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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

# Duterte-Cayetano: Bare all bank accounts of public officials, never again to Marcos corruption

To prevent corrupt officials from amassing billions worth of stolen wealth from the public, the tandem of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano strongly pushed for the lifting of the bank secrecy law for public officials.

"Dahil sa kakulangan ng matapang na solusyon at mabilis na aksyon, naging talamak ang korapsyon at gulo sa matataas na opisina ng gobyerno. Sa Pilipinas, 'pag nagnakaw ng kaunti, nakukulong, 'pag nagnakaw ng marami, nagiging senador o bise presidente," the senator noted.

He added that the country's bank secrecy law,

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*UNDER WATCHFUL EYES - Mayor Mauricio Domogan inspects the newly installed command center at city hall connecting the CCTV monitoring cameras installed along the central business district's strategic areas and "hotspot areas" for crime prevention, ease traffic congestion and to attend or assist immediately the needs of the public in case of emergencies./By Bong Cayabyab*

Dapat lang na tanggalin na yan mga bank secrecy laws pag dating sa mga bank account(s) ng mga government officials!!!



City approves anti-poverty projects

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## ABANGAN!

Simula March 30, maiinit na 12 election issues!

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BY: FREDDIE J. FARRIS



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# Cayetano pledges to end corruption to achieve universal healthcare, to enforce anti-hospital deposit law

Asserting that the poor shouldn't be burdened by the high cost of hospital care, Vice presidential candidate and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano today vowed to address corruption to realize universal healthcare coverage for all Filipinos.

"Dahil sa gulo at korapsyon, walang maayos na serbisyong kalusugan ang mga tao," Cayetano said.

"Ayon sa mga eksperto, 6 out of 10 Filipinos namamatay ng hindi nakakita ng doktor. Ang mahihirap, 'di tinatanggap ng mga pribadong ospital dahil lang walang pambayad. Sa pampublikong ospital naman, sasalubungin sila ng kulang na pasilidad," Cayetano added.

A 2014 Global Financial Integrity (GFI) study says that the Philippine economy was cheated of \$132.9 billion

or more than P6 trillion in illicit money outflows from corruption in the past five decades, incurring losses of over P357 billion yearly on average.

Cayetano said, if elected, he will push for the full coverage of the Philippine Health Insurance Company (PhilHealth), as well as the full implementation of PhilHealth's "zero billing" services to members.

It was reported that a resident doctor at the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) Hospital allegedly refused to admit a pregnant patient in labor because she did not have any cash with her.

The patient was then rushed to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, but was also not accepted since there was no vacant incubator at the public

hospital. The baby soon died after delivery.

Cayetano also vowed to put up more public tertiary hospitals in the regions, and ensure the full implementation of Republic Act No. 8344, also known as the "Anti-Hospital Deposit Law," which prohibits hospitals to demand advance payments before admitting patients in need of emergency treatment.

"Where the present government has failed on its promises, I will deliver. By cleansing the government of corruption, we will be able to provide our people better and more social services and programs like universal healthcare coverage. This is part of the bold and swift solutions I offer to the Filipino families this election," Cayetano ended. / *Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano*

## Community participation sought in citywide earthquake drill

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan urged all sectors to actively participate in the "Baguio Shake Drill" citywide earthquake preparedness exercise set on March 31 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"I encourage everyone to take this exercise seriously so we will be able to realize its objectives of gauging the city's preparedness for this type of calamity," the mayor said.

The Office of Civil Defense Cordillera (OCD-CAR) headed by regional director Alex Uy in coordination

with the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (CDRRMC) under officer Yolanda Munar last Monday formed a core group composed of the various government agencies, utility companies and private establishments to spearhead the conduct of the activity.

They agreed to come up with parameters to guide all sectors in the implementation of the drill.

Unlike past drills which were confined to certain institutions and establishments, this year's exercise will be done simultaneous-

ly in the whole of the city and will involve all of the 128 barangays. It is envisioned to depict the worst-case scenario complete with the snuffing of the so-called lifelines or electric, water and phone service outages.

Uy and Glenn Lardizabal of the CDRRMC said the idea was to allow each sector to project their own scenarios for them to realize their situations and contemplate on would-be solutions, all on their own.

From these scenarios, the core group will evaluate each

**Cont. on page 6**

## BFP reports decrease in fire incidents

BAGUIO CITY – The Bureau of Fire Protection disclosed during the flag raising ceremony last Monday at the Baguio city hall grounds that there is a decrease of 5.56% and 14% in structural and non-structural fires, respectively, from 2014 to 2015.

FO2 Blessie Marconi stressed that this is attributed to the intensified fire prevention activities of the concerted efforts of the Baguio City Fire Station and the City Local Government Unit of Baguio. However, there was an increase of 95.53% in the amount of damaged based on submitted affidavit of loss. This is because of the increased number of residential structures and business establishment in 2015.

Also, fire investigation

reveals that lighted matchstick/lighter causes the highest number of fires. Electrical connection, lighted cigarette butt, unattended cooking and flammable liquid are among those that caused fires last year.

On the other hand, there is an increase of 112.90% cases of accidental fires caused by lighted matchstick/lighter. Thus, their office needs to intensify the fire prevention campaigns as well as information dissemination to younger clients especially in elementary and middle and junior high school, and also sustain campaigns among the 128 barangay in the city.

The BFP responded to 38 rescue operations and 24 vehicular accidents last year.

"Among the provisions of RA 9514 (an act establishing

a comprehensive fire code of the Philippines, repealing presidential decree no. 1185 and for other purposes) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations is the conduct of trainings and drills on large business establishments and on educational occupancies for at least twice annually, thus an increase of 186.84% on conducted drills and trainings for 2015. Moreover, with the financial support of the CLGU of Baguio thru the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (CDRRMC), resulted to the increased number of drills and trainings to schools and barangays," said Marconi.

The city observes fire prevention month with the theme "Kaalaman at Pagtutulongan ng Sambayanan, Kaligtasan sa Sunog ay Makakamtan"/Jho Arranz

## OWLs honored

BAGUIO CITY – After a thorough search, eight (8) outstanding women leaders (OWLs) were honored during the Women's Day Program at the Baguio Convention Center, Tuesday morning before a grand parade to Burnham Park.

The awardees are: Theodora Dogup Balangcod, Julie Jovero Corpuz, Sonia Aplosen Dao-as, Josephine Almendral Flores, Ma. Christine Ponce-Garcia, Purita Padsico Malabato, Angelita Bangaoet-Gayados and Jennifer Alagon Mejia;

The eight joins 72 previous Outstanding Women Leaders (OWLs), a program which started in 2006, program officer Patricia Anne Gallardo said. The board of judges are Imelda Bisnar OWL for 2010; OWL 2007 Jeanette R. Cawiding; OWL 2011 Gloria Leal; OWL 2014 Atty. Nellie M. Olaires and OWL 2017 Dr. Milandre Rusgal.

The selection committee includes OWL 2012 Marlene de Castro of Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA); Civil Service Commission (CSC-CAR) officer Adoraline Marigza; Young Women Christian Association (YMCA) officer Arnea Canutab; Arlene Olsim of Igorota Foundation, Inc.; Baguio City Police Officer PSI Brenda Macliing; Noel Mabutas of the Special Services Division- City

Mayor's Office (SSD-CMO); City Social Welfare and Development Officer (CSWDO) Dolores Busacay.

There was detailed nomination, a well-defined judging, interview and brainstorming over the score sheets for this batch, Gallardo said.

Awardee University of the Philippines (UP) Botany professor Dr. Balangcod is a medicinal plant researcher, specifically for Cordillera flora. Her works recognized by President Benigno Aquino, and now funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Planting of indigenous species of trees including bamboo, citrus and coffee for soil stability and erosion guard are some of Dr. Balangcod's advocacies.

Corpuz, a teacher for several decades has shaped the lives of her students, some OWL awardees themselves. Now a retiree, she is more involved in the city's socio-civic; environmental and community endeavors.

Daoas, is a member of the Baguio Water District (BWD) board of directors and an officer in various socio-civic organizations. Instrumental in presenting native weaving for livelihood, she endeavors the use of "inabel" for formal and daily wear. Hired as a young teacher at the Baguio Colleges Foundation (now University of the

Cordilleras), she retired as Vice-President for Administration and now serves as a guest lecturer.

Flores, has a museum in her residence at Lualhati barangay with her collection of artifacts, Cordillera attire and books. Retired from the Dep-ed as regional education supervisor, she inculcates the Cordillera culture through indigenous dances, songs, games and teachings.

Garcia, meanwhile, embodies an empowered woman; a mother, a corporate and career woman, and a well-rounded community leader; maintaining that health and well-being, education and economic empowerment, and sustainability leads to over-all development and prosperity.

Gayados is the founder of the Baguio Market Vendors Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BaMaVeMP-Co) which started in 1997 with a capital of P50,000 from 50 members, now a multi-million coop with 950 members. The coop also has a two-storey building at the market for their use.

Mejia, a single mother, is the first in the Cordillera region to be a certified security professional. Now, the regional chapter president for industrial security, she endeavors to professionalize the women

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**FIRE PREVENTION**—Members of the Baguio's Bravest (Fire Department) demonstrate how to contain a burning LPG tank and prevent the fire from spreading during the observance of Fire Prevention Month held at City Hall grounds after the flag raising ceremony./By Bong Cayabyab

## Sobrepena's credibility in doing business questioned (not just in Camp John Hay)

**B**AGUIO CITY — The credibility in the way Sobrepena-led Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco) Chairman Robert John Sobrepena who is also MRT Holdings Inc. (MRTH) Chairman is up in question with various issues hounding his companies.

The Koalisyon ng Daang Matuwid said that Sobrepena's statements against the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) are only driven by his business interests and not the public's interest.

Coalition spokesperson and Akbayan Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez said the businessman has been involved in a long line of questionable transactions, among them, the College Assurance Plan (CAP), which sought court rehabilitation due to financial problems, and the issues involving the Camp John Hay Development Corporation.

The mismanagement of CAP has led to thousands of students unable to pursue a college education due to financial losses reported by the company.

Parents' hard-earned money which was invested in CAP to make sure that their children will be able to acquire a college degree ended in the drain, when CAP was unable to deliver its obligations to provide for

the tuition and allowances of the youth who were supposedly covered by the College Assurance Plan.

In Camp John Hay, P3.712 billion in lease rentals for the use of prime properties in the former US military rest and recreation facility have not been received by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the government corporation tasked by law to manage the facilities left by the US government.

Atty. Arnel Paciano Cassanova, BCDA President, said, "Sobrepena-led Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) for years has reneged on its obligation to pay rentals. They claimed losses, but continued to issue dividends to their stockholders."

From the lease rentals, 25 percent or 928M should have gone to the city of Baguio and its surrounding communities who are part of the BLISTT (Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, Tublay). This could have financed public services such as the building of schools, hospitals and roads that would have benefited its residents.

"Milyon-milyon po nawawala sa city at sa national government," Casanova told the city officials in one of its meetings on the status

of Camp John Hay lease rentals.

Aside from CAP and Camp John Hay, the MRT woes, where Sobrepena is again in the forefront affect hundreds of thousands of commuters in Metro Manila who endure, long lines and crowded coaches daily due to the inefficiencies of MRT Holdings.

The MRT Holdings has filed an injunction case with the Court of Appeals stopping the DOTC from acquiring 48 light rail vehicles to augment the need and address the overcrowding.

"The riding public deserves a much better MRT-3 than what the private owner (Sobrepena) is providing. That is why we exercised political will to add new train cars ourselves. Not only did MRTH fail to add them, they even filed a case to stop us when we did, said DOTC Secretary Jun Abaya. MRTH's case against DOTC is a case against the public. So we are fighting this case for the public interest," he added.

The CAP, MRTH and CJHDevCo all went to court to stop the government from doing what it needs to do in the performance of its mandate, thus bringing more hardships and inconvenience to the general public./BCDA-PR

## Autonomy IEC still on

**B**AGUIO CITY — The push for an autonomous cordillera region goes on, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said, as with efforts for Mindanao's Bangsamoro peace process.

The pronouncement was made during the Kapihan Sa Baguio roundtable dialogue on the Bangsamoro peace process and cordillera autonomy, March 9, at Lopez Hall, Philippine Military Academy, Fort del Pilar. Participants in the dialogue include PMA officers and cadets, representatives from the national line agencies, offices and the academe.

The mayor spoke of a 5-point agenda for Cordillera autonomy: a regional identity with the unique culture, tradition and heritage worth preserving to be made permanent and the definition of a Cordilleran; the usual government set-up, thus no diminution of existing powers as to the local government code; no displacement of existing employees and officials; a subsidy for socio-economic infrastructure to catch up with other regions; and financial sustainability to be provided after the period of subsidy.

Maguindanao-born Efrén Elbanbuena, Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Regional Director, Region 11 said issues on Bangsam-

oro Basic Law (BBL) were discussed in other key areas in the country, with Baguio as a North Luzon venue. A multi-sectoral interaction during the information and education campaign is encouraged, he said.

Mindanews Editor-in-Chief Carolyn Arguillas cited the peace process for 27 provinces, 33 cities and 6 regions as needed to make Mindanao a "paradise" to 21M multi-cultural individuals. Despite the negative notions as to Mindanao, it possesses rich and enviable natural resources.

It took 40 years of peace process and 36 years of autonomy experiment for 5 provinces and 2 cities of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), she said. The inauguration of the BBL law should be forthcoming, she added.

Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Chair of the Government Peace Panel posed questions on the solution of social justice problems, related the peace process story to the on-going cease fire and the cultural inequities of the indigenous peoples.

Ferrer said the poorest provinces of the country are in Mindanao where basic needs or human development indicators are lacking. Sustainable peace

could address said problems, she added.

Chair, MILF Peace Panel and the Bangsamoro Transition Committee Mohagher Iqbal, in his first time to visit Baguio, specifically the Philippine Military Academy, brought with him a plea for the pursuance of the peace path. As the formal negotiation ended, there is a need to enact the BBL, he said. If good prevails, Mindanao improves, he further said.

An open forum between the panelists and the cadets allowed for assurances and a plea for the peace process.

PMA superintendent MGen Donato San Juan, Jr., who welcomed the delegates expressed the need for sincere words on issues for lasting peace. This is a historical opportunity where we should move forward, he said, "we can be united, prosperous and peaceful," thus our perspective and decisions should focus on the future, without barriers.

Marcos Mordeno, Mindanews chair and Ferrer spoke of Mindanao as the home of gracious people with a colorful culture who are tired of war. We need to end the war and sustain the gains of the peace process, they said.

A presentation of books on the peace process followed the forum, at the same venue./Julie G. Fianza

## Water harvesting facility at the Botanical Garden

**B**AGUIO CITY - Climate change as been a great factor why the city government in Baguio has water deficiency in its ecological park like the Botanical Garden.

It is for this reason that the city government here has plans of building a water harvesting facility that will provide water daily to the area.

Accordingly, Water harvesting technology is any manmade/artificial technique, scheme or facility that collects, impounds or stores water coming from the rain, springs, deep well, streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

To ensure water to preserve ecological parks, the city government here recently partnered with the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) through its Watershed and Water Resources Research

Center (WWRRC) in the application and extension of ERDB technologies on water harvesting technologies.

ERDB is the principal research and development arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) over watershed as well as resources and the implementer of the program on Technology Transfer and Extension Services.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan and ERDB acting director Henry Adornabo recently signed a memorandum of agreement wherein the latter will provide technical assistance to the city to establish a water harvesting demonstration facility through the conduct of trainings on water harvesting technologies, techno-for a and techno-exhibit.

ERDB will also provide technical assistance in

various forms of extension services for the use of Environment and Natural Resources bamboo technologies in the rehabilitation of denuded areas within the identified site for water harvesting.

They will conduct site monitoring and coaching to the city to improve the water harvesting sites.

On the other hand, the city will participate in trainings, techno-exhibits and techno-for a as well as to involve the ERDB in the development of the said facility and site.

The city will also promote and showcase sustainable water harvesting technologies and encourage water harvesting technology adoption by stakeholders and visitors at the Botanical Garden.

Meanwhile, Baguio residents too are urged and encouraged to practice rainwater collection systems through gutters and downspouts, catchment surface, storage tanks among others./Jho Arranz



# Poe should be ashamed of herself



Guess who shouldn't really be running, with the least experience, but for whom the Supreme Court bent over backward to accommodate

GRACE Poe-Llamanzares, indeed, should be. Her consuming greed for power, her vaulting personal ambition to be President has yoked even the highest court of our land to her will, dragging its justices to the level of her and her patron President Aquino's legal manservants.

One can argue that the question of whether Llamanzares is natural-born or not, whether qualified to run for President or not, is such a complicated legal issue that the nine justices appointed by former President Arroyo were divided on it, so that five voted in her favor while four didn't.

But to have four justices, the least experienced and least qualified to be Supreme Court justices and, therefore, the most beholden to Aquino, to all vote for Llamanzares is as strong an indication as any that the President, well, told them to do so. It just can't be coincidental that the following shameless four voted in Llamanzares' favor:

## The Shameless Four

1. Ma. Lourdes Sereno, a lackluster legal academic plucked out of obscurity by Aquino and put in the High Court in 2010, and then in 2012, over the heads of all the other 13 more senior justices, appointed to replace Renato Corona as chief justice in 2012, at 52 the youngest ever appointed to the post and the first female — and I would insist, the most unqualified. The analogy is that of

Aquino appointing a lieutenant teaching at the Philippine Military Academy to serve as Armed Forces Chief of Staff. If you wonder what Sereno, a college chum, did to deserve that post, read her

## EDITORIAL

voluminous dissenting opinion against the Court's decision ordering Hacienda Luisita to comply with agrarian reform laws.

2. Marvic Leonen, two years younger than Sereno, and like her, an obscure, although noisy academic, his appointment a sort of reward by providing the legal (yet flimsy) justification for the peace agreement with the MILF, and the consequent Bangsamoro Basic Law.

3. Francis Jardeleza, who has had no experience as a judge in his entire legal career, his working life devoted to lucrative corporate lawyering for the country's elite. His post at the court is a reward as being the main backup for Ombudsman Conchita Morales in their campaign to put opposition figures to jail and as Aquino's Solicitor General; and lastly,

4. Alberto Caguioa, 56 years old, Aquino's college classmate, his legal counsel in Malacanang for the past four years, and so clearly Aquino's legal factotum competing with Sereno and Leonen as the justice with the least qualifications to be a justice of the highest court of the land. His legal career is so obscure that one can't even find any information on him on the internet, except a news article about him when he was appointed to the Court last January. He replaced Martin Villarama, who strangely, or not so strangely, retired seven months before his scheduled date in August, so that Aquino could appoint another one of his boys to the Court.

That's how Aquino has debased the highest court of the land, appointing to it the least qualified but the most willing and ready to do his bidding. And who defended Poe in the Supreme Court? Of all people, Aquino's Solicitor General Florin Hilbay, who is supposed to defend government agencies and not individuals. How much more in-you-face declaration of Aquino's backing of Poe could you get? And it is this kind of men that really allowed Poe to run for office.

## How dare her?

How dare Poe debase our system for the rule of law, so that the Court would throw to the dustbin the clear constitutional provision that the highest post of the land, must be reserved only to natural-born citizens? This essentially and philosophically means persons without an iota of doubt are members of this nation that they didn't have to do anything to be Filipino citizens? How dare her say "God wanted the Supreme Court decision?" Or is Aquino now her deity?

How dare Poe insist to be President, when she, a daughter of a rich celebrity couple abandoned her nation and denounced her Filipino citizenship? (Her adoptive fathers indeed were such a rich, celebrity couple that President Marcos and Imelda, at the height of their popularity and power in 1968, were their wedding principal sponsors.) Poe then became "Filipino" so she could be a Senator, sensing that she could exploit people's incapability to distinguish real people from the movie roles they play.

It's even an open-and-shut case that she used the US social security number of a dead man in her first years there, a modus operandi of illegals in that country. That's a federal offense. In the event she becomes Philippine President, the US can use that as a threat to make her act as a Washington puppet?

Who the hell does Poe think she is? The messiah sent by God to save the Philippines? Can anyone please tell me what particular skill or talent or wisdom she has, for her to deserve to be the nation's President? How dare Poe insist she can lead this land when she is the most unqualified person to ever seek this highest post?

She spent most of her working life in the US as a kindergarten teacher and in the lowest rungs of

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"This is beyond Grace Poe, this is beyond the elections. This is about respect for the rule of law. So, whether it will be decided five years, ten years from now -- This is not a personal thing against Grace Poe, but we want that it's the Constitution and the rule of law that will triumph in the end," he added."

-Amado Valdez  
Dean UE College of Law

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

We must accept SC  
Poe ruling

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves..." (Romans 13:1-2, the Holy Bible).

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POINTERS ON HOW TO UNDERSTAND SC POE DECISION: The explanation as to how or why the Supreme Court voted 9-6 in favor of Sen. Grace Poe's presidential candidacy is yet to come, but there are certain points that should be understood now by our people on how the tribunal decides the cases that are brought before it.

First, the Supreme Court is a collegial body. Its decisions and verdicts are dictated by the justices who comprise the majority in any given case or issue, which is to say, any case or issue which is brought before them will be decided according to the view that is supported by a bigger number, or by the majority, of the justices.

More importantly, whatever the bigger number of justices say on any particular matter, even if many lawyers would later on contradict them, becomes a part of the law of the land and is required to be obeyed by all citizens, whether in government or in the private sector. In effect, the Supreme Court is infallible in its decisions, because it must be obeyed at all times.

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SC BECAME MORE POWERFUL UNDER 1987 CHARTER: This right of the Supreme Court to pronounce a judgment on the cases brought before it is long recognized here and abroad. Under the 1987 Constitution, the tribunal alone, together with the courts under it, is vested with judicial power. And this power extends not only to settling cases and disputes.

Under an innovation introduced in the 1987 Constitution, the Supreme Court was made more powerful than its 1973 counterpart because it has also been given the power to look into act of any government official or agency, and say whether the official or the agency committed abuse in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities and in the exercise of their powers and responsibilities.

In 1936, the Supreme Court itself, in deciding a case entitled "Angara vs. Electoral Commission", G.R. No. L-45081, July 15, 1936, justified this power of the Supreme Court to adjudicate disputes and controversies by and among citizens and other entities by saying that under the Constitution at that time, it is only the Supreme Court which has been given the authority to resolve legal and judicial cases.

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WE MUST ACCEPT WHAT THE SC SAID IN POE CASE: It would do well, therefore, for those who feel aggrieved by any decision or resolution of the Supreme Court to simply accept what the high tribunal issued as its ruling. This is the system that the Philippine Constitution has established, and it is the system that all of us must obey.

Of course, agitated litigants or interested third parties may pursue the filing of a motion for reconsideration or, if one is powerful enough as President Aquino has shown at the start of his term, impeach the chief justice or the other justices of the court who decided adversely against his interest. At the end of the day, however, the system remains the same---the Supreme Court must be obeyed.

Obedience to the tribunal is not only the legal---and therefore the most logical---way of doing things. It is even the most spiritual, considering the dictates of the Bible that each and every citizen must subject themselves to the governing authorities, because there is no authority that was not established by God. We have also been told that anyone who fights the authorities is fighting God Himself, and would suffer punishments.

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PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tanging 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/angtangingdaan](http://www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan) or [www.facebook.com/ANDKNK](http://www.facebook.com/ANDKNK) (and look for "Ang Tanging Daan" broadcasts). Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com).



## MAGKASANGGA TAYO

&gt;Impeachment para sa 9 na SC Justices!!!

&gt;Nakasisiguro ba si Tong Aliping?!?!?

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



## FASTRACK

US Visa fees raking in \$100 million +++ annually

(Reprint from Last week)

BY: FREDDIE J. FARRES



## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

SEIZING SUSPECTED NOKOR SHIP RECKLESS &amp; PROVOCATIVE

BY: JESUS DUREZA



**I**mpeachment para sa 9 na SC Justices - Kung saka-saka-li Poe na mamalasin ang ating bansa ay sa unang pagkakataon magkakaroon tayo ng isang pangulo na hindi pa kuwalipikadong tumakbo para sa pinakamataas na posisyon ng bansa at pati na rin ang first gentleman ay isang US citizen at ang mga anak Poe nila ay puros US citizens rin. Ano ba namagn kalokohan itong pinaggagawa nila na pagwa-walanghiya sa ating saligang batas? PINAGTATAWANAN NA TAYO NG BUONG MUNDO. Ang hirap nga namang isipin na sa isan-daang milyong Pilipino at sa dinami-dami ng pupuwedeng pagpilian na kandidato para presidente ay ipinagpipilitan ng mga iba itong si Poe.

Itong namang babaeng ito ay hindi na nahiya at ipag-pipilitan ang kanyang sarili at gagawin ang lahat para baluktutin ang batas para lamang maka-takbo para sa pinakamataas na posisyon sa bansa! Kitang-kita ang kanyang kasakiman sa kapangyarihan. Gobyernong may Puso? MAMATI KA! Bull Shit!!! Nagkaroon lang nang pagkakataon na siya ay naging anak ng isang sikat na artista (FPJ) na isa rin namang walang track record sa public service at lalung-lalo na itong si Grace Poe na isang zero accomplishments ay hindi na nahiyang tumakbo para pangulo.

Hindi ko lubos na maisip na ang siyam (9) na mahistrado ng korte suprema ay siyang maglalapastangan at wawalanghiyain ang ating saligang batas, Tsk! Tsk! Tsk. Ayoko ng mag-komentaryo hinggil sa mga posibleng dahilan kung bakit ginawa ito ng siyam na mahistrado at sila ay nag astang mga P \_\_ a. Basta sa ngayon, kung hindi mare-reverse ang kanilang desisyon ay kakailanganin na ma-impeach ang siyam na mahistrado or at least ang cheap jastis man lang na si sereno ay ma-impeach. Kaya ang aking panalangin na lang ay Mahal Na Panginoon Maawa Poe Kayo Sa Mga Pilipino, Wag Na Wag Poe Ninyong Payagan Na Mahalal itong Si Poe.

####

**N**akasisiguro ba si Tong Aliping?!?!- Tumitindi ang bakbakan para Tongressman este Congressman, mabigat ang gapangan sa iba't ibang lebel ng local government, mula sa mga kupitan este kapitan ng barangay pataas ay ginagapang ng mga makapangyarihan at mayayaman na kandidato ang kanilang itinatakabong posisyon bagama't hindi pa naman nag-uumpisa ang campaign period at sa March 26 pa mag-sisimula ito. Last year pa ay nag-umpisa na ang unofficial campaign period.

Pinaka mainit sa lahat ang kampanya para tongressman sapagkat kung inyong maalala ay nuong nakaraang eleksyon, ay 2000 plus votes lang ang lamang ni Tong Aliping (MALIIT LANG) at alam naman natin na nakuha kasi ni Tong Aliping ang Aglisi Ni Manalo este Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) at sila ay may 5,000 to 7,000 na bobotante este botante sa Baguio. Isipin ninyo na kung hindi nakuha ni Aliping ang INC ay sa kangkungan siya pupulutin.

Sa kasalukuyan ay malamang na makukuha muli ni Aliping ang INC unless makuha ito ni Apo Bernie, ngunit ang tanong ay makasisiguro ba si Apo Aliping na siya na nga muli ang magiging anak ng Diyos at mahahalal na tongressman? Bagama't hindi tayo statistician, alam naman natin na marami ring konsiderasyon ang pumapalibot para mahalal at hindi lang naman parating pera ang nagiging konsiderasyon ng maraming mga bobotante este botante at mayron pa ring mga ibang aspeto na kanilang titingnan at bibigyan ng konsiderasyon.

Kaya sa ngayon ay kung ako si Apo Aliping ay hindi ako magiging kampante at hindi ko memenosin si Apo Bernie at Apo Mark Go na sa akala ng marami sa kanyang mga kaalayado ay 100 % sure ball na siya na mahahalal ng mga bobotanteng este botanteng mga tanga este taga Baguio na gusto ng tuwad na daan ni Penoy!!!

The following is a letter addressed to the Honorable US Ambassador Philip Goldberg sent by the undersigned to the US Embassy on August 19, 2015. Fortunately, soon thereafter, the person this columnist was sponsoring for a trip to the US was given a visa.

August 18, 2015

HIS EXCELLENCY PHILIP GOLDBERG

Ambassador

US Embassy Philippines

Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Subject: Fleecing and opportunism heaped on the Filipinos by the US Embassy Manila

Dear Amb. Goldberg:

With all due respect, I write you with an extremely heavy heart. Last August 14, 2015 was the scheduled interview for tourist visa (B1/B2) at the US Embassy Manila of \*\*\*\* for a visit to Guam, who unfortunately was denied a tourist visa. As a result of this, I gathered as much information I could get my hands on, on the process your embassy subjects countless Filipinos. It would appear and I am of the conclusion that your embassy is engaged in outright fleecing and opportunism that has to be endured by my fellow Filipinos. In view of this, I would like to share with you my comments and suggestions:

1. The visa applicant of \*\*\*\* was for a visit to Guam as indicated in the application. During the day of the interview, he had brought all letter guarantees etc. I also learned that a US Visa can be used for entry to the different states, therefore since the intent and purpose was just to visit Guam, why not make a restriction on the B1/B2 visa allowing only access to Guam? Surely this will not entail astronomical costs on your part.

2. The idea of having tourist visa applicants to pay the amount of P7,300+ to my mind is a legal form of fleecing and opportunism, and should be stopped. Why so you may ask? Certainly, your administrative costs is far less than that and given the number of applicants on a daily basis that if I were to compute it, at a modest 2,500 applicants (average daily, but according to others the number grows to over 4,000 applicants daily) multiplied by P7,300/per applicant would amount to EIGHTEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P18,250,000) daily and again multiplied by 22 days would be a staggering amount of FOUR HUNDRED ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P401,500,000) per month or NINE MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,125,000) X 12 months = ONE HUNDRED ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$101,500,000). Which brings me to ask, of the 2,500 daily applicants, what percentage gets approved is it 2% or perhaps 3%, is it more or is it less? MR. AMBASSADOR, don't you think this an outrageous fleecing opportunism by the supposed to be self-appointed democratic leading country of the world?

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO THE SEEMING FLEECING, SCHEMING AND OPPORTUNISM OF THE US GOVERNMENT:

Reduce the ridiculous P7,300 per visa application fee and charge instead a reasonable P1,000 for denied applicants. For successful visa applicants charge a fee of P44,000.00 or \$1,000. First off, the high charge for an approved visa applicant would serve as a part deterrent to those who intend to do "tago-ng-tago" at the same time you still make P1,000 for every denied applicant who after going through your minnie minny moe method of non-verification will not cause my fellow Filipinos to curse the Americans to the high heavens. Undertake a several-step visa application processing with instituted guarantees. Meaning Step 1 - file and pay P1,000 fee. Step 2 - do an honest to goodness diligence assessment of the applicants as I know so many of my countrymen whose families (whole families) were denied and who simply wanted to see the US and their families for a brief vacation. Step 3 - deny or approve, but once denied cite the specific reason(s) for denial which I am sure you could easily do if you at least did a reasonable verification on the travel purpose of the applicant. For visa applicants who have friends or family in

I almost fell off from my seat when I read the Sunday newspapers reporting that a SUSPECTED (caps to highlight) North Korean cargo vessel "Jin Teng" docked in Subic port delivering palm kernel for farm animal feeds was impounded as part of the United Nations asset freeze sanction against volatile North Korea for its missile program in defiance of UN rules. Wow! The Philippines is the first to immediately act within hours of the release of the sanction orders. We are now the first to show bold moves and be internationally compliant. Well and good?

WRONG! If you ask me, this is another reckless and provocative move and whoever ordered and sanctioned this must be exposed and held responsible for the consequences of this "kneejerk reaction".

I read closely the Philippine Daily Inquirer report which said that the ownership of the said vessel is not even clear yet whether it is North Korean or not. Our Coast Guard officially found that the ship's papers showed that it was a Sierra Leone-flagged vessel owned by a company based in the British Virgin Islands. It is registered under the name of Golden Soar Development whose address is in Hongkong's Tsim Sha Tsiu tourist district. Philippine government merely followed the alleged UN list and without the Philippine government doing due diligence to first verify the ownership. If further verifications showed this is indeed North Korean, then by all means. We all know this is a difficult and long process with the usual layering of documents, flagging and situs of registrations. But at this time, this is premature; definitely not at this stage when we have not even done the most basic step of verification. This is grossly reckless! And if we cannot eventually pin this down as a North Korean vessel, we will all be red in the face: an international embarrassment!

I visited South Korea exactly one year ago. I went to the so-called "38th parallel", that great divide that separates the two still warring Koreas and where north and South Korean soldiers face each other eyeball-to-eyeball everyday up to now hoping no one pulls the trigger first. There had been stories from those who escaped who told us about the north, of how repressive and harsh life and how volatile and juvenile the young KIM JONG-UN, the Korean leader had been. He deserves to be internationally sanctioned. But we must show to the world that we also do due diligence.

I worked in Malacanang for many years. It is unpardonable to act this aggressively on such an internationally sensitive move without first the cabinet security cluster meeting (or its equivalent now) and weighing options before a decision is made. Or was there one that we do not know of? Then let it be known publicly.

This is also recklessly provocative. Let's not all be surprised if the next rocket launch by Pyongyang will be directed at our shores. Anyway, they are just test launchings! Then we can send our outriggers and bancas to battle!/ADVOCACY MINDANOW FOUNDATION, INC. (AMFI)/Follow us at Twitter: AMFI\_Mindanow /Email us: info@advocacymindanow.org /Visit us: www.advocacymindanow.org

the US who intend to sponsor the applicants and happen to be US citizens, require the family member or friend to post a guarantee bond to be issued by a bonding company in the US. In this case, Uncle Sam can earn more in case of bonds redeemed/used. If the friend or family member is not yet a US citizen and is a permanent resident, should they choose to transition to US citizenship their being granted citizenship will incur a five (5) years delay if in case the visitor tourist they guaranteed for will not comply with visa rules (overstays or does TNT).

With the measures that I have suggested, I believe the Filipino illegal entrants to the US will greatly be reduced as I am almost certain that very few of my countrymen based in the US will be willing to go out on a limb and condone fellow illegal entrants knowing that they will be held accountable. However, this is now the clincher, you may not really want to reduce the entrants of illegals and give your embassy less

Cont. on page 6



## Editorial...

from page 4

white-collar employment. What experience did she gain acting as head of the agency that rates movies and television shows for her to think she can be President of this nation of 100 million people, the 12th largest country in the world? Since when has articulateness in English – a skill Filipino immigrants to the US achieve in a few months' time — become enough qualification for the presidency?

Even if he bungled most of his jobs, at least Manuel Roxas 2nd had 23 years of experience as congressman, senator and Cabinet member. Vice President Jejomar Binay had engaged himself in serving the people as a human rights lawyer fighting a dictatorship in the 1970s and served as mayor of a major city for 22 years, and the last six as vice president. Rodrigo Duterte had been fighting crime as a prosecutor in Davao, then headed that city for 28 years, and by his own claim even killed enemies of society.

## Poe takes us for fools

Yet Poe takes us for fools by saying that “she lacks experience in politics, yes, but also in corruption.” Utter nonsense. What would you do if you were being prepared for a heart surgery, and the surgeon told you that yes, you were his first patient, but not to worry, nobody has ever died under his knife?

This nation is going down to the dogs, and we don't even realize it. Poe is the most unqualified candidate to run for President ever, and will be – next, of course, only to her father Fernando Poe, Jr.

FPJ may have even had a nobler purpose, to save his bosom friend, the ousted President Joseph Estrada, who begged him to run for office so he could be President and free him from jail.

Poe is just 48 years old this year. A more responsible person, one with the country's welfare in mind would have thought: “I'll first be vice president, or senator, or a Cabinet member for six years, so I'll have the experience and the wisdom to be president in 2022, when I'll just be 54.” But no, she can't wait.

Why does she want to be President right now? Is she thinking that giving up her US citizenship was too big a price, a fair one only if she becomes President now?

What motivates Poe? Sheer egoism, and her tongue, after having tasted power, has become a serpent consuming her.

Or is it a classic case of foundlings, and she's out to prove her worth, which her biological parents denied her?

Poe is very much an educated person, an Assumptionista, a UP college student majoring in development studies, and with a B.A. in Political Science in Boston College.

She knows in her heart she doesn't have the experience to be President of the Republic, and that she, analogously, has the skill set of a nurse or even an orderly, who insists on undertaking surgery on a person lying on the table in the operating room.

But she isn't deluded as, say Duterte's spiritual teacher Apollo Quiboloy who has been declaring he is the Son of God. Poe knows that she is exploiting the most ignorant facets of the psyche of Filipinos who confuse her for the daughter of the mythical hero Panday, the role played in the movies so often by her adoptive movie actor father.

Indeed, in a survey I've cited before in a column, 45 percent of those who would vote for her picked her because she is “kind, like her father,” that she will “continue the good work of her father” and that she will “fulfill her father's promises.” The father here obviously does not refer to FPJ as a person but to his Panday image and other movie-screen heroes he had portrayed.

She is fooling the country and knows it. Yet she insists on running, even debasing the Supreme Court by getting it involved in allowing her to run for President, despite the Constitutional ban on naturalized citizens.

Shame on her. And on Aquino who helped her debase the Supreme Court because of his fear that he would go to jail immediately if the opposition won the presidency. Shame on Chiz Escudero, her adviser who has been using her as his path to power and wealth.

Shame on the powerful figures behind her, among them Estrada and William Gatchalian, with the former thinking that Grace's run for the presidency is “FPJ Part II,” the winning episode, and with Gatchalian seeing it as Erap Part II./tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com

## Duterte-Cayetano...

from page 1

which is among the strictest in the world, has become a major stumbling block on resolving many corruption and money laundering cases in the public sector.

“Public officials like the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Vice President Jejomar Binay can easily dip their hands on the nation's coffers because somehow, our legal system allowed them to conceal their true wealth through dummy accounts. Bolder solutions are needed to end this disorder,” Cayetano stressed.

Meanwhile, Duterte said yesterday that Binay has no

## FASTRACK...

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work to do as your embassy may lose a large chunk of the \$101,500,000 annual cool revenue you are enjoying at the expense of what I believe you assess the Filipinos to be an idiotic masochistic race that would be willing to undergo such humiliation as some of them apply as many as 5, 6, or even 7 times just to get a tourist visa. But on the other hand, given the \$1,000 visa fee, who knows, after your due verification, you may just come to realize that a good-enough number are trust worthy to be allowed a tourist visa and therefore might even allow you a larger revenue than \$101 million annually.

MR. AMBASSADOR, please do what is right and stop F- the FILIPINO PEOPLE.

Very truly yours,

Freddie J. Farres

Email: ffarres@yahoo.com

Mobile No. 0917-5069123

Copy furnished:

- Donna M. Blair, Consul General
- William W. Christopher, Nonimmigrant Visa Chief
- Mignon T. Cardentey, Nonimmigrant Visa Deputy Chief
- Members of media
- Philippine Senators and Congressmen
- Civic and cause oriented groups
- US State Department
- Filipino associations in the US

## Community participation...

from page 2

sector to determine their level of preparedness and this will later be considered as a tool to improve the city's reference system for disaster management.

The core group agreed to come up with parameters and mechanics to serve as guide for the sectors in conducting the exercise.

The city will serve as a pilot area in the exercise which is considered as OCD's major disaster risk reduction and management activity which aims to imbibe among residents the concepts of earthquake preparation by familiarizing themselves with the duck-cover-hold technique and the evacuation plans and procedures.

Domogan earlier issued an administrative order activating and implementing the incident command system to test the city's preparedness and response schemes through the citywide drill.

He tasked the various government and private agencies to do their part.

The Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Association of Barangay Councils were tasked to activate all barangay disaster councils while other line agencies and city government offices along with the business groups, law enforcement and military institutions and media were directed to enforce their own disaster rescue plans.

To effect a true-to-life no-lifeline scenario, utility companies were requested to cut their services for at least 15 minutes.

The nationwide drill is by virtue of a memorandum issued by OCD Administrator Undersecretary Alexander Pama for the conduct of the first quarter nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill which will be launched in Clark Airbase./Aileen P. Refuerzo

business talking about corruption. “Who can solve corruption? Binay? All I can say is that I noticed that Binay has large arms counting money,” the tough-talking mayor said.

The senator said if elected, he and Duterte will push for a measure allowing the full disclosure of bank accounts of officials accused of graft and corruption. They will also pass an anti-dummy law that will prevent public officials from hiding their true assets in dummy bank accounts.

“By promoting transparency and accountability among our public servants, we can be sure that there would be no more Binay-like or Marcos-like plunder of the people's money,” Cayetano said.

“Kapag walang korapsyon sa gobyerno, mas maraming matatanggap na serbisyo ang mga tao, matitigil ang gulo at tiyak na may tunay na pagbabago. Ito po ang inaalok namin ni Mayor Duterte sa ilalim ng aming gobyerno,” Cayetano concluded./DC-HQ

## OWLs...

from page 2

security force with quality service, without having their dignity compromised.

Malabato, is an OFW for 14 years in Macau before coming home to community beautification, cleanliness drives and urban gardening. Widowed early, she brought up her children, now both professionals, alone. She is a three-term barangay official, awarded by the city as an outstanding kagawad of Upper Rock Quarry barangay.

In a response after the awarding ceremonies, Daoas thanked family members, friends, and the community for their support, and urged women to explore limitless potentials, dream and aspire for the best.

Her fellow awardees during a group interview, echoed the same. They urged fellow women to strive for the best, keep a strong faith, be academically updated and physically active.

Middle Rock Quarry women presented an energetic dance number during the program to the delight of the audience including Former Mayor and Congressman Bernardo and Gloria Vergara, Councilors Leandro Yangot, Jr., and Joel Alangsab, Mrs. Rebecca Domogan, and former councilor and character city advocate Phillian Weygan-Alan.

Joshua Lumbao, winner of the children got talent contest last December also performed several song numbers for the crowd.

Guest of Honor and Speaker City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) head Cordelia Lacsamana spoke about efforts needed for a more livable, sustainable world through an integrated approach. “We have a world to protect,” she pointed out.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan spoke about the country's having women top leaders; the late Corazon Aquino and former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Women have the capability, competence, knowledge and skills and some are better than men, he said. He complemented on the OWL awardees' distinguished and excellent performance in their fields. They truly serve as encouragement, inspiration and challenge for the future generation, he added.

There are 9 women department heads at city hall, the mayor cited.

Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, council committee chair on women, social services and urban poor, said women perform in all aspects; health, environment, political, business and economics. Women take on the role as active partners in development with empowerment, skills, talents and right attitude.

City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) head Betty Fangasan, challenged the women and groups present to help achieve the Millenium Development Goals (MDG). We need to stand united in purpose and action, she said, we also look forward to seeing men and women being treated equally.

Other activities in celebration of womens' month are; the Ecological Fair/Recycling contest at the People's Park on March 19-20; awarding of the best performing barangay women's organization on March 20, 1 - 4:00 PM at the SM event center, Socio-cultural activities (Choral, Ethnic and Folk Dance competition, ethnic attire fashion show) March 23, 1 - 5:00 PM, at the city multi-purpose hall; announcement of poster and slogan contest winners on March 28, 8:00AM at city hall; and, modular sessions for women: seminars on gender sensitivity, practical skills training and livelihood program at the barangays, on schedule.

The programs are sponsored and supported by the Council committee on social services, women and urban poor chair Betty Lourdes Tabanda, Civil Service Commission (CSC-CAR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD-CAR), womens' organizations, General Services Office (GSO), Balikatan sa Kaunlaran, KALIPI, University of the Cordilleras (UC), Igorota Foundation, Innabuyog-Gabriela, Save our Women, Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA), City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), Philippine Information Agency (PIA-CAR), Special Services Division-City Mayor's Office (SSD-CMO), Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) and women's month committee; government offices, national line agencies, and affiliated groups.

The theme for the celebration is, “Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda.”/Julie G. Fianza



## Roxas 2nd has become an object of ridicule, a butt of jokes



Two of the funny Facebook memes vs Roxas.

Whatever the recent presidential-preference surveys say, the President's bet, and the declared candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, Manuel Roxas 2nd, is really out of the race – roughly the current version of the 1992 ruling-party bet Ramon Mitra in that year's elections.

In both cases, the early talk was that a strong party machine and overflowing finances would push them from the No. 4 and No. 5 ranks to the winning spot on election day. From the 20 percent levels Mitra was registering months before May 1992, he finally ended up fourth, with just 14 percent of the votes. Meanwhile, former Philippine Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos won with his 24 percent and the firebrand Miriam Santiago, the runner up with 20 percent. Both had tied at the No. 1 slot for months before the elections.

But Roxas is in a much, much worse situation. Browse the social media and you can't miss the conclusion: Roxas has become a figure of ridicule, the butt of very funny jokes and Facebook memes. And nobody, of course, takes a circus clown seriously.

Vice president Jejomar Binay is accused of corruption during his term as mayor of Makati; Grace Poe Llamanzares is weighed down by issues regarding her citizenship and lack of experience; Duterte by his Dirty Harry thinking and empty braggadocio.

In contrast, people no longer bother to discuss Roxas' culpability in the "Yolanda" aftermath, or for his bungling of the MRT-3 project, which had made Metro Manilans' daily commute a hellish experience, or for his paralysis while 44 of the elite police troops under his command were being massacred in Maguindanao. He is, instead, being laughed at, or ridiculed, for his "epal" attempts to endear himself to Filipinos by portraying himself as Mr. Palengke and Mr. Kargador, even for falling off his motorcycle in a post-Yolanda episode.

Indeed, I can't fathom why Roxas would allow photos of him taken in such ridiculous situations – lying down in what appears to be dry ice in a warehouse, pretending to be a tricycle driver, furiously directing traffic in a drizzle, carrying a sack of onion or rice.

His silly attempts to portray himself as not a rich brat but a man of the masses have been just too much for Filipinos not to laugh at. That is precisely the common thread in comedy: an egoistic person's failed attempts to be somebody else, as exquisitely portrayed in Charlie Chaplin's "The Dictator."

### What if I eat...

That he is now the butt of social media jokes was demonstrated in a cruel Facebook meme showing Roxas in deep thought, with a thought bubble in Filipino: "I've run out of gimmicks, what if I eat shit?" (see image). Vulgar as that may sound, the meme was posted on a lot of FB walls.

Another recent example is a photo of him supposedly in a Cebu university enthusiastically waving to students crowding several floors. On nearly each of those floors, though, were posters of Duterte. I myself had believed that picture to be authentic. However, the FB post turned out to have been "photo-shopped" by Duterte's supporters, and the unaltered photo didn't have the Duterte posters. That it didn't enter my mind, and that of most FB viewers, that the funny photo might have been altered is proof that I had also begun seeing Roxas as a bungling fool.

A presidential candidate being ridiculed is the surest sign voters no longer consider him a serious candidate. At best, he would be someone from whom they wouldn't hesitate to accept a campaign T-shirt or even money, but would think demeaning for them to vote for. Manny Villar in 2010 was ridiculed as the rich guy who claimed he "swam in garbage" in his youth, while Joe de Venecia in 1998 was dubbed the

"mouse."

One of Roxas' big mistakes was leaking through a PR man his information that Duterte had cancer of the throat and would unlikely finish the race. Other than the fact that that PR guy's Facebook page had all praises for Roxas, it didn't, of course, require much sleuthing in to find out who was financing the PR operator. A smart candidate would have leaked that kind of information to another candidate. As a result, Duterte was livid, and for a few crucial months threw all his deadly vitriol against Roxas.

Now, what candidate would cross swords with a street-smart politician from Davao (or for that matter Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City)? People from that area (and in Tondo as well) have developed amazing skills in the art of ridicule, and the Filipino translations of their Visayan tirades even underplay their hilarity.

Roxas even fell for Duterte's taunts, which not only made him more ridiculous but also a wimp, somebody from a convent school pretending to want to fight a street-smart hoodlum. "Pinatulan" is the Filipino word difficult to translate exactly into English but which best describes Roxas' clumsy responses to Duterte's threat that he would slap him if he saw him on the campaign trail. (Roxas said slapping was for girls and that he preferred a fistfight. Duterte retorted by challenging him to a gun duel, which silenced Roxas.)

### Of mice and men

Aquino's plan to set up a Yellow Dynasty by having Roxas as his successor has, indeed, become a classic story whose essence is captured by that famous quote from Robert Burns' poem: "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

Starting 2014, they undertook a full-blast campaign with the Senate and the Ombudsman as tools, to bury Binay under a hail of corruption charges, and they spent nearly a year and a half for such an expensive operation.

Either it was too early, or was based on really very flimsy grounds, or appeared to be so much of an Administration plot that people ignored it. Proof of that is Binay's 33 percent voter-preference rating (Poe has 23 percent), the highest among the candidates in Metro Manila, which has by far the most developed media infrastructure that disseminated efficiently the charges against him.

The character-assassination campaign failed, with the charges believed only by Aquino's naive core yellow supporters, mostly from the upper classes, who, however, make up less than 10 percent of the voters. After retreating at the height of the attack, Binay's ratings rebounded – at the best time possible, which was a few months before election.

And election campaigns (as well as basketball games), as most political strategists (and coaches) know, are games of momentum.

The Aquino-Roxas duo also didn't realize that Grace Poe-Llamanzares had enjoyed the taste of power so much that she refused their offer for her to be Roxas' running mate, which they thought was a done deal and the dream team. Llamanzares as presidential candidate instead eroded much of Roxas' base, which already had been battered by his Yolanda ineptness, corruption at MRT-3 and drastically, by the Mamasapano massacre. And now, if Llamanzares is disqualified, her votes – private surveys show – won't go to Roxas or Duterte, but to Binay.

With their hubris, Aquino and his Yellow Cult had believed surveys of the President's high "satisfaction ratings" that they were unable to sense the public's disgust, especially that of the poor, with them. To package himself as the Daang Matuwid champion has been Roxas' monumental error, forgetting that Aquino wasn't voted to office because of his principles but out of sheer sympathy over his mother's death. Duterte – from all places, a frontier town – emerged, rallying around him the anti-establishment crowd. Totally unexpected, Duterte has become Roxas' deadly nemesis, and Binay didn't have to do anything in terms of negative campaigns, which is what most voters want a candidate to be, i.e., somebody who doesn't pull another one down.

All the while, Binay has been doing the crucial ground-campaign, not only handshaking with and hugging the masses, but touching base with mayors and governors all over the country, who, time and time again, have proven to have the power to tell their constituents whom to vote for. Duterte doesn't have time, physical energy, and finances to export his charisma and ground campaign outside Mindanao. Voters will smile and nod as they take Roxas' money, but they'll laugh at him as soon as he turns his back. If nothing drastic happens in the next 62 days that would hit Binay in a big way, and if Llamanzares is disqualified, we're likely to see a landslide victory for the vice president, as President./Roberto Tiglao/tiglao.manilatimes@gmail.com

## To allow Grace Poe's bid is 'mockery' of polls – Carpio



DISSENT. Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio says to allow a presidential candidate who was deemed not natural born Filipino by the Commission on Elections is a 'mockery' of the polls. Carpio photo by SC

"To allow a person, who is found by the Comelec not to be a natural-born Filipino citizen, to run for President of the Philippines constitutes a mockery of the election process," says the senior associate justice.

MANILA, Philippines – "The framers of the Constitution, and the Filipino people who ratified the Constitution, could not have intended such an anomalous situation."

This is what Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a known critic of Poe, said in his 55-page dissent on the Supreme Court ruling allowing presidential bet Grace Poe to run for president. Carpio was among the 6 justices who voted to disqualify Poe from the race.

Carpio focused on the issue of Poe's citizenship, reiterating she is not a natural-born Filipino – both as a foundling and a former American citizen. (READ: TIMELINE: Grace Poe's citizenship, residency)

Carpio also sided with the Commission on Elections when it cancelled Poe's certificate of candidacy, saying the poll body has jurisdiction to decide on candidates' qualifications ahead of the elections.

"To allow a person, who is found by the Comelec not to be a natural-born Filipino citizen, to run for President of the Philippines constitutes a mockery of the election process. Any person, who is not a natural-born Filipino citizen, running for President is obviously a nuisance candidate under Section 69 of the Omnibus Election Code," Carpio said.

He added that allowing a so-called nuisance candidate to run for the highest post "renders meaningless" the constitutional power of the Comelec to "enforce and administer all laws...relative to the conduct of an election."

"The election process becomes a complete mockery since the electorate is mercilessly offered choices which include patently ineligible candidates. The electorate is also needlessly misled to cast their votes, and thus waste their votes, for an ineligible candidate," he said.

### Burden of proof on Poe

Contrary to the majority decision, Carpio maintained the burden of proof rests on Poe, as a candidate seeking to run for the highest post in the country. (READ: Leonen: Shouldn't Grace Poe carry burden of proving citizenship?)

"Any person who claims to be qualified to run for the position of President of the Philippines because he or she is, among others, a natural-born Filipino citizen, has the burden of proving he or she is a natural-born Filipino citizen. Any doubt whether or not he or she is natural-born Filipino citizen is resolved against him or her. The constitutional requirement of a natural-born citizen, being an express qualification for election as President, must be complied with strictly," Carpio said.

Since Poe is claiming she has Philippine citizenship, Carpio said no presumption should be entertained in her favor.

Poe's citizenship issue is two-pronged. Aside from being a foundling, the matter became more complicated by her renunciation of Philippine citizenship in 2001.

For Carpio, the mere fact that Poe reacquired Philippine citizenship after pledging allegiance to a foreign country made her an "alien" and her reacquisition through Republic Act 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act is already an act of naturalization.

"In short, natural-born Filipino citizens who have renounced Philippine citizenship and pledged allegiance to

Cont. on page 8



Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 59  
BAGUIO CITY  
(Additional Family  
Court of Baguio)

IN RE: PETITION FOR  
THE CORRECTION  
OF THE ENTRIES IN  
THE CERTIFICATE  
OF LIVE BIRTH  
OF AMYTHESS  
MARGRETHE FAYE  
SARITO MARZAN,

TERESA SARITO  
MARZAN,

*Petitioner,*

-versus-

THE CITY CIVIL  
REGISTRAR OF  
BAGUIO CITY  
AND THE PHIL-  
IPPINE STATIS-  
TICS AUTHORITY,  
OFFICE OF THE  
CIVIL REGISTRAR  
GENERAL, QUEZON  
CITY,

*Respondents,*

x-----x

SPECIAL PRO. CASE  
NO. 2510-R

ORDER

A verified Amended  
Petition by the petitioner,  
through counsel alleged  
among others, that:

“1. Petitioner is of  
legal age, married,  
Filipino Citizen and with  
residence at #101 Lower  
Rock Quarry, Baguio  
City where she may be  
served with processes of  
the Honorable Court;

“2. Respondents are  
being impleaded as  
nominal parties the custo-  
dians or records of birth.  
The City Civil Registrar  
of Baguio City may be  
served with the Court’s  
summons and other court  
processes at their office  
address at T. Alonzo  
St., Baguio City. On  
the other hand, respon-  
dent Philippine Statis-  
tics Authority (PSA),  
formerly National Sta-  
tistics Office (NSO), can  
be served with the Court’s  
summons and processes  
at its office address at  
CVEA Bldg., East Ave.,  
Diliman, Quezon City  
1101, Philippines.

“3. Petitioner got  
married to WALDO  
WILFREDO QUEZADA  
MARZAN on AUGUST  
24, 1997 at St. Augustine  
of the Hippo Parish,  
Naguilian, La Union; a  
copy of their Certificate  
of Marriage is hereto  
attached and marked  
as ANNEX “A” to form  
part of this Petition;

“4. Petitioner’s first  
child was born on

December 12, 1995 and  
christened AMYTHESS  
MARGRETHE FAYE  
SARITO MARZAN, a  
copy of her Certificate  
of Live Birth is hereto  
attached as ANNEX  
“B” to form part of this  
Petition;

“5. In the Certificate of  
Live Birth of Amythess  
Margrethe Faye issued  
by the Philippine Statis-  
tics Authority, formerly  
NSO, particularly in  
Entry Item No. 13, the  
Middle Name of father  
is “QUESADA” and  
in Entry Item No. 18,  
the Date and Place of  
Marriage is “JANUARY  
20, 1998”, there is a need  
to correct the aforemen-  
tioned details of the Cer-  
tificate of Live Birth, for  
the following reasons,  
to wit:

a. To correct the Entry  
Item 13, NAME OF THE  
FATHER, the Middle  
Name that was entered is  
“QUESADA” because the  
correct middle name is  
“QUEZADA”; and

b. To correct Entry  
Item 18, DATE AND  
PLACE OF MARRIAGE,  
the date and place  
entered is “JANUARY  
20, 1998”, because the  
correct Date of Marriage  
is “AUGUST 24, 1997”;

6. Petitioner’s second  
child was born on April  
24, 1998 and christened  
Waldemar Christian  
Sarito Marzan and in  
his Certificate of Live  
Birth particularly in  
Entry Item 13, Name of  
FATHER (First, Middle  
and Last), it contains the  
correct Middle Name of  
the father which is  
“QUEZADA” and in  
Entry 18, DATE AND  
PLACE OF MARRIAGE  
OF PARENTS, it is also  
contain the correct date  
of marriage of parents  
which is AUGUST 24,  
1997. A copy of the Cer-  
tificate of Live Birth is  
hereto attached and  
marked as “ANNEX “C”,  
to form a part of this  
Petition;

On the basis of the  
foregoing, the petitioner  
prays of this Honorable  
Court that after due  
notice, publication and  
hearing, judgment be  
rendered by:

“1. To correct the  
Entry in Item 13, Name of  
Father (First, Middle and  
Last), which is the Middle  
Name of the Father  
from “QUESADA” to  
“QUEZADA”; and

“2. To correct the  
Entry in Item No. 18,  
DATE AND PLACE  
OF MARRIAGE OF  
PARENTS, from  
JANUARY 20, 1988 TO  
“AUGUST 24, 1997”.

Finding the Amended  
Petition to be sufficient  
in form and substance, let  
the same be heard before  
the Regional Trial Court,  
Branch 59, Baguio City  
on May 3, 2016 at 10:15  
o’clock in the morning,  
at which place, date  
and time, the petitioners

shall prove their case.  
Any person interested  
may appear and show  
cause, if any there be,  
why the petition should  
not be granted.

Let a copy of this  
Order be published  
at the expense of the  
petitioner in the The  
Junction, a newspaper of  
general circulation in the  
City of Baguio and in  
Benguet province once a  
week for three (3) consec-  
utive weeks.

Likewise, let a copy of  
this Order together with  
a copy of the petition  
and its annexes, be  
furnished the Honorable  
Solicitor General, Makati  
City, Metro Manila, The  
City Prosecutor of  
Baguio, Philippine Statis-  
tics Authority (formerly  
NSO) the Local Civil  
Registrar of Baguio  
City, Office of the  
Civil Registrar General,  
Quezon City, and Teresa  
Sarito Marzan and all  
other persons named  
in the petition.

SO ORDERED.

D O N E I N  
CHAMBERS, this 5th  
day of January, 2016 at  
Baguio City, Philippines.

(SGD) IVAN KIM B.  
MORALES  
Judge

*Publication Dates:  
February 27, March 5  
and 12 2016*



## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that  
the intestate estate of DAVID  
JOSEPH L. DE LEON III who  
died in Mabini, Batangas on  
September 19, 2015 was extra-  
judicially settled by the heirs  
on February 24, 2016 as evi-  
denced by Doc. No. 49; Page  
No. 38; Book No. IV; Series  
of 2016 of the Notary Public  
Vicente Jose M. Angeles.

*Publication Dates: February 27,  
March 5, and 12, 2016*

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

**ALETH N. DE LUMEN-Complainant  
MOISES P. ABENOJA-Respondent  
Case No. 2003-CAR-855**

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is a complaint for cancellation of Certificate of Public  
Convenience to operate PUB Service for the transportation of  
passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY – BANGUED  
and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit granted the respondent  
in the above-cited case.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on  
March 22, 2016 at 02:00 P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Pacdal, Baguio  
City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her/their 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 Atty. Jose Eduardo L. Natividad,  
Regional Director this 16th day of February, 2016.

(SGD) Atty. ROBERTO B. BASCO  
Hearing Officer

## To allow Grace Poe’s...

...from page 7

a foreign country have become aliens, and can reacquire Philippine  
citizenship, just like other aliens, only if ‘naturalized in accordance  
with law,’ he said.

Allowing a naturalized citizen to run for president and possibly  
lead the country’s military is an “anomalous act,” said Carpio.

“Otherwise, a natural-born Filipino citizen who has absolutely  
renounced and abjured allegiance to the Philippines and pledged  
sole allegiance to the United States, undertaking to bear arms against  
any foreign country, including the Philippines, when required by  
U.S. law, could still become the Commander-in Chief of the Armed  
Forces of the Philippines by performing a simple act – taking an oath  
of allegiance before a Philippine public official – to reacquire nat-  
ural-born Philippine citizenship. The framers of the Constitution,  
and the Filipino people who ratified the Constitution, could not have  
intended such an anomalous situation,” he said.

A day before she took oath as chairperson of the Movie and Televi-  
sion Review and Classification Board, Poe – a citizen of both the US  
and the Philippines from 2006 to 2010 – renounced her American  
citizenship before a local notary public. This is something that critics  
– justices, poll commissioners, and ordinary citizens – claim to be  
“self-serving.”

Carpio was so intent on the citizenship aspect that he “deemed  
it irrelevant” to discuss the residency requirement of “naturalized”  
Poe in his dissent.

Nevertheless he said: “[A]ssuming petitioner [Poe] is a natu-  
ral-born Filipino citizen, which she is not, I concur with Justice  
Mariano C. Del Castillo’s Dissenting Opinion on the residency issue,”  
he said.

### International law

The justice reiterated foundling Poe is not a natural-born Filipino  
as her birth does not fall in any of the conditions set by the 1935  
Constitution, the law applicable to her birth in 1968.

## Mayor seeks talks with Tuba dads anew

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan appealed to the Tuba  
municipality council to “reconsider their stand against the city” on  
the operation of the city’s Asin mini-hydroelectric plants and suggested  
the rescheduling of their earlier botched dialogue to thresh out the issues.

In a letter to the Tuba sanggunian members headed by Vice Mayor  
Clarita Sal-ongan, the mayor asked the body to name a neutral venue  
and expressed hopes for their “benevolent response.”

In the letter, the mayor presented facts surrounding the issues to,  
according to him, enlighten the Tuba officialdom on the true circum-  
stances and avert a dispute between the two local governments.

He expressed hopes that the facts would also guide their Tuba coun-  
terparts on deciding on the city’s operation of its hydro facilities along  
the Asin River system.

The mayor said Tuba residents would benefit from the activation of the  
flume lines and the payment of the rental fees to residents whose lands  
are affected by the pipelines and plant facilities.

Just last January, Tuba councilor Roger Kitma pushed for the settlement  
of the rental issue as it, along with the continued lack of “mutually benefi-  
cial activities in the area” have caused the residents’ restiveness and even  
prompted their filing the opposition to the city’s plan to revive the plants.

Prompted by Kitma’s letter, the mayor asked the city council to consider  
the possibility of waiving the city’s claim for civil damages against the  
members of the Tadiangan-Nangalisan Hydro Ancestral Landowners  
Association (TNHALA) for allegedly diverting water supply disrupting  
the operation of the plants years ago just to facilitate the payment of the  
rental fees.

On the issue of Goldlink’s hydroelectric projects, the mayor said it was  
Goldlink that reneged on its promise not to jeopardize the operation of  
the city’s own hydros as attested by the Department of Energy (DOE) in  
a letter dated December 14, 2015.

The DOE report showed that Goldlink’s proposed facilities in Tadiangan,  
Sallapan and Nangalisan actually overlap with the city-owned Asin plants  
1, 2 and 3, respectively.

DOE said it earlier cautioned Goldlink that the proposed sites in  
Sallapan and Nangalisan overlap with the Baguio plant 1 and urged the  
firm to coordinate with the city government.

Instead of coordinating with the city, Goldlink said the project sites are  
not in conflict with the plant and did not inform the DOE that the said  
sites actually overlapped with plant 2.

DOE’s findings prompted it to terminate Goldlink’s contracts at Sallapan  
and Nangalisan.

The mayor said the Goldlink’s lawyer’s manifestation before the Tuba  
town in a letter that the city’s “intended transfer and utilization of water  
resources covered by three water permits in the name of the Baguio Water  
District impairs the development and operation of Goldlink’s (Projects)”  
is misleading.

Domogan said the said lawyer was not present when Tuba mayor  
Florencio Bentez and Goldlink’s William Go guaranteed to him that  
the Goldlink project will in no way affect the city’s hydro facilities.

“Please note, whatever the City now presented are not motivated by  
greed, the City not being a regular corporation interested only in making  
money with the occasion façade of concern to your affected constituents.  
On the other hand, we are doing our level best to comply with the promises  
we made to them,” the mayor said./Aileen P. Refuerzo

While the camp of Poe said that the intent of the framers of the  
1935 Constitution and international laws and treaties grant found-  
lings natural-born status, Carpio debunked their arguments.

As what Carpio pointed out in his dissenting opinion in the Senate  
Electoral Tribunal ruling, he reiterated that delegates to the 1934 Con-  
stitutional Convention eventually rejected the amendment seeking to  
include foundlings in the list of natural-born Filipino citizens at birth.

Carpio added the Philippines is not bound by international laws  
and treaties cited by Poe – the 1930 Hague Convention and the 1961  
United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness – as  
the Philippines is not a signatory to them.

While the Philippines signed the 1989 Convention of the Rights  
of the Child, Carpio said this could not apply to Poe’s birth in 1968  
because the Philippine government signed it only in 1990, or more  
than 20 years after.

Further, the senior justice said the treaty grants only the right to  
acquire nationality, not natural-born citizenship.

“In sum, there is no international treaty to which the Philippines  
is a contracting party, which provides expressly or impliedly that a  
foundling is deemed a natural-born citizen of the country in which  
the foundling is found. There is also obviously no international treaty,  
to which the Philippines is not a party, obligating the Philippines to  
confer automatically Philippine citizenship to a foundling at birth,”  
Carpio said.

The justice again hit Poe and her camp for supposedly using  
emotions to steer the issue. For Carpio, only DNA evidence could  
prove that Poe is indeed a natural-born Filipino.

All DNA tests of Poe so far, however, have yielded negative results./  
Camille Elemia/Rappler.com



## Punong Barangays' meeting

**B**AGUIO CITY – Village heads from the city's 128 barangays during their regular meeting last week tackled various issues with the Anti-Graffiti body, personnel from the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) and Commission of Elections-Baguio.

P/Supt Alexis Marinas, deputy to BCPO Officer-in-Charge George Daskeo gave a briefing as to police programs against crimes. Lambat-Sibat, as launched is "managing police operation," "patrolling, being more visible on the ground and making (our) presence felt in the community."

Aside from "Lambat-Sibat," the role of e-projects, or crime solutions aided by technical and technological information analysis was presented. This includes the Geographics Information System where crime hot spots are pointed out. Certain times and locations of crime surges, dubbed as the crime clock, are monitored. Needed personnel to respond and resources are then sent to the area, Marinas said.

The police also conducted a meeting with central business district boarding house

owners at Camp Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet last Tuesday. This is to create a anti-crime network for information and cooperation between and among members of the said group.

Retired forester and volunteer Rosalio Goze appealed to the barangay officials to send barangay

volunteers for the Anti-Graffiti Task Force. This is to insure a basic body to help fight against unsightly inscriptions on private and public walls in the barangays. An increase in graffiti is noted, he said.

The national earthquake drill on March 31 was announced. The knowledge and training and center for disaster and climate change is open for the public, it was known. A computer literacy program for barangay officials is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology. All inquiries may be coursed through the Special Services Division-City Mayor's Office.

COMELEC officer Atty. John Martin announced basic rules on campaign posting areas in the barangays.

Posters must meet required measurements as specific sizes are prescribed, it was known.

Individual stands, as such, temporary structures in a common posting area should be provided (for his own use) by each candidate. The concerned barangay may request for additional poster areas, and illegal posters are due for removal, Martin said. The telephone hotline for inquiries or report on violations is 422-1991.

A voters' list for every barangay was distributed by COMELEC personnel. Everything is being done for credible, clean and peaceful elections, Martin said.

The next PBs meeting is on April 1, it was announced./Julie G. Fianza

## City approves anti-poverty projects

**B**AGUIO CITY - Priority projects intended to reduce poverty incidence in the city of Baguio were recently approved by the city council for funding and implementation by the line agencies in 2017.

Topping the five priority poverty reduction projects to be funded by the city government here for bottom-up budgeting (BuB) include the maintenance of the Mushroom Laboratory and Organic Fertilizer such as the continuity of the fruit bags production, equipments of the Mushroom Laboratory and the packing of organic fertilizer at Irisan barangay with funding requirement of one million.

P500,000 will be used for the BuB operations and management budget.

The Baguio Day Care Center for the elderly with special needs (under the BuB) protective services facility for elderly 2017) for the conduct of regular day activities for the elderly with special needs at the Senior Citizen Center Salud Mitra barangay with three million funding requirement.

The rehabilitation and repair of the PFVR building so as to accommodate a One Stop Pasalubong Center amounting to 3.5 million.

Support to the elimination of human trafficking in the city in all the 128 barangays with funding requirement of one million.

On the other hand, projects within the BuB menu programs are the capability building for civil Society Organizations by the National Anti-Poverty Commission; protective services-programs and services by the Department of Social Welfare and Development at Irisan; Community-Based

Monitoring System-Accelerated Poverty Profiling (CBMS-APP) Department of Interior and Local Government; core local road by the DILG along Mines View, Magsaysay, Loakan Proper and connecting Adiwang Rd. to Balacbac Rd.; technical and vocational skills programs/technical vocational skills mobile training program and the training and certification of persons with Disabilities, Women Sector and Out-of-School Youths on Hilot (wellness massage)/massage therapy by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and the protective services for women and girls in Especially Difficult Circumstances (Domestic Violence Victim-Survivors) and solo parents to be implemented by the DSWD together with CSO-Save Our Women and Inter-Agency Committee on anti-Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children (IACAT-VAWC).

While projects outside the menu proposals are the protection of the Camp 8 watershed like survey of the perimeter including inventory of improvements of the watershed, capability building (forest protection), fencing of 470 linear meters of perimeter of watershed, seedling propagation, planting and nurturing and employing forest guards and capacitate them on forest protection amounting to three million.

Project on evacuation facility at barangays Pacdal, Gibraltar, Mines View, Pucusan and Lualhati with funding requirement of two million.


However, it has been observed by the City Poverty Reduction Action Team (CPRAT) that significant number of priority projects are not being implemented which affected the accomplishment of the city.

The city government here has also expressed its predicament in the implementation of the projects because of the some lapses of national agencies.

Accordingly, the CPRAT will convene soon to thresh out possible solutions for the proper implementation of priority projects by the lines agencies, otherwise, national agencies who will not implement the identified projects will be blacklisted by the CPRAT.

In as much as the city government here wants to implement the identified priority projects, it is not viable considering that some national agencies cannot provide the funds needed for the said projects./Jho Arranz

**I DONT CARE  
ALL ABOUT YOUR BLACK PROPAGANDA....**



**DUTERTE  
PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT**

**ALL I KNOW IS ABOUT MY PRESIDENT AND THAT IS  
RODRIGO DUTERTE 2016 SOLID!**

**NOTHING WILL CHANGE MY VOTE!**

**This ad is placed and paid for by Dante Jimenez, Unit 601  
Pacific Corporate Center, West Avenue, QC**

## SUMVAC festival...

...from page 10

up Baguio's reputation as the undisputed country's summer capital.

He said the city lives up to its stature gauging from the number of visitors it receives during the hot season which was pegged at close to a million last year based on the record of tourist arrivals culled from both the accredited and non-accredited hotels and billeting houses in the city.

This does not include the day-time visitors who according to Datuin now

outnumber the stay-in vacationers owing to the shortened route in going to the city.

The Summer in Baguio calendar will feature regular treats like the Araw ng Kagitingan observance, Sabsabong ti Mayo and the Search for Lucky Summer Visitors by the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club.

Other cultural, tourism, health and environmental and sports activities will also be featured in the calendar./Aileen P. Refuerzo

## CHIZ TO GOV'T...

...from page 10

gallon capacity and 225 units with 500-gallon capacity;

P1.01 billion for the construction of 516 fire stations;

P194.5 million for self-contained breathing apparatus and protective gears;

P65.8 million for additional vehicles firefighting equipment.

The COA said that because of the delay, the BFP failed to receive 9,000 pairs of fire boots, 6,741 helmets, 7,628 pairs of protective mittens, fire hoses, nozzles, office computers and spare parts for broken down fire trucks.

Protected gears are designed to mitigate "adverse environmental effects" to

firefighters, guarding them against burns and preventing them from inhaling poisonous and deadly gases, according to the COA.

It added that ill-equipped firefighters are forced to share or borrow from their colleagues to respond to the fire scene, and more often than not, result in many otherwise preventable, incapacitating injuries and sickness among the ranks of the BFP's firefighters.

As of April 2015, the BFP reported that there are a total of 18,769 registered firefighters in the country./Office of Senator Chiz Escudero



**STOP VAW ! - Placard bearing supporters of the rights of women call for the stoppage of violence against women while watching the parade at Session Road during the observance of International Women's Day./By Bong Cayabyab**



## City puts up own stations of the cross for Lenten season

**B**AGUIO CITY – If you can't go to Holy Land, then let Holy Land go to you.

In keeping with the spirit of the Lenten Season, the city government created its own version of the spiritual trail of the 15 Stations of the Cross or Via Crucis Exercitium at the Dominican Hill and Retreat House for the Catholic faithful to visit for their Holy Week reflection and retreat.

The facility will be opened to the public free-of-charge on an experimental basis from March 7-27.

City environment and parks management officer Cordelia Lacsamana said the installation aims to afford devotees who have no means to visit the Holy Land, the Lourdes Grotto in Bulacan or a similar fixture in Mt. Sto. Tomas in Cabuyao their own holy place right within the city "for purposes of gaining indulgence by piously meditating on the passion and death of Jesus Christ."

The project is one of the innovations introduced to the place which Lacsamana said

falls within the ambit of the "adaptive re-use" concept of development being adopted for the heritage site which once served as a retreat house.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan approved the project and commissioned the senior citizens of barangay Dominican-Mirador as the city's partners and link for the project by helping maintain peace and order and serving as guides and informants of the visitors at the place during weekends or during off-times of city government workers.

They were allowed to sell religious prayer books and other Lenten season items and water during the period of experiment.

"The senior citizens' physical presence in the heritage site will assist the city for regulatory and proper information during the Season and allowing them to sell items in schange for the time used in this worthwhile activity will enable them to be more productive," Lacsamana said./Aileen P. Refuerzo

## CHIZ TO GOV'T: PROTECT, EQUIP FIREFIGHTERS

**V**ice-presidential front-runner Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero said the government should match the bravery and courage of close to 19,000 firefighters in the country with protective gears and firefighting equipment to ensure their safety while they protect people's lives and properties from the hazards of fire and other emergencies.

Unfortunately, he said, many of these firefighters remain ill-equipped because their higher ups have failed to provide them the much-needed gears and equipment despite the availability of funds.

"Firefighters put their lives on the line every day to keep

us safe. Therefore, it is not right that we deprive them of basic necessities to allow them to effectively perform their duties," Escudero said in time for the observance of National Fire Prevention Month this March.

He added: "While it is the duty of the firefighters to protect lives and properties, it is also the duty of the government to make sure that they are protected and well-equipped to respond to fires."

Escudero put to task the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the delays in the procurement of P3.86 billion worth of modern firefighting equipment, fire trucks and

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facilities by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Citing the latest report of the Commission on Audit (COA), Escudero said the DILG's intervention in the procurement process resulted in the failure of the BFP to modernize the country's fire-fighting capabilities, which should have begun four years ago.

"The purchases of new fire trucks and firefighting equipment and the construction of new fire stations were supposed to have started as early as January 2012, but according to COA the DILG sat on the bidding process for two and a half years," Escudero said.

In its 2014 audit report, the COA pointed out that the long delay in procurement had deprived the "firefighters of the shield and armor to be used during fire suppressions and a well-equipped fire station."

It, however, practically absolved the BFP when it acknowledged the effort exerted by the bureau "to provide each and every firefighter with adequate fire-fighting gears, equipment and fire stations."

Records of the BFP showed that it has a total of P3.86 billion for its modernization plan broken down as follows:

P2.59 billion for 244 units of fire trucks with 1,000-

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**KEEPING UP THE TRADITION AND CULTURE** - Members of Ibaloi younger generation perform dances and rituals during the Ibaloi Festival observance to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the tribe./By Bong Cayabyab

## SUMVAC festival highlights Baguio as city of prayer

**BAGUIO CITY** – Baguio City highlights its status as a city of prayer and retreat when "Summer Vacation (SUMVAC) in Baguio," a calendar of activities for the Holy Week and the rest of the long vacation unfolds here starting this month.

Various religious activities to be mounted by ecumenical and inter-faith groups in the city will topbill the three-month long summer spectacle for both the residents and tourists to partake in for their Holy Week reflections

and retreat.

Councilor Elmer Datuin and city tourism officer Benedicto Alhambra who head the Summer in Baguio preparations said the traditional religious activities include the Holy Week services in various churches, the re-staging of the Easter Sunday "salubong" on March 27 at the Rose Garden, Burnham Park and the Santacruzian and Flores de Mayo in May.

Last March 7, the city government opened to the public for free the

spiritual trail of the 15 Stations of the Cross or Via Crucis Exercitium at the Dominican Hill and Retreat House which will run until March 27.

More activities will be announced as the committee chaired by Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr. will begin collating the events from the ecumenical and inter-faith groups in the city.

Alhambra said the summer calendar firms

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