

# EX-CABINET SECRETARY REVIVES CLAIM ON 'FAKE' MARCOS WIN

*Retired AFP general raises questions on May 2022 presidential poll results*

By Beting Laygo Dolor, Editor

MANILA – A former Cabinet secretary of the Duterte administration has revived talks on allegations that there was no way then candidate Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr could have won the May 9, 2022 presidential elections.

►Page 9

## Filipino bayanihan spirit cited at Daly City Philippine Independence Day celebration

DALY CITY – Amid the city's characteristic summer fog and cool weather, the Philippine national flag was raised at the City Hall of Daly City, California on June 13 in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence from Spain.

Consul General Neil Ferrer led the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco in the annual Philippine flag-raising ceremony at the Daly City Hall, the ninth such ceremony, hosted by the city government and the Filipino community group Pilipino Bayanihan Resource ►Page 8



Philippine Consul General Neil Ferrer speaks during the ceremony to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in Daly City.



CLIMATE ACTION. Governor Gavin Newsom joins President Joe Biden in visiting the Baylands Nature Preserve with volunteers.

## Biden, Newsom unveil \$600-M grant in climate initiative and clean energy

By CLAIRE MORALES TRUE, Managing Editor

PALO ALTO – Governor Gavin Newsom joined President Joe Biden and a California Climate Action Corps volunteer in Palo Alto as the President visited a San Francisco Bay Area marshland where he announced more than \$600 million in new federal grant to combat the U.S. climate crisis.

The grant will fund climate resilience projects across the country that includes better protection of the nation's power grid from extreme weather, helping communities prepare for sea level rise and reducing fossil fuel emissions..

President Biden also announced that California will receive \$67 million in federal funding to help build power lines and transmission infrastructure, supporting the state's transition to 100% clean electricity by 2045.

President Biden and Governor Newsom toured the Baylands Nature Preserve, one of the largest tracts of undisturbed marshland remaining in the San Francisco Bay.

The Preserve is part of the Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along the San Francisco Bay (SAFER Bay) Project, a flood and sea-level resilience project that will protect almost 1,600 properties and will enable the ►Page 7

### Upside

## Robredo, Canepa urge unity vs anti-Asian hate

Part 1



Former VP Leni Robredo and SMC Supe. David Canepa keynote AL-LICE 14th annual Our Family, Our Future. (VOLTAIRE YAP photo)

IN unequivocal terms, former Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo and San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa decried hate attacks against Asian Americans ►Page 11

## Las Vegas DA opts to file hate crime charges vs racist who attacked senior FilAm

By Gilda P. Balan, Correspondent

LAS VEGAS - Reversing the recommendation by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department that 44-year-old Christian Lentz should only be charged with residential burglary after he severely beat up 75-year-old FilAm Amadeo Quindara, the Clark County District Attorney opted to file hate crime charges against ►Page 8

# P5.7-Trillion gov't budget for 2024 readied P2

# Warning out on Fentanyl, illicit narcotics P28

**VIEWES & COMMENTS**



**Can you naturalize if your green card has expired?**

By Atty. Lozano Page 14

**SHOWBIZ**

**TVJ's Eat Bulaga airs on TV 5 starting July 1**



Page 17

**SPORTS**

**Carlos Yulo wins 3 gold, 2 others in Asian championship**

Page 19

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

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COLUMNISTS

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## They know him more than anyone

It's a fascinating sight to behold. The 45th president of these United States of America is flailing away at anyone and everyone he perceives as his enemies, calling them names as he is wont to do.

There's just one problem: most of those enemies are former members of his Cabinet, or close-in associates during his time at the White House.

When he was about to assume the presidency back in 2018 – it sure does seem like a lifetime ago, doesn't it? – Donald J. Trump promised to get only the best and the brightest minds to be his official family, AKA his Cabinet.

The words weren't exactly original. The late, great President John F. Kennedy said pretty much the same thing, and for the most part JFK did get many exceptional individuals to help him steer the US to the right direction. This was at the height of the Cold War, and it would take some bright talents for him to achieve his goals.

As for Donald Trump, he really did not get any outstanding leaders, if he himself is to be believed.

With so many of his former closest associates now turning their back on him, one can only conclude that he did not really gather the most impressive bunch imaginable to lead the country.

He now speaks poorly of them, and they pretty much have stated the worst that can be said of a former boss.

Former Attorney General William Barr, for example, refers to Trump as “a defiant nine-year-old” for having refused to surrender the documents that should have gone to the national archives, and not to a bathroom in his Mar-A-Lago home, among other places.

Former Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said that if the boxes of documents found at Trump's resort home contained information about the nation's security, “it could be quite harmful to the nation.” At the very least, Trump was guilty of “irresponsible action.”

Then there is his former Vice President Mike Pence who says the indictment of Trump should be allowed to follow its logical conclusion. For now, it certainly seems as if POTUS 45 did in fact commit serious lapses that endangered the national security. If some of those documents had fallen into the wrong hands, the consequences would have been extremely dire.

Another former Defense Secretary, James Mattis, has said pretty much the same thing.

Add to the list John Bolton, a former national security adviser, who has also said some choice words to describe his former chief.

And last but certainly not the least, there is Chris Christie, a former New Jersey governor who was usually at Trump's side even when the going got tough.

Not anymore. Now Christie says Trump faces severe legal troubles largely because they are self-inflicted.

Numerous lawyers have stated time and again that Trump just can't seem to shut up, and now there is the distinct possibility that he will be convicted and maybe even face serious jail time.

All the abovestated personalities have two things in common. They are all Republicans, and they may be called to the witness stand to speak of what they know about Trump's actions vis-à-vis the documents that he refused to surrender, and which had to be taken from him.

Indeed, Trump must be presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law. But few would say that he will come out of this current legal woes of his unscathed.

Very possibly, the people who were closest to him may yet prove to be his undoing. All they have to do is to tell the truth.

## Robredo (From page 1)

while urging unity to protect the most vulnerable at a recent event in South San Francisco.

Gen-Zs joined Millennials, Gen-Xers and Baby Boomers among 150 people who heard the exhortation and gained a new perspective on aging at the 14th annual “Our Family, Our Future” community education and resource fair presented by ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment June 17 in South San Francisco.

Traditionally shining the light on elder care and abuse prevention in the first of their two annual education events, the all-volunteer nonprofit highlighted the pressing issue of AAPI hate in their 20th year of community education and advocacy.

Robredo in a video address noted that “many older Filipino Americans are pictures of vitality and productivity” but that there have been “waves of hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including our beloved elders.”

The lawyer and mother to three reiterated how caring for elders is “sacred duty” to Filipinos.

“As they strove to nurture and provide for us in our younger years, it is our shared responsibility as one community to ensure they are given care, attention and love,” said the founder Angat Pinas, the national volunteer movement to empower the underprivileged in her country.

“Ensuring they are protected from abuse is a collective mission and it all starts with awareness,” she proceeded to amplify her organization's solidarity with ALLICE's “important” mission. “By volunteering to educate the public...introduce this first sure step toward ensuring a more empowered, more caring and more engaged society, one that embraces each and everyone.” (See full remarks in Commentary.)

Longtime ALLICE ally San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa hailed the team as a “true treasure” for steadfast promotion of wellness and safety while rejecting abuse on every level. He also lauded the County Aging & Adult Services and the Commission on Aging for implementing “bold goals” in line with the California Master Plan for Aging to preserve older adults' autonomy by “aging in place” or having the power to choose where to live from various options with access to services to optimize their quality of life.

UNITED “UPSTANDERS”

ALLICE clinical director Dr. Jei Africa, Director of San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services offered the “chilling” statistic that “90% of reported abuse involves a family member or caregiver,” per the County Adult Protection Services.

Since the pandemic, however, strangers began attacking Asians as some politicians blamed the population for the spread of the coronavirus, said Africa. Older Asians became common targets, some fatal, such as the senseless beating of a resident in San Francisco and another in Oakland, California.

Africa emphasized the latest toll of 11,000 anti-Asian hate incidents reported to the national advocacy group Stop AAPI Crime before his impassioned presentation of the latter's five safety tips each for those experiencing and witnessing hate attacks. (See companion PSA in this issue.)

“We cannot stand by and do nothing,” stressed Africa, “Let's be upstanders, not bystanders.”

9 ACTS OF KINDNESS

On the other hand, empowering older adults takes very little, according to Peninsula Family Service (PFS) Filipino peer counseling coordinator Tessie Madrinan, who shared lessons from her 15 years as a volunteer then staff member of the San Mateo-based agency serving three counties.

“Kindness does not cost a penny, but its outcome is priceless,” said the facilitator of Kapihan, a PFS weekly social group at Lincoln Community Center in Daly City. She cited “respect, active listening, smiling, encouragement, sharing, open-mindedness, empathy, celebration of every success, and patience” as key to interacting sensitively with older adults and affirming their sense of self-worth.

Madrinan's program provides training for people 55 and older to become peer counselors matched with clients requesting one-on-one calls or visits to free them from isolation and loneliness or simply to have a pleasant conversation. (For PFS Older Adults programs such as transportation and technology, visit www.pfso.org.)

(Continued on page 26)

## My lessons in humility

My late father, Dr. Jose Ma. Hernandez, I recall, loved to quote the lines from Tennyson, thus: “A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?”

All my life, I have been reaching for the stars, aspiring to be the best that I could be. There were times when I succeeded and others when I failed.

Two failed attempts come to mind at his point: the 1975 FAMAS elections and the 2006 National Press Club elections.

In 1975, after the death of my mentor, Romy Arceo, Daily Express Entertainment Editor and FAMAS President, I ran for the presidency of the awards body. At his hospital bed, as he lay dying, Romy had told me to carry on his work at FAMAS. I tried.

I remember that the election was to be held at the National Press Club and the voting was to be, corporation-style, with the members electing 15 Board members who would then elect their officers.

Prior to the election, the idea of directly electing officers and members of the Board had been proposed. I favored that, but my “advisers”, Karim Kiram and Manuel Gat Gatbonton, did not, and to my regret, I heeded their advice.

I was the standard bearer of my ticket and I mistakenly thought that my ticket was solidly for me. When the voting for officers was held, I discovered that a female member of my ticket had voted for my opponent, dashing my hope to be the first female FAMAS president.

My defeat may have been providential, for a year later, with a group of media, I founded the Aliw Awards Foundation, Inc., which continues to do good work for the live entertainment industry today.

(Continued on page 27)



CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO







## Fentanyl seized by CHP enough to kill entire population of San Francisco: Newsom

By **CLAIRE MORALES TRUE**

SAN FRANCISCO – Building on the public safety partnership launched last month between the state and the City of San Francisco, Governor Newsom announced early operation metrics from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), updates from the California National Guard (CalGuard), and additional administration action to improve public safety and address blight in the city.

Newsom’s announcement came following his deployment of CHP officers and changing CHP jurisdictional protocols on May 1, 2023 resulting in the agency’s seizure of over 4.2 kilos of fentanyl in the Tenderloin and the immediate surrounding area of San Francisco.

In a statement, Newsom said the amount of fentanyl CHP seized was enough to potentially kill 2.1 million people — the entire population of San Francisco nearly three times over.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, a lethal dose of fentanyl is 2 mg.

Additionally, in the first six weeks of the operation, the CHP seized over 957 grams of methamphetamine, 319 grams of cocaine, and 31 grams of heroin and made 92 felony and misdemeanor arrests — including on charges related to possession of fentanyl, illegal firearm possession, driving under the influence, and domestic violence.

“I’m proud of the CHP and CalGuard’s lifesaving efforts to shut down the Tenderloin’s poison pipeline and hold drug traffickers accountable. These early results show promise and serve as a call to action: we must do more to clean up San Francisco’s streets, help those struggling with substance use, and eradicate fentanyl from our neighborhoods,” Newsom said in a statement sent to Philippine News Today.

In addition to CHP’s impact, CalGuard has increased its support to the San Francisco Fentanyl Task Force with six analysts, in addition to the fourteen analysts assigned to the NorCal High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) task force.

CalGuard has provided critical analysis and technical support to law enforcement to shut down drug trafficking op-

erations in the city and the surrounding region as part of the Governor’s public safety operation.

As CalGuard continues to map crime syndicate networks, service members have reviewed a significant amount of law enforcement information to assist local agencies build large-scale cases. Further metrics quantifying CalGuard’s impact are expected to be available in the future as cases further develop.

At the Governor’s directive, state agencies are also taking other initial measures to improve public safety and address blight in San Francisco. These efforts include:

Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is developing a plan to deploy additional resources to address issues of blight in the Tenderloin — including loitering and graffiti — surrounding liquor stores, gas stations, and markets that hold ABC licenses;

Caltrans is increasing its graffiti abatement efforts, improving and replacing signage, and increasing maintenance and beautification measures in high-traffic corridors; and

The state is facilitating improved regional law enforcement coordination through the NorCal HIDTA and has assigned personnel to help facilitate the development of San Francisco’s strategic plan to address the city’s challenges with open-air drug markets.

Launched by Governor Newsom on May 1, 2023, the joint public safety operation in San Francisco serves as a collaborative effort between multiple agencies, including CHP, CalGuard, the California Department of Justice, the San Francisco Police Department, and the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office (SFDA).

The operation is focused on targeting fentanyl trafficking, disrupting the supply of the deadly drug in the city, and holding the operators of drug trafficking rings accountable. The operation builds on the Governor’s Master Plan for Tackling the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis, which includes an expansion of CalGuard-supported operations that last year led to a 594% increase in seized fentanyl and historic levels of funding — \$1 billion statewide — to crack down on the crisis.

## Upside...

(From Page 11)

### ONE GOAL

Philippine News Today led co-presenters Positively Filipino, San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services and the City of South San Francisco in defining aging as a gift to receive graciously and gratefully. To illustrate the point, the event honored six Filipino Americans between ages 80-91 as “Grand Agers” for sharing their wisdom and resources well beyond their golden years. (See Philippine News Today June 15, 2023 issue.)

“We reject ageism, racism, and all forms of discrimination and pledge to use our news organization as a platform for diversity, equity and inclusion,” said PNews Today publisher Francis Espiritu. “We are privileged to support ALLICE in educating the community.”

ALLICE 2023 co-presidents Flor Nicolas, Mayor of South San Francisco, and Junior Flores, program director of Asian American Recovery Services – Healthright 360, invoked both their long community service in pressing for better understanding of the needs of older adults as the nation’s population lives longer.

“That’s the goal of private nonprofit organizations and public agencies: to keep our older population healthy and engaged, give them a sense of purpose and stay vital in retirement,” affirmed 2023 vice president Jen Jimenez Wong, LMFT, a clinical supervisor at Fred Finch Youth & Family Services.

Twenty-five community-based resource providers attended to discuss their services with attendees. Kaiser Permanente Filipino Association (KPFA) nurses gave blood pressure tests.

“Education is the greatest weapon against injustice,” ALLICE 2023 secretary Malou Aclan, KPFA co-founder who chairs the Resource Provider committee, paraphrased Nelson Mandela in echoing that “by learning about programs and institutions that exist to help, we can build a path to enlightenment and empowerment for everyone.”

Guests received the 4th edition “A-List” resource guide underwritten by the Town of Colma, Peninsula Family Service backpacks and raffle tickets for the chance to win gift cards and treats compliments of donor allies SMC Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, Serramonte Center, Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, Classic Bowl, Colma City Manager Brian Dossey, Attorney Chris Diaz, Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce, SSPD, Women’s Club of South San Francisco, Ros Sit, and Kumare Nan Santiago.

Lucky Chances, Moonstar, FilAm Cuisine 2, Fort McKinley, Baby & Boy Pastries and Kumare Lydia Pomposo and the Aclan family provided refreshments. Grand Agers Aurea Cruz, Conrad Gamboa, Cynthia Bonta, Perla Ibarrientos, Peter and Estrelle Chan received certificates from the City of South San Francisco and live orchids from Kumare Elsa Agasid.

“Our children are our future; we adults are their models,” founding president Bettina Santos Yap summed up the aim of the event in introducing the Grand Agers. “How we behave toward our own parents and contacts is how our young will tend to behave toward us and the older community.”

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PNews Executive Editor Cherie Querol Moreno is founder and executive director of ALLICE.



PNews Today publisher Francis Espiritu thanks Grand Ager Cynthia Bonta for decades-long activism. (MZMORENO photo)



ALLICE founding president Bettina Santos Yap honors departed Kumares Erlinda Galeon and Alice Bulos. (VOLTAIRE YAP Photo)



Grand Agers (seated from left) Conrad Gamboa, Peter and Estrelle Chan, Aurea Cruz, Perla Ibarrientos and Cynthia Bonta receive honors from ALLICE Kumares & Kumpares, (standing from left) Cherie Querol Moreno, Lydia Pomposo, Flor Nicolas, Joanne del Rosario, Bettina Santos Yap, Nellie Hizon, Junior Flores, Dr. Jei Africa, Edna Murray, Malou Aclan, guest presenter Tessie Madrinan, Kumares Jennifer and Talia Jimenez Wong and Elsa Agasid. (MZMORENO Photo)