

Front page of the Filipino Reporter. Issue # 31; July 4-10, 2014

Written by special to the filipino reporter
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PNoy says:
'Drug conviction cost Nora award'
But actress was never convicted, explains lawyer



PRESIDENT AQUINO



NORA AUNOR

MANILA — President Aquino has defended his decision to not appoint highly-acclaimed actress Nora Aunor as a national artist, saying that doing so would have sent the message that illegal drugs are acceptable. Aquino told reporters Tuesday that he decided to exclude the actress, who rose from rags to stardom, from this

year's list of national artist appointees because of a previous drug conviction — which Aunor's lawyer disputed. Aunor, 61, was arrested in 2005 at the Los Angeles airport for a drug-related offense and later agreed to a plea deal that required her entering a drug-diversion program in order for the charges to be dropped. Her

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NYC to issue ID for illegals

De Blasio says he'll sign bill approved by City Council



The New York City Council has approved the creation of the nation's largest municipal identification card program to include illegal immigrants. It is expected to be rolled out later this year or early 2015.

Passed on June 26 in a 43-3 vote with two abstentions, the plan will allow some 500,000 illegal immigrants in the city to obtain legal identification and open bank accounts, get driver's license, sign apartment leases and access other services where a photo ID is required.

Supporters of the bill, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, said the ID cards will reduce obstacles for senior citizens, homeless, transgender and illegal immigrants.

"Every New Yorker deserves an official identification that allows them to prove who they are and access core services," de Blasio said in a statement after the vote.

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Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (center) and Councilman Daniel Dromos (right) and Carlos Murchaca discuss the program that will grant municipal ID to every New Yorker, including the undocumented, on June 26. (Jason Wang/New York Daily News)

Obama to overhaul immig law alone

WASHINGTON — Saying he's convinced that House Republicans will not take action to reform immigration laws this year, President Barack Obama on Monday said he will use his executive authority to "fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress."

"If Congress will not do their

job, at least we can do ours," the President said, adding he expected the recommendations by the end of summer and would act on them without delay.

"The failure of House Republicans to pass a darn bill is bad for our security, is bad for our economy, is bad for our future," Obama said. "America

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SC declares parts of DAP unconstitutional

MANILA — The Supreme Court (SC) has voted unanimously to strike down as unconstitutional specific acts under the controversial Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) of the Aquino Administration.

In a press briefing in Manila Tuesday, SC spokesman Theodore Te said the High Court sitting en banc declared the following "acts and practices"

under the DAP, National Budget Circular No. 541, and related issuances as unconstitutional.

• the withdrawal of unobligated allotments from the implementing agencies, and the declaration of the withdrawn unobligated allotments and unexpended appropriations as savings prior to the end of the fiscal year and without complying with the

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Rep. Arroyo suspended over NBN-ZTE scandal

By PATRICIA YMU

MANILA — The Sandiganbayan Fourth Division on Tuesday ordered the suspension of Pampanga Rep. Gloria Arroyo (pictured) for 90 days in connection with her involvement in the anomalous NBN-ZTE deal.



The Office of the Ombudsman in December 2011 filed graft charges against the former presi-

dent for supposedly approving the \$329-million NBN-ZTE contract, despite being "fully aware" of its supposed irregularities.

Arroyo has pleaded not guilty to the accusations.

"Accused Ma. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is ordered suspended from office pendente lite and

said accused is hereby directed to cease and desist from performing

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Hazing kills student...again



Vice President Jejomar Binay (right) pays respects to De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde student Guillo Cesar Servando during the latter's wake at the La Salle Green Hills in San Juan City Tuesday. Servando, whose mother Christine appears with Binay, died in an apparent hazing last week. See story on page 17. (Manoy Pictures/ABS-CBN)

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