

Written by Bobby M. Reyes  
Tuesday, 14 June 2011 11:48 -

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**Sorsoganons in Southern California Threaten to Lead a Boycott of the  
ABS**

-

**CBN**

**Pay-TV Operations in**

**USA**

**and**

**Canada**

**if EDC, its Sister Company, Will Not Stop Polluting**

**Sorsogon**

**Bay**

***Part IV of an Occasional Series on “Saving Our Sorsogon (SOS) Bay”***

{xtypo\_quote} I understand and respect Lolo Bobby's viewpoints. He is an institution in the Fil-Am community. – Dr. Jun Rasul posted in an e-forum on Medicare on Feb. 26, 2011 {/xtypo\_quote}

A braham T. Rasul, Jr., M.D., is the president of the Philippine Medical Association, Metropolitan Washington, DC, and the president of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Medicine Mu Sigma Phi

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Foundation

. He is also the US

A

founder of the “Aid for  
Mindanao

.”

Yes, Dr. Jun Rasul and many leaders in the Filipino-American communities know the track record of Lolo Bobby Reyes and his friends in battling even Filipino diplomats and established public-benefit corporations over some perceived community causes and concerns. Consul General-designate Tomas “Buddy” Gomez, III, and Consul General Edwin D. Bael initially laughed at Lolo Bobby’s activism in 1993 and 2001, respectively. Mr. Gomez’s nomination was withdrawn and Mr. Bael was recalled some three years ahead of his tenure’s end because of public protests initiated by Lolo Bobby.

The ruling cliques of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), the Filipino-American National Historical Society (FANHS) and the “Books for the Barrios” have experienced drastic reductions in membership and supporters and big drops in donations after Lolo Bobby and his friends decided to fight for reforms and the ATIC in the said public-benefit corporations. Lolo Bobby coined the ATIC (accountability, transparency, integrity and credibility) slogan in 2002.

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Then Philippine Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor experienced how Lolo Bobby and his friends fought for principles when they demanded the compliance of the ATIC slogan when her office fielded four Filipino floats at the 1997 and 1998 Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade. Lolo Bobby defended himself “In Propria Persona” at the Superior Court of Los Angeles, California, when Mrs. Lourdes Ongkeko, then the regional chair of the NaFFAA and concurrent chair of the US-Philippines Tourism Advisory Council, sued him in 2000 for libel after he called her and the Philippine tourism officials as crooks in his exposés about the parade floats. Lolo Bobby won five out of the seven issues in the libel case tried by a jury in 2002, without him presenting any witness or submitting any piece of evidence for the defense.

The whole Overseas-Filipino world knows that Lolo Bobby and his supporters never give up. They have been fighting the NaFFAA, the FANHS and the Books for the Burgis, oops, Barrios since 2000. And they are still fighting hard without any let up. Lolo Bobby has even reported finally in May 2011 the ruling NaFFAA clique to the federal authorities for tax evasion and other violations of the Income Tax Law and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

## **A Bigger Advocacy Looms for Sorsogon Bay**

T oday, June 14, 2011, Lolo Bobby sent a follow-up e-mail at 7:28:00 A.M.

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Pacific Daylight Time, to the Energy Development Corporation. The e-mail is reproduced in its entirety in this article:

QUOTE.

Energy Development Corporation

Bldg. 5, Energy Center, Merritt Road,

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1201 Philippines

Through: The Public Relations Department

Email: [pubrels@energy.com.ph](mailto:pubrels@energy.com.ph)

Call (+632) 667.7EDC  
(667.7332)

RE: "Saving Our Sorsogon (SOS) Bay" Series of Articles

Dear Sirs and Ladies:

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Obviously you chose to ignore our e-mail of request sent to you on June 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

, Pacific Standard Time. On the other hand the Public Affairs Division of Chevron immediately acknowledged receipt of a similar inquiry in the same morning of June 10th, as described in the article, <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/ecology-and-the-environment/back-to-bacman-tracing-to-the-geothermal-plant-an-apparent-cause-of-pollution-in-sorsogon-bay>

We reiterate our request for your side of the controversial issue of the pollution of Sorsogon Bay that has been claimed by environmental activists as being caused by your BacMan geothermal plant. If you do not favor us within 24 hours with a reply that will manifest also a desire to engage the peoples of Sorsogon and Albay in a meaningful dialogue to address the issue of cleaning up the waste waters of the said geothermal facility, we will commence an immediate boycott of your sister company, the ABS

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CBN, especially its Pay-TV operations in the United States and Canada.

Yes, while your conglomerate thinks that Sorsogonans are powerless to force you to comply with the provisions of the Clean Water Act of the Philippines

# Ultimatum Given to BacMan Geothermal Plant to Treat Waste Water Before Emptying It into a Sorsogon-B

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insofar as

Sorsogon

Bay

is concerned, the boycott that we will lead can cause irreparable financial and public-relations damages to your sister company, the

ABS

-

CBN

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Thank you for the attention and cooperation.

Mabuhay,

Bobby M. Reyes

A legal resident of Sorsogon City, Philippines, and

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an Overseas-Filipino worker-journalist cum editor, [www.mabuhayradio.com](http://www.mabuhayradio.com)

UNQUOTE.

Here is proof that both the EDC and the ABS-CBN are sister companies:

<http://thinkgeoenergy.com/archives/7592>

### **Not the First Time to Threaten a Boycott of the ABS-CBN**

On January 7, 2008, Lolo Bobby sent a protest letter to the ABS-CBN's executives in Redwood City

, California

, over the protest of Cebuanos and Cebuano-American community leaders over the perceived racial slur in a movie produced by a subsidiary of ABS

- CBN

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On Jan. 23, 2008, Rafael Lopez of the ABS-CBN replied to Lolo Bobby,

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which reply the  
[uhayradio.com](http://uhayradio.com)

[www.mab](http://www.mab)

published and which readers can browse in this hyperlink,

[ABS-CBN Replies to MabuhayRadio.com's E-mail About Racial Slur in the Movie, "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo](#)

URL: <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/bai-cebu-magellan-column/abs-cbn-replies-to-mabuhayradio-com-s-e-mail-about-racial-slur-in-the-movie-sakal-sakali-saklolo>

Lolo Bobby was asked to head in the United States – as a member of the Cebu Brotherhood, Inc. (

CBI

) – the boycott against

ABS

-

CBN

. But the protest was stopped when Cebuano leaders in the Philippines

were appeased by executives of the

ABS

-

CBN

. Lolo Bobby has been a

CBI

member since 1994. He co-chaired its Sinulog Festival-L.A. committee in



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2007 and 2008. Mr. Reyes eventually was elected as the first-non native Cebuano to the CBI Board of Directors in February 2008.

The ABS-CBN executives further realized the support that Lolo Bobby gets from the community in May 2010. This was when supporters of then-presidential candidate Sen. Manny Villar designated Lolo Bobby to represent the Villar Camp in a televised “Miting de Avance” that an ABS

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CBN program, “Balitang America” aired. Here is a video of Lolo Bobby’s appearance at the ABS

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CBN studio:

[http://www.balitangamerica.tv/miting-de-avance-manuel-villar-jr/?sms\\_ss=email](http://www.balitangamerica.tv/miting-de-avance-manuel-villar-jr/?sms_ss=email)

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As the ABS-CBN executives and Lolo Bobby realize, “one keeps friends close but enemies (adversaries) closer.”

## **Why the Boycott Against ABS-CBN Pay-TV Operations Will Hurt**

The ABS-CBN's Pay-TV operations in the United States and Canada consisting of six channels cost Filipino subscribers an average of \$35 per month.

Reportedly the  
ABS

-

CBN

has managed to sign up some 200,000+ subscribers in  
North America

. There are more-than 600,000 Filipino households in the  
United States  
alone.

If the Sorsoganons, the Friends of Bobby Reyes (FBR) and North-American  
Friends of the Philippi  
nes will  
be able to persuade 100,000 Filipino clients in the

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United States  
and  
Canada  
to drop off the  
ABS

-  
CBN  
, it will cost roughly (in gross receipts) US\$3.5-million per month. More  
advertising revenues can be lost if the pro-  
SOS

Bay demonstrators will picket the Philippine and/or North-American offices of  
the companies buying commercials in the  
ABS

-  
CBN  
channels. (A thousand clients pay the  
ABS

-  
CBN  
just US\$35,000 or Pesos 1.4-million per month, which the Lopez consortium  
may be able to afford to lose initially. But if the boycott extends to Metro  
Manila, will the economic results not hurt the Lopez-owned conglomerate?)  
What business likes to appear as a polluter and an enemy of Mother Earth?

There are after all North-American competitors of the ABS-CBN that can  
deliver also Filipino programs such as the GMA7 and starting next month, a  
Pay-TV operation of Channel 5 of Manila.

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Perhaps it would make sense for the EDC and ABS-CBN to protect the environment. Perhaps their executives will find it cheaper to spend between US\$6-million to \$10-million in building a modern sewage-treatment plant that will treat the waste waters being discharged by their BacMan Geothermal Plant. And pipe the treated water not to Sorsogon Bay but to the nearer Pacific Ocean, off the coast of the Bacon District of Sorsogon City.

It is, therefore, a Win-Win situation for the environment and a No-Win situation for the EDC and its sister companies that belong to the Lopez consortium. Now, will the EDC and the ABS-CBN resort to reason or call the bluff (if they think that Sorsoganons are bluffing)? “

***To be***

(boycotted)

***or not to be***

” is the question.

**Who will blink first?**

(To be continued . . .)

**Editor's Note:** Here are links to the previous articles in this series:

[The "Save Our Sorsogon \(SOS\) Bay" Initiative \(Part I\)](#)

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URL: <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/ecology-and-the-environment/the-save-our-sorsogon-sos-bay-initiative>

[Sorsogon Bay: "So Near, Yet So FBAR." The "Red Tide" Ban by the BFAR Must Be Lifted \(Part II\)](#)

URL: <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/ecology-and-the-environment/sorsogon-bay-so-near-yet-so-fbar-the-red-tide-ban-by-the-bfar-must-be-lifted>

["Back to BacMan," Tracing to the Geothermal Plant an Apparent Cause of Pollution in Sorsogon Bay \(Part III\)](#)

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URL: <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/ecology-and-the-environment/back-to-bacman-tracing-to-the-geothermal-plant-an-apparent-cause-of-pollution-in-sorsogon-bay>

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