

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Pimentel, Friends of Nene support . . .

PAGE A1 ◀

responsibility that contributes to a culture of impunity. The Senator believes that the next President can still affect change in government, despite the alleged deep-seated corruption. He even shared his philosophy about corruption in the Philippines.

corrupt largely due to the fact that they follow the leader. If they see that a leader is directly corrupt or is so incompetent that corruption is allowed or tolerated, then why shouldn't they commit corruption at their level? Even a traffic cop will say, "These people are earning a lot of money, why shouldn't I do the

same thing in this place where I preside?" That's how I look at it," revealed Senator Pimentel.

Senator Pimentel also has a message for overseas Filipinos interested in helping their country.

"I think if the OFWs are organized, they may focus on certain areas especially where they came from to help a particular village or particular school [rather] than thinking of helping the entire country," he offered as

a suggestion. "They can focus on a particular school or place, and make an impact on what they do because *kahit na hindi gaanong malaki ang kanilang itulong* (even if their assistance is not too big) but if it is concentrated and addresses the needs of a particular locality or facility, then it can make a difference."

Meanwhile, the Friends of Nene Pimentel, a group which has supported Pimentel's bid for the presidency in the past,

is also throwing its support for Senator Villar, who topped the list of presidential aspirants in nationwide surveys as late as August 2009.

Led by Eleanor Pabayo, Paul Emata and Raymond Carpio, the Friends of Nene Pimentel want to build awareness on Villar's candidacy both in the US and in the Philippines.

"It was Tito Nene who noted that Villar might be the guy who will hopefully solve the problems of the country," Pabayo said.

Pabayo sees in Villar the makings of a good leader. She was impressed with the Senator's

directness at the John Hopkins University forum.

"He answered all the questions directly and completely at the forum," Pabayo said. "He has the passion. He is very sincere and very experienced."

The California-based businesswoman said that the group will be meeting in the next few days and weeks to map out their strategy, and to determine the roles which they will play in achieving their goal of building awareness in both sides of the Pacific for Senator Villar's candidacy in the 2010 elections. ■

## DR. NOLI T. STA. ANA

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry • Orthodontics

We'll give you a reason to smile!  
Affordable quality family dental care

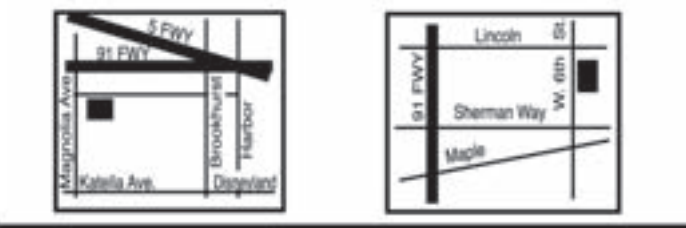


- Dental implants now available
- Most insurance plans accepted
- Medi-Cal (Denti-Cal) Insurance welcome
- Immediate appointment
- Special discount sa mga walang insurance
- Tumawag lang po kayo para mapag-usapan

Patient Satisfaction is our Number One Goal

**ANAHEIM OFFICE**  
Office Hours:  
Mon. - Sat. 10 to 7 pm  
2560 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92801  
(714) 220-9647  
(714) 537-6640

**CORONA OFFICE**  
Office Hours:  
Mon. to Tues. - 9 to 6 pm  
Thurs. to Sat. - 9 to 6 pm  
1252 W. 6th Street  
Ste. 103, Commodore Plaza  
(951) 371-7998



# Villar, Pimentel guests . . .

PAGE A1 ◀

to guard and watch against cheating [during the elections]. Otherwise, success in governance is in peril."

"I am confident we can manage the 2010 elections. We hope the elections will be okay since this is the first time it will be automated," Villar further stated.

Pimentel echoed Villar's view and said the safety of the elections will depend on the Filipino people.

"We have more confidence now in the Comelec than before," Pimentel said. "Ultimately, it is not the Comelec who will protect the elections, but the people. Senator Villar is the only candidate who is organized in the whole nation, and who has the machinery in place."

Asked about attracting foreign investments to the Philippines, Senator Villar said that creating a money-making environment and showing results are keys to this.

"We have to look at it from a capitalistic point of view," he explained, drawing from his conversations with fund managers during his time in the private sector. "They want to make money. And the only thing they understand is, 'Are we going to make money there?'... 'Why are we going to invest in the Philippines?' If every time they go to the Philippines, they don't see anything and don't see any change - they see the same buildings, the same roads, the same everything—they are not going to invest."

"But if they see something, things happening—roads being built, infrastructure being built, more classrooms being built, and the GDP numbers are improving,

then investments will flow and growth can be achieved," Villar stated, while adding that if that growth can be sustained, foreign investors and balikbayans will both be coming to invest in the Philippines even without an invitation.

Senator Villar even made the guests chuckle when he declared, "I don't want to hear them [foreign investors] say they want to come just because Filipinos are hospitable, I want them to come and say, 'I wanna go to the Philippines because I want to make money.'"

With respect to the "brain drain" taking place in the Philippines, Senator Villar said this can be reversed if the economy can be improved which means faster growth, creation of more jobs and giving Filipinos business opportunities to work on.

"The ultimate goal is we want to have a country where Filipinos don't want to leave [to seek jobs]," said Villar. "If we improve the economy, then they won't have to leave and suffer. There are many overseas workers who suffer like those in the Middle East who want to come home but do not know where to go. We see Filipinos who work as domestic helpers who are abused. It is important to give them a safety net. We have got to reverse this now."

As for the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), both Villar and Pimentel said that it should be honored and respected by both countries.

"The VFA should be made to work for the benefit of the Philippines and the United States," said Senator Pimentel, citing the need for equipment from American troops that can be used by their

Philippine counterparts.

Pimentel then related the Basilian experience of visiting American troops who were initially not wanted by the people living there, especially the children who made a point of running their index finger across their necks to show their displeasure. But after participating in the building of roads and classrooms and other infrastructure, the people warmed up to the American troops and realized that the troops were not there to subjugate them. "At the end of their visit, the children were tugging at their hands," Pimentel said.

"It showed that we don't need the Americans to fight our fights and affect our sovereignty. What we need are American troops' expertise," Pimentel continued. "We are natural allies. There is much to be gained when we look at what can be done."

Villar, on the other hand, said that while the VFA must be made to work by both countries, the Cpl. Smith incident was very unfortunate. "If this happens again, I will be the first one to have the VFA reviewed," he said, but added that he prefers not only military help, but other forms of assistance through the VFA.

When asked if a change in political system might bode well for the Philippines, both Senators said that any change must be done the right way.

"We can live with the federal system or whatever system is implemented provided it is done by the process," Villar offered his opinion.

Pimentel, for his part, said, "The best system is the system that works. The problem is some of the President's allies want to change the system so that she can run for a position of power again.

Her allies in the House think that they can do this without involving the Senate. They cannot do that. We are a bicameral legislature."

"I am also not comfortable with a parliamentary form of government since it is only the major block that can affect change or craft laws," Senator Pimentel added. "The major party does not have a monopoly on what's good for the country and its citizens. That should remain open to everyone."

Senators Villar and Pimentel's appearance in the roundtable, according to Henry Howard of the US Education Finance Group, was a result of interest among Washington, DC groups who wanted to hear from presidential candidates in the Philippines.

Howard, a member of the Philippine Roundtable in the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies event, said that there is interest across the US to hear about Philippine issues because of a few factors, including the large Filipino population in the United States, "the US and the Philippines has had a very long and close relationship, there are increasing amounts of trade and people flow between both countries, and we also a defense relationship with each other."

He added: "We both have concerns about rise of China. We are natural allies and we should have friendly and cordial relations."

And Howard's assessment of the roundtable? "I think the symposium went very, very well," he answered. "We wish Senator Villar very well. We hope that he's the next President."

While in Washington, DC Senators Villar and Pimentel also met with Members of the US Congress and top-level diplomats. ■

# DROWNING IN DEBT?

## FACING FORECLOSURE?

### ABOGADONG PILIPINO



- BILL COLLECTORS
- LAWSUITS
- WAGE GARNISHMENTS
- JUDGMENTS
- AUTO REPO
- FORECLOSURE
- IRS PROBLEMS

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Year

The Most Trusted Debt Relief Law Firm  
Serving the Filipino Community since 2001

8 years of EXCELLENT & QUALITY Service,  
Thousands of Successful Cases!

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy - Chapter 13 Debt Consolidation  
- Debt Settlement (Avoid Bankruptcy)

## RAY BULAON LAW OFFICES, INC.

"Panibagong Simula, Panibagong Buhay"

# SAVE YOUR HOME!

## LOAN MODIFICATION

Do you qualify under the Obama Home Affordability Program?

CHAPTER 13 "Lien Strip" - Cancel 2nd Trust Deed



FREE CONSULTATION  
SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
TOLL FREE

1-866-477-7772  
www.bulaonlaw.com

Offices in Glendale, Cerritos & West Covina  
"Ang inyong kaibigan at subok na tagapag-tanggol sa oras ng krisis at kagipitan."  
Maraming salamat po sa inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala!

ATTY. RAY BULAON  
\*We are a federal debt relief agency. If necessary, we help clients obtain relief from debt under the Bankruptcy Code.\*

# MEDICAL CAREERS ARE HERE TO STAY!

## START YOUR TRAINING NOW!



- VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM
- MEDICAL ASSISTANT
- MEDICAL BILLING/CODING
- DENTAL ASSISTANT
- PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
- MASSAGE THERAPY



NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIRED FOR MOST PROGRAMS

### CPR & IV THERAPY CLASSES

Financial Aid Available (those who qualify)  
Lifetime Career Assistance  
Child Care on Campus! (Colton Only)  
Rehab, WIA, EDD & VA Approved



Day & Evening Classes Available

## CALL NOW FOR CLASS DATES AND ENROLLMENT INFO!

# FOUR-D COLLEGE

Our Goal is Your Success

CAMPUSES IN COLTON & VICTORVILLE

1.800.600.5422

WWW.4DCOLLEGE.COM