



MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

**Pahayagang****palaban!!!**

# Same-sex Marriage Brings Pinoy Mixed Feelings on Migration



Welcome the year 2011 - THE GAMBLING CAPITAL of Luzon or the Philippines (Baguio and La Trinidad). Upper left photo shows jueteng/jai-alai bet taker at Kayang St., taking bets. Upper right photo shows the winning combinations for the month of Dec 2010. Lower left photo shows the wining combinations posted at a store near the Benguet Justice Hall. Lower right photo shows the number combination/bets made by our in-former./Photos by G.P.Binwagan

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Guarded optimism for 2011

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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PRANGKAHAN TAYO

Wala Ng Jueteng ???  
Mayor Domogan ayaw ng Jueteng ???

BY : ORWEN TRAZO



I AM A CONSORT in waiting, waiting to be petitioned by my fiancé to Australia, a country open to marriage of both males.

This is our story.

Our engagement is a very long one: I said yes in 2009.

Marriage proposals are usually followed by the marriage itself a year or within a year after engagement. I know mine will take longer.

I have just started researching on how I would be able to join my fiancé in Australia.

And from what I gathered, it would take a while before I get there.

I would have to get a visa, apply for **Cont. on page 9**

**Wala daw Jueteng !!! DILG Secretary Robredo at PNP Director General Bacalzo- Kilos na mga Sir !!!**



**Line Agencies Support For Regional Autonomy**

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## SSS releases P9.3 B in pensions/ Bonuses for 2010

**BAGUIO CITY** – The Social Security System (SSS) released P9.3 Billion in pensions and bonuses (13<sup>th</sup> month pay) for its 1.5 million pensioners for December 2010.

According to SSS North Luzon Sr. Executive Assistant Ochie Castañeto, SSS pensioners have already received twice the amount of their monthly pension as early as the first week of December. Aside from their pension, they are also given 13<sup>th</sup> month pay.

Castañeto assured members of the financial viability of the SSS which recent financial study shows could run up to 2045. SSS also had a net revenue for the first nine months of 2010, of P17.62 B, which is a 51 percent year-on-year increase and surpassing our net revenue target P12.2 B,’ he added.

Castañeto also stressed that the SSS North Luzon Office covering the Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos Region, has over five million members. It also has the highest number of farmer/fisherfolk members.

In the same interview, SSS Information Officer Mariane Garcia called on employers to update their loan accounts so as their employees would not encounter problems when availing SSS benefits and programs.

As for their OFW members, Garcia advised them to continue paying their membership dues and to always check their records with SSS personally or thru representative so that they will not encounter any problem if they avail of SSS programs and benefits.

Garcia also en-

couraged OFWs to avail of their flexi-fund program. ‘It is a savings program for OFWs wherein savings could earn more as the interest is comparable to that of treasury bills and can be withdrawn after a year,’ she explained.

For those individual SSS members who are retrenched or laid-off from work, Garcia urged them to continue their membership and salary loan payments so that they will be eligible for sickness, maternity, disability and death benefits, aside from the loan program and future pension benefits.

Garcia also called on all SSS members not to lower their membership bracket. She even encouraged them to increase to the next bracket for bigger benefits. According to Garcia, SSS pensioners could receive up to P24,895 pension per month for the highest bracket./ Lito Dar/PIA

## 1,200 OFWs/Dependents in CAR benefit from OWWA programs

**BAGUIO CITY** – More than 1,200 active Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) including their dependents have availed of the various scholarship and training programs of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA-CAR) for the year 2010.

According to OWWA-CAR OIC Director Laranang,

aside from their regular Education for Development Scholarship Program (EDSP), a baccalaureate scholarship program for qualified dependents of active OFWs (OWWA member), there are more than 1,000 other availments of other scholarship and training programs.

Laranang affirmed that there were already 23 batches of

trainings implemented for year 2010 with a total 1, 075 graduates under ‘Microsoft Tulay.’ This is a free computer training program offered to OFWs and/or their dependents, whether active OWWA member or returnees, who are interested to undergo basic computer training on

Cont. on page 10

## DPWH-KED awards Magandang Kalsada, Opisina and Model Employee of the Year

**T A B U K , Kalinga** – The Department of Public Works and Highways Kalinga Engineering District (DPWH-KED) held the “*Magandang Kalsada*”, “*Magandang Opisina*” and Model Employee of the Year competition last week as a scheme to improve their services for the benefit of the public.

For the Model Employee of the Year, DPWH-KED gave recognition to Ms. Edna Buen, Construction Maintenance Man and Mr. Clayton

Gasadan, Construction Maintenance Capataz for their “exemplary diligence and sterling performance, good working relationship with peers and supervisors, conscientious observance of office decorum, integrity, dependability and dedication to duty contributing to the attainment of the goals and objectives of the department as a whole towards a better public service.”

Meanwhile, the Agbanna wag - Malalao-Bulo National Road Section under the supervision of Engr. Marivic Pagala

emerged as the *Magandang Kalsada* winner during the recognition rites last December 18 at the DPWH-KED compound.

Second Place went to the Bulanao – Paracelis National Road being supervised by Engr. Julius Asencio, while the Calanan-Enrile National Road under Engr. Joel Bucac was adjudged as the third place winner.

The “*Magandang Kalsada*” program is a scheme initiated under the leadership of OIC District Engineer Leo Mus-

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## Budget Deliberations Moving

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council in a special session last Dec. 28 approved the proposed budgets of 13 of the 18 departments of the city government as deliberations on the 2011 city budget continue here.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas said the body will continue reviewing the proposed financial plans of the remaining five departments and make the necessary adjustments if needed to complete the departmental

budgets.

Afterwards, focus will shift to the more crucial concern which is the prioritization of the projects to be financed from the 20 percent development fund which make up the 2011 Annual Investment Plan (AIP)

The body will set another joint executive-legislative meeting after the New Year break to tackle the AIP, the approval of which is required before the budget can be adopted.

Earlier there were disagreements on the list of projects proposed under the development fund but both the executive and legislative branches expressed willingness to adjust the details on condition that the original amount of the budget will not be changed.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan earlier submitted the AIP prepared by the city planning and development office to the city council for ap-

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THE JUNCTION

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The Junction- OIC



## RDC to pursue P-Noy's support in preserving convention center mini-forest

**BAGUIO CITY** – The Regional Development Council will pursue its request to President Benigno Aquino III, for his support and a declaration of the area beside the Baguio Convention Center to remain as a tree park.

According to Dr. Virgilio Bautista, RDC co-chairman, said they hope to get from P-Noy the same stand as former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who during her visit in August last year, declared

that the said area will remain as a tree part. There is, however, no written document of such declaration.

‘We are hopeful that the President will yield the same position and that he will prevail over the GSIS (Government Service Insurance System), as the former declaration made was also during the term of the old president of GSIS who was recently replaced,’ Bautista stressed.

‘We hope that they will not touch it and for it to remain as lungs of

the city,’ Bautista added.

It will be recalled that the RDC has passed a resolution submitted to the President, seeking for the preservation of the Pine Tree Park beside the Baguio Convention Center. The GSIS entered into contract with SM (Shoemart) to develop the area into a high rise condominium, which has been a subject of protests of several groups and organizations, who want to preserve the pine trees in the said area./ Lito Dar/PIA



**“APPOINTED BY 2 PRESIDENTS”** - Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Edilberto Claravall sworns into office Prosecutor Gloria Agunos as 1st Assistant City Prosecutor of Baguio City December 30 following her re-appointment signed by President Benigno Aquino III. She was appointed to the same position by former President Gloria Arroyo during her term. photo by paul rillorta

## BCNHS Main bags biggest cash prize in Christmas Rhythm

The Baguio City National High School - Main wowed audiences in the recent Christmas Rhythm chorale competition and romped off with P50,000.00 in cash after winning both the traditional and show choir categories in the high school division of the music tilt.

In the elementary division, Baguio Central School came out first in traditional choir and second to Doña Aurora Elementary School in show for a total prize of P40,000.00, a feat matched by the University of Baguio who brought home a similar amount by besting the college show choirs and coming out second to the University of the Cordilleras

in traditional choir.

Other winners of the competition include: In the elementary division: Don Mariano Marcos Elementary School, 2<sup>nd</sup> in traditional; and University of Baguio Laboratory Elementary School, 3<sup>rd</sup> in traditional and show choir. In the high school division: BCNHS – Doña Aurora, 2<sup>nd</sup> in traditional; BCNHS – Rizal, 3<sup>rd</sup> in traditional; UB High, 2<sup>nd</sup> in show; and BCNHS – Roxas, 3<sup>rd</sup> in show. In the college division: SLU School of Engineering and Architecture, 2<sup>nd</sup> in show and 3<sup>rd</sup> in traditional; and Data Center College, 3<sup>rd</sup> in show.

The Christmas Rhythm, a project of the city government in co-

operation with Creative Worx Inc., brought together thirteen Baguio school choirs who had made it through the grueling elimination rounds and who took to the stage at the Melvin Jones football field last December 22 for the grand finale. A total of P300,000.00 in cash prizes was awarded to the competing choirs.

The Grand Finale was also the setting for the city's attempt to break the world record for the greatest number of carol singers at a single venue, a record held by South Carolina's Bob Jones University at 7,514 carolers. Electronic scanners employed by the organizers to count the number of participants registered over

## SK Head Proposes Transpo Time For Students

**BAGUIO CITY** – Sangguniang Kabataan Federation (SKF) President and Youth Councilor Karminn Cheryl Dinney Yangot has proposed an amendatory ordinance for students to be serviced by jeepney units up to 9:30 in the evening.

As to the submitted proposal, Councilor Yangot mentioned earlier ordinance 066, series of 1995 which required Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association members to provide units for passengers until 9:00 in the evening.

7,770 people in attendance. The number, however, dwindled as the mass singing began since people had started to head for home after the chorale competition.

A similar attempt to break the world record for the most number of carolers was made by the Boston Symphony Orchestra last De-

City Ordinance 066 aims to “ensure that evening passengers most specially students reach their respective homes early and at the same time enjoy an affordable means of transportation.”

However, she has observed that “after 9:00 o'clock in the evening, many students and other evening passengers can still be seen in the different jeepney terminals waiting for jeepney units to ferry them home,” thus the proposed ordinance.

If Councilor Yangot's proposal is approved, section 1

of Ordinance 066, would be amended to read: “All Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations in the City of Baguio shall at all times have jeepney units available for passengers until 9:30 o'clock in the evening.”

Councilor Yangot mentioned that the ordinance would take effect in accordance with the provisions of the local government act, RA 7160.

The proposal was submitted to City Secretary Prudencio Parnacio, Jr. for next year's first council meeting./ juliegfianza

cember 4 at the Prudential Center Plaza. However, only 3,200 carolers participated in the event.

Councilor Elmer Datuin, chair of the local tourism committee, remains unfazed by the failure to break the world record. “We succeeded in showcasing the musical talents that abound in our

local schools,” he remarked, “and we have given the city residents as well as our visitors the gift of Christmas music through the grand finale.”

Meanwhile, local school choirs look forward to next year's chorale competition and a second chance at breaking the world record./ j\_m\_matas@yahoo.com

**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](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)



## 2011 As Time Tunnel

"No one ever regarded the first of January with indifference," author Charles Lamb once wrote. "It is that from which all date their time and count upon what is left. It is the nativity of our common Adam."

Nine out of 10 Filipinos enter the new year upbeat, Pulse Asia reports. It polled a nationwide sample of 1,200 respondents. President Benigno Aquino's pledge to bear down on corrosive graft, under President Gloria Arroyo, gives hope and resonates, Pulse Asia's chief researcher Ana Maria Tabunda, told Agence France Presse. "There's a perception things will be better because we have a new administration."

"For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another's voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning," T.S. Eliot said.

## EDITORIAL

PNoy's beginning stint got thumbs up from seven out of

10 Filipinos, Social Weather Stations found. The discontented (10%) are concentrated in Metro Manila. "Over all, he chalked up for a "very good net satisfaction rating of +64."

That's a solid base for this season of compulsive crystal balling. Why does passage of the old year spur peering into the future?

"He who does not take thought of the future will find troubles well at hand", Confucius taught. "Prediction... is not to win a bet about the future," explains MIT professor Sherry Turkle. "It expresses a hope about what we might like the future to be."

On New Year's Eve, the Kitchen God's lips are rubbed with pork, so, he'd report favorably, on one's household, to the Jade Emperor, ancient Chinese fables say. And in the 1605 play "Macbeth", Banquo challenges the witches: "If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then unto me."

The New York Times, in 1931, invited American innovators to predict what life would be like in 2011. Average life span of Americans, then only 54, would rise to 70, founder of Mayo Clinic, W.J. Mayo, foresaw. It is 77.9 years today, on par with the Netherlands —and ahead of the Philippines 72.2 years. Noting China's rise, physicist Arthur Compton envisaged "science will no longer be a monopoly of the West."

"Our ability to design new objects may be accelerating", says Princeton University's Edward Tenner. But "skill at modeling their long-term risks increases only arithmetically."

Early space travel visionaries didn't not fully grasp the challenges of radiation and lunar dust on extended missions. "Long-term environmental and social change can be even harder to predict."

That shuttles us back to the 1977 study "Probing Our Futures: The Philippines 2000 AD." It was a probing-the-future effort by Development Academy of the Philippines, School of Economics and Population Institute at UP.

The study analyzed population, natural resources, nutrition, education, health and incomes. The data was to underpin policy thrusts, "not for a preferred but for an attainable future...A generation should give us time to create a better future all around."

UP's Dr Felipe Miranda oversaw fellow-scientists with impeccable bona-fides in this drill. Why did it falter?

"I fault the study...for assuming no political changes into the year 2000," former Education Secretary Onofre Corpus wrote. "It projected martial law continuing over the next generation.(It) assumed politics (had) no effect on our future."

"These assumptions are not tenable." Population growth, new technology and "emergence of a new generation of Filipino Muslim leaders will create new configurations and result in sharper approaches to social issues."

Neither did "Probing Our Futures" foresee radical changes, just blips on the radar screen in the mid-70s.

A trickle of overseas workers then become a torrent. One in every ten Filipinos works abroad today. Cyberspace spin offs from the 1946 advent of computers altered world communications. That reshaped human hopes.

First signals of climate change then morphed into the last three years as "the warmest on record." World Meteorological Organization records reveal. In fact, 2001 through 2010 has been "warmest decade" Its impact on food costs to floods and blizzards is still unreeling...

People Power, sparked by Benigno Aquino's assassination, was nine years away when first drafts of the

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Guarded optimism for 2011*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



It is of course bad to think negatively of the coming year. Our expectations for the future is partly self-fulfilling. If we expect that 2011 will be a bad year, then like it or not, our expectation of the future will affect our behavior, including our inclination to invest. Why would a businessman, for example, bother to invest if his expectation for the future is bad?

On the other hand if we are filled with optimism on the year ahead then that expectation will also find partial fulfillment. If our expectations for the future is good then that optimism will lead us to invest more, to engage in economic activities.

Of course is the economy is bad then no matter what our optimism is like, the optimism will not have much effect in the economy. However, we will be at a worse situation for sure if the economy is not only bad but the pessimism pervades in society as well.

Do we then engage in promotion of false hopes so our economy can be better? Probably, honest, objectivity, and truth is still the best policy. If we promote false hopes then eventually hope itself will not be reliable at all and the economy is negatively affected in the long run.

On the other hand, a policy of truth will guide economic agents towards appropriate behavior, such as on what sectors in the economy are investments appropriate, when to invest, and how much to invest. How much must risks be factored in the making of business decisions?

It is within these contexts that the Peace Combatant is sounding the alarm bells: maintain a guarded optimism for 2011, there are signs that the US economic crisis may not be over and the effects can be worldwide.

As of December 2010, US national unemployment remains steady at nearly 10% and no one is forecasting that a lower unemployment rate for 2011. This means that US unemployment will remain likely high at that rate for the US economy for at least a few months to come. The US is known for unemployment rate of only between 4 to 6% and, thus, the 10% unemployment figure can be considered as both very high and alarming.

Many US analysts are of the opinion that the current positive signs are mere seasonal fluctuations over an economy cycle. Sure, consumers are spending more but they are spending more not because the economy has improved but only because it is Christmas season. As markets are interrelated and the US economy is a large percentage of the world economy, difficulties in the US economy inevitably translates itself into difficulties for the world economy. Exports encounter difficulties finding a market. Even local firms and individuals find themselves bankrupt as large US firms become bankrupt because somehow they have investments in the US.

Not only do Philippine exports find difficulties finding in the US market but our exports encounter difficulties finding markets in other countries as well. Individuals and firms who have investments in markets other than the US become

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## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*God is in control, happy New Year!*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**GOD IS IN CONTROL OF OUR LIVES:** Stephanie Kho, a fellow member at the Rotary Club of Intramuros, Manila under Rotary International District 3810, posted a very nice piece entitled "Handy Little Chart", detailing Biblical verses that confirm God is in control in many of the problems in our lives.

I am reproducing the first part of that piece here as a timely New Year message for all our readers. The article: "HANDY LITTLE CHART - God has a positive answer: You say 'It's impossible'; God says 'All things are possible' (Luke 18:27).

"You say: 'I'm too tired; God says: 'I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28-30). You say: 'Nobody really loves me; God says: 'I love you' (John 3:16 & John 3:34). You say: 'I can't go on'; God says: 'My grace is sufficient' (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

"You say: 'I can't figure things out'; God says: 'I will direct your steps' (Proverbs 3:5-6). You say: 'I can't do it'; God says: 'You can do all things' (Philippians 4:13) You say: 'I'm not able'; God says: 'I am able' (II Corinthians 9:8). More of this next issue.

-ooo-

**CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS:** The final mystery in the "Sorrowful Mysteries" of the Holy Rosary of Roman Catholic Christians is the "Crucifixion and Death of Jesus." As this statement suggests, it is an account of how Jesus died through crucifixion.

In Matthew, it can be found in its Chapter 27, verses 33 to 61. In Mark, it is written in its Chapter 15, verses 22 to 47, while in Luke, this story is told in its Chapter 23, verses 32 to 56. In John, it is narrated in its Chapter 19, verses 18 to 42.

Despite its obvious defeatist stance because it portrays the death of Jesus, the "Crucifixion and Death of Jesus" actually represents a glorious victory for the Son of God and for all those who believe in Him.

-ooo-

**DEATH OF JESUS IS VICTORY:** For this "death" is no death at all. It is a victorious fulfillment of what Jesus had been saying all along, that He was going to die in the hands of sinners, so that the Scriptures will be fulfilled.

Then, this death was a necessary process, as it were, so that sins could be forgiven, and its actual happening, in the full view of witnesses, confirms God's forgiveness of everyone who believes in Jesus and for those who repent and turn from their wicked ways.

The death of Jesus, therefore, signals a "defeat", yes, but it is a defeat of sin and wickedness, and the triumph of God's great love for man.

-ooo-

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## PRANGKAHAN TAYO

*Wala Ng Jueteng ???  
Mayor Domogan ayaw ng Jueteng ???*

BY : ORWEN TRAZO



Isang malaking Happy New Year mga mahal kong nag babasa ng pahayagang the jankyon este The Junction Newspaper. Sana manawari ay gumanda ang darating na taong 2011, sana ay biyayain tayong lahat ng kapayapaan, katahimikan, magandang kalusugan at mga ibang blessing mula kay Allah, Lord God and Jesus Christ, Buddha at mga ibang diyos na nag bibigay ng mga blessings, huwag lang ang diyos ng kadiliman na sinasanto ng maraming mga korap at gahaman na opisyaleng ng gobyerno!!!

####

Bakit parating sinasabi na wala na raw Jueteng sa Baguio a La Trinidad samantalang nagkalat ang ga kumukura ng jueteng na ang front ay jai-alai daw. Tatlong beses din ang bolaat talong beses din ang labas at tama at dalawang kombinasyong nunnero rin ang kailangan lumabas para tumama. Sabi nila na wala na raw jueteng, ito yun jueteng na ibinobola sa lalim ng puno ng kamatis. Hi ! Hi ! Hi ! . **MGA UNGAS KAYONG NAG SASABI NA WALA NG JUETENG, DAPAT SA INYO AY ISANG BAD AND SAD NEW YEAR AT HINDI HAPPY NEW YEAR.** Anong palagay ninyo mga mahal kong nagbabasa ng pahayagang ito, nagsisinungaling ba ang mga litrato [headline photos] sa pahayagang ito, paki tignan nga mabuti. **ATTENTION – DILG Regional Director, PNP Regional Director, Governor Nestor Fongwan, PNP Baguio City Director, Mayor Mauricio Domogan at Mayor Gregorio Abalos,** malamang ay kailangan na ninyo ipatingin ang inyong mga mata at mukhang malabo na ang inyong mga mata at patingin na rin ninyo ang inyong mga taenga., baka kasi nakaka labo ng paningin at nakaka bingi ang inyong natatangap na &\$\*?@!'"#\$:<%???

####

Sabi ni Mayor Domogan ayaw daw niya ng jueteng. Sabi ni Mayor Domogan na mali daw ang impormasyon at expose ni Bishop Oscar Cruz na isa raw siyang jueteng financier-operator. Sabi ni Santo Papa Domogan este Mayor Domogan na nuon pa man ay tutol na siya sa jueteng. Sabi ko naman - AMEN, AMEN, AMEN !!! Kaya nga bumuo pa si The Gud Mayor ng Task Force Jupiter para supilin ang jueteng. Bery Gud Mr. Mayor Domogan, Bery Bery Gud **HONORABLE MAYOR DOMOGAN SIR.** Teka nga pala, nakarinig na nga ba kayo ng isang opisyal na umamin na tumatangap siya o siya ay financier ng Jueteng ? Hi ! Hi ! Hi ! . **AGA AMO TAYON MAYOR!**

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**Sya nga pala mga mahal kong mambabasa muling manunumbalik umpisa ng January 2011 sa pahayagang ito ang mga exclusive na mga komentaryo at exposes ng Linis Gobyerno – ang LG Komentaryo .**

## Editorial

... from page 4

PRF study were circulated. A bejeweled Imelda Marcos, strutted on the censored "New Society" stage, with cloying "Blue Ladies." Corazon Aquino was an obscure housewife, compelled to seek Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's permission to visit her detained husband, or in Boston exile, oversee studies of Benigno III and sisters.

Panfilo Lacson and some PMA Class 72 members were rising stars in torture chambers of a "Rolex 12" military. Shell Marcos foundations emerged in Lichtenstein and Bahamas. Erosion of Supreme Court independence was sealed in the pathetic surrender of habeas corpus safeguards to the dictatorship.

**Is New Year's Day 2011 also a "time tunnel"?**

The Supreme Court today is "led by a twilight appointee (and) ...objected violently to the country discovering the truth" about misrule by the former president, Inquirer's Conrad de Quiros notes. The medium term plan estimates volatile demand for overseas workers are unrealistically static. The run down on ecological capital continues. Economist Cielito Habito, this week, documented ratcheting pressure on fisheries.

In 2011, it is vital our scientists will resume efforts to discern our future. "If we open a quarrel between the past and the present," Winston Churchill once warned, "we shall find that we have lost the future"./J.L.Mercado



## DIRETSAHAN

**JUETENG NANAMAN !!!  
BIG TIME GUMASTOS SA  
KLAB !!!**

**BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA**



Aba at papasok na pala ang bagong taon 2011 mga suki, so gubbay na sa 2010 at sana ay isama na nitong umalis ang lahat ng kamalasan at kasamaan na halos namayani sa buong taong 2010 at sana rin ay salubungin tayo ng suwerte lalo na ang madlang pinoy, itong darating na 2011. Basta ang masasabi ko lang, ganito noon ang DIRETSAHAN, ganito pa rin ngayon, en op kors ganito pa rin sa darating pang mga taon, DI SEYM ISTAYL, DI SYEM PORPUS, DI SEYM PORMAT, en di seym na kolumnistang LUMALABAN at walang INUURUNGAN at KINIKILINGAN.! HAPI NYU YIR ngayon, balik tayo sa ating last na HATAW por da yir 2010!

ooOoo

Mukha yata na talagang mantindi ang kamandag ng "tengwe" as in jueteng. Aba, at mismong ang malakanyang na ni p-noy ang nagsasabing itigil na ito pero me mga impo tayo na tuloy pa rin daw ito at mismong mga eryl sa hilagang Luzon ay namamayagpag ang "di komebacking huweng"!

At dito naman sa Benguet, haw tru na ang Jail-alai sa may Km.3 ng La Trinidad Benguet ay prente lamang ng jueteng? At gaano rin katotoo ang bulong sa akin na kapag hindi raw pinayagan ni apo "yor-me" ABALOS ng La Trinidad na ipagpatuloy ang kontrata ng Jai Alai sa kanyang lugar, eh sa TUBA, SABLAN at TUBLAY daw ito ililipat ng mga unggoy na opereytor ng jueteng "cum" ajai-alai? Kung totoo ito, aba me posibilidad na mag-twinkle twinkle na naman ang mata ng ibang mga opisyal sa nabanggit na mga lugar!! He!he! pero teka, paano naman ang mga opisyal dito sa baguio, eh balita ko dito raw mangungubra ang ibang mga kabo tapos sa ibang lugar gaganapin ang "misteryo"? whew di ba napaka-unfair naman yata ito? Di ba apo "yorme" MORRIS DOMOGAN? At ano rin kaya ang papel ng lokal na CIDG sa isyung ito? Pakisagot nga po apo, tsip, kernel, director MOISES GUEVARRA ng CIDG-CAR!!!! Papayagan nyu ba ito? ABANGAN!!

ooOoo

Dapat ipaimbestiga itong mga hinayupak na taksi drayber na nambugbog sa isang walang kalabanlaban na lalaki sa loob mismo ng taksi. Ayon sa sumbong ng biktima halos singwenta na mga taksi drayber ang sumugod sa kanya sa pag-aakalang siya ang naging sanhi ng trapiko, ayon pa, ito raw drayber na nagngangalang MARION ng GUMOT TAXI na may plakang AYS 282 ay tumawag daw ng mga ka-tropang taksi drayber sa pamamagitan ng radyo na nakakabit sa kanyang sasakyan.

Atensyon DOTC-CAR, pakibusisi naman itong ipinarating na reklamo. Dapat maimbestigahan at maparusahan itong mga hinayupak na dayber na walang disiplina. Dapat kumpiskahin ang kanilang mga lisensya at radyo, PERIOD!

ooOoo

Sino kaya itong may-ari ng isang prestihiyosong hotel sa Baguio na matatagpuan sa loob ng dating kampo de Amerikano" na gumastos raw ng halos "two hundred fifty thousand pesos" sa isang nytklab na matatagpuan sa Marcos Highway sa isang gabi lamang? Hanep di ba mga suki?... Masakit talaga sa balsa, pero sa isang katulad nitong mister "Hotel Owner" ay oki lamang sana, pero may nagbulong na ang ginastos daw ay galling umano sa KURAKOT na nakukuha nitong si unnggoy na operatiba ng customs na nakatalaga sa poro point ng San Fernando City, La Union at bata raw ni dating pangulong GMA. Di bale mga suki at atin pong aalisan ng maskara itong "custom operative" na aking tinutukoy wans na makumpleto ang mga ebidensya na kinakalap ngayon ng isang non-government intelligence agency. Magandang regalo ito kay pinoy pag nagkataon, He!he!he!

ooOoo

How true na namamayagpag na naman ang mga mandurukot at isnatser sa may Session Rd. ng Baguio city at ang ginagamit raw na taguan o takbuhan ng mga nakadukot o naka isnats ng pitaka o cellphone ay sa loob ng skyworld building na halos puro wagwagan ang mga nandun? Marami na akong natanggap na report na marami ang nadudukutan at naagawan ng pitaka at cellphone sa lugar na nabanggit at ang masakit, marami sa mga nanging biktima ay mga bisita lamang sa lungsod, NAKAKAHIIYA! Pakituunan nyu naman ito ng pansin apo BCPO tsip superentendent DAVID LACDAN, at BCPO station 7 Tsip apo BUANSI!

ooOoo

Meron daw iligal na pasugalan sa may San Carlos Heights, Baguio City, Malapit daw mismo sa may

**Cont. on page 9**

## Mention of migration in PH growth plan gets tepid reception

MANILA—A LADYBUG walking on a green leaf may excite advocates more than the mere mention of migration in government's new six-year growth plan.

Edwin Corros of the Philippine Catholic bishops' Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) says this is due to the absence of a long-term vision for migration, and for the Philippines, in the 2010-2016 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), which government will begin printing in January.

Corros, who is also a Catholic priest, notes that at least there was one under Fidel V. Ramos's presidency.

That time, Ramos, a military general elected in 1992, pinned the Philippines as Asia's next tiger economy.

In the 2004-2010 MTPDP under former President Gloria Arroyo, overseas Filipinos are mentioned in sub-portions such as trade and investment, labor (which got the lengthiest discussion), responding to the basic needs of the poor, science and technology, culture, and responsive foreign policy.

It was during Arroyo's time that deployment of Filipino workers abroad hit its peak of nearly a million yearly. The money these estimated 8.5 million Filipinos sent home also proportionally increased to as much as ten percent of the country's gross domestic product. Remittances were also credited for the buffering of the Philippine economy when traditional financial institutions collapsed.

Despite his animosity towards Arroyo, successor and

current President Benigno S. Aquino III appears to sing the same song.

As Socioeconomic Planning chief Cayetano Paderanga said, the planned 11-chapter MTPDP will mention overseas Filipinos in sub-portions such as: the macro-economy, competitive industry and services sectors, modern agriculture, human resource development, financial sector development, good governance and the rule of law, and social development.

Overseas Pinoys in Aquino's MTPDP

NEDA Director-General Cayetano Paderanga, in a Vision 2020 conference organized by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), said that the following strategies on migration and development will figure in the MTPDP:

1. Review the continued deployment of workers in medium- and high-risk areas and occupations;

2. Create an efficient one-stop shop for processing applications for overseas work;

3. Audit the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to rationalize the management of its funds;

4. Work with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in creating centers of care and service for overseas Filipinos;

5. Invest in formal and regular skills training;

6. Assist overseas Filipinos in achieving financial stability through training, investment and savings programs;

7. Improve program for seafarer's upgrading, credit/loan and self-insurance coverage;

8. Complete a global training master plan; and

9. Facilitate the reintegration of returning overseas workers.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General told a conference (*see Box*) that various strategies related to migration and development will be "sprinkled" into the five proposed "pillars of growth" of the MTPDP: macroeconomic policy, infrastructure for development, financial sector development and capital mobilization, enhancing peace and security, and protecting the integrity of the environment and natural resources.

Economist Alvin Ang contends that the "sprinkling" does migrant workers as disservice.

He told the *OFW Journalism Consortium* that migration deserves a separate chapter in the MTPDP to recognize that overseas Filipinos "are the ones mobilizing the Philippine economy".

Firm stand R E M I T - TANCES specialist Ildefonso F. Bagasao wishes for just a phrase to be inserted in the document.

"I hope the MTPDP declares that migration is a temporary option for the country," says the president of the nonprofit Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos (Ercof).

If President Aquino tells the bureaucracy that this is our policy, "people will have no choice but follow it," Bagasao added.

President Aquino has repeatedly mentioned that overseas migration is not the government's development strategy.

He has also been quoted as saying that the policy is

**Cont. on page 11**



## Seaman's wife stretches income via rubber plant investment

PASAY CITY—EARLY evening here in an air-conditioned room, Sandra dela Cruz performed what she does every morning far south in her rubber plantation: stretching a hand.

But while the 50-year-old spouse of a seaman is used to doing the latter, there was a lifting feeling as she did the former.

Who wouldn't be if, like Dela Cruz, she was the matriarch of this year's most outstanding Filipino seafaring family, awarded December 6 by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

But her mind already stretched to a husband bobbing on a boat on a vast blue sea on-and-off for the past 15 years.

Likewise, with rubbery knees with the accolades she received, Dela Cruz said she couldn't wait to go back to her fourth-class hometown of Sofronio Espanola (100 kms. south of Puerto Princesa City) in Palawan where her 4-hectare farm awaits the touch of its mistress.

Her work on the three-year-old rubber tree farm is the reason for the OWWA recognition, and her basis to say she's used to stretching her hand.

Every morning since 2007, she said she and two caretakers stretch their hands to pour the right amount of fertilizer to the trees, as well as water that matches the light from the Palawan sun. Those trees must get the right balance of water and heat, she explained.

Sandra said she will continue this daily routine until the year 2012, when the trees start bearing latex.

If plans don't go awry, yields from this high-value commercial crop can see Sandra stretch the investible value of remittances coming from husband Victor.

This is because the wife also wishes husband Victor to stay home, on dry land, for good.

The 53-year-old electrician is currently deployed under local-based ship principal BW Shipping.

"I estimate the prospective income from rubber production will be bigger than his salary as a seaman by the time our third child finishes schooling."

Sandra's youngest is on his sophomore year in high school while a daughter is taking up nursing in Manila. Two of her older daughters are already working.

### Elastic

SANDRA'S confidence in the yields offered by rubber planting is based on scientific and financial data.

A budded rubber tree not only grows faster than unbudded trees: budded rubber trees can produce latex of 200 grams minimum, and harvesting is every other day.

A hundred budded rubber trees can yield 20 kilos of latex, or 300 kilos in a given month—and at just a little above a greenback (P50) per processed latex, a rubber farmer can yield P15,000 every month from a hundred trees.

A rubber tree (or *Havea brasiliensis*, which is of South American origin) even gives farmers latex that lasts up to 35 years.

"My children and grandchildren can inherit my business," Sandra said.

The inheritance may be big as Sandra said her family plans to expand their farm by another 20 has. next year.

"Twenty hectares more to plant rubber next year," she says with glee. "Anyway, I'm used to this."

She's confident with the plan saying that rubber production is "not too expensive".

Sweat and fertilizers are the equities—cheaper, Sandra says, compared buying budded rubber seedlings at the cost of P4,500 to P5,000 (100 seedlings cost P45 to P50).

Seedlings are not much of a problem for the barangay because the mountainous part of Labog had a lot of these.

She said she first saw those seedlings—"a truckload"—after visiting the family-owned rice field in 2006.

That encounter made dela Cruz decide to plant rubber after 12 years (beginning 1994) of planting various crops—from fruits, paper trees, to mahogany trees, to even oil palm fruits. The latter, according to her, easily perish after harvest.

A year later, in 2007, Sandra and Victor bankrolled a seminar organized by the provincial agriculturist that benefited 64 fellow villagers.

After the training, the Brgy. Labog Rubber and Ube Planters Association was formed.

When the group's former president died, Sandra, that time the group's project manager for external affairs, took over. She prodded members to plant 100 budded rubber trees on each of their own nurseries.

### Chewy

SEVERAL references cite the Philippines having a young rubber industry (55 years), though rubber planting was first discovered in Basilan during the early 1900s. Mindanao provinces such as North Cotabato and Zamboanga City, are the country's rubber havens, a paper by the Bureau of Agricultural Research cited.

The Philippines' mostly smallholder rubber planters plant the crop in a total of 110,958 ha. and produced a volume of 407,640 metric tons of rubber in 2009, data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics bares.

During a 2005 international rubber conference held in Davao City, international rubber experts predict the Philippines can soar in the world rubber market by 2020 given the country's high production and consumption of natural rubber.

Palawan is not actually a hub of rubber planting and production in the Philippines given that the provincial agriculturist's inventory shows that the province only has 625.4 has. of rubber plantations.

Agriculture officials eye Palawan as the next rubber hub as tire manufacturer Goodrich announced last April plans to set up a 20,000 ha. plantation in the province. The target area is big enough to set up a tire processing center.

Goodyear, Firestone, and Sime Darby have already penetrated the Mindanao market.

Department of Agriculture official Rene Espino of the high value commercial crops (HVCC) program says this size of a property for rubber planting requires one "large investor" to spend US\$2,000 to US\$3,000 per ha.

This amount would already cover the entire rubber production cycle: from planting rubber to processing sap into rubber sheets.

Rubber is also used to make condoms, furniture, medical products like surgical gloves, foam mattresses, and even artificial flowers.

What rubber does is spread 50,000 times over—not just for automobile tires, Philippine Rubber Board executive director Eugenio Alcala said during the 2005 conference.

### Gummed

SANDRA and her fellow villagers from Labog village are trying to capitalize what Palawan has to offer: rubber trees grow well in the island's climatic and environmental conditions, scientists say. Agriculture officials and private investors also want to make many areas of the Philippines's western stretch a hub of rubber production.

Agriculture department executives are enticing more investors, not just Goodrich, to open new rubber planting areas in Palawan.

Sandra said she's neither worried about that nor the entry of middlemen in the budding agri-business.

Dela Cruz says local farmers need not bring their products elsewhere but within Palawan, especially given Goodrich's plans.

She also thinks the stretch of the market "is wide" since the demand for processed rubber is worldwide (China alone, rubber experts say, already consumes a third of rubber production).

Given Palawan's location, dela Cruz says neighboring Southeast Asian countries Indonesia and Malaysia are a target market especially if the first-class municipality of Brooke's Point (near the southern tip of Palawan) opens a port to cover the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

"We are producers or suppliers, so we are not worried of the competition," said dela Cruz.

But these market prospects mean dela Cruz will continue stretching roles: farmer-tiller, farm manager, fellow smallholder-cultivator, and left-behind migrant housewife to four children.

Husband Victor will also have to continue, for the meantime, his seafaring stretch.

Which means Sandra's use of some of Victor's remittances for rubber planting also stretches. The P600,000 prize from the OWWA award also would help.

"Ever since, our fellow villagers invested money and in hardwork on planting rice, but rice harvests cannot sustain our needs. Until now, the situation remains the same," dela Cruz said.

She said that by going into rubber, the scenario greatly changes.

"We invest our money just one time, then continue with working hard, and in the end we just harvest and harvest. That's what rubber does." / by JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO/ OFW Journalism Consortium



Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
& EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF  
Baguio City

FERNANADO A. TINIPAC,  
*Mortgagee*

-versus-

SPS. JOSE AND MARIA ANA FUERTES and CECILIA SHIRLEY FUERTES,  
*Mortgagors,*

FORECLOSURE CASE No. 10-242-S

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED

X———X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by FERNANDO A. TINIPAC, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGEE, for the satisfaction of the mortgage indebtedness of SPS. JOSE and MARIA ANA FUERTES and CECILIA SHIRLEY FUERTES, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGOR, which as of November 30, 2010, now amounts to ONE MILLION TWENTY THOUSAND and EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 1,020,800.00) Philippine Currency, exclusive of expenses incidental to the foreclosure sale, the Ex-Officio Sheriff or her undersigned Deputy Sheriff, will sell at the public auction on JANUARY 14, 2011, at the lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City, the following described mortgage property and all its improvements existing thereon, to wit:

ARP 2005-04-002-277766 Assessor's Office. City of Baguio "A two storey residential building with basement and bungalow located along Pinget Subd., Road, Baguio City, with a total building area of 120 sq. meters and erected on that parcel of land consisting of 664 square meters under the application of Jose L. Fuertes and bounded by visible monuments.

Prospective bidders may investigate the title, rights and improvements of the property with regards to encumbrances, if any there be.

Baguio City, Philippines, this 8th day of December, 2010.

By: (SGD) REMEDIOS BALDERAS-REYES  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

By: (SDG) RUBEN L. ATIJERA  
Sheriff-In -Charge

Publication Raffled to The Junction Newspaper  
Publication Dates : December 18 and 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 10  
La Trinidad, Benguet

EFREN LIMPAYOS DUYOT,

*Petitioner.*

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE.

*Respondents.*

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 10-C-1662

FOR: THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE

BIRTH OF MINOR RHYNN GWYNN SANTIAGO DUYOT

X———X

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition on November 2010 praying that after due notice, publication, and trial, judgment be issued directing the respondents to correct the entry in the certificate of live birth of minor Rhynn Gwynn Santiago Duyot as to the place and date of marriage of her parents from May 29, 1999 at Abatan, Buguias to February 9, 2002 at Natubleng, Buguias, Benguet.

W H E R E - F O R E, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on February 17, 2011 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this court, 2nd floor, Justice Hall, Justice Hill, 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 December 26, 2010.

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

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SDG) EDGARDO B. DIAZ DE RIVERA, Jr.  
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates : December 18, 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011

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

MARITRESS T. MANANGAN  
Applicant

Case No: 2004-BAG-CAR-1335  
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on January 17, 2011 at 10:00AM/P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 22nd day of December 2010.

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

## NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Joel Oyam who died intestate in Baguio City on May 18, 2006 has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement executed by his surviving heirs on December 17, 2010, recorded in the notarial registry of Atty. Melita Amylesha D. Macaraeg as Doc. No. 609 on Page No. 103, Book III, Series of 2010.

Publication Dates : December 18, 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011

## NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late spouses Macario S. Solio and Elena B. Solio, who both died intestate in Baguio City on December 6, 2006 and March 12, 1992, respectively, has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement executed by her surviving heirs on December 15, 2010, recorded in the notarial registry of Atty. Melita Amylesha D. Macaraeg as Doc. No. 508 on Page No. 102, Book III, Series of 2010.

Publication Dates : December 18, 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011

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

WILLIAM DE CASTRO - Vendor  
LORNA FLORENDO - Vendee  
Case No: 2003-CAR-380

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the SALE and TRANSFER of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ - Jitney Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - AURORA HILL and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on January 17, 2011 at 10:00AM/P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant/s shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 6th day of December 2010.

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

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

MARIAM L. ROXAS  
Applicant

Case No: 2008-CAR-259  
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on January 17, 2011 at 10:00AM/P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant/s shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 22nd day of December 2010.

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



## The Peace Combatant

bankrupt as well. .... from page 4

A possible solution is to focus on our local economy when the world economy is relatively weak. The vacuum created by international firms that became bankrupt can be taken by one of our local firms. Unfortunately, our local firms are understandably "afraid" to do so because the situation can change anytime. A vacuum created by the crisis can simply be retaken by American and other firms as the economy improves.

Perhaps, the long term solution to the crisis is for us to rediscover our niches, focus on those niches, even as we attempt to continually identify more niches to establish. Meantime, we need both optimism and realism for growth.

(The author can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, 0927-536-8431, and Facebook)

## Diretsahan

... from page 6

"Turning Point" ng mga pampasaherong jeepney. Bilyaran daw ito sa araw pero ginagawang pasugalan daw ito sa gabi at mga "les-pu" pa raw ang mga naglalaro ditto, kung totoo ito kanino kaya may "basbas" ang pasugalang ito at mukhang di nagagalaw? Alam kaya ito ng mga barangay opisyaales doon?!, Kung di alam, dapat na nila itong aksyunan! YUN LANG!

## Same sex marriage brings Pinoy mixed feelings on migration.....page 1

citizenship, establish residence, and the like.

I'm taking a risk for a marriage that we cannot have here in the Philippines.

No, I am not married to anyone. Neither is my fiancé. It's just that marriage for us is not permitted in this country.

The only legal impediment is that I am male and I am currently in a four-year relationship and engaged to be married with the same sex.

Call me Jake and let me call my fiancé Nick.

Nick proposed to me last year when he introduced the idea of going to Australia.

We were in our third year of relationship when he said: "I want to be with you for the rest of my life. I want us to move to another country."

Nick's proposal is to make our union legal and live with him in Australia where civil union is permitted.

That would mean I would have to migrate permanently and leave everything, especially my mother and my sister.

I still have a father but I never bothered to find him ever since he left us for another woman.

**To go or not to go**

WORKING overseas, nor living abroad, was never in my plan.

I managed to make a living by working from call center to call center since leaving my studies three semesters before I was supposed to graduate.

I was 20 then when my father left us for his second family. I remember handing one of my professors a paper stating my leave of absence. Only my close friends in

the class knew the real story behind my departure from school. I took a leave and haven't gone back since.

I had to work. I always had to work. I could not just leave my family.

Minus the father, I am the only breadwinner.

A huge part of my income goes to household expenses and my sister's studies.

I recently transferred my mother at an apartment I rented for her in Las Piñas where she would at least be closer to her friends.

My sister, who has been consistently at the top of her class since elementary, eventually got a college scholarship at a top university and spends her school years in a dormitory inside her university. I, on the other hand, am based in Makati City, working at a call center and sharing an apartment with housemates.

## Nick's offer

NICK is 35 years old while I am 26; that is a nine-year age gap.

Nick has always wanted to live and work abroad. He does not want to grow old in the Philippines; he wants to retire in Australia.

So even before he finished his contract working in Singapore, he applied for work in Australia, got the job and was immediately given a working visa (Visa 457).

He came back here in September, a week before my birthday. He left for Australia two weeks after.

I met Nick at a time when I was convinced that my relationship with a man is jinxed to end once it reaches a maximum of two years. I have had several boyfriends before him but Nick and with Nick's is the oldest.

I really wanted a relationship that would and could last. Like anybody, I want to be happy.

If you experienced what I have with other partners before, you would understand my suspicion there's an unseen hand that makes me go through a cycle of hurt.

Sometimes it really gets so painful in the end that it becomes so difficult to recover. Thus, I tend to just play around heartbreak after heartbreak.

This I especially do when my heart's not the only one broken.

To help you understand, let me tell you about this boy.

## Broken

I LEFT home for two years while still studying college.

I never told my family I was living with this guy. In the last six months of our two years being together, he would always get jealous. Whenever that happens, he beats me up.

One time, he slammed my head against the wall. I went to class the next day sporting a big bump on my left temple.

I don't know why he did it. I think he didn't trust me.

No, I did not cheat on him; I can't.

But when I felt I wasn't really happy, I managed to get out of the relationship. I also thought two years were enough.

But it wasn't easy because, and I think this goes for all types of relationship, when you are used to be with that person for a long time, that person is already a part of you. And leaving that person meant leaving a part of yourself behind. I didn't just spend time with him; I invested and shared a lot of my life, myself with him.

Then another guy came and I felt re-

lieved.

I'm not really sure but there was something in him that was reassuring, that he's going to be different. Generally, he is a nice person, he is kind. That's it.

But after two years, it also did not work out.

And then Nick came in 2006 just as I got out of the previous relationship.

## Nick

WE "met" surreptitiously: on-line in a social networking site.

Somebody I don't know was viewing a profile on me on that Internet site.

Since I like how he looked, I thanked him and politely asked how he was able to access my profile. I only ask that to people I'm interested in.

"I don't know. I was just clicking through profiles," he replied.

He seemed straight. He looks Chinese. He doesn't look like he goes for the same sex. But when he replied, I knew it. He didn't freak out.

Because if you're a straight guy and you are viewing a profile of a straight guy, he might as well be your friend or an officemate.

We're not officemates but it turned out we were working in the same building in Makati.

We talked constantly. We dated. We decided we wanted to be together.

It wasn't different with those in heterosexual relationships except for the parties involved. The process itself is pretty much the same./by **CANDICE Y. CEREZO (First of three parts)/OFW Journalism Consortium**

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AFFIDAVIT OF SOLE ADJUDICATION

I, Cecille Presentacion M. De Leon of legal age, single Filipino and presently residing at No. 18 SLU-SVP Bakakeng Old Site, Baguio City, under oath, hereby depose and say that:

I am the sole heir of the late MILAGROS M. DE LEON who died on July 26, 1999 at Baguio City; The above stated person died intestate leaving no will and no other heir except me being her legitimate daughter; That she left a parcel of land situated at Res Sec. H, Modernsite Barangay Aurora Hill, Baguio City, more particularly described as Lot 36, Block 38, GSS-529 and Lot 37, Block 38, GSS-529;

That this Affidavit was entered into the Notarial Registry of Atty. Fred L. Bagbagen on December 1, 2010 with Doc No. 138, Page No. 28, Book No. 17, Series of 2010.

**December 18 and 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011**

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

**IMEE OLANGCAY**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 2000-01-3055**

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on on January 17, 2011 at 10:00 AM/PM at the LTRB Office, Padda, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing. This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAYER-Regional Director this 6th day of December 2010.

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



## Boy with mended heart trying to reach out again to Samaritans

Three years after he underwent surgery, Glenn Lloyd Espanol, now eight, finds his name in the news again.

"It's so we can thank those people out there who contributed to my boy's healing," explained his mother Loida, a housewife and mother of two young boys from Upper Quezon Hill here.

At city hall last Thursday, Glenn showed the proof of

such healing – a vertical scar on his midrib where doctors made slit in early March, 2007 to mend a life-threatening congenital heart defect they diagnosed as "CHD VSD".

VSD means ventricular septal defect. It means a hole in the ventricular septum, the wall dividing the ventricles of the heart that allows the abnormal flow of blood from the left to the right ventricle instead of into the aorta for distribution to the body.

Glenn was lucky as his VSD was not associated with other congenital defects, such as Down syndrome. He's now as normal and growing up like any other kid, a third grader at the Quezon Hill Elementary School.

Glenn just loves to draw and wants to be an architect someday. His elder brother, fifth-grader Jeffrey, 12, dreams of becoming an architect but is finding an interest in journalism after his piece was ranked fifth in feature writing in the last division schools press conference.

Glenn's deliverance is a dream come true for Loida and her husband Jerry, a security guard assigned at the tower of radio station Bombo DZWX at Pinsao here. It's the fruit of a mother's persistence in working up a charity case at the Philippine heart Center and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

"We're just grateful to these two institutions, the city social welfare and development office and the people we don't know until now but who pooled the counterpart fund for Glenn's surgery," Loida said.

She recalled the Heart Center acknowledged the family's difficulties as reported by city social welfare office and reduced the surgery costs averaging P.5 million to P100,000. The PCSO provided her a letter guarantee good for P70,000.

"We don't know who they are but several people filled the gap by depositing about P34,000 to my account at Allied Bank here," Loida said. "We may never know them, yet we hope they would know that Glenn is now all right and that we're deeply grateful to them."

Glenn was wheeled into the Center on Feb. 19, 2007, his fifth birthday, and went under the knife on March 5. Released on March 17, he recuperated in rented house in Quezon City for a month and a half.

On doctors' advice, the family lived for three years in a relative's house in Sto. Tomas La Union, as Baguio's thin air due to its altitude might affect Glenn's recovery. Given the go-signal after the boy's regular check-up, the family came up last April.

Glenn is no longer on medication but goes for check-up at the center every six months./ Ramon Dacawi.



**"HAPPY GLENN" Espanol gets a longer 'loop' in life from good 'samaritans' who contributed to mend his heart. While others cry over scars, he proudly presents his in gratitude to the people who helped him during his time of need in March 2007./ by paul rillorta / photo by Isagani Liporada**

## 1,200 OFWs Dependents

.... from page 2

computer fundamentals, Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Internet Usage. Interested applicant may still enrol with the program anytime.

For the Skills for Employment Scholarship Program (SESP), Laranang said there are 113 OFWs or dependents who availed of the program which offers vocational or technical courses. Majority took courses on Computer Technology/ Programming/ Trouble Shooting, Caregiver, Automotive Trouble Shooting, Slaughtering and other vocational or short-term courses.

'Financial assistance is up to a maximum of P14,500 which covers the tuition fee only,' Laranang said.

According to Laranang, OWWA has also a scholarship offered to immediate dependents (for a minor and unmarried child or brother/sister - for single OFW) of an active OFW, with a salary of US\$400 or below. A total of 17 qualified scholars have already availed of the OFW Dependent's Scholarship Program (ODSP) program for the first semester of School Year 2010-2011 with a total fund release of P170,000.00. A scholar is entitled to P10,000 educational assistance per semester.

Laranang also announced that they are still accepting application under this program with still available slots for the different provinces in CAR for the second semester of school year 2010-2011. For Abra, there are still seven slots; Apayao, 9 slots; Ifugao, 8; Mt. Province, 19; Kalinga, 8 and Baguio-Benguet, 3.

OWWA also offers educational and livelihood (financial) assistance to survivors of deceased OFWs, who are active OWWA members at the time of death. It is a special benefit package intended to cover the continuous education of an eligible dependent until completion of tertiary education or a vocational course and/or a provision of a livelihood project to a legal spouse/ dependent.

'The program aims to sustain the income capacity of the family through self-employment on their chosen business and the assurance of continuous education of one eligible dependent who shall become the bread winner for the family,' Laranang stressed.

As of December 22, OWWA-CAR has already released P135,000 to nine beneficiaries for the livelihood component and P73,000 to 10 beneficiaries for the educational component, Laranang added.

For more details on OWWA programs, you can visit the OWWA Regional Welfare Office at #17 Manongdo Bldg, Private Road., Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City or call Tel. Nos. (074) 445-2260 or 300-3658./Lito Dar/PIA

## DPWH -KED Award

.... from page 2

tard to improve the national road networks in the province. This aims to encourage the introduction of improvements and innovations in providing safe roads and comfortable travel as part of the agency's endeavor of being a "public service oriented organization."

As part of its program to improve the services of its various offices as well, DPWH-KED also conducted a "Magandang Opisina" competition. Emerging winner was the Planning and Design Section under Engr. Rafael Fernando. Second place went to the Guest House/Security Unit under

Mr. George Lumiqued and at third was the Maintenance Section under Mr. Ernesto Becaldo.

This award is in recognition for the section's contribution in sustaining and instituting methods of achieving office decorum, friendly to its clientele, personnel, for introducing improvements, innovations and enhancement to have a favorable work area in the agency./gigidumallig/PIA-Kalinga

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

ARLAN NORTE  
Applicant

Case No: 2002-CAR-049

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the approval. Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ - JITNEY Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CELESTIAL VILLAGE VIA SAN LUIS, SAN ROQUE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on January 17, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Paoal, Baguio City on which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidence.

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 evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 6th day of December 2010.

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



## Budget Deliberation Moving .... from page 2

He said the AIP supported by the executive budget is summarized as follows: P998,875,000 goes to the operation of city government departments and P92,220,000 is allotted to the city development fund comprised of major development projects with a total amount of P62,220,000 and barangay development projects costing P30,000,000.

The major development projects listed under the AIP support the city's programs on solid and liquid waste management, parks development, roads and public buildings.

Last Dec. 6, the city council approved the income component of the financial plan amounting to P1,091,095,000 distributed as follows: beginning balance — P150,000,000; local taxes — P287,750,000; permits and licenses — P15,120,000; service income — P36,195,000; business income — P59,430,000; other income of P100,100,000; Internal Revenue Allotment — P432,000,000; and gains accounts — P10,500,000.

The mayor proposed a budget of P1,091,095,000 which is higher by P34 million from the current budget of P1,057,183,000.

The expense category is distributed as follows: P414,032,000 for personal services; P389,359,000 for maintenance and other operating expenses; P148,429,000 for capital outlay; and P92,220,000 for development fund./A Refuerzo

## Mention of Migration

.... from page 6

to create jobs in the Philippines "so that working abroad will become a choice rather than a necessity".

"And when its citizens do choose to become overseas Filipinos, their welfare and protection will be the government's priority," Aquino said during an awards rite for outstanding OFW families last December 6.

But migration as a "temporary option" is yet to see print or explicitly articulated by government officials.

Former Commission on Overseas Filipinos (CFO) executive Catherine Maceda, however, said mentioning migration in the MTPDP is a notable move on the part of government.

Good thing that the MTPDP "will not be empty of migration, or else it will be useless," she said.

Nonetheless, Maceda said she's dissatisfied that the issues and proposed actions to turn around negative impacts of the migration phenomenon remained the same after two decades.

To note, Maceda was CFO's deputy director for most of her 18 years there.

A clearer signal comes from newly-appointed CFO chair Imelda Nicolas, who offered the agency as an advocate within the bureaucracy for migration and development.

The CFO's first step is promoting what it calls as "Vision 2020," launched during the agency's December 8-9 conference.

Nicolas is banking this framework can draw together relevant government agencies and mainstream migration and development into the work of these agencies.

However, the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC) said in a book it launched last December 18 that the Aquino govern-

ment has only six months to do this.

Formulating a national migration and development plan is not too late but ideally, the government should have at least drafted a vision and strategy paper on migration and development by June 2011, the SMC said.

Government agencies involved in migration can have their own migration-and-development plans, then all these can be integrated "into a national plan," the Catholic church-based group recommends.

Still, the excitement is lost on Fr. Corros.

"I am looking for a direction where all these things lead to," the Scalabrinian priest said. "Six years, or even the year 2020, might not be enough for us."/by **JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO/OFW Journalism Consortium**

## Pagibig Fund Releases

.... from page 12

campaigning for a universal membership in line with Republic Act 9679 or the HDMF Law of 2009. He explained that PAGIBIG members are entitled to a tax-free dividend earnings, portability of savings and government guaranteed savings.

"By being a member of PAGIBIG you can double or even triple your saving by earning tax-free dividends. We have a highest release of P400,000 single member savings," Ocampo said.

On the universal membership issue, Ocampo explained that their Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) program is continuing, but he clarified that their membership fee is not a requirement before an OFW can work abroad.

Aside from its housing component, PAGIBIG has also a savings component. Ocampo announced that members can also avail of the Optional Savings scheme, or what is called the PAGIBIG II program, which is a five-year time deposit scheme./Lito Dar/PIA

## PH Delegates to Global

.... from page 12

among delegates that countries should now implement laws and measures to protect migrant workers from abuse and integrate them into their respective country's development paths.

"[An] issue regarding GFMD is that there is no monitoring or impact assessment yet. With so many recommendations made during the GFMD, [there is the question of] who is reporting or following up the recommendations made," said De Dios, who also teaches in the college's post-graduate course on migration.

Gratuities

STILL, another delegate, Ellene Sana, said she was grateful for having participated in this year's GFMD.

Sana, executive director of Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), recognizes the fact that the GFMD allowed migrant workers' groups and advocates like her to push these issues at the forefront of international discussion.

For one, CSOs and migrant rights advocates have longer time — two days — to air their opinions and make suggestions as compared to the first GFMD, she said.

"At Brussels, civil society and NGOs only had six minutes to present [their opinions on the issues]. This year, it was a lot longer."

She cited her presentation of CMA's program to help distressed overseas Filipino workers via the short-message or "texting" service in handheld telephones.

Still, Sana believes more could still be done on how the forums are being conducted.

She cited as example how the organizing committee selects representatives from civil society groups.

To note, the organizing committee provides financial assistance to cover a delegate's travel and accommodation during the GFMD. The forum's website said the money comes from donors and the budget of the host country.

But De Dios said the costs of housing and feeding the delegates which host countries have to shoulder could be avoided.

In lieu of the yearly meetings, she recommends the GFMD be held only every two or three years.

Doing so would also allow monitoring respective country's implementation of the recommendations set forth each forum.

The GFMD said that it "does not implement the concrete action proposals and recommendations it produces."

"Most outcomes are addressed directly to participating States, which may take these forward on their own, at the national, regional and international levels.

The Forum also can only "encourage" delegates "to inform the GFMD Support Unit (based in Geneva, Switzerland) about actions they are undertaking as a follow-up to GFMD discussions."

In Puerto Vallarta, the Philippine government's contingent was led by Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Carmelita Dimzon, and Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amb. Libran Cabactulan.

Bagasao, who has attended all four GFMD sessions for its Civil Society days since 2007, suggests that government delegates collate all the recommendations made during the discussions and then formulate mechanisms to see whether these are being implemented.

Pending that, he said the annual gatherings of representatives would amount only to mere sharing of insights and discussions but without actually implementing concrete solutions.

### Action

NONETHELESS, de Dios believes civil society groups should not give up "the space allotted for the discussion" of migrant workers' issues. In fact, these groups should continue in their engagements so that they can continue to promote the protection of migrant workers.

Both she and Bagasao think the GFMD had encouraged the sharing of new information as to how nations can best manage migration.

For instance, Bagasao said he was interested to learn about how a Mexican government agency works to facilitate the transfer of donations, worth US\$3- US\$34 million a year, from Mexicans working abroad toward the development of their communities.

"The official who heads this agency coordinates and collaborates between the Mexicans working overseas and the federal government."

For her part, De Dios describes the GFMD event as a venue where academics like her and representatives of CSOs and migrants rights advocates learn more about each other's work.

/by **RUBEN JEFFREY A. ASUNCION/OFW Journalism Consortium**



## Line Agencies Support For Regional Autonomy Waning

**BAGUIOCITY** – The unified support of the private sector in the renewed pursuit to regional autonomy is a challenge to regional line agencies.

Noting the very poor attendance during a forum for regional executives on regional autonomy held last December 21 at the Baguio City Multi-Purpose Hall, Mayor Mauricio Domogan, who chairs the 3<sup>rd</sup> Organic Act Drafting Committee, pointed out that it is the responsibility of the regional line agencies to help prepare the region in pursuit to regional autonomy.

Domogan stressed that line agencies benefitted much in the creation of the Cordillera Administrative Region which established the regional offices. He averred that line agencies owe their existence to such a creation, which is aimed to prepare the Cordillera towards regional autonomy.

Newly appointed Regional Development Council Co-Chair, Dr. Virgilio Bautista revealed in a nationwide consultation with the private sector held recently that they are unanimously supportive on the quest

for regional autonomy.

Bautista expressed his disappointment with the seemingly inadequate support of regional line agencies. Seemingly, the region's private sector groups are the only ones interested, he said.

"If you fear you are not ready, I beg to disagree but we think in the private sector we are ready," Bautista said adding that the struggle for autonomy is already 23 years.

As there is no draft yet for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Organic Act, he urged the regional line agencies to present their concerns.

Bautista also reminded the line agencies of their commitment during the Mt. Data RDC-CAR en banc Strategic Planning in 2006 to pursue Cordillera autonomy as an over-arching theme of its Regional Development Plan. The RDC believes that the pace of development will be fast tracked if regional autonomy will be achieved.

Baguio City Public Information Head and columnist Ramon Dacawi floated the idea to work out instead the reversion of prov-

inces to their former mother regions. That is Benguet, Mt. Province and Abra to go back to Region I and for Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao to go back to Region II and the dissolution of regional line agencies in aid of legislation.

Domogan also forewarned the possibility of losing the chance for regional autonomy. There are several bills seeking for charter change incorporating the provision for federal form of government which may be disadvantageous for the region.

National Economic and Development Authority - CAR Director and former Acting RDC-CAR Chair Juan Ngalob, urged his fellow directors to already jumpstart provisions that would impact their respective agencies as inputs for the draft Organic Act.

Some inputs gathered were the supervision of the regional government over the line agencies, enhanced agency functions and entitlements, relationship of the autonomous region with other regions and the central office. S.C. Aro/PIA

## Pagibig Fund Releases P372m For Short Term, Calamity Loans In 2010

**BAGUIOCITY** – The Home Development Mutual (HDMF) or PAGIBIG Fund Baguio Branch has released P359.77 Million Short Term Loans to 16,072 member borrowers and P12.32 Million

Calamity Loans to 712 borrowers from January to November 2010.

This was affirmed by HDMF Marketing and Enforcement Division Head Lorenzo Ocampo during a media briefing last Mon-

day.

Aside from the loans, PAGIBIG also released P61.166 M gross amount of claims to 2,229 member claimants. HDMF Baguio Branch has 84,440 members as of November.

According to Ocampo, PAGIBIG is

Cont. on page 11



Photo shows PINSP GLENN FAUSTINO of Regional Highway Patrol Unit-Cordillera conducting sealing of firearms to other personnel of said office

## PH delegates to global migration gab want less talk

**QUEZON CITY**— IT WAS originally a gabfest, but three delegates from the Philippines may have had enough of the talks and are itching for something more solid action from government delegates in the annual Global Forum for Migration and Development.

"GFMD was just talk show among the delegates where space is given for them to talk about migration issues [and nothing more]," remittance-for-development expert Ildefonso F. Bagasao told the *OFW Journalism Consortium* after arriving from the four-day GFMD in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

But don't get me wrong, Bagasao said, adding that many lessons were culled from participants in the GFMD who represented labor-sending and -receiving countries.

"Still, they [government representatives to the GFMD] should make an inventory of what have been accomplished in the GFMD."

This year's GFMD held November 8-11 is the fourth since the government of Brussels hosted the first in

2007. According to the GFMD website, the Mexico round was attended by 131 countries and 38 international organizations.

The annual forum is a "voluntary and non-binding initiative of United Nations member-states" where delegates from these member-states discuss how they can best handle circular and temporary migration and suggest ways to channel remittances toward the development of sending countries. Likewise, delegates discuss how best to ensure the protection of migrant workers when they are deployed in receiving countries.

Representatives from civil society groups, non-government organizations and migrants' rights

groups attend the Civil Society Days (CSD) where they offer alternative views and opinions on migration issues. The CSD is being organized by a foundation appointed by the host government and is held separately from the government side of the forum. The CSD portion of this year's GFMD was also held at Puerto Vallarta on November 8 and 9.

The Forum had already dwelled enough on the theoretical aspects of managing migration, said Aurora de Dios, executive director of Miriam College's Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), who also participated in the Mexico CSD.

De Dios believes there is a growing sentiment

Cont. on page 11

### RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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