Manny Pacquiao insists he'll retire after Bradley rematch

By Greg Beacham AP Sports Writer

EVERLY HILLS, Calif. — With a beatific politician's smile on his face, Manny Pacquiao calmly insisted he'll step out of a boxing ring for the final time on April 9 after his third fight with Timothy Bradley.

After all, the eight-division champion has a senatorial campaign to plan and a loving family to please. The 37-year-old Filipino phenomenon quietly claims the spring is a good time to take his last punch.

"I'm so happy hanging up my gloves after this fight," Pacquiao said. "I'm sure I'll feel sad after that, but that's life. It's time, I think."

That note of uncertainty is familiar to Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum. After a half-century in the fight game, the Top Rank boss knows a boxer's word on retirement is hardly ever the last one.

"I will not promote it as Manny's last fight," Arum said. "He says he's going to retire, and maybe he will. The truth is that you never know with any boxer, but I haven't known Manny to say things he doesn't mean. But we all realize this could be the last time he fights."

Nearly nine months after he failed to hurt Floyd Mayweather Jr. in the most lucrative fight in boxing history, Pacquiao is back stateside to promote his grand finale. His camp insists Pacquiao is recovered from shoulder surgery required to repair a rotator cuff injury that affected the Mayweather bout, and he'll be ready for a full training camp with Freddie

Minorities make up 14 percent of state lawmakers

By Jesse J. Holland

The Associated Press

ASHINGTON — Only 14 percent of state legislators are minorities, according to a new report.

The New American Leaders Project surveyed state lawmakers in 2015 and found that black politicians held around nine percent of the seats, Latino and Latina politicians held about four percent of the seats, and Asian-American politicians held about two percent of the seats. Native-American officeholders numbered less than one percent. This number is far below the racial and ethnic makeup of the U.S., with minorities making up 40 percent of the population.

Sayu Bhojwani, president and founder of the New American Leaders Project, said the major political parties could do more to help usher more minority candidates to state-level offices. She also wants more support for minority candidates once they decide to seek office and foundations to invest in preparing future lawmakers.

"Part of the reason for the representation gap is because the existing and traditional parties are not reaching out and encouraging Asians and Latinos and Latinas to run," she said.

Having more minority officeholders at the state level would mean minority communities would have someone who not only understands their issues but also likely has experienced what they are going through, she said. "If we could reduce the barriers, we could have a much more representative government," she said.

The survey also found a gender gap in state legislatures, with women holding 24 percent of the lawmaking jobs and men holding 76 percent. Republicans also held a decisive advantage, holding 56 percent of state-level legislator positions while Democrats hold 43 percent. One percent is held by third-party candidates or independents.



Pacquiao realizes that if he looks impressive in beating Bradley, he could stoke interest in a healthy rematch with Mayweather, who retired last fall. Even after their anti-climactic first meeting, a second bout would be another enormous financial windfall for the two biggest stars in boxing.

Pacquiao insists it's irrelevant to look beyond Bradley.

"(Mayweather) retired already, so I'm going to retire also after this fight," Pacquiao said. "I never regret. In fact, I thought I won the fight. A lot of people, my fans, believe I won the fight. ... I know (it's

time to retire) because after this, I have another big responsibility in the Philippines, which is serving the people. My family wanted me to retire before I fought Mayweather. I started this boxing just to help my mother, and I'll end my boxing career to help the country."

Pacquiao will face Bradley at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, completing a trilogy between two of the world's top welterweights. Bradley won a hotly disputed split decision over Pacquiao in their first meeting in June 2012, but Pacquiao earned a unanimous decision victory in the April 2014 rematch.

Pacquiao is certain he won the first

FINAL FIGHT? Manny Pacquiao answers questions during a news conference in Beverly Hills, California. Pacquiao is scheduled to face Timothy Bradley on April 9 in Las Vegas for the World Boxing Organization welterweight title. Pacquiao insists it will be the final time he steps out of a boxing ring. (AP Photo/Nick

fight, and his opinion is shared by Roach and Arum, who promotes both fighters. Bradley believes he won the rematch, a position shared by fewer observers.

Arum considered the likes of Terence Crawford and Amir Khan to be Pacquiao's final opponent. Arum said the rising Crawford, likely a future pay-per-view star, was deemed too unknown by executives from the cable companies and satellite providers charged with selling the bout. Arum said Khan "was pretty much a non-starter because they kept shifting the goalpost on me and had an inflated idea of what he was worth."

With a guaranteed \$20 million payday, Pacquiao happily agreed to take on Bradley for a third time.

He claims the reasons weren't just financial: Pacquiao believes Bradley "has changed" since their last two fights, and he wants to see how he'll do against the revamped version of an already tenacious

Bradley hired veteran trainer Teddy Atlas before his last bout with Brandon Rios, celebrating the change with a ninth-round stoppage victory.

"I heard Manny Pacquiao chose me because he knows me," Bradley said. "I think I'm different now, I honestly do. I think this fight will be different than the first two altercations we had."

Lin, Curry, Harden in NBA TV spot for **Lunar New Year**

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association (NBA) is celebrating the Lunar New Year with a TV spot featuring Jeremy Lin, Stephen Curry, and James Harden.

The ad is called "Dining Table" and shows the stars sharing a New Year meal with a Chinese family. It is being broadcast until February 22 across all of NBA China's television and digital partners' platforms.

The Lunar New Year begins February 8 and celebrates the Year of the Monkey. Lin plays for the Charlotte Hornets and is the first American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent.

Houston, Golden State, and Washington will wear uniforms with the team name in Chinese and host arena events. Other NBA teams will celebrate the holiday and pay tribute to Chinese culture.

Fifty-one games will be broadcast or streamed in China, showcasing all 30 NBA teams for the first

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Nevada opens tourism office in New Delhi, India

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada is opening a tourism office in India, hoping to capture a larger share of travellers coming to the United States.

Lt. Governor Mark Hutchison said in a statement that his trip to New Delhi was to launch the new international branch promoting travel and tourism to Nevada.

The state said Nevada has a 6.5 percent share of the India travel market and that the research shows the top reasons for travel are to visit family

and shopping.

A survey of more than 800 visitors indicated they also enjoy large malls, wildlife viewing, camping, and historical monuments while overseas.

The state said Indians on average budget a maximum of about \$5,400 per year for international travel.

Nevada recently closed its tourism office in Beijing, China.



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