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117th Philippine Independence Day fest June 7

All roads lead to Madison Ave.

The 117th Philippine Independence Day celebration in this city on Sunday, June 7 promises to be the biggest ever in 25 years. Celebrations and anniversaries are for grand reunions and this Sunday happens to be just that.

Opening ceremony and ribbon cutting starts at 11:45 a.m. to kick off the parade at noon along Madison Avenue from 38th Street to 27th Street. The street fair is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (26th to 24th Streets). Cultural festival is from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 25th Street. Flag ceremony and the Independence Mass will be held at the Philippine Consulate at 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., respectively.

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Baroque Masokara Festival NY Edition, the 2014 winning contingent of the Philippine Independence Day parade. Right photo: International



artist upde.ap (Allan Pinola Lando) riding on a float last year. (Photos by Rex Romero and the Filipino Reporter)

Grace Poe: I'm qualified to run for president

By MARVIN SI

MANILA — While she has not yet declared her plans for the 2016 elections, Sen. Grace Poe seemed in a combative mood to face issues being hurled against her by the opposition United Nationalist Alliance.

Speaking before reporters at the Senate Wednesday, Poe denounced what she described was a desperate move by the camp of Vice President Jejomar Binay to question her eligibility to run for higher office due to residency requirements.

"What was most insulting to me was for them to say I am not



Sen. Grace Poe faces reporters on June 3 to answer questions regarding the claim of United Nationalist Alliance interim president and Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco that she is not qualified to run for either president or vice president in next year's elections based on her residency status. (Photo by Joseph Castro)

honest because I am not qualified (to run for higher office) and I did not state it. I am qualified but I am still not a candidate. I will address all of this when I file (my certificate of candidacy) and this would be my answer," she said.

"But I will admit that because of all these developments, whenever I go out and they ask me how far along I am in making a decision, I would say around 50 percent but now they are pushing me closer to 100 percent," she added.

Poe stressed that she has always been forthright about
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VP dishonest? FPJ didn't think so

By HELEN FLORES



Vice President Jejomar Binay. Inset: The late Fernando Poe Jr. (Google Image file photos)

MANILA — Vice President Jejomar Binay turned the tables on Sen. Grace Poe on Wednesday, saying if he was dishonest, her father Fernando Poe Jr. would not have named him campaign manager for the late actor's presidential run in 2004.

Poe earlier said the country should elect an honest leader in 2016 even as she called on Binay to explain the various allegations of corruption hurled against him.

"If I were dishonest, FPJ won't get me as his campaign manager."
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PH-Japan ties key to maritime security: Noy

TOKYO — The Philippines President Aquino (pictured) told the Japanese Parliament Wednesday, "The prosperity of maritime and coastal East and Southeast Asia, which relies on the security of maritime security and in keeping stability in the region amid tension stirred by China's rapid land reclamation activities in disputed waters."



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Colleges must do more to meet low-income students' needs

By TIM HALL

Paying for college may soon become easier — especially for low-income students.

President Obama just issued a Student Aid Bill of Rights that orders the federal government to
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