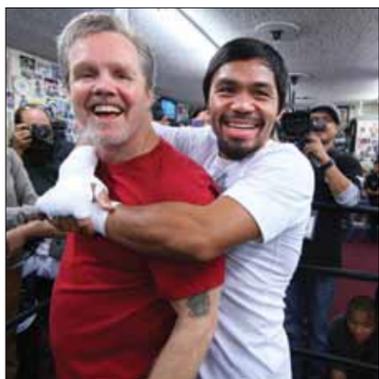


PACMAN'S BFF

Manny Pacquiao hugs trainer Freddie Roach at the Wildcard Boxing Club while preparing for his Dec. 8 fight with three-division world champion Juan Manuel Marquez. Full story on B4
Photo Credit : Chris Farina - Top Rank copyright 2012



477 dead, hundreds homeless after typhoon in Mindanao

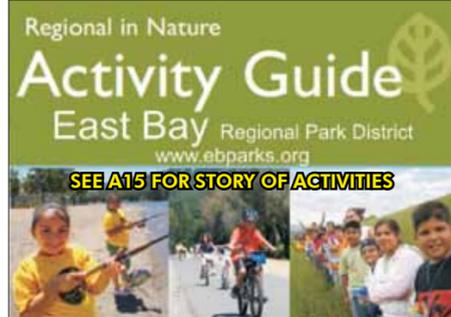
BY JASON GUTIERREZ
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

NEW BATAAN, Phils. - A quarter million people were homeless and 477 confirmed dead after the Philippines' worst typhoon this year, officials said Dec. 6, as the government appealed for international help.

Typhoon Bopha/Pablo ploughed across Mindanao island on Dec. 4, flattening whole towns in its path as hurricane-force winds brought torrential rain that triggered floods and landslides.

Erinea Cantilla and her family walked barefoot for two days in a vain search for food and shelter through a muddy wasteland near the mountainous town of New Bataan after the deluge de-

See TYPHOON, A6



LBC Lupa, Bahay, Cash winners receive prizes A9



Meet a 'Pixnay' B8

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REGION 1

Home to oldest dynasties

BY BETING LAYGO DOLOR AND SHEILA MANALAC
MANILA BUREAU EDITOR CONTRIBUTOR

PART 3 OF A SERIES

MANILA - Region 1 in the Philippines consists of four large provinces: Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan. Within these provinces are cities composed of different districts and municipalities, a huge percentage of which are governed by politicos coming from families that have been in office for three centuries, some even longer.

A study on political clans by Dr. Temario Rivera says that

over 94 percent of the provinces in the Philippines have political dynasties. Rivera's study was cited in a Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism report.

"There are an estimated 178 political clans in the country, 56 percent of which are considered 'old families' in politics, while 44 percent are newcomers to the world of dynasty building," said the report.

In Region 1, political clans are very much alive.

Ilocos Norte

The patriarch of the most known political family here is

See DYNASTIES, A6

MAYOR MOM



U.S. Navy veteran Reg Sternberg gives his mother a congratulatory hug after administering her oath of office as Colma Mayor Joanne del Rosario. Photo by M.Z. MORENO

JOANNE DEL ROSARIO

Political pioneer mayor again

BY CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO
EDITOR AT LARGE

COLMA, Calif. - Joanne del Rosario, the first Filipino American woman to become mayor in all nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area, leads Colma once more after swearing in Dec. 4 before her only son Reg Sternberg.

"Tonight holds much meaning for me because of the presence of my son, who is with us for the first time," del Rosario said in a rare display of emotion. "He was serving with the U.S. Navy and could not be here before. I'm happy he's here to meet my Colma family."

Del Rosario, 59, first became mayor in a council vote in 2009, three years after she was elected. She was the first FilAm woman elected to the Colma town council, succeed-

ing FilAm Larry Formalejo, who was vice mayor when he resigned for personal reasons.

With husband Rene Malimban, the 11-year resident of Colma made her home in the town she calls "a little piece of heaven" because "everyone knows and takes care of each other." She was born New York and educated in Manila.

By day, she works as an executive assistant in a biotech firm.

Before launching her political career, del Rosario was president of the Filipino American Association of Colma. Since her election, she has bolstered nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing services and opportunities for those

See JOANNE, A6

'AMMUNINNE' MEANS 'TARARI'

Looking for Filipinos in Sicily

BY CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO
EDITOR AT LARGE

IMAGINE:

A family huddled at the airport, locked in one another's arms for minutes before finally separating to let the youngest walk toward security - ever so slowly - looking back every few steps at his elders, who remain watchful until he disappears from view.

Or this:

An outdoor market displaying produce and catch like prized jewels, vendors yelling out - almost tugging at passersby - to come, buy the freshest, the best!

And you think: Ninoy Aquino International Airport? Any wet market in the Philippines?

Sure sounds like it, these scenes from an island, where residents live off the sea and land, toughened by nature's tantrums, tempered by the succession of invaders lured by its beauty and resources.

This is Sicily, which has much in common with the Philippines. More so than it does with Rome, or at least when we visited in early October.

See SICILY, B1



New Yorker Jocelyn Aguirre makes friends in the resort town of Cefalu, Sicily. Photo by M. Z. MORENO

3 FILIPINOS CONFIRMED DEAD

Embassy defends Louisiana workers

Condemns reports that victims had caused oil rig explosion

NEW ORLEANS—The death toll in the November 16 explosion and fire that hit an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico has climbed to three Filipinos after authorities positively identified the body recovered Dec. 3 as that of a missing Filipino worker.

Meanwhile survivors Renato Dominguez, 52, Wilberto Ilagan, 50, and a third injured Filipino, whose family has requested anonymity, have been taken off the critical list.

The recovery and identification of the remains of Jerome Malagapo came even as the Philippine Embassy rejected insinuations that the Filipino workers themselves were responsible for the incident that left two others dead and three more seriously injured.

"We are deeply saddened to learn that we lost our kababayan Jerome Malagapo," Amb. Jose L. Cuisia said after he was informed by the Coroner's Office of Lafourche Parish that the remains belonged to the 28-year-old fitter from Danao City, Cebu.

"We console ourselves with the thought that Jerome has been found and will be reunited with his loved ones," Cuisia said after he received a call from

See EMBASSY, A6



Ellroy Corporal



Jerome Malagapo



Avelino Tajonera

ERLINDA BASILIO

New envoy to China named amid sea row A6

Spirit of the Season

Businesswoman shares success

Sends 2,000 meals for young flood victims in Iligan City

PLEASANTON, Calif. - Businesswoman Lili Tarachand and her staff at LTD Global are sending over 2,000 meals to Iligan City, the Philippine region recovering from the devastating effects of Typhoon Sendong. Also known as Washi, the typhoon killed over 1,000, displaced 100,000 and damaged over \$48 million in infrastructure and livelihood.

Tarachand continuously seeks ways to give back to the community. She chose to partner with Kids Against Hunger (www.kidsagainsthungerpleasanton.org) because of the success the organization's long-term solutions to the systemic causes of hunger.

See BUSINESSWOMAN, A2

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