

Front page of the Filipino Reporter. Issue # 18; April 4-10, 2014

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Filipino Reporter

www.filipinoreporter.com
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FAIR, FEARLESS, FACTUAL

\$1.25
44 PAGES

YEAR XLII NO. 18 NATIONAL EDITION

NEW YORK CITY / APRIL 4-10, 2014

212.967.5784 • 732.319.0562

Plunder, graft raps OK'd vs. Enrile, Jinggoy, Bong, Janet



Assistant Ombudsman Arsyman Rafanan shows on April 1 copies of the resolutions, signed by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, finding probable cause to indict Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Jinggoy Estrada for plunder in connection with the pork barrel scam. (GMA News photo)



Sen. Trofimo Guingona III, chairman of the Senate blue ribbon committee, recommends on April 1 the filing of plunder charges against Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., as well as Janet Lim-Napoles, in connection with the pork barrel scam. (Photo by Benji Castro)

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

MANILA — After more than five months of investigation, the Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday announced the filing of plunder charges in court against Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Jinggoy Estrada over the pork barrel fund scam.

The Ombudsman said it has found probable cause to indict the three senators for plunder and multiple counts of graft before the Sandiganbayan for pocketing some P597 million in kickbacks or commissions from their Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

The anti-graft agency, in three separate decisions approved by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, also directed the filing of plunder or graft cases against Janet Lim-Napoles, Enrile's chief-of-staff Jessica Lucila "Gigi" Reyes, Revilla's chief-of-staff Richard Carbe, Enrile and Estrada's alleged representative Raby Tuason, Estrada's staff Pauline Labayen, Technology Resource Center (TRC) director general Dennis Cananan, and a number of other government officials and employees of non-government organizations (NGOs).

"After a careful study of the... Turn to page 10

Cardinal Tagle charms Fordham U, dedicates doctorate to Filipinos



Professor Henry Schwabshberg (right) helps Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle adjust his hood at the conferment of the honorary doctorate degree at Fordham University in the Bronx. To the left are Father Joseph McShane and board of trustees vice chair Edward Stear. (Photo by Wendell Gao)

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle accepted Fordham University's honorary doctorate of humane letters in the Bronx on behalf of the Filipino people, especially those afflicted by recent natural disasters who "have inspired the world with their lively faith and joyful hope."

Tagle was honored by Fordham on March 28 in a ceremony that highlighted the strong and abiding ties between the premiere university, the New York Province of the Society of Jesus, and the Philippines.

Tagle, a member of the... Turn to page 14

'Don't be selective, charge all involved'

MANILA — Vice President Jejomar Binay said the filing of cases against those involved in the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam should not be limited to non-administration allies or it "will create the impression that political partisanship — not justice — is the sole motivation behind the charges."

Binay said other officials mentioned in the Commission on Audit's (COA) report released last year should also be prosecuted.

The Office of the Ombudsman recommended the filing of plunder and graft charges against Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada and Ramon

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U.S. to China: 'Leave PH alone'

By JOSE KATIGRAK

WASHINGTON — The United States has called on China to allow the Philippines to continue to maintain its presence on Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal in the West Philippine Sea and said Chinese efforts to prevent Filipinos from resupplying the outpost were "provocative and destabilizing."

State Department spokesperson Marie Harf, in a press briefing on Monday, said the Chinese coast guard harassed Philippine vessels and attempted to block these vessels from conducting a routine re-supply and rotation of personnel on Ayungin Shoal on Saturday.

Aside from being provocative and destabilizing, Chinese actions were inconsistent with... Turn to page 13



A China Coast Guard ship tries to block a Philippine supply boat on March 29, as the latter attempts to reach the Second Thomas Shoal, a remote West Philippine Sea reef claimed by both countries. The supply boat finally slipped past the Chinese blockade to reach the BRP Sierra Madre, a Filipino Navy vessel that has been grounded there since 1999 to assert the Philippine sovereignty over the shoal. A company of Filipino marines are stationed on the rusty vessel. (AFP/Getty Images)

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