

Same old families still reign over Iloilo politics

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The results of the May 9, 2016 politics point to one thing — members of old political families here remain dominant over politics in the city and province of Iloilo.

For instance, Jerry Treñas was reelected Congressman representing Iloilo City's lone district. His nephew Jay, son of his late brother, Francis Treñas, was reelected city councilor while his brother-in-law, Jose Espinosa III was reelected Vice Mayor.

In Iloilo province, there are the Defensors led by reelected Governor Arthur Defensor Sr. His son, Iloilo Third District Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. was also voted back to office while another son, Atty. Lorenz Defensor, was elected as provincial board member.

The Iloilo governor's nephew, Jason Gonzales, meanwhile, is mayor-elect of Lambunao, replacing Defensor's brother-in-law, who was former mayor of that town.

Led by patriarch, former Rep. Oscar Garin, Sr., the Garin family continue to dominate politics in Iloilo province's First District. Rep. Garin is now mayor elect of the town of Guimbal while his wife, incumbent Iloilo Provincial Board Member Ninfa

Serag-Garin, is mayor-elect of the town of San Joaquin.

The Garins' daughter, incumbent Guimbal Mayor Christine Garin, won in the vice-gubernatorial contest in Iloilo, while her brother, Iloilo First District Rep. Richard Garin, who is also the husband of Health Secretary Janette Loreto-Garin, retained his seat. Votes for party list bets are yet being counted and if luck is on her side, yet another daughter, Sharon Garin, who ran as AAMBIS-OWA party list bet, could also find herself in Congress.

Meanwhile, the Tupases in Iloilo's Fifth District, continues to hold clout over the area despite a bitter rivalry

among members of the clan. Vice Governor Raul Tupas defeated his sister-in-law, Atty. Yvonne Angeli

Lee-Tupas, who is the wife of his older brother and incumbent Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., in the congressional race for the Fifth District.

Rep. Tupas himself lost in the vice gubernatorial contest. But reelected to their respective posts are Barotac Viejo Mayor Niel Tupas III and Iloilo Provincial Board Member Nielo Tupas.

Parly Balleza, husband of Niellette Tupas-Balleza, was also elected as Barotac Viejo vice mayor while Dr. Candice Tupas, wife of former Iloilo City Councilor Lex Tupas, was elected into the Iloilo City Council.



VICTORIOUS — Bacolod City Comelec Registrar Mavil Majarucan-Sia (left) proclaims former Rep. Evelio Leonardia (in red shirt) winner in the Bacolod mayoralty race, here shown with his wife Elsa and daughter Loren Kara.

Landslide win for Leonardia in City Hall battle

By CARLA N CANET

BACOLOD CITY, Negros Occidental — Representative Evelio Leonardia reclaims City Hall after a bitter electoral contest last May 9, 2016 for the Bacolod mayoralty against old foe, incumbent Mayor Monico Puentevella.

With 120,231 votes or a lead of

22,238 votes over Puentevella's 97,993 votes, Leonardia ended what many here in the city had billed as "The Final Battle" between him and Puentevella against whom he had been locked in a protracted political contest since 1988.

The votes cast for Leonardia in the last May 9, 2016 local elections gave him the biggest landslide victory in the history of Bacolod politics. Leonardia will now be going back to City Hall for an unprecedented fifth term as mayor of this city.

Both Leonardia and Puentevella started their political careers in 1988 when they both ran for the city council. Leonardia topped that election with Puentevella coming in

second. Three years later, they both ran for Bacolod City vice-mayor. Leonardia won.

The rivalry between the two men continued to be played out in media as both subsequently successfully ran for different political posts - Puentevella for Congress while Leonardia took City Hall. They encountered each other again in 2010 when Puentevella gunned for the mayoralty after his congressional stint. He was foiled by Leonardia in that contest.

In 2013, with Leonardia's term as mayor ending, Puentevella ran for that post and won. Leonardia, meanwhile, ran for and was voted to Congress.

In the last elections, Leonardia decided to give up his congressional seat and run for mayor against Puentevella, a contest in which the latter was trounced royally.

It was also a landslide win for Leonardia's party, the Nationalist People's Coalition-Grupo Progreso (GP) with members clinching positions for congressman, vice mayor, and eight of the 12 city council seats.

Puentevella's Pamilya Magbunligay Kita Kapamilya, meanwhile, only won four slots in the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council).

Incumbent Vice Mayor Greg Gasataya won as congressman, while El Cid Familiaran won as Bacolod City Vice Mayor.

Sperm whale rescued in Antique

Coast guards rescued over the weekend a sperm whale which was stranded at the shoreline of a village in Antique.

"A disoriented sperm whale was beached at the shorelines of Barangay Marina, San Jose, Antique around 9:30 a.m. yesterday," the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) stated in a report which was posted on its website yesterday. The sea mammal measures 546 centimeters in length, 76 centimeters in width and weighs 80 kilograms, according to the PCG.

The PCG reported that Ronald Charlie Ledesma, 24, found the distressed mammal 10 meters from the shoreline. He immediately reported the incident

to the Coast Guard Station (CGS) in San Jose de Buenavista, capital town of Antique province.

The area was then cordoned off by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) personnel along with volunteer residents until the Coast Guard had successfully guided the whale towards deeper waters, about 150 meters off the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) premises.

The sperm whale eventually swam off to the ocean. (Charina Clarisse L. Echaluze)

enacted to substitute or replace the exemption referred to herein. Any tax assessment imposed against the OWWA shall be null and void.

SEC. 57. Transitory Provision. — All facilities, equipment, supplies, records, files, appropriations and funds under the OWWA, as organized under Letter of Instruction No. 537 and Presidential Decree No. 1694, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1809, and renamed under Executive Order No. 126, series of 1987, shall remain with the OWWA.

Current officials and employees of the OWWA shall continue to draw their salaries, benefits and emoluments from the OWWA Fund until such time, but not later than one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, that the corresponding funds from the National Government shall have been appropriated and released to the OWWA.

SEC. 58. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the present OWWA Board shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 59. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 60. Repealing Clause. — Letter of Instruction No. 537, Presidential Decree No. 1694 and Presidential Decree No. 1809 are hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise repealed.

SEC. 61. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which is a consolidation of House Bill No. 4990 and Senate Bill No. 2955 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 2, 2016.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 10 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines
PNOY020801

H. No. 3945
Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10802]

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. July 4 of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday and no class day in schools in the Province of Lanao del Sur in commemoration of its foundation day.

SEC. 2. For work performed on a special working holiday, an employee is entitled to his/her regular wage.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives on March 4, 2014, amended by the Senate on December 14, 2015, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2016.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 11 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines
PNOY020911

H. No. 3969
Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10803]

AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 30 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. June 30 of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday and no class day in schools in the City of Imus, Province of Cavite in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

SEC. 2. For work performed on a special working holiday, an employee is entitled to his/her regular wage.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives on March 10, 2014, amended by the Senate on December 14, 2015, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2016.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 11 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines
PNOY020886