

GMA to attend Elorde Awards

President Arroyo has confirmed her attendance and will be the guest of honor and speaker during the eighth Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Awards Night-Banquet of Champions set March 25 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

This is the first time the Chief Executive is gracing the occasion where newly crowned World Boxing Council superfeatherweight champion Manny Pacquiao will be inducted into the Elorde Boxing Hall of Fame as seven-time winner of the boxing-of-the-year award.

The Filipino boxing icon will lead four other boxer-of-the-year awardees WBO bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa, IBF minimumweight titleholder Nonito Donaire, IBF superflyweight champion Florante Condes and WBO minimumweight titlist Donnie Nietes.

"This year's awards rites will certainly be the most memorable for Philippine boxing and the honorees, with our newly crowned WBC champion Manny Pacquiao receiving the highest honor in professional boxing from no less than the President of the Republic," said Laura Elorde, wife of the Da Flash, who reigned as world junior lightweight champion from 1960-67 and in whose honor the awards are held.

Also to be feted during the affair, organized for the eighth straight year by Johnny Elorde Management International and the Elorde Foundation and sponsored by the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the Department of Tourism (DOT), Lonsdale and Raymundo's Trophy and Sculptures, are 28 other world and international champions and 17 Philippine champions.

Two of the world/international champion awardees are female fighters - Gretchen Abaniel, WIBA intercontinental minimumweight and WBC international atomweight champion, and Geremie Tabastabas, the WIBA World Youth lightflyweight champion.



President Arroyo