

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

HB 5595: Cordi Reps sans two Launch Autonomy Dream in Congress



BAGUIO CITY – “The only way we can succeed is if we act together.”

Thus, said mayor Mauricio Domogan last week, apparently lamenting failure of two Cordillera congressmen to set their hands on the proposed organic act now known as House Bill (HB) 5595.

During the ‘Ugnayan’ presser hosted by DZEQ ‘Radio ng Bayan’ Wednesday, Domogan can only surmise, “Maybe those who did not sign have concerns.”

He added, “I hope we could sit down with them to explain whatever it is that [prevented them from affixing their signatures on the proposed autonomy bill].”

The Cordillera congressmen filed HB 5595 in the House of Representatives, December 6, with hope the administration of Pres. Benigno ‘PNoy’ Aquino would endorse the same as priority piece of legislation.

Only Benguet congressman Ronald Cosalan and Abra rep Maria Jocelyn Bernos declined affix-
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Mga bundok ng Baguio...for sale sa lahat ng tao...trees dito nauubos na po... luntiang bundok tila naglalaho... those who love ang Baguio papayag ba kayo?.../Grace Bandy

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Wala kaming tutol sa Autonomiya, ang problema lang ay ang matinding korapsyaon na siyang pag-pipiyestahan ng mga KORAP. Lalaki ng husto ang pondong MA-KOKORAP NILA !!!



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Christmas: Different strokes for different folks

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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MGA AKSYON KAPITAN (Punong Barangay)!!! GMA Pinagiinitan ni PNOY??? PNOY Nag fufutak!!!

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



Mayor Eyes Specific Guidelines on Firecracker Sale, use

BAGUIO CITY – The city government will come up with more specific guidelines on the sale and use of firecrackers here to ensure strict compliance by the populace and achieve the city's ultimate aim of preventing firecracker-related injuries.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan told the weekly Ugnayang Panlungsod media briefing last Wednesday that he will meet with concerned parties to flesh out the specific rules taking off from the guidelines adopted by the city council through a resolution last week.

The mayor was shooting for the amendment of the ordinance regulating the sale of firecrackers but said the resolution which expanded the list of prohibited firecrackers to virtually allow only the aerial ones will do for now.

"I understand that the city council had no more time to amend the ordinance so we will just work on the resolution they passed," he said.

He said they will consider the recommendation of the Dept. of Health to set up a common fireworks display in the communities to discourage the indiscriminate use of firecrackers in the drafting of the guidelines.

"I just hope that all concerned will comply with the guidelines and the regulations so that we can succeed in our aim of preventing firecracker-related injuries," the mayor said.

As per the guidelines adopted by the city council, the city will prohibit the sale of all firecrackers and pyrotechnics with explosive content that may endanger life and limb, such as bawang, baby rocket, small triangle, judas belt, pulled firecrackers, luces, jumbo regular and special, whistle bomb, five star, sawa, atomic big triangulo, super lolo, kwiton and watusi and their equivalents, luces, roman candles, fountains and the like, trompillo, kwitis, pailaw, pop pops, aerials like Dragon, Tiger and Platinum Products.

The body urged the creation of a "Task Force Paputok" to inspect the quantities and kinds of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices sold and held in stock by or in the possession of every licensed distributor, retailer or wholesaler.

The body also set regulations on the sale and affirmed that only those persons/entities duly authorized by Special Business Permits to distribute and/or sell the firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices will be allowed to distribute and sell such products.

They also set the venue and date for the distribution and sale at the Old City Auditorium, Burnham Park from December 20 to December 31, 2011./A Refuerzo

Smart-Looking guy turns Santa

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - A Samaritan who declined to identify himself appeared last Monday morning at the Benguet Renal Center here, asked the costs and then deposited P17,600. He said it was for end-stage kidney patient Genevieve Gano, so she could have her twice-a-week hemodialysis treatment until the year's end.

"He's about 30 to 40 years old, sported a black leather jacket, cowboy buckle and pointed boots; 'maporma' (smart-looking), 'parang rakista' (like a band musician)," recalled hemodialysis nurse Cherry Palsic. "He introduced himself as Manuel and that was it."

Manuel, or whoever he is, returned the following morning while Genevieve was attached to the blood-cleansing tubes for her four-hour treatment. He handed the 21-year old girl P10,000, saying it's for her daily needs.

The dialysis session last Tuesday was courtesy of a bank manager who, out of habit, would now and then whip out P3,000 as support "to whoever needs it most", and then quickly advise that he be not identified.

Genevieve, a farmer-couple's daughter from Hungduan, Ifugao, began using Manuel's fund last Friday. At P2,200 per session, it was good for eight treatments, with the fund having run through on Jan. 3 under the twice-a-week (Tuesday and Friday) schedule at the renal center behind the Baguio General Hospital.

The regular cost is P2,600 per session, but Palsic explained the center applied the discount for persons with disabilities. "Genevieve's case is chronic and, as such, she's considered a PWD and therefore entitled to the discount."

Until the other week, Genevieve was surviving almost on empty, having reduced her treatment to once-a-week. And to survive, she transferred last December to Bayombong, Nueva Ecija, to be near a renal center in Solano city which allowed 50 percent down payment. The shift in location also brought her closer to her parents' place, but had to bear the burden of daily survival by her lonesome in a hut.

She made her initial pitch for support in June last year, a year after she was diagnosed for total kidney failure, a year after she began twice-a-week dialysis treatment. By then, her parents and relatives had exhausted their resources to keep her alive.

The diagnosis ended her dream of finishing a degree in commerce at the Benguet State University where she was in junior year when the medical findings came.

Among those who responded to her plea then were expatriate Baguio boy Freddie de Guzman in Canada, Jody Pimentel, Mila Espino, lawyer Rodrigo Kito and Shoshin Kinderhilfe, a foundation built by former world traditional karate champion Julian Chees and his students in Germany.

A man who also requested anonymity and she referred to as "Lolo" met her at a pizza shop inside the SM mall in Baguio and handed P3,000.

Last week, Manuel and the bank executive were joined by a police team led by officer Magantino who delivered P1,000 to the renal center. Young journalist Rubyloida Bitog also reported that a woman donor also coursed P1,000 last Wednesday through ABS-CBN Television.

While her treatment fund lasts this Christmas, Genevieve stays with Bitog in the latter's boarding house here.

Those who would like to flesh out the spirit of the season can ring up the girl at 09129632162, or, as Manuel, the Santa in black leather did, deliver their support to the Benguet Renal Center.

As this was being written, Genevieve texted, saying lawyer Amadeo Degay deposited P3,000 at the center./Ramon Dacawi.

BLISTT Planners meet anew

BAGUIO CITY – Executives and planners from Baguio La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, and Tuba met last week at Prince Plaza Hotel to look over concerns of their respective areas of responsibility. Representatives from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), were also present. Among the matters discussed at the forum are housing, transport, social services, education, tourism, and business environment concerns for BLISTT residents.

If plans push through, Baguio shall be a drop-off point for transport services, via an outer circumferential road which runs from Pico, La Trinidad-Lamtang-Naguilian road-Marcos High-

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Over P9M Worth of Marijuana Eradicated in Benguet

BAGUIO CITY—About P9,285,600.00 worth of marijuana had been uprooted and burned on-site in an eradication operation in four sitios at Tacadang, Kibungan, Benguet recently.

The operating units from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency – Cordillera Administrative Region (PDEA-CAR), Police Regional Office – Cordillera, Military Intelligence Group – 1, and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group conducted the joint operation from November 30 to December 2.

Overall, 38,000 full-grown cannabis plants and 42,140 cannabis seedlings with Dangerous Drugs Board value of P7.6 million and P1,685,600.00, respectively, had been uprooted and burned on-site during the three-day marijuana eradication operation in 18 plantations, measuring an aggregate land area of 9,665 square meters, all located in barangay Tacadang.

The anti-narcotic operatives also conducted dialogues with barangay residents disseminated information on ill effects of marijuana use, legal implications of marijuana production and trading, participation of the community in the enforcement of the drug law and other related issues.

From January 1, 2011 until this operation, there had been 15 marijuana eradication operations carried out by government troops in the Cordillera Region resulting in the destruction of 1,634,148 full-grown cannabis plants, 858,000 cannabis seedlings, 333,641.50 grams cannabis dried leaf, 48 kilos cannabis stalk, 60 kilos cannabis brick, 400 pieces of cannabis fruiting top and three kilos cannabis seed, and arrest of one marijuana cultivator.

Five of the 15 eradications were effected in Kibungan, Benguet; three each in Bakun, Benguet; Tabuk City, Kalinga; and Kapangan, Benguet and one in Tinoc, Ifugao./PIA CAR/PDEA CAR

Leading Anti-Corruption Agencies Meet to Review Gaps on Major Initiatives

BAGUIO CITY - In observance of the International Anti-Corruption Day as declared by the United Nations, Transparency International-Philippines is conducting a one-day forum entitled Bridging the Gaps in Integrity initiatives on December 12, 2011 at the Baguio Country Club.

The forum will be undertaken in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Integrity Project of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales will give the keynote address. She will share her office' corruption prevention measures, its thrust in pursuance of corruption cases and the needed support for more effective resolution of such cases.

Representatives from various agencies and sectors including Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, Office of the Ombudsman, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Supreme Court, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, media groups, and civil society organizations will come together to discuss success factors and challenges in implementing integrity related initiatives and pursuing resolution of corruption cases – from reporting, investigation to prosecution and define ways of closing the gaps in implementing integrity initiatives and pursuing resolution of corruption cases.

Based on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2011 released last week by the anti-corruption global watchdog Transparency International, the Philippines currently ranks 129th least corrupt out of 183 countries surveyed. With a score of 2.6 (with 0 – most corrupt/10 least corrupt), there is a slight movement up for the first time since 2004, given the country's score and rank.

Consolidating the efforts of the various anti-corruption agencies is one concrete step in further strengthening integrity initiatives. To maximize resources and optimize results, agencies need to more closely collaborate to complement each other's plans and projects. The current political environment in the country provides a great opportunity to achieve major stride in battling corruption.

"We are optimistic that the Philippines will improve its standing in the CPI in the coming years. With the aggressive efforts of the government and the concerted initiatives of the civil society organizations, business community, private sectors and the whole public, we can really have substantial accomplishment in fighting corruption," said Dr. Georgina Encanto, President, Transparency International-Philippines./PIA CAR/Office of the Ombudsman



RIGHT ON TARGET - Laborers prepare the grounds by planting carabao grass, roses and other decorative plants at Rose Garden Phase I Project at Burnham Park to meet their target on December 15 in preparation for the Turn-Over Ceremonies on December 20 to the city government./ By Bong Cayabyab

CSC enjoins Govt Offices to join 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women

BAGUIO CITY

The Civil Service Commission (CSC), through an announcement signed by its Chair Francisco Duque III, enjoins all national government line-agencies, local government units (LGUs), Government-owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs) to join the country's observance of the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW).

The said campaign spearheaded by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) in coordination with the Inter-Agency Council on VAW and their Children (IACVAWC), runs

from November 25 up to the December 12.

CSC-CAR Legal Officer Atty. Emily Lagan, in an interview over PIA Hour radio program, encouraged government agencies and institutions to conduct activities in relation to 18-day Campaign to End VAW that will contribute to intensified public awareness on VAW, anti-VAW laws, and services to survivor of VAWs.

He also enjoined government offices and institutions to join the simultaneous blowing of whistles on VAW at 4:00 pm on December 12 which marks the culminating event of the campaign.

"Blow the whistle on VAW" is a part of this year's campaign which advocates the use of

whistle, as a symbolic and practical device in preventing and speaking against VAW, as well as in supporting VAW survivors,' he said.

In the same interview, Lagan reminded government offices and institutions to maintain a female/gender friendly and professional working environment, which is in accordance with the Magna Carta for Women – a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in the marginalized sectors.

According to Lagan, male-influ-

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DOH Advocates for Community Firework Display, Other Safer Merry-Making Activity

BAGUIO CITY - With injuries and deaths brought about by the use of fireworks and firecrackers during the Yuletide season still on an upward despite the campaign

for ban on use of firecrackers or "Iwas Paputok", the Department of Health (DOH) this year is advocating a new firework-injury re-

duction campaign dubbed as 'Aksyon Paputok Injury Reduction' or APIR (Give me five).

Since the use of firecrackers has long been part of the Filipino tradition especially in New Year revelry and that Republic Act 7183 mandates regulated, not a total ban, on the sale, manufacture, distribution and the

use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devises, the DOH campaign shifted on the advocacy for an organization of a community fireworks/firecracker display.

DOH-CAR Regional Director Myrna Cabotaje bared this a kapihan media forum Wednesday.

For a more meaningful, acci-

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Partial Redemption

Former Rep. Mark Cojuangco went “ballistic” on a TV-talk show this week. The ex-Pangasinan legislator flared at persistent criticism over a Supreme Court award of 16.2 million San Miguel Corporation shares, to his father: tycoon Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco.

My father “had a right” to those shares”, Mark asserted. Instead of being panned, Danding should be credited, among other things, for setting up a replanting program and “petrochemical plants to add value to the coconut:” Dear Ol’ Dad” was then Ferdinand Marcos’ coconut czar.

Close association between Marcos and Cojuangco had not been proved, the High Court claimed last April. This was essential to establish a case for ill-gotten wealth.

“The biggest joke to hit the century”, Justice Conchita Carpio snapped in a scathing dissent

EDITORIAL

Cojuangco’s SMC bonanza were bought from levies the Marcos’ dictatorship wrung from indigent coconut farmers.

People Power I also banished the Cojuangcos to Hawaii “The only time I was able to see President Marcos a lot was during our exile in Hawaii after EDSA 1986,” recalls Mark, whose admiring parents named him after Marcos.

“The dictionary definition of crony is buddy or pal of similar age. My father is much much younger than Marcos... He respected Marcos as a leader”, Mark said. “But to say he was a crony, dictated on by the President, malayo po yon.”

Not so, wrote Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno in her dissent on the SMC fracas. Sapped by the martial law levy, coconut farmers “in effect financed expansion of the business empire of Eduardo Cojuangco.... Illicit acts were obscured by a corporate layering scheme...

Four sets of evidence, prove “Cojuangco’s close association with Marcos, plus the “behest” nature of loans used to purchase SMC stocks.

(1) Marcos appointed Cojuangco to head both Philippine Coconut Authority and United Coconut Planters Bank.. Through these positions, buttressed by a series of “tailored” executive issuances by Marcos, Cojuangco “employed a scheme of corporate layering and multi-level loan transactions to divert public funds”.

How? Cojuangco brokered terms of UCPB in his favor. Coco levy funds were deposited interest-free at UCPB, “which administered them as it pleased.” As UCPB president, Cojuangco wrung “substantial loans used to purchase the SMC shares, directly in his name or “indirectly through his dummy corporations.... He used prima facie public funds (derived from the coco levy) in CIIF Oil Mills to snap up substantial amounts of SMC” stocks.

Shell firms were whistled up “for the sole reason of purchasing SMC shares.” These “fronts” parceled “favorably obtained credit from UCPB to different entities.” There’d be no paper trail, leading to “a single natural person who had control and management of the bank.”

“These anomalous transactions were built on the sweat of coconut farmers. (They), left an indelible mark in the country’s history of recovering ill-gotten wealth” Sereno wrote. “The Court majority effectively impeded gains... to retrieve public funds misappropriated by Marcos cronies.

(2) Previous characterization of Cojuangco, by the Supreme Court no less, “affirms what has long been within the realm of public knowledge – that Cojuangco is a “close associate” of Marcos.

The tribunal upheld a Court of Appeals decision that Philippine Charity Sweepstakes’ Fernando Carrascoso, Jr. rightly withheld Danding’s winnings in several horse races.

“There is no denying that plaintiff is a very close political and business associate of the former President,” the Supreme Court said. “(Thus) Carrascoso could not be faulted in asking further instructions from PCGG... on what to do with the prizes.

“After approving a lower court’s judicial notice of what is accepted public knowledge, the Court... can no longer backpedal, a decade later, to deny close association between (Marcos and Cojuangco) for alleged lack of “competent evidence” Sereno wrote.

(3) Two blocks of Bulletin Publishing Corporation shares – 46,626 and 90,877 — in the name of Eduardo Cojuangco, were in fact “ill-gotten wealth” of the Marcoses, the Court ruled in Republic vs. Estate of Hans Menzi.

Cojuangco acted as “dummy, nominee or agent “ of Ferdinand. Marcos and Imelda Romualdez

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Christmas: Different strokes for different folks

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



Pope Benedict XVI was reported in the news report to have lighted a huge Christmas tree in Umbria using a table computer from his official residence in the Vatican. The Holy Father of the Roman Catholic Church was also reported tweeting through an IPAD. The news reflects an ongoing modernization in one of the most conservative religions of humankind.

Yet, at the same time, the news also resurrects old questions. Christmas trees are more associated with paganism rather than with Christianity. The prophet Jeremiah, who wrote one of the of the Old Testaments books, Jeremiah, is even believed to have criticized the old Middle Eastern practice of cutting down and decorating the trees (Jeremiah 10:2-4).

In Europe, pagans are known to bring living evergreen trees into their homes and decorate them with metals and replicas of their god, Bacchus. Pagans are also known to decorate their houses with laurel wreathes, much similar to what we do today during Christmas.

In Old America, Christmas trees were banned at one point in time because it was identified with the pagan mockery of Christmas.

Some writers narrate that the celebration of Christmas on December 25 is actually associated with the feast of the Son of Isis who was believed to be the goddess of nature. Partying, eating to the full, and gift-giving were the traditions associated with feast of the son of Isis.

There is also a theory that it was not possible that Christ was born in December because biblical account suggest the tending of sheeps on Christmas day. Some writers on Christmas believe that this is impossible based on the climate where Jesus was born—unless, of course, the climate change that took place between His birth and today has been so severe.

Writers also report that pagans of Northern Europe celebrated their own winter solstice known as Yule. Writers report that Yule was the symbol of the pagan Sun God Mithras.

Mistletoes were also sacred plant during paganism and the practice of kissing under the mistletoe was a pagan fertility ritual.

Writers report that when Pope Julius I declared that Christmas day would be celebrated on December 25, Pope Julius I was actually trying to make the cultural shift from paganism to Christianity as non-radical as possible. People will be known as Christians even if the customs and traditions that they follow are pagan.

One account of the first use of the Christmas tree to associate with Christmas was in 1521 in

Cont. on page 11

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Maguindanao Massacre two years ago (day three)

BY: JESUS DUREZA



(Note: This is the 3rd installment of a 4-day series authored by Dureza, former presidential adviser on Mindanao who is now Publisher of the Mindanao TIMES, a daily newspaper and manages in the private sector Advocacy MindaNow Foundation.)

DAY THREE, Nov 25

830 AM, I visited a funeral parlor in Marbel. Some bodies were not identified yet. I talked with the relatives, many parlor-hopping, visiting every funeral parlor and looking at mangled bodies hoping to identify missing loved ones.

I motored back to the 601st army brigade headquarters. We were frantic for some sworn statements so the legal process could start. It was the third day and there were no arrests yet and the public was getting angry – although I had no first hand information on this as I was not reading any of the newspapers and not even watching the TV during the whole period. I was just getting text messages. I knew from experience that a crisis manager could be affected one way or the other by external public pressure coming from those who were not on the ground, far from the venue of action and usually unaware of the many facts and nuances of certain developing events. I preferred to stay focused on my game plan.

I reconvened the crisis committee and tasked the PNP team to go and visit the Mangudadatus in Buluan and take the affidavits of the witnesses they could immediately present. The PNP team returned empty handed. They were told to come back the following day as everyone was engrossed with the search and retrieval operations. Also, the Mangudadatu lawyers would handle the documentation. We understood. I knew parallel investigation and documentation work was also ongoing in several areas. But again, no single document was at hand. Anxious and desperate in having some “paper” in my hands to get Unsay in the event he would not surrender as earlier agreed, I suggested to the NBI team which came from Manila to issue a summons of sorts. Even the NBI team at that moment said they had no basis yet to issue summons. As a lawyer, I understood perfectly. But how about the public that was already crying for blood? The PNP said it could issue an invitation but I bucked. Knowing the public sentiment already building up, people would surely mock and say: you “invite” those criminals ONLY?, etc).

12 NOON –Over lunch at the brigade, I consulted with the crisis committee on my plan, which also coincided with the suggestion of Col Geslani that it was time to contact the Ampatuans and call in Datu Unsay to voluntarily surrender. As they committed to me the previous day. Without any document in my hands, I thought diplomacy or negotiations would fill in the gap for the moment. I was also confident that Bapa Andal would be true to his commitment to give Unsay to me.

While this was on my mind, I was already getting a briefing on the operational plans that would be launched to forcibly take Unsay in custody. There was need for time for the augmentation forces to arrive from other parts of Mindanao and even as far as Samar. Disarming the well-armed Ampatuan forces was necessary before any operations was to be launched to minimize resistance and casualties.

2:00PM – I motored back to Marbel to dialogue with all the families of the victims and brief the media on latest updates. My handling of previous crisis situations taught me that as equally important in dealing with criminal elements was properly dealing with families or those affected by the incident. Dealing also with the media and providing transparent information flow was also very important. Although there were operational matters that could not be made public in the meantime, explaining this to media and the public would be received favorably through frequent briefings.

I made several calls while enroute to the family dialogue. I first called ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan. I told him it was time to bring in Datu Unsay. He told me he would consult the father, Gov. Andal. I said I had only until 5 pm that day to work on this plan. After 5pm, the scenario would no longer be the same, I told him. I sent a soft and veiled warning that if Datu Unsay would not surrender, things would be out of my hands. The military formula would be applied and it would unnecessarily result to loss of lives. I knew Gov Zaldy (Datu Puti to others) was a mild-mannered man and would understand my plan.

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Double standard in poll raps?

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: “... Jesus said. ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die’...” (John 11:25, the Holy Bible)

—ooo—

ABALOS CRIES, “DOUBLE STANDARD” IN POLL RAPS:

Former Chairman Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is making a very serious accusation which the Department of Justice (DOJ) must answer—according to him, the department is coddling election supervisor Yogie Martirizar and is preventing her arrest even if there are now 12 electoral sabotage non-bailable cases against her.

If left unanswered, this tirade of Abalos could prove that the DOJ is applying a double standard in pursuing Abalos and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over charges that they cheated in the 2007 mid-term elections—“fast and furious” arrest for the two of them, but “soft and tender” treatment for other Comelec officials. One kind of justice for administration foes, and another for all others?

—ooo—

“SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL”: First, it was former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. Now, it is Supreme Court Associate Justice Mariano Del Castillo. Later, it maybe Chief Justice Renato Corona. The success in booting out Gutierrez has given the administration the appetite to replicate the formula against those perceived to be blocking President Aquino’s “reform agenda”.

Shake, rattle and roll, as it were, the target, create public adverse reaction, make it a really difficult life for the official whose ouster is being sought—this seems to have become a sure-fire recipe for creating a vacancy in an office whose occupant is uncooperative. Where will this lead to? Only time can tell, of course, but surely, we will find out after six years, God willing.

—ooo—

DIFFERENT BRANCHES, DIFFERENT AGENDA: Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat is right: the three great branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—should be working together, not against each other. But, I have a question for Mayor Celso: how will the branches work with one another when, very obviously, they have different agendas and are evidently obsessed with differing objectives?

—ooo—

WHERE ARE GLORIA'S PEOPLE NOW? Did you notice how people, mostly from Mandaluyong City, acted to show their support and sympathy for Chairman Abalos who was also the city's former mayor? They came out in droves as soon as word got around that electoral sabotage charges will be filed against him. This was something I did not see when Gloria was the one that was sued. Indeed, where are Gloria's people now?

—ooo—

SELECTIVITY IN HELPING OFWs: There is something that I cannot understand over the government's policy on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) facing execution or other penalties: why is there an apparent “selectivity” in helping our countrymen? I say this because while we are going gaga to help the OFW in the newest China execution, nothing is being done about the case of OFW Dondon Lanuza.

Lanuza is now awaiting execution, too, in Saudi Arabia, and yet, the government is not acting on his thousands and thousands of requests to be assisted. Can the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Foreign Affairs explain? Are we all just simply waiting for Lanuza's execution?

—ooo—

ODDITY IN MALACANANG PHOTO: There is something odd in the Philippine Star photo about the recognition rites for The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of 2011, held in Malacanang. Why was President Aquino not standing side-by-side with the TOYM Foundation chairman, businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, and with the Gerry Roxas Foundation chairman, Judy Roxas?

Notice To The Public

Want to know more about the cult –Jehowah's

Witness

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

**MGA AKSYON KAPITAN
(Punong Barangay)!!! GMA
Pinagiinitan ni PNOY???
PNOY Nag fufutak!!!**

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



PNOY Nag fufufutak!!! - Hi ! Hi! Hi!, talagang nakakatuwa itong ating **machong machong presidente** na si PNOY. Kita naman ninyo mga dear readers kung saan kanyang binatikos si SC Justice Corona at pati na rin ang halos buong hidikatura. Tama ba yun o mali, ano ang sa palagay ninyo mga dear readers? Parang nagin isang hard hitting na komentarista si PNOY. Attention-Tulfo Brothers imbitahin kaya ninyo itong si PNOY na sumapi sa inyo, Hi!Hi!Hi!! Kung ako ang inyong tatanungin ay MALING-MALI yun ginawa ni PNOY at tunay na nakakahiya. Yuon kanyang pagbabatikos kay CJ Corona ay wala sa lugar at hindi dapat gawin sa Punong Mahistrado in public na isa rin co-equal branch of government. Simply put, that is not the right place and time for PNOY to have lambasted CJ Justice Corona et.al., !!!! Thaaallaaaghaa nga namhaaaan o oo o mga hibaaang tao nga naman futak ng futak!!! Hi! Hi Hi! Calling on Boy Abunda, Fannie Serrano, BB Gandang Hari, Vice Ganda, Ricky Martin at iba pa...mga tsiong, pa seminar naman kayo sa mga kapederasyon natin on Good Labakski Ethics and Conduct!!!!

#####

GMA Pinagiinitan ni PNOY???- Ano sa palagay ninyo mga dear readers , makatarungan ba ang mga naging at kasalukuyan pagtrato ni PNOY kay dating pangulong GMA??? Para sa inyong kasagutan, itext, email or pisbuk este facebook ninyo sa akin ang inyong opinyon. Kung ako ang inyong tatanungin hingil dito, ang aking opinyon ay yes and no. Sa mga ibang pagkakataon ay mukhang pinagiinitan at pinepersonal ni PNOY si PGMA ngunit sa kabilang banda ay mukhang nasa tama rin naman ang mga ibang isinasagawa ng kasalukuyan administrasyon. Kaya nga lang sana ay daanin na lang sa puros ligalidad at iwasan na sana ang kung ano ano pang mga sensationalism at mga drama . Ibigay kay GMA at obserbahin sana ang 101% sa DUE PROCESS OF



Blood letting, makikita sa kaliwang bahagi si PB Mario S. De Guzman at sa kanang bahagi si PB Arthur Willy na parehong nagbibigay ng dugo sa bayan park covered court during the inauguration.

LAW that should be accorded to a former President, sapagkat sa ayaw at sa gusto natin (sa ngayon) si GMA ay talaga naman isang dating pangulo at dahil dito ay she is entitled to some privileges and benefits na wala sa atin mga pangakaraniwang tao.

#####

MGA AKSYON KAPITAN (Punong Barangay) - Ang mga sumusunod na Punong Barangay ang halimbawa nag mga Punong Barangay's in action, sila ang mga Kapitan na sinasabing Alkstyon kapitans at hindi lang puros Kiao-kiao ng kiao-kiao. Ang mga sumusunod ay sila: Mario S. Deguzman, PB ng West Modernsite, Aurora Hill, PB Arthur Willy ng Bar Ambiong, PB Miguel Kiswa ng Sto. Tomas Barangay , PB Onin Garia ng Barangay BGH Compound, PB Maribelo Estacion ng Barangay Camp Allen . Tignan sa mga litratong ating nakahayag ang istilo ng mga Aksyon Kapitan:



PB Maribel Estacion itinuturo ang kasalukuyan isinasagawa na day care center sa loob Camp Henry T. Allen Barangay



At left photo ay si PB Miguel Kiswa na siya mismo ang nagsusupervise at tumutulong sa pag ayos ng donated road right of way sa may parte ng Balacbac Road.



At middle photo (in sando) ay si PB Onin Garcia kasama ng kanyang mga magigiting ng Kagawad na mismong nag susupervise ng basket ball court rehab sa kanilang barangay ng BGH Compound.

126 Avail of DFA-city Gov't Passport program

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - One hundred twenty six individuals have recently received

their passports after the city government here helped facilitate their application at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

City Public Employment Service Officer (PESO) Loyda Saboy said DFA Tuguegarao office delivered the passports last November 25, just 20 days the applicants filed their application on November 5. Passport processing she said usually takes months before it is released.

According to Saboy, the original plan was to invite the DFA National Office for a mobile passport activity last November, but was re-scheduled because the required 500 applicants were not met. She said that since their announcement last August, more than 400 individuals manifested their interest to avail of the program.

However, since the mobile passport machines were already booked until January, the city government through the full support of City Mayor Ferdinand Tubban opted to ferry the applicants to DFA Tuguegarao to avail said passport application and renewal service, with the city government hiring at least three buses for the activity. Meals and snacks she said were also provided for.

According to Saboy, out of 221 who availed, only 126 were able to submit all the required documents for their application. Priority she said were also given to those needing passports immediately like newly hired Overseas Filipino Workers.

Said program of the city government was conceptualized a few years ago to facilitate the speedy and easier passport application processes to help especially OFWs from Tabuk as well as those coming from the other municipalities of Kalinga and nearby provinces.

She said that by bringing said DFA service in the province, applicants would be spared from spending much time and money for the trips they have to take just to process their passports.

The city government is planning to hold another mobile passport service by February or May next year. Applicants she said are invited to come to the City PESO to inquire for the requirements. In certain cases such as applicants for minor and others, there are some documents that are being required by the DFA which the applicants should know to facilitate their applications.

"It is required that before they avail of the mobile passport services, all documents should be in placed to avoid delaying the process," she said./JDP/GGD-PIA CAR, Kalinga

DA-DAR-DENR lead in National Convergence Initiative

BAGUIO CITY - The Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and the Environment and Natural Resources will lead an enhanced national convergence initiative (NCI) to complement agency initiatives within a defined area under a common intervention strategy to maximize project impact.

The joint DA-DAR-DENR Memorandum Circular No. 1 series 2010 for said endeavor was presented in a meeting of the Regional Social Development Committee of the

Regional Development Council - Cordillera held recently.

The enhanced NCI was conceptualized to develop and implement convergence models to demonstrate synergies that can be achieved if the three agencies will work together to pool and maximize their resources within a defined area and a common intervention strategy.

In revisiting the enhanced NCI for sustainable rural development, the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III is committed to ensure

countryside development as the strategy for poverty reduction.

In the past, there is fragmented delivery of agriculture and rural development services which persisted program implementation difficult and resulted to duplication that wasted the limited resources of government.

Accordingly majority of the target beneficiaries of the three agencies - farmers, fisherfolks, upland dwellers and indigenous groups remained in the fringes of development. They still remain poor and continue to labor outside the emerging

K + 12 Basic Education Graduates will have Tech-Voc Employable Skills - TESDA

BAGUIO CITY - Through the national government's K + 12 basic education reform program, high school graduates will soon have the necessary technical-vocational (tech-voc) education and skills development that would give them a very good opportunity to be employed or to be entrepreneurs at young age.

Thus affirmed Undersecretary Milagros Dawa-Hernandez, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Deputy Director General, in an interview during her meeting with the TESDA family in the Cordillera.

According to Hernandez, part of the priority agenda of President Benigno Aquino III is to bring in reforms in the country's basic education as the Philippines is one of only two remaining countries that still have a 10 year basic education. Our high school graduates today even if they graduate as valedictorian lack the tech-voc skills education and training that could immediately provide them a better opportunity for employment or to start a livelihood, she noted.

The K+12 requires all incoming students to enroll into two more years of basic education. The K+12 system will include Universal kindergarten, six years of elementary, four years of junior high school with an additional two years for senior high school. The 6 year high school is set to be implemented next school year.

"Through the K + 12 basic education program, tech-voc education and skills development will be embedded in the curriculum of basic education, particularly on the higher years or from grade nine to 12 and through TESDA regular high school graduates could also get a National Certification (NC I or II) if they pass the required assessment", she said.

According to Hernandez, the core objective here is to provide pre-employment education and skills to young people since not all high school graduates are capable or fortunate enough to pursue higher education and that not all needs to take one just to get a good employment or entrepreneurship opportunity.

"Isang katotohanan din na hindi din naman lahat ng Pilipino ay kailangan graduate ng higher education, dahil maraming industriya ang nangangailangan ng sertipikadong mangagawang Pilipino. Ang mangagawang Pilipino kung may kasanayan ay talagang mahusay na maipagmamalaki natin sa mundo (It is also a fact that not all Filipinos need to be a graduate of higher education, since there is a very high demand among different industries for nationally certified highly skilled Filipino workers. Skilled Filipino workers are among the best workers all over the world that we can proud off)", Hernandez said.

Through the K + 12 basic education program, we are looking at a yearly average of about 1.2 million high school students that already have tech-voc education and skills training wherein upon graduation can even be nationally certified by TESDA (up to NC II level), upon passing the needed certification assessment requirements, according to Hernandez.

She also bared that it is a priority of the Aquino administration to intensify the country's tech-voc education and skills development training, so that we can respond to the manpower need of the leading industries in the country such as the Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) and electronics/semi-conductor industries.

Hernandez is in the city to represent TESDA in first K to 12 pre-summit and conference at the Teachers Camp here./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

dynamic, modern markets that are available for the outputs from rural sector.

The identification and selection of convergence areas shall conform to the watershed and ecosystem management approach in line with government efforts for sustainable rural de-

velopment and poverty reduction.

The enhanced NCI shall be done through four major components such as policy advocacy, agro-enterprise cluster and agribusiness development, capacity development and knowledge management.

Funds to carry out the implementation of the en-

hanced convergence initiative

shall be taken from available funds of the DA, DAR and DENR. Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped as stated in the circular./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR

OPAPP says Supplemental CPLA MOA Possible; PAMANA funds to be Released on Dec. 17

"Doing same Memorandum of Agreement with a group under the same name would be difficult and might not be legally tenable."

This was the response of Secretary Teresita Deles of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) when asked by the Regional Development Council officials on the status of the requested second MOA with the Suguiyao-Ngao-i

faction of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army-Cordillera Bodong Association (CPA-CPLA).

Deles together with Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo were guests during the Special Regional Development Council meeting at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City Wednesday.

The second MOA was requested by the Suguiyao-Ngao-i faction thru the RDC following consulta-

tions and meetings after they said that they were left out of the first MOA signed by the CBA-CPLA and the Philippine Government earlier this year.

Deles explained that a legal group composed of the Office of the President, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, Department of National Defense and the OPAPP, is studying all legal aspects on how to remedy the situation.

Deles said that

an annex or supplemental MOA could be done to make the other group be included in the first MOA and this is the only possible and legal way to address the issue. But she explained that it will involve the original signatories of the MOA.

Meanwhile, the OPAPP will be launching the Payapa at M a s a g a n a n g Pamayanan project or the PAMANA on December 17 in

Cont. on page 11

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

SPS. JOHN & MARCELA DORIANO
Applicants

Case No: 2001-01-2015

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freights 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 December 21, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, 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 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 8th day of December 2011.

(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

LUIS ESTEBAN - Vendor
APOLLO O. ALFONSO - Vendee
Applicants

Case No: 97-01-2614/2011-CAR-831

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Sale and Transfer with Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CAMP 7 and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 21, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, 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 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 8th day of December 2011.

(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

BERNARD HOMBREBUENO

Applicants

Case No: 97-01-2186

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - ANTAMOK and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 21, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, 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 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 8th day of December 2011.

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

Walter William's Journalist's Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935), the man who founded the world's first school of journalism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed more toward the promotion of professional journalism than any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it, to the full measure of responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best and best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world. /http://www.nationalpressclub.com

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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

Benguet Officials Push for Exemption of Penalties, Surcharges on Electric Bills of Barangay LGUs

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — Provincial officials are pushing for the exemption of barangay local government units from penalties and surcharges imposed on the delay of payment of electric bills.

The provincial board passed a measure requesting the Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) to exempt the barangays in the province from the penalties or surcharges being imposed on the delays in the payment of electric bills.

BENECO was granted by the National Electrification Commission the sole franchise to operate an electric light and power service in the City of Baguio and Benguet province.

As premised, the necessary expenses of these barangay units are often delayed mostly because of the time required in accomplishing documents to support their financial and other obligations.

Due to such situation, accordingly payments of local bills and obligations are delayed in spite of the diligence of the barangay authorities to settle the matter in due time.

Another reason is that the barangay LGU rely on their respective

municipal government for the release of pertinent documents for the processing of transactions and release of funds.

The imposition of penalties and surcharges to delayed payment of bills

puts the barangay units in bad light, according to the officials.

It further complicates the processing of payments resulting from the constant changes of numbers or figures which still undergo the required pre-auditing and other accounting procedures.

Such grant of exemption from penalties and surcharges imposed by BENECO will also greatly relieve the barangay LGUs much financial burden and bureaucracy, the officials said. /JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

Balili River can be Designated as Water Quality Management area

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — The designation of the Balili River system as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) in order to restore and improve water quality of the river is possible but may take for a while until its full operations.

Dr. Rolando Metin, former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary and now a World Bank consultant, stated this during a recent meeting of the Balili River System Revitalization Coalition (BRSRC).

The WQMA designation like that of the Balili river is a mandate and is not voluntary. This is provided for in the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 which specifies the designation of certain areas as WQMA using appropriate physiographic units such as watershed, river basins or water re-

sources regions, Metin explained.

Among the reasons for establishment of a WQMA, apart from restoring and improving water quality, is to make it more productive as source of water supply, to protect public health, and improve the overall environment and aesthetics of the area, according to Metin.

There are no set rules in the establishment and designation of a WQMA, but he said there has to be regular meetings, if possible monthly, until the ownership of WQMA will be developed.

He appreciated the initiatives already being undertaken by the BRSRC adding that he is looking forward to attending the meetings of the coalition. The BRSRC is a multisectoral group from Baguio and Benguet who have bonded together to save the Balili River.

Metin said that

as the local government units are on top of the program in collaboration with the other stakeholders they will still be given enough time to draft compliance plan.

In the case of the Balili River System, both LGUs of Baguio and this town should have its own compliance plan according to Metin citing as an example compliance to sewage or treatment plant to avoid contamination.

Metin said the law provides area water quality management fund but the Environment and Management Bureau of the DENR is still on the process of establishing the fund acquisition.

Only when the WQMA becomes operational hopefully by November next year will there be funds to be acquired according to Metin. In the mean-

Cont. on page 11

BeGH may soon increase Hospital Charges and fees

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — The Benguet General Hospital may soon increase its hospital charges and fees due the increasing prices on all commodities including medicines.

The provincial board in its regular session held recently recommended the proposed increase and adjustments in hospital charges and fees as supported by the findings of the Provincial Finance Committee.

The BeGH operated as an economic enterprise way back in 2006. Since its conversion, it receives a yearly subsidy of P40 million from the provincial government while the remaining budget for the year is generated from the income derived from hospital fees and charges.

Based on the reports of Board Member Juan Nazarro Jr, chairman of the Board of Directors of BeGH, the proposed adjustments were computed based on current charges from the different hospitals in Baguio City as per recommendation of the hospital committee.

To cite example, proposed room rate increase ranges from P100 to P150.00 per day.

For x-ray fees for various body parts, increase ranges from P20 to P160.00 for chest, head, and abdomen but for skeletal survey and special procedures the increase is P1,000 or more. For ultrasound fees the increase is from P100 to P250.00. The increase in cost of laboratory fees depend on the type of procedure.

Another reason stated in imposing increase in charges is due to the new hospital services being performed and the new equipment being used which were not covered under the 2005 Benguet Revenue Code. The new charges are those which have no current fees.

Referred to the Provincial Legal Officer, the findings is that the increase and adjustments are just and reasonable and are within the powers of the provincial board to adopt the necessary amendments of the 2005 Benguet Revenue Code.

This will be subject to the procedural requirements of the Local Government Code of 1991./SCA PIA CAR/Benguet

Small Farmers see Potential income in Cacao Farming

TABUK, Kalinga - Farmers in the province find interest to engage in cacao production seeing there is potential income from this high value crop being introduced by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Luring farmers to open new farming areas to cacao, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) distributed 10,880 seedlings to eyed beneficiaries in barangays Balong and Bantay in Tabuk.

According to High Value Crop Development Program coordinator Teresa Desay of OPAG, cacao suits the soil and climatic condition of the two barangays, where fruit production is a major industry.

Cacao, a tropical fruit tree, is a high source of raw material in chocolate production which is seen to have higher return than coffee.

Unlike other seasonal fruits, cacao bears fruits year round especially for the varieties delivered to farmers that come from established cacao farms in Conner, Apayao known for its grapes, lanzones, rambutan and many other high value crops.

The proponent of this project in barangays Balong and Bantay is the city government of Tabuk, after making a research on cacao production.

Desay said farmers at first seemed reluctant to go into cacao farming for lack of farming technology, but seeing the assistance from OPAG, many offered new lands for the crop.

As additional farming interventions to farmers, OPAG provided 16 units plastic drums for water impounding, four knapsack sprayers, five PH units to check soil acidity and information materials on cacao production./JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga

HB 5595: Cordi Reps sans two Launch Autonomy Dream in Congress.....from page 1

ing their signatures on what could be a historical document that would outlive its prime-movers.

The reason: lack of consultation with their respective constituencies.

"The endorsement by PNoy," Domogan explained, "would definitely hasten the process of having the third organic act approved in both houses of congress."

He earlier said the document was disseminated among the Cordi region's six governors for their blessings before its submission to the highland congressmen for their own take on the proposal.

These, as members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) wanted to make sure that every official in every local government were not only apprised about it; but more importantly, agreed to its contents.

This would be the region's third attempt at autonomy after HB 5595's precursors failed ratification in 1990 and 1998 in plebiscites held for the purpose of realizing the elusive 'autonomy dream' laid down by Article X of the 1987 Constitution.

Domogan said, "There is nothing to lose but everything to gain in autonomy."

He explained, "There will be devolution of powers from the national government to the regional administration."

"And the bottom line is that we could now manage our natural resources [without waiting for trickles veiled with uncertainties] from national government agencies."

"More," he added, "we can take advantage of the P10-billion subsidy for the first five years and the P5-billion subsidy for the next five years in spurring development in the region if only to get some provinces out of the top poorest provinces in the country."

Meanwhile, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Sec. Jesse Robredo advised members of the RDC to furnish Malacanang a copy of the bill to facilitate a call before PNoy.

In a meeting at the Sulo Riviera Hotel, December 7, he said apprising PNoy on the merits of the third organic act could bolster the Cordi reps' chances of having the bill being certified as priority of the current administration. /isl

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION

That Ray Lecarte Bagano, of legal age, single, Filipino, being the surviving legal heir/son of the deceased Mary Lecarte Bagano who died on November 13, 2011 had left at her death a savings account deposit with the Bank of the Philippine Islands Burnham Branch, Baguio City with Account No. 0563-7796-67. That affiant Ray Lecarte Bagano executed on November 29, 2011 this Affidavit Of Self Adjudication before Atty. Nicasio Aliping and entered into the Notarial Registry under Doc. No. 329; Page No. 67; Book No. 50, Series of 2011.

Publication Dates: December 3, 10 and 17, 2011.

Advocacy Mindanow.....

.....from page 5

While on my way to downtown Marbel, I got a call from the father, Gov Andal telling me that he would turnover to me Datu Unsay but requested that the deadline be moved from 5pm that day to 10 AM, the following day. I immediately told him I could not guarantee things if the deadline were moved. He said the Ampatuan clan would meet that evening and discuss things and bid goodbye to Datu Unsay. I told him I would get back to him by phone.

Up to this time, the Palace was periodically informed of actual developments on the ground. I then made a call to palace officials with whom I had been consulting and informed them of Bapa Andal's proposal that he would give to us Unsay the following day instead of that afternoon.

There were objections. And understandable reservations. What if the extension was a ruse to give opportunity to Unsay to escape that evening? What were the guarantees that he would voluntarily surrender during the new deadline? People were becoming outraged not only on the crime but on the perceived slowness of government, so why waste more time? The forces were ready to strike, so why delay? One palace official said he would agree to move the deadline to surrender the following day but Unsay must be in my personal custody and spending the night with me in the same room. Their concern was understandable. They were getting the public pressure to act swiftly. But I stayed the course.

I also reasoned back: How sure are we that we would get Datu Unsay in the operations? From yesterday's visit to the Ampatuans, I was certain that he was not there in the immediate vicinity but came from somewhere far and surely physically secured considering that it took him almost 1 hour to arrive after he was called by the father. I wanted as much as possible a bloodless event. There was too much blood spilled already. An assault would surely cost lives knowing the armaments and the culture. And there was no guarantee we could take Datu Unsay that way. I also said I believed Gov Andal was sincere when he told me he would bring out his son when needed. To wrap up my point, I said: I would take full responsibility for whatever outcome.

My new timeline was adopted. I called Bapa Andal. Everything was set: 10 a.m. Nov 26 at the Maguindanao capital grounds in Shariff Aguak, the handover would take place.

That night, we reviewed the "pickup" scenario several times and mapped out contingencies just in case things would not go as planned. In the meantime, government troops moved according to operation plans. That evening, I got a call from Atty. Cynthia getting an assurance from me that nothing would be launched that evening until the 10 AM pickup time the following day. I told her that I had full control of the scenario for as long as the Ampatuans would be true to the agreement. Any troop movement they must have noticed was to ensure that the handover the following day would proceed without incident. I knew the troops were repositioned and in place to ensure our safety if things went wrong, ready to hit if the pickup failed. That same evening, as

planned, the troops were moving to neutralize early any resistance. The Ampatuans must have noticed. Or were tipped off.

Later in the night, another complication suddenly arose. Gen Serapio and Col Geslani informed me that they got information that Toto Mangudadatu, as a show of defiance and determination to continue his fight, would motor with his followers to file his certificate of candidacy the following morning in Shariff Aguak. That would endanger the smooth flow of our "pickup" operations in the same venue: Shariff Aguak. I immediately called Gov. Teng Mangudadatu. I told him that there was something afoot the following morning and that, without disclosing what it was all about, I requested if he could convince Toto to move his filing to another day. It was close to midnight and the ground operations were underway. A defiant caravan would mess things up. A few minutes later, Gov Teng called and said the clan agreed. There would be no movements on the Mangudadatu side the following day, except Gov Teng's going to Buluan to join the rest of the clan there.

I did not get some good sleep that night.

Aditorial

..... from page 4

Marcos in acquiring Manila Bulletin shares. Proceeds from sale of 198,052 Bulletin shares. (90,866 stashed in Jose Campos' name and 16,309 by Cesar Zalamea) were "forfeited in favor of government."

(4) In a controversy over a Falcon aircraft, leased by a Hong Kong Faysound Limited to a United Coconut Chemicals, two US District Courts concluded: Cojuangco was a "multimillionaire businessman, with substantial interest in UNICHEM, undoubtedly a close friend and adviser to Marcos."

"Cojuangco does not, deny, nor is he ashamed of, his relationship with the late dictator. But he distances himself from Marcos's greed... If crony capitalism of Marcos dictatorship is slowly erased from public memory, martial law revisionism will triumph in the future."

"The lesson (to) be learned, from the national trauma that was the rule of Marcos, is kleptocracy cannot pay", Sereno wrote. A time may come 'when the legal impediment presented before the Court today is lifted'. That could stem from newly discovered evidence or another justifiable reason.

The future may yet present an "opportunity to revisit the ruling of this Court — and Philippine history may have a chance to be redeemed in part." /Juan L. Mercado

CSC

..... from page 3

enced environment in government offices still exists, which is a factor for the commitment of advances or sexual harassment. In most cases, women are the victims.

Lagan explained that that sexual advancement or harassment is a form of VAW that is punishable under the law. He stressed that sexual harassment is not limited to physical advances as even sending or texting obscene pictures or messages is also considered as one.

Meantime, Lagan also reminded government agencies and institutions to provide space in their offices or facilities as breastfeeding area for lactating working mothers as provided for under the law. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

BLISTT

.....from page 2

way and loops to La Trinidad with easier access to Tuba, Sablan and Itogon. The town of Tublay may also be included in the loop, it was learned. A common area for transportation; jeepneys and buses, shall be proposed.

A middle ring for transportation shall pass through Bonifacio st.-North Drive-Gov. Pack road-Kisad road-Legarda st.-Yandoc st.-Abanao st.-Bonifacio st. while an inner ring passes through Bokawkan-Yandoc-Kisad-Military Cut Off-South Drive Circle-Leonard Wood rd.

Housing areas, schools, tourism and industrial areas shall be considered in the transport loop, for the whole BLISTT area, the planners were informed. A centennial village with a thousand housing units is proposed in a neighboring town, with utilities being considered and prepared.

Among the spatial strategies studied and planned for the city, a multi-nodal urban form is considered. This strategy "re-directs development away from the urban core or city center toward identified urban growth areas or nodes," which would have a "cluster of development with each cluster having its own specialization."

There were also considerations made for reforestation and reservation areas, water sources, hazard lines, sinking areas and special zones. All the representatives agreed to have a detailed report on the said zones in their respective areas. La Trinidad, for one, shares the Busol Watershed with Baguio, while other areas are being used as watersheds for neighboring areas.

For the special industrial zones, the planning officers have scouted around for appropriate areas, Sablan and Tuba being the nearest possible places. The move is seen to provide jobs for college graduates from neighboring towns.

In his welcome remarks, Mayor Mauricio Domogan emphasized the importance of neighbors in the planning and visioning for the BLISTT areas. "We are happy to listen to you, our important partners, (your) concerns, suggestions, proposals, and comments, are valuable, as long as it is for the collective good of our people and environs," he said. These shall be included in the City Land Use Plan which is pending in the city council, he added.

As the forum is the fifth in the series, progress has been made, but would still need more inputs, the mayor said. Visioning have been done earlier with the barangays, the youth, the Baguio Centennial Committee and the community as a whole, it was learned.

Councilor Isabelo Cosalan, Jr., who handles the committee concerned with the forum, expressed concern for a neighboring area for the city's garbage. He however said, he understands the need for continuing consultations, as to ancestral domain issues, and Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) required for a sanitary landfill, or materials recovery facility (MRF). Liquid waste in the waterways going through the sewerage plant are also being studied, in consideration for neighboring areas where the rivers proceed.

One important consideration is sustainable development in all the programs, the councilor said.

In all the issues, planning together is most important, with their respective statements being awaited for a final report./juliegfianza

DOH

.....from page 3

dent-free and stress-free yuletide celebration, the DOH encourages and promotes a community fireworks display in every locality and for each family to celebrate a safe holiday or yuletide season with their loved ones.

Cabotaje also encouraged the public to use safer merry-making materials such as torotot (trumpet), busina (vehicle-horns), tin cans and other safe noise maker material or equipment in welcoming 2012.

She also called on all local chief executives to support the advocacy in their respective localities by informing their constituents about the tips for a complete and stress-free yuletide celebration. At the same time, she urged every local government to put in local ordinances or laws that will put a total ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in their locality.

Cabotaje reiterated the DOH reminders that: firecrackers/fireworks cause injuries and endanger health; children should not use any of such type; the public, especially children should keep away from exploding firecracker/fireworks; never pick-up used firecracker/fireworks; and for the public to seek immediate medical treatment for any or all firecracker/firework-related injuries.

She enjoined for the help and cooperation of everyone in the reduction of firecracker-related injuries in the country especially here in Cordillera.

Based on DOH-Cordillera records, fireworks/firecracker related injuries in the region increased by 13 percent from the 85 cases in 2009 to the 96 cases recorded in 2010. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

OPAPP

Baguio City.

.....from page 8

OPAPP will be signing sets of MOA with the implementing agencies and the local government units in the region who are recipients of the PAMANA. These are the identified CPLA communities under the MOA.

OPAPP in coordination with the Joint Committee will be downloading the funds for the implementation of the projects during the launching.

Expected to grace the occasion are Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman, Budget Sec. Florencio Abad and DILG Sec. Jesse Robredo with Cordillera governors, congressmen, mayors, line agency directors and CBA-CPLA officials and members./RC-PIA CAR

DOH Warns Public

.....from page 12

very old people must have, Cabotaje also advised the public to increase their immune system by taking up vitamins, especially vitamin C, which can also help protect people from getting common coughs and colds.

On the AH1N1 concern, Cabotaje reiterated to the public that there is no cause for alarm or they need not to worry as the AH1N1 virus is not severe and is already being considered among the common type of flu, especially here in Baguio, with our cold weather.

Cabotaje also affirmed that by next year, A-H1N1 anti-virus will now be included or incorporated to the regular flu-shot (vaccine) that will be made available to the public./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Balili River

.....from page 9

time, the coalition could source out funds from donors, he suggested.

University of the Cordilleras Vice President for Research Dr. Ruben Umaly and Benguet State University Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Aurea Marie Sandoval are pushing for the conduct of training for stakeholders particularly in research undertakings such as collection of water samples.

Trainings would be beneficial which would involve not only the academe but other stakeholders to appreciate the importance of the research undertaking. It would also sustain interest and advocacy of the rehabilitation efforts of the Balili River system, according to Sandoval./SCA PIA CAR/Benguet

The Peace Combatant

.....from page 4

Alsace Germany. The Lutheran pastor of the area cried blasphemy and was reported to have said, "Better that they should look to the true tree of life, Christ." Thus, the Christmas traditions that we have been born into are largely pagan but do we mind? Not, not at all or at least not at the moment. Yet, we want of course that our offerings for Christmas would be consistent with what our main celebrant in Christmas would want.

Christmas day is a commemoration of the birth of the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Savior, and the Redeemer. He is Christ the King and yet He chose to be born in manger, among shepherds, among the outcasts of society. Why did He choose to be born this way? Was He trying to bring to us a message that would reverberate for all time? Christ was born among the poorest of the poor, with no home, with no comforts, and in the barest of a human situation.

This Christmas, we must reflect on Christ message: why on earth or in heaven did He choose to be born to the poorest and in severe discomfort of life?

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

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

ANTONIO ABENES

Applicants

Case No: 91-CAR-266

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - BROOKSIDE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 21, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRB Office, Paoal, 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 8th day of December 2011.

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

Small Farmers see Potential Income in Cacao Farming

TABUK, Kalinga — Farmers in the province find interest to engage in cacao production seeing there is potential income from this high value crop being introduced by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Luring farmers to open new farming areas to cacao, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) distributed 10,880 seedlings to eyed beneficiaries in barangays Balong and Bantay in Tabuk.

According to High Value Crop Development Program coordinator Teresa Desay of OPAG, cacao suits the soil and climatic condition of the two barangays, where fruit production is a major industry.

Cacao, a tropical fruit tree, is a high source of raw material in chocolate production which is seen to have higher return than coffee.

Unlike other seasonal fruits, cacao bears fruits year round especially for the varieties delivered to farmers that come from established cacao farms in Conner, Apayao known for its grapes, lanzones, rambutan and many other high value crops.

The proponent of this project in barangays Balong and Bantay is the city government of Tabuk, after making a research on cacao production.

Desay said farmers at first seemed reluctant to go into cacao farming for lack of farming technology, but seeing the assistance from OPAG, many offered new lands for the crop.

As additional farming interventions to farmers, OPAG provided 16 units plastic drums for water impounding, four knapsack sprayers, five PH units to check soil acidity and information materials on cacao production./JDP/LL-PIA CAR,Kalinga

DOH Warns Public vs Lifestyle Related Diseases, Cold Weather Illnesses

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Health (DOH) advised the public to be wary of respiratory illness with the cold weather in the city now and lifestyle-related diseases with the expected Christmas and New Year celebrations where people tend to eat and party more.

DOH Cordillera Regional Director Dr. Myrna Cabotaje said the public should be alert of common respiratory illnesses such as cough, cold, fever and flu, as well as on gastro-intestinal illnesses which may rise during this season.

According to Cabotaje, there are seasonal occurrences wherein some illnesses tend to increase during this yuletide season like the non-communicable and cold weather illnesses.

She explained that non-communicable diseases or what they call as lifestyle-related diseases, include hypertension (increasing blood pressures) and stroke.

Cabotaje also stressed that with the upcoming holiday season, people also tend to neglect or under-mind their diet, which can also be contributing factor for the occurrences of such illnesses or diseases.

Cabotaje advised the public to maintain a healthy lifestyle and have a balanced diet and proper nutrition. She also reminded the public about proper hygiene practices, physically and in food handling and preparation, as well as in practicing proper hygienic etiquette, such as covering their mouth while sneezing or coughing.

Meantime, Cabotaje also cautioned the public of influenza-like illnesses which are usually prevalent during the rainy season, but tend also to have increased occurrences during the cold season.

Aside from the common flu shots that the vulnerable sector, the very young and

Cont. on page 11

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



**DAHIL UMANGAL TAYO AT HINDI PINAYAGAN!
MABUHAY KAYO MGA KAPATID!!!!**

**ISANG WAITING SHED LANG ETO, MARAMI PO YAN HA.
MAYOR DOMOGAN DAPAT MANAGOT PARIN SAPAG PINTA
.../GRACE BANDOY**

New Curriculum Under K to 12 for Implementation next School Year

BAGUIO CITY - The national government, through the Department of Education (DEPED) has already started implementing the Universal Kindergarten Law for all five year old children this school year and starting June 2012 the new curriculum for grades 1 and grade 7 will be implemented in line with the country's K to 12 Basic Education Program.

This was disclosed by DEPED Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro during the K to 12 Pre-summit Conference for education sector stakeholders of Northern Luzon, held at the Teachers Camp here earlier this week.

The K to 12 system includes universal kindergarten, six years elementary, four years junior high school and additional two years of senior high school.

By next school year, all incoming grade I should have attended kindergarten while incoming first year or grade 7 students will be covered by the six year high school curriculum. With this, the K to 12 will have its first graduates by 2018.

According to Luistro, the K to 12 program seeks to enhance the quality of basic education in the country as it aims to produce holistically developed learners who have 21st century skills and are prepared for higher education, middle level skills development, employment and entrepreneurship.

Luistro also assured that alongside with the implementation of the K to 12, they also aim to address the other perennial problems that hound the country's education including concerns on classrooms, teachers, textbooks, chairs and toilets within the next two years starting in 2012.

In terms on the issue of lack of teachers, Luistro disclosed that if we include the about 50,000 teachers being supported by the different Local Government Units (LGUs) all over the country, to the government hired teachers, the problem is not on congestion but on the mal-distribution of teachers.

According to Luistro, out of the 45,000 public schools and 20 million students nationwide, there are only about five to six percent schools mostly in urban areas that experiences congestion.

"The problem is not congestion; if we plan it very well and if we have elbow to move students and teachers in different areas, we will have no problem with classrooms and teachers," he said.

Luistro also disclosed that before the next school year (SY 2012-13) starts, all government teachers will report first to their respective division offices before they are deployed to their respective assignments to identify the excess teachers in each division and to see what area or division needs additional teachers.

Luistro reiterated that with or without the K to 12, government is keen on addressing the perennial problems that have been hounding the country's education sector./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

THE JUNCTION

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