

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!! Win Some, Lose Some With Strong Peso Stature



UMMM... HOW DO I GO DOWN AGAIN? A lineman from the Baguio-Benguet Electric Cooperative carefully makes his way up in one of the newly-installed poles along Abanao as part of "operation spaghetti" which goal is to stretch 'em loose noodles of wires before the February 1 launching parade of Panagbenga 2008. **Monch David

BAGUIO CITY - It is classically, a win some and lose some scenario with the Philippine peso gaining good showing.

The Manila-based independent think-tank Ibon Foundation said if predictions that the Philippine peso appreciates to P38 per US dollar by the end of 2008 materializes, then the average OFW household will be losing around P3,710 per month.

This compared to the start of 2007, or a loss over the entire year from P30,000 to as much as P45,000, said Belle Guzman, Ibons executive director.

She explained that the roughly 15% increase in OFW remittances in 2007 compared to the past year was not enough to offset the 16% peso appreciation from January to December 2007. Thus

OFW families have not been able to maintain their incomes and been hit bad, she said.

IBON, Guzman said, estimates that OFWs lose roughly P700 per \$100 remittance.

From January to December 2007, the exchange rate of the peso to the dollar has strengthened by almost fifteen percent, prompting Malacanang and government planners to beam of an economy getting stronger.

Government has also beamed that the strong peso has cushioned the impact of the spiraling cost of fuel in the world market, hence, domestic prices of oil has not been that abrasive to the average Filipino.

But Guzman said, such

Basta ang kay Juan, na nasa Japan, di na sapat ang kinikita niya sa isang buwan.

means that over the period, the family of an OFW who remitted \$100 in January were able to exchange it for P4,891. By December this had fallen to P4,174 or a decline of P717.

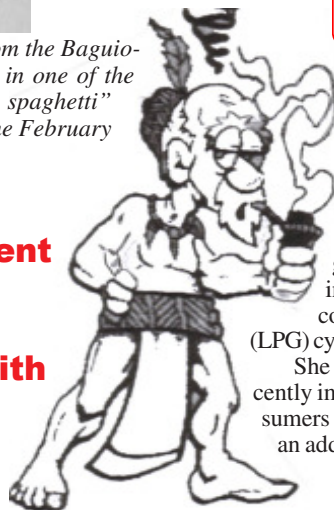
Such a reduction is especially painful given the increasing prices of basic goods and services in the country, citing, from January to November 2007 the cost of an 11-kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder increased by P76.94 to almost P600.

She added further that Manila Water also recently implemented a rate hike that will cost consumers who consume 30 cubic meters per month an additional P60 on their bills.

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

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Linis Gobyerno, sinuspinde ng SEC RA 6713, Salamat sa Kapatiran Ng Masang Pilipino

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



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DIRETSAHAN

Martial Law!!!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Mayor suspends Coding System, not Everybody Smiling

BAGUIOCITY – “The cleaner the windshield; the stronger the magnetism to insects...”

The vehicular number coding ordinance (Ord. 01-2003) was suspended anew last week as the city opens up its arms to an expected horde of Panagbenga 2008, the Holy Week, and summer revelers; and well-wishers to graduates of the

Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Administrative Order (AO) numbered 07-2008 exempts private vehicles from the operation of the coding ordinance from January 21 up to March 31 – over 2-months nil a windscreen to filter ‘em roads from sure gridlock.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. in the AO said the suspension is geared

towards providing a comfortable and stress-free journey to the city’s guests and to extend them convenience in exploring the city’s tourist attractions.

But not everybody’s smiling. Perfecto Itliong, Jr., transport coordinator of the Public Transport Affairs Office – Cordillera (PTAOC) welcomed the coding suspension saying it will stimulate commerce in the city.

But while he can

only surmise how much the city actually gains in terms of “documented returns” from tourism, he could just wish for the day when the coding ordinance could be used as a gizmo in zapping traffic.

He bared there are about 21-thousand private vehicles in the city aside from almost 8-thousand registered

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Execs, Dads agree on P900M budget

BAGUIOCITY – Prospects for the passage of a P900 million budget brightens as city executives and legislators Thursday agreed in principle on said amount for this year’s financial plan.

However, this will be on condition that a supplemental budget will be worked out in the middle of the year to finance more projects, if resources would allow.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas said this compromise was reached during the executive-legislative caucus conducted last Thursday on the issue.

With majority of the councilors now agreeing to said amount proposed by the executive department under Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., the body is expected to

formalize the adoption of said amount during its regular session tomorrow, Monday.

After this, it can now begin deliberations on the proposed budget of each department before the same could be approved on final reading.

Budget deliberations failed to take off as scheduled late last year as the mayor and the councilors failed to agree on the budget’s ceiling.

The city council through Resolution No. 289 series of 2007 pushed for a P1 billion budget this year to accordingly enable the city to implement more projects but the mayor who initially proposed an P820 million plan said the P1 billion budget is not realizable.

The mayor later agreed to increase

the budget to a compromise amount of P900 million, which was the subject of Thursday’s caucus.

Farinas said he expects speedy action now that differences on the amount had been resolved.

He said the city can expect that this year, the development projects would not be limited to physical development as they intend to give weight on the social development in recognition of the fact that more indigents are in dire need of financial assistance on health and other services.

He said this may mean increasing the budgets allotted for the city social welfare and development, the hospitals and the health department to

Cont. on page 8



Gonzaga, Cagayan -- Young boys aboard a small wooden banca play at a swamp here filled with ain water as a low pressure area affecting Northern Luzon has intensified rains. -- Artemio A. Dumlaog

SEE NO JUETENG, HEAR NO JUETENG, SPEAK NO JUETENG



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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino
The Junction- OIC



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Samaritans sustain lifeline for patients and grieving relatives

Samaritans sustain lifeline for patients and grieving relatives

Samaritans, mostly Cordillera expatriates in the West, continue to keep a lifeline for indigent patients here with whatever they could spare, not only for medicines but to ease the grief of relatives of those who succumb to serious ailments like cancer.

Among the current focus of

these donors is Nora (not her real name), a 31-year old mother of two who, for years now, has been grappling with bipolar disorder, and six-year old John Brix de Guzman who has been in and out of the hospital in a protracted battle against leukemia.

Support to Nora began early last Christmas, after the courier of an anonymous, regular donor handed P6,000 to banker Rolly de

Guzman of RCBC-Session Rd., The amount came just when Nora was going around offices for help in buying the maintenance doses needed to pacify her mind.

Of the amount, P3,940.50 went to Nora's daily maintenance doses and P818 for the infant formula of Jason, her five-month old baby who couldn't be breast-fed due to his mother's medicine intake. The remainder

Fariñas on continuation of Bingo sa Barangay: City to ensure Legality first

BAGUIOCITY— Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas Thursday said the city has to ensure the legality of the Bingo sa Barangay first before it allows the new Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) leadership to continue its run.

Farinas was reacting to reports that new ABC president Joel Alangsab is considering the continuation of the bingo activities for the sake of sustaining the ABC's projects.

Farinas said the city cannot discount the benefits that the ABC gained from the proceeds of the supposed fund-raising activities but he said the city has to make sure that its mechanics are not contradictory to existing laws.

Farinas said the

fund-raising activities really helped as it enabled the ABC to purchase five mini-dumptrucks and a tour bus which are now being used by the city.

"We are not hypocrites to say that these did not help the city however, we still have to study how the games should be conducted and to make sure that these do not run counter to our laws," he said.

He said that the games should be stopped at once if these indeed violate the city's laws on gambling.

"After all, there are countless legitimate ways of raising funds for our projects," he said.

The Bingo sa Barangay which flourished during the term of former ABC president Rufino Panagan became a

point of contention between the city government and the ABC when then mayor Braulio Yaranon sought its stoppage amidst claims that it is illegal and in violation of the city's laws against gambling.

The former mayor refused to issue permit for the barangay bingo activities saying bingo remains to be a prohibited gambling activity based on Presidential Decree No. 1602, the Letter of Intent No. 816 and section 391 (11) of the Local Government Code.

But the barangay officials insisted that Bingo sa Barangay is a legal means of raising funds for their barangay programs and can even be an effective way to curb illegal gambling activities like jueteng

(P1,079.50) supported Simon Lardizabal, a nine-year old leukemia patient (P1,079.50) and John Mark Benedito (P162), another boy confined for kidney ailment.

An Ibaloi expatriate raising her own daughter in the

United States followed suit with a \$250 transmittal (P10,400.79 by the drawee bank's conversion). Nora and her family used P2,600 in going to her hometown in Batangas where, upon arrival, she learned her ailing mother had just been buried.

Archie Buhong, a mechanic in La Trinidad, Benguet, received P3,000 for the chemotherapy of his wife Myrna, who is stricken with leukemia. The remaining P5,800.79 was used in a vain effort to save Janet, a special child and

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Chinese Community celebrates Pre-centennial Chinese New Year Feb. 8

BAGUIOCITY— The Chinese community celebrates this year's Baguio Spring Festival on Feb. 8, as part of the Pre-centennial activities, with various socio-community projects spread over several days, until Feb. 10.

The launching shall be on Feb 4, at the city hall grounds after the flag ceremonies, and as with the past years, tokens from the Chinese community shall be up for grabs as trivia and information about basic Chinese practices, prominent Filipino-Chinese Baguio residents, customs and traditions be solicited from the audience.

On Feb. 5, a lecture shall be given by Professor Morr

and monte.

The games however continued when the court granted the ABC's petition for declaratory relief to allow the games.

The court's decision was appealed by the former mayor./ Aileen P. Refuerzo

Tadeo Pungayan, Dr. Charles Cheng and Dr. Anavic Bagamaspad at the University of the Philippines as to Chinese culture and tradition, Chinese contribution to the Philippine culture in general, and studies done on Filipino-Chinese practices.

As a way of sharing their blessings, the Filipino-Chinese community shall conduct a gift-giving activity in the afternoon of Feb. 6, at Lucnab barangay.

On Feb. 7, Jeepney and taxi

drivers through the Department of Transportation (DOT) are invited for a lecture as to Chinese contributions to Baguio and the Cordilleras.

On Feb. 8, a grand parade at 3 PM from Upper Session road up to Melvin Jones shall show off Chinese traditional costumes and instruments, and the dragon dance with 500 or more runners. A colorful fireworks display shall lit the evening skies after

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PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!!

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

www.linisgobyerno.org

Piranha Frenzy

“We spend about P7,000 for every student in this country,” the Education Department official said at a recent Region 7 meeting. “The international average spending, when converted, is about P47,000. Many other countries spend more than P100,000 for each student.”

So, is that news? We’ve always snatched on our kid’s futures by penny-pinching on essentials, be it schools or health. Of 42 countries that took the Third International Mathematics and Science Test in 1995, for example, the Philippines limped in as Number 39—just above Kuwait, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

We then “spent the smallest amount per pupil: US\$318 (purchasing power parity),” an earlier Philippine Human Development Report observed. “Thailand which near the median spent more than six times as much per pupil.”

And topnotch Singapore allocated \$1,582.

“The Philippine math average (then) was only 78 percent of world average,” PDHR added. “In science, the score of Filipino children in lower secondary school were below the international median by 77 percent.

In the fourth IMST, we were a non-descript 38th among 42 nations. Now, we’re into what? The seventh IMST drill? And we really haven’t budged out of cellar status. That’s been true too with national tests. When ill-educated kids flunk, as hundreds do, we resort to a typically Pinoy device: Instead of tough reviews and retakes, we lower the passing grade, notes “A New Math: $37.5 = 75$.”

Thus, there’s thin comfort in Mark Twain’s wisecrack: “I never let schooling interfere with my education.” Go through what kids scribble—and wince. “We have sop drink in batols”. Or listen to the noontime soaps. Simple question and answer contests flummox our kids.

In the post World-War II effort to wipe out backlogs, schools got about 30 centavos out of every tax peso. This shriveled during the Marcos dictatorship even as population surged, foreign borrowings bolted and corruption metastasized. School budgets then dipped to “a trough of 5.6 percent in 1976”. And in the “New Society’s” waning years, it averaged only 8.7 percent.

There’s an eerie little-noticed echo of that tailspin in the Asian Development and World Bank report on “Early Childhood Development”. Malnutrition ushered in more Filipino pre-school children to premature graves than poorer countries like Bangladesh or Kenya, that landmark report noted. Under the Marcos regime, the steady decline in infant mortality faltered, then stopped as health services thinned out. And death rates started to climb.

The Aquino government reversed this lethal decline, the bank report said. It also restored education’s importance, PHD Report adds. That budgetary priority continues today: Succeeding administrations slice, for education, the largest share of the budget.

The education budget is 3 percent of country’s GDP or total output. That’s large— if one uses total government spending as yardstick for comparison. But a reality check comes in comparison that other East Asian countries allocate: 5 to 6 percent.

This is double what we anted up, despite officials who’ll sound off with numerous Filipino proverbs on education’s value. Say aral ag natepeway kuarta, Pangasinan’s Speaker Jose de Venecia would say. “Education is better than wealth.”

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DIRETSAHAN

Martial Law!!!

BY RUDY “BANTAY SIYASAT” GARCIA



IPAPAARESTO raw ng butiing Justice Secretary ang sinumang mamamahayag na susuway sa kanyang utos na ipagbawal ang mga ito sa mga delikadong lugar at kaganapan katulad sa nangyaring bigo na kudeta kunsaan kinubkob at ginawang lungga ng grupong Magdalo ni Senador Antonio Trillanes ang Manila Peninsula Hotel.

PALAKPAKAN po natin ang bagong diktador ng bayan., sira ulo.. este.. si Raul Gonzales NAGPAPATAWA O NAGBIBIRO ang matandang ulyanin na kalaban ni batman si king Joker! Hi!hi!hi!

Kapag sinabi raw niya na bawal at kailangang lisanin na ng sinumang mamamahayag ang lugar, dapat daw silang sumunod at tumalima, kundi ay ipapaaresto daw sila at tatalian ng tali, ang kanilang mga kamay?!... susmaryosep! Hindi ko alam na Martial Law na?!... takot tuloy ako.. ngiiih!

Eh PAANO na ang madlang pipol na dapat ay nalalaman ang mga nangyayari sa kanilang kapaligiran? Lalo nat seguridad ng bansa ang pinag-uusapan kung bubusalan naman at tatakutin ang mga kapatid natin sa midya? Malabo yata?!!

....at bakit mukhang dedma at tahimik ang palasyo sa Malakanyang hinggil sa isyung ito?... hindi kaya dahil takot sila kay apo Gonzales?.. at bahkeett meron pa bang ipinagbago ang BULOK na sistema ng ating gobyerno? Nakuuu kawawa talaga tayong mga ordinaryong pinoy.

ooOoo

MAUGONG ngayon ang bali balita na isang BAYANI raw ang napipisil ng administrasyon para ipambato nila umano sa pagkapangulo sa darating na 2010 eleksyon.

Ang MANOK nilang ito ay tinaguriang HITLER: ng mga kalsada sa kamaynilahan dahil sa walang takot nitong pagsugpo sa mga illegal vendors sa kalakhang maynila.

Samantala, kanya kanya naman ang HIMASAN ng kanilang mga MANok ang kabilang partido, kumbaga kanya kanya na silang sep sep kay Asiong Salonga

Hindi tuloy malaman kung gumagawa na ng preparasyon para sa eleksyon ang mga nag-aambisyon! ... hindi kaya masyado pang maaga para magpapapogi?..pero bakit mukhang gumagawa na ng kanya kanyang diskarte ang mga magkakalabang partido?.. siguro, para

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*A call for general mobilization
for war against climate change*

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



This is a call for war. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), backed-up by research and advise from thousands of world scientists, predicts that the earth's average mean temperature will shoot up by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees centigrade by 2100. This is dangerous because experts believe that the earth mean temperature should not rise beyond 2 degrees centigrade.

If the degrees centigrade level is breached, experts say that up to 4 billion people will be experiencing severe water shortage, agriculture will be erased in many parts of the globe, and millions will die. Further, one estimate say that when the earth's temperature is warmer by 2 or 3 degrees from current levels, we will return to a situation two or three million years ago when sea level was about 25 meters above the sea level. In effect, this means that climate change would mean no water for billions and too much water for several billion people.

Hence, this call for a general mobilization – a call directed to the national government, local governments, nongovernment organizations, schools, and ordinary citizens – for war against climate change. Every peace-loving citizen must prepare for this war. This is a fight for our homeland called planet earth. The war will involve a change in lifestyles. This will involve a fight for new visions and a shift towards environment-friendly livelihood systems.

In this combat, the only option is to fight or perish. We have no choice but to muster all our might and defeat the enemy that is ourselves. This is not a conventional war. The culprit identified for global warming are the carbon emissions identified with deforestation, manufacture, vehicle exhausts, burning, and economic activity. Current carbon emission is around 380 parts per million in carbon dioxide equivalents. The emissions are increasing by AT LEAST 2.2 parts per million per annum from the current level of 380 parts per million.

To remain below 2 degrees centigrade, carbon dioxide emissions should be at least below 400 parts per million. At the current level, that is less than 10 years from now. Thus, this is a state of emergency. An important war that all of mankind must be engaged in.

The war against climate change must be a people's war: a war of everybody against themselves and against everybody hard-headed enough to refuse lifestyle change and move into environment-friendly livelihood systems and condemn livelihood systems that encourage resource extraction, forest denudation, mining, and vehicle exhausts. In a way, the war is also a fight against the capitalism's ugly side: a greed for profit that disregards social costs and environmental damage. It is a fight in which everybody must be involved: men, women, children, and even the elderly. The latter have retirees' associations and lots of time to be effective warriors for the environment. For one, the elderly can describe to the young what it was like when the environment was better — when the rivers were pristine and when the air was fresh and the birds and butterflies/dragonflies co-exist with man. The elderly can positively create a principled nostalgia for a return to a better environment.

Scientists and economists can help us design livelihood systems that can bring us a better life that is not accompanied by carbon exhausts. There would be a need for new businessmen and manufacturers. There would be a need for business and commerce that are dedicated as well to the environment.

This is a protracted war. The war will be long and arduous. It will also be difficult and complicated with twists and turns. For instance, we thought that the way is through biofuel but it seems we must rethink the path based on a remark by nobel prize winner that plants contain only 1% energy.

The war for climate change must start now and we must ensure man's victory in this war.

(The writer can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com and maintains a personal website at www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren)

PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Sakit sa PROSTATE napapagaling pa!!!
Linis Gobyerno, sinuspinde ng SEC
RA 6713, Salamat sa Kapatiran Ng
Masang Pilipino*

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



KTBO KTKM? – Hay, naku talaga naman oo. Hindi ko sukat akalain na bubulagain na naman ako ng mga reklamo hinggil sa mga KTB na opisyal ng Gobyerno. Marahil ay nais ninyong malaman ang ibig sabihin ng KTB. Ang KTB, stands for **KORAP, TAMAD, BOBO** or maari ding **KORAP-TOLONGES at BOBO** at meron din yung sinasabing **KTKM – KORAP, TAMAD, KAPAL MUKS !!! He! He! He!**. O, kayong mga KTB o KTKM huwag kayo masyadong mapipikon ha, at baka naman maisipan ninyong baguhin na ang inyong bwishit na istilo ngayon taong 2008 nang bago kayo kunin ni Lord para kapag kaharap na ninyo si San Pedro aba eh masasabi ninyo na Lord hindi naman ako KTB o KTKM. Alam ninyo mga dear readers, hindi na tayo bago sa mga ganitong uri ng mga opisyal. Katunayan ay kahit na ang isang opisyal ay korap ngunit masipag at mayroon din tayong nakikitang accomplishments, aba eh medyo oks na rin lang at medyo mapag papasensyahan pa. Ngunit may dalawang uri na **KASUKLAM-SUKLAM** na korap at yun ang mga **KORAP, TAMAD, AT BOBO PA**. Puro palusot, mga simpleng katanungan lang ayaw pang sagutin o yung sinasabing **KORAP NA NAGMAMLINIS PA, NGII!!!** Bwishit yang mga yan, aba eh hindi natin **TITIGILAN** yang mga hinayupak na ganyan. Tandaan mga dear readers, yung mga ganitong uri, huwag nating palampasin, pagtulong-tolongan natin 'yang mga yan. Marami sa mga yaan ay mayroon nang data sa atin, simula't-sapol at panahon na siguro para ibunyag ang kanilang mga **BAHO**, maging personal o opisyal!!!

###

LINIS GOBYERNO, SINUSPINDE NG SEC – Yes, mga dear readers, ang SEC registration ng Linis Gobyerno ay sinuspinde ng SEC dahil sa **NON-COMPLIANCE ON ANNUAL REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS**, kaya kayong mga ibang korporasyon huwag balewalain ang SEC. Mabuti na lang at ito ay nasabi sa atin ni Kapitan Alice Dizon na siyang nagparating ng impormasyong ito (Salamat Kap) kaya't ito'y ating naagapan. Ayun nga at nagmulta tayo at nag submit ng kinaukulang requirements kaya ni-lift agad ni Director Annie Gonzales-Tesoro ang revocation/suspension. Maraming salamat sa timbre mo Kap Dizon at maraming salamat din kay Director Annie Gonzales Tesoro na agad umaksyon, the way a public servant should be, at hindi tulad ng mga ibang opisina na katulad ng **HLURB** at **NLRC**. At duon sa mga nagkakalat at ginagamit na panira ang dating pagka-suspend ng **LG SEC** registration, kayo naman oo, ang babaw naman ng inyong mga galaw. Kung bubutas kayo malalim-lalim naman. In fact, ayon kay Director Tesoro, no less than La Salle and Ateneo, two major big schools were, for a time, operating with a suspended/revoked SEC registration due to an oversight on compliance of reportorial requirements. Ang La Salle at Ateneo ay mga malalaking negosyong tumatanggap ng salapi, samantalang ang Linis Gobyerno ay isa lamang NGO. Ang problema kasi sa mga napaka **BOBONG** nagagalit sa Linis Gobyerno is this, kalimutan ninyo na may Linis Gobyerno. After all Linis G is just a fancy name for disgruntled members of civil society who happened to be against corrupt and inefficient government people. Bakit, ang karapatan ba ng Linis Gobyerno ay iba sa karapatan ni Juan dela Cruz? Mga **BUPOL** talaga kayo oo. Siguro mas gusto ninyo na makatanggap ng isan-daan letter inquiries from our individual members in their personal capacity, instead of just one letter coming from the group. Ang mabuting gawin ninyo para walang Linis Gobyerno o ano mang mga civil society at anti graft groups ay **MAG RESIGN** na kayo, **TAMAAN** na kayo ng hiya, at huwag ninyong gatasan ang kaban ng bayan. **MOST CORRUPT COUNTRY** in Asia na nga tayo dahil sa inyo eh! Wala man lang kayong natitirang hiya ni konti! **PWEEEEEE.....** Hindi ba **BECCA**, Hindi ba **ZIE, KAKAPALNINYO!!!**

Cont. on page 6

Diretsahan.. from page 4

sila ay maging llyamado at hindi dehado!.. parang laban ng mga KAPUSO AT KAPAMILYA ah ewan, basta ang alam ko malayo pa ang eleksyon peryod!

ooOoo

MATUTULOY na raw ang PAGBUBUKAS ng BGH ROTONDA FLYOVER itong buwan ng Enero, en op kors, dahil proyekto ito nina Apo Domogs at Apo Vergaring siguradong maayos ang pagkakagawa nito!.. tama ba apo Direktor Mariano Alquiza ng DPWH?

PAYO LAMANG po sa mga motorista na dadaan, siguraduhin lamang na mayroon na kayong mga INSURANCE MALIWANAG!

ooOoo

TULOY-TULOY pa rin daw ang JUETENG ni Luding dito sa Baguio at mga karatig lugar!.. sabi naman ng mga konsernadong awtoridad, ay hindi naman daw sila nagpapabaya sa kanilang mga tungkulin.. at kailangan daw ng kaukulang EBIDENSIYA bago sila umaksiyon!

Ebidensiya? Pumunta sila sa Basement ng Lopez Bldg. Kayang St. , at santambak ang mga ebidensiya doon!.. at ano ang TAWAG sa mga NAGLIPANANG mga kubrador na nangongolekta ng TAYA?

...at ilan na ang nahuhuli nila at na ISWAK sa kulungan? Mayroon na ba silang nahuli na Manedyer o Opereytor? Hilig talagang magpalusot ng mga KUMAG TAMA NA! SOBRA NA! TIGIL NA! PUDPOD NA DALIRI KO! PWEH!

OoOoo

May mga ilang KONSEHALES daw ang nakikialam sa mga nahuhuli at nakukumpiskang mga paninda ng mga illegal na vendor ayon kay konsehala Eleane Sembrano, kumite tserwoman ng market en trade.

Kaya pala hindi matapos tapos ang ala pusat daga na hulihan ng ating mga pulis at POSD sa mga matitigas na ulong mga vendors

.. at kung totoo man ang ipinahayag na ito ng konsehala, dapat busisiin at imbestigahan ang mga konsehala na mahilig sumalo sa mga nahuhuli ng mga Pulis at POSD

.. ano sey nyu mga konsehala, partikular sa inyong committee chairperson on ethics?

.. at hindi lang mga konsehala ang dapat imbestigahan kundi lahat ng mga nasa posisyon na nagsisilbing mga protektor ng mga illegal vendors

...at dapat din na pag " usapan na ng lahat ng kinauukulan katulad ng mga opisyal sa City Hall sa pangunguna ni Meyor Bautista, at ang mga vendors , kung ano ang mga nararapat ng gawin para masolusyunan na ang problemang ito!

.. at para wala na rin akong makitang naghi hide en seek na mga pulis at vendor!

ooOoo

...ayon sa idinarating sa aking bubuwit ipinasara na raw ni PB Remedios Nella ang PASUGALAN na aking isinulat sa nakaraan kong kolum.. Palakpakan! Bravo! Kung wala pa palang magsusumbong ay hindi aaksyunan itong illegal na aktibidad?

Gayunpaman, saludo pa rin ako kay Kapitana Nella sa kanyang nararapat at agarang aksyon!.. KUDOS sa iyo APO!

Magsilbing aral sana ito sa ibang opisyaes ng Barangay na nananatiling BULAG, PIPI, BINGI, at INUTIL sa kanilang nasasakupan!

At siyempre hindi rin po namin sasantuhin ang sinumang opisyaes na KORAP, barangay man, local o nasyonal KUWIDAW!

ooOoo

Gusto ba ninyong MAGPALAKI at MAGPALAKAS ng katawan? Lumaki at maging maskulado?... at magkaroon ng tiwala sa sarili?

.. huwag mag alala mga suki at bibigyan ko kayo ng mga TIPS kung papaano, sa susunod na isyu sa aking kolum.. dito lang sa DIRETSAHAN ang palaban! ABANGAN!

Chinese Community...from page 3

the said parade.

A dinner awards night for outstanding Filipino-Chinese individuals shall cap the day. Persons who have distinguished themselves in various fields, and in the service, of the Fil-Chinese community and Baguio as a whole shall be recognized during the occasion.

On Feb. 9, at People's Park, sports activities shall be launched while Feb. 10 shall see the Chinese community participate in the Baguio Flower Festival through a food festival, Chinese food cooking

demonstration, and sampling of Chinese delicacies. A food stall shall be put up by Filipino-Chinese members of the Baguio Association of Restaurants (BAR). Medical treatment and acupuncture shall also be demonstrated at the Baguio Fil-Chinese General Hospital. Tai Chi presentations and explanations on Feng Shui shall also be done during the activities.

All other details shall be confirmed through a press conference to be scheduled during the last week of January./Julie G. Fianza

Pinupuna at Pinapansin.. from page 5

###

PROSTATE PROBLEM MAY

KALUTASAN PA – Isang friendly advise para doon sa mga nakikipag anal sex sa mga bakla. Nais ko lang i-share sa inyo ang isang tutuong kuwento ng isa nating kaibigan na ngayon ay useless na ang kanyang sandata (pagka-lalaki) sapagkat tinamaan siya ng sakit sa prostate dahil sa kanyang pakikipag talik sa mga bakla nang siya ay medyo bata-bata pa. Kuwento ito ni Manuel, isang nasa more or less nasa edad 60 years old pataas na ngayon ay sising-sisi sa mga pinaggagawa niya noong siya ay nadestino sa kabundukan ng Mindanao sa isang logging firm, kung saan siya ay isa sa mga managers at taga-pamahala ng isang logging concession. Ito kasing si Lito, sa sobrang B _ _ _ i, ayon na rin sa kanyang kuwento kapag wala raw siyang makasiping na chicks ay nag papagamit at gumagamit siya ng mga labakami, mga badingski kaya ayun tinamaan sa Prostate si Mr. Macho Manuel. At hindi pa yun, hiniwalayan din siya ng kanyang asawa dala ng kanyang kasuwapangan sa salapi at maka sariling mapag manipulang istilo at dala na rin ng **kanyang pagka inutil ng kanyang sandata na ngayon ay useless piece of equipment.** Kaya kayong mga masyadong mahilig makipagtalik, please practice safe sex, avoid multiple partners and also avoid sex with the same sex. O ayon Manuel, na i-share ko na sa madla ang iyong kuwento para maging aral at kapulutan ng leksyon nga ating mga kabataan.

###

SALAMATSA KAPATIRAN NG

MASANG PILIPINO – Para doon sa mga nakakaalam ng grupong Kapatiran Ng Masang Pilipino (Baguio City Chapter), mabuhay ang grupong ito. Nakatanggap ako kamakailan lamang ng isang liham mula sa grupong ito na naglalaman na mga impormasyon hinggil sa iba't ibang mga opisyaes

ng Gobyerno. May ga info pa tungkol sa ilang mga National at Local officials ngunit mostly ay tungkol sa mga Local officials natin sa City Hall. Kaya nais ko lang pasalamatang ang grupong ito. Katunayan ay duda pa ako sa grupong ito at baka gawagawa lang nang ilang nang gu-gud time ito, subalit after some verification on the info received mukhang tutuo ang mga nilalaman nang kanilang mga liham.

###

RA 6713 – Attention mga KTB at KTKM na mga opisyaes ng Gobyerno, basahin ninyong muli ang nilalaman ng Republic Act 6713, otherwise known as The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (naka publish sa page ___ ng pahayagang ito). Pagkatapos ninyong basahin mabuti ay pumunta kayo sa harap nang salamin at tanungin ninyo ang inyong sarili kung tinataman kayo o hindi. Kung ang sagot ng inyong konsensya ay hindi, well and good for you. Ngunit kung ang bulong ng inyong **maitim na budhi (katulad mo BECCA, hindi ba)** ay you are guilty of violating this law, then mag-isip isip kayong mabuti, hindi pa huling magbago!!!

Win Some, Lose Some...

from page 1

Overseas workers were forced to tighten their belts and remit more of their income to make up for the lost value said IBON research head Sonny Africa.

Remittances from January to October grew by 16% compared to the same period in 2006.

Guzman and Africa blame the labor export policy and governments continuing reliance on migrant workers remittances to prop up the economy as this they said makes the economy even more vulnerable to the US dollar./Artemio A. Dumlaog

Mayor suspends...from page 2

public utility vehicles (PUV).

"Add the number of unregistered PUV's," he said and voila, "local vehicles, whether public or private, can easily reach 30-thousand."

"During peak tourism months, we could easily reach twice the number of vehicles that's already causing us turtle-paced traffic in the city, which is twice as worse as the traffic jam we have on a regular work week with the coding lifted," he added.

The city's traffic scheme provides for a "Passage Permit Fee" (PPF) of P300.00 for vehicles whose plates end in numbers covered by the ordinance on a particular day. The PPF exempts coding-guarded vehicles from being apprehended.

Itliong observed, "Having 21-thousand private vehicles in the city translates to about 4,200-vehicles covered by the coding measure every day of the work week."

"Granting we have at least 10-percent of the 4,200-vehicles (*that's 420-cars for you*) either apprehended for violation of the coding ordinance or paying PPF's, the city could theoretically earn a very astonishing amount of P126-thousand a day."

Corollary, a P126-thousand a day "theoretical income" is equivalent to P2.77-million in a month's time or roughly P33-million in a year's time. And this only covers private vehicles in the city.

"But of course," he clarified, "That's if we place the average violators to 10-percent of the average number of coding covered vehicles five days in a week... It might be higher or lower depending on how strict we implement the ordinance."

Itliong said he will be recommending a review of the ordinance vis-à-vis the collections and more stringent enforcement of the measure to the city's Transportation and Traffic Management Committee./ISL

President orders TESDA to gear courses toward higher-paying jobs

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to undertake a review of its training courses and come up with courses that meet the requirements of higher-paying jobs here and abroad.

The President issued the directive during the Cabinet Group meeting in Malacanang amid calls by various industries, including the business process

outsourcing (BPO) and call centers, for the accelerated training of workers to meet the man power requirements of the growing BPO sector.

The President said that aligning TESDA training courses with the requirements of the labor market would reduce further the number of unemployed Filipinos, considering the huge demand for skilled workers both

DepEd adopts measure to cut travel costs

The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued an order to officials and personnel to reduce travel expenses associated with attendance in national conferences and trainings and to stop solicitation of funds from any sources.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus noted that numerous conferences, seminars and trainings are conducted on a national level, which entail huge costs on transportation particularly for those coming from distant places.

RP to become main source of quality maritime officers

The country is expected to become the main source of quality managers and officers for the world shipping fleets starting this year.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo Brion said that measures have been put in place by the government with the

"DepEd personnel are not supposed to solicit from local officials, congressmen, and others to fund their attendance to seminars," Lapus said.

He set guidelines to minimize travel expenses of teaching and non-teaching staff prescribing that the conduct of national events are now limited to those that require representation from all regions and divisions.

Lapus stressed that DepEd shall only approve request from various organizations for participation on official business which directly promotes the interests of the

Department and its programs.

"Holding of activities shall be done on a division or cluster basis, and resource persons should be the ones to travel from one place to another instead of the participants," he said.

Lapus strongly discourages solicitation of funds from the local politicians stressing that this would preserve the non-partisan character of the agency.

"Should there be a need to a source funding from outside, written project proposals justifying

the attendance in the activity and the expenses to be funded should be submitted," he said.

He said that project proposals shall be evaluated and endorsed by the regional director, division superintendent or district supervisor. Reports on travel including insights learned will be submitted to the sponsor.

DepEd urges the maximum use of information and communication technologies in undertaking training programs and in facilitating distant meetings./PIA CAR

support of stakeholders to reinforce the Philippines' thrust to become the main source of quality managers and officers for the world shipping fleet in 2008 and beyond.

Brion said these measures are designed to encourage more Filipino seafarers to become maritime officers, and stimulate

growth in seafaring and maritime officership as preferred profession among Filipino youths in consonance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) amended Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

The measures include the development of the Management Level Course (MLC) for Filipino officers complemented by an effective bridging program.

"The bridging program would enable a mechanical engineer, for instance, after completing the required period of shipboard duty, to progress on as a marine engineer", said Brion in a DOLE press report.

He noted a study indicating that despite the country's status as the manning capital of the world, only one out of every three Filipino seamen function as ship

officers.

Brion said another 263,662 Filipino seafarers have been deployed around the world in 2007, complemented by a 21.7 percent increase in total sea-based contracts processed from 355,327 in 2006 to 432,561 last year.

Citing a preliminary report of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Brion added, that on the daily average, the 432,561 contract processed per documented seafarer in 2007 translated into around 1,185 contracts processed per day throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the DOLE will also come up with the Maritime Industry Action Plan for 2008 which will comprise the Department's contribution to the growth and development of the industry.

gear courses toward

in the Philippines and abroad.

"Develop courses that produce quality and skilled workers," she told TESDA officials headed by Director-General Augusto Syjuco Jr.

Syjuco said that in compliance with the President's directive, he would immediately create a team to undertake the review of TESDA training courses.

He added that the team would concentrate on the training of Filipinos for high-skilled jobs

such as welders, pipe fitters, electricians and carpenters.

TESDA is closely coordinating with the industry sector and manning agencies to monitor their man power requirements and, at the same time, check the status of those who had taken TESDA courses, Syjuco said.

The President, through the TESDA, also allotted funds for the PGMA Skills Training for Work scholarship program./PIA CAR

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 9 (FAMILY COURT OF BENGUET) FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad, Benguet

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF GENDER IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF RICHIE EPIE HADSAN

RICHIE EPIE HADSAN,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF KAPANGAN, BENGUET AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE, QUEZON CITY,

Respondents.

SPECIAL PRO-

CEEDINGS CASE 07-C-1449

x-----x

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the court order the Local Civil Registrar of Kapangan, Benguet to correct the following entry in his Certificate of Live Birth as follows:

Gender: from FEMALE to MALE

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court sets it for hearing on March 27, 2008 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, Capitol, La Trinidad Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be

granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in THE JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week, for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than January 13, 2008.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of Kapangan, Benguet; the Junction; the petitioner and his counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 7th day of January 2008 at La Trinidad, Benguet

(SGD) MARYBELLE L. DEMOT-MARINAS
Pairing Judge
Jan. 12, 19, 26, 2008

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF THE MINOR ROBERTO DE GUZMAN

SPOUSES RAYMOND MELI and ROSALINA DE GUZMAN-MELI

Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MALASIQUE, PANGASINAN,

Respondent.

SPL PRO CASE NO. 306-A

ORDER

The petitioners Spouses Paymond Meli and Rosalina De Guzman-Meli filed this verified amended petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered to the effect that the minor ROBERTO DE GUZMAN be, to all legal intents and purposes, the child of petitioners, and that the name of said child be changed from Roberto D. de Guzman to Roberto D. Meli.

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 19, 2008 at 10:30 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 petitioners in The Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and in Benguet province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The petitioners are directed to make an appointment with the Court Social Worker for the purpose of conducting the required case study on the minor Roberto de Guzman, the Court Social Worker is required to submit to the court the case study not later than May 15, 2008

SO ORDERED
DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 15th day of January, 2008, at Baguio City, Philippines.

(SGD) ILUMINADA P. CABATO
Judge

Jan. 19, 26, & Feb 2 2008

Execs, Dads agree... from page 2

cope with the needs of the populace.

Farinas said that while deliberations are still going on, the city will operate on the old budget with regards to its personal expenses but not for the project.

He said no certification of availability of funds could be issued by the Local Finance Committee until the budget is completely approved.

"We hope to tackle the budgets of all the clusters as fast as we can and adopt the budget after two weeks," Farinas said.

The proposed P900 million budget is higher by P144,596,000 than the previous year's

budget amounting to P755,504,000. It is one of the highest budget increases in the city in recent memory.

The estimated income will come from the beginning balance of P95,000,000; local taxes amounting to P244,800,000; permits and licenses - P13,180,000; service income - P31,870,000; business income - P51,990,000; other income of P161,160,000 and Internal Revenue Allotment - P302,000,000.

The expense category is distributed as follows: P353,134,364 for personal services; P366,105,136 for maintenance and

EDITORIAL... from page 4

Sure. But rhetoric papers over the persisting gap. "Priority In Public Spending" tables, of the 2006 United Nations Human Development Report, show Malaysia spends 8.0 percent of its GDP for education. more than double our allocation (3.2 percent). Thailand set aside 4.2 percent for it's schools.

Congressmen, who've stashed an additional P13.5 billion in pork, for themselves in the public works budget, won't tell you this: Filipino GDP per capita is already lower than for east Asian average. That low base prunes already low spending per pupil.

How low? Asian Development Bank just released a comparative study of real per capita income in Asia and the Pacific. The "2005 International Comparison Program" says, for example, Malaysia's real per capita GDP is 3.9 times bigger than the Philippines. Brunei's GDP is 40 times larger than Nepal.

other operating expenses; P43,720,500 for capital outlay; and P137,040,000 for development fund./ Aileen P. Refuerzo

This is not a bleeding-heart argument for throwing more money at schools. Rather, it is a hard-nosed fact that

economists have proven: education is the escape hatch from poverty. In a study of regional poverty, UP School of Economics Arsenio Balisacan found that "the rate of poverty incidence falls by three percent for every one percent improvement in functional literacy."

"Our constituents need it", Rep. Edcel Lagman said in an indirect admission the Lower House stitched the P13.5 billion slab into the budget. "We merely realigned items." That'd tiptoe around the constitutional ban against fracturing budgetary ceilings set by the President.

Many congressmen are like piranhas. A scent of blood whips them into a frenzy. Hence, there is little hope that congressmen will yield to former Senator Franklin Drilon's plea to waive their pork barrel. They'll go after those public work pre-Civil War Negro slaves, grabbed, as much as salted pork for themselves, from barrels, rolled out by their masters, New York Times William Safire noted.

Can this nation survive schools that are locked into perpetual crisis: from overworked, under-trained teachers to error studded textbooks and schoolroom shortages? That's seems the least of our officials' concerns.

Bright job prospects for welders

Ever wondered where have all the welders gone?

Thousands of them are now employed by Hanjin at its shipyard in Redondon Peninsula, Zambales.

According to Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesman Ignacio R. Bunye, the country's "best welders are now employed by Hanjin at its Zambales shipbuilding complex, the world's fourth largest.

The Korean shipbuilding giant plans to build five ships a month, 60 ships a year, "and that requires a lot of welders," Bunye said.

That's only for starters, he added, as the labor market for welders is bound to expand significantly when Hanjin opens its shipbuilding facility in Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental.

Last Jan. 10, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed in Cagayan de Oro City the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co., Ltd. (HHICC) and Phividec Industrial Authority (PIA) on the construction of a \$2-billion shipbuilding facility in Cagayan de Oro City.

The President gleefully noted that the new investment clearly reflected the favorable outlook for the country in the international community.

She pointed out that from 2003 to 2006, foreign investments in the Philippines grew five-fold and continued to increase at a double-digit rate last year.

"This surge of investments has been anchored by billion-dollar plus investments by several major international companies, not only Hanjin but also Texas Instruments in Clark, Marubeni and AES in the power sector and Mittal Global's upcoming integrated steel mill in Iligan City, among others," the President said.

Hanjin's second shipbuilding complex will be established inside the 3,000-hectare Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental.

PNP chief vows to improve police stations nationwide

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Avelino Razon Jr. has ordered the allocation of an additional 50 liters of gasoline each month to 918 police stations in second and third class municipalities nationwide.

He also ordered the Directorate for Comptrollership to increase the fund allocation for Maintenance, Operating and Other Expenses (MOOE) to police stations to support their daily operations.

Razon issued these directives as he vowed to push more resources and logistics to the field to meet the operational requirements of police units and personnel.

He stressed he intends to develop all the 1,500 city and municipal police stations into "fighting units" for anti-criminality and anti-insurgency operations.

According to Police Director Charlemagne Alejandrino, PNP Director for Logistics, an additional monthly allocation of 46,000 liters of fuel will be pushed down to the police stations in the field to support their requirements for mobility.

Samaritans sustain life... from page 3

orphan.

From Canada, Baguio boy Freddie de Guzman sent P6,650, used for John Brix's treatment plan that will take three years. Freddie also remitted P5,650 for Nora's medicine and Bonnamil supply for her baby boy Jason.

Freddie and the Ibaloi Samaritan in the U.S. began weaving the lifeline for patients here in April the other year. Freddie initially bankrolled the full chemotherapy of Linda Claire (not her real name), a 49-year old widow with nine children who has recovered from breast cancer. He and the Ibaloi expat then teamed up for cancer victims Elmer Biogan and Rose Ann Cordova and other patients.

Freddie sent another P4,100 last Dec. 18, P3,000 of which went to dialysis patient Filbert Almoza and the rest for John Briz.

Half of the Ibaloi expat's latest transmittal of \$175 (P7,030.20 by bank conversion) will help Wright Park pony boy Jaime Silvino start anew after he had to part with his horse to undergo urgent surgery last Christmas. The other half was given to Simon Lardizabal's father Geoffrey, for the kid's chemotherapy.

Also from Canada, Baguio boy Irwin Ilustre sent thousands of pesos which her sister Juliet distributed to patient-beneficiaries, among them seven-year old kidney patient John Mark Benedicto (P19,000), 10-year old bone cancer victim Ericka Madiaga (P13,000), and Nora (P3,500).

One's never too young to be of help Elementary school kids Elana and Bryan Aliping recently sent \$300 from their home in El Sobrante, Northern California. Their parents Joel and Emily advised that \$100 be for Janet's unemployed mother. Another \$100 supported diabetic patient Nicomedes Agustin and the remainder for others in need.

These Samaritans are not alone. In his fourth

annual visit home, former world karate champion Julian Chees last December spent over P120,000 raised by his Shoshin Foundation in Germany for medicines of other indigent patients. Of the amount, P5,000 was used for John Brix's hormone injection.

The lifeline was strengthened last week by Roger Cabading, a bartender in Toronto who came home recently. He took time to deliver P3,000 to cancer patient Myrna Buhong and P2,000 for two-month old Precious Jasmine de Guzman who was born with respiratory distress which doctors suspect is due to congenital heart ailment.

Also last Christmas, a young banker shared P1,500 that helped cover fare and food for Nora's family. Nora's husband drove a taxi for years but quit when he was robbed and seriously stabbed. Now a marginal farm worker earning P125 a day, he would like to go back to driving, but not as a cabbie.

"Pwede n'yo kayang ihanapan ng trabaho ang asawa ko," Nora texted last week.

As the number of Samaritans increase, so does the number of patients trying to reach out for help. Among them is 34-year old Danilo Belino a pocket miner from Atok Trail who was sidelined the other year when he was diagnosed for kidney failure.

Donors may ask for Belino from the storekeeper near the Atok Trail barangay hall. Others may want to visit leukemia victim Simon Lardizabal and his fellow young patients at the pediatric ward of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center./Ramon Dacawi.

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that on January 11, 2008, an Extra Judicial Settlement of the Estate of the late Emiliana W. Castro, who died intestate on June 21, 2000 at Abatan, Bauko, Mountain Province, was executed by her heirs as evidenced by Doc. No. 243, Page No. 049, Book No. IV, Series of 2008 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Melita Amylesha D. Macaraeg of Baguio City, Philippines.

Jan. 5, 12, and 19, 2008



Paunawa: Ang sumusunod ay ang RA 6713, otherwise known as **CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.** *Para sa kaalaman ng publiko at nang madla. Itutuloy ang naturang RA sa susunod na isyu.*

REPUBLIC ACT No. 6713

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, TO UPHOLD THE TIME-HONORED PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEING A PUBLIC TRUST, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENUMERATING PROHIBITED ACTS AND TRANSACTIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees."

Section 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service. Public officials and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the term:

- (a) "Government" includes the National Government, the local governments, and all other instrumentalities, agencies or branches of the Republic of the Philippines including government-owned or controlled corporations, and their subsidiaries.lawphi1.net
- (b) "Public Officials" includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the career or non-career service, including military and police personnel, whether or not they receive compensation, regardless of amount.
- (c) "Gift" refers to a thing or a right to dispose of gratuitously, or any act or liberality, in favor of another who accepts it, and shall include a simulated sale or an ostensibly onerous disposition thereof. It shall not include an unsolicited gift of nominal or insignificant value not given in anticipation of, or in exchange for, a favor from a public official or employee.
- (d) "Receiving any gift" includes the act of accepting directly or indirectly, a gift from a person other than a member of his family or relative as defined in this Act, even on the occasion of a family celebration or national festivity like Christmas, if the value of the gift is neither nominal nor insignificant, or the gift is given in anticipation of, or in exchange for, a favor.
- (e) "Loan" covers both simple loan and commodatum as well as guarantees, financing arrangements or accommodations intended to ensure its approval.
- (f) "Substantial stockholder" means any person who owns, directly or indirectly, shares of stock sufficient to elect a director of a corporation. This term shall also apply to the parties to a voting trust.
- (g) "Family of public officials or employees" means their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age.
- (h) "Person" includes natural and juridical persons unless the context indicates otherwise.

(i) "Conflict of interest" arises when a public official or employee is a member of a board, an officer, or a substantial stockholder of a private corporation or owner or has a substantial interest in a business, and the interest of such corporation or business, or his rights or duties therein, may be opposed to or affected by the faithful performance of official duty.

(j) "Divestment" is the transfer of title or disposal of interest in property by voluntarily, completely and actually depriving or dispossessing oneself of his right or title to it in favor of a person or persons other than his spouse and relatives as defined in this Act.

(k) "Relatives" refers to any and all persons related to a public official or employee within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, including bilas, inso and balae.

Section 4. Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees. - (A) Every public official and employee shall observe the following as standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of official duties:

(a) Commitment to public interest. - Public officials and employees shall always uphold the public interest over and above personal interest. All government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed and used efficiently, effectively, honestly and economically, particularly to avoid wastage in public funds and revenues.

(b) Professionalism. - Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill. They shall enter public service with utmost devotion and dedication to duty. They shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of their roles as dispensers or peddlers of undue patronage.

(c) Justness and sincerity. - Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. They shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their office to their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity except with respect to appointments of such relatives to positions considered strictly confidential or as members of their personal staff whose terms are coterminous with theirs.

(d) Political neutrality. - Public officials and employees shall provide service to everyone without unfair discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference.

(e) Responsiveness to the public. - Public officials and employees shall extend prompt, courteous, and adequate service to the public. Unless otherwise provided by law or when required by the public interest, public officials and employees shall provide information of their policies and procedures in clear and understandable language, ensure openness of information, public consultations and hearings whenever appropriate, encourage suggestions, simplify and systematize policy, rules and procedures, avoid red tape and develop an understanding and appreciation of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, especially in the depressed rural and urban areas.

(f) Nationalism and patriotism. - Public officials and employees shall at all times be loyal to the Republic and to the Filipino people, promote the use of locally produced goods, resources and technology and encourage appreciation and pride of country and people. They shall endeavor to maintain and defend Philippine sovereignty against foreign intrusion.

(g) Commitment to democracy. - Public officials and employees shall commit themselves to the democratic way of life and values, maintain the principle of public accountability, and manifest by deeds the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. They shall at all times uphold the Constitution and put loyalty to country above loyalty to persons or party.

(h) Simple living. - Public officials and employees and their families shall lead modest lives appropriate to their positions and income. They shall not indulge in extravagant or ostentatious display of wealth in any form.

(B) The Civil Service Commission shall adopt positive measures to promote (1) observance of these standards including the dissemination of information programs and workshops authorizing merit increases beyond regular progression steps, to a limited number of employees recognized by their office colleagues to be outstanding in their observance of ethical standards; and (2) continuing research and experimentation on measures which provide positive motivation to public officials and employees in raising the general level of observance of these standards.

Section 5. Duties of Public Officials and Employees. - In the performance of their duties, all public officials and employees are under obligation to: lawphi1.net

(a) Act promptly on letters and requests. - All public officials and employees shall, within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof, respond to letters, telegrams or other means of communications sent by the public. The reply must contain the action taken on the request.

(b) Submit annual performance reports. - All heads or other responsible officers of offices and agencies of the government and of government-owned or controlled corporations shall, within forty-five (45) working days from the end of the year, render a performance report of the agency or office or corporation concerned. Such report shall be open and available to the public within regular office hours.

(c) Process documents and papers expeditiously. - All official papers and documents must be processed and completed within a reasonable time from the preparation thereof and must contain, as far as practicable, not more than three (3) signatories therein. In the absence of duly authorized signatories, the official next-in-rank or officer in charge shall sign for and in their behalf.

(d) Act immediately on the public's personal transactions. - All public officials and employees must attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of their offices and must, at all times, act promptly and expeditiously.

(e) Make documents accessible to the public. - All public documents must be made accessible to, and readily available for inspection by, the public within reasonable working hours.

Section 6. System of Incentives and Rewards. - A system of annual incentives and rewards is hereby established in order to motivate and inspire public servants to uphold the highest standards of ethics. For this purpose, a Committee on Awards to Outstanding Public Officials and Employees is hereby created composed of the following: the Ombudsman and Chairman of the

Civil Service Commission as Co-Chairmen, and the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, and two government employees to be appointed by the President, as members.

It shall be the task of this Committee to conduct a periodic, continuing review of the performance of public officials and employees, in all the branches and agencies of Government and establish a system of annual incentives and rewards to the end that due recognition is given to public officials and employees of outstanding merit on the basis of the standards set forth in this Act.

The conferment of awards shall take into account, among other things, the following: the years of service and the quality and consistency of performance, the obscurity of the position, the level of salary, the unique and exemplary quality of a certain achievement, and the risks or temptations inherent in the work. Incentives and rewards to government officials and employees of the year to be announced in public ceremonies honoring them may take the form of bonuses, citations, directorships in government-owned or controlled corporations, local and foreign scholarship grants, paid vacations and the like. They shall likewise be automatically promoted to the next higher position with the commensurate salary suitable to their qualifications. In case there is no next higher position or it is not vacant, said position shall be included in the budget of the office in the next General Appropriations Act. The Committee on Awards shall adopt its own rules to govern the conduct of its activities.

Section 7. Prohibited Acts and Transactions. - In addition to acts and omissions of public officials and employees now prescribed in the Constitution and existing laws, the following shall constitute prohibited acts and transactions of any public official and employee and are hereby declared to be unlawful:

(a) Financial and material interest. - Public officials and employees shall not, directly or indirectly, have any financial or material interest in any transaction requiring the approval of their office.

(b) Outside employment and other activities related thereto. - Public officials and employees during their incumbency shall not:

(1) Own, control, manage or accept employment as officer, employee, consultant, counsel, broker, agent, trustee or nominee in any private enterprise regulated, supervised or licensed by their office unless expressly allowed by law;

(2) Engage in the private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided, that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with their official functions; or

(3) Recommend any person to any position in a private enterprise which has a regular or pending official transaction with their office.

To be continued on the next issue

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Public school heads benefit from 'EXCELS' scholarship program

More than 1,600 public elementary and secondary school heads nationwide are will benefit from the scholarship project dubbed "EXCELS Scholarship Programs" offered from November 2007 to July 2008.

Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary for Programs and Projects Vilma Labrador said that EXCELS is implemented in partnership with the Southeast Asian Minister of Education Organization Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO-INNOTECH) in 16 regions.

It offers 100 scholarships per region and 10 for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"It is a one-month flexible learning course on instructional and curricular leadership and management, which is conducted through a web-based platform called INNOTECH Flexile Learning Management System or iFLEX," Labrador said.

She said that under the program, scholars need not physically attend training in a specific location that will take them away from the workplace.

Instead, SEAMEO-INNOTECH provides the participants set of instructional modules, reading manuals and other materials for study during the one-month period.

Labrador added that the participants will undergo a three-hour online chat session where scholars interact, debate and discuss with fellow participants and a flexile learning tutor every week.

They are also required to submit course requirements that include module assignment, reflection papers and an action plan.

"DepEd scholars who successfully comply with the course requirements shall be awarded an international certificate by SEAMEO-INNOTECH and will receive advance credits for three academic units leading to a masters or doctoral degree program to be granted by a participating teacher education institution subject to its admission rules," Labrador said.

The regional directors make the nominations. Qualified nominees should be computer literate, have valid e-mail address, and able to attend the learners orientation and graduation to be held in the campus of the partner educational institution in the region.

The schedules of the scholarship program run from November to December 20 — Regions 7, 10 and National Capital Region (NCR); January 7 to February 4, 2008 — Regions 3, 4-A, 4-B, 6 and 7; February 27 to March 26 — Regions 1, 2, 5, 9 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); and June 9 to

RP to become main source of quality maritime officers

The country is expected to become the main source of quality managers and officers for the world shipping fleets starting this year.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo Brion said that measures have been put in place by the government with the support of stakeholders to reinforce the Philippines' thrust to become the main source of quality managers and officers for the world shipping fleet in 2008 and beyond.

Brion said these measures are designed to

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encourage more Filipino seafarers to become maritime officers, and stimulate growth in seafaring and maritime officership as preferred profession among Filipino youths in consonance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) amended Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

The measures include the development of the Management Level Course (MLC) for Filipino officers complemented by an effective bridging program.

"The bridging program would

enable a mechanical engineer, for instance, after completing the required period of shipboard duty, to progress on as a marine engineer", said Brion in a DOLE press report.

He noted a study indicating that despite the country's status as the manning capital of the world, only one out of every three Filipino seamen function as ship officers.

Brion said another 263,662 Filipino seafarers have been deployed around the world in 2007, complemented by a 21.7 percent increase in total seafaring contracts processed from 355,327 in 2006 to 432,561 last year.

Citing a preliminary report of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Brion added, that on the daily average, the 432,561 contract processed per documented seafarer in 2007 translated into around 1,185 contracts processed per day throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the DOLE will also come up with the Maritime Industry Action Plan for 2008 which will comprise the Department's contribution to the growth and development of the industry.



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