



*Mabuhay!!*

*God Bless America!!*

*Hafa Adai!!*

# San Nicolas: "We had to bail out the Governor"



**Flooding in Tumon.** The intermittent rains last week brought flooding right in the island's major tourist area, after a 5-minute downpour. Where is the taxpayer's money going? Why can't simple things like this be fixed right away?

**W**ho should take credit for the pay out of tax refunds? Who should be blamed for its delay? Or should anyone take credit at all? These questions loomed after the Governor made his special address on the day the second tranche of tax refunds was being prepared.

In said address, the Governor said, some "senators now want to take credit for the administration paying out tax refunds," making special mention of Senator Mike San Nicolas and Vice Speaker BJ Cruz. These two senators, the Governor said were the same ones "who actively campaigned" against his 2011 proposed financial plan as part of the bond bill that would have created a one-year savings on tax refunds." This, the Governor said would have created a "reserve fund through a bond indenture in anticipation of the tax refunds."

But Senator San Nicolas did not take this "taking credit" comment sitting down. In his e-mail to this paper, he said, "There should be no one taking credit for how long it

has taken us to get tax refund payments out to our people. It takes our government six months while it takes the federal government and every state as little as 2 weeks."

He further added that, "The Governor, since the start of the fiscal year, ignored Public Law 29-17 which legally required him to make deposits into the Income Tax Refund account. The failure to make those payments to the fund have resulted in much slower payments of tax refunds to our people this year. In the first quarter of FY2015 the law mandated that \$26,953,010 be deposited into the fund by the Department of Administration. But only \$14,164,047 has been deposited in that first quarter according to bank statements provided by the Department of Administration."

"I had to withhold the nomination of Gov. Calvo's nominee for Director of the Department of Administration in order to compel them to catch up on the deposits, which they did at the last minute. In that time, \$27 million in tax

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## 2008 Deal Spares DPW Engineer From Losing Job

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**C**onceding its hands were tied, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) dismissed the case against Public Works Employee, Liberty Perez, who admitted to defrauding the local and federal government of highway funds by illegally collecting overtime money.

The verdict, handed down last Sept. 23, means Perez will get her job back and almost a year of backpay, who along with Josephine Torres and Danilo Galiza, were accused of collecting overtime pay in 2006 by falsifying overtime documents.

The commission said "the broad, sweeping language"

of the 2008 stipulation between the defendant and the Department of Public Works (DPW) tied CSC's hands on the case.

"We read this as the type of boilerplate language involved in a 'global' settlement where all matters are put to rest," the commissioners wrote. They said that if the CSC has a "strong policy" in favor of upholding settlement agreements and that not doing so would discourage employees from settling their cases.

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## TWO TAIPANS IN MALL WAR

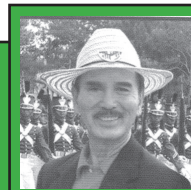
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**Fighting for a Cause and More**  
**How Pinoys Vote?**  
**Can Fil-Am Voters Decide an Election?**  
**By: Pat Duque**





## Guam has an average of one suicide every two weeks

**B**elieve it or not, the island has an average of one suicide every two weeks, according to Michelle Sasamoto, coordinator of Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center's Prevention and Training Branch.

Record also shows that targets of suicide prevention are Chuukese, Chamorros and Japanese. Suicide deaths are highest among youths and young adults, with about 60 percent occurring to those under the age of 30 years.

With this, Guam is eyeing the power of social media in preventing suicides with the government urging the community to be more aware of social posts that may be alarming and lead to a person taking his or her own life.

"If you read something like 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry,' and other messages that may suggest something, we can act on them by talking to the person or sending him private messages," said Sasamoto, in a phone interview.

The government, through the center, has integrated various programs to prevent suicides, along with some support groups.

Jennifer Muehlenkamp, a professor who specializes in suicidology at the University of Wisconsin, said that social media can play a powerful role in suicide prevention because "it is really an active avenue for asking help because that

sense of anonymity that people have which is typing to a screen can sometimes make them more willing to disclose things that they wouldn't disclose face to face."

In the US mainland, national suicide experts partner with companies like Facebook, Twitter and search engines. If someone types in words related to suicides, prevention lifelines will pop up.

The suicide death rate for Guam is more than double compared to that of the US mainland. This is based on the study contained in a 33-page book entitled "A Profile of Suicide on Guam," which was published in September 2011.

The data may not be updated, Sasamoto said, but it still contains relevant and current information.

The study shows that Guam's suicide rate is higher than the Philippines, "but lower than the rates seen in China, Japan and South Korea."

Hanging tops the methods of suicides among males. Many of the victims also leave direct evidence like notes of their intention to commit suicide.

This pattern is unlike that seen in the US mainland, Japan and South Korea, where suicide deaths occur predominantly among older adults.

"Survivors of Suicide

Support Group" holds a gathering for youths and adults every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Peace Office, in Hagatna. Some of the other programs are the 24-hour crisis hotline, 647-8833, and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

According to a study by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, those who have suicidal tendencies exhibit warning signs like talking about killing themselves, having no reason to live, being a burden to others, feeling trapped and feeling an unbearable pain.

A study on Guam suicides also shows that youths appear to have a higher likelihood of thinking about suicide, making a suicide plan and actually attempting suicide as compared to their counterparts in the US mainland.

Family problems or disputes are among the cause of suicides in the island.

The website [www.suicide.org](http://www.suicide.org), explained that any untreated mental

illness, including depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and

others may cause suicide.

Further, it says, that depression which eventually leads to suicide, is caused by the following: the death of a loved one; a

continued on page 8

## SC Orders New Trial for Tumon Killer

**T**he lower court's instructions to the jury were "misleading, inconsistent and confusing" and failed to disprove Carl Gargarita's claim that he acted in self-defense when he killed Anthony Giralao on the night of June 14, 2013.

Rendering a 2-1 verdict, the Supreme Court of Guam ordered last Sept. 17, a new trial for Gargarita after the justices overturned a

manslaughter conviction by Superior Court Judge Maria Cenzon in August 2014.

"Although the jury was informed that the people bore the burden of disproving a justification defense, the trial court did not explicitly state that self-defense is a justification defense, leading to the distinct possibility that the jury failed to make the connection between a justification defense and self-defense,"

the decision read.

Love triangle, police probes said, involving Gargarita, Giralao and Irene Alcovera, the victim's ex-wife, led to the commission of the crime.

Alcovera and Giralao, court records showed, had met and got married in the US mainland. They returned to Guam with their three children to work on their marriage, but when things didn't work out, Alcovera started dating Gargarita whom she had dated before settling down with

Giralao.

The victim, investigators said, and his uncle rushed to the parking

area of Club G-Spot in Tumon on June 14, 2013 upon receiving a call from Gargarita to pick up his drunken girlfriend. When Giralao arrived, a fight broke out between the victim and the suspect with Gargarita putting Giralao in a chokehold after he was allegedly attacked by the victim.

Gargarita had apologized to the victim's family

after the lower court found him guilty of manslaughter and sentenced the defendant to 15 years in jail, with five years suspended.

Gargarita, who was initially charged with murder, appealed his case to the Supreme Court in September. In his appeal, Gargarita claimed the jury instructions given by the trial court on the issue of self-defense were inconsistent and misleading.

In April, the high court heard his appeal, in which attorney Leevin Camacho

argued the instructions given to jurors by Judge Maria Cenzon weren't clear.

Under Guam law, prosecutors must disprove a defendant's claim of self-defense, rather than defendants having to justify their actions.

That means, said Camacho, that as long as a jury has reason to believe Gargarita's actions were at all justifiable, they must acquit him. *The Junction News Team*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
AGANA



**O**n behalf of the Consulate General of the Philippines on Guam, I extend my warmest congratulations to the publisher, editorial staff, and all the people behind the Weekly Junction Guam Edition, the latest and only free weekly newspaper on the island, as they launch their maiden issue on 27 September 2015.

I am glad that Ms. Benigna Dawang-Farres, as publisher, has boldly started this venture that seeks to provide our Guam community with coverage of local and Filipino news, business developments, and other relevant information. We wholeheartedly welcome this new publication as yet another means for us to communicate and interact with the Filipino community on Guam as part of our public diplomacy program.

We hope that the Weekly Junction Guam Edition will become one of our reliable partners in shining a spotlight on the many positive developments that are happening in the Philippines and in broadly circulating information about the activities and programs of the Consulate General of the Philippines.

In time, I am confident that this new publication will prove to be beneficial not only to the Filipino community here on Guam, but to everyone else who calls this island home. Mabuhay ang Weekly Junction Guam Edition!

MARIANO R. DE BORJA  
Consul General



## The chief of staff is a position of 'trust and loyalty' - Guam professor

The chief of staff is a position of "trust and loyalty," but Rep. Madeleine Bordallo has staff members who can support her in dispensing her duties as Guam Delegate, despite the resignation of John Whitt, who is facing assault and sex offense charges.

"Congresswoman Bordallo has several staff members to continue to support her and to be frank, Washington is crawling with experienced staffers," said Guam professor

Ron McNinch, in a statement. "But trust and loyalty are nurtured and are a product of hard work. Having a close staff member make a mistake is like having a family make a mistake. But time is often the best remedy."

Whitt, who initially took an administrative leave, finally quit his post after Bordallo, herself, announced that Whitt was facing misdemeanor charges in Maryland.

Records from the District Court

of Maryland show the state has charged Whitt with assault as a second-degree misdemeanor and sex offense as fourth-degree misdemeanor. The same files show Whitt made an initial court appearance on April 9 and is scheduled to next appear in court on Oct. 19.

According to Maryland court files, Whitt also faced similar charges in 1996. The alleged incident involved three male midshipmen.

continued on page 8

## Lawmaker Seeks Better Tax Collection by Escrow Agents

Following island military contractors with over \$1 million contract shall be required to designate an escrow agent to ensure that the Business

McNinch pointed out that legislative staffers play a big role in the career of a politician, whose duties range from constituent, to policy work to individual support of a politician.

"Because public figures rely on primary

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Privilege Tax (BPT) is paid to the Guam government.

This is the primary purpose of Sen. Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in filing Senate Bill 178-33. "At risk is the fact that just because a business is licensed in Guam does not mean that they are paying the taxes here," he said in a press release.

Under the current law, military contractors are required to be licensed to do business in Guam. This is enforced by the Department of Defense when they select contractors to do work related to the military buildup, the senator

explained.

BPT is the biggest single source of revenue to the general fund of Guam government. This is "responsible for roughly one-third of its revenue." A 2008 audit by the Inspector General of the United States found an "inadequate enforcement of Guam's taxes." And this costs millions of dollars each year, the bill states.

San Nicolas pushes to improve tax collection by requiring contractors to assign an escrow agent, which is a financial institution, authorized to do business in the island and insured by

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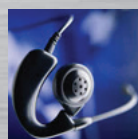
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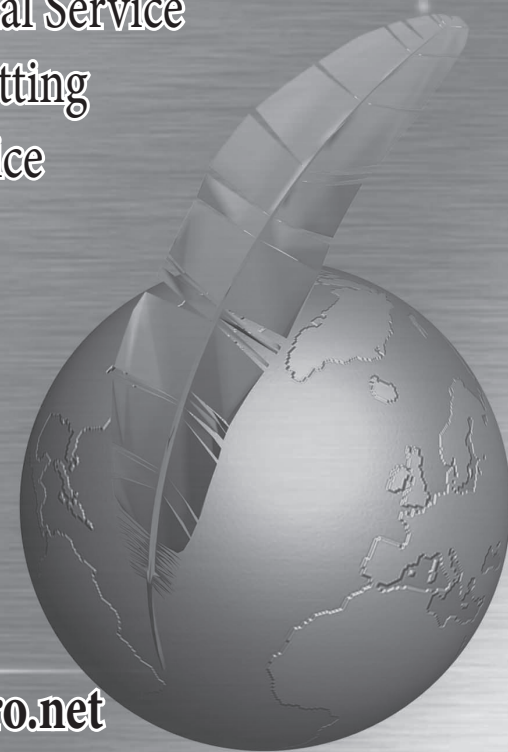
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# What you can expect from us

Hafa Adai and Mabuhay!

With your indulgence our dear readers, from the publisher's desk, allow me to lay down our cards and give you a heads up on what you can expect from this paper.

First off, the management and the guys in the editorial do not entertain any messianic tendencies nor do we have any of the religious hypocrisies, at times seen among so-called holier-than-thou, all-knowing,

## Editorial

and doing-no-wrong types. We simply believe and subscribe in delivering the news without any fancy flair, without fear or

favor, and as candidly and concise as possible. Forget the personalities involved. Nothing personal here. Forget the verbose literary prose one can expect from fancy publications, we intend to call a spade a spade as I am likewise fully aware that none of this paper's staff or colleagues of mine have any training or background on the field of diplomacy, which may be to the dismay of some of our subjects.

While we will be conscious of political correctness, it will certainly not be a major consideration on the reports and comments to be dished out on this paper, as we believe that at times, these so called political correct terminologies only serve to hinder our freedom of expression and diminish what would be in fact part and parcel of the intents and purposes of the First Amendment. We are after all coming in from the cold with no political and/or business contacts or affiliations whatsoever.

Having said that, as I lay down our cards, the following will be some of this papers Do's:

- We will at all times aspire to present as many sides to an issue.
- We will call a spade a spade.
- We will take the extra mile to expose graft and corrupt practices more so in government as we all know that public office is a public trust.
- We are pro US bases build-up and unless there would be overwhelming convincing evidence that would show otherwise, you can count on us to be an instrument to support the build-up on the prem-

ise that it would rebound to economic growth and benefit that would be for the greater good.

So, the ball is now in the hands of the Guamanians, if they choose to support this paper, they choose to cooperate and send us information, this paper can be their independent alternative voice meant to uphold the First Amendment and unabridged voice of the Guamanians.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Benigna  
Dawang-Farres  
Publisher

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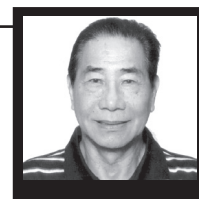


### The Truth Matters

USCIS what the hell???

Attn: Field Office Director, Stephen P. Green

By: Rolando Zabala



What the F is going on in this beloved country of ours the US of A?

The GOP current leader in the ongoing primary intramurals, billionaire businessman Trump is overemphasizing on his gigantic motherhood statements on how he will deal with the trade imbalance between China, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Russia, etc; and of course most notable is how he will deal with illegal aliens, from building a wall at the Mexican-Texas border to some unworkable mass deportations of around 11 million (some say up to 18 million) illegal aliens currently spread throughout the 51 states (Guam being the 51st state, right!).

With so many issues this humble Guamanian columnist can write about, allow me on my maiden column to touch on what appears to be an outright fumbling or probably a case of plain and simple harassment on the part of the USCIS- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

A family friend of mine is now in a quandary on whether or not they will make Guam their home and maintain the wife and children's residency status. The wife is a green card holder but the husband is not. Apparently, due to the proximity with the Philippines, the husband enthusiastically comes to Guam to be with his family (his 11-year-old son and 4-month-old daughter) as the husband still has business interests in the Philippines. The family decided to move to the island early this year in compliance to residency requirements which requires residents to spend more time in the US should they not want to loose their residency status. Since February, the husband has travelled to Guam for a total of 6 times, with his usual stay of around several weeks to a month and a half in the island and he flies back to the Philippines where he spends around one to two weeks. In essence, in the 7-month period since February, the husband has spent more time in Guam than in the Philippines, with it appearing that he has spent a total of 5.3 months in Guam and close to 2 months in the Philippines simply because the fellow wants to spend more time with his family. Don't you guys at the USCIS want to spend more time with your families? I didn't think this would be such a bad thing, more so an illegal act or federal offense. It's not like the husband is an illegal alien. In fact, every time he enters Guam, his passport is stamped with a 6 months allowable stay (you read it right 6 months) meaning a B1/B2 visa holder can legally stay on Guam or the mainland without presumably causing any violation on immigration regulations for a period of up to 6 months. However, due to the husband's having to shuttle back and forth to the Philippines, he certainly could not use up the 6 months period. It's not like the husband is on welfare when he is in the island. On the contrary, just look at the personal expenses being incurred by the husband on his back and forth travel, the expenses in the island on the family subsistence, rent, entertainment and related personal expenses, shopping, etc. The wife on the other hand, is a professional who is a nurse by profession and with expertise in the field of IT and can take on employment in these fields; however, the family opted to instead put up a business or businesses in the island so as to be able to spend more time with their growing children.

On the latest and recent entry by the husband to the island just last week, the husband was surprised when the immigration officer called him to a private room to what appeared to be some kind of an investigation. The investigation was not unpleasant, the immigration officer informed the husband that his frequent return to the island and having to spend more time in the island instead of his country of origin makes him some kind of a "presumptive immigrant" and that he should spend more time in his country of origin; and given this record of stay in the island, it could lead to the eventual cancellation of this (B1/B2 visa)! **What the Hell is that?!**

Here is a guy who simply wants to spend time with his family and two young kids and the USCIS is now making them have to choose between being separated vis-à-vis maintaining residency status. How **IDIOTIC** can this be?!?

At the end of the dialogue with the immigration officer, the husband informed the of-

**continued on page 5**

**Punto de Vista****I just love free enterprise  
and deregulation!!!****By: Leo Macaraeg**

**H**ow much do you usually pay for a one way Guam to Manila flight via United Airlines or PAL? I would say it could be anywhere from a low of \$250 to a high of \$400. This for a three-and-a-half hour flight.

How much would one have to pay for a Manila to Saipan flight or a Manila to Palau flight courtesy of sole carrier United Airlines with a distance of around 2/3 of a Manila to Guam flight? I understand it's around a low of \$500 to a high of \$800.

There you have it. The beauty of free enterprise in an industry that is supposed to have been deregulated as far back as the '80s. Sure, we the consumers and most business entities have always battled for less federal government intervention, interference, and participation more so on business and industries concerning basic public service and utilities. It has always made sense to welcome the concept of free market enterprise and competition knowing fully well that businesses in an environment of a healthy competition would redound to consumer benefit.

However, that doesn't seem to be the case with the Manila-Guam route. Although it's not a monopoly but is a binopoly (by the way, there is no such word as binopoly, but you know what I mean), and certainly not with the Manila-Palau or Manila-Saipan route which at the moment is a virtual monopoly of United.

Let's take for example a similar travel distance, like a flight from Manila to Singapore which could go as low as \$70 at Tiger Air. It's almost the same 3-½ hours flight. These Asian carriers are truly operating within the bounds of a free enterprise system and a healthy competition, and at the end of the day, none of these Asian carriers are in the red and are in fact even making good money. Which now lets me rethink the idea of when government regulation may also be beneficial for the public welfare.

In Guam's as well as with Palau and Saipan's case, if the industry were regulated, then government can step in and tell the greedy United and PAL to lower their rates. Notwithstanding, the PAL flights from the Philippines that cannot pick up passengers in Guam en route to Hawaii (this will be the subject of a future column of mine). This would perhaps be an exception to the rule wherein we, the consumers, wanting more of government intervention.

Having said my 2 cents worth, it's about time we the consumers take to the streets (for a lack of a better politically correct term), make noise where and when we can and fight for our God given right for better airfare. As I have said, the Asian carriers are offering fares as low as 25% of what we have and they're still laughing all the way to the bank.

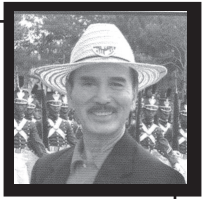
The airline carriers right now are making too much of a killing at the expense of the hard earned people of Guam's money.

To my kababayans – mabuhay po tayong lahat. The next time you travel to the Philippines take comfort in the swift travel time, forget about the numbers and *Buen biáhe*.

**The Truth Matters***from page 4*

ficer that if they were to be given a choice, the choice is simple, they would rather go back to the Philippines or anywhere else they would be welcome and forget about setting up a business in the island, for as long as they as a family can be together as allowed for by law.

Is this the way we treat a law abiding and legitimate spouse of a resident? We allow them to stay for up to six months but when they don't avail of it and they would rather come back and forth we tell them not to come back and not to spend as much time with their family? What has happened to America's good old fashioned family values? And the US of A wants to control illegal aliens; is this a sick joke or what? Talk of irony among ironies, in the words of the famous author/playwright Oscar Wilde - "Irony is wasted on the stupid!"

**Fighting for a Cause and More****How Pinoys Vote?  
Can Fil-Am Voters Decide an Election?****By: Pat Duque**

**A**s election draws near, political analysts ask whether the Fil-Am Community is a sleeping or an awakening giant block of voters. Seldom do you see them in political rallies or pocket meetings; they prefer watching TV, barbecuing at home, hanging out with friends, or working overtime.

These observations are some I mentioned on radio talk shows,

This time I would convey through print media.

By statistics, approximately 26% of population on island are Fil-Ams, In short, there are around 40,000 Fil-am souls and around 16,000 voters in Guam. (Historically and Genetically. 80% of the locals have Filipino bloodlines due to intermarriages for the last 500 years.)

On the Surface, it appears that Filipino-Americans in Guam are fragmented. Are they really divided? to date, there are 70 Fil-Am organizations in island. These organizations almost mirror the political subdivisions in the Philippines. Adding to these are several professional organizations. All these organizations are under the umbrella of the mother organization- The Filipino Community of Guam (FCG). FCG supervises and controls these children organizations. They meet regularly and as often as necessary. When there are important national affairs here or calamities in the Philippines, the FCG coordinates all activities. As it is, FCG is indeed united.

The divisions we've experienced occur usually only during election time when Fil-Ams working for GovGuam got involved because of divided party loyalties between Republican and Democrat.

With Around 2,000 Fil-Ams affiliated with GovGuam, These political frictions affect only 5% of Filipinos on Island.

They're just magnified because controversial political news and betting occur; or politicians invite their friends in exchange for personal and political favors etc.,

Fil-Ams are picky voters, too. Just because as Fil-Am is running for public office and says, "I'm a Filipino-American, vote for me!" will they vote for him? They're not obliged to do so. If the candidate represents their ideals –educated enough, honest and respected in the community –they will solidly support him. But if he is just being used by politicians or simply to satisfy his ego, the Fil-Ams would repudiate him in the polls.

The observation that most Fil-Am candidates hardly win is also true. Aside from not having the credentials of an ideal candidate, many well-meaning Fil-ams are not attracted to enter politics. Guam politics is highly "polluted" and "suffocating."

With the expected passage of Dual Citizenship Bill in the Philippine Congress and Senate, Fil-Ams will be better off as just voters than as candidates. The bill disqualifies Fil-Ams on retaining their Filipino citizenship if they hold any elective position in a foreign country.

The Fil-Am voters usually vote the candidates they personally like because of political agenda, charisma or at times for "photogenic reasons." These are the Romanticists. Others vote for their close friends and relatives who are candidates regardless of their credentials. These are the Loyalties. The rest vote against candidates perceived as racists, corruptible, questionable, etc. They are more motivated to campaign and vote for the opposing candidates instead. These are more motivated to campaign and vote for the opposing candidates instead. These are the Reformists.

The Romanticists choose based upon individual perception, the Loyalists vote based on affinity or consanguinity, while the Reformists spread out and multiply by word-of-mouth, and they're contagious. These three constitute a potential large number of voters.

Most Candidates in this coming elections are locals and they already have, at this time, their respective shares of votes from their local constituents.

With most issues and counter-issues discussed, this election will be greatly influenced by silent but big block of Fil-Am Voters.

\*\*\*\*

*Watch out for the  
incisive and  
cutting edge  
column of Mr.  
Ronnie Redila,  
which will start  
next issue.*

Conservative estimates say that there are around 60,000 Fil-ams in Guam and around 25,000 are voters and as per the Philippine Consul General's office, there are 21 Filipino associations/organizations. Likewise, the dual citizenship bill has already been passed by the Philippine Congress. This column first came out at the Mabuhay News 2002 and was lifted with permission from the author at his book *Fighting for a Cause and More*. The author will begin his regular column in this paper once done with urgent pressing personal concerns. - Ed

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## Armed men rob Tenbat residence despite lawmaker's 'warning'

The two armed men who broke into the house of a Mong-mong family apparently played down a lawmaker's warning that intruders may end up facing off with a homeowner, "who would do everything to protect their families and properties."

They paid no heed and remained at large two weeks after assaulting and ransacking the victims' house on Tenbat Street at past 2 a.m. The suspects, wearing black masks and wielding a pistol and assault rifle, demanded money from the victims.

The robbers were described by the police as Chamorros, but as to the

whereabouts or identity of the culprits, investigators have no leads yet.

As of press time, the Guam Police Department have appealed to the public for tips or leads to the identity of the suspects.

Reached for comment, GPD spokesman, Officer A.J. Balajadia, in an email to this paper said he "would not provide information on cases to unconfirmed individuals sending me an email."

Since this is the maiden issue of the paper, Balajadia was apparently "cautious" in dealing with individuals unknown to him. "I'm not familiar with this company," he stressed, alluding to Junction Guam. "I don't

have any of this (sic) companies credentials, proving its (sic) a legitimate news company."

The email was sent through his iPhone.

Under the Castle Doctrine Act, which was co-authored by the lawmaker, Sen. Tony Ada, himself, people are allowed to use force to protect themselves and their families from intruders.

One of the suspects was described as 5-foot-8 tall, slightly built and with light complexion. He was in a khaki shorts and white t-shirt.

The other gunman stands 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-6 tall and with dark complexion. *The Junction News Team*

## Patient loses leg due to 'wrong' doc's advice

Tomio Kikuchi

went to the Guam Memorial Hospital to have his injured leg treated, but ended up losing this instead.

Kikuchi, 61, would not have his leg amputated, he could die, a physician reportedly advised the sexagenarian. GMH had denied the allegations of negligence but its representative will face the plaintiff and his wife for



a pre-trial conference on Nov. 19 at 10 a.m.

Tomio, along with wife, Rosalie Shook Kikuchi, 65, filed a complaint for damages before the Supe-

rior Court of Guam. Lujan Aguigui & Perez law office is representing the couple.

Based on a 7-page complaint obtained by this paper, the case stemmed from a Sept. 1, 2012 incident when Tomio slipped on a wet tile in their home. As a result, he injured his left ankle. His wife then rushed him to the hospital at 3:26 a.m.

An Emergency Room physician "prescribed that Tomio's left leg should be encased in a short fiberglass splint." After it was done, the patient was discharged by the same physician, whose name they failed to get. The two were advised to see Dr. Jan A. Bollinger, a private orthopedic surgeon.

"When Dr. Bollinger examined Tomio on September 4, 2012, he observed that there was no padding or under layment of material between Tomio's skin and the fiberglass splint that had been applied to Tomio's skin and the fiberglass splint that had been applied to Tomio's leg," the court document stated.

Further, Bollinger noted there was extensive skin blistering over the left ankle, "with evidence of infection of the blister fluid."

The surgeon advised the patient to return to GMH after an analysis of the blisters showed that Tomio's ankle was infected with staphylococcus aureus, a kind of bacteria, which is resistant to antibiotics commonly used to treat ordinary staph infections.

As an in-patient at GMH, Tomio was subject-

continued on page 10

# WE NEED YOUR OPINION

The management of the Guam Blind Masseurs needs your feedback for an honest to goodness therapeutic massage service (commercial and home service - no hanky panky) which happens to be widely available throughout Asian countries like the Philippines, China, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, and other countries.

Those who have been to the Philippines, would have seen this service commonly offered at the various malls at reasonable rates normally priced at around P300 or (\$6.50) for an hour's massage, or less for half an hour. Their services are also widely available on a home service basis with rates just the same or slightly higher than the rates in the malls. Most of the blind masseurs in the Philippines have undergone the usual six (6) months or more formal training as provided for by the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippines Department of Health (DOH), or the Philippines Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Did you know that in Guam there is no regulatory body that certifies the current crop of masseurs which happen to be sighted as there are no blind masseurs in the island? So basically anyone can claim to be a masseur/masseuse and choose to offer their supposed skills and if accepted by the employer then that's it.

In South Korea for example, therapeutic massage is regulated and it is only the blind masseurs that are licensed by the government to be masseurs. The principal reason for this is to help provide employment to the differently abled. Do not get us wrong, we are not even remotely suggesting that only the disabled should be licensed as we believe in equal employment opportunities. There is no need to make a comparison as to who can provide a better massage service whether it is the differently abled or the sighted person, as that would be like compar-

ing apples to oranges.

However, the point is when you are part of the disabled community and being a masseur seems to be your only option for a livelihood, you somehow will tend to make the best of your craft/skill and give your best, unlike the sighted and/or abled person who obviously would have more employment opportunities.

Surprisingly, we do not have this service in Guam that is widely popular in the rest of Asia, and in fact even in some parts of Europe and the mainland USA.

It is because of this that we would want to hear from you and get your opinion.

There are plans to offer this service in the island on site, on call, and home service at a rate of around \$30/per hour or \$55 for a 2-hour therapeutic massage. It will just be an honest to goodness massage to take away your aches and pains. Grandma or grandpa may need it, Mom and Dad after a hard day's work, the common man or hardworking woman may need it every now and then. A therapeutic massage from trained professionals at a rate that can hardly be considered personal extravagance.

Now the bonus is this, the members of the disabled local community will eventually be trained by the Filipino blind masseurs and will eventually offer the service in the island aside from the numerous Asian tourists who flock to the island whom we are sure will appreciate the service who happen to have this service in their home country.

Should you be in favor of this service, please send us an email at [guamblind@yahoo.com](mailto:guamblind@yahoo.com) or mail to PO BOX 12906, Tamuning 96913 and let us know your thoughts. All those who send us an email will be sent a 10% discount card for use once the service is available in the island.

Hafa Adai and Mabuhay!

**Guam Blind Masseurs**  
**[www.guamblind.com](http://www.guamblind.com)**



# Ben Servino: Your Public Servant at DISID

According to one famous Man -- "Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living." This is perhaps what went into the mind of Benito "Ben"

Servino when he started dedicating himself in the service of the individuals with disabilities.

Ben has been working with people who are disabled for over 25 years now. He is currently preoccupied serving his term as the Director of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities or (DISID), a single point of entry entity to advocate, promote, and coordinate the full continuum of services for people with disabilities in Guam.

As Ben was busy serving the people in Guam, he never forgot his responsibilities to his family. They were his major source of inspiration. He loved spending quality time to bond with them especially with his grandchildren Rai Ben and baby Jade, whose crazy antics he tremendously enjoys so much.

## A Little More About Ben's Personal Life

Ben Servino was born and raised in Guam. His late father Tim "Bino" Corporal Servino was a Filipino and a native of Bicol Province in the Philippines while his mother Paquita Santos Servino is a Guam native like him.

According to Benito, his name was given to him by his father named after his grandfather who was from Iriga, Camarines Sur, Philippines. To continue with this tradition, Ben had also named one of his sons after their grandfather Tim.

Ben went to study his secondary education in John F. Kennedy High School where he graduated in 1970 after which he attended the Guam Vocational Training Center and University of Guam. He then decided to go to the mainland to pursue his passion in arts, and soon enough earned his Bachelor's degree in Graphic Communications at California Polytechnic University or Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

Learning never stopped for someone like Ben who is driven by his purpose to serve his country and fellow men. He went on to get another degree, and this time, a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling in San Diego State University's Interwork Institute.

Ben immensely enjoyed his years as a student until the time he graduated. He eventually discovered the beauty in the eyes of Martha Bamba of whom he

married and had two sons and two daughters namely Emily, Taison, Tim, and Natally. Ben and Martha found a new home in California where they raised their four children.

Aside from his wife



Martha, Ben is also in love with ---- Sports! What else? As he finds time to enjoy playing his favorites fitness activities like swimming, playing

volleyball, bowling and basketball which kept him always on the groove and sharp in performing his work duties and family responsibilities.

## An Advocate And Servant Of Individuals with Disability

In 2011 Ben Servino relocated back to Guam after Governor Eddie Calvo offered him the Directorial Position at DISID, following his retirement from a short stint at the California State University, East Bay in 2010 where he served as the Interim Director for Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) from 2009.

It has always been in Ben's agenda to be of service to people with intellectual and developmental disability as he was also a former Coordinator/Counselor for more than 7 years at the State of California, Department of Rehab from April 2002 to July 2009 providing career counseling and job development/placement service to clients of the department.

It was an extraordinary career for Ben to fulfill himself by giving others hope while many people can't. That is why as the current Director of the DISID, his good office's objective continues as the future of the individuals with disability remains bright and steady ahead.

## DISID Achievements under Ben's Leadership

The future looks really promising for DISID, having Director Ben Servino at their service. DISID's founda-

tion came from a collective leadership of different directors since it was established in March 26, 1997; and Ben swore to continuously put DISID up to its reputation that he made true during his current leadership.

Many of DISID's accomplishments under Ben's leadership are also because of collaborative partnerships with non-profit organizations, government entities worldwide and private businesses to help address the needs of individuals with disabilities (IWDs) such as:

- The Advocacy needs of IWDs
- The needs of the youth
- The Assistive Technology (AT) funding needs of IWDs

- The needs of various community support groups
- The homeless needs of IWDs
- The needs of Veterans with Disabilities
- Employment needs of IWDs

Among the recent achievements of DISID under Ben's watch is making buildings accessible by imposing accessible parking. Ben is so passionate about this that he personally goes around to make sure every building is compliant.

Thanks to the Director's office of DISID and the other agencies that assisted, without whom these needs of people of disability in the island would not be addressed completely.

We have the choice to see each and everyone of us perfectly the same, in the same way our creator see us whether we are disabled or just normal individuals. Ben did not only make that choice to see our equality, but he chose to feel the need of the disabled to hope and live normally. This is Ben Servino's legacy to his fellowmen, where his life is worth living in the service of others.

## Lawmaker seeks...

*from page 3*

either the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration.

With the required 4 percent of the contract, amounting to \$8-billion military building, this could translate to as much as \$320 million "for the people of Guam," said San Nicolas.

The escrow agent shall deposit the amount to an escrow account and the remaining 96 percent of the disbursement to the payee. In this manner, the senator said "all BPT is captured and paid."

Under the same bill, Guam's licensed businesses in good standing with the contractors' License Board, PEALS Board, Bank and Insurance Board or with a valid real estate license are exempt from the requirement.

San Nicolas said that with "millions of dollars on the line, we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to efficiently collect." *The Junction News Team*

**Do you want us to feature your favorite public servant? Send us an e-mail at [ed\\_gu@junctionnews.com](mailto:ed_gu@junctionnews.com)**



## San Nicolas: "We had to bail out the Governor"

*from page 1*

refunds were paid out from March 12th through April 21st. Prior to that, only \$3.1 million had been paid out from Jan. 1 through March 11th. In good faith, I moved the Director's nomination forward after the deposits were caught up and refunds were getting paid faster.

"Almost immediately after the confirmation of the Director, the deposits into the refund account stalled again, again in violation of the law. Tax refunds ground to a halt, again for months, and no payment resource was available.

"Working with my colleagues in the Legislature, we lowered the Governor's FY 2016 revenue projection by \$37.1 million dollars. As a consequence, we had room to pay refunds with Section 30 money that is supposed to be used for FY 2016. Essentially we had to bailout the Governor by lowering next fiscal year's budget so he could tap that revenue now to catch up. That Section 30 money, plus the ACTC reimbursements from the previous refunds we pushed out in May, are what enabled the Governor to pay refunds over the weekend, exactly how I asked him to in my letter dated August 27th," Senator San Nicolas said.

On the Governor's comment that "then senatorial hopeful" San Nicolas was among those who actively campaigned against his 2011 financial plan, to set the records straight, he said, "I was not even a candidate for Senator until May 2012. I am advocating that the Governor make the required payments into the Income Tax Refund account so that our people can get their tax refunds faster, without the need for borrowing or going into deficit spending."

And is there truth to the Governor's statement that his administration was able to pay "refunds without borrowing money," for "three consecutive years now?" Senator San Nicolas says otherwise.

"The Governor has continued to borrow over the last few fiscal years. In this current fiscal year, he has a \$65.1 million deficit and a deficit is borrowing in the form of overspending into next year. He has also had to issue tens of millions of dollars in tax credits in order to pay government obligations. Issuing a tax credit in lieu of payment is just another form of borrowing because this is revenue that we lose for future budgets. Tax credits also add unpredictability to our budgets because we have no control over their rate of remittance. Additionally, he has borrowed from our government vendors by not paying them on time, stretching payments to the breaking point where even the power is getting cut off from our education agencies. Vendors are owed tens of millions of dollars throughout the government. Not only is the Governor borrowing, he is doing it in the same way that has gotten us into financial trouble time and time again," San Nicolas said.

And while majority may have already received their checks, it is not an end of the battle for San Nicolas, as he pledged "to work assertively with the Administration in the months ahead to make sure we pay out tax refunds even faster next year."

But the netizens are not really happy, saying the refunds came at a very big price, and when the Governor leaves office, he is also leaving a very large bill for which the taxpayers have to pay.

Efforts to get Vice Speaker BJ Cruz's side proved futile as of press time./The Junction News Team



SAN NICOLAS

## 2008 Deal Spares...

*from page 1*

"Still, had management wanted to keep the avenue open, it had multiple options in how to proceed in 2008," the CSC reminded DPW. "They could have avoided global language, they could have specified exemptions for subsequent convictions, they could have not settled the case and pursued it," the ruling read.

Perez and DPW signed a stipulation after the defendant was fired in April 2008. She was facing charges in local court, which were later dropped.

The agreement allowed Perez to return to her old job and receive back wages. It notes its purpose was to "fully, finally and completely resolve all disputes between them regarding these matters."

Under the stipulation, the government of Guam paid \$38,000 in backpay, including attorney's fees to Perez. She was vindicated after the Superior Court dropped the charges of fraud lodged against her.

The DPW said it would appeal the decision of the Superior Court of Guam.

The fourth defendant was cleared of all charges at a trial.

Prosecutors alleged that DPW staff did maintenance work at the department's compound under the guidance of the defendants, which wouldn't have been eligible for overtime.

When they tried to claim it as overtime, prosecutors alleged, the supervisors, including Perez and Galiza, reportedly instructed the staff to falsify their documents so they could get paid.

In April 2012, Galiza admitted to fraud, while Torres and Perez, in April 2014, admitted to knowing about the scheme, but failing to report it.

In her plea agreement, Perez admitted receiving overtime pay in the amount of not less than \$9,000 that she obtained through false and inaccurate information she stated in her time sheets.

Torres admitted that between Oct. 1, 2006 and March 21, 2007, she obtained overtime compensation by means of making false reports on her time sheets, charging the federal government the amount of \$7,500 for overtime pay./The Junction News Team

## NOTICE

### Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK)

The Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK) of Guam is in the process of organizing. Those from the Cordillera Region (CAR) including Baguio City who wish to help out or join the group are encouraged to please send an email to [bbibak\\_guam@yahoo.com](mailto:bbibak_guam@yahoo.com) with your contact details

## Guam has an average of...

*from page 2*

divorce; a separation or breakup of a relationship; losing custody of children; or feeling that a child custody decision is not fair; a serious loss such as that of a job, house or money; a serious illness; a terminal illness; a serious accident; chronic physical pain; intense emotional pain; loss of hope; domestic violence like rape, assault; physical abuse; verbal abuse; sexual abuse; feeling helpless; serious legal problems; alcohol abuse; drug abuse; feeling of not being accepted by family, friends or society; bullying and low self-esteem.

Guam celebrates Suicide Prevention Month this September./The Junction News Team

## The chief of staff...

*from page 3*

staff so much, they often become close members of an inner circle around the leader. Often relationships almost take on family-like dimensions. These are often close and lasting relationships," he explained.

McNinch added that the chief of staff plays a critical role, saying he or she regulates access to a lawmaker, including the dissemination of information.

"The chief (of staff) will often supervise or manage staff. They may work on the political mission and vision for the leader. If you see a good politician, it is far more likely that you are seeing the results of good staff support. The best elected leader possible can do little without this strong support," McNinch emphasized.

He described Whitt, who served the Guam Delegate for 13 years, as a "devoted" aide of Bordallo, a man "who is ever watchful of her interests."

Bordallo had issued a statement that she had accepted Whitt's resignation.

"I accepted John Whitt's resignation as my chief of staff, effective immediately. I have a responsibility to represent and advocate for our people to the best of my abilities, and unfortunately the pending allegations against John could detract from carrying out those responsibilities.

"I appreciate the many years of service that John has provided to me and the people of Guam throughout his career in public service. John was a trusted advisor, and his counsel was instrumental to carrying out my duties as Guam's representative in Congress," the statement read.

Bordallo tapped Legislative Director, Matthew Herrmann, as Whitt's replacement.

Whitt was arrested in April on allegations of second-degree assault and unwanted sexual conduct.

Bordallo's communications director, Adam Carbullido, said last week that Bordallo was aware of Whitt's past, "as were many on Guam."

"(Whitt) completed his restitution following those cases before he started working for the congresswoman as her chief of staff," said Carbullido./The Junction News Team



<b>Ritidian Market</b> 15607-1 Santana, Dededo 632-0632	<b>Cilantro Restaurant</b> Korea Centre, Harmon 648-0220	<b>Day Buy Day</b> No. 444 Marine Drive, Piti 472-3391, 489-1172
<b>La Familia Mart</b> 865 Sengsong Rd, Dededo 637-7977	<b>Ypao Market</b> Ypao, Tamuning 989-3421	<b>Sta. Rita Store</b> Sta. Rita 565-9779
<b>G-Mart</b> 698 Pale R. Lagu, Yigo 653-7972	<b>Mangilao KNS Market</b> Mangilao 734-5499	<b>New Agat Oriental Supermarket, Agat</b> 565-5153
<b>Naomis Bakery</b> H525 CHN R. Haya, Yigo 653-3363	<b>Super Mart</b> Route 10, Mangilao 735-6278	<b>Agat Water Store</b> Agat 989-5225
<b>Hafa Adai Market</b> Marine Corp Drive, Yigo 653-4594	<b>JS Store</b> Toto 472-9779	<b>Agat Kim Chee Store</b> Route 2, Agat 565-2568
<b>White Market</b> 260A NCS, Dededo 637-3777	<b>San Jose Mart</b> Mong-mong	<b>Papa Niyoc Store</b> Inarajan 828-0089
<b>Town Market</b> Kayen Chando, Dededo 637-2956	<b>Sol Market</b> No. 103 Pago Plaza, Chalan Pago, 734-6402	<b>Maes Retail Store</b> Inarajan 828-8326
<b>Josies Special Bachoy &amp; Restaurant</b> Ste 105 Servino Comm Bldg., Dededo, 633-4383	<b>MJ Store</b> Route 4, Chalan Pago 477-2801	<b>Inarajan Market</b> Inarajan 828-5501
<b>Guam Bakery</b> Kayen Chando, Dededo 632-1161	<b>Buenas Market</b> Route 4, Yona 789-2538	<b>Merizo Supermarket</b> Merizo 828-2374
<b>ERC Hardware</b> 231 E. Buena Vista Ave., Dededo, 635-7787	<b>Day Buy Day</b> Yona 789-3371	<b>Papa Niyoc Store</b> Merizo 828-0088
<b>Dededo Mall lobby,</b> <b>Dededo</b> <b>633-1000</b>	<b>Ipan Village Market</b> Talofofo 789-8787	<b>Tomoge Beach Store</b> Merizo 828-0049
<b>New Eden Mart</b> 263 Adrian Sanchez St., Harmon, 646-4589	<b>Paulino Store</b> San Miguel St., Talofofo 789-1061	

## Advertising Rates

**Classifieds section line ads**

- Personal: \$4/per col. inch
- Business: \$5/per col. inch

**Legal Notices/Gov’t Notices/Obituaries:** \$11/per col. inch

**Commercial Ads:**

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1/4 page	\$256.00	\$346.00
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1 whole page	\$947.00	\$1,278.00

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- first 5,000: \$0.08/pc.
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- 10,000 and beyond: \$0.06/pc

**Note:** Inserts should be delivered to our office not later than 5 pm, Saturday.



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1 whole page	2 months

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# Rolly Zabala: A Leader, Pangasinense

They say that a man on a mission is hard to stop. You would definitely know you are in the presence of one, when you're around someone like Rolando Zabala or just simply "Mang Rolly." Many would say that he is intimidating and intense but those who are fortunate enough to have worked with him would simply say that he exudes a strong aura of a man who simply wants to be of service to God and his fellow men.

## The Roots of the Leader

Guam has become a second home and an unlikely place for someone like Mang Rolly to be in, despite of his pro-active trait and purpose driven character of becoming a leader. He was born and raised as a Catholic in Urdaneta City Province of Pangasinan in the Philippines, where remnants of his childhood, education and traces of his family sits back.

As a student, Mang Rolly was already showing signs of Leadership and Wit, consistently belonging to the honor roll from his freshman year to senior year in Urdaneta City Highschool, graduating in 1958. He majored in Economics and Political Science studies with minor in Marketing and Management in University of the East, Manila, Philippines where he graduated in 1968.

His Economics and Marketing degree paved the way for him to become the organizer and president of the then biggest marketing cooperative in the Philippines which is The Pangasinan Federation of Cooperatives/Marketing Cooperative that he led for four years, from 1971 to 1975.

## The Calling

He was at the height of his career as a marketing guru at the age of 37 when he left the Philippines on December 6, 1975, three years after the martial law was declared in 1972, where the people of the republic learned to fear military hostility under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

It was a difficult decision for him to leave since he has

always loved his country. He was hesitant since he's doing pretty well with his life and career and never imagined himself to be living somewhere else. As matter of fact, the day Mang Rolly arrived at the US soil is also the expiration date of his visa. Mang Rolly was brought up as a brave, God-Fearing, family-oriented man and the political situation that the people were facing at that time did not, in any way discourage him from living and pursuing his dreams in the land where he was born.

But sometimes, no matter how we plan our life, there will be some things that will be hard for us to ignore that will make us choose the other path. And Rolly Zabala was destined to leave the country, and do greater things soon after.



The wonderful Zabala family. Front Row: Rolly and his beautiful wife, Claire. At the back are Rolly's kids (L-Right): Rolando II, Violeta, Rosalyn, Elizabeth, and Roderick.

## Mother's Prayer and a Friendly Advice

It was his good friend Amadeo Perez, Sr. (the Mayor of Urdaneta, Pangasinan at that time) who encouraged him to leave. But the biggest influence on his decision was none other than his mother. Maybe it is mainly because we as Filipinos know that "Mother knows Best." It was his mother's begging and crying that brought out the soft side of Mang Rolly, which convinced him to relocate

his family in the US. He chose Guam in particular because he has some family members here and it is near the Philippines. It was indeed an answered prayer of a mother who wished nothing but to bring the family together.

Asked what he thinks he may have become if he stuck it out in the Philippines, Mang Rolly said "I may have become one of the very corrupt politicians."

## Starting Anew

It was not really easy to start anew. In fact, it was really tough for Mang Rolly to begin another chapter of his life in a foreign country. Difficult as it may be, he started out as a lowly employee of Guam Reef Hotel. It is a far cry from what he left in the Philippines, where he already has made a name for himself as a respected businessman and also a newspaperman. But he has to do it. He has to start again, and start at the bottom at that. But Mang Rolly's positive attitude and clear qualifications landed him a job as a staff assistant to Senator Ernesto Espaldon at the Guam Legislature in a matter of days. He has been with the senator from 1975-1978.

## Career Highlights

His stint with Senator Espaldon's office brought Mang Rolly to his career. He worked as a Community Liaison Officer for Legislature (1978-1980), Assistant to Congressman Ben Biaz of the House of Representative (1984-1987), and Security Police Supervisor of Guam Airport Authority as a ranking Lieutenant (1980-1994).

There is no way but up for a man with a vision, integrity, and right values. In 1995, he became the Deputy Director of The Department of Labor where he managed the entire operations of the bureau until his retirement in 2002.

Then, Mang Rolly thought he is too young to retire. Thus he took on a job under the Congresswoman Madeline Z. Bordallo's District Office as Constituent Services Representative from 2003 to 2005.

## A Leader

Leadership is just flowing in his blood. Once a leader, always a leader, as they say. He has been the Vice President of Filipino Community of Guam (FCG); President of Pangasinan Association of Guam; President for five terms of Wettengel Elementary School PTA; and Executive Vice President, island wide, of the Guam Parents Teaches Organization from 1989-1992.

## Multiawardee

Surely, everybody can see what this man is made of. And it is but difficult to ignore and put aside his achievements and good deeds. Thus, he earned himself one of the many prestigious awards that he had from the Government of Guam such as "The Most Outstanding Public Service Award" for the year 1989-1992. He was also given the "Most Outstanding Community Service Award" in 1992.

## Continuing His Mission

"To be a proactive leader in improving the quality of life of all people and to render service to humanity and God Almighty. To be committed to an honest and good government." This is what Rolando P. Zabala or Mang Rolly is made of, as this objective is him.

He is a man of God. An alumnus for the UE Red Warrior. Honest and a truthful leader. Pinoy. A father and a brother. A man on a mission, that continuously aims to inspire and hope for the people.

His advice to the newcomers on Guam is simply strive hard, work hard, be smart, and work yourself to the top and be the best person that you can be. Do not be afraid and do not ashamed to start at the bottom.

To you Mang Rolly, long live. We are proud of you and Mabuhay ka!

Galing Pinoy!

Do you know of any magaling na Pinoy on Guam?  
Have us feature him/her.  
Email us at [ed\\_gu@junctionnews.com](mailto:ed_gu@junctionnews.com)

## Patient loses leg...

from page 6

ed to various tests including blood tests and cultures. He was also treated with anti-biotics, given whirlpool baths and underwent surgeries to stabilize the ankle and clean out the wound.

Next was a nightmare to Tomio who was informed by his attending physician that "if he did not have his left leg amputated, he might die because of the spread of blood poisoning or septicemia throughout his body."

The patient, after consulting his family, agreed to have his leg amputated. Tomio's counsels said that the relatively minor injury, the fractured left ankle and the subluxation of the ankle, would have not become infected, if not for the negligence of the ER physicians and personnel.

On the other hand, Rosalie is claiming a separate damage suit, citing that even their sexual relation was affected by Tomio's health condition.

Rosalie has suffered the burden of becoming a fulltime caregiver to a person "who is now permanently disabled." They also claimed to have been emotionally drained and depressed as a result of the alleged hospital's negligence.

GMH has "refused to reduce, abate or forgive any portion of the medical expenses that the defendant has charged Tomio." The couple incurred some \$40,000 for medical expenses./The Junction News Team

## FOR SALE OR JOINT VENTURE DEVELOPMENT

Commercial property located at the central business district Barangay Roxas at San Carlos Pangasinan, Philippines

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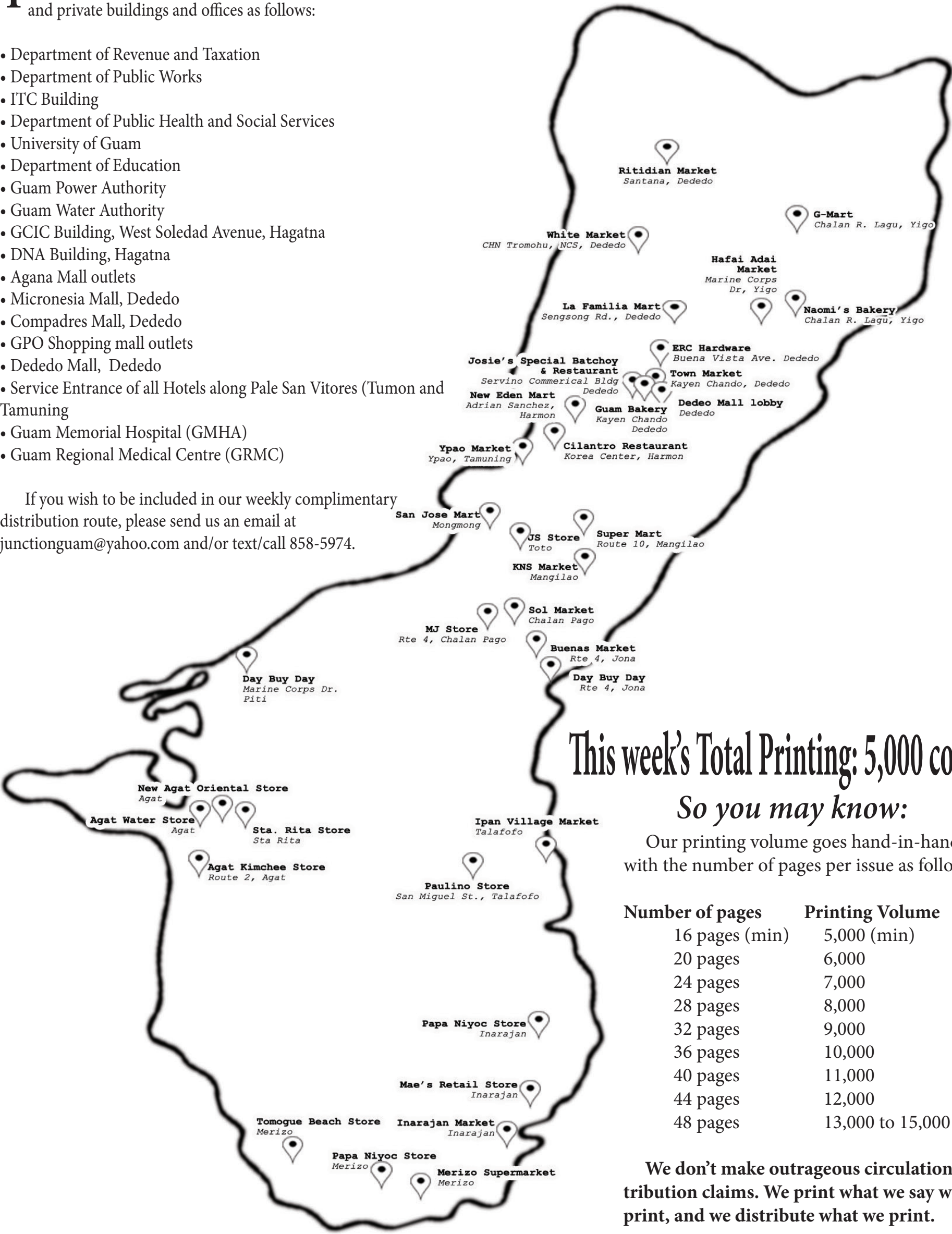
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48 pages	13,000 to 15,000

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## US Consular Fees to Change

The Department of State has published an interim final rule that makes changes to the passport book fees and fees related to the relinquishment of nationality. In addition, on October 4, 2015 the Department will lower the processing fee for the Border Crossing Card (BCC) for Mexican citizens under age 15 whose parent or guardian has or is applying for a BCC, because a surcharge on the nonimmigrant visa fee will sunset on that date.

Effective September 26, 2015 the Department of State is lowering the passport book application fee by \$20 and raising the passport book security surcharge (enhanced border security fee) by \$20 to more accurately reflect the cost of each aspect of the passport book service. The amount paid by the customer for a passport book will not change.

In addition, effective November 9, 2015, the Department of State will adjust the processing fee for a Certificate of Loss of Nationality to all U.S. nationals seeking to document relinquishment of nationality. All such U.S. nationals will pay a \$2,350 processing fee.

The proposed fee changes have been published in the Federal Register. To view the interim final rule, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for RIN 1400-AD71. Comments will be accepted until November 9, 2015. At that time, the Department will consider the public comments, and the published final rule will include the Department's response to relevant comments received.

Separately, the Department is also decreasing the BCC fee for Mexican citizens under age 15 whose parent or guardian has applied or is applying for a border crossing card. One of the special immigrant program surcharges

## US, Philippines to Begin this Year's Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise in Luzon

U.S. Marines and Sailors of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3d MEB), the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be participating in the 31st iteration of the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) 2016, 21 September to 9 October, in Luzon.

The Philippine lead exercise will continue to enhance the interoperability between the U.S. Marine air-ground task force and the AFP with the goal of improving our bilateral response to regional issues and maritime security crises within the Asia-Pacific.

PHIBLEX 16 will include approximately 650 U.S. service members based in Okinawa, Japan and Philippine Sailors and Marines working side-by-side to conduct a command post exercise, field training exercises, amphibious operations, combined arms

training, civil-military operations and humanitarian and civic assistance projects. The command post exercise, in Palawan, will increase the AFP's capability to conduct planning for and execution of bilateral maritime operations. The field training exercises in the vicinity of Angeles-Clark, to include small arms and artillery live-fire training, will provide the Philippine and U.S. Marine units multiple opportunities to maintain and improve their unit skill sets while sharing best practices and enhancing an already high level of interoperability. The humanitarian and civic assistance projects in Palawan will include engineering civic action projects, to improve local infrastructure, cooperative health engagements and to share medical best practices to meet the medical needs of Philippine citizens. The humanitarian and civic assistance projects support the needs and humanitarian interests of the Philippine people. Bilateral Philippine-U.S. military training opportunities such as PHIBLEX 16 sustain our strong foundation of interoperability and strengthen our working relationships across the range of military operations — from disaster relief to complex expeditionary operations. All portions of PHIBLEX will also play a major role in preparation for the upcoming large scale exercise, Balikatan to take place next year./U.S. Embassy, Manila

Because this change to the BCC fee for minors under the age of 15 was already published as a Final Rule on December 31, 2014, there is no public comment period. The fees for all other consular services will remain the same. Fee information can also be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov), and on the websites of U.S. embassies and consulates./US Embassy, Manila

PHIBLEX 16 will include approximately 650 U.S. service members based in Okinawa, Japan and Philippine Sailors and Marines working side-by-side to conduct a command post exercise, field training exercises, amphibious operations, combined arms

## Philippines sends senior officials to 2015 Seoul defense dialogue

The Philippines sent senior officials to attend the 2015 Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD 2015) organized from September 09 to 11 by South Korea's Defense Ministry with a special focus this year on the divided Korean Peninsula.

Defense Undersecretary Honorio S. Azcueta headed the Philippine delegation, which was also joined by Philippine Ambassador to South Korea

Raul S. Hernandez in conferring with their peers at the Westin Chosun Hotel under the "70 Years of the Post-WWII Era and the Division of Korea: Challenges and Prospects" with a Slogan "Cooperation for Security and Peace".

At the sidelines of the forum, Undersecretary Azcueta was also able to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from two countries: South Korea's

Vice Defense Minister Baek Seung-joo and Chile's Vice Defense Minister Marcos Robledo on possible areas of cooperation.

SDD 2015, which was opened by President Park Geun-hye, included a variety of topics, including Korean unification and global security, maritime crisis, and cyber protection, in separate plenary sessions, while defense cooperation on global health security,

continued on page 13

## WE ARE IN NEED OF FIELD INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

**RE: To verify the alleged massage parlors as fronts to prostitution**

There is no doubt that the political, civic, religious leaders and all concerned Guamanians are one in the promotion of Guam as a wholesome family oriented tourist destination. This is proven by the fact that the operation of a casino is not allowed in Guam despite the obvious revenue it may bring in to the coffers of Guam. Unfortunately, social ills are at times unavoidable in a growing-tourism oriented economy. However, as they say "we are a government of laws and not of men." Allegedly, some of the massage parlors in the island are fronts and/or double time as joints and avenues for prostitution (they say prostitution is the oldest profession even before the time of Christ). It would in fact be the height of hypocrisy if a Casino and/or similar forms of gambling are not allowed but prostitution would be tolerated.

In view of this, we are looking for stout hearted men of action and not just talk, those who are willing to walk their talk to do investigative work to prove or disprove that certain massage parlors are fronts for prostitution.

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### Megamixx Line Up

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9am-12nn Midday Request Xpress with Tass  
12nn-3pm PnP: The Afternoon Shift with Arnold  
3pm-6pm Flipside Happy Hapon Show with Migz  
6pm-9pm Radio On Demand with DJ Cure  
9pm-12mn (M-Th) The Late Night Show with Raffy  
9pm-12mn (F) im radio with Johnny Z

#### Saturday:

8am-10am Damdaming Pinoy with Ate Sam, Ate Beth and Kuya Roy  
10am-2pm Saturdays with Rolly M.  
2pm-6pm Showtime Saturdays with Initial V

#### Sunday:

8am-10am Sunday Inspirations  
10am-2pm Dear Heart with Gloria Diaz  
5:30pm-7pm Kumusta, Kabayan with Mr. Z  
7pm-12mn Retro OPM



# Asian Architecture Conference Highlights Opportunities, Challenges, of SMEs

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are becoming increasingly vital to the economy of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, with SMEs accounting for almost all of business in the Philippines. However, these SMEs continue to face challenges which can be addressed by the government and private sector.

This was the consensus among speakers on the Small Businesses: The Key to Growth panel at the Asian Architecture Conference at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on September 22. The Conference brought together

key thought leaders, business executives, and policy makers from the United States and Asia for a discussion on important issues surrounding the East Asia Summit (EAS) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Among the panelists were Mr. Kazumi Nishikawa, Special Advisor to the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry in Japan and Executive Director of JETRO Singapore; Philippine Ambassador to the United States, Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.; Dr. James Morrison, Special Assistant for Congressional and International Affairs of the US Overseas Private

Investment Corporation; and Mr. Bernard Bailey, Chairman and CEO of Authentix. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Scott Miller, William M. Scholl Chair in International Business at CSIS.

According to Ambassador Cuisia, there is a gap between the contribution of SMEs in the ASEAN economy and their share in international trade, which he said is indicative of challenges being faced by SMEs in their respective

countries.

"In ASEAN, SMEs form the backbone of our economies, comprising more than 96 percent of all enterprises and contribute 30 to 35 percent of GDP. They constitute the largest source of domestic employment—from 50 to 95 percent of jobs in the region—across all economic sectors and in both rural and urban areas. However, they only account for 19 to 31 percent of the exports of this dynamic and produc-

bringing together vice defense ministers and security experts to help foster multilateral trust and cooperation in Northeast Asia. This year's dialogue attracted the attendance of some 300 senior defense policymakers, military executives and academics from 33 countries and four international agencies.

The dialogue has expanded its scope from issues exclusive to the Korean Peninsula to questions of wider global relevance, as evident in the inclusion of topics pertinent to such countries as the Philippines: maritime disputes in the East China and South China Seas, exclusive economic zones, continental shelf delineation, and air defense zones./DFA Release

tive region," said Ambassador Cuisia.

There has been a steady increase in the number of SMEs in the Philippines, however, these businesses continue to face several challenges.

"In the Philippines, SMEs account for 99 percent of the business and contribute 65 percent of the jobs generated by all types of business establishments. They grew by 66 percent from 492,510 in 1995 to 816,759 in 2011. Similarly, the numbers of those employed by these firms have grown by 45.7 percent from 2.7 million in 1995 to 3.9 million in 2011," said Ambassador Cuisia.

He added, "These growth figures mask challenges faced by SMEs. Many Philippine SMEs remain too small, only meagerly augment household incomes, and are unable to take advantage of opportunities brought about by globalization or ASEAN integration."

Constraints to further growth and productivity SMEs face include limited access to finance, technology, and skills; persistence of information environments; difficulties with product quality and marketing; and other challenges related to an economic playing field that is not level between large and small firms.

"To go beyond survival and actually compete, SMEs will also need to undergo successful business

transformation in various dimensions of their operations—spanning enhanced entrepreneurial skill, innovation in process and product development, more successful collaboration across SMEs and with larger firms, and improved crisis resilience among other factors," said Ambassador Cuisia.

According to Mr. Mishikawa, Asian governments are seeing the importance of SMEs and are collectively focusing on SME utilization, making them more competitive in the global market.

The Philippines is hosting APEC this year, and the country has consistently taken the position that there needs to be specific, concrete, and practical interventions to provide SMEs wide opportunities to integrate into global or regional trade.

"In our hosting of APEC this year, we have placed SMEs front and center. We encouraged the other APEC economies to improve institutional support systems for SMEs. We have argued for promoting and harnessing synergistic linkages between SMEs and large firms, as well as enabling the SMEs to benefit from regional economic integration. Simply put, we want APEC to look at global trade through the prism of SMEs," said Ambassador Cuisia.

The Asian Architecture Conference was organized by CSIS with support from the Government of Japan and the National Center for APEC./DFA Release

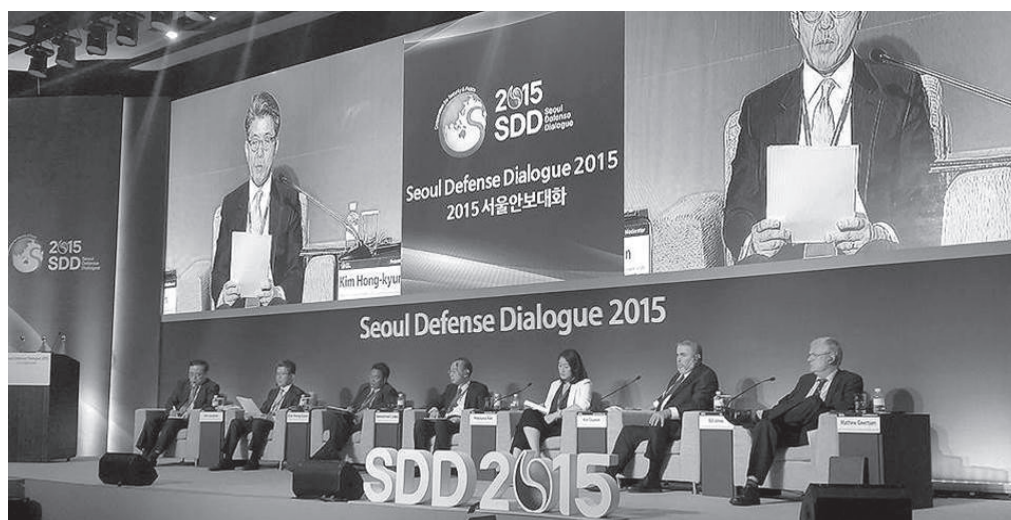
## Philippine Sends...

from page 12

response to violent extremism and nuclear nonproliferation were discussed in three special sessions.

A discussant at one of the sessions, Professor Renato Cruz De Castro, a senior professor at the De La Salle University in Manila, expounded on the Philippine perspective on the West Philippine Sea. In the third special session, Assistant Secretary Raymund G. Quilop of the Office of Strategic Assessment of the Department of National Defense (DND) spoke on the topic "Non-Proliferation Regime for the Asia-Pacific".

First organized by South Korea's Defense Ministry in 2012, the SDD is a regional dialogue platform



Professor Raymund Jose G. Quilop, Assistant Secretary of Strategic Assessment at the Philippines Department of National Defense (DND) (3rd from left) was one of six speakers at the third special session on nuclear nonproliferation moderated by Dr. Kim Sunghan, professor of international relations and director of the Ilman International Relations Institute (IIRI) at Korea University and former Vice Foreign Minister (leftmost).

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## BASTA Guam: A Filipino group, a Filipino Family

Pretty faces, polite, hospitable, warm, helpful and family oriented. These are just few of the basic traits, or perhaps the true nature, of Filipino people. You experience this when you travel to the Philippines. You just can't help but smile on the kind of people they are.

The taste of Sinaing na Tulingan, a tuna fish braised in a clay-pot with bilimbi or "kamias" still lingers. And the all-time favorite Bulalo, beef shanks boiled until the fat and bone marrow has melted to perfection is definitely unforgettable. Plus many more other dishes that speaks of how rich the culture is. The festivity indeed never stops. Everywhere you go is just fascinating. They are one happy bunch!

Here on Guam, there is a group called BASTA, which is composed of interesting individuals who are all Filipinos. They are the ones who will further enhance what you already know now about the Philippines, how they are, their culture etc.

### A New Home Away From Home

BASTA is a non-profit organization founded by Rey Gonzales, Marcy Manipol and Ronnie Saludo on July 16, 1977. The organization name stands for Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association. It is a Filipino Guam-based organization, that came a long way to bring simply the best of what Filipino people can offer. It's amazing how these people found everybody to form a new home, to foster a closer relationship with their free-spirited "Kababayans" living in Guam who are originally natives from the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Mindoro, Palawan, Cavite, Marinduque, and parts of Rizal.



Turn over of donation to Guam Diabetes Association (Aug. 23)



Turn over of donation to Harvest House Aug. 23

The forming of this group basically stems from the fact that Filipinos are generally people person. They are in constant search for people with the same interests or anything in common with them. They always want to be around people so meet ups or get together delights them. Not to mention that this is somehow their way of coping with homesickness, of being away from their country, their roots. This serves as an avenue for them to get in touch with how they do things back at home and belonging in an organization similar to BASTA somehow makes them feel that they are indeed "at home."

### The Young and Ageless: 38th Year of BASTA and Counting

BASTA is a group of good natured individuals who grouped together to socialize; celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones in the lives of its members. Just one big family. But they go more than that. They make sure they involve themselves in worthwhile social activities that help the community where they live in. They do fund raising like the recent one they did for a Diabetes organization and they also help solidify relations between that of Guam and the Philippines.

BASTA Guam has just recently celebrated their 38th year as an organization. It is amazing how the Ageless men and women of BASTA contributed to just about any noble cause outside their own territory to help others and extend their helpful hands to their friends such as the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Japan Earthquake charity, and just recently, the Guam Diabetes Association and Harvest House where a donation turnover was held last August 23, 2015, under the leadership of its

current President Marie Manalo Cummings. What is more amazing is how these people share their blessings naturally.

Family-oriented and fun-loving Filipino character paved way in putting up, BASTA youth group composed of children and relatives of the BASTA pioneering members. It instantly gave the Ageless the energy of the youth to produce programs such as song and dance, talent programs, and concerts.

### BASTA and The New Days

So you could just imagine how fun it is to be with them! Once you meet them, you will have the best time of your life. It would make you think that if only there were more free spirited people across the world, this place will definitely be a better place to live in. May there be more organizations like BASTA.

BASTA can be reached via their official FB account: BASTA Guam.

### BASTA Guam 2015 Officers:

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Vice President: Al Talabong  
Recording Secretary: Portia Rimpos  
Corresponding Secretary: Mila Bischocho  
Treasurer: Lorna Manipol  
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# Top US official in Manila; talks on maritime law enforcement

**S**tate Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield, head of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is now in Manila to discuss with Philippine officials maritime law enforcement efforts in the Philippines and in the region.

According to the US Embassy Manila, the Assistant Secretary will be joined by Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the US Coast Guard. He will also meet with Philippine National Police Chief Director General Ricardo Marquez and with Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

Assistant Secretary Brownfield's office is tasked with combating international crime and illegal drugs, and their impact on the United States, by providing effective foreign assistance and fostering global cooperation to counter these threats.

INL programs cover the full spectrum of law enforce-

ment and the rule of law, including: police professionalization; justice sector development; correctional institution reform; and citizen security strengthening.

Currently, INL manages \$20 million in foreign assistance to the Philippines with plans to continue providing more than \$8 million dollars in assistance annually. Such assistance has had a significant impact already on expanding the capabilities of Philippine partner agencies across the criminal justice spectrum.

Assistant Secretary Brownfield holds the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. He was sworn in his current post in January 2011 and since then has received the Distinguished Service Award and the Presidential Performance Award three times./US Embassy, Manila; PIA

# Martial Law falls on Sept. 23 not Sept. 21

**S**eptember 23, 2015 marks the 43rd anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law in the Philippines.

According to the Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, Martial Law was declared on September 23, 1972 contrary to the popular notion that it was on September 21.

The Gazette based its post to the research of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO), who produced papers containing timeline leading up to the Martial Law and even up to the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship, which were taken from the point of view of the people who lived through the events that had unfolded.

The actual date was based on the full implementation of the martial law, which is after the nationwide address of President Marcos at 7:15PM of September 23.

Although Proclamation No. 1801 was dated September 21, historians have different views as to the actual date of its signing.

David Rosenberg writing in the Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars ("The End of the Freest Press in the World," Vol. 5, 1973) and Raymond Bonner in his book Waltzing with the Dictator emphasized that Marcos signed the proclamation in the morning of September 23.

Meanwhile, Bangkok Post in a series of articles called "The Aquino Papers" chronicled that the President signed it on September 17 postdated to September 21.

The full text of the briefer and comprehensive timeline can be viewed at the websites of the Official Gazette and the Presidential Museum and Library./PIA (Michael Uy)

# PHL Construction Industry... from page 16

in the country.

The delegation visited on-going construction projects and two Specific Economic Zones (SEZs) in Vientiane: the Long Thanh-Vientiane Golf Club (Long-Vien) and Dongphosy SEZs. They were also briefed by a Filipino legal consultant, Atty. Aristotle David, on investment opportunities and doing business in Lao PDR.

Philippine Ambassador to Lao PDR Belinda M. Ante accompanied the delegation during their courtesy calls on Vice Minister of the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce Somchith Inthamith and Vice Minister of the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment Khamlien Pholsena. The Vice Ministers outlined priority development areas of the Lao Government as well as investment prospects for Philippine businessmen in the fields of education and health.

A business forum and business matching activity were conducted on September 16 at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel, with more than 60 participants from member companies of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, including the Vice President of the Lao National Construction Association Dr. Khamseen Sisavong, as well as legal consultants, and representatives from the Lao Ministries of Industry and Commerce, Planning and Investment, Public Works and Transport, and Energy and Mines.

The delegation proceeded to the Vietnam on September 17 for the next leg of their mission./DFA Release



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Referenced to satellite imagery (© 2015). Centuria Medical Makati will lease 107 units with various units available. Target Project completion date is December 2016.



# TWO TAIPANS IN MALL WAR

With the \$20.5-M acquisition of the Tumon Bay Mall, Lucio Tan has re-established himself, as among the island's big investors and put the Chinese-Filipino billionaire in direct competition with mall tycoon, Henry Sy.

Besides Micronesia Mall which is currently undergoing expansion and the largest in the Western Pacific region, Tan's investments on Guam include the century-old American Bakery, the Oceanic Bank and vast real estate holdings.

There had been talks Tan's compatriot, SM Group founder, Sy would renovate his Agana Shopping Center to match Tan's giant mall, but Sy's senior executives had remained mum on the matter.

"That's (Agana Shopping Center) a family business and we are not involved in it," said Alexander Pomento, VP for Industrial Relations of SM Prime.

Micronesia Mall has 120 high-end retail stores while Agana Shopping Center boasts of over 20 specialty stores.

"There is only so little we human beings can do in this life, we should make the most of all opportunities to help others. I have been investing in Guam since 1966. The name of my first company was Columbus, in honor of that great explorer and seafarer," Tan had said after he was named honorary ambassador-at-large by the Guam Senate two years ago.

A Tan-owned subsidiary, Goodwind Development and Grandview Development, had signed a contract with local construction firm BME and Sons to begin the first phase of developing Tumon Bay Mall.

On cost of the project, an official of the Lucio Tan group of Companies in Manila, told this paper that they were not privy of the taipan's latest project on Guam.

Opening of the mall, according to Phillip Schrage, SVP for Group Operations and Leasing, would be announced after an anchor-tenant is selected. "We're not going to fin-



Tumon Mall at night: Artist's Perspective

ish the project unless we have tenants for the mall."

Schrage in a telephone interview, said the mall which first phase has commenced construction last week is being built phase by phase.

The mall, he explained, covers about 200,000 square feet of floor space on two levels, will have a food court and parking space for 700 vehicles.

First phase of the project includes landscaping, lighting and the parking area.

Based on the architectural drawings made available to this paper, mall structure covers a two-level, concrete-and-

steel building with 20-foot-high ceilings on each floor, had been completed. It's situated on San Vitores Road, right across Matapang Beach Park.

Tan's Grandview bought the property, an unfinished shopping center and condominium project, for \$20.5 million at a public auction in December 2010, Guam Department of Land Management records show.

Although Schrage declined to disclose the mall's project cost, he divulged that the Tan group has bought a number of properties from other areas. "Oh yes, we continue to scout for properties to develop."

Tan, a beer and cigarette magnate may have seized the initiative on Guam, but in their home turf, the Philippines, Sy lords it over the mall sector.

Last November, SM Prime Holdings, one of the largest real estate companies in Southeast Asia, opened its 50th mall in the Philippines, east of Metro Manila.

The 41.481 sqm mall brings the total floor plate of SM Prime to 6.4 million sqm of retail.

The public auction was conducted after the Seoul-based Shinhan Bank and other investors defaulted on the 60 million-dollar mortgage on the Tumon Bay project.

A Tan-owned subsidiary, whose sister company does business as Micronesia Mall, recently signed a contract with local construction project to provide more rooms for Macy's latest expansion at Micronesia Mall./The Junction News Team

## More Japan Firms Moving to Philippines from China

As if the "war" between China and the Philippines will never end.

Japan, through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCIP) in the Philippines, recently announced that some 200 Japanese companies have begun relocating their manufacturing business from China to this Asian country as early as last year.

JCCIP executive director Nobuo Fuji said that 200 to 300 Japanese establishments signified their intention of moving their business "because the Philippines is a very competitive country."

Most of the companies are engaged in information technology (IT) while others are into automotive and parts manufacturing. In July this year, the Philippines' trade and industry department, received a number of Japanese investors, according to Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr. "Japan has been instrumental in improving

the Philippines' business environment and addressing infrastructure developments through its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

"We greatly value and welcome inputs of the Japanese in rolling out the country's major infrastructure projects to sustain the upward momentum of the Philippine economy," Cristobal said, in a published interview.

At present, there are about 1,700 Japanese companies in the Philippines. Fuji added that in China, Japanese investors face a string of problems including wage increase, historical problems, labor strikes. Over the past five years, minimum wages in China have almost doubled, according to reports. Also common are labor-management disputes over factory closures.

In relation to the current maritime dispute with China, Philippine President Benigno Aquino, Jr., along

with Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, issued a joint statement last June, lashing out at their common "enemy" for its continued reclamation work in the West Philippine Sea or South China Sea.

China has been very assertive in its move to solely claim the area,

where they had already constructed airstrips and other infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, being an English-speaking workforce and tax benefits given by the Philippine government are two of the reasons why Japanese investors want to relocate to the Philippines. The young workforce, "is the big strength of Filipino society," according to Akio Mimura, JCCI chairman and head of the organization's business mission. "For any country, the power of growth comes from the number of working population. This country is filled with growth potential and strength."

Bilateral trade between Japan and the Philippines is over US\$17 billion or 14.5 percent of the Philippines' global trade. Committed Japanese investments last year represent over 16 percent of the Philippines' foreign direct investments (FDIs) – the bulk of which is in the manufacturing sector./The Junction News Team

## PHL Construction Industry Explores Business Opportunities in Lao PDR

The Philippine Overseas Construction Board, headed by its Chairman and President of DMCI Holdings, Inc., Mr. Isidro A. Consunji, conducted a construction mission to Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) from September 15 to 17. The mission was supervised by Ms. Sonia Valdeavilla, officer-in-charge of the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

The twenty-member delegation of construction contractors, engineering and design consulting companies as well as industry suppliers explored business opportunities

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