

Filipino author challenges

establishments in new book

Speaking out: Pat N. Duque talks about his new book "Fighting for a cause... and more" at a book-signing event at the Seafood Chef Restaurant in Tamuning. The book takes a satirical approach in discussing issues dealing with the Philippines, America and Guam, as they relate to each other.

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e's fighting for a cause and ready to throw some swings.

When he does, you won't know what hit you.

Filipino author Pat N. Duque's new book, "Fighting for a Cause...and more,"

takes a satirical approach in discussing issues dealing with the Philippines, America and Guam, as they relate to each other.

Earlier in the week the author took part in a book-signing event at the Seafood Chef's Restaurant in Tamuning.

Duque originally came to Guam from the Philippines in 1985, and adopted Guam as his second home. Since then he has been assimilated and says he writes this book, not as a member of the Filipino community, but

"FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE...AND MORE"

■ By Pat N. Duque, author of "Mathematical Proof That God Exists"

■ According to Duque, the book will be available at local bookstores in a few weeks.

■ ISBN: 978-971-94031-1-1

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ENTERTAINMENT

Author: Choses satirical tone to discuss serious issues

■ continued from page 1

as a Guamanian.

"We should think like Guamanians," he says. "Let's think Guamanian first rather than American first."

With that line of thought, he says Guamanians might be able to get more economic and political rights from the U.S., the 'cause' to which he refers in the title of his book.

In it, Duque discusses how to improve Guam's economy, restructure its political status and increase its chances for development.

For example, the 1920 Jones Act and the Cabotage Laws are outdated, and should be revised to enhance Guam's growth, he says. They just don't fit the modern context.

According to the Jones Act, only American airlines can fly to and from American airports, which drives up air ticket prices for Guamanians who want to travel State-side, Duque says. He estimates a flight from Manila to Los Angeles averages about \$900, while a flight from Guam costs an average \$1400 on an American carrier.

"How could we develop an island with so many federal restrictions?" he wonders. "We need to open up competition, which is the basic motor of the American economy."

Additionally, he argues that Guam should not settle for the status quo in its political relationship with the U.S.

"I believe Guam should be wooed by the U.S.," he says, as it is a valuable asset for the U.S. and should be treated as such.

"We are the tip of the spear in the defense setup of the United States," he says. "This is priceless."

Duque says he would like to see Guam take the U.S. as her suitor, and the U.S. should "give what the lady likes" due to the island's strategic geographical location at the crossroads of the U.S. and Asia.

U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

Moreover, he expresses his disappointment in the relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines in terms of stringent immigration rules.

"Eighty percent of America is populated by immigrants, so how come they are so unreasonable when it comes to the Philippines?" he says.

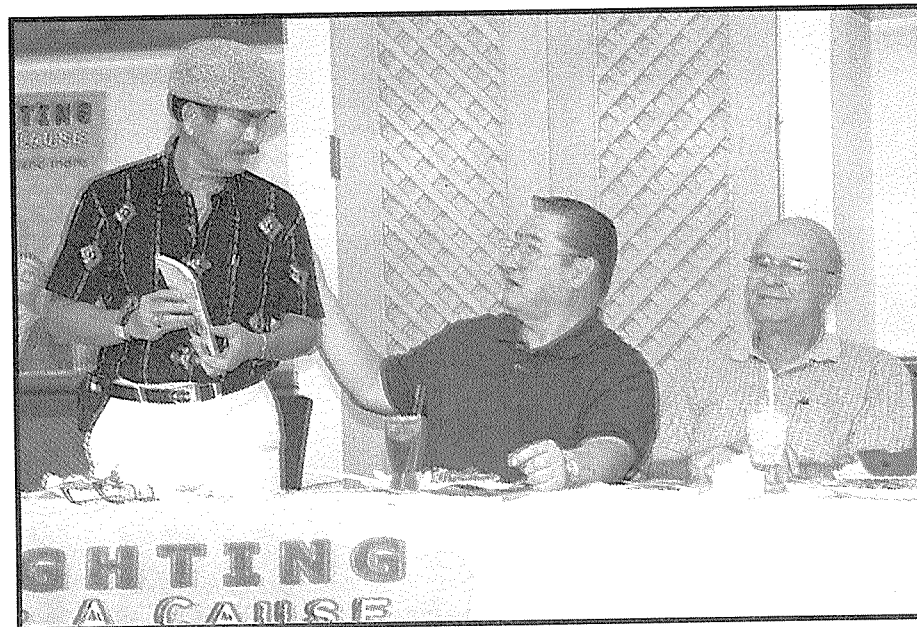
He speaks this frankly at the signing among friends, but his written work takes a different approach. He's chosen a satirical tone to discuss serious issues regarding immigration, health insurance, job relocation and expanding opportunities in higher education. He wanted to employ a light-hearted style to make the reader laugh a little, he says.

"I don't like to confront verbally," he says, and that way, his audience is caught



Photos by Patrick Camacho/For Bayanihan

Cover: A close up of Pat N. Duque "Fighting for a cause... and more".



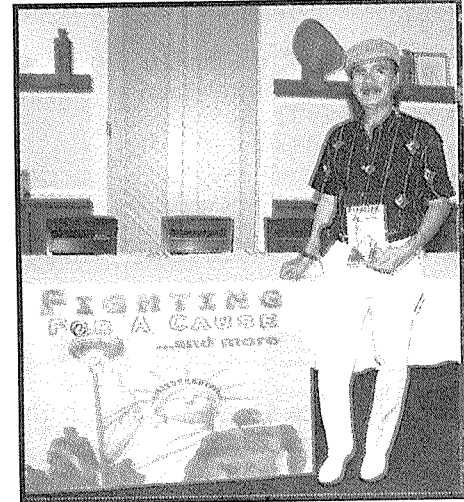
between flinching or accepting the "punch" of his message.

LOCAL WRITERS MUST SPEAK UP

Duque may call it satire, but former

Guam Gov. Joe Ada and former Sen. Alfred Ysrael, who have both reviewed the book, say Duque is quite gutsy in trying to do what no other local writer has done.

"He disagrees with politics and the way it's being run, and he's not afraid to say it," Ysrael says, "Somebody has to do it, or



Filipino author: Pat N. Duque holds his new book "Fighting for a cause... and more" at the Seafood Chef Restaurant in Tamuning.

It is how noble and dignified, Standing up and fighting for your rights, How much more when we steadfastly strive, Doing these for our motherland and people's plight?

— Excerpt from "Fighting for a Cause ... and more."

Endorsements: Former Guam Gov. Joe Ada, center, gives his remarks during the book-signing event for Pat N. Duque's new book "Fighting for a cause... and more". Guam businessman and former Sen. Alfred C. Ysrael also took part in the event at the Seafood Chef Restaurant in Tamuning.

else we suffer."

Ada, too, is pleased that a local writer is speaking up, and he hopes there will be more in the future.

"I'd like to see our local people write more books and challenge their geniuses," he says. "I want the younger people to read these books in school...books about experiences and challenges, so the next generation can understand."