

TAMBULI

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CHIEF MINISTER SHANE STONE LED A DELEGATION TO THE PHILIPPINES



The full N.T. delegation to the Philippines led by the Chief Minister Shane Stone and the Minister for Asian Relations, Trade and Industry, Daryl Manzie

NORTHERN TERRITORY DELEGATION TO THE PHILIPPINES 18-22 JANUARY 1988

Hon Shane L Stone, QC MLA
Mrs Josephine Stone
Hon Daryl Manzie, MLA
Mrs Maureen Manzie
Mr Bob Matthewson, AM

Col Doug Gibbons, AM (Ret'd)
Ms Carolyn Swindell
Mr Lyal Mackintosh
Mr Ken Warriner
Mr David Crombie
Mr John Quintana
Mr Gary Shipway
Mr Sam Marquez
Mrs Lilia Marquez
Mr James Noonan
Mrs Sandra Noonan

Chief Minister

Minister for Asian Relations, Trade and Industry

Honorary Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines
for the Northern Territory

Protocol Director

Ministerial Adviser to Hon Daryl Manzie, MLA

CEO, Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry

Managing Director, Consolidated Pastoral Co Pty Ltd

Managing Director, GRM International

Managing Director, Wallco International

Press Secretary to Chief Minister

President, Filipino Australian Association of the NT, Inc.

Partner, James Noonan Solicitors

Excerpts from the President's Journal and Footnotes

Sam and Lilia Marquez with their daughter Beverly, were on the last few days of their three-week holiday in the Philippines when they received an urgent phone call from the Honorary Consul General, Mr Bob Matthewson, requesting the Marquezes to extend their stay in Manila and join a delegation from the Northern Territory led by the Chief Minister, Shane Stone who were arriving in Manila on Sunday, 18 January. As it was an honour and privilege to be involved in the delegation, Sam and Lilia did not hesitate to accept the invitation.

The purpose of the visit was for the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Hon Shane Stone and the Minister for Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry, Hon Daryl Manzie to meet the President of the Philippines, Fidel V Ramos, prior to the change in office in June 1998. Furthermore, it was an opportune time for the delegation to meet key Presidential candidates and create future links.

The Chief Minister attended the Philippines Australia Business Council (PABC) meeting as the guest of honour. Minister Manzie's nomination to the PABC was also made at this meeting.

Mr Bob Matthewson arrived in Manila on Friday and was followed by Mr Lyal Mackintosh, CEO, Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry and Col Doug Gibbons, Director of Protocol, on Saturday. The Chief Minister's party arrived on Sunday and the rest of the delegation arrived in the morning, the day after. The entire delegation stayed at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati.

Monday, 19 January

At 7:30 a.m., a breakfast meeting for the delegation was held at Joaquin Room of the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Mr John Quintana, Mr Ken Warriner and Mr David Crombie had just arrived from Australia and barely made it to the breakfast meeting. After introducing themselves, the members of the delegation were briefed by the Chief Minister about the day's schedule and the meeting with the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Miles Kupa.

After breakfast, the delegation departed from Manila Peninsula for the Australian Embassy at the Salustiana Dy Ty Tower, Paseo De Roxas, Makati to meet with the Australian Ambassador, His Excellency Miles Kupa at 9:30 am.

Ambassador Miles Kupa joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1969. During his career, he has had seven overseas assignments; Bangkok, Cairo, Paris, Bangkok again (as Deputy to the Ambassador, 1982-83), Baghdad (as Ambassador, 1983-86) and Jakarta (as Deputy to the Ambassador, 1986-88)

In October 1996, Ambassador Kupa was appointed Australia's Ambassador to the Philippines (just in time for the APEC Leaders Meeting) The Philippines is the third ASEAN country in which he has served. Ambassador Kupa is married to Ms Zulaikha (Zuly) Chudori, who is also an officer in the Australian Foreign Service.

The Ambassador talked about the political situation in the Philippines and the impact of the devaluation of the Peso. He named some of the famous candidates who are running for the Office of the President. They are Speaker Jose De Venecia, Vice President Joseph 'ERAP' Estrada, Mr Renato De Villa and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

The Ambassador did mention that the Philippines is not badly affected by the Asian Crisis compared to what happened in Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea. The perceived problem that the Philippines will encounter is to find employment for 200 000 overseas workers who will lose their jobs in the most severely

affected Asian Countries. It was speculated in the local media that the overseas workers will be given an affordable government loan to help establish themselves in the provinces. Because of the devaluation of the Peso, the Labor Union was demanding for a P140/a day wage increase but was only granted an increase of P13 a day. The Labor Union is not very happy and is still in the process of negotiating with the proper authorities.

The delegation left the Australian Embassy to return back to the Manila Peninsula Hotel. At 11:30am the Chief Minister hosted a Luncheon at the hotel's Balagtas Room. All members of the Northern Territory Delegation were present and other guests were:

Dr Rebecca Panlilio	Chairman of Grand Hotels and Resorts Group and Grand Airlines
Mr Randall Carman	EAGA Frontier Trading
Mr Terrence Gardner	Manager, Western Mining Corporation
Acting Secretary Primitivo Cal	DOTC
Mr Joey Rufino	Livecor
Dr Eryll Pitt	ADB
Hon Manual Garcia	Philippines Congressional Representative to BIMP-EAGA
Mr John Gaisano	President and Chief Executive Officer of JS Gaisano
Dr Thomas Aquino	Governor of Philippines Board of Investment
Mr Honorario Poblador III	President, PhilComsat
Mr Alejandro Alcantara	Executive Vice President, Sarangani Agricultural Company

After Lunch, the male members of the NT Delegation departed from the Peninsula Hotel to the Malacanang Palace to meet President Fidel V. Ramos in the Rizal Room. While waiting for the delegation's appointment with the President at 3:00 pm, they met former Undersecretary Paul Dominguez and his newly appointed successor and from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Undersecretary Manalo. Mr Dominguez has now resigned from Public Office and is pursuing a career in Private Sector. He is a frequent visitor to the Northern Territory representing trade delegations from the Mindanao Area.

On the walls of the Malacanang Palace Hall are portraits of the former Presidents of the Republic from Emilio Aguinaldo to Fidel Ramos. Mr Bob Matthewson who trades in timber explains that the extensive and durable wooden floor of the Malacanang Palace is of narra origin. The ceiling is a Filipino motif while the carvings on the walls are of Spanish influence.

The delegation was ushered to the Rizal Room where the members were joined by Mr Dominguez and Mrs Manalo and some local politicians. President Fidel V Ramos met the delegation with his usual trademark of an unlighted favourite cigar in hand chomping from time to time. The Chief Minister introduced the Delegation to the President and talked about the purpose of his visit. He introduced Sam Marquez to the President. Sam spoke of the Filipino Community in the Northern Territory and the good relationship that the Association has established with the Northern Territory Government.

President Ramos talked about his favourite hobby which is golf and his session with Tiger Woods who was a guest at Mimosa Golf Tournament just a day before.

FVR, as he is famously known, is a military hero of the Philippines People Power Revolution in February 1986 and a victor in the first multi-party presidential elections of the country. He became the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines on June 30, 1992. He has anchored his government on his philosophy of people empowerment as the engine to "operationalise economic growth, social equity and national solidarity."

He spoke animatedly about the framework of his government which is founded on a 5-point program: peace and stability; economic growth and sustainable development; energy and power generation; environmental protection, and a streamlined bureaucracy.

The six-year term of President Ramos is looked upon with much optimism, not only for his clear vision of the future but also his hands-on style of leadership in addressing the challenges facing the Filipino nation. As Centennial President, a name conferred on him because the completion of his term coincides with the 100th year anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence from Spain, the nation looks forward to attaining full political stability, sustained economic development and social justice by the turn of the 21st century. The President has improved the economy of the country and many Filipinos would have liked him to continue. Unfortunately the constitution does not allow him to run for another term.

After the meeting with the President, the delegation met Secretary Cesar Bautista at the Board of Investments Building located at Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. Then back to Manila Peninsula for a Press Conference at 6:00 pm. with the local media.

To end the day, the delegation with other invited guests attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency, Australian Ambassador Miles Kupa and his wife Chudori at their residence in North Forbes Park, Makati.

Tuesday, 20 January

After a goodnight's rest and a hearty breakfast, the delegation met Secretary Robert De Ocampo, Department of Finance, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila at 9:00 in the morning.

The Secretary is young and of small stature but he speaks wisdom and is probably the best Treasurer in the region. He is 52 years old but does not look his age. He was a 1975 TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines) Awardee in the field of National Economic Development.

Secretary De Ocampo is favouring the Lakas Party when he conceded to President Ramos's decision for the party's Presidential nominee (i.e. Jose De Venecia). He has no intention to stand as a candidate for the Presidential election.

At 9:00 am the female members of the delegation led by Mrs Josephine Stone had a meeting with the First Lady Amelita Ramos. Mrs Amelita Martinez Ramos maintains her dedication to the educational work in which she has earned the respect of her peers and the affection of generations of Filipino students as well as students from other countries. Up to this day, she is as dedicated to her work as much as she did before her husband's election. In this regard, she is a fine example of what the wife of a democratic president should be - a committed contributor to the community.

Mrs Ramos allocates her time between her private career in education and her duties as the First Lady. She is now able to translate an abiding and thoughtful interest in the environment, which she sought to instil in the youth at school, into strong and focused government programs for environmental protection and restoration. She is the moving force behind the attention given by local government officials and socio-civic organisations to the "cleaning and greening" campaign of Metro Manila.

After the meeting with the First Lady, the ladies proceeded to Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila and San Agustin Church.

Intramuros is being developed as a Spanish City and is famous for its Jose Rizal Museum. There are traces of Jose Rizal's final footsteps from his cell in Intramuros to the Rizal Park (Formerly Luneta) where he was executed.

San Agustin Church was built in 1586 by Juan Macias, a soldier and architect. Construction was completed in 1606. The San Agustin Church has a vaulted ceiling and dome painted by two Italian artists. The style is predominantly baroque. It is the oldest stone church in the country and the lone survivor of WWII. Some of the important features of the church are, the tomb of the founder of Manila, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, the XIXth Century chandeliers, the pulpit, the side chapels, the tombstones on flooring and the three dimensional painting done in 1875.

At 12:30pm., the delegation attended a Luncheon hosted by the Philippines Australia Business Council in the West Room of the Manila Golf Club, Forbes Park, Makati. The Hon Daryl Manzie, Minister for Asian Relations, Trade and Industry along with other local businessmen were inducted as new members of the PABC. The Chief Minister was the guest of honour at this luncheon. It was a good opportunity for the delegation to meet some business people who had shown great interest in establishing business in Australia.

After the luncheon at the Manila Golf Club, Mrs Josephine Stone and Ms Carolyn Swindell bade their farewell to the delegation to catch a flight back to Darwin. From the Manila Golf Club the delegation was driven to the Department of Foreign Affairs Building, Roxas Blvd. for a meeting with Secretary Domingo Siason, Department of Foreign Affairs. The Secretary is a very jovial person and shows a keen interest in watching Australian television particularly Australian football.

From the Department of Foreign Affairs, the delegation proceeded to the Congress Building in Quezon City to meet with Speaker Jose De Venecia. His Office was full of people waiting for their turn to meet him. Speaker De Venecia has been endorsed by Lakas Party and President Ramos as the party's candidate for the election, and as such has its well-oiled, grassroots party machinery behind him. He has been pushing Ramos's economic reforms through Congress and has played a key role in peace talks with communists and Muslim guerrillas. If elected, he can be expected to continue the economic reforms started by President Ramos.

At the Old Manila Restaurant, Peninsula Hotel, the Chief Minister hosted a Dinner for "Friends of the Northern Territory". Included in the guests list were:

Mr Vicente Paterno	Chairman, Philippines Seven Corporation
Mrs Paterno	
Mr Paul Dominguez	Presidential Assistant for Mindanao
Atty Leo Dominguez	Partner, Quisumbing, Torres and Evangelista (Associate Office of Baker & McKenzie)
Mr Francisco Ezmeindi, Jr	President and Chief Operating Officer, San Miquel Corporation
Mrs Ezmeindi	
Mr Oscar de Venecia	Chairman & President, Basic Petroleum & Minerals
Hon Manuel Garcia	President Congressional Representative to BIMP-EAGA
Mrs Garcia	
HE Miles Kupa	Australian Ambassador to the Philippines
Mrs Chudori Kupa	
Mr Mike Moignard	Austrade
Mrs Moignard	
Mr Michael LaBrooy	ANZ Bank
Mr Charles Searby	Telstra Representative in Manila
Mrs Violy Searby	Director, Infinity Plus Inc.
Mr Lorenzo Buhain	Senior Vice President, Basic Diversified Industrial Holdings
Mr Raul Hernandez	President, San Miquel Packaging Products
Mrs Hernandez	
Mr Richard Osmond	Assistant Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
Mrs Osmond	
Mr Ceferino Benedicto	President, Benedicto Steel Corporation
Mrs Benedicto	
Mr Ramon Luna	President, Ramy's Food Inc

Wednesday, 21 January

The delegation had difficulty arranging for a meeting with the Vice President Joseph Estrada. The meeting originally scheduled at 9:00 am was moved to 12:00 noon which then became a Luncheon meeting. The delegation was told to be ready by 11:30 am. While the delegation was waiting at the foyer of the Peninsula, a red carpet was unrolled, security personnel made their presence known and members of the media were rushing into the hotel. The reason for this commotion was a live telecast for an Open Forum for the Presidential candidates followed by the attendance of the Philippine President, Fidel Ramos. During the Forum, the candidates presented their platform for the coming election. The Forum started at 9:00 am and finished at 12:30 pm. Vice President Estrada emerged from the Forum and the delegation ushered him to the Mi Piacce Restaurant in the Peninsula Hotel. The Chief Minister introduced Sam Marquez, who on behalf of the Filipino community of NT, talked about the Filipino Community, their achievements and contributions to the Northern Territory.

Vice President Estrada was a former Mayor, Senator, Chairman of Anti-Crime Commission and a popular movie star. He has achieved recognition as a crime fighter. He remains high in Presidential candidate public opinion polls. His campaign symbol is the jeepney, vehicle of the masses. He plays basketball, sport of the masses. His nickname, Erap, is Filipino street slang for "buddy." His campaign slogan - Erap para sa Mahihirap - translates roughly as "Erap is for the poor." And if that's not enough to establish his populist credentials, presidential aspirant Joseph Estrada repeated several times in an interview: "My heart and soul have been with the poor, and I do want to work for the poor."

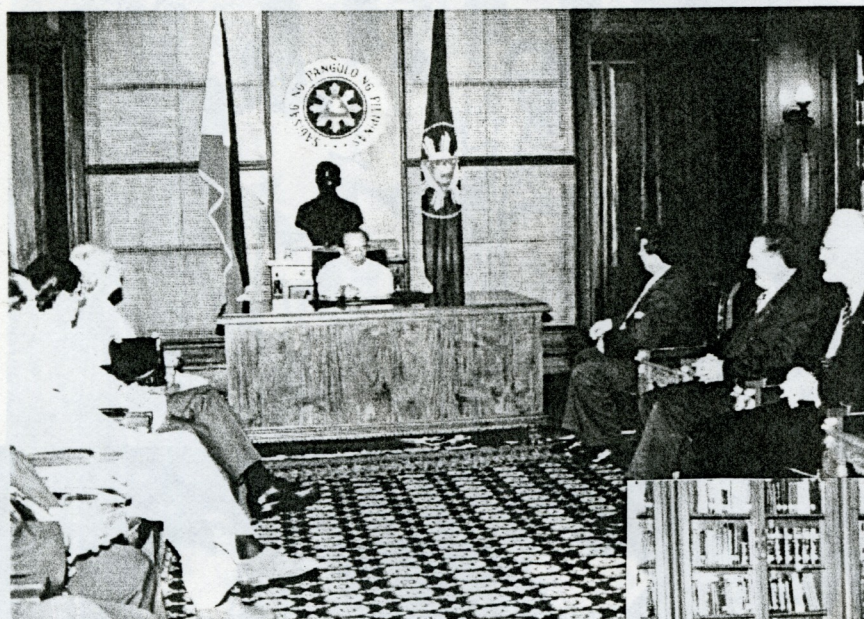
Although he is shunned by mainstream big-business, Vice President Estrada is supported by a small group of Filipino businessmen who are long-time residents of San Juan. Among the businessmen believed to be close to Estrada - and funding his campaign - are mining magnate Manuel Zamora, banker Edgardo Espiritu, manufacturing and property tsar William Gatchalian, tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco, who was a big backer of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos.

After the meeting with the Vice President, he willingly posed for a photograph with the delegation. He is not what people expected him to be, different to the way he is portrayed in the jokes written about him. He is sincere with his words and a down to earth politician. He promised the delegation that if he is elected as president he will invite them for a lunch of spaghetti bolognaise at the Malacanang Palace. The meeting with the President and the Vice President were definitely the highlights of the Chief Minister's visit to the Philippines.

When one reads about a politician's trip overseas, one perceives it as just another political junket. What people do not realise is that, the time and effort that politicians spend during their discussions and negotiations with other government officials is so tedious, cramming their schedules in a short period of time that they hardly have time for a breather.

Whoever wins the Philippines May Presidential Election, the Chief Minister reiterated that the Northern Territory will continue to strengthen its trade link with the Philippines particularly in the Mindanao Area. The export of cattle might slow down at this stage because of the currency crisis. Hopefully it will improve soon. The Philippines and Indonesia are the biggest importers of live cattle. The cattle trade in these regions are just too valuable to be ignored.

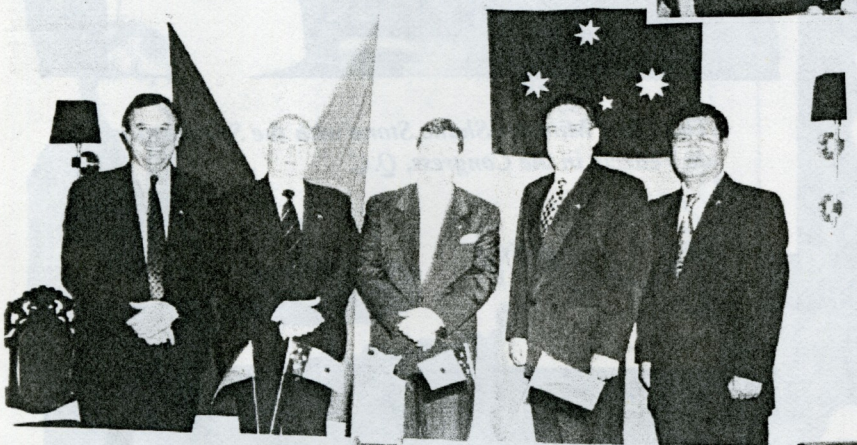
Pictorials



Meeting with the Philippine President His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos at Malacanang Palace



The NT Delegation meeting with the Phil. President Fidel V. Ramos at the Rizal Room, Malacanang



*Press Conference at the Peninsula Hotel, Manila
L-R*

*Mr. Lyal MacKintosh, CEO, Dept of Asian Relations,
Trade & Industry*

*Mr Robert Matthewson, AM, Hon Consul General for
the Republic of the Philippines in the NT*

Hon Shane Stone, QC, MLA, Chief Minister

*Hon Daryl Manzie, MLA, Minister for Asian Relations,
Trade & Industry*

Mr Sam Marquez, President, Filipino Australian Association of NT, Inc.



Press Conference at the Peninsula Hotel Manila



Minister Daryl Manzie being inducted as a member of the Phil. Australia Business Council (PABC)



The Chief Minister Shane Stone with the Speaker Jose de Venecia in the Congress, Q.C.



Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, HE Miles Kupa and the Chief Minister of the NT, Hon Shane Stone



Honorary Consul General Robert Matthewson, Minister Daryl Manzie and FAANT President Sam Marquez



The Ladies of the NT delegation to the Philippines led by Mrs. Josephine Stone at the gardens of the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila



The NT Ladies Delegation meeting with the First Lady, Amelita Ramos at Malacanang Palace



Mrs Josephine Stone and the Philippine First Lady Amelita Ramos in Malacanang



Lilia Marquez, Chief Minister Shane Stone, Sam Marquez and Mrs Stone at the Peninsula Hotel, Manila