

## Conservatives' reforms aim to make foreign worker program the 'last resort'

By: Les Whittington Ottawa Bureau reporter, Bruce Campion-Smith Ottawa Bureau (Published June 20, 2014)

OTTAWA—Thousands of low-paid jobs for temporary foreign workers in the fast-food, retail and hotel industries in Ontario will be phased out under sweeping federal government reforms meant to pressure businesses to hire Canadians.

Under changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) announced Friday, employers in those industries will no longer be allowed to apply to Ottawa to bring in low-wage,

low-skilled temporary employees from abroad if the jobless rate in their region is above 6 per cent. The unemployment rate in Ontario is 7.3 per cent.

The clampdown is only part of the Harper government's wider shake-up of the TFWP meant to cut business reliance on the much-maligned program. Employment Minister Jason Kenney predicted, for instance, that when reforms are fully in place by 2016, temporary foreign workers in

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Under changes announced Friday, Employment Minister Jason Kenney's department will administer the temporary foreign worker program for all foreign entrants whose employer must obtain permission from Ottawa. FRED CHARTRAND / THE CANADIAN PRESS file photo

## Jinggoy meets Bong in prison



Senator Jinggoy Estrada, center, is escorted to his detention cell after surrendering to police authorities Monday, June 23, 2014 at Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City, Philippines. Estrada, a son of former Philippine President Joseph Estrada, surrendered Monday after a court ordered his arrest on corruption charges, the second celebrity politician in days to end up in jail allegedly for plundering this poor Southeast Asian nation's coffers. AP/Bullit Marquez

By Camille Diola  
MANILA, Philippines — Plunder respondent Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada entered detention at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters Monday afternoon and met with Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

Associate Justice Roland Jurado, chair of the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division, issued a commitment order as a formal directive to the PNP to hold Estrada at the newly renovated PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's Custodial Center, where Revilla is also detained.

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Gigi set to surrender see Page 4

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# GUEST EDITORIAL

## Freedom is not Independence

GLIMPSES

By Jose Ma. Montelibano

Founders of the Katipunan

Indeed, we have freedom. Sadly, we have no independence. There is a struggle to be won, not against an external aggressor, but against our own weakness.

Free but dependent. That is the Filipino, the collective Filipino. There are changes, of course, but not yet enough to earn independence. Not until we rise above our poverty, not until we rise above corruption.

With half of Filipinos believing themselves to be poor, and ten million reported to be working abroad at the cost of separation from their families during the best years of their lives, independence remains a struggle of a free people. Freedom may mean we rule ourselves instead of submitting to a foreign power, but independence is a collective standing on our own two feet – and we do not.

In a homeland that is blessed with awesome abundance, poverty haunts Filipinos in great numbers. Definitely, our Overseas Filipino Workers have dramatically lessened the numbers of the poor. By doing so, they have raised the level of our self-reliance, our independence. But they do so feeling forced, wanting to rise above their inherited poverty in the bosom of their motherland but not being able to. It is a choice made from freedom but difficult to say the choice was independent.

We have paid a great price for our freedom. Four hundred years of enduring the rule of foreign masters, and the wars they had waged against each other, the freedom we gained in 1946 put us squarely against a more insidious enemy – our own patterned conditioning. History had been most unkind these last four centuries. We tasted the loss of our freedom, we tasted the iron hand of colonialism, we even became witness to the betrayal of some of our own who chose to collaborate with the enemy for ten pieces of silver. The harshest of all, though, is that too many of us lost our anger and learned to accept submission as a way of life.

Poverty does that. Poverty keeps a human being and a family at survival mode. Foreign masters had to plunder our native resources; that was why they conquered us in the first place. They had to make us poor, then weak. That was the only way to exploit us on a prolonged and sustained basis. It meant bribing local leaders to help them exercise control over a native population that far outnumbered them. Greed is such a powerful motivation for treason, just as fear, and the foreign masters knew how to stoke both.

When freedom wins for us the absence of foreign rule, it does not win for us everything else. The loss of inner strength, the loss of confidence from a loss of opportunity, and continuing governance that copies the exploitative bent of the past masters instead of one that seeks democratic empowerment had stunted independence despite freedom from external rule.

People can confuse freedom with independence. This confusion is aggravated when leaders do not guide them firmly and effectively away from begging and towards self-reliance, and actually perpetuates exploitation. That exploitation of power, always accompanied with material gain, is what is known as corruption. Nothing encourages corruption more than poverty in the midst of plenty. History, too, negates the assumption that the rich do not need to take advantage of power; it is almost always the opposite.

No wonder, then, that in the midst of plenty, in the midst not only of natural resources so mind-boggling in their abundance but also of an economy that thrives from remittances and the aggressive intelligence of the elite, corruption defines governance at all levels. Statesmanship is lost when power has open access to wealth. The common good is nowhere as inviting as personal gain for those who govern when a country has great wealth but a poor population. Inner temptation can be a more formidable enemy than a foreign invader.

It does not mean that change for the better is not possible. A crusading president, if the crusade

outweighs all other considerations, can make history turn. But he needs to be relentless in order to make history change its course. A leader cannot reverse patterns unless he or she has personally risen above these same patterns. All the more when the leader works within the confines of democratic rule because a system based on political maturity makes good governance almost impossible in a reality of selfish politics.

But leave it up to evolution to level the playing field. Tipping points are not only reached by personal efforts but maybe even more so by collective convergence. Our younger generations, complemented powerfully by awesome technological advances, now challenge the patterns of history and are actually winning. They have ripened the tipping point and guarantee radical changes. The culture of corruption dominates still but is severely challenged by the transparency triggered by technology and the surprising nobility of our youth.

The moment nears when freedom will finally find its sought-after independence. The moment nears when the poor will find kinder treatment and more value in society, when they will value themselves more. When they do, they will not tolerate poverty from inheritance. And they will stand up to the corrupt. It can be then said that the maturity of democracy is such a sweet fruit.

What stands between today and that coming moment is sacrifice and commitment. Those who seek a better life must invest more towards it. Those who advocate for change must be more single-minded in its pursuit. There will be no quantum leap from poverty and corruption to justice and prosperity, no quantum leap from freedom to freedom and independence without paying the price, a steep price.

Filipinos are paying the price.  
*Reprinted from Global Balita*

## Letter to the Editor Time to shine some light on government

Dear Editor,

It is said that sunshine is the best disinfectant, but unfortunately not a lot of light shines on our federal government these days.

Access to information requests are taking longer and arrive blacked out. Data is released in grainy photocopies, not electronically. Withholding information has become the default position. Information paid for by taxpayers is hidden from them.

Under my leadership, the Liberal Party has begun to reverse this trend and raise the bar on openness and transparency. A year ago we began publishing our own caucus' spending every quarter, which led to all-party agreement on the proactive disclosure of parliamentary expenses.

The next step is the introduction of the Transparency Act, which will improve openness not only in Parliament, but in our government.

Right now Canada's Access to Information Act is stuck in the 1980s. The Transparency Act will pull it into the modern era.

This Act will entrench in law that all government information must be 'open by default' and available in modern formats. It eliminates all fees for Access to Information beyond the initial \$5 request fee. It will initiate a review and modernization of the entire Access to Information system. It strengthens the mandate of the Information Commissioner by giving them the power to enforce information laws. And it ends the secret nature of the House of Commons' Board of Internal Economy.

These are first, tangible steps—within the limit of what can be proposed in a Private Member's Bill—

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# Attracting Skilled Newcomers to Canada

*Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments Working Together to Meet Canada's Labour Needs through Active Immigrant Recruitment*

Working Together to Meet Canada's Labour Needs through Active Immigrant Recruitment

Ottawa, — Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) immigration ministers today reiterated their commitment to actively recruit economic immigrants that have the skills the Canadian economy needs most.

Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander and Alberta's Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour Minister Thomas Lukaszuk co-chaired the meeting of FPT ministers responsible for immigration. Economic immigration was a top priority for all ministers around the table.

Ministers agreed to continue collaborating on building the new active recruitment model which is known as the Expression of Interest (or EOI) system. It is intended to transform Canada's immigration system into one that is more responsive to labour market needs.

EOI will provide governments and Canadian employers access to skilled foreign workers and expedite their entry into Canada for jobs that aren't

being filled by people already in Canada. Ministers agreed to engage jointly and intensively with employers on EOI prior to the new system launch in January 2015.

Immigration Ministers also endorsed a plan to improve settlement outcomes for newcomers across Canada. It includes improved pre-arrival services, foreign qualification recognition, language learning for newcomers who are not in the workforce and ways to encourage newcomers to become more connected to their communities.

The ministers reviewed progress to date on the FPT Vision Action Plan, reiterating the continuing need to align immigration levels with economic demand, build a fast, flexible economic immigration system focused primarily on meeting labour market needs across Canada, and improve social and economic settlement and integration outcomes for newcomers to Canada.

As immigration remains crucial to Canada's economic future, the ministers agreed to meet again before the end of the year to continue this

important work.

Under the Canada-Québec Accord relating to immigration and temporary admission of foreign nationals, Québec fully assumes sole responsibility for establishing immigration levels, and for the selection, francization and integration of immigrants. In areas under its responsibility, Québec develops its policies and programs, legislates, regulates and sets its own standards. Territories will continue to work with the federal government towards developing an Expression of Interest immigration system that is responsive to our regional labour market needs."

Thomas Lukaszuk, Alberta Minister for Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

Related products

- News release — Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments Envision Canada's Future Immigration System
- Backgrounder — Joint Federal-Provincial-Territorial Vision for Immigration

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## Find a Canada Day citizenship ceremony near you

June 25, 2014 — Ottawa — Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander announced that with the help of a new online interactive map, individuals across Canada will be able to find a citizenship ceremony being held on Canada Day in their area.

This year, Canada will welcome new citizens at 47 Canada Day citizenship ceremonies across the country. Canada Day is an opportunity to reflect on the many freedoms, rights and responsibilities that we share, and is also an ideal time for all Canadians to reaffirm their citizenship as a sign of pride in being Canadians. Canadians are also encouraged to use social media to share with us how they plan to celebrate their Canadian identity, including using the Twitter hashtag #CanadaProud.

The interactive map is one of a

From Page 2 Letter to the Editor

that can be put into law this session. None are partisan. And all will be debated and voted on by all MPs in the fall.

The Transparency Act builds on the positive steps we have taken, and will be strengthened as I consult with Canadians and other Parliamentarians when travelling across the country this summer. I am convinced that by working together, we can achieve all-party consensus to pass this bill and bring a bit of sunshine back to our government.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Trudeau  
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

613-947-5100 (Press office)

See Page 8 Canada Day

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From Page 1 - Temporary Worker

Ontario doing low-wage jobs will plummet to 1,369 from 4,419 today.

However, temporary foreign workers now in Canada on a work permit will be allowed to stay until the permit expires, the government said.

Responding to a firestorm of criticism over the TFWP in recent years, Kenney and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander acknowledged abuses of the program were driving down wages and leaving Canadian workers on the unemployment lines.

"The temporary foreign worker program must be a last and limited resort to address skills gaps," Kenney told reporters, adding that misuse of the TFWP was unacceptably distorting regional labour markets and wages.

"Some employers have benefitted so much from the dependability and productivity of (foreign) workers coming into this program. They always tell me they come in early, they leave late, they ask for extra shifts, they never call in sick," Kenney told reporters. This reliance "causes me to believe that sometimes they (the employers) don't bother calling up the young Canadian who drops of their resumé and that really ticks me off."

Labour unions and advocacy groups said they were shocked that the government is only now going to require employers to provide the number of Canadian job applicants they received and interviewed, and explain why those Canadians were not hired when they applied to bring in migrant workers.

"They are calling it a new improved labour market impact assessment

From Page 1 - Jinggoy Meets Bong

Estrada's lawyer, Alexia Abastillas, said that Revilla was "happy" to see his colleague and close friend at the common area of the Custodial Center shortly after Estrada was placed there. Revilla has already spent four days in prison.

Abastillas said that his client has "no complaints" and can bear the reported heat inside the detention cell. Revilla, meanwhile, had been complaining of migraines caused by the heat and lack of ventilation.

"Kinakaya naman niya ang init," Abastillas said in a radio interview.

Estrada surrendered to authorities at noon on Monday, immediately after the anti-graft court issued an arrest warrant and resolution declaring probable cause to proceed to his plunder trial.

Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada, the newly-detained senator's father, decried the poor conditions his son has to endure in detention. He said he would rather go to jail than his son.

(LMIA) and will start asking employers all these questions that we had assumed they'd been asking for decades," said Naveen Mehta, general counsel for the United Food and Commercial Workers Canada. "At least, that's the minimum level of rigors we'd expected."

Other changes include:

The existing program will be split, with the employment department administering the temporary foreign worker program for all foreign entrants whose employer must obtain permission from Ottawa. Foreigners coming to Canada not specifically at the request of an employer — such as high-skilled individuals entering the country under NAFTA — will deal with the immigration department.

Employers with 10 or more employees will be allowed to have only 10 per cent of their workforce made up of low-wage temporary foreign workers. Within three years, this cap is expected to cut the use of low-wage temporary foreign employees in half.

- The fee a business pays to bring in a temporary foreign worker will rise to \$1,000 from \$275.

- The duration that low-paid temporary foreign workers can stay in Canada will be reduced, with the total time in this country expected to be capped at two years, down from four.

- Employers seeking Ottawa's permission to bring in foreign employees will be required to provide more information on why they are hiring foreigners. Included will be pledges not to lay off Canadians.

- Businesses seeking permission to bring in high-paid temporary foreign workers will have to demonstrate how they have a plan to train Canadians for the jobs.

- Inspections will be increased to stop

## Gigi set to surrender

By Christina Mendez (The Philippine Star) | Updated June 23, 2014 - MANILA, Philippines - Lawyer Jessica Lucilla "Gigi" Reyes, the former chief of staff of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, will surrender once the Sandiganbayan issues the warrant of arrest.

Sources from Reyes' camp said Enrile's trusted ally has been weighing her options since she returned from abroad last April, about six months after she left as she was dragged into the multibillion-peso pork barrel fund misuse.

"She's just around. She will give herself up to the proper authorities once a warrant of arrest is issued," a person close to Reyes told a group of Senate reporters over the weekend.

Warrants for the arrest of Reyes and Enrile as well as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada are expected to be out this week.

abuses of the program and fines for violations will be raised. Anyone found guilty of employing a foreigner not qualified to be working in Canada can be fined up to \$50,000 and imprisoned for two years. Anyone guilty of providing false information in an application to hire temporary foreign workers can be fined up to \$100,000 and sentenced to up to five years in jail.

The government has exempted foreign live-in caregivers and foreigners working in basic agricultural jobs from most of the changes.

The Migrant Workers Alliance for Change said reducing the number of years migrants workers can stay in Canada will reinforce the current "revolving door" immigration and capping the percentage of foreign workers an employer can hire will further restrict workers' mobility in the event of abuse and exploitation. The advocacy group also fears the fee hike to bring in foreign workers will be downloaded to workers by recruiters.

"No only will there be more abuse, more suffering, and fewer rights for migrant workers, there are no mechanisms for higher wages or decent working conditions for any worker in the country," said its spokesperson Syed Hussan.

New Democrat MP Pat Martin (Winnipeg Centre) said the changes acknowledge that the program is "broken" but fall short of what is needed to fix it.

"The room for abuse is still rampant," Martin told reporters, saying the program is "wildly out of control."

Martin said the reforms didn't do enough to press companies to hire Canadians first or boost wages, and he questioned the government's commitment to step up inspections and enforcement.

Estrada renewed his marriage vows with wife Precy in ceremonies last night at their home in Greenhills, San Juan in preparation for his expected detention without bail for plunder.

Reyes, a lawyer by profession, has studied the plunder charges leveled against her and is ready to clear herself in court, a close aide revealed. Headlines ( Article MRec ), pagematch: 1, sectionmatch: 1

Whistle-blowers have directly linked her to the pork barrel fund skimming. Observers have pointed out that she is the only person who can directly link Enrile to the scam.

Reyes reportedly returned to the country upon Enrile's d2 advice and to take care of her children who became traumatized after their mother was implicated in the controversy.

"There are still Canadians losing jobs to temporary foreign workers as we speak and I don't expect that to change any time soon with these meager provisions," Martin said.

But the small business community warned the changes go too far and will cause some businesses to close up shop because they won't be able to hire or retain staff.

"Unless the federal government is prepared to force unemployed Canadians to move to take jobs they don't want, these changes leave a huge gap for employers," said Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Kelly called the reforms a "gross over-reaction" and said it would cost many businesses that are unable to recruit Canadian workers.

"It will likely lead to business closures and, ironically, lost jobs for Canadians," he said in a statement.

Kenney conceded there will be adjustments for employers, especially those in parts of the country where unemployment is low and workers are hard to find.

But he said it's been "too easy" for employers to look offshore to get their workers. He showed little patience for businesses that set up shop in areas with a tight labour market with no plan to get local workers.

"You're going to have to have a labour force strategy and that strategy may involve higher wages, more active efforts to recruit locally," he said.

There are some 25,000 employers in Canada that rely on temporary foreign workers. Of those, more than 6,000 use foreign workers for more than 10 per cent of their workforce. And in more than 1,100 work places, foreign workers make up at least half of all employees.

With files from Nicholas Keung

Reyes asked the Sandiganbayan on Friday to suspend its proceedings on the plunder case and defer the issuance of warrant of arrest against her.

In her urgent motion, Reyes said the Sandiganbayan should first await the Supreme Court resolution on her application for temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary injunction "as a matter of courtesy."

Reyes raised concerns whether the resolutions of the Ombudsman are tainted with nullity for denying her right to due process and equal protection of the law, and whether the Ombudsman disregarded vital and essential facts and evidence on record which negate the existence of probable cause against her.

Compared to Pauline Labayan, appointments secretary of Sen.

See Page 5 Gigi surrenders



From Page 4 - Gigi Reyes surrenders

Jinggoy Estrada who resigned after she was implicated in the case, Reyes has been asserting her rights to due process in connection with the plunder case.

The Estrada camp has not seen nor heard from Labayen since the controversy erupted last year.

Reyes is expected to be arrested anytime this week along with Enrile and Estrada as principal accused in the pork barrel scam.

The period in which the Sandiganbayan's Third and Fifth Divisions chaired by Presiding Justice Amparo Cabotaje-Tang and Roland Jurado, respectively, to determine probable cause for the issuance of the warrant of arrest will end on Friday.

Sandiganbayan spokesman Renato Bocar earlier explained the magistrates have 10 days to review criminal complaints and rule on whether the Office of the Ombudsman has a case, with or without motions for judicial determination of probable cause from the defendants.

If there is a finding of probable clause, the anti-graft court will issue arrest orders and schedule an arraignment date much like how Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. voluntarily surrendered last Friday and will be arraigned on June 26 before the First Division headed by Associate Justice Efren de la Cruz.

Enrile, through lawyer Estelito Mendoza, is challenging the indictment before the Third Division, claiming there is no evidence to show the senator committed the crime of plunder by pocketing public funds through the pork barrel scam.

Mendoza filed a motion to dismiss on behalf of Enrile, asking the Sandiganbayan to junk the criminal complaint. He argued the complaint does not even clearly state what crime was committed and how because it was chockfull of general allegations.

Estrada, through lawyer Jose Flaminiano, is also asking the Fifth Division to junk the cases filed against him by the Office of the Ombudsman, citing his innocence and the lack of evidence to support the criminal charges, among others.

A total of 45 cases divided roughly into three, based on one principal accused and their respective co-accused had been filed before the Sandiganbayan against Enrile, Estrada and Revilla. The cases were raffled off to separate divisions of the anti-graft court.

Enrile's 16 cases – one plunder and 15 graft – where he and other respondents, including Reyes are accused of pocketing P172 million in pork barrel fund kickbacks or commissions, went to Tang.

See Page 7 Gigi surrenders

### Canada Philippine Fashion Week 2014 a Major Success!

A week (June 9-14, 2014) of worldclass fashion shows, arts, exhibits and entertainment were held in Toronto featuring top Filipino designers, models, celebrities, and artists.

Launched in June 2013 by Filipino-Canadian Executive Director, Jeff Rustia, Canada Philippine Fashion Week (CPFOW) is a showcase of the best in haute couture, style, innovation, culture and creativity of the Philippines. It is dedicated to the promotion and development of Filipino fashion talent in the Philippines and Canada, all for a good cause – the Kol Hope Foundation for Children, a charitable organization that helps children with disabilities in both countries.

The six-day spectacular event highlighted Habi textile exhibit, a show called "Independencia: Filipino pride and style" with special guest – Miss Philippines Universe Venus Raj, CPFOW

Model of the Year, and a high end fashion show presenting top Philippine designers.

The week's glamorous finale was CANADA PHILIPPINE FASHION BALL: SALUTE TO FRANCIS LIBIRAN. During the charity gala, top Philippine Fashion Designer Francis Libiran was given an award by the President of Kol Hope Foundation for Children, Melinda Parreño Rustia, and CPFOW Executive Director Jeff Rustia.

Canada Philippine Fashion Week is the proud recipient of Canada's prestigious FEO 2014 AWARD for Best New Festival of the Year, making it a true tourism destination event in Toronto, Canada. It is also endorsed by the Philippine government through its Department of Foreign Affairs and its Department of Tourism, as well as the Canadian government through the Ontario province and the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture.



Top Philippine designer Frances Libiran during Canada Philippine Fashion Week

# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: How does the Rocky Mountain Institute think we can get off of oil and coal by 2050 and save money in the process? -- James Greenville, Redding, CT

Colorado-based sustainability think-tank Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) was founded in 1982 by American physicist and environmentalist Amory Lovins to research and promote market-based solutions to our energy crisis without breaking the bank. The



**The Colorado-based sustainability think-tank Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) believes we already have the technologies to help foster a rapid evolution of our electricity system, but we still need the political and institutional will to make it happen. Pictured: RMI founder Amory Lovins speaking at an energy summit in Berlin, Germany in 2013. Credit: Rudolf Simon**

group is focusing efforts on transforming domestic and eventually global energy use to create a clean, prosperous and secure energy future by mid-century.

"We can eliminate our addiction to oil and coal by 2050 and use one-third less natural gas while switching to efficient use and renewable supply," says Lovins, adding that doing so could actually cost less and support a more robust economy than continuing with business-as-usual: "Moreover, this transition needs no new inventions and no acts of Congress and no new federal taxes, mandate subsidies or laws..."

To get there, Lovins acknowledges that we have to start thinking differently now. RMI is advocating cutting U.S. electricity consumption by 18 percent over the next 10 years while almost doubling renewable energy's share of generation from 16 to 30 percent.

Few would argue with the cost savings and environmental benefits of such a plan—implementation is the challenge. According to Lovins, we already have the technologies to help foster a rapid evolution of our electricity system, but we still need the

political and institutional will to make it happen. RMI has begun a dialogue with utilities and other entities to align incentives and create more opportunities for electricity users to contribute clean power to the grid themselves through technologies like rooftop solar power.

One key feature of RMI's plan is rate structures that reflect the true benefits and costs of moving to more distributed (small scale/decentralized) energy resources. The group is working with utilities to launch six

"Electricity Innovation Labs" nationally as well as a "Solar Development Excellence Center" to highlight the feasibility of distributed renewables. RMI also wants to simplify commercial photovoltaic financing, incorporate renewables into real estate finance and make solar financing affordable to underserved markets.

RMI also wants to make large buildings much more energy efficient, and aims to make a billion square feet of commercial space 35 percent more efficient by 2025 through so-called "deep energy" retrofits, including the adoption of more renewables. RMI is targeting four of the largest, most influential segments of the buildings market—major companies, the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense and "activist" cities (those already on the green cutting edge)—for major energy retrofits, and is working to persuade private investors to consider overall impact and long-term costs, not just short term gains.

Another major part of RMI's plan is to work with large metro regions with upwards of 10 million residents, and with university campuses, to make major efficiency gains. Other keys to getting us off oil and coal by 2050 include transforming how we design and use vehicles, and getting Fortune 500 corporations to rejigger their energy supply chains to facilitate procurement of more renewable energy.

Beyond the U.S., RMI is working along similar lines with China and other large developing countries to help them avoid some of the energy development missteps undertaken here at home.

CONTACT: Rocky Mountain Institute, [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org).

Dear EarthTalk: What can communities do to keep polluters out of their neighborhoods?

-- Wendell Bovey, Los Angeles, CA

It's unfair that communities which are less organized and less wealthy often shoulder the burden of hosting polluters like landfills, incinerators and power plants. "Frequently, these facilities end up in the places that put up the least resistance, either because residents are unaware of the projects planned for their area, or because they don't have the money, organization, knowledge or political clout

to mount effective opposition," says the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading non-profit.

The key, says NRDC, is to stay informed: "A lot of bad projects slip into communities

"Master Plan" or "Community Environmental Plan."

Finding out about a bad project coming your way is only the beginning: "If you find that a proposed change might adversely



**Communities need to be vigilant about plans to site incinerators, landfills, waste transfer stations, sewage treatment plants or other toxic facilities nearby where they might threaten the health of residents. Pictured: Unwitting children play at a local waste dump. Credit: Bruce McAllister**

under the radar," they caution. Companies looking to site unpopular projects that need approval from local zoning boards count on local residents being absent from the public meetings where the projects get discussed.

Attending planning & zoning or city council meetings is a first line of defense against letting polluters in.

Be prepared by getting meeting agendas in advance and looking for red flags that can be discussed with the powers-that-be in person or at public sessions. And keep up with the Public Notices section of the local paper, where public hearings concerning local land use must be announced by law.

Staying informed is one thing, but knowing what to look and listen for is another: "Certain types of development pose potential environmental and health problems for host communities," reports NRDC.

"They need not be automatically opposed, but they should be carefully scrutinized."

NRDC recommends paying close attention to plans for incinerators, landfills, waste transfer stations, water pollution control or sewage treatment plants, bus or truck depots and parking lots, power plants, highways, airports, metal plating and auto body or auto repair shops. Beyond looking out for these and other types of polluting projects, community residents should be aware of and ask questions about any proposed change in zoning or in the local municipal or county

affect your community, gather as much information about the proposal as possible and inform your neighbors about your concerns," says NRDC. Arranging for a time and place where locals can meet to discuss what's happening and organize around preventing it is the next step.

Some of the tasks necessary to mounting a good defense include thoroughly researching a proposed facility's potential impacts (including contacting people in other areas where similar types of facilities have been sited), bringing in experts and reaching out to more community members to align them accordingly.

If community members are focused on their goals and have enough support from neighbors they can succeed in either blocking a proposed new facility or expansion, or at least in increasing pollution controls. Another positive outcome could be a revision to local ordinances to prevent future polluters from moving in. For more information, see NRDC's free online guide, "You Can Beat City Hall," which outlines how to watch out for and organize against polluting entities in our own backyards, so to speak.

CONTACT: NRDC's "You Can Beat City Hall" <http://www.nrdc.org/cities/living/local/guide.asp>.

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# Ask the Video Guy

Al Abdon

## Ways to improve your photos the mom's way

If you're anything like me, you made the investment in a DSLR camera to take beautiful professional quality photos of your kids. You want to document their childhood so the moments they may not remember on their own, they'll have at their fingertips down the road.

Your camera has opened up a world of possibility in how to go about documenting your days as a family. But, if you're new to photography, you may have quickly realized that your camera has a lot of buttons, settings, and dials that you have no clue how to use. On top of it all, the advice you've been given or articles you read have had conflicting information as well. When I began my learning journey with the wonderful world of wedding photography I was bombarded with information overload. There was no shortage of advice, opinions, and tutorials for what I needed to do to take beautiful pictures. I was told I needed to learn flash, and that I needed special filters, or software, or more lenses, or even a different camera.



During my years of 'going pro,' I've learned that photography is all about intention and purpose. The rules a nature photographer uses, are going to be much different than the rules that apply to a mom trying to take better photos of her kids.

5 rules you can ignore

Rule #1: You need to invest a lot of money in gear and accessories

Once you get your camera other DSLR owners will be lining up to tell you all the other gadgets and gizmos you should have to go along

with it. If you're a mom who is just starting out, you don't need to run out and invest in big bulky external flashes, studio light set ups, lots of lenses and filters, etc. The few affordable accessories I DO think a mom can benefit from are: a 1.8 prime lens 50mm or cropped sensor for low light



indoor photos, a Zoom Lens 24-70 mm for sports photos. You also need a tripod and a wireless remote so you can trigger the shutter away from the camera and actually be in photos with your kids every now and then.

Rule #2: Manual mode is the only way to take good photos

The next piece of advice that I constantly read over and over again was that I needed to learn how to put my camera in Manual Mode to take good photos. Although there is definitely a better level of control and confidence that comes from mastering Manual mode and learning ISO, Aperture, Shutter Speed, White Balance all work together to expose photos, it is not the end of mastering photos. The advantage of setting to Auto is you have 85% sure of a good expose photos and a 99% captured response time. It means that when an opportunity to capture a good picture, you don't have to fiddle settings on the camera.

Rule #3: The bigger the camera the better

I will admit, as I learned more and more about my photography, I got a bit of camera envy. I knew that the pros shot with some really fancy top of

the line cameras, and I thought that I needed the same gear, in order to achieve the same results. The entry level SLRs are improving by leaps and bounds and are rivaling the bigger cameras in their low ISO settings. If your camera is over four or five years old you might want to consider a slight upgrade. Because as it is with technology, newer models will have additional power to them (especially in the area of ISO limits), but you don't need to immediately jump to a top of line model that costs thousands of dollars in order to take beautiful shots.

Rule #4: The best times of day to photograph are sunrise and sunset

Even though the light tends to be awesome during these times, a shoot during these times can go south rather quickly when your child hasn't had a nap and it's nearing their dinner time. I want to challenge you to take photos of your kids when they are in the best mood. Good photography is all about finding the right light. The middle of a bright sunny day might be more tricky to seek out even lighting, but if that's when your kids are the most awake, and alert and willing to play for the lens, then that's when you should shoot. At the end of the day, it's all about their beautiful smile and not the beautiful sunset behind them.

Rule #5 You need to invest in

From Page 5 - Gigi surrenders

Estrada's 12 cases – one plunder and 11 graft – where he and fellow respondents are accused of stealing P183 million, went to the Fifth Division chaired by Associate Justice Jurado.

Revilla's 17 cases – one plunder and 16 graft – where he is accused of pocketing P242 million went to the First Division chaired by Justice de la Cruz.

Since suspected pork barrel fund scam operator Janet Lim-Napoles is a respondent in all the cases filed against the lawmakers, she will face charges and/or trial in all three courts.

On Friday, the First Division issued the warrant of arrest for Revilla and the

Photoshop or Lightroom to edit professionally

One misconception I had when I bought my first DSLR camera was that my photos would come straight out of the camera looking professionally retouched. I learned very quickly that wasn't always the case, and that editing software would allow me to transform my drab photos into fabulous works of art. Photoshop and Lightroom are two of the most frequently talked about and discussed programs out there for professional photographers, but they are complicated and in some cases expensive pieces of software that can take a great deal of time and effort to learn. For a mom who is on the go and wants something a bit more user friendly and lower cost, I absolutely love the website PicMonkey. From basic editing features, to filters, collages, and more this website makes it super easy for the mom on the go to still make her DSLR photos look incredible.

Have a wonderful summer shooting.

AL ABDON  
HOLLYWOOD JUNKIES  
PHOTOGRAPHER

other co-accused.

Revilla is now detained at the Custodial Center of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Camp Crame under the custody of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. –Michael Punongbayan

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# PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

**"The only time I feel alive is when I'm painting," says Quiambao**

by W. G. Quiambao

In October, Rey Quiambao's name will be included in a Canadian book listing the country's great artists. "The book will be available here," said Quiambao. "The book, as well as the names of the artists, will also be available for consultation in the Library of Congress in Washington. In my biography, I used R. Aparice, the name I sometimes use. Like a writer, I've a pen name."

It's no wonder why

play around different techniques and ideas."

Quiambao, whose fortes are Canadian sceneries, still life and portraits knew at an early age that he wanted to be an artist. While in high school at the Far Eastern University, he worked as an artist/illustrator for the university's newspaper, Tamaraw, for two years. It was also then that he began exhibiting his paintings in places like the Intergroup Banking in the Philippines in Makati under the supervision of Lupe Francisco.



## Côte St. Louis

when he met Garo, owner of La maison d'art gallery and the one who saw his talent. Their business partnership started from 1974 to 1998. He then met Daniel O'Connell, owner of Gallery d'Iland, who serves as his agent until now.

"Rey is a very good artist, that's why he will be included in a Canadian book that lists the great artists in the country," said O'Connell. "His new style is working with a spatula which is a success. People like the way he works."

Quiambao, who usually uses 5 ft. by 10 ft. canvass, takes pride in his paintings. He has done a painting which is in display at Ile Bizzard Church, and another 30 ft. by 15 ft. backdrop painting used at Centaur Theatre. He has exhibited at Ville Emmard in Monsigneur Pigeon's community hall with fifty-five Canadian artists. Other artworks can be seen at Gallery Vanier in the city of Beloeil. One of his paintings, a wildlife, was also used by Hallmark Cards in the 80s. Furthermore, his paintings are being brought internationally, like in Italy, Spain and France by his customers.

He also talks of the interesting

and intriguing people he has met and whose portraits he has painted like doctors, a Quebec court judge and businessmen. One of them is Guiseppe Borselino, head of a sprawling business empire and president of Garnier Corporation. I met him before he got involved in the Charbonneau Commission scandal` .

But what he treasures most is the opportunity to meet great Canadian artists which included Armand Tatossian, youngest member of the Royal Canadian Academy. He died in Montreal two years ago. "I met Tatossian in Montreal in the late 80s, and he became my mentor" recalls Quiambao. "He taught me a few important techniques in painting like scraping left over paints and slop in all over the canvass."

Among his favorite artists are Normand Rockwell, William Bougerau, Edouard Manet and Van Gogh because of his vibrant colors.

Quiambao, who has been painting for about forty years, is slowing down nowadays but he is still inspired to paint. "I can still finish one painting a day. I'm not getting any younger but I still enjoy what I'm doing. Painting is my life."

From Page 3 - Canada Day

growing suite of online Web tools available on Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website. These new tools are part of the government's ongoing effort to create a more responsive, user-friendly and efficient citizenship process.

Quick facts

- Since 2006, Canada has enjoyed the highest sustained levels of immigration in Canadian history<sup>3</sup>/4an average of a quarter million newcomers each year.

- Canada has one of the highest rates of naturalization in the world: over 85 percent of eligible permanent residents become citizens.

- Since 2006, Canada has welcomed more than 1.3 million new Canadians.

So far in 2014, approximately 122,000 new citizens have joined the Canadian family.

Quote

"Our government is proud to welcome more new citizens to the Canadian family. Citizenship comes with rights, responsibilities and a commitment to Canadian values and traditions. On Canada Day, our government encourages all Canadians to celebrate the great opportunities and privileges that come with being Canadian."

Chris Alexander, Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister

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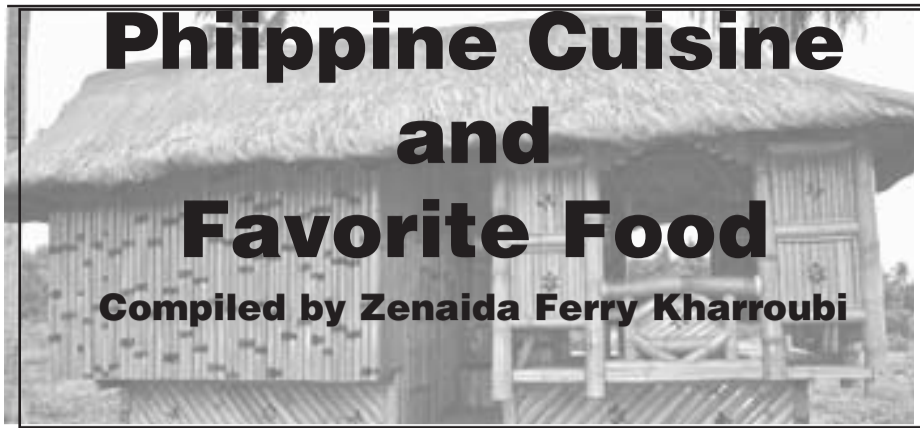
From left: Dr. Peter Newman, Guiseppe Borselino (the portrait) and Rey Quiambao. The painting is a gift of Dr. Newman to his friend, Borselino.

Quiambao, a West Island resident, emerged to be a good artist. His great uncle, Angelito Antonio, is a prize-winning artist and one of the most influential artists in the modern movements in the Philippines.

"He inspires me because of his works," said Quiambao. "He paints about Filipino life, he paints life as he sees it and he explores a nationalist style of modernism. He's traditional but he could be freer, less inhibited in style. Most of all, he's not afraid to

After finishing high school, he took architecture in the same university but he didn't finish the course for he had to leave for Canada in 1974. While working as a clerk at the Canadian Vickers, Ltd., he painted at night not only to augment his income but also to hone his skills in painting and learn more about it. In fact, he took painting at Dawson College, Ville St. Laurent but again, he didn't finish it because of his hectic schedules. His breakthrough came





# Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

## Camaron Rebosado (Shrimp Recipe)



## Camaron Rebosado Recipe

### Ingredients

- 1 lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 piece lemon
- 8 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 pieces raw eggs
- 1 tablespoon fresh milk
- 3 cups cooking oil

### Cooking Procedure

Marinate the shrimp in lemon juice for 30 minutes.

Combine flour, cornstarch, and salt in a mixing bowl then mix well.

Add the eggs and milk stir until all the ingredients are well distributed.

Heat a pan and pour-in the cooking oil.

When the oil is hot enough, dip a piece of shrimp in the batter (leave the tail uncovered) then deep-fry until the color of the outer part turns dark yellow and the texture becomes crispy.

Remove from the pan or fryer then place in a plate with paper towel (this will absorb excess oil).

Serve with sweet and sour sauce. (See recipe below) Share and enjoy!

Sweet and Sour Sauce Recipe

### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 1/2 tablespoons tomato ketchup
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar or white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon soy sauce
- 2 teaspoon cornstarch, dissolved in 5 teaspoons of water

### Cooking Procedure

Combine the sugar, ketchup, vinegar, and soy sauce in a bowl.

Mix the combined ingredients using a balloon whisk or fork.

Heat a saucepan then pour-in the sugar-ketchup-vinegar-soy sauce mixture. Stir once in a while and bring to a boil.

Pour-in the cornstarch diluted in water then continue stirring until the texture becomes thick.

Turn off the heat and transfer the sweet and sour sauce to a sauce bowl then serve.

Number of servings (yield): 3

2. Return the brown pork pieces to the pot, add pineapple juice, soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, oregano, salt & pepper, sugar & bay leaf.

3. Cook and simmer for 1- 2 hours over medium heat or until the pork is tender. Keep adding liquids (water, stock or pineapple juice) if necessary.

4. Add in soybean paste and ground nuts and cook until sauce thickens.

5. Serve hot.



Bibingka is a lightly sweet, moist cake made with rice or cassava flour and traditionally cooked over charcoal in a banana-leaf-lined clay pot. A simpler version can be made in a cake pan in the oven. Bibingka especial, with tasty toppings, is popular in the Philippines. Try to use the banana leaf for authentic flavor. Packages of banana leaves can be found in the frozen section of many Asian and Latino markets. If you can't find banana leaves, just substitute wax or parchment paper.

### Ingredients

#### Cake

- Banana leaf (optional) -- 1
- Rice flour -- 2 cups
- Baking powder -- 2 teaspoons
- Salt -- pinch
- Eggs, beaten -- 3
- Sugar -- 3/4 cup
- Coconut milk -- 1 1/2 cups

#### Toppings

- White cheddar cheese, grated -- 1/2 cup
- Grated coconut -- 1/2 cup
- Unsalted butter, room temperature -- 2 tablespoons
- Sugar -- 2 tablespoons

#### Method

Preheat oven to 375°F. Rinse the banana leaf, pat it dry and cut it into a round about 1 inch larger on all sides than a 9-inch cake pan. Grease the banana leaf and fit it into the pan with the edges coming up the side of the pan.

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and salt.

Using an electric mixer, beat the eggs and sugar until the sugar is completely dissolved and the eggs are frothy, about 5 minutes.

With the mixer running on low, add 1/3 of the flour mixture to the mixing bowl, then 1/2 of the coconut milk. Follow this by another 1/3 of the flour, the remaining coconut milk and then the remaining flour.

Pour the batter into the cake pan and place it in the oven to bake for 20 minutes. Carefully remove the cake pan from the oven and sprinkle the top with the cheddar cheese and grated coconut.

Return to the oven and bake for another 10 to 15 minutes, or until the top is nicely browned and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Remove from the oven, spread the remaining butter over top of the cake and sprinkle it with the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Cool for about 10 minutes. Gently remove the cake to a serving platter and serve warm.



## Visayan Pork Stew

### Ingredients for pork stew:

- 2 lbs pork butt, cubed (combination of lean meat and fat)
- 3 cups of sweetened pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup light soy sauce
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- salt and pepper
- 1 head garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 pieces bay leaves
- 4 tablespoons soybean paste
- 1 cup of ground peanuts
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped

### Directions:

1. In a large pot or casserole, sautee garlic and onion, add the pork cubes and brown on all sides. Brown in batches if necessary.

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**Paintings by Rey Quiambao (see Personality of the Month on page 9)**



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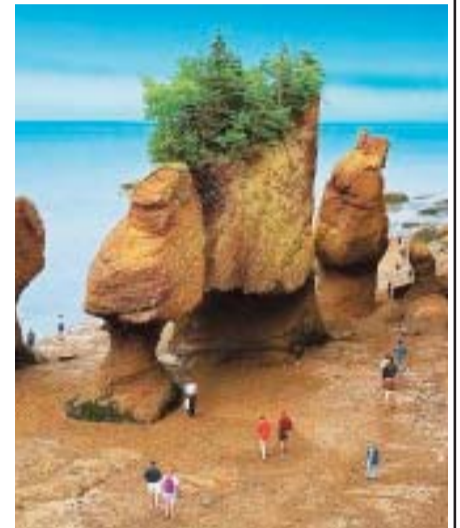
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# Rosales-Cariño honored by the CFTAQ

by W. G. Quiambao

The Filipino-Canadian Teachers Association presented Fely Rosales-Cariño a Plaque of Appreciation for being an outstanding community leader on May 30 at 6767 Cote des Neiges. It was the second award that

Associations of Quebec and United Pilipino Seniors. Not only that, every Friday, she is seen on television working as a reporter of Mabuhay Montreal TV. In addition, she has been unanimously chosen by the FAMAS Executive Board to be the Hermana Mayor of the Pista sa Nasyon next month.



**Fely Rosales Carino, receiving her award from Elsa Montealegre, current president of the Canadian Filipino Teachers Association of Quebec.**

she received from the association.

Rosales-Cariño, a retired teacher, hails from Bucay, Abra. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Manuel L. Quezon University (School of Law) and a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Manila. She went to Far Eastern University to take up Law but after three years, she immigrated to Canada.

Upon arrival in Canada, she taught high school at St. Paul Separate School in Alberta. After a year, she moved to Montreal to teach as a Special Education Specialist at the Kateri Indian School for twelve years. While teaching there, she further pursued her studies at McGill University where she graduated with a master of education in Special Education. She then transferred to the Protestant School Board of Chateaugay Valley and also worked as a special education specialist.

Nowadays, Rosales-Cariño is often invited to be the emcee of many community associations including the Council of Canadian-Filipino

Rosales-Cariño has received prestigious awards that includes: One of the Most Outstanding Filipino Canadians Award in Toronto, TOFA (Twenty Outstanding Filipino-Americans) in Washington and FAMAS' One of the 50 Outstanding Filipinos in Montreal. In addition, she is known to be the founder of the Canadian Filipino Teachers Association of Quebec and the Filipino-Canadian Friendship Society of Quebec. She presently serves as a director of Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS).

She was married to the late Jaime Cariño. Their marriage was blessed with a daughter, Joy, a McGill graduate in a Bachelor of Education degree.

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# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Marvin Agustin looks to the future



**Marvin Agustin says showbiz is like college for him**

Marvin Agustin has acknowledged how the entertainment industry has been kind to him through the years.

"I learned a lot in showbiz. Sabi ko nga, para akong nag-college dito," Marvin told Bulletin Entertainment in a recent interview.

In 2011, Marvin and some colleagues decided to "create something for the entertainment business" and thus, Futuretainment Inc. was born.

"In return (for everything I learned), I want to create jobs not just through concerts, but also with TV and film productions," he related.

Marvin admits that marketability is among the factors they consider when bringing in acts for shows. "The popular stars, the big acts, people will pay to see them perform live," he explained.

Of course, to bring in big acts, a production company has to have good track record and Futuretainment has it in spades. It is such that promoting high-profile names like Jessie J (who popularized the pop hit "Price Tag") and One Direction comes naturally for them.

Prior, Futuretainment Inc. promoted concerts by Bruno Mars, Maroon 5, Miley Cyrus, Thirty Seconds to Mars and Black Eyed Peas.

While his company had not yet featured local acts, Marvin shared, "We are conceptualizing something for

a local artist na we could sell outside the country – bigger stage, bigger production value. Parang katulad lang ng ginagawa ng ibang international acts (that) they go on tour and the likes,"

One of his "futuretainment" plans includes "bringing into the country acts that are almost impossible to book, something that would surprise local audiences."

Back to big screen Despite his successes as a producer and restaurateur, Marvin can't help but entertain acting projects on the side. He is currently shooting for the sequel to the comedy hit "Moron 5 and the Crying Lady."

"We started filming already. It's going great. Medyo kinabahan ako because I haven't acted for a while," he revealed.

Apart from "Moron 5," Marvin also appeared in "Ikaw Ang Pag-ibig" and "The Road." He hopes to do indie films for local festivals in the future.

His last TV series was this year's "Obsession" with TV5, which ended its run in April.

As busy as he is, Marvin spares time for his twins Sebastian and Santiago. "We watch movies, we eat. Sometimes, they cook with me. I just spend time with them at home during weekends and whenever their mom is out of the country." ■

### Angelica: John Lloyd is husband material



**Angelica Panganiban and John Lloyd Cruz arrive together at last year's Star Magic Ball**

While they have no plans of getting married soon, Angelica Panganiban said she considers her boyfriend, actor John Lloyd Cruz, as "husband material."

In an interview on "Tapatan ni Tunying" aired Thursday, the 27-year-old actress said she admires Cruz's

relationship with her parents and how he takes care of them despite being busy with his career.

"Sobra [ko siyang nakikita na 'husband material']. Natutuwa ako kung paano niya asikasuhin 'yung family niya, lalo na 'yung mommy niya," she said.

Panganiban added: "Ako, naniniwala ko doon, eh -- kung paano mo mahal in 'yung mommy mo... Talagang ang taas ng tingin ko sa mga ganoong klaseng lalaki."

Cruz and Panganiban have been together for 11 months.

Asked when they plan to get married, the "Banana Split" mainstay said, "Kung doon kami papunta, hindi pa siguro siya mangyayari this year or next year."

"Marami parin siyang gustong ma-achieve sa personal niyang buhay. Ako rin naman, ganoon din ako," she added.

Both Kapamilya stars are gearing up for their respective film projects under Star Cinema. Panganiban will co-star with Gerald Anderson in a romance-drama film by Ruel Bayani, while Cruz will work with Gretchen Barretto, Richard Gomez, and Jessy Mendiola in a legal drama movie by Chito Rono. ■

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## 'Manny' on critic's top 12 list in movie fest

A "beautiful, almost epic" film was how movie critic Tim Basham described "Manny," the documentary about world eight-division boxing champ and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao.

The nearly two-hour docu directed by Ryan Moore and Leon Gast and narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Liam Neeson landed in the 12th slot of the 15 best films exhibited in the 2014 Little Rock Film Festival (LRFF) that ran from May 12 to 18 in Arkansas.

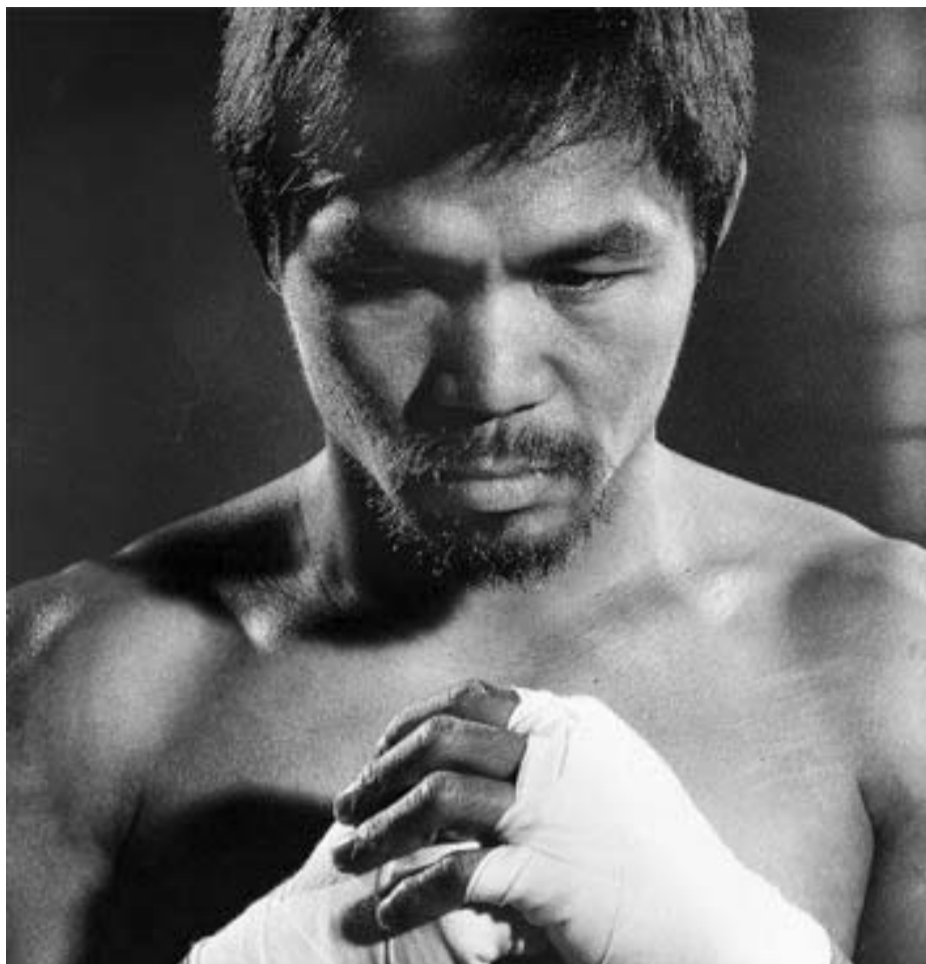
"It's a story that plays like a feature film, with a role that Pacquiao himself would probably want to play," Basham wrote in the music and entertainment online magazine Paste, published by Wolfgang's Vault.

The critic sounded amused by the pugilist's "embarrassing" attempts at singing.

Moore himself earlier said "Manny" depicts the Pinoy ring legend's weaknesses as a human being and his down-to-earth character.

After watching a pre-exhibition screening in Los Angeles in April, the boxing champ was quoted as saying, "That's the real story of Manny Pacquiao."

Basham noted, "The film also shows Manny's ability to laugh at his mistakes and smile through difficulties. It ends where his career stands today, with periodic



discussions of a match with world champion, Floyd (Mayweather) Jr."

Pacquiao is elated by his movie's achievement at LRFF. "I hope it serves as an inspiration to many people, especially children," he told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

The festival was founded by Little Rock natives and documentary filmmakers Brent and Craig Renaud. This eighth edition showcased a diverse lineup of 100 films (from a pool of more than 1,000) from 30 countries.

## Drama ends between Kim and Gerald



Kim Chiu

There might have been some awkwardness in the beginning but it wasn't to hinder former reel and real-life pair Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson from carrying on and finishing a recent project together.

"It was fine, parang walang nangyari," Kim told ABS-CBN News about working with Gerald again. "Parang, 'Ano ba 'yan, ilang taon na 'yung nakalipas na 'yun, kalimutan na natin 'yun.'"

She further shared that while they were both ill at ease during the earlier part of shoot for the TV commercial, "nung tanghali na hanggang hapon, parang okay na."

She added, "At least maganda 'yung pangyayaring ganun, 'di ba? All's well that ends well."

The actress said they were able to catch up in between takes, relating, "Tengga-tengga habang setup so kwento-kwento lang sa mga buhay-buhay."

Proving that they have really moved on, Kim declared, "Tapusin na natin ang drama sa life; pang teleserye lang 'yun."

Meanwhile, Gerald's younger brother, Ken Anderson, is about to follow in his footsteps, having made public his intent to pursue a career in showbiz.

"I guess I was just inspired from what he does and what he has," Ken told ABS-CBN News.

Ken shared that Gerald called him and said, "Why don't you come to the Philippines and try it here?" I said, "Alright."

What sets him apart from his older brother – who started out as a "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate – is his acting roots, having actually taken up drama classes while he was in the United States.

Ken also has no problem with the inevitable comparison with his older brother. "He's a good actor. To be compared to that, I'll take it any day," he said. ■

## Kris Aquino reveals Derek makes her happy



Kris Aquino

Following their recent movie date together, Kris Aquino and Derek Ramsay got together anew when he appeared as guest on "Kris TV."

The episode, which aired on Monday, showed Aquino asking the show's staff if the former Kapamilya actor could be allowed to appear on-cam.

"Pwede ko ba siya papasukin? Papasukin na natin pwede para lang maka-'thank you' ako, kasi kapag malungkot ako, siya talaga ang nagpapasaya sa akin," she reasoned.

Addressing Ramsay, the host-actress said, "Pasok ka na Derek. Say 'hi' lang."

"Welcome back from Palawan. Naghe-'hello' lang, kapitbahay natin siya. Baka kasi mapagalitan siya sa kabila at mapagalitan ako dito, so nandiyan siya sa likod, okay na



Kris Aquino with sons and Derek Ramsay in a recent movie date

'yan," Aquino added.

The "Feng Shui" star also dedicated Selena's "Dreaming Of You," as interpreted by her guest Juris Fernandez, to Ramsay.

"Bakit? We have democracy. It's a free country. We can express ourselves," Aquino said.

Last May, Aquino visited a pneumonia-stricken Ramsay at a hospital. For his part, Ramsay thanked Aquino via Instagram for visiting him and for her "get well soon" gift.

Rumors about Aquino's supposed romantic link to Ramsay

broke in March when the latter posted a photo of them having a night out together. Although it has been deleted, he described Aquino in the caption as "the funniest."

In April, Aquino thanked the hunk-actor via a "shout out" on Instagram

It read, "THANK YOU because God must love me to give me someone like you to lean on & count on. Bahala na kayo sa interpretation but @ramsayderek11 deserves a shout out. THANK YOU! ■

**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15***Pinoy pride shines at Mr. World 2014****John Spainhour**

The Pinoy representative to this year's Mr. World did not bag the title but everyone was amazed by the support he got from his countrymen.

Reports have it that on finals night held in England, John Spainhour had his kababayans in the audience cheering the loudest for any contestant. It was not in vain because the former US Marine who fought in Iraq for eight months, placed second in bowling in the sports challenge, and was among the top 10 in the

extreme physical challenge.

Spainhour did his best but in the end, the top titles went to Mr. Denmark, Mr. Nigeria and Mr. Mexico, respectively.

The Pinoy looker is not sour about it at all. Sports as ever, he is grateful to everyone who supported him, glad for the opportunity to bear the Pinoy flag in an international tilt.

Now, that's the spirit, there's a winner. ■

**Toni Gonzaga reveals first childhood dream**

Believe it or not, Toni Gonzaga's childhood dream was to do household chores all day and get her orders from "Ma'am" and "Sir."

"When I was young, gusto ko talaga maging kasambahay or katulong kasi napapanood ko nun si Princess Sarah na katulong sa show. Kaya pag pinapagalitan ako nun ng parents ko sasabihin ko sa kapatid kong si Catherine, tunay na pangalan ni Alex, lalayas na ako, magkakatulong na lang ako..." she said at the launch of her 7th album "Celestine."

But seriously, Toni Gonzaga's big dream was to be a singer that's why she kept on joining amateur singing contests in Taytay when she was young. She recalled that when a teacher of hers asked her class what they wanted to be when they grow up "sabi ng iba, gusto nila maging doctor. Yung iba, gusto maging abogado, yung iba, teacher. Pero ako sabi ko gusto ko maging international singer. Sabi ng teacher namin, 'Upo!' I wondered, ano kaya ang problema sa sinabi ko?"

Maybe her teacher thought she was dreaming so big it won't happen?

"But my father always told me to dream big. Sabi niya, kung mangarap ka, yung pinakamataas na. Kung di mo man makamit ang pinakamataas, at least nasa mataas ka pa rin."

Toni started singing in school and back then "sikát na sikát si Mariah Carey at lalo ako na-inspire to realize my dream of becoming a singer. I sang during special occasions like the foundation day of our school."

Few know that after school, Toni sang in music lounges for three years before joining show business (she was first seen on "Eat Bulaga" but it was at the Kapamilya Network that Toni was able to achieve her full potential as TV host).

She soon unleashed her talent in

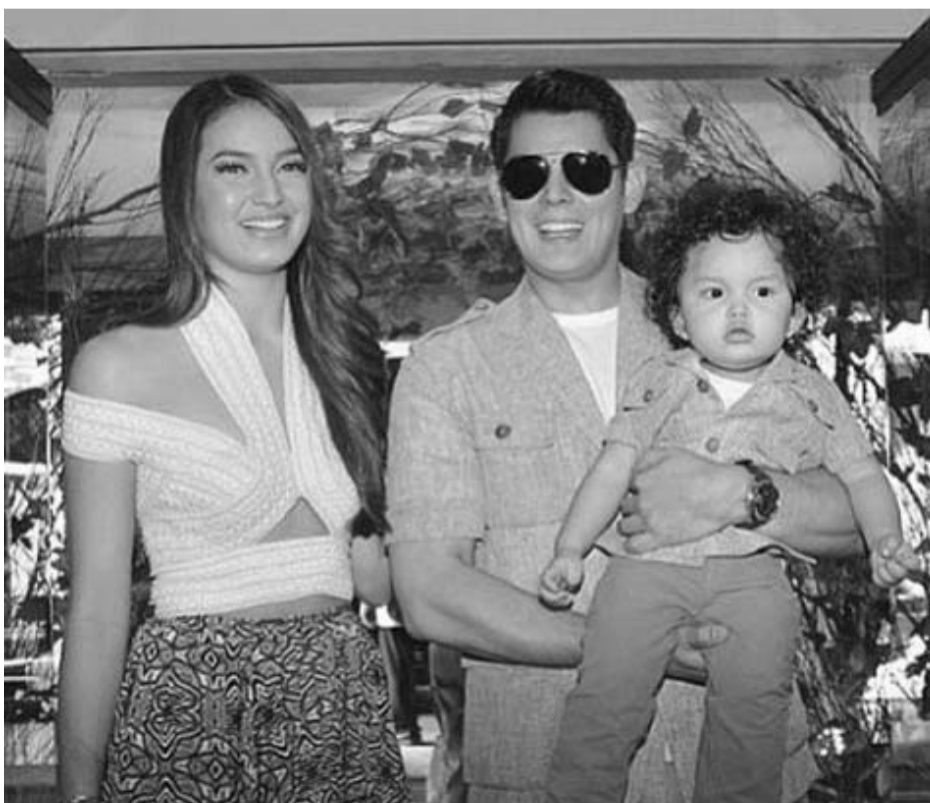
**Toni Gonzaga**

comedy (through the TV sitcoms she appeared in and the movies she did, the most impressive of which was "Starting Over Again" which made a killing at the box-office, prompting people to say she brought back to life her leading man's (Piolo Pascual) career.

In "Celestine" (that's actually her real name Toni said) are two of her compositions, "This Love is Like" co-written by Jonathan Manalo; and "Awit ni Ginny" which she wrote on the set of "Starting Over Again." Ginny was the name of her character in "Starting Over Again."

"Actually, malaki rin ang naitulong sa akin ni Piolo sa pag-compose ko sa 'Awit ni Ginny.' He encouraged me," she said.

Toni has been writing songs for a long time now "but nahihya akong ipakita sa iba." She had actually written a song for her wedding day, but Toni did not want to say the title of the song. "Secret muna." ■

**Richard, Sarah downplay familial 'misunderstanding'****Sarah Lahbati, Richard Gutierrez with their son Zion**

Sarah Lahbati didn't directly address the sentiments of her mother Esther about supposedly being treated shabbily at the christening of the former's son, Baby Zion.

On an Instagram post, Esther claimed that she was "ignored" at the party and that, at one point, was asked within earshot of other visitors to take home some leftover food. The post has now been deleted.

Seemingly in response, Sarah wrote on her Instagram account that like any family, they have their share of "misunderstandings" and that they intend to settle it "internally" and "move forward."

"...I hope that we can all live in harmony. Accept, support and understand one another for the sake of baby Zion..." read part of the post, which her boyfriend, actor Richard Gutierrez reposted on his own account.

Sarah also shared how "we have [www.filipinostar.org](http://www.filipinostar.org)

gone through a lot in the past year and a half. Both the Lahbati's and the Gutierrez's had to go through lots of obstacles and sacrifices to be able to help Chard and I deal with our problems" but that "all the dust has settled, everyone is happy..."

Richard, on his part, simply dismissed the issue at a press conference yesterday. He said that he'd rather "concentrate on positivity." He assured that they are doing something to fix the "miscommunication."

Today, Richard's mother and manager, Annabelle Rama, posted on Twitter the following message deemed by many as pertaining to the issue.

The caption read in part: "Kung ako pa sa iyo, laruin mo na lang si Zion para mawala ang negative vibes sa katawan mo..." ■



# Why the wedding of Boots to King made us laugh & cry

**By Bibsy M. Carballo**

This is a wedding review of a particularly peculiar type of wedding. The fact that it was the wedding of possibly the most decent and proper individuals on the face of Earth made it even more peculiar.

The guests in full regalia crowded the small chapel at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong that had almost become an auditorium. With a principal entourage led by Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada, Susan Roces and Marichu Maceda, no one would have been surprised had music filled the halls. We half-expected the crowd waiting outside to start tapping their feet and clapping their hands in anticipation. For a brief moment, we thought we were at the Smart Araneta Coliseum anxious for the show to begin.

Such was the atmosphere at the wedding of Boots Anson-Roa to lawyer King Rodrigo. Boots is such a well-loved figure with hardly any scandal attached to her name. We say "hardly" because of that tsismis of her and a certain top government official while she and husband Pete Roa were living in the US many years ago. Of course, it died a natural death but while it was making the rounds, we were secretly glad about it. To us, it showed that Boots was after all human and not a saint, at least not yet.

From the very moment Boots and King reached the chapel and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle took the microphone, there was nonstop laughter. The Cardinal was such an entertaining speaker, he put everyone at ease. He joked about Boots and King having children, asked them if

they were sure about getting married, repeated the question several times. The guests seated outside the chapel could hear the laughter and some of them I knew asked what it was all about. All we could say was that everyone had such a good time.

many illnesses that never left him for the rest of his life.

Now that Boots and King are married to each other, it appears to us and to all who have met them together that they are meant for each other. It has brought tears to the eyes of those



The wedded couple Boots Anson-Roa and King Rodrigo (with Manila Mayor Erap Estrada, principal sponsor, behind them)

While we are not one for dressing formally and attending weddings that very often are a drag, we are happy to report that the King and Boots nuptials was the most enjoyable one we have attended. We have known Boots for quite a while ever since we would visit their home when her late husband Pete was still alive. In fact, we have known Pete longer than Boots ever since his days at the FEU which we used to frequent. After that, we would join in for smoking and mahjong sessions at their home which Boots always frowned upon. We soon gave up the smoking but kept the mahjong habit, but Pete was a more difficult person to convince. So she let him be, even as she would care for him and his

who know them well. In their private discussions of what changes would transpire after the bridal ceremony, they have decided to keep things as they were. King will still keep his office as international lawyer based in Alabang but will go home to Q.C. where Boots lives. Since they are both widowed with King seven years older than Boots, both find no difficulty in adjusting to a new lifestyle. It is also expected of them to continue visiting the crypts of their respective past spouses — Pete for Boots, and Olga as King's first wife. And we can also expect that from the afterlife, both Pete and Olga will give their blessings. ■



The simple wedding rites are made lively by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

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# Luis and Angel take it one step further



Angel Locsin and Luis Manzano

Lovers Luis Manzano and Angel Locsin have been doing something lately that they've not done during the "first chapter" of their relationship and that is talk about settling down.

"We were having our first date night in Makati, we were eating in a simple restaurant and we were talking about the future. In a few years, ito ang gusto natin, bahay, saan tayo titira," he shared on "The Buzz."

Luis, who got back together with Angel on Feb. 7 four years after they broke up, believes talking about it means "we are here to stay." He said they are both more mature now in that

they know a relationship is all about "faith, trust and love."

As he put it, "It's a whole new Angel and a whole new Luis coming to the table."

The new Luis, he claimed, is "mabait na," admitting there have been times in the past when "medyo I strayed from the right path..."

Despite the desire to become one legally, the two are in no rush to tie the knot and have kids, especially with Angel soon busy with another "Darna" re-imagining slated for 2016.

"Siguro puwede naman i-delay. Sabi din kasi namin, once we get married, we still want to explore what the world has to offer. Gusto namin na once everything settles down, (we want) to travel, to relax."

The son of Vilma Santos and Edu Manzano has no qualms even with their respective projects taking much of their time.

He reiterated, "Time was never an issue between us," adding that they both understand the demands of their careers. ■

# Paul Soriano already thinking of honeymoon with Toni



Paul and Toni

Wedding bells could ring soon for Paul Soriano and Toni Gonzaga with him already planning their honeymoon.

"Ready na," Soriano was quoted as saying in an ABS-CBN news interview, sharing how he envisioned their honeymoon as something that would involve a lot of travelling. "I think it's something that we both want to do because we've never really done that."

Earlier, Gonzaga revealed having written a "walking down the aisle" song, supposedly for the time she and the director-producer tie the knot.

Soriano finds the idea "a surprise." "It's good to know that she's thinking ahead. We are getting there real soon, so exciting."

All that said, Soriano doesn't have a concrete plan yet on when he would pop the question to Gonzaga.

"I'm finishing up a lot of stuff now... when it all settles, I think there's going to be a lot of time to start planning for the rest of my life," he said.

Soriano is seemingly assured that he and Gonzaga will end up at the altar.

"We've been together for seven years already and there's already an understanding," he maintained. "We

are pretty much part of each other's life already. That's the beauty of being in a relationship that's lasted this long."

At the moment, Soriano would rather let Gonzaga enjoy her successful showbiz career. "I know she's very busy. Of course, 'PBB' just came out. She's got her sitcom. She just came off a box-office hit movie," he pointed out.

His marriage proposal to Gonzaga will happen when he gets "really, really clear signs" from her.

"I know there are a couple of things that she wants to do some more before we can really sit down and plan the rest of our lives," he said.

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