



# Good News

## Updates from Government Agencies

May 6, 2011

Vol.1 / No.2



Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Albert F. Del Rosario

### DFA Secretary praised for rescue of countrymen in Middle East

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario was credited yesterday for his engaging style in rescuing Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) from conflict areas in the Middle East, an article in the Washington Post said.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos affected by revolutionary uprisings in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria have witnessed and were impressed when Sec. Del Rosario travelled to the countries and directly coordinated with agencies to help in their rescue.

His risk-taking leadership, according to Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ed Malaya, has “energized other diplomats” as well as “inspired” the bureaucracy.

LINK:[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/philippine-diplomat-praised-for-daring-rescues-of-filipinos-in-strife-torn-arab-nations/2011/05/05/AFJxt3vF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/philippine-diplomat-praised-for-daring-rescues-of-filipinos-in-strife-torn-arab-nations/2011/05/05/AFJxt3vF_story.html)

### PAGCOR revenues up 10% in Q1

The revenues of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) in the first quarter of this year hit P8.37 billion, representing a 10-percent increase from P7.61 billion in the same period last year.

“As a result, the state-run gaming firm was able to improve its remittances by P228 million to agencies mandated to receive funding from it,” PAGCOR said in a statement.

PAGCOR’s increased revenues allowed it to raise its contributions to the President’s Social Fund, the Philippine Sports Commission, as well as remittances to the National Treasury, and taxes paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

On top of increased government contributions, PAGCOR also accelerated payment of loans incurred under the previous administration.

### Customs files P5B smuggling case vs Phoenix

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) filed a P5 billion smuggling case today against Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, one of the country’s fastest growing oil companies, for non-payment of excise and value-added taxes, among other charges.

Phoenix, according to its press releases, posted a 122-percent increase in revenue in the first quarter of this year amounting to P6.1 billion compared to only P2.75 billion in the same period last year.

Next page

### DTI Diskwento Caravan goes nationwide

The Diskwento Caravan Project expanded its reach to the provinces to bring discounted goods to consumers and provide relief from rising fuel prices.

“We also want consumers in various regions to experience the reduced prices of goods sold at the caravan which Metro Manila residents were afforded,” Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo said.

Next page

### DOLE Region 3 delivers P2.5-M assistance to seven worker’s groups

Livelihood assistance funds amounting to P2.52 million were released to seven group beneficiaries from Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

Also dubbed as Community Enterprise Development, the DILP is envisioned to generate income and employment through enhancement and transformation of livelihood projects in the barangays to community enterprises.

Next page

### DOH to give free cervical cancer screening

In observance of May as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, the Department of Health (DOH) will give free cervical cancer screening to women aged 30-45 years old in its 58 accredited hospitals nationwide.

Next page



DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo and Pasig City Mayor Roberto Eusebio are joined by other DTI officials in the official launch of Palengke ng Pinoy Diskwento Caravan in the Pasig City Hall grounds last March 29, 2011.

### DTI Diskwento... (continued)

The caravan brings together manufacturers that sell their discounted wares ranging from generic medicine, bread, sardines, cooking oil, processed meat, fruits, vegetables, detergent bars, and school supplies.

The caravan schedule is as follows: Abra on May 10-11, Oriental Mindoro on May 18-19, Pangasinan on May 24-25, Surigao del Norte on May 30-31, Zambales on June 2-3, Zamboanga del Norte on June 7-8, Cagayan on June 14-15, Northern Samar on June 17-18, Sorsogon on June 22-23, Davao Oriental on June 28-29, Negros Oriental on July 5-6, Quezon Province on July 14-15, and Saranggani on July 26-27.

In Metro Manila, the Diskwento Caravan will be in the DTI Building, Buendia Ave. corner Makati Ave - May 9 -10, Mandaluyong, Hiway 54 - May 16, Manila - May 30, Pateros - May 31, Taguig - June 1, Malabon - June 3.

The caravans open at 6 o'clock in the morning and, in Metro Manila, will be enhanced with job fairs to be conducted by the Department of Labor and Employment-NCR and the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

### DOLE Region 3... (continued)

The beneficiary enterprises in the region include Sabutan-making, cashew processing, minsa and mushroom production, water lily handicrafts, Ampalaya coffee and tea, as well as buri and panglan handicrafts.

“Our mandate at the DOLE does not stop in facilitating job opportunities. We also open more opportunities by empowering each and every Filipino worker to venture into entrepreneurship through our integrated livelihood program to improve their lives,” Labor and Employment Undersecretary Lourdes Transmonte said.

### DOH to... (continued)

In the National Capital Region (NCR), free cervical cancer screening will be conducted every Monday of May. Luzon DOH hospitals have designated all Wednesdays as free cervical cancer screening day, while Visayas and Mindanao have designated Thursdays and Tuesdays, respectively.

Free cervical cancer screening every Monday will be conducted at the following hospitals in NCR: Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center, Tondo Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, Rizal Medical Center, Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center, Valenzuela General Hospital, San Lorenzo Ruiz Memorial Hospital, National Children’s Hospital, and Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital.

Presently, cervical cancer ranks as the second leading cancer among women, and that nine out of ten cases occur in developing countries.

### Customs files... (continued)

Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said the agency’s Run-After-The-Smugglers (RATS) Group built the case against Phoenix upon discovering nine import entries that did not match the volume and value based on a report by an international surveyor contracted by his agency.

Subsequent verifications by the RATS Group revealed that between June 2010 and April this year, Phoenix made several importations of various petroleum products with a combined dutiable value of P5,144,035,000.00.

Mr. Alvarez also instructed the RATS Group to also file charges against Customs employees who may have aided the alleged large-scale cheating committed by Phoenix.



Vote for the Puerto Princesa Underground River  
Send **PPUR** to **2861**

Each SMS sent counts as one vote for Puerto Princesa Underground River in the Official New7Wonders of Nature.