



WAITING FOR THE FERRY. Stranded residents wait to be ferried to another end of a destroyed highway as flooding continues for a second straight day Saturday Aug. 8 in Botolan, Zambales. An earthen dike in the foothills of Mt. Pinatubo collapsed under heavy monsoon rains early Friday, flooding towns and villages west of Manila and leaving at least 12 dead, including three foreigners, officials said.
 AP Photo by Bullit Marquez

Obama postpones immigration reform to 2010

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
 AJPress

SUPPORTERS for comprehensive immigration reform in the US will have to wait, said President Barack Obama at a press conference during the end of the two-day North American summit in Guadalajara, Mexico on August 10.

Before being elected, Obama stressed the importance of immigration reform but since taking office, he has been dealing with the country's dire financial state and pushing for an overhaul of the US healthcare system.

He said that he has a lot on his legislative plate now but he expects to see draft legislation for immigration overhaul by the end of the year, according to the Associated Press.

"Am I going to be able to snap my fingers and get this done? No. This is going to be difficult," said the president as quoted by ABC News. "It's going to require bipartisan cooperation. There are going to be dema-



President Obama at Portsmouth High School in Portsmouth, N.H.
 AP Photo by Jim Cole

gogues out there who try to suggest that any form of pathway for legalization for those who are already in the United States

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I have never profited from my office – GMA

by PAOLO ROMERO
 Philstar.com



Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
 AP Photo

MANILA – President Arroyo maintained on August 10 that she has never and will never use her position for personal profit even as she strongly denied manipulating her statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) that showed her net worth doubling in the last eight years.

Her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said the President vehemently denied "any report or speculation alleging defect or her non-compliance with the law in filing her SALN."

A report from the Philippine Cen-

ter for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) said that based on her SALNs, Pres. Arroyo's declared net worth more than doubled from P66.8 million in 2001 to P143.54 million in 2008, or bigger than the combined growth in declared wealth of her three immediate predecessors, including former President Joseph Estrada, who was convicted for plunder.

"The President reiterates that she has never used and will never use or take advantage of her position for personal profit as she had declared in her State of the Nation Address and as expected of her by the people," Macalintal told a news conference at

the Palace that was also attended by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's lawyer, Ruy Rondain.

He said he spoke over the phone with the President who was in Ilocos Norte on August 10 and received instruction that he speak for her on the matter. She did not sound upset, he said.

He said Pres. Arroyo prepared and signed her SALN under oath to the best of her knowledge and in full compliance with the Constitution.

"She honestly believes that she has been very transparent on her assets and liabilities and she has nothing to

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Palace offers no apologies for P1M dinner

by CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
 Inquirer.net

MANILA – Sorry, but no sorry. Malacanang refused on Monday to apologize for the purportedly extravagant dinner President Macapagal-Arroyo and her delegation had recently at a French restaurant in New York.

"If the dinner was really ostentatious, then there has to be an apology, but it wasn't ostentatious and I stand by that," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said in a media briefing.

A visibly dismayed Remonde spent practically much of his day fielding questions – and warding off criticisms – on the controversial dinner at the upscale Le Cirque restaurant.

In what he promised to be Malacañang's "final" statement on the matter, the official maintained that President Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo were simply invited to the dinner by Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez.

Remonde said it would have been "impolite" for the First Couple to inquire about the restaurant or the menu.

"It would also (have been) impolite for the First Couple to turn down an invitation gra-

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Mike Arroyo may attend House probe on assets

If investigation 'friendly' – lawyer

by TJ BURGONIO
 Inquirer.net

MANILA – First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will attend an inquiry by the House of Representatives into his and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's statements of assets and liabilities if they would be assured of a fair and friendly treatment, his lawyer said Tuesday.

"It is no secret his doctors will not readily allow him to attend an adversarial investigation. If assured it won't be adversarial, a friendly investigation, I don't

see any reason why doctors would not agree," the First Gentleman's counsel Rudy Rondain said in a Malacañang briefing.

The President's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said on Tuesday that the country's chief executive was standing by the truthfulness of her statement of assets and liabilities, amid mounting criticisms that the sharp rise in her wealth was not fully explained.

"She reiterates that she stands by the truth and veracity of her statement of assets and liabilities," Macalintal said in the same press conference.

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Remembering Fil-Am Joseph Iletto, a victim of hate crime

Elected officials & community members gather with August '99 victims and families

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
 AJPress

LAST Monday marked the 10th year anniversary of the brutal and senseless hate crime spree that killed Joseph Santos Iletto, a Filipino American postal worker, and wounded five people at the North Valley Jewish Community Center. To remember Iletto's death and reflect on how far our community has come and what has been done to address the problem of hate crimes in the past decade, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center organized the 10th Annual Commemorative Event in its community room along Wilshire Blvd in Los Angeles



Ishmael Iletto



Lilian Iletto

from 9:30am to 1pm on Monday, August 10. Leading elected officials and community members joined the press conference and memorial service, which paid tribute to Iletto and the other victims and their families.

On August 10, 1999, white supremacist Buford O. Furrow, Jr. walked into the lobby of the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills, California and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon, unloading 70 shots into the complex and wounding three small boys, 6-years-old Joshua Stepakoff, James Sidell, also 6, Benjamin Kadish, 5, 16-year-old camp counselor Mindy Finkelstein, and 68-year-old receptionist Isabelle Shalometh.

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