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AND GO FORWARD

# filipino

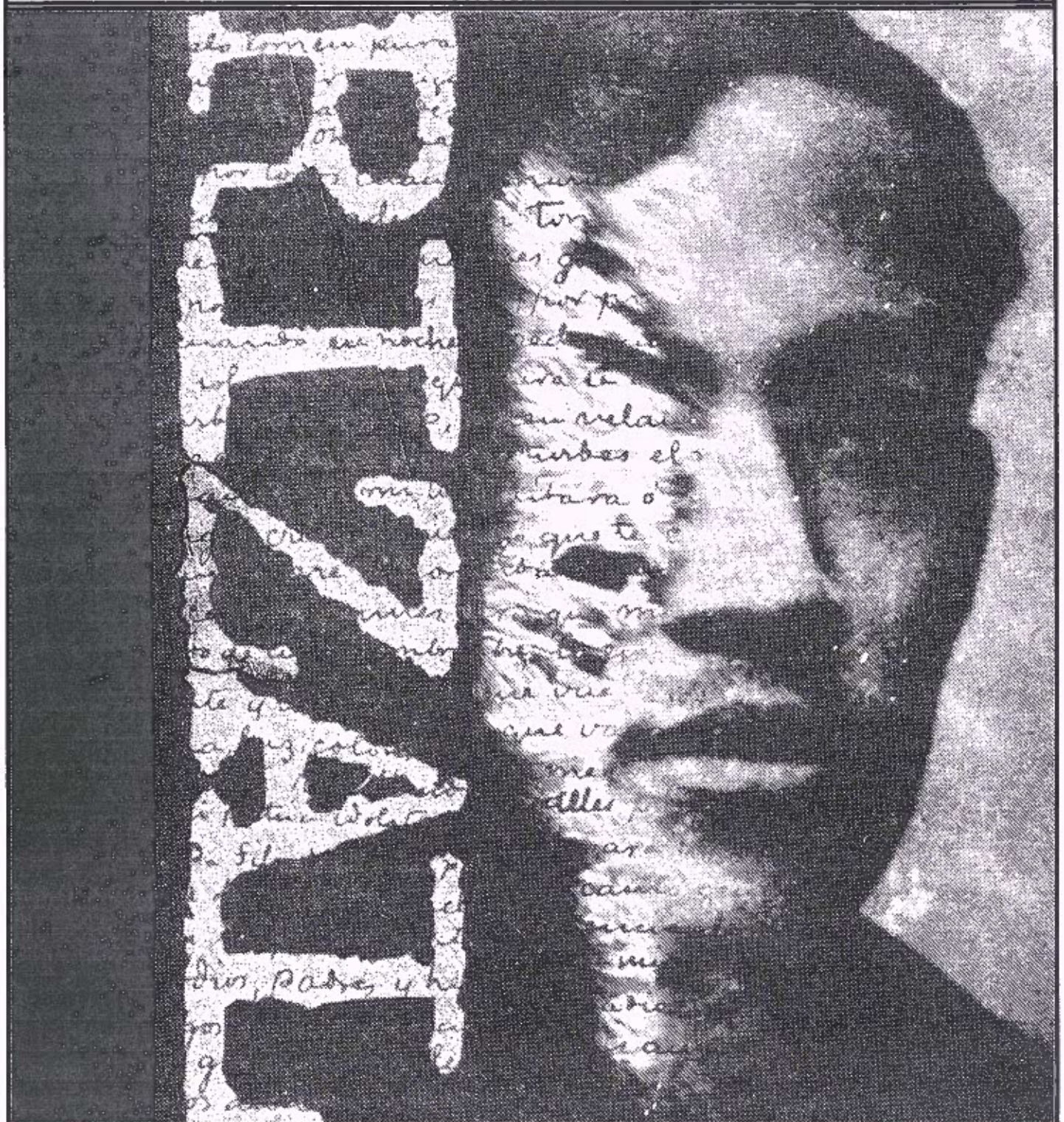
The Migrants' Newspaper

# mirror

Vol. 5 No. 2

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Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants-Denmark®

June 2001



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WOMEN up...  
and  
accessorize  
them.*



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FORMAL WEAR  
JEWELRIES  
BAGS and  
ACCESSORIES



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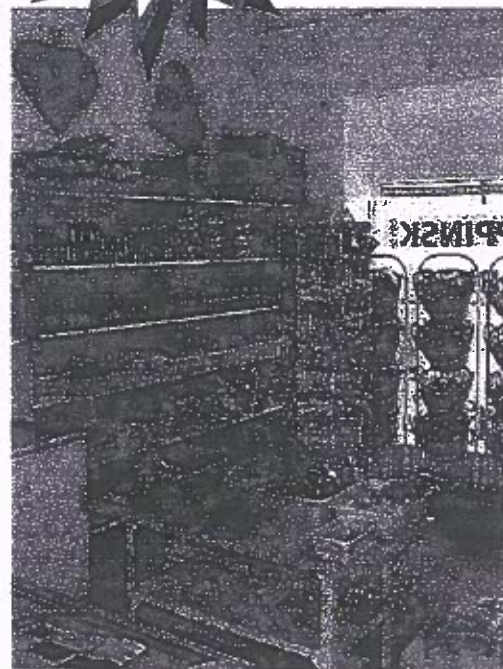
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Peter Brian Naidas

# Are we truly INDEPENDENT?

There is a new battle for independence going on within our society - the independence of being accepted and recognized as an equal in a "foreign" country where we grew up and gained wisdom and skills.

Once asked by the elders concerning Philippine independence, our second and third generation young Filipinos know next to nothing. It is vital for us to remember that in order for our Philippine heritage and traditions to survive the influences of the media and western society, we must take personal responsibility in teaching the young about the history of our country. Without this knowledge, we risk the future of sending our children into the realms of ignorance.

One of the dangers of growing up is the phase of mixed identities or lack of identity. Our young men and women belong to the so called *anden generations invandrer* (second generation immigrants). Whether we accept this label or not, society imposes us to belong to these stereo-typed boxes. There are only two boxes that one can belong to. First is the "successful box". The young Filipinos who have embraced Danish society and have been embraced by it in return belong to this box. Then there is the other box labeled *Invandrer*, where other young Filipinos

belong to. These are the ones who, no matter what they do and how hard they try, never really seem to fit in. We are fortunate enough that we have so many who are successful in every type of business.

For our ever growing Filipino community to benefit from them, we must acknowledge their skills and make them aware of our community's needs. We must put aside our personal grudges and envies for our community to thrive in the future.

At this present time, our community is experiencing a lack of interest from the youth and even the young at heart. Even if they swear to the FAD, Mabuhay or any organization, there is still a lack of participation even at the "event parties". There are hardly any teenagers anymore. Commitment, participation and personal responsibility are the sentiments that we need to induce and this needs our immediate attention. This is not a tough problem to solve but it entails true "hands on commitment" from the elders.

Once we have mastered the art of *pakikisama* within the Danish society, we must then further excel by taking leading positions in society, and not just by accepting everything that is served to us by the norms of the country. Every single day, our young are subjected to racism by society, however subtle it may be.

Without the right guidance and wisdom, they will experience resentment towards our society and towards our community. This symbolizes their silent heritage.

For them to gain wisdom, it is necessary that they first gain the hunger for knowledge and this is where we come in. Equipped with all the knowledge of their heritage that they can handle, they will, without

### WHEN TO ACT "FILIPINO"...

pino culture is in its emphasis on the group's welfare and interest. The family's need, for example, comes first before the individual's own interest. Australians and other Anglo-Saxon societies, like American, Canadian and English, seem to place the individual's interest ahead of the group. Which is better?

In the Philippines, the group orientation prevails and that is thought of by Filipinos as better as long as it does not neglect the needs of the individual. In Australia, the individual's interest prevails and that is thought by most Australians as better as long as the safety of the group is ensured.

On the surface, therefore, there ought to be no problem with either of these approaches. So, why do many Filipino immigrant parents frown and blame the host society when their children try to assert their individuality

any doubt at all, take on society with the strength and confidence that will make them excel and go further than any of us have done, yet.

When we finally achieved this, then and only then will we, Danish/Filipinos, feel the joy and the ecstasy that our ancestors had felt a little more than a hundred years ago. Only then will we be truly independent. ✿

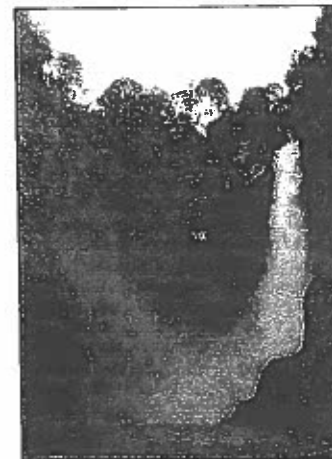
saying that these children are negatively influenced? And why does the host society often accuse immigrant parents of being untrusting of their children since they continually try to control them instead of "let them go"?

I can elaborate on this subject, but suffice it to say here that most children of immigrant Filipinos are caught, like proverbial "meat in the sandwich," between these two differing value orientations.

Not having any direction from either their parents or the host society, they are often left on their own trying to negotiate their way between these two value systems which are militating against each other. Thus, confused and lost, they often take refuge in the company of their peers who, like themselves are experiencing the same problem. With no one else to assist them, many take to drugs and alcohol to drown out their confusion. ✿

WITH PD 412 DECLARING it as a protected area, the legendary *Hinulugang Taktak* Falls in Antipolo, Rizal will fall under the control and supervision of the national government through the DENR.

The coverage area of *Hinulugang Taktak* National Park, renamed *Hinulugang Taktak* Protected Landscape, has also been expanded from 0.89 to 3.20 hectares to better implement rehabilitation and protection measures against encroachment and illegal occupancy inside the park.



Like the *Hinulugang Taktak* in Antipolo, the *Hikong Belebed* in South Cotabato is one of the protected areas of the Philippines.

THE DENR APPEALED TO all political candidates before the national elections to stop using trees as posting spots for their propaganda materials.

The appeal was intended to protect the gains of the *Oplan Sagip Puno*, considering that 1,142 sick, impaired and disfigured trees, which comprise the lungs of Metro Manila, have been cured, rehabilitated and reinvigorated.

*Oplan Sagip Puno* is meant to save the remaining trees through a cadre of tree doctors. It is also intended to offset the impact of greenhouse gases and mitigate their global warming effect.

SAUDI ARAMCO, ONE OF the world's largest oil firm, is expanding its operations in the Philippines.

Saudi Aramco, which is owned by the Saudi Arabian government, owns 40 percent of Petron, the largest and leading petroleum products marketer of our country.

HONG KONG AND RP signed an agreement concerning mutual legal assistance in criminal matters: in

tractions, the mall aims to draw a large and equally mixed market.

BAGUIO OFFICIALS HAVE yet to take custody of two half-preserved mummies accidentally found by high school students near a cave in Kapangan, Benguet in October last year. The unclaimed mummies were tucked in a fetal position.

The only mummification process known in Benguet involves the relatively modern smoking method, applied in an Igorot ritual for highly revered personalities. The body is covered or sprinkled with specialized herbs which endure a month-long smoking process.

DTI SEC. MANUEL ROXAS is negotiating with the Japanese government on behalf of the Filipino information technology (IT) workers to be able to stay up to three years in Japan while in training.

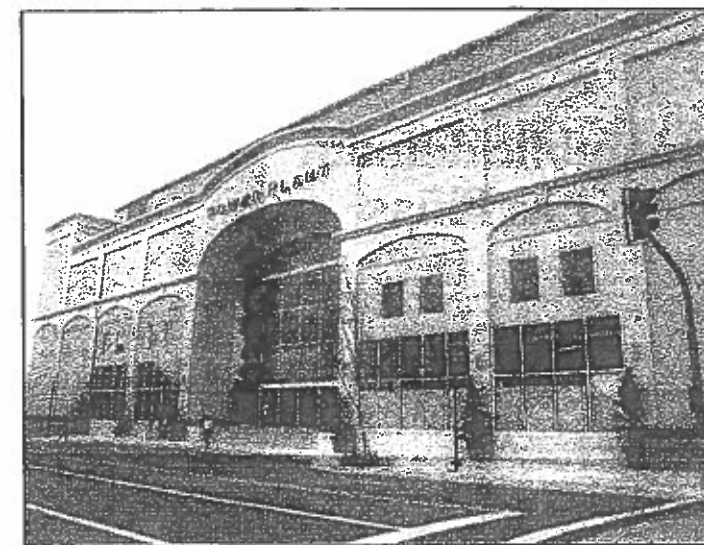
The three-year stay would give them the latest IT knowledge that they would be bringing back to the Philippines, the IT services that companies

usually require. Roxas noted that the Japanese immigration normally allows Indian IT workers to stay for as long as three years. Filipino IT workers, on the other hand, are only allowed a one-year stay. He also discussed the need for a common content in IT education in the region.

THE DOH APPROVED THE deployment of 38 doctors through the "Doctor to tehBarrios" program to provide quality health care services to the far-flung areas of the country experiencing a dearth of competent physicians.

The DOH said that the program, which has so far deployed 302 doctors to rural areas since its inception in 1993, also includes other health workers such as nurses, medical technologists, pharmacists and physical therapists.

THE DPWH SAID THAT 15 percent of the metropolis is still considered low-lying and are not equipped with pumping stations despite numerous infrastructures to solve the flooding system.



The Power Plant Mall, located at the Rockwell Center in Makati City, is open from 10.00 to 21.00 hours on weekdays and up to 22.00 hours on weekends.

Isang malugod na pagbati ang nais kong iparating sa inyong lahat na aming kababayan at masugid naming mambabasa.

Ang sumusunod na paglalahad ay may kinalaman sa "Absentee Voting", isa sa mga karapatan na sa palagay ng inyong abang lingkod ay mahalagang ipagkaloob sa ating mga migranteng Pilipino.



## Samu't Sari ni Diko

PAT D. VALENZUELA

### A Call to Action Enfranchising Overseas Filipinos

Why are we, the more than seven million overseas Filipinos, determined to reclaim our right to vote? Advocates are quick to point out that, crisis after crisis, we have become the lifeline thrown at the country's drowning economy. Every year we remit an estimated seven million dollars through the banking system. Every year we pump probably seven billion dollars more by personally bringing in cash or through *padala*.

Indeed, we weathered the Asian economic storm better than our neighbors largely because of the direct economic benefits of decades of massive and, for many broken families, heart-rending Diaspora of our workers. Overseas Filipinos create a growing middle class and build a more stable Philippine economy by investing hard-earned savings in a variety of industries, including transportation, real estate, housing, construction, information technology, banking, insurance, education, aviation and manufacturing. Our role as economic saviors or, according to the government, as "modern day heroes" should be enough reason to entitle us to political rights as basic as suffrage.

But we are not asserting our right to vote only in the context of our economic value and as a matter of political quid pro quo.

Beneath the simmer of our resentment is a raging desire to be recognized and treated as full pledged Filipino citizens, not as a political constituency easily made giddy by patronizing labels and by the welcome-home-modern-day-hero drama at the NAIA. Many of us never renounced our allegiance to the Philippine flag and have no intention of doing so. Modern technology (the internet, cable and satellite TV, affordable telephone services especially texting) has allowed us to follow national news, not just as passive observers but as active participants. More than 90% of the approximately three million daily hits recorded by the leading news site in the Philippines are generated by Filipinos abroad. On numerous interactive sites, thousands of reader comments and reactions to events and issues are made by concerned Filipinos worldwide. Clearly, we have a large overseas Filipino community showing active interest in the country's welfare, making two of our major Manila-based on-line dailies - together with the likes of CNN.com and NYTimes.com - among the top ranked newspaper sites in the world.

Is our physical absence sufficient reason to strip us of our Filipino citizenship? Certainly not with our remarkably strong connection to the homeland! But

what is citizenship without the fundamental right to vote? Recognizing the grave injustice of disenfranchising Filipino citizens outside the country, the 1987 Philippine Constitution requires Congress to pass a law that will enable overseas Filipinos to cast their ballots. It has been fourteen years since the Constitution enshrined that mandate, and still there is no such law! Related bills made it to the legislative mill, only to be smothered by parochial bickering and outright indifference. Ultimately, the bills were left for dead in the cobwebbed archives of Congress. The last two reincarnations (HB 10720 and SB 1746) reached committee level, only to be killed in the cross fire of the recent political scandals.

The greatest social struggles in the history of mankind culminated in political milestones, often characterized by an end to disenfranchisement: the toppling of tyrants, the freeing of slaves, the granting of the right to vote. In the US, voting rights were first restricted to propertied white males. Ultimately, everyone - poor, the blacks and women - became part of America's electoral process. Since World War II, the US has also allowed overseas voting as a matter of fundamental right.

About 40 other countries - including Canada, Great Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland,

Australia, Italy, Spain, India, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, South Africa, Senegal, Bosnia, Croatia, Armenia, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia - treat their people abroad as full pledged voting citizens. The Philippines, regardless of our reputation as a uniquely dynamic democracy, is chugging along the voting right path and has so far failed to catch up.

Will we, the more than seven million strong modern-day heroes, allow our calls for political enfranchisement to be ignored again and again? Absolutely not! Tokenism and the politics of hollow promises are guaranteed to unite us in a tight knot of anti-establishment anger. We do what we can to help the still fragile Philippine economy. We never stopped caring about our people. If the Filipino Diaspora has been a centrifugal force that has hemorrhaged our pool of talents, we want to be part of a reversal. Marry modern communications technology with the political inclusion of the many capable and hardworking Filipinos around the world, and we open a vast network of talents. But there is something more fundamental than the practical consequences of our political enfranchisement. We, uprooted primarily by the merciless and indiscriminate force of eco-

*Sundan sa Pahina 29*

## Noon at Ngayon ni Nene



### Ang Bayan ni Jose Rizal

Noong ako ay nasa mataas na paaralan ay nagkaroon kami ng isang *field trip* sa Laguna. Tatlong bayan ang aming pinuntahan: Calamba, Los Baños at Pagsanjan.

Ang unang bayang nabanggit ay lalong kilala sa pagiging bayang sinilangan ni Dr. Jose Rizal, ang ating pangunahing bayaning Pilipino. Siya ay isinilang dito noong Hunyo 19, 1861. Ang bahay na sinilangan ni Rizal ay pinagdarayo ng maraming turista, di lamang sa iba't ibang panig ng kapuluan, kundi sa ibang dako ng daigdig.

#### A CALL TO ACTION

nomic necessity and in many cases transplanted to the loneliest and most desolate corners of the globe, continue to cling to our proud claim to Filipino citizenship. We deserve to keep our fundamental rights and dignity as citizens. We deserve our inalienable right to vote!

We, Filipino citizens around the world, urge in the strongest terms possible Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the members of the Administrative Party, the Opposition and all prospective legislators in the 12th Congress to prioritize and ensure the passage of an overseas voting law! \*  
*Manifesto of EMPOWER, a global coalition for the Political Empowerment of Overseas Filipinos*

Noong 1958, ang bayan ay may humigit-kumulang sa 60,000 mamamayan at sumasakop sa 54 na nayon. Itinuturing na isa sa mga pinakamalalaking bayan sa Timog Luzon, kasama na ang Kabikulan, ang Calamba ay sumasaklaw sa lupaing may sukat na 14,496.97 ektarya. Tulad ng Los Baños at Pagsanjan, ang isa sa pinagmulan ng taunang kita ng bayan ay ang turismo.

Napag-alaman naming ang pangalang Calamba ay hango sa "kalamba", isang sisidlan ng tubig na yari sa luwad at ginagawang panalok ng mga babae. Tulad ng ibang bayan sa Pilipinas, ang Calamba ay nabigyan lamang ng pangalan nang dumating ang mga Kastila sa bansa. Dalawang kawal

na Kastila umano ang unang nagawi sa pook na iyon at nang makasalubong ng dalawang babae na may sunong na kalamba ay nagtanong sa kanilang wika kung ano ang pangalan ng pook na iyon. Dahil sa hindi naka-uunawa ng wikang banyaga ang dalawang babae at sa pag-aakalang ang itinatanong ay ang sunong nila ay sumagot sila ng "kalamba".

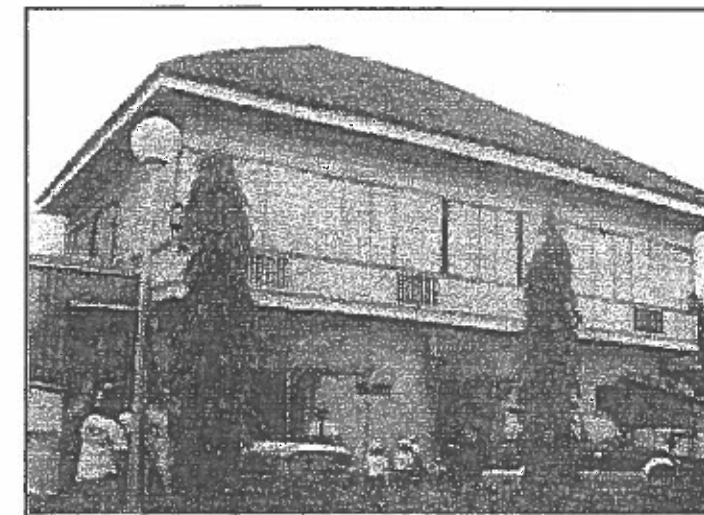
Natutuwang umalis ang dalawang kawal habang paulit-ulit na umuusal ng "Calamba... Calamba..." Mula noon, ang bayan ay tinawag na Calamba.

Sapul sa simula, ang mga mamamayan ng Calamba ay mga magsasaka, at isa rito ay ang ama ni Rizal, si Francisco Mercado. Sa buong panahon

ng pananakop ng Espanya, ang mga magsasaka sa Calamba ay nakikisama lamang sa mga asyandang pag-aari ng mga prayleng Dominikano at ng simbahan. Dumanas ng walang katapusang paghihirap at kalupitan ang mga magsasaka. At sa mga sulat kay Rizal ng kanyang ama at mga kapatid ay ipinarating nila ang kawawang kalagayan ng kanyang mga kababayan. Binalak umano ni Rizal na humanap ng isang kolonya sa hilagang Borneo at dalhin doon ang kanyang mga kawawang kababayan.

Ang mga kalagayang ito ang dahilan ng pagsipot ng maraming bayani sa Calamba, gayundin ng mga taong nanungkulan sa pamahalaan, tulad nina Heneral Vicente Lim na unang Pilipinong nagtapos sa West Point, Estados Unidos, na lumaban sa Bataan at napatay ng mga Hapon; Pedro Faustino; Dominador Chipeco na naging gobernador ng Laguna; Leopoldo Vichangco na naging dekanong Unibersidad ng Pilipinas; at Joaquin Chipeco na naging isang kongresista.

Ngayon, ang Calamba ay maituturing na isa sa mga maunlad na bayan ng Laguna. Sa pana-panahong pagsisikap ng mga naglilingkod sa kanya, ang pagpapaganda ng Calamba ay naisagawa. \*



Ang Rizal Shrine sa Calamba