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WEEKEND

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Saving the Watershed of the Cordillera thru PES



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Right to Know. Right Now!

BAGUIO CITY — There is an urgent need to revive and to sustain the source of water which is necessity for the survival of all living creatures that include human, plants and animals.

Regional Executive Director Marilyn Sta. Catalina of the Department of Agriculture (DA) said one of the ways to address this is through the Payment for Environmental and Ecological Services (PES) which is especially created to ensure financial sustainability and support to community watershed management initiatives.

Watershed management in the Cordillera region is a struggle with a large portion of its mountains is denuded causing problems on the environment.

With the rapid deterioration of natural resources in the country, the remaining forest areas and other potential natural resources should be protected, preserved and conserved, Sta. Catalina explained.

The PES technology carries out two principles. These are payment for environmental-ecological services if you benefit from them and payment to those land owners-stewards whose natural capital produces the services.

The implementation follows the following
Cont. on page 10

UPDOLD THE CONSTITUTION, PROTECT JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE.....p6

Business Permit renewals made "simpler" page 2

Council Approves 72 Ordinances in 2011..p2

Canadian Medical Mission to Cater to Indigents page 2

RTC Judge says CJ Impeachment will not Affect Judges from Dispensing Judges fair, Impartial Judgement page 7

SSS Reminds Business Owners to get Clearance before Renewing Business Licenses..p3

Businesses and Industries Continue to Grow- NSO page 3

SPES Program Benefits 4,000 Cordillera Youth in 2011 page 3



Puros plano na pinangangalagahan ang kalikasan ngunit mukhang hangang plano lang at patuloy pa rin ang matinding ilegal logging!!!

Ailing Nurse still needs P741,000 page 2

DOH says APIR a success in CAR page 3

More Freebies Await Early Taxpayers page 12

Mayor Denies Hand in Tree Cutting Permit page 12

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Advice from my Doctor

BY: JESUS DUREZA



ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Mr President, verify target the Year that was

BY: JESUS DUREZA



Business Permit renewals made "simpler"

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week issued Administrative Order 002, series of 2012 enforcing a simpler method for the processing of business permit renewals at city hall.

"There is an urgent appeal by taxpayers to accelerate the pace of processing business permits," the AO states.

Thus, a streaming of procedure of processing business permit renewal is enforced; where only the sanitary permit, barangay clearance, clearance from the City Treasurer's Office (CTO) and certification of payment of taxes is required. The business permit from the CTO may then be secured.

Other requirements for the completion of validity of a business permit; clearances from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social Security System (SSS), Philhealth and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) should be secured after the issuance of the permit. Closure of the business establishment may be effected if said documents are not acquired, the AO further states.

The said procedure was sought as it was learned that taxpayers are discouraged from processing their business permits as they experience difficulties acquiring clearances from other government agencies.

Earlier also, the mayor issued another administrative order prohibiting city employees from interceding or working out business permits unless they are directly involved in the processing of said permit in their respective offices.

"To avoid favoritism and ensure fairness in the application for new, or renewal of business permits," "no employees shall intercede and/or hand carry in behalf of any applicant/permittee for issuance of new, or renewal of, business."

Administrative sanctions would be meted out for violators; reprimand for the first offense, suspension for one to 30 days, and dismissal for the third offense.

Business permit processing and payment of real property taxes without penalty has started on the first day of working day of 2012 and shall go on until March. Percentage discounts shall be granted to early taxpayers. /juliegfianza

Ailing Nurse still needs P741,000

BAGUIO CITY - An ailing nurse's frantic campaign to raise P755,000 to bail herself out of a life-threatening heart condition took off some last week after a head of a national government line agency and two sisters, one of whom battled the same medical condition in the past, chipped in P14,000 for the nurse's heart operation fund.

The donation hardly made a dent in the seemingly implausible drive but for 40-year old

Shirley Concepcion, it was manna from Heaven boosting her never-give-up attitude with which she inspired the patients she nursed at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC).

Concepcion now could use some nursing herself from Samaritans as she continued her race against the clock to complete the fund requirement so she could undergo a heart surgery for a "two-valve replacement and one valve repair" as a result of

her heart condition diagnosed as rheumatic heart disease, severe; mitral stenosis; aortic stenosis; c a r d i a c d y s r r h y t h m i a (supraventricular tachycardia).

Upon reading of Concepcion's predicament, a chief of a national government agency responded and handed Concepcion P10,000 to set off the fund drive.

Two sisters, one of whom survived a similar heart condition after un-

Cont. on page 11

Canadian Medical Mission to Cater to Indigents

BAGUIO CITY - Indigent patients in need of non-emergency surgery may avail of the free surgical program of GO-MED (Greater Outreach Medical/Educational Destinations), a medical outreach group based in Vancouver, Canada from Jan. 30 to Feb. 10 at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Medical center chief, Dr. Manuel Factora of the BGHMC said the GO-MED team will arrive on Jan. 27 for the medical mission, the group's third in as many years, in the city.

The visiting team will do laparoscopic and open cholecystectomies, thyroidec-tomy, hernia repair, mastectomy, ovarian tumor excision, abdominal and vaginal hysterectomies and bilateral tubal ligation.

Registration of patients continues at the out-patient department of the BGHMC and evaluation of qualified patients is being undertaken by the BGHMC Social Service.

The group which was founded in 2009 is headed by Dr. Peter Blair, a general surgeon who was elected

GO-MED president in May last year.

It had already donated two operating room beds, two anesthesia machines, 30 hospital beds and assorted surgical and medical supplies to the BGHMC.

As in the previous missions, members of the team are expected to be led anew by Blair and nurse Shirley Pinlac-Maas, a native of Baguio and graduate of the BGH School of Nursing and the Baguio City National High School. Composed of a mission leader, surgical leader, anesthesiology leader, nursing

Cont. on page 10

Council Approves 72 Ordinances in 2011

BAGUIO CITY - The city council approved a total of 72 ordinances in 2011 and most of the measures dealt with the preservation of the environment, Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas reported on Monday.

Farinas said one significant legislative measure aimed at preserving the ambience of the city was the ordinance requiring all construction owners to plant trees as a condition for the issuance of an occupancy permit.

He said that under the law, the owners of constructions must replace uprooted trees in the sites by planting seedlings in instances where it is

required that trees be cut to accommodate new infrastructure projects.

Another notable law passed deals on regulating the use of betel nut by requiring betel nut aficionados to spit in receptacles instead of anywhere to avoid dirtying surroundings.

"While the city embraces time-honored culture and tradition practiced in the Cordilleras, it also has the heavy burden of impressing upon the public the city's continuing clean and green program particularly in its health and sanitation initiatives," Farinas said.

Farinas also cited the passage of a resolution asking the City Solid Waste

management Board (CSWMB) to review the ten-year ecological solid waste management plan of the city and other resolutions addressing the city's waste problem.

"The official position of the August Body relative to solid waste management is clear and unambiguous, compliance with the provisions of Republic Act 9003 otherwise known as the Solid Waste Management Act must be a top priority albeit taking into consideration the unique and prevailing situation and circumstances relative to the Irisan controlled dumpsite facility and the ensuing consequences thereto," he said.

Cont. on page 11



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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction-OIC

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*Our articles and stories (news/features) are ready to go for printing without the involvement of the editor and publisher who happen to be on leave.

DOH says APIR a success in CAR

BAGUIO CITY — "Aksyon: Paputok Injury Reduction (APIR)" toward a safe holiday celebration campaign is a success, the Department of Health (DOH) in the Cordillera reported.

DOH record shows from December 21, 2011 to January 3, 2012, listed were 45 cases injuries compared to 94 cases for the same period last year or were lower by 52%.

According to Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, regional director of DOH-Center for Health Development, the public is slowly learning its lesson on the dangers of firecrackers.

She said the province of Abra has the highest number of injuries with 19, followed by Baguio City with 12, Kalinga, 4; Mt. Province, 4; Benguet 3, Ifugao, 2 and Apayao, 1.

By age group, 14 are aged 6-9 years old; 10 each in the 10-14 and 20 and above age bracket; 9 for 15-19 age group and two in the 0-5 age group. There are 39 male and four female firecracker injury victims, Cabotaje said.

The firecrackers that inflicted injuries are piccolo(18), kwitis(7), pla-pla(5), luces(4), five star, fountain, whistle bomb, baby rocket with two each, and watusi, one. Two were injured by unknown firecrackers, according to Cabotaje.

"We would like to thank the local government units for their support for the APIR campaign, our office will continue advocating "iwas paputok" and hope there will be zero injury in the years to come," Cabotaje added. /JDP/IBZ-PIA CAR



"DRAGON BABY" Chencey Banglag receives surprise gifts and cash from City Social Welfare and Development Officer Betty Fangasan, Veteran Journalist Narciso 'Nars' Padilla and US Navy Veteran Angel Villaralvo. She was chosen the 'Lucky New Year Baby' of 2012 born at exactly 12:35 am of January 1 at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC)./ photo by paul rillorta

Businesses and Industries Continue to Grow- NSO

BAGUIO CITY - The total number of business establishments and industries in the country including the Cordillera Administrative Region continues to grow.

Thus reported National Statistics Office (NSO) Regional Director Olivia Gulla during the presentation of the preliminary results of the 2009 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI) at the Pines View Hotel here recently.

Based on the 2009 ASPBI, total number of business establishments and

industries in the Philippines grew to 23,941 from 21,572 in 2008.

In the Cordillera, it grew to 240 from the 233 recorded in the 2008 ASPBI. The Hotel and Restaurants and Education sectors recorded increasing trend grows by 17 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Gulla also reported that the increase in the number of establishments also resulted in the increase in employment. Nationwide, based on the 2009 ASPBI, employment increased by four percent or to 2,970,640 in 2009 compared to the

2,862,621 total employment, recorded in 2008.

For Cordillera, an 11 percent increase in employment was also noted in the 2009 ASPBI. From 27,436 in 2008, it grew to 30,378 in 2009, with manufacturing and real estate, renting and business activities sectors leading the way with 15 percent and 24 percent increase, respectively.

As per revenue, the country posted a five percent increase from P7.5 trillion in 2008 to P7.9 trillion in 2009, with the manufacturing sector posting the highest revenue at P3.3 Tril-

Cont. on page 11

SSS Reminds Business Owners to get Clearance before Renewing Business Licenses

BAGUIO CITY - All business owners including sari-sari stores and public utility vehicles (PUV) such as jeepney or taxi, need to get a clearance from the Social Security System (SSS) before they can renew their local business licenses and permits for this year to ensure the registration of their employees.

This is the reminder of SSS-Baguio Field Inspectorate section team head Jhona Legaspi, during an interview over PIA Hour radio program at DZWT.

According to Legaspi, in line with their mandate of achieving universal coverage, SSS has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government units (LGUs) and with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for such purposes.

"It is not for the collection of the SSS; what we aim here is to provide social benefits to all coverable individuals so that in time of their need they can avail of the various benefits they are entitled to as SSS members. In fact, we already have such members including market vendors that are already enjoying their pension," Legaspi said.

She also explained that under the SSS Special Law, even sari-sari stores and jeepney/taxi operators should report the names of their employees within 30 days of employment, clarifying the issue that an employee needs to first work for six straight months to be registered to SSS.

According to Legaspi, they have a system in place for checking if business owners or PUV operators are not complying with such law.

"For active drivers, as a member of SSS they or their beneficiaries can also be entitled to work-related compensation in times of accident while plying their routes," Legaspi explained.

Based on SSS data, from January to June 2011 alone, SSS has paid a total benefits of more than P41 Billion to its almost 30 Million members nationwide as compared to the almost P58 Billion revenue from membership contributions, investment and other income. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

SPES Program Benefits 4,000 Cordillera Youth in 2011

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) benefitted 4,000 poor but deserving students in the Cordillera region in 2011.

According to DOLE-CAR Labor and Employment Officer (LEO) III George Lubin Jr, 2,563 students from the different parts of the region were given employment under the said program when it

was implemented during the summer break. DOLE's counterpart funding through the Bureau of Labor and Employment (BLE) spent P5.45 million for the program.

For Abra, there were 297 beneficiaries; Apayao, 180; Baguio, 418; Benguet, 802; Ifugao, 357; Kalinga, 422; and Mt. Province, 340.

Realizing the big impact of the program to its beneficiaries, Lubin said DOLE re-

leased a supplemental budget of about P3.19 million for the program, which again benefitted 1,437 students in the region, through employment during the semestral break and Christmas break of 2011.

For the said supplemental budget, 62 students from Abra, 22 from Apayao, 675 from Baguio, 61 from Benguet, 290 from Ifugao, 105 from Kalinga, and 202 from Mt. Province were benefitted.

For this year, Lubin also an-

nounced that more poor students will be covered under the said program as tentative budget for SPES implementation in the Cordillera is P30 Million, almost four times higher than the P8 Million allocated for 2011.

DOLE's SPES program aims to help poor but deserving students pursue their education by

encouraging their employment during summer or Christmas vacation.

Any student who is at least 15 years of age but not more than 25 years old, enrolled or intending to enroll in any educational institution for secondary, tertiary or technical-vocation education, and whose combined net in-

come after tax of parents does not exceed thousands P36,000.00 per annum may apply for the program. An applicant must also have a good standing or an average passing grade school.

Lubin was guest in the PIA Hour radio program over station DZWT, Thursday. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Grandkid's Grey Hair

"What made us dream he would comb grey hair?", Irish poet and 1923 Nobel Laureate William Butler Yeats wrote of a friend — and the "discourtesy of death." A week after Typhoon "Sendong" hit, Mindanao deaths bolted to 1,249.

When New Year dawns, other victims won't "comb grey hair." Exhausted rescue workers still stumble across bodies in the muck and debris. "Even the (corpse) sniffing dogs are tired," regional disaster council chief Ana Caneda noted.

New Year's Day 2012 finds more than 376,000 people displaced by the storm and floods. Almost 55,000 still huddle in crowded makeshift evacuation Cagayan de Oro and Iligan centers, as government scrambles to build homes. Potable water is in short supply.

No major disease outbreak at evacuation centers has

EDITORIAL

occurred. Knock on wood. Credit the swift help by

citizens, civic and church groups, plus aid agencies.

A low pressure area, a cold front and rains, however, persisted. They unleashed mudslides, this time across a wider swath. Leyte, northern Negros Occidental, Capiz, to cities like Bacolod and Valencia in Bukidnon were hit.

Few heeded the first signals of climate change. World Meteorological Organization notes 2001 through 2010 has been "warmest decade". Glaciers are melting and ever warmer sea levels are rising.

A month into the Aquino presidency, Climate Change Congress of the Philippines, led by Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, warned about impending weather threats, Inquirer recalled. Ledesma repeated the caution, in a Malacanang antipoverty conference. Two two weeks later, "Sendong" struck, inflicting the worst damage in 12 years.

On New Year's Eve, the itch to peer ahead reaches fever pitch. Many leaders' line-of-sight, however, ends at larger Internal Revenue Allotment slabs (a.k.a. pork barrel) or 2013 elections. Discerning the future has never been one of man's special strengths.

"Crystal-balling" is about making educated guesses of what lies beyond. From today's realities, one sifts trends likely to endure — and reshape tomorrow. "In today, tomorrow already walks."

Leaf through the new Human Development Report, titled "Sustainability and Equity". We rank 112 among 187 countries analyzed. Aside from tools like gross national product, the indices factor in life expectancy, health and education. This year, HDR uses those gauges in the context of ecological stress.

"A 10 percent increase in the number of people affected by an extreme weather event reduces a country's human development (ranking) by two percent", says this just published United Nations Development Programme study. Freedoms of people today must expand "while making reasonable efforts to avoid compromising those of future generations."

Average life expectancy for a Filipino today is over 69 years, similar to an Iraqi. There are stark differences in this "threshold at which all other hopes begin.". Like Jamaicans, La Union residents have life expectancy of 74 years. In contrast, 55 years for Joloanos resemble that of Rwandans.

More comb grey hair In Vietnam or Sri Lanka, Llife expectancy there now crests at 75. It is 81 for a Singaporean and 83 for a Japanese. "That a man's reach should exceed his grasp/ Or what's a heaven for?"

Overall adult literacy (95%) smudges "black holes" like Maguindanao. Warlord rule reduced 44 out of 100 residents into "no-read-no-writes". That's the highest functional illiteracy rate for 77 provinces, notes Philippine Human Development Report. In Laguna, 7 are illiterates.

Chronic hunger here stunts 34 out of every 100 kids under 5. That's on par with Equatorial Guinea. Maternal death rates are on a level with Paraguay at 94 out of every 1,000. Only 62 out of every 100 Filipina mothers had skilled medical personnel in attendance at birth — the level in Guatemala.

HDR links traditional gauges with well being or insecurity from environmental impact. Philippines has a only a fifth of Malaysia's renewable water resources. Yet, we pump 17% of that, like Mexico. Shrinkage in forest is a staggering 25%. Illegally cut logs thus crushed many Mindanao victims'.

"For a healthy, well functioning environment...enabling institutions are needed, including a fair and independent judiciary and the right to information, UN says. nlike the Corona Supreme Court or Aquino's gutting of the

Cont. on page 10



PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

Advice from my Doctor

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



Today I went to see my new doctor in the Philippines

. He is a Chinese but he is very good.

I went to visit him today and asked him a few questions about my health and staying healthy in general. Because I heard before from some friends who recommended him, that the doctor speaks with a strong Chinese accent I recorded the conversation on my newly bought cell phone.

Here's the transcript of the conversation:

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats, and that it... Don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take nap.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: Oh no. Wine made from fruit. Brandy distilled wine, that mean they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Bottom up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have body and you have fat, your ratio one to one. If you have two body, your ratio two to one.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of single one, sorry. My philosophy: No pain...good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU NOT LISTENING! Food fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetable be bad?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Oh no! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only be doing sit-up if you want bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: You crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming good for figure, explain whale to me.

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is shape!

Well... I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.

And remember:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways — Chardonnay or San Miguel in one hand — chocolate in the other — body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO-HOO, what a ride!!"

AND.....

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

Cont. on page 10

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Mr President, verify target
the Year that was*

BY: JESUS DUREZA



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT —The Mindanao Times editorial board decided that I should write a year - ender on political events and the Pnoy presidency. Truth to tell I am a bit hesitant to do this. For obvious reasons. I belong to the previous administrations and my view of things will necessarily be through the prism of those years briefly with former President Ramos and mostly with former President Arroyo. Then I am not privy to inside info in the present government and so I have to rely mostly on media reports. But again, since my unshackling from government, I seldom watch TV or read the news, (except the Times of course!) — something I recommend to those who want a stress-free life. It's in this context that I write this, brief and cursory this may be.

@@@

PERCEPTIONS —President Aquino came into office on the crest of a seething public sentiment for reforms and change. The Arroyo administration, principally PGMA had been demonized (rightly or wrongly) and Pnoy's campaign slogan "walang mahirap kung walang corrupt" was flavor of the moment. He fine-tuned it later to "daang matuwid".

Early on, there were reservations about his ability to tackle the rigorous requirements of the presidency, taking into account his limited experience and his much-commented work ethic and his preference to keep his privacy zealously preserved during off days and holidays. Of course, those who were used to the FVR and GMA 24/7 working habits found Pnoy not up to the job. Even reference to his reported penchant for electronic games and child's play mocked him.

Then factor in the much-ballyhooed sports car, sports-shooting proclivities and his seeming propensity for pretty, salacious ladies (not surprising for a bachelor like him!) He painstakingly implores for privacy even in his love affairs but in the same breath traipses gingerly with the subject inviting, intentionally or otherwise, further comments that he seemingly disdains.

His tendency to seek the comfort zone of personal buddies and allies of like mind as his workmates stands out. His core of officials, obviously, is composed of a motley of those who personally and officially don't like PGMA, the unabashed reformers (real and pretenders), the "sunshine" political butterflies (who flit to and fro depending where the political flowers smell so sweet) and the fiercely loyal and battle-tested "yellow army".

All of these border on the negative. To a point that I heard several "yellow army" members saying they regretted voting for Pnoy into office, that he was not up to the standards of a bush-whacking and heroic father, the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino and the iconic Pres Cory.

Even his capability and competence were under cloud of doubt. Factor in the several incidents and tragedies that happened where the president's personal attention and appropriate action were found wanting. Standing out as opening salvo was the hostage-taking incident and the comical and tragic assault-rescue operations on the hijacked tourist bus in Manila that made all Filipinos red in the face for such an embarrassing episode for the whole world to see. And a host of other tragedies and crisis situations. The much-hankered special attention for Mindanao, as part of affirmative action to a region that lagged behind, was also lost in the maze.

But the most tragic was the sudden dive of the country's economic growth rate to almost half from what it was when PGMA turned over to him the reins. This is not immediately felt by many owing to its slow effect and its lack of dramatic impact but its telling effect is devastating and unless arrested and reversed, the country is in for trouble. His almost one year of starving the nation of pump-prime funds to get the economy going had its clear backlash. Then the complaint about lack of clear policies from the Palace on vital economic-related issues resulting to mix messages and therefore tentativeness of investments.

His propensity to take matters personally is also generating reactions. I recall in one speech he categorically and succinctly said that his fight against grafters is something to him not only official but a personal crusade. His lack of presidential finesse in insulting Chief Justice Renato Corona to his face who was seated near him in a speech is a glaring example. Then his crusade to purportedly return independence to the judiciary but in the process running roughshod paradoxically over

Cont. on page 10

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Erano G. Manalo, a national hero

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "...This is what the Lord says—he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland'..." (Isaiah 43:16, 18-19, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

ERANO G. MANALO, A NATIONAL HERO: As the nation and the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) worldwide remember the 87th birth anniversary of the late Erano "Ka Erdy" Manalo, its second "Tagapamahala Pangkalahatan" or executive minister for 46 years or so, on January 02, 2012, it is a source of wonder why our lawmakers, congressmen and senators alike who owe so much to him and to the INC, have not pushed for a law that will make "Ka Erdy" a national hero.

The move to name "Ka Erdy" a national hero started when he died in 2009 yet. And this is not without a good reason. Over and above his efforts that made INC a global religious group, Ka Erdy pioneered in uplifting the lives of poor Filipinos by his model land reform thrusts, much ahead of governmental land reform programs.

In 1965, he put up the Maligaya Farm in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, the first of many resettlement farms that provided not only land to the landless, but a new life filled with hope for a better and brighter tomorrow.

Indeed, all throughout his term as head of the INC, Ka Erdy's leadership saw to it that each and every member lived a decent and fulfilling life, a life filled with respect and dignity, a feat that not many Filipinos have achieved. So, may I ask our lawmakers: what are we waiting for? Let us make a law that will declare "Ka Erdy" a national hero now!

-ooo-

DISCARDING FIRECRACKER TRADITION A FAILURE: As Filipinos welcomed the new year with a bang at the stroke of midnight last January 1, 2012, I was left wondering: so, we have not been able to discard our tradition of exploding firecrackers and lighting pyrotechnics despite heavy government campaign.

The glaring truth for celebrators, however, was this: no benefit really accrued in favor of anyone by the explosions and dazzling lights. After the noise, the only things that were evident were the heavy smoke, the litter from the firecrackers and pyrotechnics, and, to some, the injuries, fatal or otherwise. The huge amount of money spent on the *super lolo, kwitis, Judas belt*, among others, was gone, just like that.

-ooo-

A NOISE GOD CANNOT REJECT: And the future still remained uncertain, for a great many of us. So what is the lesson here? Filipinos have been brainwashed by this tradition of merry-making during the New Year much too long, there is now an urgent need to re-orient our minds. We must change our mindset, and instead create a noise that God will not reject, and this is the noise of prayers from every believer.

Next New Year, if God allows it, I propose that every person who espouses belief in God must stop buying firecrackers and pyrotechnics, and instead prepare for prayer sessions and Bible studies as we bid the old year goodbye and prepare to welcome the New Year.

Happy New Year, and here's a prayer that Filipinos everywhere will aspire to be with God more through a daily reading of the Bible, through meditations on the Word day and night, and through constant obedience to the commands of God, to enable us to live a life of success and prosperity until the very end.

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INTERRELATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, PROTECT JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

The IBP through its Board of Governors reiterates its commitment to the President to ensure that the President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law.

With all due respect, the IBP, as a representative body, cannot, and should not, be a party to the President's impeachment. The President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law.

First, based on public information, the IBP has received information that the President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law. The IBP has received information that the President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law.

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constitutionally-protected power of judicial review, the very essence of the President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law.

While the President may have called for a referendum on the President's impeachment, the IBP has received information that the President's impeachment is the result of the will of the people, not the will of the President's friends and the will of the law.

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Crime Solution Efficiency Improves in Cordillera

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Crime Solution Efficiency (CSE) in the region from January to December 2011 improved to 33.27 percent as compared to year 2010 with 23.88 percent.

Records from the Police Regional Office Cordillera (PRO-COR) also showed a total of 7,631 crime volume last year compared to the 2010 figure of 9,162 or decrease of 1,531 cases or 17 percent.

Baguio City registered the highest frequency of crime volume committed followed by Benguet province, Abra is third, Mt Province is fourth, Ifugao is fifth, Kalinga is sixth and last is the province of Apayao.

The region posted an average monthly crime rate of 37.53 percent. It improved by 7.53 percent as compared to 45.06 percent in 2010.

According to Chief Superintendent Benjamin B. Magalong, PRO-Cordillera regional director, most crimes against person and property happened in the capital towns and central business area.

Pickpocketing and snatching are rampant in the streets of Baguio City especially in jeepney terminals, overpasses, market and along the central business district.

He stressed that community support and enhanced police service are two important ingredients in the prevention and solution of crimes.

Magalong encouraged the public to report any situation that may threaten the safety of the citizenry, and peace and order in the community, to the nearest police station. */JDP/JPBZ PIA CAR

Ifugao Gov says Agro-Tourism Will Boost Economy of the Province

LAGAWE, Ifugao - The provincial chief executive here believes that promoting agro-tourism of the province will help alleviate the economic situation of the people here.

Speaking in the daily radio program Humangan with PIA, Governor Eugene Balitang said that this year 2012, the provincial government will prioritize agriculture and tourism which he believe will boost the economy of the 11 towns and 175 barangays with 10 economic zones here.

"We will focus on agriculture and tourism and go back to the basics by going over the One Town One Product (OTOP) of each municipality and try to see the potentials of the each OTOP," Balitang said.

The different towns have the following OTOP: Alfonso Lista is corn; Aguinaldo- cow; Lamut-tilapia; Banaue and Hingyon- tinawon rice; Hungduan - yuyu (Japanese fish); Tinoc -vegetables; Kiangnan- blacksmith and ricewine making; Asipulo -ube and Lagawe- coffee.

Balitang is contemplating in coming up with one common OTOP for the municipalities that is commercially competitive in the local and foreign market. We will revisit our OTOPs as we start the year and agree to have a common product, he said.

He mentioned tinawon (Ifugao native rice) rice can be one products which according to him also promotes tourism. It will highlight our pride as Ifugaos, he said. He sees the convergence of line agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Trade and Industry who can help the local government units for the success of the said project.

Another product which he mentioned is Arabica coffee because he believes that this product is like 'shooting two birds at the same time'; it will support the national greening program of the Aquino Administration since all the municipalities will be planting coffee and also boost the economy.

Balitang also said that the rich culture of the people will boost the tourism of the different towns here which is rooted to the rice terraces. "Nobody will take this away from us and even though our terraces are on the verge of being delisted from the wonders of the world, we are still proud that our terraces was once the 8th wonder of the world," he said.

He also appealed to the public to continue the good values of an Ifugao such as "Baddang" (free labor) system. 'Let's continue this good value which was started by our ancestors and we should do something first before seeking the help of the government,' Balitang said. / JDP/ VDB- PIA CAR, Ifugao

RTC Judge says CJ Impeachment will not Affect Judges from Dispensing Judges fair, Impartial Judgement

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - The impeachment case filed against Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona will not affect us from dispensing fair and impartial judgment.

This was declared by Regional Trial Court Judge Marcelino Wacas in his message during the Monday's inter-agency flag ceremony at Capitol. "Amidst the controversy affecting the credibility of the courts, we will not let it affect us nor disturb us from dispensing justice," he said.

"I have to decide cases according to evidence and render judgment based on fairness and impartiality," he said of his personal conviction as a Judge. But he lamented some cases are dragged for years because prosecutors give more excuses on postponing court hearings.

In some cases he said, defendants benefit more from speedy trial because of the absence of prosecutors' clients during hearings and lack of witnesses. "I have to give leeway for them to present their client and witnesses more so if their client lives in far places," he said.

In order to conduct speedy trial of cases filed in court, he appealed for witnesses to come to litigate their cases since 'we can not do otherwise but to decide cases if the other party has no more interest or when no one comes to witness', he Wacas said. / PAB/PIA-CAR/Kalinga

Phil. Commission on Women holds First leg Magna Carta of Women info Caravan

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — The Philippine Commission on Women Information Caravan on the Magna Carta of Women held its first leg in the province underscoring the protection, promotion and fulfillment of women's rights.

PCW Deputy Director Manuela Silva stressed to groups of women who were present during the information caravan held recently at the Ben Palispis Hall, Provincial Capitol the importance of knowing the law so that they can make use of it to their advantage.

The Magna Carta of Women was passed in 2009 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations was approved in 2010.

Silva said in the social contract of President Benigno Aquino III, one commitment is the recognition of the importance of gender equality and women empowerment in all spheres of public policies and programs in a regime of gender disparities and shortfalls.

Silva said their

office, which monitors the implementation of the law, has to deliver the President's commitment. She also urged the women's groups to help in monitoring the implementation of the law for government to respond and address their concerns and to demand their rights.

The Department of Interior and Local Government collates reports of local government units in the implementation of the law while line agency reports are submitted to their respective national offices.

"All have the responsibility to implement the law not only we as women but as government, non government organizations, civil society, and private sector," Silva stressed.

Among the responsibilities spelled out in the law is for government to advocate its implementation using gender mainstreaming. It means looking into the concerns of women and men of government in formulating policies,

plans, programs, projects and services and make sure that the concerns of women are identified and are addressed, according to Silva.

The government has to do yearly Gender and Development (GAD) planning and budgeting where programs could be incorporated in implementing the law.

The Commission on Audit yearly audits GAD plan and budget including its implementation as the government agencies are mandated to allocate five percent from their yearly budget for the program, said Silva.

Governor Nestor Fongwan, in his message stressed of the Magna Carta of Women; "It is not a matter of option. It is a law. We really have to implement it."

Fongwan also underscored the need to re-echo to various municipalities learnings from the caravan to also keep them informed of their rights.

Founding President of the Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) Atty. Dennis Pulma was also one of the

Cont. on page 11

Itogon Adopts Dragonfly as Municipal Symbol

ITOGON, Benguet - This town known for its gold mines has adopted the dragonfly as its symbol.

The Sangguniang Bayan has approved Resolution No. 280 making the insect dragonfly as its municipal symbol in this year of the Dragon.

According Vice Mayor Noel Ngolob, the dragonfly, an attractive, beautiful and graceful creature is found in almost every part of the municipality. These dragonflies are plentiful all year round but they are seen mostly in summertime as well as during and after harvest time in the late months of the year.

Researches show that the eyes of the dragonfly are one of the most amazing and awe inspiring sights. Given almost 80% of the insect's brain power is dedicated to its sight and the fact that it can see in all 360 degrees around, it symbolizes the uninhibited vision of the mind and the ability to see beyond the limitations of the human self.

The dragonfly in a manner of speaking symbolizes a man-woman's rising from materialism to be able to see beyond the mundane into the vastness that is the Universe, and our own minds.

Contrary to some myths, the dragonfly does not sting and harmless to human.

The dragonfly symbolizes courage, strength, happiness, unity and industry which are the traits that could describe the Itogon folks, Ngolob, a lawyer added./JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR

1st International Skyrunning Race set on Feb. 18 at Itogon, Benguet

BAGUIO CITY - The Pilipinas Akyathlon (Philippine Skyrunning), the country's first ever international mountain trail high altitude race, is all set on February 18 at Mt. Ugo in Itogon, Benguet.

The race, spearheaded by the Philippine Skyrunning Association (PSA), in partnership with the Department of Tourism-Cordillera (DOT-CAR), the Provincial Government of Benguet and other event sponsors, will be a 32.88 km race going up the 2150 meters above sea level summit of Mt.

Ugo and back to the barangay hall of Tinongdan, Itogon.

PSA president Nina Dacanay, in a kapihan forum Wednesday hosted by DOT Regional Director Purificacion Molintas to launch the event, said that PSA, a non-stock, non-profit organization that started in January 2009, is the first of its kind here in Asia to be accredited by the International Skyrunning Federation (ISF).

"For us in the PSA, our goal is to promote skyrunning as a sport, promote eco-tourism as well as an active and healthy lifestyle.

The skyrunning event on Feb. 18 will also be the first official ISF certified or acknowledged event in this part of the region," Dacanay stressed.

Dacanay also explained that it is a part of the eco-tourism thrust of the PSA to advocate carry zero waste and the use of recyclable and reusable materials in the said event, thus they have partnered with local environmentalist group, Cordillera Conservation Thrust (CCT).

Dacanay said that they have chosen to pilot the event here in Cordillera as it is very apt with the region's mountainous terrain. Sky run-

ning by definition, is a mountain running at a minimum height or altitude of 2000 meters above sea level.

For the race course description, the almost 33km out-and-back race will start from the Barangay Hall of Tinongdan, Itogon Benguet with the first 1.7km a downhill run on paved road to the starting point of the mountain trail, in which from that point it will be mostly uphill route to the summit of Mt. Ugo before turning back to the mirror image of the route up to the barangay hall where the race starts.

The scenic Cont. on page 11

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
**LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD**
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP.
Applicants
Case No: 96-23024/96-01-1947
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a Utility Bus Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: LATRINIDAD (BENGUET)-TABUK via CARMEN (PANGASINAN), SAN JOSE CITY, BAYOMBONG, SANTIAGO CITY, CAUAYAN, ROXAS (ISABELA), and Vice Versa with the use of one (4) Unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 1, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 28th day of November 2011.
(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

Walter William's Journalist's Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935), the man who founded the world's first school of journalism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed more toward the promotion of professional journalism than any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best and best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for our day's world. /http://www.nationalpress.org.ph

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We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals - not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno www.linisgobyerno.org

DOT says 2011 a Robust Year for Tourism

BAGUIO CITY - 2011 has been a robust year for the country's tourism sector, affirmed Department of Tourism (DOT-CAR) Regional Director Purificacion Molintas, in a kapihan forum here, Wednesday.

According to Molintas, over 3.52 million foreign visitors came in the Philippines from January to November 2011, or a 12.66 percent increase compared to the 3.1 million recorded during the same period in 2010.

The top ten countries where foreign tourist arrivals came from were Korea, US, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, Hongkong, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Molintas also stressed that though they do not have the actual figure yet as they are still waiting for the reports of the different LGUs in the region, similar growth rate trend is also noted in the Cordillera with most foreign tourists coming from Korea, US and Japan, as well as Europe.

For this 2012, Molintas, who also chairs the Regional Development Council's Infrastructure Committee, bared that among the priority programs of the tourism department is a convergence program with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), involving multi-billion worth of infrastructure projects particularly on road/bridges leading to key tourism destinations in the country.

Molintas also affirmed that DOT will focus on Site Specific Product Development especially of potential tourism sites, tourism development area and tourism cluster.

In line with the DOT's thrust of further improving the tourism sector in this part of the region, Molintas also announced that they are set to hold a Regional Tourism Congress this January 11, which aims to rollout their new policies and new guidelines, which include the convergence project with the DPWH with respect to tourism infrastructure. This will be funded under the TIEZA or the Tourism Infrastructure Enterprise Zone Authority.

According to Molintas, they have invited various speakers for the said Congress including officials from the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) that handles the development of the country's different airports and seaports.

Molintas reiterated the invitations to all local chief executives in the region to come and attend such important event in further pushing Cordillera's tourism industry. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

'DSWD-Cordillera rose above challenges' -Sec. Soliman

BAGUIO CITY— Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman commended the DSWD-Cordillera personnel Wednesday saying the regional office has 'risen above challenges' brought by recent internal movements and operational difficulties in 2011.

The Secretary made the statement during her yearend meeting with field workers of the DSWD Convergence Strategy in the city.

"I acknowledge and commend everyone for a job well done. We have demonstrated our capacity (to implement) in 2011," the Secretary said.

Soliman highlighted the chal-

lenges brought by the expansion of the flagship conditional cash transfer program of the agency which has covered over 25,000 households in the region this year.

The Secretary also thanked the DSWD-CAR workforce for working hand-in-hand with the new regional and assistant regional directors after movements of leadership within the organization.

Meanwhile, Soliman also shared the accomplishments of the DSWD in 'introducing new programs' such as the Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens, the Supplementary Feeding Program for Day Care Children, and the Rice Subsidy for Farm-

ers and Fisher folks in the form of cash-for-work activities.

For 2012, the Secretary bared the directions that are focused on poverty-reduction and disaster risk reduction.

The DSWD Convergence Strategy, a three-program approach to reduce poverty among the 5.2 million poor households in the country, will expand to another 17 municipalities in the Cordillera next year. For 2011, it has covered 24 municipalities and Baguio City.

One of the three convergence programs, the Pantawid Pamilya, will cover all municipalities and cities of the Cordillera region by 2012.

Further, Soliman said there

93 Individuals Benefit From NIIT-Baguio's Xmas Gift Computer Training

BAGUIO CITY - Ninety three individuals including nine police officers, five barangay officials, two retirees, 10 Department of Education (DepEd) personnel, as well as students and other jobseekers benefitted from the free computer Christmas Gift Training Program conducted by the National Institute for Information Technology (NIIT-Baguio), in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)- Baguio-Benguet office.

The four-day hands-on training from December 19 to 22, 2011 at the NIIT-Baguio Campus at #25, 5/F of AYO Building, Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City, covered the following competencies: Fundamentals of Flash Animation, MS WORD, MS EXCEL, MS PowerPoint 2007, Desktop Publishing using MS Publisher 2007, Internet Essentials, Computer Troubleshooting with Formatting, Laptop Maintenance, Basic Computer Networking, Electronics & Electrical Home Appliance Repair and Mobile Phone Maintenance.

Recognition and awarding of certificates was held last Dec. 22, with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE-CAR) Assistant Regional Director Ted Delson and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG-Baguio) Officer Evelyn Trinidad as guests of honor.

In their statements, both Delson and Trinidad underscored the importance of continuous learning, the significance of technology and gaining affirmative skills enhancement to cope up with the current trends in today's challenging and highly competitive world.

NIIT-Baguio School Administrator and Board of Directors member Vladimir Cayabas said that such special free training service program is part of their institution's commitment to service excellence, strengthened by its partnership with TESDA Baguio-Benguet headed by Provincial Director Angela Gabriel.

"NIIT, in wanting to be a 'School that Matters!', shall continue to fulfill its service advocacies strengthened by its essential partnership with various service groups and organizations including LGUs and NGOs, regional line agencies and individuals, whose thrust are on the advancement of our people's life through potent training and functional education," Cayabas added.

Meanwhile, NIIT Baguio opens its registration for its "New Year Skills Enhancement Training Program" set every Saturday starting this January 07, 2012, which includes the competencies; AutoCAD, Flash Animation, Computer Technician and Anti-Virus Administration, Computer Networking, Photo and Video Editing, Office Applications, SQL, Java Programming, .Net Programming, Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, Adobe Premier, Printer Maintenance and Troubleshooting, Laptop Maintenance and Troubleshooting, Web Server Administration, Industrial and Consumer Electronics Servicing, Mobile Phone Maintenance and Troubleshooting and even Online Reputation Management plus workshops on Personal Development, Career Enrichment Strategies, Job Prospecting and Application Strategies, among others.

Those interested are advised to visit NIIT Baguio at #251, AYO Building, Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City or contact them at (074) 446-6431 or 0918-3523284./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

DSWD allocates P10.7M to sustain feeding program in Ifugao

LAGAWE, Ifugao — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that the feeding program of the government is going-on smoothly in all the 11 towns of the province.

The total amount allocated for the said program is P10,736,425.00 which was downloaded to the local government units (LGUs).

The supplementary feeding program is the provision of food in a form of hot meals in addition to the regular meals to currently enrolled day care children as part of DSWD's contribution to the early childhood care and development (ECCD) program of the government.

The feeding program will encourage children to attend school, teach parents the value of nutritious foods and strengthen the cooperation of parents to work among themselves to provide healthy food for children to assist in their growth.

The province has 343 day care centers (DCCs) with 6,599 day care children (DCCh) broken down to: Aguinaldo-32 DCCs and 835 DCCh; Alfonso Lista-46 and 1,001; Asipulo-26 and 416; Banaue-44 and 879; Hingyon-18 and 326; Hungduan-19 and 318; Kiangnan-38 and 558; Lagawe-28 and 547; Lamut-33 and 618; Mayoyao-35 and 554; Tinoc-24 and 547.

The LGU here entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in line with the implementation of the program./JDP/VDB-PIA CAR, Ifugao

Saving the Watershed of the Cordillera thru PES.....from page 1

steps: establish a baseline which is essential to plan and later assessment for PES; identify the product or service that will be transacted; identify the service provider which covers the determining of property rights on the production system for the product or service; identify the beneficiaries; agree on the mechanism of transaction; agree on the mode of payment; determine need for mediator and identify roles; identify constraints to sustainability of transactions and lastly define and institute a conflict resolution mechanism, Sta Catalina explained.

Through PES, financial sustainability for watershed management could be attained and reviving watersheds is not too far from reach, Sta Catalina added./JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR

Advocacy Mindanow.....

.....from page 5

the very same sacrosanct principle. Another one is his avowed mission to send to jail PGMA at all cost, even boldly (and correctly) predicting "before Christmas". "Personalan ito", he was quoted as saying

In the wake of all this, it's not seldom that some who carp about the president end up asking a rhetorical question: "how long will he last?" or "when will Binay take over?"

"COMING OF AGE"—On the flip side of the coin however, what we are seeing is quite amazing. Despite those negativities by some sectors, Pnoy enjoys a very high popularity rating. The survey poll results give him consistent high marks, not only by one polling outfit but by all who are in the business.

What does this mean?

Simply, that what Pnoy is doing is popular to the nation. And that those who carp about his presidential-style are a limited few whose views really do not matter much nowadays. In fact many of them are now even relegated to political limbo or the sidelines.

Noticeably, Pnoy's own "coming of age" is emerging. While he was underrated before and mocked as a political non-entity swept into power by the tide of discontent and anger at what was happening in the country and not of his own merit and worth, today he has clearly proven otherwise.

His "jail- GMA- before- Christmas" vow which he made, notwithstanding a few short cuts done to make it happen, was a reality check to those who viewed him differently. His ability to mass mobilize and herd congressmen, allies and butterflies, to get the necessary votes to impeach the Chief Justice and doing this in a flash without anyone noticing it was a-coming, was a feat in itself. It's political savvy, whichever way one looks at it. Cracking the whip on congressmen who are themselves considered as demi-gods in their own constituencies is no easy task. It's an adroit use of political power by the executive whose arsenal of convincing ways are of course limitless.

His doggedness in dipping Malacanang's fingers in the ARMM autonomous cookie jar by insisting on his agenda for reforms, canceling the elections and the appointment of a trusted ally, Mujib Hataman as OIC governor, showed consistency and determination to address a long-felt malaise.

Even the unprecedented gambit of giving strategic presidential time to the MILF rebels by meeting Chairman Murad in a cloak-and-dagger caper in Tokyo showed his propensity to do the unconventional. And it paid off well, from what I gathered, by generating deep and instant goodwill with the MILF and the bangsamoro constituency.

On the ground, I gathered from some project contractors that the closed faucet has now been opened with infrastructure projects going full blast. Significantly, the "take" or the profit margin has been slashed on a "take it or leave it" basis. Burdened by cash flow problems, idle machineries and manpower, the contractors have no choice but to grab available contracts at reduced prices. The right place to start real reforms for hefty savings in government coffers. Hopefully, pump-priming with funds downloaded in the mainstream will energize and revive the decelerating economy.

Of course, the international community views favorably the transparency and good governance thrusts of Pnoy's government, on a long term getting good credit ratings from international raters hence improving our credit standing and consequently reducing our credit costs in the international market. Good for the economy on a long term. I am sure there are many other positive points but I will mention only those. Oops, I don't want to skip the WANGWANG campaign that set the tone.

"WISH KO LANG"— After being Mindanao adviser to Presidents FVR and GMA for years, I have difficulty shaking off a habit of giving unsolicited advices. This time, I will just share my thoughts with a wish list, considering that this is the season of Christmas and New Year.

For Mindanao, "wish ko lang" that the President appoints from one of his close confidantes someone who can be Malacanang's action official to tackle Mindanao's unique realities. Something similar to the defunct office of the Presidential Adviser for Mindanao during the time of FVR, Erap and GMA. I also wish that the President will advise the donor community and direct government agencies to closely work with the Mindanao Development Authority so as not to undermine its newly acquired legislative status as Mindanao's focal agency for development.

For the country, I wish that while the president installs his own style and concept of good governance and transparency and issues the order to prosecute to punish those who have violated the law, he will also act as a compassionate father of the family ("pater familias") and not appear as if he is on a personal crusade that may polarize the nation.

"Wish ko lang" that as head of the nation, he upholds, in action and in words, what is sacrosanct and inviolable to us all.

SHOOTER— All told, Pnoy's personal style is his own fit and he sticks to his guns, damn the torpedoes. But as a practical shooting aficionado, he must verify to see if he's hitting his targets. Just like in a shooting competition, a shooter does not wait to finish all the stages before he checks on his accuracy and performance. At the end of every stage the range officers call out the scores after verifying the targets. And gives the shooter a chance to re-adjust in the next stages of the competition.

Who knows, after five years, Pnoy himself will no longer be the shooter. But the target

Pinupuna at Pinapansin

.....from page 4

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans...

5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like.

Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

I received this text by email today from a friend and decided to publish it here as a funny post. Do not take it serious !!

Editorial

..... from page 4

Freedom of Information bill?)

"For ordinary folk, the ultimate new year question is simpler," Sun Star said. "Will life become better for us? Will more of us live to comb grey hair?" These require a U-turn from Macapagal-Arroyo policies.

A subservient Ombudsman, meanwhile, has been replaced by the towering former Justice Conchita Carpio Morales. Former President Arroyo is under hospital arrest. In the New Year, the anti-graft court will raffle three giants sleaze cases filed by the Ombudsman against GMA, former First Gentleman and other officials for the botched National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with Chinese telecommunications firm, ZTE Corp. Impeachment trial against Supreme Court chief Justice Renato Corona begins.

The end of 2011 survey, by Social Weather Stations, found President Aquino continues to enjoy backing across all socio-economic classes. He reaped "very good" net satisfaction score of +58, or 71 percent satisfied. There were 13 percent dissatisfied.

That provides a start, so our grandkids may comb grey hair. "For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another's voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning," T.S. Eliot said./Juan L. Mercado

Canadian

..... from page 2

leader, surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and support staff and other volunteers, the outreach members will personally shoulder their transport, food and billeting expenses.

GO-MED will also bring in the surgical and medical supplies, together with the medicines needed, and will donate the unused items to the medical center.

To raise support budget for the mission, the volunteers sponsor and host dinners, dances, walks and other fund drives.

"We're looking forward to meet and work with you again," mission logistics coordinator Miechiel Maas wrote Factora last October to firm up the outreach.

GO-MED's website said it is guided by the principles of PROFESSIONAL CARE (Professionalism, Respect, Openness, Flexibility, Ethics, Standards, Supportiveness, Integrity, Observant, Neighborly, Appreciation, Laughter, Courtesy, Acceptance, Responsibility and Empathy)/Ramon Dacawi.

Council Approves

.....from page 2

Farinas said the city council also institutionalized the "Adopt-a-Park" program to make it more effective also in support of the environmental preservation campaign.

In tackling peace and order and traffic concerns, Farinas cited the passage of an ordinance providing for retirement benefits for the Integrated Barangay Tanods and resolutions urging the Baguio City Police Office to create a special task force to combat theft and robbery cases and to implement necessary measures to protect the interest of the so-called "taxi boys" and the commuters.

On improving the city's traffic situation, the city council passed ordinances providing for guidelines in the conduct of traffic experiments and prohibiting parking at all times on certain roads.

Other laws adopted by the council cited by Farinas as significant are:

*Ordinances extending cash benefits to senior citizens commensurate to the service they render in recognition of the elderly citizens' contributions and providing for at least 20 percent discount for the use of pay comfort rooms by senior citizens;

*Ordinance reviving and institutionalizing the 6 o'clock habit of the people of Baguio to stop and pause for one minute of reflection; and

*Resolution calling for the determination and official identification of the One Town, One Product (OTOP) of the city.

"Our work is not yet done. What I have mentioned as a result and consequence of a concerted, coordinated, cooperative and robust deliberation and discussion by members of the city council, as a collegial body, merely reflects the vigor and commitment by which your local government is serving you, the people of Baguio. Much is to be done, and definitely more will be done if we are to realize our aspirations as a modern city. Rest assured that the city council will do just that," he said./A Refuerzo

Ailing Nurse

.....from page 2

dergoing a successful operation in the United States, contributed P2,000 each.

Concepcion was profuse with gratitude and remained hopeful that more will be inspired to help her raise the required amount before she could be admitted at the Philippine Heart Center on January 22 preparatory for the surgery.

Her desperate attempt to cling on to life was propelled by her determination to stay with her 18-month old son Sean Aldridge and husband Marcelino Lopez, a jeepney driver.

Concepcion last November was admitted at the cardiac care unit of the BGHMC when, while on duty, her blood pressure failed.

She recovered and decided to appear at the Philippine Heart Center last Dec. 9 to hear alternatives from the experts. She was told her rheumatic heart, diagnosed in 1996, could no longer be maintained through medication and regular check-ups thus needing operation.

From her work, she obtained a document from the city social welfare and development office validating her plight and her family's inability to raise, much less shoulder, the cost of surgery.

Told people out there won't be able to help unless they know the difficulty she's

in, Shirley agreed to have her case written.

After all, she was told, some people out there may have as their New Year's Resolution a commitment to be more generous and help the needy more often, as Shirley does as nurse of the BGHMC where she was born on April 28, 1971.

The youngest of five children, she finished sixth grade at the St. Louis University Center (1982) high school at SLU Girls High (1988) and nursing at the Pines City Educational Center (1992).

She passed the nursing board in 1994 and served for eight years as private nurse of her father, Edilberto, who was afflicted with and later died of emphysema and heart ailment. Perlita, her eldest sister, works as telephone operator. Her brother Joseph died of heart ailment in 1994. Her sister Soledad is a factory worker in China while sister Julie serves as baby-sitter.

"My sisters will help but only as much as they can," she said.

Shirley will be at the gynecology ward of the BGHMC until the 14th. She'll then take a leave to rest, pray and hope for a miracle that would raise P750,000 for the surgery.

Those who want to make their donation may ring her cell phone number (09175069431) or course their support through her Development Bank of the Philippines account number 05 10145859 560. They may drop by her address at 190 Armenia St., Quezon Hill./ Ramon Dacawi.

Businesses

.....from page 3

lion. For Cordillera though, the global financial crisis, has somehow caught up in the region as revenue decreased by 18.3 percent from P195 Billion in 2008 to P159 Billion in 2009, with manufacturing decreasing by 21 percent and mining and quarrying showed an 18 percent decrease in revenue.

According to Gulla, the ASPBI is a continuing activity of NSO which aims to provide key measures on the performance, levels, structure and trends of economic activities in the entire country.

'The data collected from the ASPBI will constitute bases upon which the government and the private sector can formulate policies and evolve economic development plans,' Gulla added.

The 2009 ASPBI data is now posted at the NSO website - www.nso.gov.ph./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

SILVINA CAYAP - Vendor
JAIME M. PEREZ - Vende
Applicants

Case No: 2003-CAR-055/2012-CAR-005

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Sale and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit. Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on on February 1, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.

This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 2nd day of January 2011.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

PROCOR

.....from page 12

out that not one was ever fired.

The muzzles of the service firearms of the police were taped on December 27 as a precaution and to warn all PNP personnel from firing or illegally discharging their guns during the new year celebration that may pose danger to the people./PIA-CAR/PROCOR

1st International Skyrunning

.....from page 8

route will showcase the magnificent views of surrounding mountains, including portions of Binga and Ambuklao dams as far away as Pangasinan. It will also navigate through pine forest trails and three sitios: Cayuco, Cawayan and Lusod which leads to vantage points where other peaks in Benguet can be seen.

Mt. Ugo is known for its annual summer climb which won last year in the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines' (ATOP) Search for Best Tourism Event in the Philippines under the Sports, Adventure and Wellness Category - Municipal Level./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Phil. Commission

.....from page 7

discussants in the caravan. He explained the salient points of the Magna Carta of Women.

Pulma committed to support women's concerns adding that d he has not only read the law but more so embraced it which is a difference he wants to share in advocating the rights of women.

The caravan is spearheaded by the provincial government and the PCW together with the Office of Senator Pia Cayetano who has been supportive to programs on women empowerment, according to Silva./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet.

DSWD- Cordillera

.....from page 9

is an urgent need to prepare for the effects of climate change especially in the Cordillera.

She said there is a need to map out the most vulnerable areas and create proactive community programs on disaster risk reduction such as cash-for-work activities. She also directed DSWD Regional Director Leo Reynoso to coordinate such programs with the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

The Secretary also said the agency will be implementing next year its own PAMANA program for conflict affected communities. The program will be lodged through one of DSWD's convergence programs, the KALAH-I-CIDSS Project or community-driven development.

She also noted that the DSWD is helping the government in its talks with the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) particularly on the provision of livelihood projects for its members. The Secretary added it supports the region in its pursuit of real autonomy.

In ending, Soliman encouraged the staff to sustain their commitment and passion in serving the people. She emphasized the role of the workers in empowering the beneficiaries and gave the 2012 'mantra' to the DSWD workforce, that is, "to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate."/DSWD-CAR/PIA

Mayor Denies Hand in Tree Cutting Permit

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Thursday denied having a hand in the issuance of permit allowing the cutting and balling of trees for the expansion project of SM City here.

The mayor said the authority to issue such permits lies with the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and not with the city executive.

“My power as the city executive to issue such permits is limited to emergency situations and since the SM case does not fall in said category, then I have no power to issue such permit,” the mayor clarified.

The mayor said the permit was issued by the DENR-CAR under director Clarence Baguilat.

The site is part of the property acquired by SM through an auction sale conducted on April 22, 1992 for a bid price of P69,999,995.52 in six separate amortizations which ended in 1997 located in Residential Section “A” particularly described as Lot Nos. 3-B, 114-A, 128, 115-B, 125-A, 126-B-2, 126-A, X-1 and Y-2.

SM plans an expansion project over the site.

Domogan said that the plan of SM for its expansion was furnished his office last year.

He said that he has asked the company to include the development of a Centralized Parking Terminal for buses along Gov. Pack Road in the development plan to enable the city to realize its long-time plan.

The area measures 1,500 square meters and SM can consider the construction of a multi-level parking to help decongest the city’s Central Business District (CBD) of parked vehicles.

“We really need a terminal that can accommodate the buses in Gov. Pack road, and a positive response from SM for the inclusion of a bus terminal in their multi-level parking is a welcome development for us,” he said. /paul rillorta

PROCOR Joins Synchronized Removal of Taped Firearm Muzzles; Reports Zero Indiscriminate Firing Incident

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — The Police Regional Office - Cordillera conducted synchronized removal of taped muzzles including all its municipal and city police stations yesterday morning.

Regional Director PCSupt Benjamin Magalong together with the command group led at the Masigasig Grandstand at Camp Bado Dangwa, La

Trinidad, Benguet the simultaneous removal of the sealed gun muzzles of all PNP personnel with issued firearms including all other security agencies and gun clubs who participated in the activity.

He thanked and congratulated them for giving their full cooperation for the said campaign during the Christmas and New Year celebration.

In the strict implementation of the APIR-Aksyon Paputok Injury Reduction (Give Me Five) campaign during the yuletide season, PRO-COR has successfully recorded zero incident of indiscriminate firing involving PROCOR personnel.

A total of four injuries were recorded due to stray bullets in the region.

Magalong conveyed his wishes of peace and prosperity to all the personnel.

He further said that he hopes for more aggressive Internal Security Operations this 2012. He also added that new concepts in crime prevention will be introduced including the enhancement of police community relations in partnership with the stakeholders and most especially improving the crime prevention measures in the region.

Meanwhile, in Kiangnan, Ifugao, Chief of Police Senior Inspector George Ngaya-an inspected the issued short and long firearm of his police force one by one especially those who went on leave during the Christmas and new year’s break to determine if a gun was used. He found

Cont. on page 12

The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!



MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMING BARANGAY AND HALL OF FAMER Imelda Village Barangay headed by PB Arturo Rapelo (right front row) proudly show off the award and P55,000 cash incentive given by the city government headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Awarding and Recognition ceremonies of Serch for the Most Outstanding Lupon tagapamayapa 2010, Search For The Best Performing Barangay 2010 and to honor the partner agencies and volunteers of Pasadang Pambarangay 2011 held at Teachers Camp December 15. Also in photo are 1st Runner-Up with a cash incentive of P45,000 City Camp Proper Barangay headed by PB Aurora Abellera, 2nd runner-Up (P35,00) Loakan Proper headed by PB Jesusa Visaya and, 3rd Runner-Up with P30,000 incentive Irisan Barangay headed by PB Thomas Domalti./By Bong Cayabyab

More Freebies Await Early Taxpayers

BAGUIO CITY – Taxpayers who will settle their revenue obligations early will receive more freebies from the city government.

City treasurer Thelma Manaois announced that apart from the discounts annually given to early birds, taxpayers who will pay their taxes in full will have two chances of winning prizes: by playing the “roleta” and by joining the raffle draw set for April 13.

The three-pronged promotion is part of the city government’s social marketing program approved by Mayor Mauricio Domogan to drum up the campaign for early tax payment and rev up further the collection of real property and business taxes this year.

Manaois said that as in the past years, the city government grants discounts for taxpayers who will settle their real property and business obligations ahead of the deadline.

For real property taxes, a 20 percent discount will be granted to those who will pay their taxes in full from January 1-31.

Those who will pay in full from February 1-28 will enjoy a 15 percent cut while those who will settle their dues from March 1-31 will be given a ten percent discount.

For business taxes, businessmen who can settle their accounts within their scheduled dates of payments will enjoy a ten percent discount in their garbage and sewerage fees.

Apart from the discounts, taxpayers also get the chance to play the roulette and win an instant prize. At stake are blankets, t-shirts, coffee mugs, umbrellas, shopping bags or others.

They can also join the raffle draw by dropping their stubs marked “tambolito” in the raffle cache for a chance to win big prizes this year. First prize will be a bedroom showcase; second prize, a living room showcase and third prize, a kitchen showcase.

Consolation prizes consist of three units 32-inch LCD television sets; three units washing machine 6.5kg.; one unit 5 cubic feet refrigerator; four units microwave ovens 23 liters; ten units rechargeable lamps and five units pressure cooker./ A Refuerzo

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