



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**SENTOSA NURSES FROM AVALON FACILITY CLEARED OF WRONGDOING BY
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

NEW YORK – The Philippine Consulate General New York welcomes the finding of the State Department of Health that the Sentosa Nurses, specifically the ten (10) who resigned from the Avalon Gardens Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Smithtown, Long Island, “did no harm” when they resigned en masse from the facility in 2006.

This finding was printed in an article appearing in the 17 January 2008 issued of “Newsday Long Island” entitled **“Nurse inquiry: They did no harm”**. The follow-up article by writers Michael Amon and Ridgeley Ochs entitled **“State clears Filipino nurses of wrongdoing”** (18 January 2008) focused on the reaction of Assistant District Attorney Leonard Lato, whose office intends to have these findings suppressed and declared inadmissible as evidence in court. While Garden City defense attorney Stephen Scaring agreed that there may be technical reasons to suppress the findings of the agencies, he stated that “this case really is going nowhere. I’m surprised that, given those findings, the district attorney doesn’t just dismiss the charges.”

A petition by the Filipino community for Gov. Eliot Spitzer to appoint a special prosecutor to replace Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota continues. A decision has not yet been made by the Governor’s office. The next hearing has been re-set for sometime in March 2008 .

Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong appreciates the finding of the State Department of Health as it “validates what our nurses and all of us in the Filipino community have been saying all along, that the Sentosa nurses, in their effort to correct the wrongs done to them, maintained utmost professionalism in performing their duties toward their patients and at no time placed them in jeopardy. END