

# MARKETPLACE

## JOURNAL

### IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

(part 2 of 2)

## The October 2009 priority dates – visas available for employment

(brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 1 month and 9 days from October 22, 1986 to December 1, 1986.

#### Petitions by Green Card Holders:

The Second Preference, F-2A (Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder) moved forward by 1 month and 17 days from April 15, 2005, to June 1, 2005.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) remained the same at May 1, 1998.

#### Petitions by Employers:

The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) priority date, which was unavailable the last few months is now June 1, 2002. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers, which was also unavailable the last few months is now June 1, 2001.

Each month, the Visa Office of the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that visas (or green cards) would now be available for persons whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below. If your priority date was "current", but retrogressed (or became "unavailable") before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the US), you

would have to wait until it becomes current again.

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of, an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different. The information contained herein (including testimonials, "Success Stories", endorsements and re-enactments) is of a general nature, and is not intended to apply to any particular case, and does not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established with any reader.

WEBSITE: www.gurfinkel.com  
Call Toll free to schedule a consultation for anywhere in the US: (866) - GURFINKEL  
Four offices to serve you: LOS ANGELES · SAN FRANCISCO · NEW YORK · PHILIPPINES (Advertising Supplement)

| October 2009 priority dates for the Philippines are as follows: |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| FAMILY CATEGORY   |   | Priority Date   |
| First Preference  | Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)        | October 8, 1993 (In September 2009, the priority date was September 22 1993.)   |
| Second Preference   | 2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder   | June 1, 2005 (In September 2009, the priority date was April 15, 2005.)         |
|   | 2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder | May 1, 1998 (In September 2009, the priority date was the same.)                |
| Third Preference  | Married sons and daughters of US Citizens.                                | October 15, 1991 (In September 2009, the priority date was September 22, 1991.) |
| Fourth Preference   | Brothers and sisters of US Citizens.                                      | December 1, 1986 (In September 2009, the priority date was October 22, 1986.)   |
| LABOR CERTIFICATION   |   |   |
| Third Preference  | Professional/ Skilled Workers   | June 1, 2002 (In September 2009, the priority date was the same.)               |
| Other workers   | Non-Skilled Workers   | June 1, 2001 (In September 2009, the priority date was unavailable.)            |

### NO FREE LUNCH

by CIELITO HABITO  
Inquirer.net

## Grow now, pay later

THE SLIGHTLY POSITIVE GDP growth our economy achieved in the second quarter was primarily the result of government's extraordinary efforts to spend our way out of the global economic downturn.

Investment spending and exports both fell steeply (by almost 10 and 16 percent respectively). Private consumption grew at a greatly reduced pace of 2.2 percent, or at about the same rate that our population grew, suggesting that average spending per person or per household had actually remained flat. But government consumption spending grew by a brisk 9.1 percent, and government construction by more than three times as fast at almost 30 percent.

It was, therefore, government that primarily created the demand for goods and services that managed to hold our economy's overall growth rate in the positive range. In other words, we were saved from recession by fiscal stimulus, the widely prescribed medicine for all economies battered by the financial meltdown that brought down most of the large economies of the world.

#### Unlucky neighbors

Our neighbors have not been quite as fortunate. Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore have officially been in recession this year, suffering deep contractions (-4.9, -3.9 and -3.5 percent, respectively) in the second quarter, with contraction already lasting more than two quarters. The Japanese economy has dipped even more sharply (-15.2 percent). The giant economies of China and India managed to grow briskly at 7.9 and 6.1 percent, respectively, albeit almost down to half of the 10- to 12-percent growth they had been accustomed to lately.

Our recession-hit neighbors were clearly battered by the steep drop in exports to the large economies hit by even deeper recession. Singapore's net exports (exports minus imports) have amounted to 29 percent of its GDP, while the corresponding figures for Malaysia and Thailand are 20.3 and 7.6 percent. Our own net exports-to-GDP ratio has been a tiny 0.4 percent, making it no surprise why our domestic economy was largely shielded from the drying up of the export markets.

#### Stimulus, RP style

But as indicated above, it was government spending that managed to keep us out of recession. Our own fiscal stimulus package was the vaunted Economic Resiliency Program (ERP) amounting to P330 billion. As itemized by former NEDA Secretary Ralph Recto, P160 billion of this had been allotted to the hiring of more teachers, policemen and soldiers, repair of government buildings, patrol cars and ambulances, and support for agriculture. P100 billion was to come

from investments by SSS and GSIS in private sector ventures in build-operate-transfer (BOT) and similar public-private partnerships in infrastructure. P30 billion was spent on additional SSS, GSIS and PhilHealth benefits, while the balance of P40 billion was supposedly in the form of cuts in the income tax.

Whether or not the additional government spending actually went to their intended purposes is not clear. For example, the supposed hiring of more government workers has not been apparent in the July Labor Force Survey, wherein jobs in the public sector have not shown any appreciable increase. The problem with the measurement of government's contribution to output is that it is measured from data on inputs (i.e., the amount of the budget spent), not on what the spending achieved—and this is true everywhere.

#### Future payback

The problem with our government spending-driven growth is that it is a case of "grow now, pay later." And the future payback can be rather painful unless government dramatically improves its effectiveness in collecting the proper taxes. The problem is already showing up in the ballooning budget deficit. The government has just announced that its deficit for the first eight months of the year has reached P210 billion, just P40 billion shy of the already twice-adjusted target deficit for the year. At the rate it is going, the deficit will go well beyond P300 billion by the end of the year.

What is particularly disturbing about this trend is that the widening deficit is not just due to the hiked spending, but due to reduced tax collection as well—even as GDP had continued to grow positively! In January-July 2008, tax revenues had reached P602 billion; in the same period this year, it was only P569 billion. If government had at least maintained its level of tax collection efficiency, revenues should have gone up to P611 billion (that is, 1.5 percent over last year's figure to be commensurate with GDP growth). Meanwhile, government spending has grown from P705 billion last year to P832 billion this year.

What all this means is that government is once again getting deeper in debt, and it is quite likely that the next President will inherit a fiscal crisis similar to what we found ourselves in just a few years ago, and which took the infamous EVAT to save us from. We can only hope that our next President will manage to get us out of this impending problem without again penalizing honest and obedient taxpayers with even more and higher taxes—while letting the traditional evaders continue on their merry way. ■

# DOWNTOWN LA MOTORS

## 0% FINANCING

on selected makes & models

SPECIAL FINANCING FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS, COLLEGE GRADS, FOREIGN COLLEGE STUDENTS\*  
(\*No social needed)

### SPECIAL PURCHASE CONVERTIBLES WE HAVE THEM, YOU CAN GET THEM!

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>'09 R350</b> <b>HOT BUY</b></p> <p>MSRP \$48,525<br/>SAVINGS ... \$5,000<br/>YOUR PRICE \$43,525</p> <p>1 at this price (09R350)</p>               | <p><b>'08 CLK350</b> <b>HOT BUY</b></p> <p>MSRP \$63,546<br/>SAVINGS ... \$18,000<br/>YOUR PRICE \$45,546</p> <p>1 at this price (08CLK350) 3 more at similar savings</p> | <p><b>'08 CLK550</b> <b>HOT SUMMER BUY</b></p> <p>MSRP \$89,935<br/>SAVINGS ... \$15,000<br/>YOUR PRICE \$74,935</p> <p>2 To Choose 2 at this price (08CLK550)</p> |
| <p><b>'08 E550</b> <b>FUN IN THE SUN</b></p> <p>MSRP \$65,010<br/>SAVINGS ... \$16,000<br/>YOUR PRICE \$49,010</p> <p>Not 1 but 2 to choose (08E550)</p> | <p><b>'08 CLK550</b> <b>HOT BUY</b></p> <p>MSRP \$70,010<br/>SAVINGS ... \$17,000<br/>YOUR PRICE \$53,010</p> <p>3 at this price (08CLK550)</p>                           | <p><b>'08 CLS63</b> <b>HOT BUY</b></p> <p>MSRP \$111,705<br/>SAVINGS ... \$21,710<br/>YOUR PRICE \$89,995</p> <p>1 at this price (08CLS63)</p>                     |

## LA'S LARGEST VEHICLE SHORT SALE

400 NEW AND USED VEHICLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

**We'll pay cash for your junker!**

Up To **\$4,500**

**Vehicle Discounts**

Up To **\$10,000** (1)

**0% APR** On all 2009's (2)

**2009 Nissan Altima Auto**

MSRP \$20,940  
Residual Value \$11,897.66  
Over of Sticking \$2,895.87

**SPECIAL LEASE \$199 + TAX**

39 Months 12k per year.

STOCK # N90227, N90582

**'09 Nissan Versa**

Rebate \$1,250

**'09 Nissan Sentra**

Rebate \$2,000

**'09 Nissan Altima**

Rebate \$3,250

**QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES FROM \$5,995 (3)**

CHOOSE FROM TOYOTA • HONDA • NISSAN • VW • CHEVROLET • FORD • HYUNDAI • KIA • BMW • MERCEDES BENZ • CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • AND MANY MORE!

**BUYERS ON SITE**

YOUR TRADE IS WELCOME, PAID FOR OR NOT!

**"HANAPIN PO KAMI PARA MAKUHA ANG PINOY DISCOUNT"**

ROBERTO TAVERA  
Fleet Manager  
Call: (310) 434-5844

MICHAEL HERRANDEZ  
Fleet Sales Manager  
Call: (310) 590-8324

DOH DOLOR  
Fleet Manager  
Call: (310) 434-5844

1801 S. Figueroa St. At Washington Blvd. Near Staples Center

**TAWAG NA PO 1-800-6828568**

SEE US ON THE WEB AT **BENZLA.COM**

All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charges and emission testing charges. On Approved Credit. Subject to credit approval. Ad expires day after publication. Subject to prior sale.

### BUSINESS

#### Quote of the Week

Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.

- Mary Kay Ash,  
Business woman and founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics