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GK GLOBAL SUMMIT IN BOSTON

RP out of 3rd world status by 2024

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

BOSTON—"It is our dream at Gawad Kalinga to bring the Philippines out of the third world by 2024 through the collaborative effort of all sectors of the Philippine society in the Philippines and abroad," Gawad Kalinga (GK) founder Tony Meloto announced to the media before the formal unveiling of the organization's first global summit in this city.

The GK 2024 vision is a 21-year timeline to end the poverty of five million Filipinos and build a First World Philippines through community development and people empowerment with engaged multi-sectoral and trans border partnerships.

"We are all here because Boston plays a great role in America's history, and it will play a great role again in our history as a Filipino people. GK as an Asian model of development is now capturing global attention," Meloto told the *Asian Journal* in a chat moments after the reception which also celebrated the 111th Philippine Independence Day.

Vice President Noli de Castro delivered the keynote during the reception, and welcomed patriots from all over who have not forgotten to help the motherland. De Castro even managed to sing *Wonderful World*, the Louis Armstrong classic. "*Para sa GK, itataya ko ang reputasyon ko,*" (For GK, I will bet my reputation) he remarked.

The historic event also gathered a veritable who's who in the worlds of Philippine politics, business and civil society.

Senators Francis Pangilinan and Miguel Zubiri, Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Parañaque Mayor Jun

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GK also paid tribute to the non-Filipino supporters and donors, including volunteer Santiago Aranda (third from left) and Jonathan Wittig (fourth from left) who helps with the colleges and universities project. AJPress Photo by Momar G. Visaya

DATELINE USA

Mancao's family reunites in RP

LOS ANGELES—Maricar Mancao, the wife of former PNP Senior Superintendent and double murder suspect Cezar Mancao, accompanied by their four children arrived in Manila last June 18.



Maricar Mancao

She said that she and their sons flew to Manila to reunite with Cezar for "moral support."

"Everybody's excited and we've prepared a lot of gifts and cards for their daddy," said Maricar to the *Asian Journal* at LAX before they left. "Of course, it's important [that we are there]. Moral support is what he needs."

Cezar Mancao was extradited to the Philippines last June 4 to testify in the

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Filipinos not among top US illegal entrants

Filipinos were not among the top nationalities arrested for trying to cross the United States border illegally, the latest report by the US Office of Immigration Statistics said.

In its June 2009 report, the agency said that apprehensions made by the Border Patrol declined in 2008 at 723,840 persons from the 2007 figure of 876,803 persons. In 2005, apprehension reached its peak of 1,189,000.

The decrease in apprehension can be

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LV mayor to meet Filipinos at red carpet event for Philippine Independence Day

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress

LAS VEGAS—For the first time in this city, Las Vegas City mayor Oscar Goodman will greet Filipinos in a "red-carpet" event as they celebrate the 111th Philippine Independence Day on Saturday, June 20th.

The first-ever gala event for Filipinos is part of the first annual Fiesta Filipino festivities in this city.

"It is an evening of elegance and glamour like the Oscars," Jing Espiritu state chair of the National Federation of

Filipino American Associations Nevada chapter (NaFFAA-NV) said.

"It's also requiring everyone to wear something formal," Espiritu told *Asian Journal*.

NaFFAA-NV spearheaded the first annual celebration of Philippine Independence in Las Vegas last June 6th.

Close to 5,000 Filipinos along with their friends and family flocked to the Sammy Davis Festival Plaza in Las Vegas for the festivities. Aside from local Las Vegas residents, the whole

day event was also attended by visitors from neighbor cities in California, Arizona and Utah.

There are more than 100,000 Filipinos living in Las Vegas, making these residents one of the largest cultural groups in the city. But this is the first time that Filipinos grouped together to celebrate the Philippine Independence day with a grand festivity.

NaFFAA NV had said it aims to hold the Fiesta Filipino event in Las Vegas annually every month of June. This

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Two-hour closing of LV Strip planned to accommodate 20,000 runners from all over US

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress

FOR the first time ever, the Las Vegas Strip will be completely closed off to traffic for two hours when some 20,000 sprinters from all over the country run on this street during the Rock n Roll Las Vegas marathon.

But instead of losing revenues due to the closure of the Strip, Las Vegas is still expected to earn an estimated \$40 million from the event to be held on December 6th.

"More than half of the runners will come from outside of Las Vegas. They will stay an average of three nights in hotels here and they will bring at least two people with them," said Bruce Her-



From L-R: Bruce Herring of organizer Competitor Group, Olympic Marathon gold medalist Frank Shorter, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, Clark County Chairman Rory Reid, Staci Brown of Team Challenge, Adam Zocks, general manager of Rock n Roll Las Vegas.

AJPress photo by Robert Macabagdal

ring, senior vice president of Competitor Group which spearheads the event.

"That all adds up to a significant economic impact to your community I would guess, in excess of \$40 million in economic impact to the community," he said.

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Supreme Court junks petitions vs constituent assembly

by EDU PUNAY
Philstar.com

MANILA—The Supreme Court (SC) junked last June 16 the petitions of a lawyer and a businessman for the voiding of a House resolution calling for the convening of a constituent assembly (con-ass) to propose amendments to the Constitution without the Senate.

In an eight-page resolution, Chief Justice Reynato Puno and 10 other SC justices ruled that the taxpayer suits of lawyer Oliver Lozano and Louis Biraogo against House Resolution 1109 were premature and that the petitioners also did not have legal standing to contest

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NAM POLL SAYS

82% of market reached by Ethnic Media

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

ATLANTA—Ethnic media in the United States continue to grow exponentially, according to a poll released last week by the New America Media (NAM) during its National Ethnic Media Expo and Awards held at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Over the last four years, the ethnic media have picked up 8 million new readers, viewers and listeners, and now regularly reach 57 million people in the US. The increase comes as mainstream media, especially metropolitan daily newspapers, struggle to keep their audiences.

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AS WE GO TO PRESS

NV Sen Ensign quits GOP post after admitting to affair

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress

AFTER admitting to an affair with a campaign worker, Nevada Senator John Ensign has vacated his post as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

The resignation was accepted last Wednesday, June 17th by Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, according to a report from the Las Vegas Review Journal.

Saying it was the "worst thing I've ever done in my life", the senator confessed to

having an affair with a woman who worked for his Senate campaign, the report said. The woman was also married to one of Ensign's aides. The affair had ended last year and the couple is no longer employed in the senator's office.

Though Ensign gave up the number 4 slot in the GOP leadership, he said he will not resign from his Senate seat and is committed to serving his Nevada

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