," she said.

She said members of the NAPM were jubilant with the results of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showing that 50 percent of the 1,200 respondents in vote-rich Luzon areas favored Aquino as president.

"How encouraging to know that Noynoy now has the markets of (Sen. Manny) Villar and (former President Joseph) Estrada," she added, noting that majority of the respondents who chose Aquino came from Class D and E.

Villar and Estrada were leading the SWS and Pulse Asia's surveys in the past months.

Working with NAPM as umbrella groups are Artists for Noynoy headed by former Sen. Franklin Drilon's nephew Rock Drilon; and Medical Professionals for Noynoy, which promised to render their time for medical missions and poll watching.

Muslim Leaders in Motion for Noynoy headed by Ismael Abubakar, Jr., the former speaker of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Regional Legislative Assembly, has been also formed.

Abubakar said Aquino could obtain the Muslim vote.

"We, Muslims, are as idealistic as our Christian brothers. We want to see change through honest to goodness leadership," he said.

Abubakar said their group has been aiming to gather support from Muslim communities in Mindanao and develop an agenda for areas like Tawi Tawi, Sulu, Basilan, and Zamboanga.

"The only way to defeat money in politics is morality in governance, which is one of Noynoy's strengths," Abubakar said.

The website www.napm2010.com, which contains updates and contents about Noynoy and his platform of governance, remains under construction but will be up by the end of the week, according to Prieto. ■

## RP urged to expand BPO sector . . .

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The study indicated that the Philippine government must have an extensive and long-term plan for the country's economy to improve its ranking.

"The government must make it clear what kind of regulatory environment it wants, and it must design a long-term plan," it said.

The MasterCard economist said bringing in FDIs will not only mean investments, but the technology to run the business, the experience, and the marketing and distribution network.


FDIs in the Philippines fell from 24.4 percent of GDP in 1997 to 21.2 percent in 2000. It further dipped to 16.1 percent of GDP in 2004 to 14.7

percent last year.

The regional economist said "some of the private monopolies need to be dismantled, and the government controlled companies and industries must be privatized."

Strategically, the Philippines must also look at developing the agricultural sector if it is to grow and remain competitive in the region.

"Thailand is selling mangoes, and other fruits and vegetables to China, and they are selling them in US dollars. They are considered premium products there, yet the Philippine has the same or better agricultural products," Wong pointed out. ■




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## Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy: Filipino American Profiles of Success

**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00 PM  
**Location:** Marriott Los Angeles Downtown  
**Address:** 333 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

**SPEAKERS:**



**Dado Banatog** is the managing partner of Tallwood Venture Capital, a firm focusing on semiconductors and semiconductor related technologies. He is credited with developing several key semiconductor technologies and is regarded as a Silicon Valley visionary.



**Winston Damarillo**, CEO and Founder of Simula Labs ([www.simulalabs.com](http://www.simulalabs.com)), a Marina Del Rey-based firm that is developing companies based on open source software. Winston is the founder of Gluecode, which was purchased by IBM last year, and a former venture capitalist at Intel Capital.



**Sheila Marcelo** is a seasoned entrepreneur whose passion for business and family led to the founding of Care.com. She also served as an executive at several successful consumer internet companies including: Upromise and TheLadders.com.



**MODERATOR:**  
**Eric Manlunas** is the Founder and Managing Director of Frontera Group, LLC, a boutique venture capital firm focused on investing in early-stage emerging companies. He is a two-time start-up veteran turned venture capitalist with a strong passion for early-stage investing.

**Regular admission: \$30.00 (pre registration) \$40.00 (at the door)**  
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