

Kabsat Elaine Dominguez-Sembrano, Serbisyong Marangal at Matapat

Elaine Dominguez-Sembrano is once more presenting herself and her legislative action program for a fresh mandate as re-electionist candidate for city councilor of Baguio. Siya po ay laking Baguio, taga-Baguio, at tulad ninyo ay lubos na nagmamahal sa Baguio.

Igorot na, Ilokana pa, pero sa huli, Pili-pinang-pilipina!

Like you, she grew up in our city feeling proud that we live in a city that seems to have been fully blessed. Alam po naman natin na ang Baguio ay tanging lungsod na pinakamalapit sa langit, kaya naman binigyan tayo ng maipagmamalaking klima. Ang sabi nga po ng mga taga-Maynila, maswerte daw tayong taga-Baguio at araw-araw ay may libreng air-condition.

Sa panahon ng kanyang murang edad, naaalala ni Kabsat Elaine ang madalas na yumayakap sa ating Baguio fog, yung mga maninipis na ulap na dumadausdos mula sa langit at bumababagaling sa Mount Santo Tomas. Kanyang natatandaan na noong mga panahong iyon, malapit sa isa't isa ang mga taga-Baguio. Sa isang akyat-baba sa Session Road, isandaang kakilala agad ang makakasalubong, palitan ng kumustahan na ngayon ay naging tsikahan.

Iyon po ang Baguio noon. Isang maliit na lungsod na tahanan ng mga magkakakilalang taga-Baguio. Isang paboritong pasyalan pag sumertime ng mga taga-ibang probinsya na ang tanging pangarap ay mabisita ang Baguio kahit minsan lamang sa kanilang buhay.

Para ke Kabsat Elaine, ang Baguio noon ay Baguio ng ating mga simpleng pangarap. But, she says now, many years have since passed us by, years which saw Baguio experience many changes. The small city of our childhood has since grown by leaps and bounds to become a hyperactive highly urbanizing city struggling to be in step with the needs for modernization.

Ang sabling niyang madalas, "totoo nga po, marami ng pagbabagong naganap. Lumaki ang ating populasyon. Lumawak ang pangangailangan ng mga basic things in life. Dumami ang

gumagamit ng tubig, dumami ang mga taong ang pakay ay manirahan at mabuhay sa Baguio, tulad nating mga taga-Baguio."

Kaya naman, bilang isang baguhan, kanyang sinubukang ialay ang sarili - ang kanyang magagawa, ang maibabahagi - upang kahit papaa-

no ay mayroon din siyang maibibigay at maibabalik sa Baguio. Di po ba na ang biyaya ng buhay ay dapat lamang na sinusuklian ng anumang biyaya ng pagtulong mula sa ating taga-Baguio?

Siya ay unang hinatal noong taong 2007 bilang Konsehal ng ating lungsod at ginawang Chairperson ng City Council Committee on Market, Trade and Commerce. Sa pakikipagtulungan at konsultation sa ating mga market stakeholders, kanyang nai-ayos, kanyang nalinis, at kanyang ginawang kasiya-siya ang ating public market.

Naibalik siya sa konseho noong 2013. Muli, kanyang pinangunahan ang Committee on Market, Trade and Commerce. Lalo pa niyang pinalakas ang kampanya na mapanitiling maayos pa, malinis, at mas kasiya-siya pa ang ating palengke. Elaine says that the city market deserves nothing less, since the Uniwid development has gotten stuck up in the courts.

"After all, our public market has been serving as a tourist attraction through the years. It is but right to make the market a pleasant place to do our household marketing, a tourist attraction once more," she points out.

These past two and a half years, she did her utmost share in making our city public market clean and orderly, peaceful and safe. Ang Block 3 and 4 ay naitayo, nabuksan at naiayos upang mabigyan ng pwesto ang mga qualified vendors na taga-Baguio. "Susunod nating aayusin ang market building along Magsaysay Avenue. Matagal na itong building na fire-risk at anumang oras ay puwedeng magkasunog," she says, "ayusin na natin bago pa magka-disgrasya."

Pati na rin ang problema ng ating mga sidewalk, kaugnay ng sidewalk vending o ang pagtitinda sa sidewalk ay kanyang tinutukan. Ginawa siyang chairman ni Mayor Domogan ng task force na nag-asikaso sa problemang ito. Ngayon, lahat ng mga sidewalk vendors sa downtown area ay na-relocate na sa mga barangay, nabigyan

ng pagkakataon maipagpatuloy ang kanilang marangal na hanap-buhay.

Now, there are about 250 former sidewalk vendors authorized to sell in their assigned barangays. Naka-I.D. sila habang nagtitinda at mahigpit na mino-monitor para sundin ang vending rules na sila mismo ang nag-approve sa mga public hearing na kanyang pinangunahan.

Ayon ke Kabsat Elaine, ang mahalaga dito sa programang Barangay Vending ay nabigyan natin ang mga sidewalk vendors ng paraan na maipagpatuloy ang kanilang hanap-buhay sa marangal na paraan, even as we cleared the downtown sidewalks of informal vending.

Para sa kanya, mahalaga na bigyang respeto ang tungkulin bilang halal ng bayan, bilang konsehal na mapagkakatiwalaan, ng buong puso, ng buong dangal, at buong sipag.

"Because I believe that a clean market reflects a clean city that Baguio deserves to be at all times. Because I believe that the best showcase we can proudly offer to our people and our visitors is a clean, peaceful, and orderly market," she proudly tells the throng of visitors who flock to her office each day.

She adds that a business friendly environment will bring about more quality investments, better-paying jobs, and more contented workers and service providers.

For her, Baguio needs leaders who work hard, leaders who do their job in all honesty, leaders who perform with integrity and honor, leaders who are more concerned about building hope than weeping in frustration, leaders who will do what is right even when others are saying it is wrong.

For Elaine Dominguez-Sembrano, the best legacy she can achieve and hand over to her family, especially to her broadcaster of a daughter, Bernadette, is a clean, untarnished and honorable name. "Alam ko po na anumang yaman ay nawawala, ngunit ang malinis na pangalan ay pang walang hanggan."

Ngayong kampanya, si Kabsat Elaine ay muling humaharap na puno ng pag-asa. Kumpyansa siya sa kanyang mga nagawa para sa Baguio. Kumpyansa siya na bilib ang sambayanan sa kanyang katapatan sa serbisyong ni minsan ay hindi nadumihaan ang tiwalang nakamit ng dalawang halalan. "Ni minsan, hindi ako natinag sa mga hamon ng paglilingkod. Sa inyong tiwala, aking isinukli ang serbisyong buo ang katapatan, buo ang karangalan, at buo ang kasipagan."/The Junction News Team



MARIHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

D'Strafford Survey Showing Duterte on 3rd Spot is "Bogus"

On April 20, survey firm D'Strafford Inc. released a non-commissioned presidential pre-electoral survey that showed Roxas and Poe statistically tied at the top spot [Sun.Star]. Netizens were shocked, especially since the results do not match those of well-known survey firms Pulse Asia and SWS, where Roxas consistently ranked either 3rd or 4th among the five presidential candidates.

In her blog "RoRo and that Funny Survey" at indayvarona.com, veteran journalist and ABS-CBN columnist Inday Espina-Varona did a background

Cont. on page 6

Makapapudot ti ulo! Nagadu ti ulbod ken awan bain na nga agkandidato. Aysus, apay anya panangkita da kadayayo? Bobo? Ewan ko sa inyo, pero ako, di niyo ako maloloko!



ERS machines in Irisan still operational •page 3

Eleksyon 2016:

Expose

Alamin ang mga issues na pumapalibot kina Go, Molintas, Bilog, at Aliping. Basahin ang mga ilo sa ating Eleksiyon 2016

Special Supplement Insert.

How come candidate fails to mention that he is a Muslim

Know Your Public Servant

Elaine D. Sembrano

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 Amnesty for electric, water connection effective May 10 •page 2

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ELEKSYON

 11th of 12
 Election Issues

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WHAT IS THIS GOVERNMENT SERVICE VEHICLE DOING IN A MOTEL? This Chevrolet Trailblazer with Plate Number SAA 2067 is assigned to no less than VICE MAYOR ED BILOG! A netizen has posted this photo (no indication of date it was taken) in FB/Baguio Changer for the Best. A defender of the Vice Mayor said this is an old photo because it does not have the scratches it currently has, but nevertheless, whether old or new pic, this government vehicle should not be there, or will the Vice Mayor say this time that he was there to talk to the owner of the motel? Give us a break! Attention Civil Service Commission and Office of the Ombudsman, you know what to do!

BCPO refutes high crime rate report •page 2

Domogan backs study for public transport system •page 3

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

• Ako para sa Pagbabago!!!
 • Ilang araw na lang at
 MAGKAKADAYAAN NA!!!

•page 5 BY: NESTOR CASTRO



FAIR AND SQUARE

Choices
 (Part 1)

•page 5 BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS



PRANGKAHAN TWO

Brutal kung brutal. Walang Pakot-ikot.

www.junctionnews.com

Amnesty for electric, water connections effective May 10

BAGUIO CITY – The city council approved on third and final reading a proposed ordinance granting amnesty to applicants for electric and water connections in the city effective May 10, 2016.

Under the approved local legislative measure, applications for amnesty shall be filed with the City Building and Architecture Office (CBAO) in case of electric connections and with the Baguio Water District (BWD) for water con-

nections for evaluation and those qualified will be subsequently required to pay the necessary regulatory fees.

The amnesty for electric and water connections will run through a period of four months from May 10, 2016 and it does not mean condonation for structures in violation of the National Building Code of the Philippines and other related laws.

The ordinance stated the CBAO and other concerned agencies will

not be prevented from demolishing the said structures based on other lawful grounds.

Applicants are required to present their tax declarations, if not, he or she must secure a waiver or authority from the registered lot owner, certificate of non-delinquency of tax and barangay certification attesting that the applicant is a resident of the place, that the lot or structure is not in a right-of-way, that the lot or structure is not located in waterways and BWD water facilities or pipelines, that the lot or structure is not under high tension wires and that the lot or structure is not the subject of demolition or had been previously demolished.

However, indigent applicants certified by their respective punong barangays and the city social welfare and development office will be entitled to a 50 percent discount on the professional fees and labor cost being charged by the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines member and practitioners but the same does not apply to the fees being charged by the CBAO pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

In lieu of the certificate of final electrical inspection being used to those with occupancy and building permits, the ordinance provided that a certificate of electrical inspection will be issued by the CBAO.

The ordinance specified that the amnesty for electric and water connections

PDEA burns P4.2 M-worth of marijuana in Kalinga

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - - The Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) burned 88 marijuana bricks and at least 200 uprooted dried marijuana plants at the Provincial Police Office grounds, here.

John Balao-as of PDEA-Cordillera Region said the burned illegal stuff confiscated in separate anti-illegal drugs operations by police enforcement teams in the province was valued at P4.2 million.

According to Balao-as,

PDEA-CAR has intensified its operation against illegal drugs citing its effects to criminality.

Elaborating on the government's anti-illegal drugs drive, there must be effective coordination among the "five pillars" of justice, he said.

But for operations to yield positive results, Balao-as stressed on the significant contribution of the community in the area of providing leads against suspects involved in the illegal activity.

In the province, there

is an integrated effort established by the police, private sector and schools to stop the proliferation, use and trade of illegal drugs especially shabu. Campaigns and symposiums were conducted in schools to educate students on the ill-effects of illegal drugs.

Police intelligence reports had shown the rate of shabu proliferation in the province had reached alarming level prompting the multi-sector action. (JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

BCPO refutes high crime rate report

BAGUIO CITY – The leadership of the Baguio City Police (BCPO) belied earlier reports that the city is the sixth most dangerous urban center in the country because of alleged high crime rate over the past six years, saying that the city's crime data has been true and correct because of the awareness of police personnel that getting the true crime picture of its area of responsibility will lead to a progressive, deliberate and systematic course of action.

Senior Superintendent George D. Daskeo, BCPO acting city director,

said the reported 1,417 monthly crime incidents in the city from 2010 to 2016 is obviously bloated and without factual basis considering that there were a total of 26,761 index crimes and 47,519 non-index crimes recorded by the BCPO during the said period.

Applying the generally accepted formula, Daskeo pointed out actual data showed that the average monthly index crime rate is only 117 while the average monthly non-index crime is 207 which are way below the reported 1,417 average monthly crime rate in the city.

It can be recalled that in 2012 a team from the Regional Investigation and Detective Management Division of the Police Regional Office – Cordillera under the instruction of then Regional Director Benjamin B. Magalong conducted validation of crime data in all the police stations in the city.

Daskeo cited results of the validation showed that there were discrepancies on the reported data compared to the actual data recorded in the police blotters, thus, appropriate actions were

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People's Voice

How come candidate fails to mention that he is a Muslim

I am surprised how come Atty. Benny Bomogao makes no mention of his being a Muslim? I have asked around and was informed by reliable sources that he is a Muslim convert for the past 15 years and is active in providing legal assistance to the various Muslim communities in Baguio. My question is, how come the leaflets and posters of Atty. Bomogao do not make mention of this information which is of importance to the public? In fact, his being a Muslim would be an asset in the city council as he may be able to facilitate and to help in coordination between the city council and the Muslim community. Why so Atty. Bomogao, just asking?

Linda Solares
Woodsville Camp 7
Baguio City
(ryan_santos65@yahoo.com)

Editorial

...from page 4

are inimical to development."

Similarly, the influential Harvard political scientist, Samuel P. Huntington (1927-2008), recognized the need for an "authoritarian transition"—as in Japan, Turkey, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Singapore.

These states all modernized their economies under authoritarian terms. Only later did they open up their political systems to democratic contestation.

Insecurity and inequality will always be part of the enterprise system. "They are the unavoidable result of market operations, the price of capitalist dynamism."

But, though unavoidable, inequality can be mitigated by government activity. And it is right that the state should do so—because economic insecurity, if left to itself, will erode social order and generate a populist backlash against the economic system as a whole./ by Juan T. Gatbonton, Editorial Consultant, Manila Times

Kakampi Mo Ang Batas

...from page 4

rte and Grace. They are the only two presidential candidates now who have the chance of winning. Mar and Binay are no longer viable. The best that they can do now, if truly they also abhor a Duterte presidency, is for them to withdraw from the race, and then rally their own supporters to vote for Grace.

Of course, Duterte supporters appear unfazed and unmoved over the allegations of Trillanes against their chosen candidate, and it is unlikely they would ever dump him now in favor of some other candidate. In fact, Trillanes' moves could even increase Duterte's support among the undecided voters, or even among the supporters of Mar and Binay. Some are hoping Mar and Binay will see the light, and act like real statesmen this time.

-ooo-

PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tangiang Daan" (The Sole Way): a Bible study and prayer session online could now be heard, 24 HOURS a day, in the Philippines and the world at www.facebook.com/angtanging-daan or www.facebook.com/ANDKNK (and look for "Ang Tangiang Daan" broadcasts). Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

Fair and Square

...from page 5

9. MARLENE DE CASTRO: an advocate for youth welfare and empowerment, community development and peoples' involvement.

10. MYLEN YARANON: our Architect for urban planning and development;

11. PETER FIANZA: we believe Benny Carantes who says he is our eyes and ears on corruption and other shenanigans in the City Hall; very efficient in his job.

12. ERDOLFO BALAJADIA: notwithstanding his opposition to the legalization of illegally operating public utility vehicles in Baguio, he is still our best man on environment and protection of the city's remaining pine trees.

PARTY LIST:

ADDA – for the promotion of agriculture and farmers' interests.

BY THE WAY, quoted hereunder is what Judge Claravall's promises to achieve the City of Baguio that we want.

"We need to clean up our City, have good governance, protect our environment, save our heritage, stricter zoning implementation, control real estate overdevelopment, solve traffic congestion, improve water supply, better health care, attention to needs of seniors, develop our youth, have more jobs and livelihood opportunities, crime prevention and illegal drug use. I will work with the citizens of Baguio to find solutions to the problems we now face. Together we will rebuild our City and make it the Baguio we can all be proud of."

Fastrack

...from page 5

For Vice Mayor - Is there anyone else, other than Coun. Lourdes "Lulu" Tabanda??? If you have not read the recent previous comments of this paper at the "Dapat bang Iboto o Ibasura" portion then perhaps you could be misled and commit a fatal mistake you will most likely regret by voting for the Lying and Gambler Ed Bilog. I wish I could mention Coun. Cosalan as a second option but somehow,

there is just something not right about this fellow, and once we have unearthed and ascertained what it is or what they are, we will let you know about it. We have in fact already wrote to him about a certain issues, unfortunately, he has not yet given us a reply, however, since we just sent to him the letter recently (late last week) and given the ongoing campaign madness we opt to give him the benefit of the doubt. Therefore, I urge and enjoin you to give your vote to another decent and most capable city official and that person is none other than Lourdes "Lulu" Tabanda.

For City Councilors- I urge you to consider the following six (6) incumbents: Manong Roberto "Bobby-Bungo" Ortega, Manang Elaine "Kab-sat" Sembrano, Faustino "Tino" Olowan, Leandro Yangot, Elmer Datuin and Peter Fianza, the incumbents I mentioned have proven time and again that they can be counted on to be at the City Council.

For new comers and 1 repeater, the following six (6) are most certainly worthy of your valued vote: Manong Erding Balajadia, Atty. Ed Avila, Atty. Benny Bomogao, Atty. Eric Ueda, Arthur Allad-iw and Architect Mylen Yaranon.

Amnesty for Electric... from page 2

tions shall not apply to structures built in forest reservations, watersheds, other properties identified as government or military reservations and those who squatted within titled private properties.

It was emphasized that the amnesty shall apply only to structures built on or before the effectivity of the ordinance based on CBAO inventory and barangay certification issued for such purpose.

Majority of the councillors agreed that the amnesty for electric and water connections will be effective right after the May 9, 2016 general and automated elections to prevent the issue from being used by some local legislators as their vehicle in getting the votes of the electorates in the different barangays of the city./Dexter A. See

BCPO Refutes... from page 2

taken against those who were found out with 6 percent and above discrepancies.

Since then, the police official asserted BCPO personnel became dedicated and transparent in reporting all crime incidents that transpired in its area of responsibility compared to other police stations in different regions as stated by the validation conducted by the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management in Camp Crame.

According to Daskeo, based on the crime data used to compare Baguio City with other cities in the country, the city was ranked sixth with the high index crimes due to under-reporting of police stations of other regions not reporting the true crime picture of their area and different treatment of cases that can be handled by the barangay.

In the city, he explained there are crime incidents that could be handled by the barangays that are still being brought to the police stations like slight physical injuries.

Further, Daskeo added the accessibility of the police stations and the trust level of the community to the police contributed to the preference of the involved party to report crime incidents to the police station instead of going to the barangay for initial attention and most of the said cases end up being settled by both parties or for many instances, the aggrieved party would just request to record the complaint in the blotter for future reference./Dexter A. See

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D'Strafford Survey... from page 1

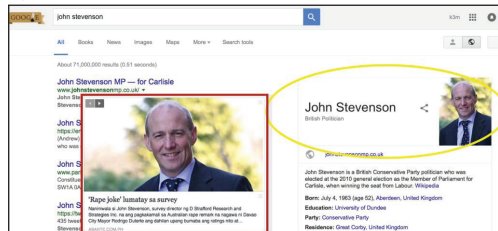
check on survey firm D'Strafford Inc. Espina-Varona cited observed some weird things about the said survey company, such as a skeletal website and non-functioning company phone numbers.

What's most disturbing, however, is Espina-Varona's discovery that there are no statisticians among the firm's officers, etc. That's just like putting up a hospital with no doctors. It sounds absurd as it is, but for now, let's give D'Strafford the benefit of the doubt.

Netizens also found out that the firm borrowed its entire website template from a Chicago-based company (<http://www.omotoshocpa.net>). Unlike D' Stafford, Omotosho and Associates details a range of services.



Further, in an article at Abante.com, it mentioned John Stevenson as D'Strafford's survey director. A Google search on the name shows John Stevenson, a UK politician. His photo is the same photo used by Abante.



Let's do a bit more sleuthing.

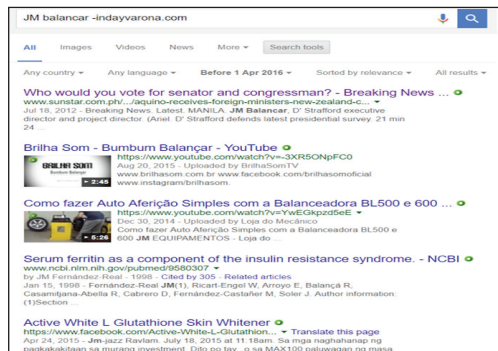
D'Strafford's Company Officers

In response to allegations of conducting a bogus survey, D'Strafford Executive Director JM Balancar said, "We welcome everyone for any questions and clarifications (regarding the survey) [Sun.Star]." Out of curiosity, a quick Google search on JM Balancar was done with the following parameters:

- Search term is "JM Balancar -indayvarona.com". The "-indayvarona.com" was added to exclude pages from IndayVarona.com, as that website uses faulty timestamps, probably due to obsolete HTML coding.
- Timestamps are important because the search is for pages published before 01 April 2016, i.e. before D'Strafford sprouted from nowhere.

Google returned seven pages worth of search results. A screncap of the search engine results' first page is shown below:

The first entry, from SunStar, is a dud: it was a about



PNoY receiving foreign diplomats. Meanwhile, all the other entries in all the seven pages have nothing to do with a "JM Balancar." That is, there is zero mention of JM Balancar on the web before April 2016.

No survey company head worth his salt has zero online presence.

SunStar Manila also mentioned D'Strafford in-house consultant Ralph Fuentes, whatever that job title means. Again, no online presence.

The D'Strafford Website

D'Strafford claims to be a well-established survey company with years of experience, so an effort was made to find evidence of this claim by doing another Google search on D'Strafford with the following parameters:

- Search term is "D'Strafford -indayvarona.com"
- Searching for posts published before 01 April 2016

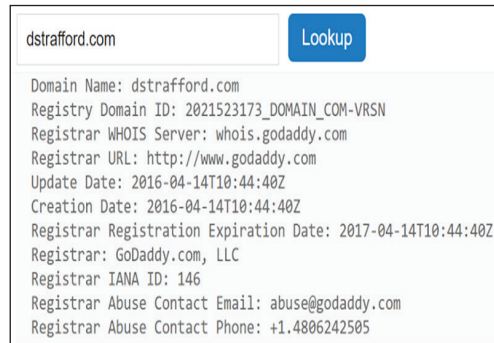
The only relevant entry is the first: D'Strafford's company website, with a time stamp of 03 December 2005. Hence, the logical question is:

Was their site created on or before 03 December 2005?

We can check this claim by taking a look D'Strafford's official ICANN domain registration records:

BRIEF: The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN] is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that is responsible for overseeing online domain registrations.

"Dstrafford.com" domain registration records show [ICANN WHOIS]:



That is, Dstrafford.com's site was first registered on 14 April 2016. Yes, just barely over two weeks ago.

D'Strafford on Twitter

It was said that this survey firm actually has a Twitter account [@D'StraffordInc]. It was discovered that D'Strafford's first-ever tweet was on 21 April 2016. Yes, D'Strafford has never tweeted anything else before that.

But things get more interesting. As of 9:00 AM 03 May 2016, D'Strafford's Twitter account follows only 17 people and it has only 30 followers.

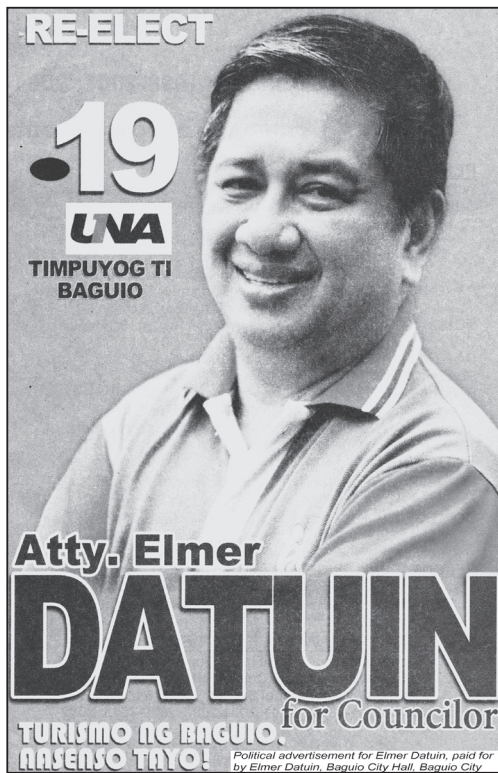
That already sounds fishy, but taking a closer look at the accounts they follow show an even more revealing story.

Of the 17 people they follow, 10 of them are obviously aligned with the Liberal Party, and the first account they followed was the official twitter account of LP presidential bet Mar Roxas. D'Strafford does not follow the account of presidential bets Grace Poe, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Jejomar Binay, and Rodrigo Duterte.

The other seven accounts that D'Strafford follows are: 1. Ramon Santos (@ramonsantos0629), 2. Jeff Zombie (@jeffzombie2000), 3. Xian Andre (@xian-andrei2), 4. Professional Hecker (@hecklerforever), 5. Kaecee Alvarez (@kaececealvarez), 6. CNN Breaking News (@cnnbrk), 7. Rappler (@rapplerdotcom)

Ramon Santos, Jeff Zombie, Xian Andre appear to be D'Strafford's twitter bots, or accounts that are managed by a program that automatically retweets D'Strafford's tweets.

Kaecee Alvarez' twitter feed also suggests that she's LP aligned too. One of her tweets is shown below:



The Professional Heckler is a political satirist, so let's just consider him neutral. The last two -- CNN and Rappler -- are news agencies, so they also count as neutral. In short, 14 of the 17 accounts that D'Strafford follows are pro-Roxas.

Final Note

A skeletal website, unreachable company phones and the absence of a statistician among its officers... Espina-Varona's blog post alone was enough to show that D'Strafford does not only issue bogus survey results: it is a bogus company itself.

And the subsequent discoveries only serve to reinforce that. An executive director who has no online history, a newly created website that pretends to be old, a Twitter account that's biased in favor of Mar Roxas, there's no doubt that D'Strafford is a dubious company at best, an LP-funded firm at worst./Thinkingpinoy.net

Domogan backs study for public transport system

BAGUIO CITY – The city government supports the conduct of the required feasibility study to ascertain the most feasible public transport system that will be put in place not only in the city but also within the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablán-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT) area.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan said coming up with a lasting solution to the city's worsening traffic woes involves the consideration of numerous factors that might affect the sources of livelihood of some sectors.

Aside from the monorail project being proposed by the DOST, some sectors are pushing for the establishment of cable cars and electronic jeepneys that would help contribute in significantly addressing the air pollution.

However, Domogan cited there is a need to first complete the feasibility studies for such magnitude of projects in order to identify the possible problems and the recommended solutions so as not to result to the displacement of local residents from their sources of livelihood once the city government will decide to adopt the most feasible, environmentally-friendly and affordable public transport system.

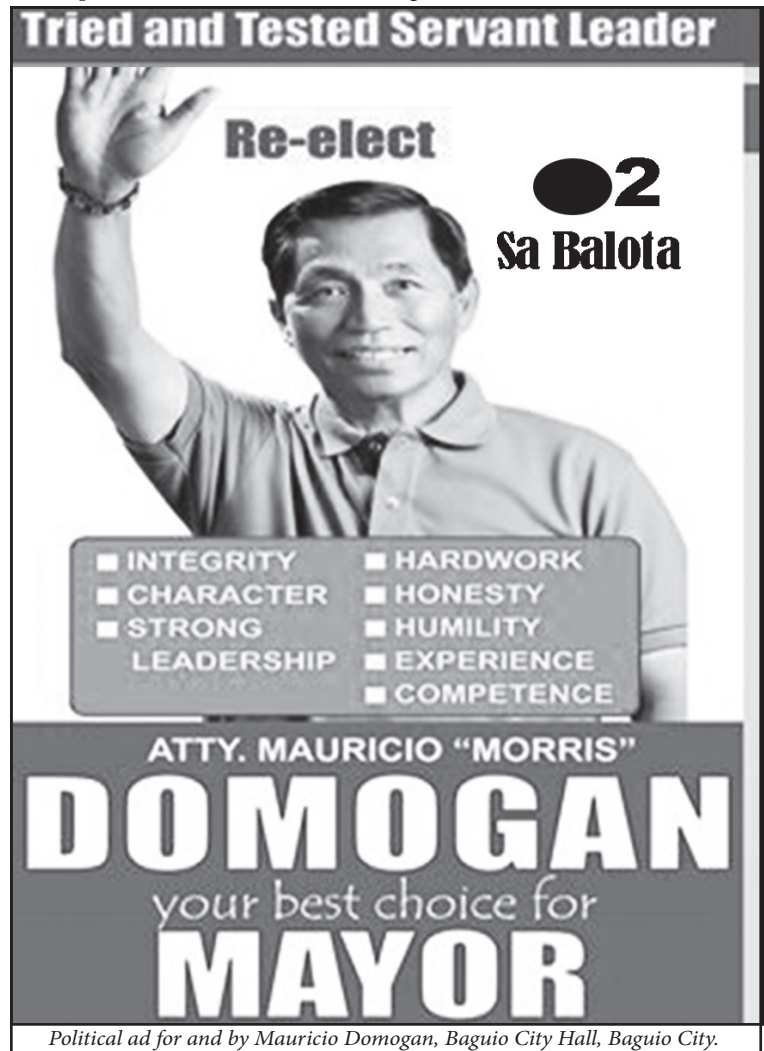
Earlier, the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC-CAR) created an ad hoc committee that will study the conduct of the pre-feasibility study for the proposed La Trinidad and Baguio lines of the monorail project proposed by the DOST-CAR.

It was learned that the 5.2-Km La Trinidad line from the Benguet Pro-

vincial Capitol area up to the Slaughterhouse Compound will cost at least P4 billion while the 2.1-Km Baguio line from the Bonifacio rotunda up to the SM City Baguio area will cost P3 billion.

Domogan claimed the local government remains open to various recommendations on how to solve the city's worsening traffic problem although initial measures have already been put in place to help mitigate the serious negative effects of the daily traffic jams.

According to him, city officials listen to the plight of the motoring and commuting public, that is why various sectors should not be hesitant in coming out with their recommendations which will be for consideration by the city officials and traffic experts./Dexter A. See



ERS machines in Irisan still operational

BAGUIO CITY– The city general services office belied insinuations by critics of the present administration that the two multi-million Environmental Recycling System (ERS) machines lodged in Irisan are not operational, saying that such unverified allegations are false, baseless and prejudicial to the interest of the city.

City General Services Officer Romeo D. Concio said one of the ERS machines is undergoing preventive maintenance because of a reported leak in its boiler, thus, only one of the machines is continuously processing the city's biodegradable waste into compost fertilizer.

The two ERS machines are supposed to convert a combined 48 tons of the city's biodegradable waste to roughly 8 tons of compost fertilizer per machine everyday.

Concio added the city

government is set to sell the available compost fertilizer to a Quezon City-based company, Raport Inovations, which is a supplier of organic fertilizer of the agriculture department, by next month using the dealer's permit.

It was learned that the supplier is set to buy some 5 to 10 tons of compost fertilizer per day and re-process the same for their clients.

Concio said, the ERS machines had been steadily operating and constantly converting the city's biodegradable waste into compost fertilizer which had been stored within the closed Irisan dumpsite area and ready for disposition to interested buyers.

The city government purchased the two ERS machines as part of the identified solutions to the previous garbage disposal problem left by the previous administration to the present

leadership after the notice from the national government on the closure of the city's Irisan dumpsite pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Aside from the conversion of a portion of the city's biodegradable waste into compost fertilizer, the segregation of waste at source and the taking of recyclable materials by segregators, the city was constrained to embrace the hauling of its residual waste to the engineered sanitary landfill in Tarlac as a temporary solution, while identifying the long-term solutions, particularly the establishment of the Integrated Solid Waste Disposal Facility in Sto. Tomas School Area or in the new offered site in the open pit area of the Benguet Corporation in Ampucao, Itogon, Benguet./Dexter A. See



New tyrannies, rising inequality threaten fragile civil liberties

Is democracy a political luxury poor countries cannot afford? The rise of the Davao City strongman, Rodrigo Duterte, in the presidential polls—and among all classes of the electorate—has raised some alarm over the future of our civil rights and representative processes.

Taken together with the emergence of Ferdinand R. Marcos as the leading candidate for vice president, Duterte's ascent suggests to a visiting journalist from the Washington Post that “the Philippines is steadily giving in once again to ‘strongman syndrome’—which he defines as “the misguided belief that tough-talking and political will alone can address complex 21st-century governance challenges.”

No Asian mode of democracy

Not just Filipinos but most East Asians have become more uncertain about their political future than they were in the flush of their “economic miracle” (1965-90). No longer do we hear extravagant claims of an “Asian mode of democracy.” New tyrannies are rising, of which Islamist terrorism is the most terrifying. Mass poverty may be easing. In China alone, 600 million people have already been raised to middle-class status. But income and social inequalities are becoming acute, as command economies switch to the enterprise system.

In sum, the region's states—though many times richer than they used to be—are realizing they cannot buy themselves out of their democratic deficits. In the ebb and flow of regional politics, some states have moved away from, and others toward, authoritarianism.

Pragmatism in Myanmar

Myanmar's brisk transition to electoral politics—after 50 years of harsh military rule—has been astounding. By last March, its ruling junta had proclaimed a new charter, installed a civilian chief executive, and elected a legislature—with a quarter of its delegates serving military officers.

With equal pragmatism, Yangon's democracy icon, Aung San Suu Kyi, conceded the junta's claim to a continued political role, though her opposition party won three-quarters of all the Parliament seats contested. Less commendable is her silence on the “ethnic cleansing” of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority.

Meanwhile, neighboring Thailand has entered another cycle of military rule (since 2007), meant to forestall populist control of the legislature and keep the Bangkok elite in power.

In Malaysia, authoritarianism is tightening up, as popular anger seethes over apparent corruption in high office. The federation's chief law-enforcer has just proposed restoring the colonial-era law that imposes caning for journalists who refuse to disclose their sources.

By contrast, Indonesia seems well on its way to parliamentary democracy. It has just elected its first President drawn from outside Jakarta's traditional ruling classes.

Singaporeans have been richer than Americans since 2004. But their country remains a no-nonsense “nanny state,” where chewing gum is banned; and spitting may cost you a fine.

Democratic exhaustion?

In our country, authoritarianism's appeal seems to come from what the Post's Richard Heydarlan calls “democratic exhaustion.” Filipinos despair over the dysfunctional bureaucracy, the self-serving politicians, and a profligate elite indifferent to their plight.

In this view, Filipinos are coming to subscribe to the political and economic advantages of authoritarian rule.

For the late-industrializing countries, the chicken-or-the-egg question has been, “What should the modernizing state first attend to: the politics or the economy?”

As Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir saw it in 1992, the Russians introduced democracy along with the free market. The result was chaos and heightened misery.

By contrast, the East Asian states and Deng Xiaoping's China accepted the market while deliberately abstaining from democracy—and became prosperous.

Authoritarian advantage?

The Singapore strongman, Lee Kuan Yew, habitually argued that political order may claim priority over individual rights. As he told the 18th Philippine Business Conference in 1992:

“I do not believe that democracy necessarily leads to development. I believe that what a country needs to develop is discipline more than democracy. The exuberance of democracy leads to undisciplined and disorderly conditions which

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Clamor for Mar, Binay to withdraw snowballs

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: “... You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our savior. You are the hope of everyone on earth, even those who sail on distant seas...” (Psalm 65:5, the Holy Bible).

GRACE POE BENEFITTING FROM TRILLANES EXPOSES VS. DUTERTE: The greatest beneficiary, or so it would seem now, of the exposes of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV against the bank accounts of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is Sen. Grace Poe.

Now, those opposing Duterte are boldly saying the only one who can stop him from winning the presidency is Grace, and the only way to make Grace a strong candidate, these Duterte oppositionists are saying, is for Liberal Party candidate Mar Roxas and United Nationalist Alliance candidate Jejomar Binay to withdraw their bids and openly support Poe. This is going to be painful for Mar and Binay, of course, but, if they do not wish to see a Duterte victory, there is no other way for them but to withdraw and openly declare their support for Grace and really cooperate with one another, at this point in time, to defeat Duterte who appears all set to win.

CLAMOR FOR MAR, BINAY TO WITHDRAW IN FAVOR OF GRACE SNOWBALLS: I have yet to see reactions from the camp of Binay about this proposal, but known allies of Mar Roxas appear to have been given the go-signal to declare they are switching in favor of Poe. One of such allies is the undersecretary of a major Cabinet department of the Aquino government who has in fact come out in the open, praising the proposal for Mar and Binay to withdraw.

In his Facebook account, the undersecretary captioned a post entitled “Only Grace Poe can stop Duterte juggernaut-Teddy Locsin” with his own statement: “Respected journalist Teddyboy Locsin is RIGHT yet again. Sa Gobyernong may Puso, walang maiiwanan.” The use of capital letters for the word “right” is that of the undersecretary himself.

What was Teddy Locsin right about that the undersecretary conformed to with his own effusive praise for Grace Poe? Here was what Locsin said, which can be read at <http://politics.com.ph/only-grace-poe-can-stop-a-duterte-juggernaut-teddy-locsin/>: “Poe is the only candidate that can stop Duterte from winning the elections.” Locsin, for good measure, also cursed those who sought the disqualification of Grace from the presidential race, in the style that Duterte is famous for.

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP DUTERTE: There is some sense in this kind of a proposal. Mar and Binay anyway have not been improving in their ratings, and are no longer the strong contenders that they used to be, or they fancied themselves to be. If we are to believe the current survey results, there is no more opportunity for them to win the presidency.

Indeed, the battle at this point has been limited to two candidates only---Dute-

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MAGKASANGGA TAYO

• Ako para sa Pagbabago!!!
• Ilang araw na lang at
MAGKAKADAYAAN NA!!!



BY: NESTOR “PAKEN” CASTRO

Ako ara sa Pagbabago - Mga mahal na tagasabaybay at nagbabasa ng aking simpleng kolum, inaanyayahan ko kayo na i-konsidera ninyo ang mga sumusunod na kandidato. Para Presidente - JEJOMAR BINAY, Bise Presidente- BONG BONG MARCOS, Congressman- Mark Go, Mayor- DEL CLARAVALL, Vice Mayor - Ed Bilog at ang labin-isang Councilors (pasensya na po mga dear readers at sampo (10) lang talaga ang sa tingin ko ay karapat-dapat) : No. 1 - op cors si Bungo, No. 2 - op cors si Datuin, No. 3- op cors si Olowan, No. 4 - op cors si Sembrano, No. 5 - op cors si Fianza, No. 6 - op cors si Yaranon, No. 7 - op cors si Yangot, No. 8 - op cors si Erding Balajadia, No. 9- op cors si Atty. Avila, No. 10- op cors si Atty. Ueda (itong si Ueda, hindi ko kilala ito pero pakiusap ng aming impakto este de facto publisher na ikampanya ko daw, kaya OK lang.)

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Ilang araw na lang at MAGKAKA DAYAAN NA - Nakaranas ang inyong linkod ng katakot -takot na inuman at lasingan courtesy ng mga talunan na mga nakaraang eleksyon. Yung mga nanalo, isang good tayman lang during thanksgiving and victory party at tapos na; ngunit yung mga talunan, gabi-gabi for 3 to 6 months. Mas matindi ang sakit at kung minsan ay na-uwi pa sa iyakan at murahan at kung anu-ano pang basag-ulo mula sa mga talunan sa eleksyon lalung lalo na sa mga kandidatong nag borderline up to the no. 20 sa ranking. Tunay na napakasakit kuya Eddie. Hi Hi Hi. Ok lang sana kung malaki ang agwat at tunay na better luck next time at try and try 'till you die na lang muna este try and try 'till you succeed, total naman mabilis ang 3 years. At ang isa pa na masakit ay ang makikita natin mula sa mga talunan sa LP (Lokoloko [UNGOY] Party Ng Daang Matuwad) kung saan ang ilan sa mga kandidato nila katulad ni Beneco Director Jun Orca (may nagawa ba itong taong ito nung PB sya???), Cabato (sino siya, ah yung tuta ni Aliping????), Ron Perez (recidivist-trying hard city councilor candidate, maglakad ka ng nakaluhod sa Baclaran at baka makalusot ka na ngayon), Paraan (sayang ang kandidatong ito at sumama kay Aliping at hindi na inisip ang na pakagandang pangalan ng mga Paraan), si Konseh Alangsab (eto yung dating Guro at dating Punong Barangay na Mister Macho na may makulay na buhay Hi! Hi! Hi!). Nakalulungkot mang sabihin ngunit mukhang mananalo ang mokong na ito, base sa inpo mula sa aking mga DPA (deep penetrating angels), sana nga lang at number 12 ka, pero ok lang kung sakali mag number 15 ka, PWEEEEEE! Etong si Allad-iw, kasi daw dati naman na siyang LP kaya mas ginusto pa niya na isang-tabi ang tamang prinsipyo at sumama kay Aliping. Ano ba ang nangyari sa iyo kaibigan? Kung nag-independent ka na lang sana, ikakampanya pa kita sa aming angkan at sa marami kong mga kaibigan, bagamat mabuti na rin at ipinakita mo rin ang iyong tunay na kulay na isa kang tuta ni Aliping at ni Pangulong “Daang Matuwad” Aquino !!!! Ang tanong ngayon ay, ano ang ibig kong sabihin sa MAGKAKADAYAAN? Mga dear readers, ang ibig kong sbaihin ay hindi magkaka-dayaan sa Comelec, ngunit yaan ang ipagdasabi ng MGA TALUNAN - NAGKADAYAAN AT NADAYA SILA KAYA HINDI SILA NANALO. AGA AMO TAYON! MGA BUWISIT KAYO, SASALI -SALI KAYO SA KAMPANYA AT HINDI KAYO MAKATANGGAP NG PAGKA TALO!!!!

FASTRACK

Why vote for the following?!



BY: FREDDIE J. FARRES

With all due respect to the readers of this column, herewith are the following candidates and the reasons I cite herein why you should vote for them, from the top most post:

For President, its DU30, there seems to be none other. Let's take a chance, what have we got to loose that we haven't already lost with the fumbling ups of past Presidents and most specially the current President?

For Vice President, according to my preference it would first be **Robredo, Cayetano and Chiz**.

For Senators- Raffy Alunan, Dick Gordon, Neri Colmenares

For Congressman of Baguio, at this point there seems to be no other than the tried and tested **Manong Bernie Vergara**, who at this point in his life is genuinely concerned with leaving a lasting legacy to his illustrious and long years of public service. Sa aking pagkakaalam ay desidido at determinado si Manong Bernie para magbigay ng tunay at tapat na serbisyo. However, if for some reason you do not feel like giving your most valuable vote to the tried and tested Manong Bernie, you may also want to take a chance with Mark Go and as I use the same analogy with DU30, I am certain that Mark Go cannot be worse than the incumbent Aliping. Simply put, walang mawawala sa atin kung subukan niyo rin si Mark Go.

For Mayor of Baguio, is there anyone else capable among the top 3 candidates (Domogs, Claravall, and Molintas) of handling the humongous and tough job of being Mayor of a melting pot like the City of Baguio? Unfortunately, a lot of people think that being Mayor is all glamour, power and that easy. Sorry to tell you but being Mayor of a city like Baguio is no easy job. Look at the track record of the incumbent, he has essentially had no foul ups, no increase in taxes for such a long time, the garbage situation is coming along smoothly, the market is not bad, peace & order is A-OK. Good projects like the multi-level parking that should have already materialized if not for the noisy and all-knowing baseless oppositors. I could enumerate a lot more but since I am not the Mayor's PR man, I have said enough. But one more thing though, unlike other local chief executives, one highly admirable practice since as far as I can recall is when you go to the Mayor's office even without an appointment whether you are a pulubi or some big shot, you will most certainly get to talk to the Mayor. It doesn't matter if it's past dinner time, you will be given the dignity and respect deserving a Baguio constituent. Hindi mo na kailangan ng apo-appointment, kahit abutan ka ng gabi sa opisina ni Mayor basta alam nila that you are there to see him, you will be given the time of day. Believe me, a lot of other Mayors, ang daming protocol etc bago mo makausap mismo ang Mayor. With the Baguio Mayor, that is not the case. Having said my 2 cents' opinion, I enjoin and urge you to please vote for the incumbent **Mauricio Domogan** (this is after all his 3rd and last term as Mayor), and if for some reason you really do not want to vote for the incumbent, I will once again use the same analogy I use with DU30 and that is, why not try Claravall, this man can certainly do no harm to this beloved City of Baguio.

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FAIR AND SQUARE

Choices
(Part 1)



BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS

By this time one week before we troop to our polling places to choose the candidates to whom we will entrust our sacred votes, we should already be preparing our choices, preferably in writing which we usually called “**codigo**,” which we should bring to the polling booths to facilitate voting.

Guided by the problems and issues left hanging by the exiting city officials, select the candidates from your list or leaflets whom you believe will deliver or make a better Baguio that we dreamed of in their 3-year term, using the standard **attributes** which preferably, they should have shown in their public or private lives, such as being---

1. with visions, not reactionary and inward looking;
2. always concerned with the needs of their fellowmen/constituents (**hindi ningas kugon**);
3. knowledgeable, competent and efficient (**and not hard to find in the offices**);
4. sincere and honest in their jobs and in their dealings with people/public (**hindi corrupt o plastic**);
5. most of all, morally upright and physically fit.

As for the group I am with, the choices we have made for the city this coming election and the reasons for the choices are:

FOR CONGRESSMAN:

Engr. Bernardo Vergara – we believe he has all the above attributes, and more; “**subok na sa serbisyo, maka-kalikasan, madaling lapitan...**”

FOR MAYOR:

Judge Edilberto Claravall – in all aspects, the better alternative for change to achieve the Baguio that we want. Competent, upright and principled.

FOR VICE MAYOR:

Engr. Isabelo Cosalan - knowledgeable with parliamentary procedures; he is our man on titling and survey of lands in Baguio. Competent, efficient and responsive (**hindi plastic, hindi corrupt**).

FOR COUNCILORS:

1. **ED AVILA:** a legal luminary; an asset on smooth and efficient legislation; our best bet for the Committee on Laws in the Council; over qualified yet circumspect.
2. **Atty. RON PEREZ:** ripe for any task in the Council; our choice on education, ecology and barangay empowerment concerns.
3. **JOJO CABATO:** inherited the honesty of his father; knowledgeable and competent to handle health care programs.
4. **Atty. BONG MANDAPAT:** our choice to Chair Public Utility, Transportation and Traffic Legislation Committee in place of Councilor Alangsab; no non-sense implementor.
5. **BOBBY ORTEGA:** still a byword name on peace and order problems and solutions;
6. **BUMMY BUMANGLAG:** a suited augmentation / alternate for Atty. Mandapat on transportation and traffic concerns; and Bobby Ortega on peace and order;
7. **ELAINE SEMBRANO:** our choice to make the public market a tourist attraction;
8. **Atty. ELMER DATUIN:** still the better man to handle tourism and parks policies in the Council.

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