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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Schools told to enforce ban on sale of junk food, soft drinks to prevent kidney disease among students

BAGUIO CITY – Public schools in the city should be reminded to implement the ban on the sale, distribution and bringing of junk food and carbonated drinks in their canteens for the prevention of kidney diseases among the youth.

The city council for its part should consider adopting a measure that would enforce the prohibition on the sale of salty food, fatty good and colored drinks not only within but also around the school premises.

These were the recommendations made by the city council research division under local legislative staff officer V Dan Ricky Ong in the report submitted to Vice Mayor Edison Bilog Jan. 4.

The report was based on the legislative monitoring and evaluation done on city **Cont. on page 5**

The Burning Giant Christmas Tree - Investigation is still on going for the torching of city's giant Christmas Tree that has awed residents and tourists alike. But as it burns, it's Top Star refused to budge as it keeps its light for as long as could. (photograb from CordilleraSun.com)



Kailangan

ng mga lider ng eskuwelah
han at mga magulang ng
kaalaman hingil sa wasto at
malusog na mga
diyeta!!!



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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Warning to the corrupt: God knows

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

EL MAESTRO SPEAKS

Learning How To Learn

BY: CLYDE B. SACPA



Council summons parties in Tadeo case Bid to declare Malcolm Square heritage zone backed

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council decided last night to invite all the involved parties in the celebrated traffic incident in the city's public market that resulted in the unceremonious transfer of a dedicated and devoted traffic enforcer from the city to Apayao simply because of reminding the driver and the security escort of a ranking police official that they are supposed to strictly adhere to traffic rules and regulations.

The decision to invite the regional director of the Police Regional Office (PRO) in the Cordillera, his two deputy regional directors, the involved driver and the security aide and SPO3 Alberto Tadeo was reached to allow the members of the legislative body be appraised on the circumstances that resulted in the unceremonious transfer of Tadeo to Apayao without the benefit of due process.

The council deliberated three proposed resolutions regarding the celebrated and highly publicized incident, one authored by Councilor Edgar M. Avila condemning the unceremonious transfer of Tadeo to Apayao and declaring PRO-COR deputy regional director

for administration Senior Superintendent Gregorio Lim as persona non grata in the city for grave abuse of power and authority; second, a resolution by Councilor Leandro B. Yangot, Jr. inviting all concerned parties to shed light on the said traffic incident; and the third, authored by Vice Mayor Edison R. Bilog, seeking the reinstatement of Tadeo to the BCPO while the case is still being investigated by the authorities.

The council reminded Lim that his failure to appear before its regular session on January 16, 2017, will mean a waiver of his right to air his side on the matter and the local legislative body will be constrained to pursue the passage of the resolution declaring him persona non grata in the city.

Further, the council required Lim to submit a written comment on the proposed resolution declaring him persona non grata that will serve as an added document for the local legislators to assess whether there is merit to his response.

The council's action to invite all the parties involved in the case is part of the due process and to solicit suggestions

and recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the city's traffic rules and regulations regardless of the outcome of the scheduled meeting.

Tadeo was reportedly reassigned to Apayao because of alleged breach of internal discipline for issuing side comments when he apprehended the driver and security escort of Lim for obvious violation of the city's number coding scheme. However, he did not issue the driver the necessary traffic citation ticket in deference to the fact that the driver and the security escort allegedly name-dropped Lim as the owner of the vehicle that violated the number coding scheme.

Some local legislators believe while it is true that Tadeo did not issue the driver of Lim's vehicle the appropriate traffic citation ticket for violating the city's number coding scheme, the penalty of transfer to Apayao is obviously grave and unfair to Tadeo as he will be deprived of the chance to face his detractors during the hearings on the case due to the distance of his assignment which is over 400 kilometers away from the city./By Dexter A. See#

6-month real property tax amnesty okayed

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council approved on third and final reading a proposed ordinance granting a one-time six-month tax amnesty or tax relief to give chance to all real

property taxpayers with penalties, fines, surcharges, interests or arrears to pay their real property tax dues which have become long overdue and providing for other purposes.

The ordinance authored by Vice Mayor Edison R. Bilog and Councilors Leandro B. Yangot, Jr. Peter Fianza and Elmer Datuin stated the real property tax amnesty shall be applicable to

delinquent taxpayers as of December 31, 2015, and it shall include those properties which are undeclared and subject to taxes; those properties which

BAGUIO CITY – Various sectors in the city expressed their support to the enactment of an ordinance declaring Malcolm Square a heritage zone for this historical, natural, cultural, educational, aesthetic and economic value to the city's rich history.

Dr. Ronaldo Paraan, president of the Baguio Heritage Foundation, said Malcolm Square was included in the list of sites in the city that were proposed to be declared as heritage sites through the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) two years ago and the enactment of the ordinance would be timely and will support their long overdue initiative.

He said the passage of the ordinance will definitely cut short the tedious process of declaring a certain area in the city as a heritage zone because the declaration of

the area as a heritage zone is considered to be timely and appropriate.

For her part, Dr. Rowena Boquiren, a retired instructor of the University of the Philippines Baguio and representative of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), said there is nothing wrong in declaring Malcolm Square a heritage zone because what is currently happening in the area as a convergence site of people clearly illustrates what had been happening in the past whereby it was a common gathering place for people visiting various public places in the city, citing that the proposal must pass through the consultative process defined under existing rules and regulations in declaring certain areas as heritage zones.

She underscored the importance of consulting stakeholders in the area to gather their inputs prior to

the declaration of Malcolm Square as a heritage zone because it will form part of the pieces of evidence to be presented to the Commission which will eventually decide if it is proper to declare the area a heritage zone.

Rhoda Galangco of the St. Louis University Research Department pointed out the challenge for the local government is how to bring back the natural aesthetics of the area considering the existence of various structures that were built for commercial purposes, citing that the declaration of Malcolm Square as a heritage zone deserves utmost support.

The City Council invited resource persons from the government and private sectors to get their inputs on addressing issues surrounding the enactment of the pending ordinance declaring Malcolm

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are declared but the real property taxes have not yet been paid; those properties included in auctions conducted by the local government but have not yet been purchased by private persons or entities; property owners with pending cases in the court whose ownership are in question and properties sold through public auctions whose ownership has not been officially transferred due to non-issuance of final deed of sale by the local government.

The ordinance added the prescribed period for the real property tax amnesty or tax relief shall be for a period of six months and shall take effect 30 days from its approval and publication.

Under the ordinance, all fines, surcharges, interests or arrears, if any, shall be condoned only upon settlement of real property taxes if paid within the prescribed period; payments of real property tax under the ordinance shall be made either in cash or installment basis, provided

that, it will be paid during the amnesty period as fixed and applied as of December 31, 2013; only after the said delinquencies are settled may tax payments be credited to the current period and no further tax amnesty shall be granted after the expiration of the 6-month tax amnesty period.

The ordinance revealed no public auction of real properties due to non-payment of tax delinquencies will be held and initiated by the local government during the amnesty period while real properties with delinquent taxes attached after the expiration of the amnesty period shall be offered for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for the sole purpose of satisfying payment of accumulated delinquencies with the corresponding penalties, arrearages, surcharges and interests pursuant to existing laws or ordinances.

It added the application for amnesty under the ordinance shall be filed with the City Treasury

Office on a prescribed form to be issued by the same office while the CTO shall also be in charge of the preparation and processing of any compromise agreement together with the corresponding related documents by and between the taxpayers and the City Mayor for and on behalf of the local government.

The ordinance stated any breach of the compromise agreement and the payments under installment basis or should any installment not paid on its due date, the total unpaid balance of the delinquent real property taxes and the entire amount of penalties shall become automatically due and demandable and shall be enforced in accordance with law.

The proponents admitted taxes are the lifeblood of the government and without revenue raised from taxation, the government will hardly be able to fulfill its mandate and will be paralyzed for lack of motive power to activate and operate it./By Dexter A. See#



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The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address c/o Linis Gobyerno, Bldg. 2 Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sico, Baguio City and marketing office c/o IT Dynamics, Rm 411, 4th Flr., Mt. Crest Hotel, Baguio City;
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Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99

Member: Press Foundation of Asia
Philippine Press Institute
Beyond Borders Reporting

Website: www.junctionnews.com

Opinions expressed by the opinion writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of this paper.

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Agencies invited to shed light on city's solid waste management plan

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council invited officials of concerned departments of the local government agencies to appear before its regular session on Monday, January 23, 2017, to shed light on the city's 10-year solid waste management plan to ascertain the

city's direction on how to effectively and efficiently address the garbage disposal problem of the city.

The local legislative body wants City Environment and Parks Management Officer Cordelia Lacsamana, City General Services Officer Romeo

D. Concio, Environmental Management Bureau Regional director Reynaldo Digamo and the consultants of the city for the Waste Analysis and Characterization Survey (WACS) to clarify and answer the questions on how will the city address its garbage problem.

Pending before the local legislative body is the adoption of the city's 10-year solid waste management plan that involves the establishment of its integrated solid waste disposal facility either in the Antamok open-pit area or within the 139-hectare city-owned

property in barangay Sto. Tomas School Area.

Some of the council members are questioning why the city's solid waste management plan was approved by the National Solid Waste Commission (NSWMC) without the adoption of the plan by the local legislative body.

However, Concio repeatedly explained it was the city's WACS contractors that submitted the finalized plan to the NSWMC for comments and recommendations prior to its submission to the local legislative body but the NSWMC instead

Cont. on page 8

New Bishop for more prayers from the people

BAGUIO CITY – Newly-installed Bishop Victor B. Bendico of the Diocese of Baguio and Benguet appealed to the people for more prayers for the effective and efficient performance of his duties and responsibilities in spreading the words and deeds of the Almighty Father up to the remotest area under his flock.

Bendico, appointed by Pope Francis to replace retired Bishop Carlito J. Cenzon as the Bishop of Baguio and Benguet, hails from Roxas City, Capiz.

The new Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in the city expressed his deepest appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to him by Baguio city officials led by Rep. Mark Go, Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan and Vice Mayor Edison R. Bilog, Benguet officials led by Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan, Gov. Crecencio Pacalso and Vice Governor Florence Tingbaoen, clergy and lay people of the Diocese, among other visitors who attended his Eucharistic Ordination and Installation held at the Baguio Cathedral last Tuesday.

"I am willing to learn your language, the culture, and traditions of the people. I surely need more prayers from the people so that I will be able to fulfil my mandate in this Diocese," Bendico told the huge crowd that gathered to welcome him.

Bendico came from the Archdiocese of Capiz and was parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Roxas City from April 14, 1984, up to January 9, 2017. He is also an alumnus of the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary, where he pursued and completed his philosophical and theological studies. He received his Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Institute of St. Anselm, Rome.

After being ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Capiz on April 14, 1984, Msgr. Bendico served in numerous parishes around Capiz such as St. Theresa parish (Roxas City), St. Isidore parish, and St. Laurence parish (Panitan, Pontevedra, Capiz). He was also Spiritual Director of St. Pius X Seminary and Vicar at St. Theresa parish. Alongside with being the parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, he was also a member of the Commission for Clergy and the one for liturgy; member of the Council and the Senate of the clergy; and a member of the Council of the College of the Immaculate Conception.

Mayor Domogan is optimistic that Bishop Bendico will be able

Cont. on page 8

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The author of the law, Sen. Grace Poe, chairperson of the Senate committee on public information and mass media, said the measure is consistent with the Philippines government's commitment when it ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008.

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Is federalism the silver bullet?

If federalism is to bring fundamental change, then the dynasties and the oligarchs should face greater competition

Shortly after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, the nation's leaders embarked on a reform that would reverse the over-centralization of power and finance. Launched in 1991, the Local Government Code reflected the country's collective aspirations towards greater decentralization.

Decentralization was expected to bring government closer to the people by empowering local government units to respond to the needs of citizens, with policies and interventions that best fit their local conditions. It would recognize the country's diversity in socio-economic and development contexts; and more importantly, it was seen as part of a grand effort to unshackle development in the countryside. It would finally allow local governments – their leaders and citizens – to chart and execute much of their development policies.

Spending, taxing and borrowing powers among other functions were to be devolved to LGUs; and their challenge would be to match resources with spending priorities. They would be incentivized to grow these resources over time to be able to match the growing ambition of their citizens. Many saw this as the key to stronger governance and accountability. It would end the fiscal dependence (and political vulnerability to) Manila-based politics.

Imperial Manila

Fast-forward to today, over 2 decades later, our malfunctioning democracy continues to reflect weaknesses in both the center and the periphery.

EDITORIAL

"Imperial Manila" continues to dominate over the economic and political affairs of local governments. Among the main complaints are that imperial Manila benefits disproportionately from both public and private sector spending and investments; that it controls public spending allocations to LGUs; and that it also passes on unfunded mandates to local government units (LGUs), further shrinking their elbow room to finance and craft their homegrown development strategies.

Why did Manila remain imperial? There are many factors, but one fundamental one is that the Philippine Presidency remains a "winner-take-all" contest that hands over the country's still largely centralized public finances to Malacanang's occupant. Roughly 80% of tax revenues are collected by central government agencies – and about the same share in terms of public spending is allocated through central government budget processes.

In large measure, this concentration of authority over public finance and the subsequent inequality in economic development outcomes has fueled the view regarding "imperial Manila." Regardless of whether the government is reformist or predatory, federalist proponents contend that this over-concentration of fiscal power breeds bad center-periphery politics, and it also undermines the spirit of decentralized political power in the country.

Dynastic periphery

On the other hand, the Philippines' geographic periphery – supposedly the antithesis of imperial Manila – also faces intense governance challenges. Political dynasties dominate local politics. When expressed as a share of total local government leadership, the latest calculations suggest that dynasties are expanding at an average of about 4 percentage points per election. At this pace, dynasties may comprise almost 70 percent of all total local government leadership by around 2040.

Some people still ask: what's wrong if all our leaders come from a small number of powerful families?

Based on the evidence, dynastic expansion is linked with weaker political competition, deeper poverty and much lower human development outcomes. Recent studies also emphasize how dynastic leadership patterns are associated with distortions in public finance – curbing local public finance allocations in favor of family ties rather than economic development and poverty reduction objectives. This is one of the factors that blunt the development impact of what the country spends for the poor.

Thus the present system is characterized by a perverse center-periphery relationship. The periphery depends heavily on the central government for resources, while showing very mixed results on the implementation of policies and laws. On the other hand, the central government fails to support decentralization, and often ends up consolidating power by maintaining control over public resource allocations. For the corrupt, control over public funds is seen as a prize – to be won after every election, generating rent-seeking opportunities for cronies and family members who benefit from government projects.

In the end "imperial Manila" and the dynastic

Cont. on page 5



Warning to the corrupt: God knows

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:

"... However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you... day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you..." (Deut. 28:15, 28, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

WARNING TO THE CORRUPT: GOD KNOWS YOUR CORRUPTION:

Question: why are many of our government and business leaders corrupt and prone to graft? There is only one reason for this: it is because most of these leaders no longer have the fear and love of God in their hearts, enabling them to do even the most despicable thievery, in public yet, of funds and properties rightly belonging to the people.

Because these leaders do not fear and do not love God, they have convinced themselves that they can get away even with the most murderous act. And so they abuse, they steal and they plunder. And they even kill. Because their hearts have been darkened by a lack of fear in God, they go about their evil ways thinking that they are not going to be punished.

But this is foolish thinking. God will surely bring every deed into judgment, whether done in public or in secret, whether good or bad, as the Bible, in its Ecclesiastes 12:14, confirms. And God is there somewhere, no matter how the unbelievers may deny His existence, watching those who are doing good and those who are compiling eternal punishment for themselves even now.

-ooo-

HOMOSEXUALITY VIOLATES THE BIBLE: The Bible is definite that a homosexual relationship, whether it be male to male or female to female, is a punishment and a curse from God. This is clear from Romans 1:18, 21, 24 and 26-27, thus: "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people..."

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another..."

"... their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men..."

-ooo-

GOD'S CURSES: On top of the curse of homosexuality, there are many other curses from God, given by Him to those who no longer listen to Him and who no longer obey His commands, enunciated under Deuteronomy 28:15-68 of the Bible.

This is a continuation of the list of curses: "... Because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you.

"Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children, **Cont. on page 6**

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Editorial...

from page 4

periphery are often found in collusion – witness how each and every post-EDSA President has been accompanied by a pliant Congress. Many members of Congress often switch parties to ally themselves with the newly elected leader holding the purse strings. Even the many decent leaders who genuinely fight for their constituents' welfare have no choice but to align themselves, if only for the good of their constituents and their own political survival.

This situation has not produced stronger accountability and fiscal autonomy despite well over 25 years of decentralization in the country. While a variety of factors come into play, there is little doubt that malfunctioning public finance was one of the key reasons behind what ails decentralization in the Philippines.

And since decentralization was supposed to figure prominently as the basis of post-EDSA politics and economic development policy, it is no wonder that the country failed to realize the promise of EDSA both politically and economically.

Preconditions for success

One way to view the present federalism initiative is that it allows the country to press the "reset button" once again – similar to the effort after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. Here there are different views on the expected benefits and risks.

On the one hand there are those who point out that the country is essentially "federal" in structure already – we only fail to implement our laws and policies effectively. As noted by Dr Paul Hutchcroft of Australia National University: "If I had 100 pesos for every time a Filipino said that it's not the policy design but the policy implementation that's the problem, I would already be a billionaire."

Some also emphasize that the risks of unintended consequences are great if the country appears unprepared to take on the herculean task of restructuring public sector governance and finance under a new political structure. (Let's not call this structure necessarily "federal" because as noted earlier, some believe we already are. The point here is that there are different forms of federalism, and we might embark on an entirely new one, entailing many more reforms and considerable cost.)

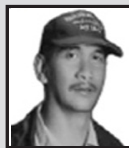
On the other hand, there are those who believe federalism could address some of the key malfunctions that plagued our democracy since EDSA (and perhaps even prior to it). Being a former politician from the periphery, President Duterte could open the door to dismantling the central government's excessive control over much of our public finance. This is the same control that causes many dynasties and oligarchs to try and influence leadership selection in the country so they could benefit from the largesse of public investments. Somehow disciplining or mitigating this control should create an opening for genuine decentralization to take root – even as many other reforms will be necessary to make sure unintended consequences are minimized.

With great power comes great responsibility

Ceding some fiscal control from imperial Manila could result in better outcomes if reformists are empowered in the countryside rather than warlords and traditional elites. Alex Lacson, one of our country's young leaders points out: "After the fall of the dictator in 1986, he was replaced by many mini-dictators." Hence, with great power transfer should come greater accountability as well.

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

- OVP dapat galangin!!!
- Donald Trump tinawag na fake news agency ang CNN!



BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

Ano ba naman itong ating nakikita sa pagiging isang napaka-immature nitong si Pangulong Digong. Ano ba naman itong nangyari na pagbawi ng Malacanang ng imbitasyon kay VP Robredo nitong nakaraang bisita ni PM Abe ng Japan sa dahilan na karapatan daw ni PDigong na imbitahan ang nais lang niyang imbitahan sa kanyang bahay na ang Malacanang.

Una sa lahat ay hindi naman talaga bahay na pagmamay-ari ni PDigong ang Malacanang kung hindi siya ay isa lamang temporary occupant for the next 6 years.

Pangalawa ay ang Office of the President at ang Office of the Vice President ay both constitutional offices na ang mga nakaposisiyon sa mga pwesto na ito ay parehong nahalal ng sambayanan.

Pangatlo ay bakit nung una ay inimbata at nung nagkakalabuan na sila ng samahan ay binawi ang imbitasyon? Ito ay isang hakbang o move na nagpapakita sa sobrang immaturity ni PDigong. Dapat nating tandaan na ang Office of the President at Vice President ay mga opisinal na mananatili at ang kanilang mga occupants ay temporary lamang at ang isang foreign visit from a prime minister ay may foreign affairs aspect kung saan ang Bise Presidente ay nararapat lamang na andudun bilang pangalawang pinakamataas na opisyal ng bansa. Alam naman ninyo mga dear readers na ako ay isang certified BBM loyalist at hindi ko rin gusto si VP Robredo, ngunit sa ipinakitang paga-asta ni PDigong ay isang galaw o hakbangin ng isang very immature na lider. Sigurado ko yan na kung si BBM ang ating Pangulo ay hindi ganyan ang kanyang magiging paga-asta. Ika nga ng isang tanyag na komentista na ang pinakita ni PDigong is the height of political immaturity.

####

Sa kasalukuyang mga liderato ng mundo, sino kaya sa kanila ang mas may sayad? Si Putin kaya ng Russia, si Bashar Alasad kaya ng Syria, si Kim Jong Un kaya ng Nokor, si Donald trump kaya ng USA, o si President Digong ng Pilipinas? Hi! Hi! Hi!

Isang napakahirap sagutin na katanungan na kahit na ako ay hindi ko masagot, ngunit sa binitawang salita ni President trump na ang CNN daw ay isang fake news agency ay isang katawa-tawang komento na nagmula muli sa isang taong mahilig manindak ng mga medyas na hindi niya kakampi at kritikal sa kanya.

Hinggil sa mga kaganapan noong late 2016 at kamakailan ay hindi ako positibo na gaganda ang taong 2017 bagama't sa aking palagay ay magiging isang napakalala na taon ang 2017. Bakit ka ninyo?

Trump Presidency – tawagin mo ba naman na fake news agency ang CNN ang isa sa pinakamalaki na news agency sa buong mundo?

Duterte Presidency- patayan dito at patayan everywhere.

Putin, Kim Jong Un at mga iba pa na mga liderato na puros may kanya-kanyang sayad o tama!!! NALPAS!

Such a grand bargain on reforms should probably include longstanding political and economic reforms that could put the country on a path away from political and economic inequality – including political reforms that help build stronger political parties and regulations on anti-competitive dynastic politics; as well as economic reforms that open the country to stronger domestic and foreign investments.

Ideally, these accompanying conditions for more effective decentralization should have been put in

EL MAESTRO SPEAKS

Learning How To Learn



BY: CLYDE B. SACPA

Learning, a part of our life that is often neglected. L Once we graduated from school. This is due to the fact that after college we are now faced with the challenge of supporting ourselves, finding jobs and the likes. Because of our less attention to learning, we are left with the old know how of learning never really improving it to suit our situation. This old system of how we learn things does not fit our current lifestyle and does discourage us from learning a lot of things we are interested in. These unimproved system of learning is one of the major factor that we here adult say, "I am too old to learn these things." In reality, nobody is old to learn new things they are just using the old system of learning which was instilled in them when they're still a student.

Even in the field of research, few people focuses on learning, though there are some great researches out there like the "How to Learn anything in just 21 Hours" By Josh Kaufmann which focuses on chunking or dividing the skill that you want to learn. These research can help but upgrading our personal learning system differs from person to person so we got to have a simpler way of working on it. The question now is how do we upgrade our way of learning?

The system of learning is not that complicated and it is similar to project making. It has planning, process or implementation, evaluation of the product and lastly refining of the process of obtaining the product otherwise known as debriefing. This is the pattern, regardless of the philosophy you are inclined to believe. Knowing that this is the process of how we learn new things we can now work on it. Bear in mind that your way of learning is different from other people and what you're creating is your own system of learning new things efficiently.

Firstly, after learning any new skills, we must take a moment to go through what you've been through before acquiring the skills. In other words it's time for reflection. This is the key to upgrading your learning system. Focus on your process and see if it can be improve. See if it can be simplified without sacrificing the end result. The simpler the process, the better.

And finally, see if the same process can be replicated in learning other things. Use the process and evaluate the result. Once you got it working then you're on your way to improving your system of learning.

Learning is the very essence of human existence. It helps us move forward and helps us avoid the mistakes of the past. It is empirical that we should work to improve it. Work on your personal learning system and let's continue learning.#

place already. The challenge was the apparent lack of political will to overcome vested interests and introduce reforms that would be good for the vast majority of Filipinos (and future generations). It is now arguable whether the influence of these vested interests were somehow mitigated by marginal reforms in the past few decades. Many citizens and leaders seem to think that marginal reforms on the existing framework have not been and will not be enough.

There is no silver bullet

Thus the answer to the question posed in the beginning of this article is: "Federalism is no silver bullet – but it can make a big difference if done right."

The results will largely depend on how many deep governance reforms will be **Cont. on page 8**

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
OFFICE OF THE
PROVINCIAL
SHERIFF
La Trinidad,
Benguet

SPS. EDUARDO C.
DELA CRUZ and
MARYLIN S. DELA
CRUZ,

Mortgagee,

-versus-

DEXTER A.
MASING,
Mortgagor,

FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. 17-ExF-
1961

FOR: EXTRA-JU-
DICIAL FORE-
CLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT
NO. 3135, AS
AMENDED.

X-----X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE
OF PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE

Upon Extra-Judi-
cial petition for sale
under Act No. 3135, as
amended, filed by SPS.
EDUARDO C. DELA
CRUZ and MARILYN S.
DELA CRUZ, hereinafter
referred as the Mortgagee
against DEXTER A.
MASING, of legal age,
single, Filipino citizen,
with residence and
postal address at Pula,
Poblacion, Tuba, Benguet
and presently residing in
No. 19-A Balacbac, Santo
Tomas Proper, Baguio
City, Philippines, herein-
after referred as the Mort-
gagors.

To satisfy the mortgage
obligation of DEXTER
A. MASING which as of
JUNE 14, 2014 amounts
to SIX HUNDRED
TWENTY SEVEN
THOUSAND SEVEN
HUNDRED FIFTY
(627,750) PESOS, Philip-
pine Currency, inclusive
of interest but excluding
attorney's fees and other
expenses incidental to the
foreclosure.

That the undersigned
or any duly authorized

Sheriff will SELL at public
auction on FEBRUARY 16,
2017 at 10:00 o'clock in the
morning or soon thereaf-
ter in front of the Benguet
Justice Hall, (Bulwagan ng
Katarungan), Justice Hill,
La Trinidad, Benguet, to
the highest bidder for
CASH or MANAGER'S
CHECK and in Philippine
currency, the hereunder
described real property, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFI-
CATE OF TITLE NO. 016-
2011001162

(Registry of
Deeds-Province of
Benguet)

"A PARCEL OF
LAND (LOT 1-F,
PSD-CAR-015410)
BEING A PORTION
OF LOT 1, PSD-CAR-
008039; SITUATED
AT RURBAN CODE
131113, BARANGAY
OF TABAAN, MUNIC-
IPALITY OF TUBA,
PROVINCE OF
BENGUET; ISLAND OF
LUZON. BOUNDED
ON THE W., ALONG
LINE 3-4 & ON THE N.,
ALONG LINE 4-1 & NE.,
ALONG LINE 1-2 BY
PUBLIC LAND; ON THE
SE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY
LOT 1-E OF THE SUBD.
PLAN. BEGINNING AT A
POINT MARKED "1" ON
PLAN BEING S. 14 DEG.
55'W., 6786.21 M. FROM
TRIANGULATION
STATION "STO TOMAS",
THENCE S. 63 DEG. 34'E.,
56.25M. TO POINT 2; S.
67 DEG. 58'W., 196.81 M.
TO POINT 3; N. 02 DEG.
39'W., 82.48 M. TO POINT
4; N. 83 DEG. 05'E.,
136.90 M. TO POINT
OF BEGINNING. CON-
TAINING AN AREA
OF NINE THOUSAND
SEVEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY TWO (9,772)
SQ. METERS, MORE OR
LESS. ALL POINTS ARE
MARKED ON THE
GROUND BY PS. CYL.
CONC. MONS. 15 X 40
CMS. EXCEPT COR. 1 BY
OLD BL. CONC. MONS.
15 X 60 CMS. & COR.
4 BY CROSS ON TREE;
BEARING TRUE; DATE
OF ORIGINAL SURVEY
ON 07/19/54; DATE
OF SUBD. SURVEY
ON AUG. 24-25, 2007;
EXECUTED BY ENGR.
BRANDO G. ANDRES
AND WAS APPROVED
ON OCTOBER 16, 2007"

All sealed bids be
submitted to the under-
signed on the above-stated
place, time and date.

Prospective bidders/
buyers may investigate
the above-described real
property regarding the
encumbrances thereof,
if any.

In the event the Public
Auction should not take

place on the said date, it
shall be held on MARCH
8, 2017, without further
notice.

La Trinidad, Benguet,
this 13th day of January,
2017.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL
SHERIFF EX-OFFICIO
OF BENGUET

BY: (SGD) GREGORIO
G. TADEO
Sheriff IV
CP No. 09493174138

*Publication Dates:
January 15, 22 and 29,
2017*

Republic of the
Philippines
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
BRANCH 64
Abatan, Buguias,
Benguet

IN RE: PERITION
FOR THE COR-
RECTION AND
SUPPLICATION
OF ENTRIES IN
THE CERTIFICATE
OF LIVE BIRTH OF
WALDO BATCHI
NGAOA,

WALDO BATCHI
NGADAOA,

Petitioner

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
MANKAYAN,
BENGUET AND
THE PHILIP-
PINE STATISTICS
AUTHORITY,

Respondent.

SPEC. PROCEED-
INGS CASE NO.
16-C-258

X-----X

ORDER

Petitioner Waldo Batchi
Ngaoa, through counsel,
filed a verified Petition
before this Honorable
Court, praying that after
due notice, publica-
tion and hearing, it shall
order the office of the
Local Civil Registrar of
Mankayan, Benguet to
correct the entry under
his date of birth, from
"December 4, 1954" to
November 24, 1951; and
to supply the missing
entries pertaining to the

middle name of mother
and father, as "PAGO"
and "LAMOgay", respec-
tively.

Finding the petition
to be sufficient in form
and substance, the same
is hereby set for hearing
on March 1, 2017 at 8:30
o'clock in the morning
before this Court, at
which date and time all
concerned may appear
and show cause, if any, why
the Petition should not be
granted.

Let copies of this
Order be published at
the expense of the peti-
tioner in the The Junction,
for three (3) consecutive
weeks. The first publi-
cation to be made not
earlier than December
25, 2016.

Furnish copies hereof,
together with the Petition
and annexes to the Hon.
Solicitor General, the
Provincial Prosecutor of
Benguet, the Local Civil
Registrar of Mankayan,
Benguet, the Philippine
Statistics Authority, Peti-
tioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Abatan, Buguias,
Benguet, Philippines this
15th day of December
2016.

(SGD) SERGIO T.
ANGGANAY, JR.
Acting Presiding Judge

*Publication Dates:
January 7, 14 and 21,
2017*

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE
JUDGE

IN RE: APPLICA-
TION FOR COM-
MISSION AS A
NOTARY PUBLIC
IN LA TRINIDAD,
BENGUET AND IN
THE PROVINCE OF
BENGUET

ATTY. JAKE
SAGPAEY,
Petitioner.

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given
that a summary hearing
on the above-entitled
petition for commission
as notary public for and
the Province of Benguet

filed by the above- named
petitioner shall be held on
February 17, 2017 at 1:00
o'clock in the afternoon
before the undersigned
Executive Judge of the
Regional Trial Court, La
Trinidad, Benguet.

Any person who has
any cause or reason to
object to the grant of the
petition may file a verified
written opposition thereto
on or before the date of the
summary hearing.

Let this Notice of
Hearing be published
once (1) a week for two
(2) consecutive weeks in
the Junction, a newspaper
of general circulation in
Baguio City and Benguet
Province, the first publica-
tion to be made not later
than January 31, 2017.

SO ORDERED.

La Trinidad, Benguet,
Philippines, this 28th of
December, 2016.

(SGD) JENNIGER P.
HUMIDING
Executive Judge

*Publication Dates:
January 7 and 14, 2017*

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE
JUDGE

IN RE: APPLICA-
TION FOR COM-
MISSION AS A
NOTARY PUBLIC
IN LA TRINIDAD,
BENGUET AND IN
THE PROVINCE OF
BENGUET

ATTY. JESSICA
LUBANTE,
Petitioner.

X-----X

NOTICE OF
HEARING

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February 17, 2017 at 1:00
o'clock in the afternoon
before the undersigned
Executive Judge of the
Regional Trial Court, La
Trinidad, Benguet.

Any person who has
any cause or reason to

Kakampi mo... and he will not give
from page 4 to one of them any
of the flesh of his
children that he is
eating. It will be all he has left because of the
suffering your enemy will inflict on you during
the siege of all your cities..."

-000-

PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tanging Daan" (The
Sole Way): a Bible study and prayer session
online could now be heard, 24 HOURS a day,
in the Philippines and the world at www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan. Phone: 0917
984 24 68, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058.
Email: [#">batasmauricio@yahoo.com.#](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com)

Schools told... council Resolution
from page 1 No. 56 series of
2013 which requests
the Dept. of Health and the Health Services
Office to come up with an information dis-
semination campaign on the common cause
and prevention of kidney diseases.

In the report, local legislative staff officer IV
Eliza Orduna said schools should be reminded
of the Department of Education (DepEd)
memorandum 65 series of 2013 reiterating
the prohibition on the sale, distribution and
bringing of junk good and carbonated drinks
in public elementary and secondary school
canteens as well as the city council Resolu-
tion No. 262 series of 2007 to strictly enforce
DepEd memoranda on the sale of junk food
which contain formaldehyde in canteens in
both private and public schools.

DepEd Department Order No. 8 series of
2007 prohibits the sale of carbonated drinks,
sugar- based synthetic or artificially flavored
juices, junk foods and any food product that
may be detrimental to the child's health and
that do not bear the Sangkap Pinoy seal or did
not pass Bureau of Food and Drugs approval.

During the tracking, city health officer Dr.
Rowena Galpo pointed out the need for the
city council to approve an ordinance to put
more teeth on the DepEd ban on these kidney
disease-inducing foods.

Galpo also suggested that barangay volun-
teers should undergo orientation on healthy
lifestyle and to standardize the talking points
on the common causes and prevention of
kidney disease while day care teachers should
be trained for the revival of the monthly day
care health teachings to parents on proper
nutrition.

She said nutrition health workers should also
strengthen the promotion of drinking water for
health kidneys in their house-to-house visits
in the barangays.

DOH-CAR regional director Lakshmi
Legaspi for her part recommended that
renal disease control be incorporated in the
non-communicable disease program since
its top causes are hypertension and diabetes
which are lifestyle-related diseases./Aileen P.
Refuerzo#

object to the grant of the
petition may file a verified
written opposition thereto
on or before the date of the
summary hearing.

Let this Notice of
Hearing be published
once (1) a week for two
(2) consecutive weeks in
the Junction, a newspaper
of general circulation in
Baguio City and Benguet
Province, the first pub-
lication to be made not
later than January 31,
2017.
SO ORDERED.
La Trinidad, Benguet,
Philippines, this 28th of
December, 2016.
(SGD) JENNIGER P.
HUMIDING
Executive Judge
*Publication Dates:
January 7 and 14, 2017*

January 7, 14 and 21 2017

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

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Hearing Officer

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

“Upon review of the documents submitted by Ms. Lacasamana, the undersigned believes that the acts committed by the above-named employees may constitute Gross Insubordination and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service under Rule 10, Section 46 (B-7 and 8) of the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service,” the **Cont. on page 8**

Agencies invited... from page 3

council.

The council decided to conditionally approve the plan but suspended the implementation of the put up of the integrated solid waste disposal facility to assess the feasibility of the identified sites for the facility.

Among the components of the proposed city's integrated solid waste disposal facility is a centralized materials recovery facility, an anaerobic digester, an engineered sanitary landfill, a waste-to-energy plant, Environmental Recycling System (ERS) machines, a health and medical waste treatment plant and a special waste treatment plant.

The Committee on Health and Sanitation, Ecology and Environment Protection recommended the adoption of the city's 10-year solid waste management plan, the final results of the WACS and the final copy of the solid waste management plan 2015-2024.

Concio claimed it is still best for the local government to maintain its options open with the Sto. Tomas property as an alternative site for its integrated solid waste disposal facility to allow the city to have an immediate back up plan once the Antamok project will not materialize.

Earlier, Benguet Corporation (BC) management and its development partner Goldrich Natural Exploration and Development Inc. entered into a memorandum of agreement with the local governments of Baguio and Itogon for the put up of the integrated solid waste disposal facility that will cater to the generated wastes within the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tub-Tublay (BLISTT) area.

The conversion of the 60-hectare open pit site to an integrated solid waste disposal facility is part of the proposed rehabilitation of the mined out area pursuant to the final mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plant. /By Dexter A. See#

New Bishop... from page 3

to inculcate to the people the words and deeds of the Almighty Father so that people

will be convinced to shy away from vices and achieve the biblical preaching of eternal life for them.

Baguio and Benguet officials turned over to Bendico the symbolic key of the city and separate resolutions passed by the local legislative bodies warmly welcoming him as the new Bishop for the diocese of Baguio and Benguet.

On his part, Cenzon thanked the people of Baguio and Benguet for their support during his over fifteen years as the Bishop of the Diocese resulting in the implementation of numerous projects that contributed to improving the spiritual values of the residents.

Bendico assured the people that he will sustain the projects of Cenzon and will try to introduce initiatives that will strengthen the role of the church in nation-building. /By Dexter A. See#

Editorial

...from page 5 incorporated into the federalist initiative. The very same reforms that should have been introduced to strengthen decentralization in the country since the EDSA revolution in 1986.

Much of this should probably focus on building stronger meritocracy and accountability in leadership selection, as well as unleashing the full potential of the countryside through more inclusive public investments and dramatically increased foreign and domestic private investments. Federalism is actually not a necessary component for these reforms—but, politically, federalism appears to be the feasible vehicle for pushing them.

Rules on operation of Malcolm Square laid down

BAGUIO CITY – The city government through the city environment and parks management office (CEPMO) has laid out the rules and regulations on the operation and maintenance of the newly rehabilitated Malcolm Square or People's Park.

In Administrative Order No. 196 series of 2016, Mayor Mauricio Domogan decreed that admission at the park as a protected landscape will be free of charge to the public "through harmonious interaction of man and land while providing opportunities for the public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within the normal lifestyle and economic activity."

However, all activities or facilities carried out in the park will be subjected to control, regulation and licensing and permitting through the CEPMO with any payment for the use of area or environmental maintenance fee and permitting to be done based on City Ordinance No. 18 series of 2016.

The city government also reserves the right to disallow any activity.

Only the following activities will be allowed at the park:

Social programs, musical concerts, television shows or TV and film promotion, field demonstration, sports tournament, skills Olympics or competition, political rallies and similar activities that are consistent with the intended use of the park.

The following activities will be prohibited:

Smoking in the park; drinking liquor or alcoholic beverages; bonfire or undue burning; sleep out; walking and or displaying of medium to big sized dogs and similar pets, pasturing and turning loose of pets and other domesticated animals; destroying or mutilating, picking or cutting of flowers and plants or uprooting of plants;

Work out or practice driving of two or four-wheeled rides or vehicles, roller skating, skateboarding and similar rides; unnecessary nailing, bolting, posting of signage in any part of the

Cont. on page 9

Bid to declare... from page 2

Square as a heritage zone authored by Councilor Elmer Datuin.

Datuin said initial consultations were made with the building owners around the Malcolm Square and they were supportive and receptive to the idea of declaring the area as a heritage zone because they are aware of the value of the area to the people of the city.

Boquien warned local officials that once the Malcolm Square area is declared a heritage zone, it would be difficult to introduce unnecessary improvements in the area and the structures located within its environs because the local government or private property owners must secure the approval of the NHCP for such purposes.

Old photographs of the Malcolm Square area during the early years of the city show that there was a bridge connecting this to the public market where people pass to transact business then go back to the area to meet with friends and spend time in the convergence area. /By Dexter A. See#

If federalism is to bring fundamental change, then the dynasties and the oligarchs should face greater competition. Otherwise, simply changing the rules while preserving the same small set of players will probably not fundamentally change the political game between the center and the periphery. Our citizens will continue to be caught in between unless this perverse co-dependency is ended. / Ronald U. Mendoza /Rappler.com#

Initial probe ordered... from page 7

mayor said.

The three employees last November defended their decision to trim the two trees into minimum branches as a measure to preserve and rejuvenate the said trees and to ensure public safety.

In their letter to the mayor and to Lacsamana, they said that upon inspection, they found that the trees' root base as already loose and incapable of supporting a heavy top.

Seeing it as urgent and endangering public safety, they decided to sever the branches at that moment even as they coordinated with their office's forestry division to work out the processing of the trimming permit but which was not immediately done as the officer in charge was at that moment attending a seminar.

They said the remaining trees in the area were not trimmed as they did not exhibit advanced center rot as the two other trees had.

In their letter, the CEPMO personnel apologized for acting without first securing the permit but they assured that the said lapse on their decisions will not happen again in the future.

The cutting earned criticisms from residents and even from the mayor who said he was shocked by the sight of the bald trees as he cannot recall signing a permit for such activity.

Lacsamana earlier said she only ordered her employees to shape the trees to accommodate Christmas decorations for the opening of the newly rehabilitated park and did not expect them to undertake the trimming without permission. /Aileen P. Refuerzo#

Mayor condemns burning of city's Christmas tree

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan vehemently condemned the deliberate burning of the city's own version of a giant Christmas tree that was erected within the Rose Garden Monday night, saying that the act of two still unidentified individuals in torching the tree into ashes is the product of misbehaviour of the said individuals.

The local chief executive ordered the Baguio Fire Department and the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) to fastrack the investigation of the case and ascertain the identities of those responsible for the unfortunate incident for them to be charged with arson and made to suffer the consequences of their actions.

"We could not understand what went into the minds of the suspects who burred the city's Christmas tree. It is clear that the cause of the fire was not due to electric short circuit because the power of the lights were already disconnected several days earlier in reparation for its supposed dismantling this week," Domogan stressed.

Based on initial estimates from the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO), the total damage inflicted by the fire to the city's Christmas tree was pegged at over P120,000.

Domogan called on those who were able to identify the two individuals that immediately fled from the site of the Christmas tree shortly before the fire went out of control to help the arson and police investigators in identifying the said unscrupulous individuals so that the charges will be immediately filed against them for the issuance of the subsequent warrants of arrest against them.

Cont. on page 9

Rules on operation of Malcolm Square... from page 8

park; urinating, littering, spitting and spitting of momma; gambling of any kind to include bingo socials; unauthorized flyer and poster distribution; religious open preaching; personal services like massage, nail spa, henna tattooing; fortune telling using cards or any devices or tools; begging, caroling by individuals or groups, soliciting contribution or donation; marketing or promotion of products, product sampling; peddling of services and goods of any kind to include shoe shine, cutflower or ornamental plants (to include along the sidewalks fronting Magsaysay Avenue and Session Road and walls of the stair landing of overpass);

Destroying, disfiguring, defacing or vandalizing any monument, implements, amenities, devices, displays, signs or any property installed thereat by the government and or the use thereof for purposes of hanging any form of advertisements; leaving unmanaged solid waste materials after the event and/or untended solid waste materials in designated pick up points for organized event; mixing of concrete and/or stocking of concrete materials along the side streets, and trade fairs (except sponsored by the City Government of Baguio through Sangguniang Panlungsod action)

Parking of vehicles

both private, government or public utility vehicles inside the Malcolm Square or along Perfecto Street specifically (from the corner of Session Road and Perfecto Street to corner Magsaysay Avenue and Perfecto Street will also be prohibited.

However, unloading or loading of goods for business establishments in the area is allowed from 7:00PM to 6:00AM only on a "drop-and-go policy."

The loading areas of Trancoville, Aurora Hill, Tiptop and other transport groups should be relocated to other areas but this will be subject to appropriate administrative order or Traffic and Transport Management Committee resolution./

Aileen P. Refuerzo#

Baguio chills at 11 degrees Celsius

BAGUIO CITY – Temperature in the country's started to drop over the past several days after recording the coldest so far this year at 11 degrees Celsius Monday morning from the 11.5 degrees Celsius early Sunday morning.

Wilson Locando, a weather specialist for the local office of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), said the cold spell in the city and other highly elevated areas in Benguet and Mountain Province will extend up to early March and the temperature is expected to further drop in the coming days following the prevalence of the enhanced northeast monsoon.

The city's temperature started to drop to 13 degrees Celsius at the start of the year from the usual 15 to 16 degrees Celsius morning temperature before drastically dropping to the 11 degrees Celsius recorded by weathermen early Monday morning.

Locando revealed the

cold spell in the city usually prevails from November to March every year but the coldest days happen during the months of January and February when the enhanced northeast monsoon is at its peak.

With the sudden drop in the city's temperature, health authorities urged the public to prepare themselves for the expected resurgence of cold weather illnesses.

Dr. Lakshmi Legaspi, regional director of the Cordillera office of the Department of Health (DOH-CAR), said with the expected continuous drop in temperatures since the start of the year, residents and visitors must make sure they protect themselves from respiratory illness, dengue, chikungunya, and zika, as well as food and water-borne illnesses by keeping themselves healthy through strengthening their immune system.

For her part, Dr. Rowena Galpo, City Health Services Officer, reminded the residents and visitors to keep them-

selves warm at all times by wearing thick clothes to combat the serious negative effects of the cold to their health, especially with the expected drop in the city's temperature.

Galpo noted that during this time of the year, respiratory cases surge because of the unpredictable weather condition.

The common respiratory illnesses that usually affect the public include cough and colds, pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, among others.

The lowest temperature recorded in the city by PAGASA is the 6.3 degrees Celsius on January 18, 1961, while the fifth lowest temperature in the city is the 7.5 degrees Celsius recorded on January 15, 2009.

Galpo expressed confidence that with the regular chilly weather from November to February every year, people know how to protect themselves from the serious negative effects of the cold to their health.

She added the public



A MIXTURE OF CULTURE, ARTS AND TRADITION - Mayor Mauricio Domogan leads the "tayaw" during the launching of Chinese Lunar New marking the Year of the Red Rooster held at City Hall grounds last January 9./By Bong Cayabyab

Bible Week...

religious sector.

The week-long activities include a bible quiz on January 25 at the city hall multi-purpose hall; a parade on January 27 from top Session Road to Malcolm Square followed by a bible reading activity at the same venue.

Bibles will also be distributed to the public on

from page 10

January 23 and 27 at city hall and Malcolm Square, respectively.

Prayers for Christian unity will be conducted at the Baguio First United Methodist Church on January 23; Philippine Military Academy Evangelical Church, January 24; St. Stephen Lutheran Church, January 25;

Cathedral of the Resurrection, January 26; and at the Baguio Cathedral on January 27.

The event's culminating activity will be held at Malcolm Square.

Presidential proclamation numbers 44 series of 1986 and 1067 series of 1997, declares every last week of January of every year as National Bible Week in the country./Gaby Keith#

Mayor condemns burning of city's...

from page 8

The fire that razed the city's giant Christmas tree happened at around 8:50 pm Monday and was declared under control by fire-fighters 20 minutes later.

He claimed it is unfortunate that there are still unscrupulous individuals in the city who want to get the attention of the public by destroying government properties through extraordinary means which is not actually being tolerated by the local government.

He said arson and police investigators must make sure that there will be individuals that will be made answerable for the

burning of the Christmas tree so that the local government will be able to send a clear message to the public that all those who try to destroy government property will definitely be charged accordingly.

Burnham Park security guards informed probers that witnesses told them that a few seconds prior to the fire, two individuals were seen running away from the site of the giant Christmas tree and were heading towards the direction of the Rizal Park area until they disappeared in the dark.

Arson and police investigators are now

reviewing the footages that were recorded by the closed-circuit television cameras in the area to help them identify the culprits of the incident.

CBAO personnel were supposed to remove the decorations that were placed around the Christmas tree for the same to be recycled once the city officials will decide to put in place a similar Christmas tree in the area by December during the celebration of the Yuletide season but the fire totally destroyed the decorations which were supposed to be recycled./By Dexter A. See#

must also brace for the expected increase in influenza-like illnesses that maybe dengue fever considering that dengue is now a year-round illness that is triggered anytime

the immune system is not strong enough to combat the virus.

She appealed to the people to immediately seek early medical attention once they

contract whatever kind of illnesses for proper diagnosis by the health personnel in the different health facilities not only in the city but also region-wide./By Dexter A. See#

Clarification on treasure hunting activity proposed

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council decided to invite all the parties concerned relative to the proposal to conduct treasure-hunting activities within the premises of the city-owned Baguio Convention Center (BCC) for them to shed light on the sensitive issue that will significantly affect the state of the environment in the area.

The council is inviting representatives from the National Museum, the treasure hunters led by Eliseo A. Cabusao, City and Environment and Parks Management Officer Cordelia Lacsamana, City Legal Officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes, Engr. Faye Apil, regional director of the Cordillera office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-CAR) and University of the Philippines Baguio Chancellor Raymundo D. Rovillos to issue policy statements on the matter.

Earlier, Cabusao wrote the local legislative body requesting that their treasure-hunting activities within the vicinity of the Baguio Convention Center and UPCB be exempted from Article 9 Section 52 of Ordinance No. 18, series of 2016 or the city's Environment code that totally prohibits

the conduct of treasure hunting activities within the city.

According to him, a 90-year old Baguio-born half Japanese man, who has been an American citizen since the mid-1970s, allegedly pointed to him, in the presence of their respective families at his house in the city, the location of truckloads of gold bars he and Japanese soldiers in their teens deposited inside a tunnel somewhere in the vicinity of the Baguio Convention Center during the closing days of world War II.

"We explored and detected around the Baguio Convention Center using four different detecting tools or units of equipment and all converged on a small grassy area five meters away from the sidewalk towards the side of the UP ladies dormitory. We repeated this three more times and the results were all identical," Cabusao said.

He explained their retrieval plan as approved by the National Museum through a technical and environmental workplan requires them to confirm to laws, rules and regulations regarding, among others, environmental protection including rehabilitation and reme-

diation, labor safety and health standards.

Cabusao disclosed their method of extraction will be sub-soil exploration using a 10-centimetre drilling equipment on a 15-centimeter steel casing; evaluate results and re-confirm the treasure spot; after re-confirmation, enlarge drilling hole to 30-centimeter if tunnel is encountered, enlarge further the drilling hole to 60 up to 80 centimetres to facilitate extraction of items using mechanical lifting equipment; install a liner and bring down a capsule, pump in the air, provide light, remove the capsule, lower down the container, and start the retrieval operations with the use of hydraulic truck.

Cabusao informed the local legislative body that the treasure hunters have posted a performance bond amounting to P250,000 in case of their failure to provide the same, to answer for and guarantee payment to whatever actual damages that may be caused by their exploration or retrieval activities./By Dexter A. See#

Autism Consciousness Week, slated

BAGUIO CITY – The City government will spearhead this year's celebration of "Autism Consciousness Week" from January 16 to 20 in partnership with the Autism Society of the Philippines (ASP) – Baguio city chapter, St. John Paul

II Learning Center, Inc., Baguio Entrepreneurs Cooperative, HOPE (Parents of Children with Disability) and the office of councilor Arthur Allad-iw.

A calendar of the event's week-long activities will be unveiled and announc-

ed during the flag-raising ceremonies at city hall, tomorrow, January 16.

These include on-going autism awareness seminars in various local barangays and free medical consultations for those with autism from January 16 to 20, 8 am to 5 pm, at the Quezon Hill barangay hall.

An "angels walk" will also be conducted at SM Baguio on January 20 followed by a culminating program and display of artworks by those with autism in the same venue. Some of the artworks are currently being displayed at councilor Allad-iw's office at city hall. He chairs the city



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FLOWER VENDORS - Secretary to the Mayor Rafael Tallocoy, representing Mayor Mauricio Domogan and City Social Welfare and Development Officer Betty Fangasan hand over P55,000 cash or P5,000 each to the eleven flower vendors at Harrison Road and Burnhan Park as part of the city's Self Employment Assistance program to uplift their living standard held at the Mayor's Office last January 10./By Bong Cayabyab

Mayor orders suspension of classes and closure of some roads on January 18

BAGUIO CITY - being the Summer Capital of the Philippines will be visited by 32 beauties from the different countries of the world and contestants of the 2017 Miss Universe this Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Having this once in a lifetime big activity in this mountain resort, mayor Mauricio Domogan issued Administrative order No. 03; suspending classes in all levels, both private and public as well as Administrative Order No. 04; temporarily closing both lanes of Upper Session Road from the Session Rotunda up to its junction with Military Cut-Off and Loakan Roads and both lanes of South Drive Road from 8AM to 12 noon on the said date.

In the order, "one of

the activities lined up by the local organizers of the visiting Miss Universe beauty contestants will be a mini-street dancing and float parade from Upper Session Road up to the compound of the Baguio Country Club (BCC), the only exclusive club in the city";

"The visiting Miss Universe delegates and reigning Miss Universe titlist Pia Wurtzbach will be riding on flower-decorated floats and will be escorted by various local and visiting street dancing contingents along the three-kilometer parade route".

The suspension of classes will pave way for the conduct of the street dancing and mini-float parade and at the same

time giving the students opportunity to welcome and embrace the contestants of 2017 Miss Universe beauty pageant.

Domogan expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the people and officialdom of the city, to the tourism officials for including Baguio in the itinerary of the contestants of the Miss Universe beauty pageant because it will surely be an added international exposure for the city.

The local chief executive stressed the beauty contestants will serve as effective promoters of the city's different tourist spots and the country as a whole in their respective countries as they talk from their experience, thus, uplifting the city's tourism industry./Jho Arranz#

Bible Week activities, set


BAGUIO CITY – The City will join the entire country in commemorating "National Bible Week 2017" slated on January 23 to 29 with the theme, "The Bible:

Hope for the Community's Progress".

A launching program is set at the city hall grounds on January 23 during the flag raising ceremonies attended

by local officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Congressman Mark Go and vice-mayor Edison Bilog including representatives from the

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