

Gaa cites Global Filipinos' contributions to RP growth

WASHINGTON, DC – The Embassy's commemorative activity for the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence was formally opened by Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa in a flag raising ceremony held at the premises of the Philippine Embassy. The Ambassador was joined by Undersecretary Enrique Manalo of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, who was at the nation's capital for the US-ASEAN Joint Consultation, along with the Embassy personnel.

The flag raising was followed by remarks of Ambassador Gaa at the Romulo Hall, where he echoed the President's citation of the global Filipinos' contribution to RP growth and development that have aided in mitigating the impacts of global economic crisis in the Philippines. Ambassador Gaa thanked Filipinos overseas for their continued support and significant role to the country's socio-economic growth. ■



Ambassador Gaa expresses his gratefulness to the global Filipino in his remarks

FilAm Artists Showcase Works in City Hall

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles city officials kicked off Philippine Independence Day in grand style last week.

For the next month, the works of Filipino American artists will hang along the walls of the Rio bridge on the third floor of the Los Angeles City Hall building.

The art exhibit called strokes of genius is a celebration of Philippine Independence Day and Filipino culture.

Among some of the artists whose works will be displayed are Emmy award winning Simpson's animator Jess Espanola, the late Papo de Asis, Rafael Maniago and Don Magno.

"This exhibit not only showcases the talent and artistry of Filipinos but also their contributions to society," said Zen Lopez, the curator.

Presented by the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees and City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, "Strokes of Ge-

nus: Filipino American Artists of Los Angeles," exhibit will run until July 3.

The Simpson's Assistant Director Espanola said that this is a great opportunity for people to recognize the talent of FilAm artists.

"This is an opportunity for us to be known as artists and visual artists," said Espanola, who won the 2008 Outstanding Animated Program for the The Simpson's' episode 'Eternal Moonshine of the Simpson Mind.'

Florante Ibanez said that this is also an opportunity for people to recognize that Filipinos are more than just the stereotypical accountants and nurses.

"They really don't know that we are multifaceted," he said. "Especially Filipino Americans for us this is a way to show our pride. It gives us a place to showcase ourselves, and to show another side to the American public that they may not normally assume that we are."

The exhibit will run until July 3. Admission is free. The exhibit hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 pm. ■

Power women of Nueva Ecija adopt GK...

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Meritorious Contribution and Exemplary Leadership.

Now on her fourth term as mayor, Lorenzo believes that it is only through reformed candidates and a reformed constituency that the country can truly be changed and corruption eradicated. "As a member of the Kaya Natin Movement, I advocate electing officials that believe in good governance and ethical leadership. We have been going around the country to bring awareness to the citizens, especially to the youth, the students to register and vote. This 2010 elections is so important. We are persuading the young people - *sila ang idealistic at hindi nabibile ang kanilang mga boto*. Many are frustrated with traditional politics, saying *pare-pareho lang yan, puro corrupt*. But, with the help of media and the private sector, NGOs, and even the World Bank, we have been busy campaigning for

a stronger relationship with the civic sector for effective governance," said Mayor Sonia.

"There has to be collaboration between the nation's leaders and the citizens for there to be transformation," stated Mayor Sonia. "This is what Gawad Kalinga has taught our people in San Isidro. When GK started to build homes for the poor in our town, tinuro sa mga tao that they must also do their part. GK, through its donors and LGU partners, gives the land and the materials. The people build their houses and their village. This is their sweat equity. So, the citizens learned to initiate and lead and address their needs. They build a God-centered village where hope and hard work is encouraged," she said.

This GK mindset is clearly evident when a Day Care Center in San Isidro needed a lot of repair. The people who lived near the center went to the mayor and

said they have gathered some resources among themselves to repair the center. They just told Mayor Sonia, "*pakidagdagan na lang po ang kulang pa namin, pero kami-kami na po ang gagawa ng center*."

"This is what we want to impart to our people. We can all be part of the change. As leaders, we should empower the people to make the changes that they want to see," added Mayor

Lorenzo.

According to Mark Lawrence Cruz, who also works full time with Gawad Kalinga in Ateneo, 60% of the voters in the Philippines are young people. "These young people are looking for purpose and passion. They are not attracted to traditional politics. Their energies are looking for something to build, not to destroy. In connection with this, we are building the GK1MB

-Gawad Kalinga Isang Milyong Bayani. If there will be at least 1 million young Filipinos who will fall in love with their country, we will fuel their energies to nation building," said Mark with a passion.

Gawad Kalinga's vision is to make the Filipino poor "unpoor" by unleashing his potential for productivity and hard work in the right environment. By 2024, they hope to transform the nation

from 3rd class to 1st class and bring it from poverty to prosperity, from shame to honor. With so many embracing the GK Way, like Mayor Sonia Lorenzo, Baby Congco, and Mark Cruz, the vision could very well become reality within 15 years. After all, GK espouses a God-centered nation, and if God is exalted, He promised that nothing is impossible to those who believe. (*Cynthia de Castro/AJPress*)

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