

Written by

Wednesday, 12 August 2009 21:40 - Last Updated Wednesday, 12 August 2009 21:48

The News UpFront: (TOP STORY) as of Wednesday, August 12, 2009

It wasn't that NaFFAA officials were not asked nor given the chance to respond. Truth is they were and they had refused to answer even the most basic questions. Now that the story of the sorry situation of NaFFAA is out there, they're coming out with guns blazing. One NaFFAA factotum issues a threat. And the top honcho demands "proof" that he had received more than a quarter-million dollars from a bank. He denies getting the money and calls it "an outright lie".

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IT'S "AN OUTRIGHT LIE" – GREG MACABENTA: NaFFAA Chair Denies Federation Received More than a Quarter-Million Dollars

By ROMEO P. MARQUEZ

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The author is a member of the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and Asian-American Journalists Association (AAJA)

S AN DIEGO – The top honcho of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA) has denied receiving more than a quarter-million dollars from Wells Fargo Bank.

"That is an outright lie," said Greg Macabenta, NaFFAA chair, who owns two publications and an advertising agency, Minority Media Services Inc., based in Daly City in Northern California.

He demanded that this reporter and Los Angeles-based journalist Bobby Reyes produce proof that his company had received for the NaFFAA a total of \$300,000 from the bank.

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Macabenta's denial and demand were coursed through a NaFFAA Midwest regional chair, Ed Navarra, who then forwarded it to this writer. It wasn't clear why Macabenta had to ask Navarra to do his bidding for him instead of going directly to the *Philippine Village Voice* and Reyes.

Reyes, a strong critic of NaFFAA in the last 10 years at least, has published in his top-rated MabuhayRadio.com several articles documenting what appear to be questionable transactions involving the NaFFAA and some of its top national officials.

According to him: "The NaFFAA used to receive donations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars from major foundations such as the Bank of America (BA) and Wells Fargo Bank (WFB) but hints of financial impropriety ended the grants".

"For instance, the Wells Fargo Foundation gave the NaFFAA \$300,000 in 2002. The grant was secured by Greg Macabenta, then a NaFFAA national executive officer, whose company, the Minority Media, was paid commissions that were not reflected in the NaFFAA financial statement for

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2002," Reyes claimed.

It was this assertion by Reyes, embedded in one of his many stories posted in his website that Macabenta is now denying. # # #

E ditor's Note: Bobby Reyes e-mailed Mr. Macabenta and pointed to him the article that reported the \$300,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Bank that Mr. Macabenta obtained for the NaFFAA in 2002. The article's hyperlink:

[The "Embezzlement" Issues in the Menorgate/NaFFAagate Scandals of San Jose](#)

PHILIPPINE VILLAGE VOICE - Redefining Community News BREAKING NEWS - Alert

Volume 3, Issue No. 14 / News Without Fear or Favor /

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