

# 'Balikbayan' in Oro found free of deadly virus

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# Abu Sayyaf beheads 61-year old captive



Janelaze Hunt

**T**HE Abu Sayyaf beheaded one of its six hostages in Basilan.

Officials identified the victim as 61-year-old farmer Doroteo Gonzales.

Gonzales's head was found along Barangay Mangulat in Akbar town 8 pm Sunday, said Chief Supt. Bensali Jabarani, police chief of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The farmer's body is yet to be found by authorities.

Members of the Abu Sayyaf abducted Gonzales in Zamboanga Sibugay in April. He was later taken to Basilan.

The other hostages still being held in Basilan are teachers Jocelyn Inion, Jocelyn Enriquez and Noemie Mandib, who were also snatched in Zamboanga Sibugay in March 13; Sri Lankan

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## 'Balikbayan' has no virus, councilor says

By **MARK FRANCISCO** Correspondent

A "BALIKBAYAN" from San Francisco, who exhibited flu-like symptoms upon arrival two weeks ago, has been declared H1N1 virus-free, Councilor Dante Pajo said yesterday.

The 58-year old woman arrived in Manila last April 29 and she immediately restricted herself to her home until doctors declared that she has not contracted the virus.

Jun Galban, spokesperson of the health department in Region 10, said the DOH remains vigilant in keeping an eye on people at international

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## Surigao Sur govt faces complaint in Oro over mishap

By **JIGGER JERUSALEM** Correspondent

**POLICE** yesterday pressed charges against the provincial government of Surigao del Sur in connection with a road accident in Puerto.

SPO3 Allan Arazo said the damage to property and reck-



**JOB HUNT.** A job seeker looks for work opportunities during a job fair. Unemployment in the country has risen to a record 34.2 percent of the adult population, or an estimated 14 million, in the first three months of

2009, according to the Social Weather Stations. The first quarter survey showed that about three million more Filipinos either left or lost their jobs as the financial crisis squeezed the economy. **WIRE**

# Fresh graduates could end up idle for months, years

**MAJORITY** of this year's 900 thousand new college graduates could end up idle months or even years after graduation.

"The youth are always at the greatest risk in these economic downturns. Often it is young workers or new graduates who are the hardest hit," said Mong Palatino of the group Kabataan.

For every 10 unemployed Filipinos, five fall under the age group of 15 to 24 years, showed a January 2009 labor

force survey.

This accounts for 49.2 percent of the total number of unemployed Filipinos. If combined with the 25 to 34 age group, Palatino said, the share of young Filipinos in the unemployed accounts for 80 percent of the total number of unemployed Filipinos.

"Young, low-skilled workers are easily priced out of entry-level jobs. Young workers are also often disadvantaged in bargaining arrangements," he said.

He added, "The government's adherence to globalization policies which vulnerably open up the economy to unrestrained entry of foreign goods and capital is slowly killing our own enterprises, leading to mass lay-off of workers and lost job opportunities. Coupled with the present global economic meltdown, they only exacerbate the dismal conditions that our young workers and fresh graduates are already facing."

The research think tank

Ibon Foundation said the situation of workers is seen to be at its worst today due to record high joblessness and widespread lay-offs amid the global crisis, and more radical reforms are needed beyond token government measures.

The average real employment rate of over 11% from 2001 up to the first quarter of 2009 is the worst in Philippine history and is seen to even worsen due to the crisis.

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Janelaze says in MySpace: 'As long as you're happy, no regrets'

THE Cagayanon widow of Thomas J. Hunt, criticized over the way she treated her American husband while he was still alive, left an incriminating description of herself in MySpace.

The widow, Janelaze Hunt nee Songcuya, last used her MySpace account in April 10. She has since either cancelled her membership or deleted the account but her page remains in the dark archives of the Internet.

She described herself like this: "I am coldhearted. Dry. Inconsiderate. Hard. Insensitive. I am a witness of sinners. Sinners, who have regretted the past and is willing to change his fate.

"I am a witness of crimes. A witness of a diversity of chaos and pain. I have seen too much heartaches.. felt it.. experienced it.. slowly, begin-

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## Roxas group pays restaurant

SEN. Mar Roxas's group paid what it owed Countryside Steakhouse over the weekend.

Roxas's media relations officer Joel Capco called this writer up to say that he paid the restaurant P6,627.50.

Countryside Steakhouse cashier Jonah Bangcuyo confirmed that the bill has been paid in full. It was Bangcuyo who reported the unpaid bill to this paper last Saturday.

Bobby Capco, the head of Roxas's media affairs office at the Senate, said it was just a simple case of misunderstanding.

"The P6,627.50 was not part of the bill that reached us," said Capco.

But he said the restaurant was paid immediately after his group learned about it. **MF**

less imprudence complaint was filed as a result of an April 25 accident in Upper Puerto involving a Nissan truck with license plates SCP-243. The truck is registered under the Provincial Engineer's Office of Surigao del Sur.

Police said the truck's brakes malfunctioned and

rammed into a Nissan Terrano Wagon owned by Jovelyn Bandalon, of Valencia City, Bukidnon.

Police said the truck also damaged a public jeepney and hurt two passengers. An Isuzu Crosswind, driven by Leo Palma, was also damaged.

Police said the govern-

ment-owned truck was loaded with sugarcane. On its side were the markings: "Gov. Vicente 'BB' Pimentel Action Team."

Arazo said the vehicle's registration has expired and it has no permit to travel.

He said the provincial government of Surigao del

Sur tried to settle with Bandalon but they could not reach an agreement.

A negotiator, Ed Milloren, reportedly offered to have Bandalon's vehicle fixed in Davao City. Bandalon was also offered P100 thousand but, Arazo said, Bandalon did

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## Says

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ning to be numb at it.

“I felt home, but never had a family. I felt love, but never really have it.

“I was wounded. I suffered. I was deeply hurt. I was the prey stalked by the shadows in the woods.

“The journey of time can be difficult and tough but make things better now. A journey filled with infinite torment yet rewarded with bountiful of joy. The lessons of time pushed me to be brave.

“I was a child willing to love but rejection came first. I was ready to give but received nothing in return. I was hurt in many ways imagined.

“I learned to rationalize my feelings rather than ex-

pressing them in swift wings. I have realized that feelings can be deceiving in the beginning which brings you in much bigger trouble.

“Whatever they say, the mind thinks BIG. And the heart—and only the heart feels LOVE. And my heart chooses to appreciate. Chooses to understand and accept.

“The inequality of fate encouraged me to fight until there was nothing left to fight for. My courage taught me to love even if it takes to be hurt until no matter how painful it is—it doesn’t hurt anymore.. Give and give and give... Love and love and love.. That’s all it takes.. for as long as you are happy.. then no regrets!”

Mrs. Hunt has been criticized for not being with her husband since the time he was hospitalized in Cagayan de Oro last January until his burial Monday last week.

The American septuagenarian moved from the US to this city last year with an understanding that his wife would join him later. Mrs. Hunt never came and instead, allegedly cohabited with a younger man.

The widow and her alleged lover, Albert Dermott, did not reply when *The Gold Star Daily* asked them via e-mail if they were lovers and if they have been having an affair even when Mr. Hunt was dying in a hospital here.  
**HG**