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# Is your doctor Filipino?

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT  
AJPress

It has probably happened to most Pinoys in the US once or twice. Overindulging in *lola's paksiw* or drinking the special spiced vinegar that came with the package of *bagnet* gave one a case of hyperacidity.

Going to the doctor meant being hooked up to an I.V., undergoing a CT scan, and spending so many hours in the hospital lingering for results. The hyperacidity is intensified as much by the long wait as the embarrassing task of explaining to the doctor and nurses why that much vinegar was downed in the first place.

But try a quick trip to a *Pinoy* doctor's clinic and you will be sent home with instructions on which over the counter antacid to take as well as a request for your mother's spiced vinegar recipe.

It is this too common and a bit comical situation that one *Pinoy* doctor in Las Vegas had observed in his practice in this city.

Not so much a language barrier, but a cultural difference sometimes makes it difficult for Filipinos to relay their symptoms to a doctor who is not *Pinoy*. Dr. Benito Calderon, president of the Philippine Medical Association of Nevada (PMAN) said.

To solve this, PMAN will soon launch a campaign to connect some 200 Filipino physicians in Las Vegas with over 100,000 *Pinoy* residents of this city.

"We are planning to launch this campaign called *Pinoy ba and doctor mo?*" Dr. Calderon told *Asian Journal* in a telephone interview last week.

"We need to tell the patients that we have these services of Filipino doctors here in Las Vegas," he said.

*Pinoy ba ang doctor mo?*, which literally translates

to "Is your doctor Filipino?" aims to introduce to Las Vegas Filipinos the services of these physicians who are either Philippine-educated or grew up in a culture that is distinctly *Pinoy*.

These are the doctors who will understand Filipinos' customs, penchants and habits that directly or indirectly affect their health, Dr. Calderon explained.

At the center of the information campaign is a comprehensive list of Filipino doctors practicing in Las Vegas, including each one's specialty and hospital affiliations.

To be launched on November 7, the list can be viewed on the organization's website [pmanevada.org](http://pmanevada.org). The list will also include the specialization and hospital affiliation of each physician.

Complete contact information of each doctor's office is also expected to give Filipinos more choices of clinics, as it will give them an idea which one is nearest to where they live.

Dr. Calderon said the project is expected to yield savings for Filipinos who will be spared from undergoing too many medical procedures that are sometimes not necessary.

At the same time, it will also aid the US government in saving funds by paring down costly medical methods that drive up healthcare costs.

The PMAN project will also include a similar directory of Las Vegas Filipino doctors in booklet form that will be available to Filipinos early next year.

Dr. Calderon is scheduled to meet with Philippine Ambassador to the US Willy Gaa in November in a bid to widen the campaign to other states as well. "I am hoping to have this campaign nationwide to benefit Filipinos in other parts of the US," Dr. Calderon said.

## Escudero junks NPC...

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early this week.

"This should be the first test of leadership of any putative candidate—for him to decide on his own and take full responsibility for the decision whether or not to run and what position to run for," Escudero said at a press conference.

But to the consternation of his mostly young supporters who turned up at Club Filipino despite the belated advisory, the lawmaker from Bicol deferred the announcement of his plans for the 2010 elections.

Escudero asked his supporters to give him time to decide what to do next. "I will freely decide on my own, just give more time because

it's only now that I can rest from all of these."

But Escudero did not leave the NPC—the party that carried him to victory since he ran for representative of Sorsogon in 1998—without unloading his frustrations.

"Whoever will run or will become president of the country can't fulfill all the things that he should do ... when his hands and feet are shackled, his eyes are blindfolded and mouth gagged," he said in Filipino.

**Dictates of single group**

"And he can't decide on the basis of the dictates of the interest of a single group, party or person," Escudero said.

Escudero's decision to abandon

ship left the NPC without a standard-bearer a month before the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy.

This took everyone by surprise, causing party mates to convene an emergency meeting at the NPC Clubhouse in New Manila subdivision, Quezon City, hours after Escudero's announcement.

**Open to all options**

In his speech at Club Filipino, Escudero wasn't clear if he would still throw his hat into the ring.

He denied that there was a simmering tension between him and Sen. Loren Legarda, an NPC member seeking the vice presidency. "I have no problems with Loren," he said.

Asked if he could slide down to the vice presidential post, Escudero said: "I'm open to all options."

## CDC: Get...

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"If you have a mechanism out there that can prevent influenza, why not use it?" she asked. "You can go to the state or county departments of health and get the vaccine for free. For some pro-

viders, they ask a small administrative fee."

As for myths associated with the handing out of vaccines, Janssen said that newer studies have revealed that flu shots are less and less associated with diseases like autism in children. "Autism Speaks has come and said that

there is no relationship between autism and the flu vaccine," Janssen stated.

[For information about vaccine availability, go to [www.cdph.gov](http://www.cdph.gov). For information about seasonal and swine flu, what to look out for, and other data, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).]

# Reach out a helping hand...

for the immediate relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Ondoy that hit the Philippines recently.

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Guidelines:

- Donations can be received online via credit card or Paypal through [www.abscbnfoundation.org](http://www.abscbnfoundation.org) or [ondoyrelief.multiply.com](http://ondoyrelief.multiply.com)
- Mail checks payable to: **ABS CBN Foundation - Sagip 150 Shoreline Drive Redwood City, CA 94065**
- Pledges and inquiries can be made through the toll free number **1-800-527-2820**



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- Oct. 18 - Oakland CA**  
Oakland Raiders Mabuhay Fiesta - Benefit for Sagip Kapamilya
- Oct. 18 - Seattle WA**  
Fund raising at the Filipino Community in Seattle featuring Massive Monkees and Blue Scholars
- Oct. 18 - Vallejo, CA**  
Brunch Fundraiser at the Filipino Community Center
- Oct. 24 - Redwood City, CA**  
"TINIG NG PINOY: Mas Malakas kay Ondoy" - Fundraiser by ABS-CBN International employees
- Oct. 30 - Berkley CA**  
Filipina Women's Network 100 Most Influential Filipinas Gala
- Nov. 13-15 - Las Vegas, NV**  
Martin Nievera "For Always" Benefit Concert

The ABS CBN Foundation is a registered 501 (c)(3) organization in the United States. All donations for Sagip Kapamilya (Saving Family Members) will be used for immediate relief and rescue operations. Photo courtesy of the Associated Press