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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

BCDA Chair Payumo: Ayala thrives, as CJHDevco whines about OSAC



COMMITMENT TO MOTHER EARTH - Rain or shine, the Baguio's Finest headed by City Police Director David Lacdan fulfill their commitment to protect the environment through various clean-up drive tree planting and tree tending activities with Burnham Park photographers and the community among others as shown in photo during a tree-planting and clearing of shruberry area at Burnham Park Feb.11.—/By Bong Cayabyab

Ayala Land and other lessees operating in Camp John Hay are experiencing smooth business operations inside this favorite commercial and leisure destination, while Sobrepena-led Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) continues to complain about the so-called non-operation of One Stop Action Center (OSAC). OSAC was established jointly by the John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) and CJHDevco, and has been operational.

This was the revelation of Felicito Payumo, chairman of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), in reaction to the oft-repeated claim of CJHDevco that the OSAC is not fully operating. Payumo stressed: "The other lessees led by Ayala Corp. are not complaining; in fact, they are even experiencing good business within John Hay! This was their unsolicited comment as expressed to BCDA officials."

Payumo said that the OSAC is being used as a "convenient excuse by CJHDevco to evade payment of their obligations," adding that such refusal of CJHDevco not to pay is clearly unreasonable."

The BCDA Chairman em- **Cont. on page 9**

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

"Phase 3" In Impeachment Row

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Corona's Impeachment Analyzed

BY: JESUS DUREZA



City to Rebid Asin Minihydro Project

BAGUIO CITY – The city government will rebid the Asin mini-hydro-electric plant operation and rehabilitation before the end of the month.

M a y o r Mauricio Domogan and city budget officer Leticia Clemente who heads the Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) confirmed this last week following the failure of the first bidding conducted last January 27.

The first canvassing was nullified as no company was able to satisfy the requirements set under the terms of reference for the project.

Six companies

served intention to participate in the bidding but only Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc., (BENECO) tendered an actual offer.

However, the firm was disqualified for failing in some requirements including its lack of registration with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

Clemente said all interested firms including BENECO can join the rebidding.

As this developed, the SBAC denied the motion filed by BENECO for reconsideration of the committee's earlier decision declaring the power firm as ineligible to participate in the bidding.

"The Committee

resolves... to deny the motion... as the ground raised are unmeritorious. The committee does not see reason to stretch out the explicit provisions of the Terms of Reference and the provisions if law on bidding," the committee noted in Board Resolution No. 2 series of 2012 issued Feb. 14 where it added that it has no authority "to modify, alter or revoke any provision on the (TOR)."

Clemente said the SBAC declared BENECO ineligible to participate in the bidding process, "using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria."

The power firm on Feb. 2 filed a mo-

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BFF 2012 Streetdancing and Float Parade on Feb. 25-26

BAGUIO CITY – As in the past sixteen (16) years, the Panagbenga 2012 streetdancing parade is expected to draw in an enormous crowd of locals and tourists along the main thoroughfares and at the Athletic Bowl, Burnham Park for the dance show-down, this coming Saturday, Feb. 25.

The main event expects local contingents who with their colorful costumes, flower-inspired trinkets and accessories, props and carefully choreographed dance movements shall awe the audience from start to finish. Original creations; paintings of

visions and impressions on canvas, etchings of flowers and as inspired by the Cordillera culture from the "Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom," activity shall also be displayed during the parade.

The activities are focused on Panagbenga's 17th year's theme, "Community Convergence for a Sustainable Tourism Growth," where during the opening program last Feb. 1, Mayor Mauricio Domogan spoke on the interplay of economic progress and tourism, with effects on the academic growth of the city; and the

whole region as well.

Elementary pupils from fourteen (14) different city schools graced the opening ceremonies where they danced to tunes played by their own school's drum and lyre ensemble. Baguio Central Elementary School came in first, followed by Don Mariano Marcos Memorial ES and Special Education ES, as second and third place, respectively.

Said participants shall perform during the grand streetdancing parade.

For the flower float parade on Sunday, Feb. 26, spectators are expected to line up from Session

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Mayor to Anti-Tree-Cutting Advocates: I'll Support Cause if There's Legal Basis

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Monday assured members of the Save 182 Movement of support to their petition to stop the cutting and balling of the trees within the expansion area of SM Baguio in Luneta Hill but only if there is legal basis for him to do so.

In a meeting with the tree advocates led by Cordillera Ecological Center director Michael Bengwayan, the mayor refused to issue a categorical statement of support to the cause saying he could not do so without putting himself in "hot water" for trampling on the rights of SM as the legal owner of the private lot where the subject 182 trees are located.

"I can't just issue a statement saying I support you and block the cutting of the trees. There are limitations to what I can do and I can't totally block (SM's plans) because that will violate the civil rights of the owner of the property," the mayor said.

He however promised to support the group if it decides to file a petition for the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel the permit to cut or ball trees and the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and for the Dept. Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to void the building permit issued by the city building official for the expansion project and back it with enough legal bases.

"The maximum that I can do is to make an endorsement of your petition possibly for a resolution from the city council so do your homework, research and do the paperwork," the mayor said after explaining that the city government has no authority to undertake the cancellation of said issuances itself.

Taking the cue from the city mayor, the advocates launched an online petition via the social networking site Facebook on top of their earlier petition egging government authorities to block the cutting down and earth-balling of the trees which gained widespread support.

The group also sought the mayor's advice on the possibility of having SM's land expropriated and the mayor volunteered that it could be the best avenue to address the matter.

He said the way to do this is "to convince the national government to exercise its power of eminent domain to buy back the property and convert the area into a park."

He said only the government can file a case for expropriation and the role of the citizens would be to convince the government by presenting justifications and legal bases.

During the dialogue held at the mayor's office, the mayor took the opportunity to explain his side on the issue.

He said he supported the SM's expansion project because there was no legal basis to disapprove the same as the subject lot is a private property of SM having been sold by the national government and approved by no less than President Benigno S. Aquino

Warbird Caught Squatting Inside

John Hay

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has ordered the dismantling and demolition of illegally constructed structures within the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ)

erected by Warbird Security and Investigation Agency (Warbird), the security agency of the lessee Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco), for violation of the National Building Code.

BCDA President and Chief Executive Atty. Arnel Paciano Casanova said CJHDevco and Warbird have stealthily constructed rundown shanties within the JHSEZ which be-

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Profiling of Small Scale Miners in Benguet Ongoing

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – Profiling of small scale miners in the province is still continuing in efforts to build up a database to determine the situation of the small scale mining sector and in aid of legislation.

The profiling of small scale miners which include pocket miners, commercial sand and gravel businesses and small scale quarry started last year but according to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, response is poor.

ENRO representative Engr Joseph Cervantes said there were apprehensions lately as it was associated with taxation purpose. But he stressed that this was not the real intention. The project, he said, was launched to have an inventory on the number of those involved in the business and to determine the situation of the small scale mining sector which is likewise intended in aid of legislation.

To date, 8,090 pocket miners belonging to 60 organizations were already profiled. Of the total, only 53 percent is from the province, Cervantes said.

According to the Small Scale Mining federation president, Engr. Lomino Kaniteng, there are around 20,000 pocket miners all over the province.

Cervantes said the ballpark figure might include the young as it is a family enterprise but what is being surveyed are those of legal age, meaning 18 years old and above./SCA PIA-CAR/Benguet

PDEA Issues Licenses to 264 Docs in Car To Handle Dangerous Drugs

BAGUIOCITY - The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has issued license to 264 doctors in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to prescribe or administer dangerous drugs.

Of the total, 259 are physicians and five are veterinarians. 101 are government practitioners and 163 are in private practice.

The PDEA – CAR is also monitoring 23 hospital pharmacies, 20 drug-stores, six research laboratories, four distributors and two end users, or a total of 55 establishments in the Cordillera Region, authorized by the PDEA to handle dangerous drugs, and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs). 17 of these are state-owned entities while the other 38 are privately owned firms.

According to PDEA – CAR Regional Director Gil Cesario P. Castro, aside from its law enforcement mandate, the PDEA also functions as an operational regulatory enforcement body through its Compliance Service, which takes charge of moni-

toring movements of controlled substances to prevent diversion.

The Service issues permits and licenses to industry partners, medical practitioners, pharmaceutical companies, suppliers and retailers engaged in the importation, distribution, manufacture, prescription, dispensing and selling of dangerous drugs and essential chemicals.

Castro bared that in 2011, PDEA CAR processed a total of 108 S-2 licenses for doctors prescribing or administering dangerous drugs, 43 S-Licenses for entities handling dangerous drugs, nine P-Licenses for establishments handling CPECs, and one license retirement. Moreover, the unit had conducted 11 Physical Security Inspections and 13 Compliance Inspections, and checked 155 Dangerous Drugs Record Books and 22 CPECs Record Books during the period.

The accomplishment had increased by 48% as compared to that in 2010, Castro said adding that this indicates

Cordillera public is one with the PDEA in the prevention and control of chemical diversion.

Unauthorized or unlicensed handling and prescription of dangerous drugs, and/or CPECs is punishable by life imprisonment and P10 million fine, Castro warned as he called on establishments and practitioners who have not yet secured or renewed their respective license to acquire or renew such to avoid the consequences.

For more information about the licensing service, one may visit the PDEA website at www.pdea.gov.ph, or contact the local PDEA at telefax number: 422-5544 or e-mail address: pdeacar@yahoo.com.

Castro bared that common dangerous drugs, in oral and injectable forms, being handled by PDEA-registered clients in the Cordillera Region include (but are not limited to) benzodiazepines including alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, midazolam and zolpidem; phenobarbital preparations; **Cont. on page 11**



TREE CUTTING ISSUES - Mayor Mauricio Domogan shows off the document and explains his views to environmental advocates opposing the cutting of several pine trees at SM Baguio property during a dialogue at the Mayor's Office Feb13./By Bong Cayabyab

Environmental Group Pushes for Development of National Mercury Storage Plant

BAGUIOCITY - An independent, non-profit, environmental organization is pushing for the development of a national mercury storage plant as a means to stockpile the chemical element mercury which is one of the most dangerous environmental pollutants that is persistent and cannot be destroyed.

Ban Toxics, in coordination with the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC-CAR), presented this in a multi-stakeholder consultation dubbed as 'Developing a National Mercury Storage Plan Project' at the Hotel Elizabeth here, Tuesday.

Executive Director Atty. Richard Gutierrez stressed that mercury chooses no one and once released in the atmosphere, will leave everyone defenseless, especially women, babies and children on its adverse health effect. The toxic effect of mercury may not manifest on the person who is directly exposed to the chemical but there is a strong probability that it will manifest or will be passed on to their children, he added.

Thus, in partnership with the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), they have been long working to produce an effective means of stockpiling or storing mercury, Gutierrez said. Since last year, they have been embarking on a series of regional consultations, partnering with the different RDCs and other stakeholders, in line with their objective to produce an effective means of stockpiling mercury.

Gutierrez also discloses that as part of their advocacy, they also focus on addressing the use of mercury **Cont. on page 10**

DOH: Heart Diseases Remain Top Cause of Mortality, Morbidity

BAGUIOCITY - Heart diseases remain to be the leading cause of mortality and also among the top causes of morbidity over the years. Such reality is not only being recorded here in the country but globally as well.

According to Dr. Brigida Claro, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Department of Medicine Head, study shows that one out of every four Filipinos are found out to be hypertensive,

which is among the risk factor of having a heart attack or stroke.

Claro, a cardiologist, said it is becoming alarming that even younger people are now susceptible to heart attack and stroke, as what they are experiencing in BGHMC. She also affirmed that heart diseases have been the leading causes of admittance, death and out-patient consultations in BGHMC.

D O H - C A R Non-communicable Diseases Cluster

head Dr. Maria Luisa Paran, also affirmed that heart or cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death or mortality in the Cordillera. In 2010 alone, they registered 120 deaths per 100,000 population.

As the Department of Health spearheads the observance of Heart Month this February, doctors reiterate the Health Department's Healthy Lifestyle to the Max campaign, which is an effective prevention tool **Cont. on page 11**

"Peak"—What?

Buzz words sprout from controversies of the day. Among spillovers from the Senate impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona are "subpoena" and "Alpha Lists".

They stud chatter in barbershops to diplomatic receptions.

Emerging issues mint new buzz words. "Peak timber" is one of them.

"Tropical countries should consider implications of 'peak timber'...even as" "it has become common to speak of 'peak oil'", the journal Biological Conservation suggests. "Tropical timber production exceeds forests' ability to replace felled trees,"

"Peak timber" shoves against limits of forests. The trajectory resembles the 'Hubbert Curve' in tracking oil, note Australian National University's Phil Shearman and Jane Bryan with William Laurance, James Cook University Harvests first surge, flatten on

EDITORIAL

a peak, then plunges into free fall.

"Been there, done that", Filipinos would shrug. In 1595, forests blanketed 27.5 million hectares here. Today, 7.7 million hectares are left, official data claims. That's probably an overestimate.

Factor in the unrecorded killer logs, unleashed by Typhoon "Sendong" on Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Most tumbled from "the mountains of Lanao del Sur where a logging company—Vicmar based in Makati City—operated, Inquirer reported.

Mud, rock and logs cascaded from plantations on vulnerable hillsides "in Bukidnon towns of Manolo Fortich, Libona, Talakag and Baungon." Slopes converted into pastures or corn fields have patchy vegetative cover, Forester Charles Pat Dugan notes. They can't stem soil erosion. Nor do they hold rainfall runoff.

"The Philippines was the first Asian country to liquidate its forest wealth after World War II"—and slammed into "peak timber". From less than 500 thousand cubic meters in the late 1950s, log exports crested at 11.1 million cubic meters in 1974. Exports slumped to a mere 841 thousand cubic meters a decade later.

It still has to recover. Forest cover skid, meanwhile, to 18 percent, far below the 30 percent safety benchmark. Loss of habitats threaten 89 species of wildlife. Most are endemic to the Philippines. "A prima donna of log exporters in the 1970s, we became a wood pauper of the 1980s," observed Viewpoint (PDI/ 10 Jan 2008).

"Leaks" are all over, notes former UN forester Napoleon Vegara. Penury and hunger drive kaingineros to and burn trees for harvest or two, before the thin soil gives out. Rapid population growth spurs upland migration.

Confronting Illicit loggers, who bankroll politicians, can be lethal. "Green priest" Neri Satur was shotgunned to death, in 1991, for confiscating truckloads of "hot logs" in Bukidnon. Catholic radio journalist Dr Gerry Ortega campaigned to protect indigenous communities and Palawan forests from reckless mining. He was gunned down last January.

Doing research in Leyte 2011, with a guide and a forest ranger. Botanist Leonard Co was shot. The Philippines lost "probably the last of classically trained botanists in plant taxonomy and systematics". Lt Gen. Jesse Dellosa, 43rd Armed Forces chief of staff, should decide, once and for all, the glib claim that Co had been accidentally "caught in a cross fire with communist guerrillas".

"I'd like to live as a poor man with lots of money," Spanish painter and sculptor. Pablo Picasso once sighed. No wonder, "timber marketed worldwide of illegal origin marketed worldwide stands between 20 to 50 percent of all products sold." World Bank and Interpol estimate. Their 2010 report "Chainsaws" stressed that illegal logging was threatening primary forest cover in many nations, reports British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Peak timber" is spurred by slow growth rate of commercially viable species, the scientists note. "Logging in the tropics tends to focus on a small fraction of the trees" Abandoned tree stumps symbolize extensive "collateral damage."

The "second wave clearance" problem, cited by Biological Conservation, is a major glitch in Mindanao, Vergara adds. Roads bulldozed by loggers, open once remote areas, to a flood of land-hungry settlers, shifting cultivators—and yet more illegal loggers.

Asia and the Pacific are starting to reverse forest loss, asserts the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization in its 2011: Forest Beneath the Grass. "Asia gained 2.2 million has." Primary forests nonetheless continue to be chain-sawed." The last "virgin" forests in Samar are being

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1st-APLUMA!

13-10

BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR

Apology is due to all our readers and editors for this corner's inability to file a column last Sunday (for Monday's issue).

The reason was, last weekend we got entangled, rather joyously, in a very special occasion from which this unfolded into a new day for our lives, my family and relatives.

Last Saturday, my first-born daughter Arielle exchanged vows with boyfriend of two years Jeffrey de Leon.

Everything went well, although some principal sponsors never made it for some reasons. For one, Ninong JDG begged off as they (LT Group) were accordingly in the thick of things preparing for Monday's much-awaited day in impeachment court wherein Supreme Court's TRO on opening CJ Corona's foreign currency account prevailed over the Senator Judges, 13-10.

I and my better half Bobitte, would like to take this opportunity to thank Lord God Almighty and all the people who made that special day (02-11-12) for us happen. Thank you very much.

Truly, it pains people a lot when they have to choose, when we have to decide and stand firm on our decisions.

But as we are entitled to our own decisions in life, it goes without saying that other people must and have to respect them.

Monday's impeachment drama, and perhaps elsewhere, was a good example.

Senator Judges were made to make a decision; cast their vote, explain on their votes and gamble too what would be the public's perception on their voting pro or against SC's TRO.

Well, it's good to note, majority of our Senators restored back some sense or measure of respect on what the Supreme Court of the land is notwithstanding CJ Corona has allegedly volunteered to allow the Impeachment Court to have it opened in an "appropriate time."

At the same time, commendation is well in order for the Senator Judges who stood firm on their decision to vote against SC's TRO.

As we said we are all entitled to our own principles, opinion or understanding on things.

What was perhaps unacceptable was the way the Defense wove in the media that Executive Sec. Paquito Ochoa allegedly promised Senator Judges P100 million just to vote against the TRO prior to Monday's votation.

Instead a gaining some level of sympathy from the public, this brought the defense a notch lower in the bar of public opinion as the Senator Judges perfectly defended themselves and assailed the accusation of CJ Corona's camp.

Proper media and image management are of utmost importance in trials like this not only on how a crush an evidence or witness and that of legal acumen.

Impeachment trials are covered by the tri-media live, watched by millions of people whose perception get molded by every turn or where the level of the trial goes.

They got back some level of respect courtesy of the Senator Judges who voted in their favor but at the same time they gathered some flak through unfounded insinuations that they presented via a well-attended press conference.

And still our bet stays: Malacanang cannot afford a Corona victory.

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Corona's Impeachment Analyzed

BY: JESUS DUREZA



I attended a very interesting session Saturday at Camp Aguinaldo officers club in Manila. The International Visitors Program (IVP) alumni foundation held a forum on the ongoing **Chief Justice Corona's** impeachment proceedings. IVP is composed of past grantees of the US State Department's study-tour program. I can recall (quite vividly still) my 1967 visit to the US as a student grantee while in 4th year college.

It was refreshing to meet new and old friends. Present from Davao were publicist **Nilo Claudio**, **Atty. Ruben Abarquez**, vivacious **Angie Baylon Cunanan** (she was my classmate "months ago" and emcee). Others I spotted were former senator and defense secretary **Orly Mercado** (so trimmed), still-fiery former Congressman **Rolox Suplico** from Iloilo, one of the original impeachment movers (he authored several impeachment cases against officials before that never got off the ground); **Prof. Jose David Lapuz** (who still sounds erudite and irrepressible); **Luzon Gov. Grace Padaca** whose physical limitation does not hinder her passion for reforms; **Sister Mary John Mananzan**, OSB, the "fighting nun" who co-chairs the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines.

Fr. Eliseo "Jun" Mercado, OMI, was one of the speakers. He is IVP president, a long standing advocate of bangsamoro causes and who lived in Cotabato City running an Institute and now dabbling in the communications field (with GMA news, blogs, etc) sharing his views honed from empirical work on the ground through several administrations.

Another speaker was retired Supreme Court Administrator **Zenaida "Zen" Elepano**, (she stressed "compulsory retirement"—although her young and pretty looks say otherwise). I had an interesting (if not fascinating) first encounter with her years ago in Surigao City and she reminded me about it last Saturday in the presence of friends. Some years ago, one day in my rounds as part of my Mindanao work for Malacanang, I was billeted in a Surigao hotel and I was already in bed late in the night when I heard knocks on my door. At first I ignored them as I was forewarned that some "enterprising ladies of the night" would prowl hotel corridors and solicit "customers". But the knocking became incessant and louder and I was so tired that I wanted whoever was at my door to go away. So, I opened the door. But lo and behold, I saw a charming, well dressed lady who looked shocked than solicitous. She was pulling a luggage. When she saw me in briefs, she uttered: "Oh my god, I'm sorry. I thought I was to sleep in this room". I guess I muttered something like: "Oh ma'am, I'm not sorry at all!" (hahaha...) That was our first encounter all because the hotel counter clerk gave the wrong room number. No, we didn't share the same room that night! After that, I again met **Justice Zen** who visited us in Davao as guest of my sister, **Bingay Aldevera**.

The third speaker was political analyst **Ramon "Mon" Casiple**, a regular face on TV whose personal views are solicited on current issues. He is currently executive director of the Institute for political and electoral reforms (IPER). He also chairs a national coalition of 48 civil society electoral reform stakeholders.

RETIRED JUSTICE ZEN ELEPANO—Zen spoke first. Public officials have to accept the reality that their lives are "public property". Ethical conduct must be observed in and out of the office and it must be considered as "second skin of government officials" (not "thick skinned" as ordinarily believed.). The rules are considered as "canons" just like religious rules because they are sacred and strict. The standards are high as required by existing laws and by the nature of the office. According to her, impeachment is NOT to determine "guilt beyond reasonable doubt" because this is the function given to ordinary criminal courts. What is measured is competence, moral and ethical fitness for a high official to continue to serve. This does not contemplate to include strict rules of procedure but a sincere quest for truth. The process must be "truth driven and not rules driven". Emphasizing every citizen's duty to participate somehow in this "healthy way" of upholding personal integrity in public office, she recalled a favourite passage: "the hottest part of hell is reserved for those who, faced with moral crisis, choose to remain and stay neutral".

FR. JUN MERCADO—Fr. Jun was emphatic on the primacy of "due process" and the supremacy of the rule of law and judicial precedents. He first opened by

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

"Phase 3" In Impeachment Row

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them" ... (Malachi 4:1, the Holy Bible).

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"PHASE 3" IN IMPEACHMENT ROW? Talks about Vice President Jejomar Binay being the real target in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona—to take him out of the vice presidency and replaced by Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas, president of the Liberal party—is not correct. Toppling Binay is in reality only a "Phase 2".

My sources are saying there is a more sinister target, actually a "Phase 3", in all these impeachment brouhaha, and if the Filipino nation does not watch out, a change in government may yet occur right before our very eyes. What does this mean? Well, *abangan na lamang ang susunod na na kabanata* (in English, watch for the next juicy chapter, folks).

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GATDULA DOJ PROBE VIOLATING SEPARATION OF POWERS? Prosecutor General Claro Arellano must answer charges by Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) lawyer Abraham Espejo that Arellano and the Department of Justice (DOJ) are violating a Manila Regional Trial Court temporary restraining order (TRO) stopping any DOJ probe against former National Bureau of Investigation Director Magtanggol Gatdula.

Arellano's move to conduct a preliminary investigation against Gatdula for the alleged kidnapping and serious illegal detention of a Japanese illegally staying in the country violates the Constitutional separation of powers, in view of the TRO by the Manila Court, Espejo is saying. So, what else is new with the DOJ?

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BONG AND HIS GOOD LOOKS: Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. put up an amazing "act" while he waited for wife, Cavite Rep. Lani Mercado Revilla, to join him for a Valentine dinner at the Sofitel hotel lobby during the early evening of February 14, 2012.

All the while, Bong was repeatedly taking pictures of himself with his apparently new cell phone, in different poses yet, while people looked at him most amusedly. Oh well, Bong is gifted with good looks that even he cannot help but admire, even in the presence of so many people, right?

-000-

FAKE BANK RECORDS ROW MUST BE PROBED: Finding out the truth in the statement of bank manager Annabel Tiongson that the bank records submitted by the prosecution in the impeachment trial of Corona was fake or not is part and parcel of impeachment and is not an extraneous matter as Sen. Joker Arroyo wanted to say last Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

If this matter is not clarified, and it is later proved that Tiongson's description of the prosecution's bank records as fake is correct, it would not only be the Senate as an impeachment court that was fooled and defrauded, but the entire Filipino people as well. We should not allow fake records to be submitted by anyone, and punishments should be meted out to the guilty ones.

-000-

KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDS: Knowing the commands of God and obeying them sincerely are sure ways of gaining success, solving problems, and attaining good health. This is what Proverbs 3:1-2 of the Bible says: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity."

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Benguet may soon Require NBI Clearance for Migrant Workers

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – Workers from other areas finding job opportunities in the province may soon be required to acquire a National Bureau of Investigation clearance apart from the barangay clearances being re-

quired. Board Member Bernard Waclin said the reason for pushing additional clearance is to minimize the incidence of crimes as this will establish identity of workers who find jobs in the province.

He related that some crimes in the town of Itogon were noted to have been committed by workers who are from other places, and this situation may also be true in other parts of the province.

Cont. on page 11

BIR-CAR 2012 Tax Campaign Kicks off Feb. 20

BAGUIO CITY - The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) will formally launch its 2012 Tax Campaign on February 20, 2012, in accordance to its mandate to collect the correct internal revenue taxes to support nation-building.

According to BIR-Cordillera regional director Eduardo Bajador, a motorcade in and around the business areas of the City and La Trinidad, Benguet and a simple program at the SM City Baguio will kick off the campaign. A brief presentation of 2011 BIR collection performance and a walkthrough of the bureau's thrusts for the year 2012 will be presented. BIR deputy commissioner Lilia C. Guillermo is invited to grace the occasion. Heads and members of Chambers of Commerce as well as civic organizations, and officers of the different revenue district office in the region will be attending the event.

With the theme "I love Philippines, I pay Taxes", the campaign is an appeal to each and every Filipino to do his share for the love of the country since payment of taxes spur economic activities which would enhance standard of living, Bajador said. /JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR.

DOH: Mentally Retarded Persons need more Understanding and Support, Not Medication

BAGUIO CITY - Mental retardation is a health case that needs more support and understanding from the family and the community, more than medication.

Thus stressed Dr. Beatrice Inumpa of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Department of Psychiatry, during a kapihan forum last Wednesday sponsored by the Department of Health-Cordillera.

According to Inumpa, a mentally-retarded person usually suffers with impairment intellectually and on his adoptive functioning. "For the intellectual, part mostly it can be seen when a child goes to school or through an IQ test and as for the adoptive functioning, such person is having a hard time to do physical activity, taking care of himself and has lesser ability to recognize direction, communicate, inter-personal relationship, or on assessing a situation", she explained.

"Mental retardation can be hereditary or congenital and sometimes it is acquired through infection mostly on the brain, as well as through trauma such as from physical or sexual abuse," she added.

Inumpa also pointed out that usually there is no medication given to a mentally-retarded persons and what they need is support and understanding from both the family and the community, for them to maximize their remaining capacity or what they can do and to blend in with the rest of the community.

She shared that when a mental retardation consultation or referral comes in at their department, they conduct diagnostics such as psychiatric evaluation and psychological testing and afterwards, if found positive they gather the family to brief them for a better understanding about the condition and on how to take care of the patient. "For a mental retardation patient, the most important thing is to reinforce the parent as they are our allies in taking care of the patient. When a mentally-retarded person goes home, it is still the family who will take care of him/her, which is why it is important for them to have a better understanding of such condition, so that they can also provide proper and better care, education and supervision of the patient", she stressed. For BGHMC, Inumpa reported that they have 35 cases of mental retardation last year, a slight increase compared to the 29 cases they have in 2010. She, however, clarified that such figure does not reflect the full account of the real number of cases in the community. The increase in number can also be indicative of

Sagada Partners with PRC For Online Verification of Professionals

BAGUIO CITY - The municipality of Sagada, Mountain Province has partnered with the Philippine Regulation Commission to ensure that no fake professional exists or practices his trade in this mountain resort town.

Last February 8, Sagada Mayor Eduardo Latawan and PRC Baguio Regional Office Director Teofilo Gausis Sison Jr. signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the implementation of PRC's Online Verification of Eligibility System (OVES).

With PRC's OVES, the municipal government will keep fake professionals from entering Sagada, as the system will ensure fast and reliable verification of credentials of professionals applying for employment in the municipality.

According to Latawan, the OVES is a welcome development as it is a way in which they can protect the populace's public health, welfare and safety against fake professionals.

Meanwhile, Sison disclosed that through the OVES, the PRC and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) recently discovered six fake professionals applying for government positions.

Aside from the CSC, the Department of Education (DepED), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other provincial and municipal local governments are now also using the OVES.

Meantime, Sison also stressed that the PRC is continuously strengthening its computerization program or PRC's e-services. Recently, PRC Commissioner Jennifer Jardin-Manalili personally spearheaded the pilot-testing in Baguio of the newly developed Online Application System for PRC's licensure examinations. According to Sison, they initially tested the system to the criminology licensure exam whose application is currently on-going and once the system is fully operational, it will be applied at the national level.

Once applied on a national level, the said Online Application System will be a big help to the clients or to aspiring professional especially nursing, teacher and criminology graduates who are the top three in terms of the population taking the PRC licensure exams, Sison said. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR

DA-CAR Supports Native Animal Production

BAGUIO CITY - To promote the conservation and utilization of domesticated native animals as "food", the Department of Agriculture (DA) Cordillera is implementing a program that supports the native livestock production.

Regional Executive Director Marilyn V. Sta. Catalina said the program is being done through the conservation, production and marketing of native animals under a sustainable environment.

Growing native animals require low inputs, Sta. Catalina, and there are a lot advantages raising them like the ability to adapt, survive, and reproduce under adverse conditions. Domesticated native livestock are known to be more resistant to diseases;

A growing number of consumers indicated that the meat of native livestock are superior in taste and the meat of the native livestock command premium price and have nutraceutical benefits. There is an increasing shift in consumer preference toward natural products with unique taste, texture and flavor, Sta. Catalina explained.

The DA regional office has started implementing its assistance for native livestock production with the distribution of 460 heads of native swine to farmer beneficiaries under the sericulture and other agri-related livelihood projects in the municipalities of Bakun and Kapangan in Benguet and in Tinglayan, Kalinga.

More native swine will be distributed to beneficiaries in the six provinces of the Cordillera as part of DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala's commitments during his latest visit to the region /JBZ with reports from DA-CAR

better public awareness about such illness or health case, she said.

Part of the DOH's advocacies in the said kapihan forum is the observance of National Mental Health Retardation Week, which the country celebrates every first week of February. /JDP/LD-PIA CAR



WB Reports P67b Economic Losses Due to Water Pollution

BAGUIO CITY - The World Bank (WB) reports that about P67 billion economic losses is accounted yearly in the country due to water pollution and one strategy being pushed to improve water quality is the designation of Water Quality Management Area (WQMA).

WB Consultant for Water and Sanitation Program, Engr. Marieto Perez, who presented the concept of WQMA among local officials and other stakeholders of the Balili River system in La Trinidad, Benguet and Baguio City, underscored the economic losses accounted yearly due to water pollution. It has adverse impact on health where P3 billion is being spent yearly; fisheries production, P17 billion; and tourism, P47 billion.

Perez explained that the designation of a WQMA is a mandate of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) and the National Water Resources Board to push and implement as identified in the Clean Water Act of 2004, whose main objective to protect water quality from pollution as it creates economic and financial losses of the country.

WQMA is a contiguous area covering the same physiographic unit which affects the physico-chemical and biological reactions and diffusion of pollutants in the bodies of water, Perez further said.

The purpose of establishing WQMA, according to Perez, is to protect stakeholders' collaboration of the water body and its tributaries by keeping water quality within the water quality guidelines and in conformity with the water body classification or even improve the quality to a higher classification.

WQMA is a collaborative effort among local government units, water districts, business sector, non-government organizations, communities, other organizations within the area of its principal stakeholders, he added.

Perez explained that Balili River system whose head water comes from Baguio City and flows to La Trinidad, is being eyed as WQMA, thus support and cooperation of the concerned LGUs and various sectors is enjoined. It should be decided upon by the LGUs as to the type of classification the stakeholders would be working on, he said.

The Balili River was classified as Class "A" in 1975 but its condition continuously deteriorated over the years. A coalition of stakeholders from Baguio and La Trinidad, Benguet is now occupied with trying to save the Balili River which provides irrigation to farmlands in La Trinidad./SCA PIA-CAR

Women's Month to Focus on Role Of Women in Combating Climate Change

BAGUIO CITY - The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) will once again spearhead the country's celebration of Women's Month this March, this time focused on the role of women in combating climate change. In consideration of the recent disasters and calamities experienced by the country and the impact of climate change observed and experienced globally, the theme for the 2012 National Women's Month Celebration is "Women Weathering Climate Change: Governance and Accountability, Everyone's Responsibility".

Through the said theme, the PCW aims to help build gender-responsive resilient communities that are responsible and accountable, and prepared for any disaster that may come their way. It further aims to underscore the role of women as powerful agents of change in relation to disaster risk reduction and at the same time to highlight that climate change mitigation and adaptation is everyone's responsibility.

In the city, activities for the Women's Month celebration dubbed as 'Kababaihan Festival 2012', are being finalized by a multi-sectoral committee co-chaired by City Social Welfare & Development Officer Betty Fangasan and City Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda.

Aside from the March 8 National Women's Day grand parade and program, another highlight of the month-long celebration will be Search for the Outstanding Women Leaders of Baguio.

The annual search, which started in 2006, is now looking for exceptional women who are recognized symbols of leadership in the public or private sector and have made an impact in their chosen or appointed fields of endeavor.

Nominees or candidates for the said prestigious award should be residents of the city and must have never been administratively or criminally convicted and have an outstanding and unique performance or contribution, and significant involvement in promoting the development of Baguio City and the general welfare of its citizenry.

Nominations are open to any government offices, city barangays, private or civil society group, organization or individuals. Nomination forms are available at the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and will be accepted by the search secretariat up to February 24.

Other members of the committee are the heads or designated representatives of the City Budget Office, City Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), City Health Services Office, City Planning & Development Office, Civil Service Commission (CSC-CAR), Dep-Ed Baguio, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD-CAR), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA-CAR), Philippine Information Agency (PIA-CAR) and non-government organizations - KALIPI, Philippine Ob-gyne Society - Baguio Chapter, University of Cordilleras, Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA), Igorota Foundation, Innabuyog Gabriela, SAVE Our Women, and YWCA./JDP/LD-PIA-CAR

SP Recognizes La Trinidad as Pioneer in Organic Farming

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The provincial board moved for the recognition of this capital town as pioneer in organic farming.

Board Member Apolinario Camsol, who chairs the committee on agriculture, said it would be sufficient to enact a resolution recognizing the town as a pioneer in organic farming. He said the appropriate government agency or office to make a declaration is the Department of Agriculture or its attached bureau or office being their mandate as certainly there are guidelines or parameters set to conform with.

The committee recognized the efforts of the local government unit in backing up organic farming through their strong support and provision of necessary funds and assistance in undertaking the program based on the records and documents provided to the provincial board.

In stepping up efforts towards environmental protection and preservation, the local government units also gave the resident-farmers an affordable and effective alternative to the usual agricultural practice of totally depending on commercial fertilizers, chemicals and the like and still resulted to better yield and income as stated in the committee report.

Some organic practitioners in the town were also conferred distinct recognition of their unqualified, dedicated and active participation in promoting organic farming not only in the area but in the whole province as well.

This capital town had earlier requested the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to declare the municipality of La Trinidad as pioneer in organic farming in the province./SCA PIA-CAR/Benguet

REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH
9
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET)
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet

IN RE: ADOPTION
OF MINOR AN-
GELA SHINE
ONDE
WITH PRAYER
FOR CHANGE OF
NAME FROM AN-
GELA
SHINE ONDE TO
I M M A I A H
JAZMIN IBAT
WAYA,

Spouses JOHN C.
WAYA and MINDA
IBAT WAYA,
Petitioners,

SPECIAL PRO-
CEEDINGS CASE
NO. 12-A-0986

X——X

ORDER

*P*etitioner
Spouses John C.
Waya and Minda Ibat
Waya, through coun-
sel, filed this veri-
fied petition for Adop-
tion praying that af-
ter due notice, pub-
lication and hearing
, the subject of adop-
tion ANGELA SHINE
ONDE be declared

free from all obliga-
tions with respect to
her parents and vice
versa, be declared for
all legal intents and
purposes as the
adopted child of pe-
titioners and for
them to acquire the
reciprocal rights and
obligations arising
from parents-child
relationship, includ-
ing the right of said
child to use the sur-
name of petitioners
and change of name,
henceforth, she will
be known as
IMMAIAH JAZMIN
IBAT WAYA and di-
rect the City Civil
Registrar of Quezon
City to effect said
adoption in her Cer-
tificate of Live Birth

Considering
that a Child and Home
Study Report of the
Social Worker is an
essential requisite
in adoption cases and
considering that said
child and home study
were already con-
ducted by the Re-
gional Office of the
Department of Social
Welfare and Develop-
ment -CAR when the
minor child was de-
clared an abandoned
child, said report
should be submitted
by DSWD-CAR to the
court before the ini-
tial hearing on April
11, 2012 at 9:00
o'clock in the morn-
ing.

WHEREFORE,
petitioners are di-
rected to met with
the Social Worker
who conducted the

Child and Home
Study Report for
purposes of this
adoption case, and is
hereby directed to
submit said report,
incorporating
therein his/hr rec-
ommendations and
submit the same to
the court, furnishing
a copy thereof to the
trial prosecutor
deputized to repre-
sent the State.

Let this Order
be published at the
expense of the peti-
tioners in The Junc-
tion Newspaper, a
newspaper of gen-
eral circulation in
Baguio City and
Benguet Province, nc
a week for three (3)
consecutive weeks,
the first publication
to be made not later
than February 5,
2012. All persons in-
terested may come
to Court and show

cause, if any, why the
petition should not be
granted.

Furnish copies
hereof together with
a copy of the petition
and its annexes to the
Office of the Solicitor
General; the Pro-
vincial Prosecutor of
Benguet; the City
Civil Registrar of
Quezon City; the So-
cial Worker of
DSWD-CAR; the
Junction Newspaper;
the petitioners and
counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 1st day of
February 2012 at La
Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) FRANCIS
A. BULIYAT Sr.
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates:
February 4, 11 & 18,
2012

Mayor to Anti-Tree-Cutting from page 2

III.

He said SM being a property owner can
exercise its right of ownership and the city
can not totally prevent private owners from
developing their property.

The mayor also took exemption from ti-
rades from the advocates' camp accusing him
of being bribed.

"These accusations that we were
bought to support SM are just unfair. Unfor-
tunately, it's a private lot that is involved here.
If there's a way to totally block (the cutting
of the trees), then we'll do it but if there's
none, our hands are tied," the mayor said.

He assured that the city will push
through with its plan to hold a dialogue on
the issue to give opportunity to both sides
to come face-to-face to air their sentiments
and clarify issues./ A Refuerzo

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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 journal-
ism 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 are, 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 soci-
ety, 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-con-
trolled, 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 cement-
ing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of
and for today's world. /http://
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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

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
BRANCH 5
Baguio City

IN RE: PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF
NAME AND
CORRECTIONS
OF MIDDLE
NAME OF
MAURA N. SOTO,
Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR, CITY
OF BAGUIO,
Respondent,

SPECIAL PRO-
CEEDINGS CASE
NO. 2176-R

X————X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner, through counsel filed a verified petition praying that this Court, after due notice and hearing, issue an Order directing the local Civil Registrar, and the National Statistics Office to cause the change and correction of her first name from "MAURICIA" to "MAURA", and her last name from "NABAS" to "NAVAS".

In support of her prayer, petitioner alleged the following:

1. Petitioner is of legal age, Filipino, a widow and has been a resident of 247 Apugan, Poliwees Barangay, Baguio City, for 23 years.

2. That she was born on February 7, 1952, her late parents Nasario Navas and Salvacion Abangan in Isabela, Negros Occidental, however, her mother had petitioners birth recorded on September 15, 1952, as shown in the National Statistics Office copy.

3. That petitioner has obtained all the clearances from the Baguio PNP, Court, and the NBI and COMELEC registered voter.

4. The petitioner was able to obtain a certificate of Live Birth, from the Civil Registrar of Isabela, Negros Occidental, dated December 29, 1994, which shows her first name as "MAURA" and her last name as "NAVAS" shown in the National Statistics Office's copy as "NABAS".

5. That all these years, she has been known and is using her first name as "MAURA N. SOTO" in all documents and in her two children's birth certificates.

NOW THEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing before this Court, at its Session Hall, on *March 29, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning*, at which place, date and time, the petitioner shall prove the merits of her petition and any interested person may appear and show cause if there be any, why he same should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published in The Junction Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in the City Of Baguio and suburbs, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Let copies hereof be served upon the Local Civil Registrar, the National Statistics Office both of Baguio City, and the petitioner through counsel as well as the Office of the Hon. Solicitor General and the National Statistics Office, Manila. Further, let copies hereof be posted at the Bulletin Board of this Court, the City Hall, the City Market, and the Post Office all of the City Of Baguio.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE ANTONIO M. ESTEVES, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 30th day of January 2012 at Baguio City, Philippines.

By: (SGD) ATTY.
ALEJANDRO
EPIFANIO D.
GUERRERO
Clerk of Court V

Publication Dates
February 11, 18 and
25, 2012

BCDA Chair Payumo: Ayala thrives, as CJHDevco whines about OSAC.....from page 1

phasized that "the victims here are not some private parties but the Filipino people, because Camp John Hay is owned by government." Payumo also pointed out that the City of Baguio "is being deprived of its 25% rightful share from the revenues of CJHDevco, which are estimated to run into hundreds of millions of pesos."

Chairman Payumo directly challenged CJHDevco's claims that the latter was losing because the OSAC has not been operational. "If that were true," he argued, then why is Ayala Land saying that they have no complaints about any delays in their applications for permit? And I am talking not about Global City, but of their development in Camp John Hay."

The BCDA Chairman disclosed that Ayala has already completed seven projects, including two major buildings inside the Camp and under the same conditions CJHDevco is subjected to. One building is that of Convergys that is going through dramatic growth.

"In this regard," Payumo said, "it is ridiculous to suggest that BCDA is not investor-friendly. We have nothing to gain but everything to lose if our investors fail."

Payumo revealed, for the record, that of the applications submitted by CJHDevco, 22 had been issued permits in 2009, 28 in 2010, 27 in 2011, and 10 in 2012. Of those still pending, 25 are ready for issuance of permits upon payment of fees, but another 45 are still lacking the required documents.

The OSAC could not have issued these permits, if it had not been operational.

The BCDA Chairman also took the Sobrepena group to task for blaming BCDA and JHMC for not allowing them to cut 1,000 trees.

"It is impossible for CJHDevco not to know that it is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which issues permit to cut a single tree at the very least. The OSAC does not have a delegated authority from DENR, so it cannot issue a permit to cut trees, especially after the issuance of Executive Order 23 which declared a moratorium on tree cutting," Payumo added.

"Be that as it may," Payumo said, the OSAC has done more than just endorse applications to Government agencies. "It has arranged for the DENR representative to visit and hold office at the OSAC regularly."

Payumo also reminded CJHDevco that "blaming a Supreme Court decision for removing tax incentives no longer holds water, because those very same incentives were already restored by Congress." Payumo was referring to the tax and other incentives enjoyed by locators inside economic zones, which were initially revoked by a Supreme Court ruling.

"That, admittedly, was a valid issue in the past, Payumo pointed out, but should now be a non-issue."

That is the reason BCDA granted the request of CJHDevco for a deferment and three restructurings. These are more than enough to offset the so-called losses of CJHDevco as a consequence of the temporary non-availment of such tax incentives.

Finally, Payumo said, that in the last Restructuring Memorandum of Agreement (RMOA) jointly signed by BCDA and CJHDevco on July 1, 2008, CJHDevco clearly acknowledged its P3 billion debt obligations.

City to Rebid

.....from page 2

tion for reconsideration justifying its position and qualifications. It said the basis for disqualification was "harsh and restrictive."

The power firm also said the CDA registration "is irrelevant and immaterial to power generation which is highly technical and capital intensive."

It cited its efforts in submitting a carefully studied bid beneficial to both the city and residents and that it came prepared complete with all its books and that it was "given the window to file its bid when the city mayor allegedly approved its appeal to be allowed to participate in the bidding."

The mayor said the requirement for CDA registration may be disregarded because if BENECO can not qualify as a cooperative, then it can still join in as a legal entity existing under its own charter.

"But as it is, I was informed that other than the lack of CDA registration, there are other bases for BENECO's disqualification and not only the CDA requirement," he said.

The Asin minihydro rehabilitation and operation is a priority project of the city government which aims to maximize the power generating potential of the plants and restore their viability.

Based on the TOR, the bid components will be for the rehabilitation and rental under the conditions that the operator shall invest a considerable amount of money for the rehabilitation, upgrading and expansion of the plants to produce 41,406,178 kilowatthours, install independent substation and power line to the national grid.

The terms also provided the schedule of remuneration to the city government and other concerned parties including the provincial government of Benguet, municipality of Tuba and barangays Tadiangan and Nangalisan where the plants are located and including the surface owners whose properties are affected by the pipelines and plant facilities./A Refuerzo

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

JUANITO SAYA-AO - Vendor
JAIME M. PEREZ Vendee
Applicants

Case No: 2003-CAR-648/2012-CAR-132

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Sale and Transfer 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 on March 7, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 9th day of February 2012. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

Advocacy Mindanow.....

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saying that at first he was supportive of the reform agenda of the **Aquino** administration. But he is disappointed at what has been happening and has been vocal about his stand in his blogs and his media work with GMA and other nets. "I got 3 calls from the Palace for this", he confessed. (The calls didn't work.) He explained that while people is the supreme sovereign power, there are certain basic rudiments in order to maintain societal orderliness and stability. One of these is to submit to Supreme Court rulings as the SC is the final arbiter. He cited the Nicodemus principle which gives everyone the right to due process, hearing before passing judgment. "I will not put my own personal opinion over and above what the Supreme Court's majority ruling, even though I have opposed it and disagreed with it," he stressed. In impeachment, the gravity of the offense must be in the same class as culpable violation of the constitution, high crimes and betrayal of public. Morality, although important is not in that league. Like the case of **US President Clinton** who faced impeachment for the Monica-Lewinsky-sex- affair. Morality is measurable but who is to judge?, he asked. The procedural rules must also be adhered to. Fr. Jun said: "The prosecution was asking for flexibility. To what extent should procedures be followed? When it involves high gravity of the charged offenses, due process dictates strict adherence to the rules. For example, when the Supreme Court ruled, under former Chief Justice Puno that the appointment of CJ Corona was not classified as "prohibited or midnight appointment" who are we to question it? When CJ Corona voted for former President GMA in all cases before him, was it not that they were collegial decisions and not his alone. So why zero in on him?

MON CASIPLE —Political Analyst "Mon" prefaced his comments by saying that the present impeachment is still part of the bigger question of power and the unresolved question of presidential legitimacy of the former president. "This is a political process that deals with what has not been settled". Due to the length of the term of **GMA** as president, she was able to appoint the majority of the members of the Supreme Court, including other functionaries deep in the bureaucracy. Perhaps unknown to many, this power given to a president, started when former president Cory Aquino issued her first fiat, Administrative order No. 1 which broadened her appointing authority. This remains to be the rule up to today. Today's events took root from the legitimacy issues that reared their ugly heads in 2004 with "Hello Garci", then GMA's consistently low and negative public ratings and her credibility problems with the people. Mon said "Pnoy won because he stands against GMA, not because he was considered competent to be president". That is the reason why, despite his low performance, Pnoy maintains his high credibility rating. In the current impeachment, people are not listening to legalism. They view all these events as the current administration's way of correcting things. This is not a question of whether the defence or prosecution is good. But people want CJ Corona out not because of what he is but because he represents the past unlamented administration. This is unfortunate for **CJ Corona**, whose own rating has gone down, because the

public may judge him no longer on his personal merit but people prefer to take him out of office, being identified with the past regime. There is no constitutional crisis yet, as feared by some, because things are within the constitutional impeachment process. The danger is when it goes outside these parameters. Even when a dangerous situation like a constitutional crisis does come, the Senate and the Supreme Court will be able to come up with actions that will prevent it. The senators, bottom line, will go where the temper of the people wants it to go. That's how the people dealt with the fate of former President Marcos.

OPEN FORUM— The Q & A, merely amplified some points. **Prof. Jose David Lapuz**, bedecked in western attire, complete with pins and all, eloquently made his point, which if summarized all mean : the people rule. Street-smart **Sister Mananzan** said morality and ethics are greater than the law ,then looked at Fr. Jun straight in the eye and asked: "why are you so legal when you are not like that? Not everything legal is morally right", eliciting Fr Jun's repartee: "I agree that morality is higher. But who decides ethical issues?", "Analyst Mon, to my own question on the scenario of a constitutional crisis and things going out of bounds or that another Edsa revolution with minority Manila only deciding for the nation, he said that the Senate and the other institutions will find a way to resolve. As to the minority deciding the fate of the nation, the forceful minority will initially dominate and if the quiet, greater majority remains "benevolently neutral" then that's it. Otherwise, on a long term, the dissenting majority will find a way to correct it. My former colleague in Congress, **Congressman Rolex** said there are 3 windows now for CJ Corona: trial by publicity (the prosecution seen fumbling) , the Senate impeachment and the Supreme Court (with its TRO on the foreign deposits issue) **Senator Orly** said we always see ourselves, faced with events, not strategic in developing meaningful changes for ourselves and the society. So we still have weak institutions. The clash of opinions hopefully should help distil some enlightenment for all.

That IVP session was insightful for me since I have not followed closely what is happening every afternoon in the impeachment hearings. I prefer to spend my afternoons doing something more worthwhile. That spares me, thankfully, of the stress witnessing the prosecution's fumbling and the defence's technical maneuverings! But I sure do miss Senate **President Johnny Enrile's** erudite and competent handling as presiding magistrate. For that alone, I feel more confident that the whole process will be cathartic for the nation.

BFF 2012.....

..... from page 2

road until Athletic Bowl for a chance to get near the exquisite creations prepared by floral artists. The colorful blooms , which are often prepared months ahead of the event, may epitomize anything from fairyland fantasy, classic or robotic figures, cartoon characters up to the product being endorsed by the sponsoring entity or corporation. Flowers and other plant materials for the floats are expected to be from flower-producer La Trinidad, Benguet or Davao in the south, or even flown in from other Asian countries for the event. Plant

Still going on is the Market Encounter along Abad Santos Drive, Burnham Park;

where ethnic products; trinkets, and what-have-yous are displayed with a food court for shoppers. The nearby skating rink is carefully arrayed with landscapes, with viewers seen admiring the garden creations.

Other on-going activities are, Feb. 19: Panagbenga Airsoft Challenge at Melvin Jones, and for animal lovers, a dog show and rabies awareness program at People's Park, from 7 AM to 5 PM; Feb. 24: inauguration of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center garden; Panagbenga Best Bodies at the Baguio Convention Center, 7 PM; Feb. 24-26: Panagbenga Concert Party 4PM to 12 MN at Melvin Jones, Burnham Park; Feb. 24-26, Darts fest at the Ian Bolinget Billiard and Eatery.

On Feb. 25: at 3 PM, North Luzon Tourism Stakeholders Summit with Tourism Congress at the Baguio Country Club; at 6PM, Panagbenga Muscle Showdown at the Baguio Convention Center; Feb. 25-26: Shootfest at West Point Firing Range in Tuba; Feb. 27: and at 1-5PM on the same day, Hope for the Flower play at the Baguio Convention Center.

Session Road in Bloom shall be from Feb 27 up to March 4, immediately after the float parade on Sunday. Promenaders are expected along the booths with flower-inspired products, open air café and fine dining, on both sides of the road stretch

The Pony Boys' Day which features races and games on horseback shall be on March 2; while the closing ceremonies shall be on March 4, at the Athletic Bowl.

Classes in the college level has been suspended on Feb. 25, Saturday, for the streetdancing parade, while the traffic number coding scheme has also been suspended from Feb. 13 to March 2.

"Let us enjoy the activities, as this is our very own festival," the mayor has said as he invited locals and tourists to see for themselves what Panagbenga 2012 has to offer. /juliegianza

Environmental Group

..... from page 3

in small scale mining, which not only endangers those who are directly involved in such operations but their families as well whose health are also put on risk. They are also promoting the the banning of the use of mercury on health care, which numerous relevant scientific studies show adverse effect to human health, especially on the human's neurological system.

Meanwhile, Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Cordillera (DENR-CAR) Regional Executive Director Clarence Baguilat, expressed his support to Ban Toxics' advocacy. According to Baguilat, pushing for the establishment of a national Mercury storage facility will work more for the benefits of our children or to the generations to come.

He also proposed for the organization and the participants, who are mostly representatives of RDC-CAR member agencies, to work together in pushing for enactment of a national law that will govern the use and storage of mercury.

In addition, Baguilat also proposed a more intensive documentation of mercury-related health cases, especially in the local small scale mining community, which could be an effective tool in further advancing the country's advocacy against the use of harmful or toxics element such as mercury./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Warbird

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came the makeshift housing facilities for their security guards including their families and farm house for their domesticated animals like roosters and canines.

"Building such structures inside JHSEZ is illegal," Casanova said, "they have clandestinely constructed illegal structures, dwelling place, canine cages and chicken farmhouse without consent and permit from BCDA".

The BCDA is the government corporate body who owns and administers the JHSEZ in Baguio City which is currently leased by CJHDevco for a twentyfive-year period. While Warbird, the security agency owned by the Sobrepena group, is the security provider of CJHDevco's leased area in the JHSEZ.

Labeling the illegal structures as an "eyesore," Casanova said those who constructed the shanties and illegal structures can be considered professional squatters as defined by the Urban Housing and Development Act (UDHA) since they are occupying government property without the express consent of the owner and administrator, the BCDA, and yet they have sufficient income for legitimate housing.

"We are taking serious action on this blatant violation of the National Building Code and deliberate disregard of the right to property of BCDA by demolishing the unauthorized and illegal structures," Casanova said. He added that BCDA will deploy security guards in the areas of JHSEZ to prevent surreptitious incursion of professional squatters and syndicates and will demolish the structures.

The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), BCDA's implementing arm at the JHSEZ, discovered the existence of the illegal structures which looked like a slum area near the Sewerage Treatment Plant 6 (STP6). Several structures were occupied by security personnel of Warbird including their families while some yards are being used as dog cages and chicken farmhouse.

JHMC issued to CJHDevco and Warbird notices of violations for the unauthorized and illegal construction of the shanties. JHMC notified CJHDevco through several letters in January 2012 informing them of their violation, specifically, Section 301 of the National Building Code (or PD1096) which states that "no person, firm or corporation, including agency or instrumentality of the government shall erect, construct, alter, repair, move, convert or demolish any building or structure, or cause the same to be done without first obtaining a building permit."

The last notice issued to CJHDevco included a stern warning that sanctions will be imposed to CJHDevco's for not demolishing the said illegal structures.

"CJHDevco has allowed, consented and countenanced professional squatting on government property on top of the fact that it has defaulted its financial obligations to the government," Casanova said, pointing out that CJHDevco is a delinquent lessee who owes the government around P3 billion in unpaid lease rentals.

"Clearly, CJHDevco including its affiliates want to benefit from using government land without any intention to pay," Casanova said, "And while enjoying government property, they violate laws by constructing illegal structures inside the JHSEZ."

CJHDevCo currently has a debt dis-

pute with BCDA for their unpaid lease rentals that has reached P3 billion. To forestall government's efforts to collect their debts, CJHDevco unilaterally rescinded the 2008 Restructuring Memorandum of agreement (RMOA) and filed for arbitration, claiming an absurd amount of P14.4 billion.

The illegal structures constructed inside the JHSEZ were not part of the Master Development Plan approved in the 2008 Restructuring Memorandum of Agreement (RMOA) between BCDA and CJHDevco so they cannot apply for building permits for the said structures. Warbird has not even renewed their permit to operate with JHMC.

DOH

..... from page 3

against heart diseases.

"As the saying goes, prevention is always better than cure. Prevention is also less expensive than medication", Claro stressed.

"We cannot do away with stress but there is a thing called stress management. We can also control our blood pressure through regular check-up and medication", added.

For the DOH's 'Health Lifestyle to the Max' campaign, Paran reminded the public to 'love their heart' by: not smoking and avoid second hand smoke; monitoring their blood pressure; maintaining an ideal body weight; be physically active and do exercises; have a balanced diet and eat more grains, fruits, vegetables and fish; avoid saturated and trans fats; do not drink alcohol, manage their stress; and have at least seven hours sleep at night./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

PDEA

..... from page 3

pseudoephedrine; ketamine; phentermine; mazindol; nalbuphine; buprenorphine; codeine; ephedrine; fentanyl; hydromorphone; methylphenidate; morphine; oxycodone; and pethidine or mepheridine. Additionally, they usually handle CPECs like acetone, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, toluene, potassium permanganate and ethylether./PDEA CAR

Editorial

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chopped down. Government reforestation efforts have been erratic. And tree survival rates are low. Under the Arroyo administration, 70 centavos out of every peso went for salaries in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Hopes for the future rest with people given a stake in planting and thereafter protecting forests, writes BBC's Mark Kinver. Thru "Assisted Natural Regeneration" (ANR) projects, local communities turned forest deficits into start of surpluses.

In return for jobs, local communities reforest—with a twist. They thumb down imported species favored by large-scale plantations or agro-forestry schemes. Instead, they plant indigenous tree species and hew closely to the natural process of plant succession."

Some "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation Funds should be directed at initiatives designed to keep loggers and their associated road networks out of forests, rather than merely modifying logging operations," recommends Biological Conservation.

The alternative is an old "buzz word": Disaster./Juan L. Mercado

Mayor on Trees

..... from page 12

logical Center director Michael Bengwayan, artist Karlo Altomonte and lawyer Chris Donaal.

The mayor said he sees nothing wrong in allowing the group to join the parade "as long as they will comply with the rules set by the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFI) for the conduct of the parade."

"If they violate any of the rules, then they will not be allowed to join. It's as simple as that," the mayor told reporters during his Ugnayang Panlungsod press briefing.

"I guess they know better than that because you see, what does rallying have to do with the Panagbenga festival?," the mayor said stressing the Panagbenga rules that parade participants must conform to the theme and spirit of the festival.

He said the foundation has in the past disallowed political figures from joining the parade to promote their candidacies or their political alliances and the same rule will apply to groups like the Save 182 Movement.

Asked on his lawyer-daughter Janice Marie's active involvement with the movement, the mayor said he respects his daughter's convictions as she also respects his father's principles and position.

"We do debate on issues but we make it a point to be open and to listen and consider each other's opinions," the mayor said./A Refuerzo

Benguet may soon Require NBI

..... from page 6

The ordinance reads, "An Ordinance requiring all migrant workers to acquire an NBI clearance and a barangay clearance where the job is intended, before any work, services, or activities shall be started."

Waclin claimed that barangay clearance from the area where the person resides could easily be falsified hence this should be excluded as a requirement.

But Vice Governor Crescencio Pacalso suggested the barangay clearance where the person resides should also be required even if such is the case. As only those convicted are recorded in the NBI, a fiscal's clearance should also be included in the measure, Pacalso added. There was also a suggestion that imposition of penalties for employers not requiring such clearances will be sanctioned./SCA PIA-CAR/Benguet

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

SUSAN M. GALAP
Applicants

Case No: 2004-BAG-CAR-2203

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.

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Attorney IV

Cleanest and Greenest Barangay Contest on

BAGUIO CITY – As part of Baguio Flower Festival 2012, the search for the cleanest and greenest barangay from among the 128 barangays, including the roadside, garden and landscaping contest, is on. The contest is part of the administrative order issued by Mayor Mauricio Domogan last year for the Panagbenga 2012 activities.

According to Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, chairperson for the search committee, the contest criteria and guidelines was approved during the barangay coordinators meeting last Wednesday.

In an earlier meeting with the search committee also, it was agreed that the contest goes on, although the awarding shall be done in May. This is for the barangays to have enough time to prepare their respective barangays including roadside, garden and landscapes, as they are all considered as contestants.

The competition which utilizes only one set of criteria, introduces a fresh approach in the first stage of judging, where barangay officials participate in the district level.

Said criteria is; cleanliness and orderliness, 40%; greening, garden and landscaping, 35%; and sustainable innovation and initiatives, 25%. The last criterion is an off-shoot of previous experiences where garden-entries are abandoned after the contest. Accordingly, the gardens are expected to be sustained and maintained for next year's festival.

The punong barangay or his duly authorized representative in each district composes the district level judges, which shall conduct visitation and judging of barangays from another district. The twenty (20) district coordinators, which shall act as district judges shall draw lots simultaneously, to select their place of judging, with a representative from the Special Services Division and the Office of Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda. No district judges shall be allowed to visit and judge its own district.

As to the guidelines, the barangay with the highest tabulated score shall automatically be the district entry to the contest. Any tie in the scores should be decided by the district judges.

Results shall be submitted to the city level judges who shall go on with the validation, through visitation of the actual entries.

Cash prizes and trophies shall be awarded on May 7, 2012 during the flag ceremony at the city hall grounds. The barangays are given until March 31 to prepare their gardens and barangays for the contest, as district judging shall be done on April 10-21. District winners shall be submitted to the city level judges on April 24, while the city level judging shall be on April 25-30. Councilor Tabanda heads the committee, with Ms. Cathy Dela Rosa as co-chairperson. Ms. Onie Aguinalde, Special Services Division of the City Mayor's Office OIC Noel Mabutas, Public Information Officer Ramon Dacawi, Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan, Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez, Councilor Joel Alangsab, Councilor Nicasio Palaganas, Atty. George Fortea of the Congressman's Office, Architect Joseph Alabanza and CEPMO head Cordelia Lacsamana are members of the committee. /juliegfianza

Mayor on Trees Group's Bid to Join Panagbenga Parade: Go but Behave

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Monday gave his blessings to the members of the Save 182 Movement to join the Baguio Flower Festival parade on Feb. 25 but cautioned the group to behave.

The group which is spearheading the petition

against the cutting down or balling out of trees for the expansion project of a shopping mall chain here sought the mayor's permission to join the Panagbenga main event during its meeting last Monday where they sought the mayor's support and advice on the ongoing battle to save

the 182 trees to be affected by SM Baguio's expansion project.

"Of course, you may join the parade but I expect that you will conduct yourselves properly because if not, you might end up earning criticisms instead of gaining support for your cause," he cautioned the group led by Cordillera Eco-

Cont. on page 11

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!

DENR Asked to Provide Copy of Final Lot Survey Before Approval to Clear Confusion with Free Patent

BAGUIO CITY – Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr. proposed a resolution asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR) to furnish the city government through the city council a copy of the result of the Townsite Survey (CAR Baguio City) for Final Lot Survey and Adjustments of Old Surveys conducted in the city for the body's information and concurrence before its final approval.

Cosalan said this is needed to avoid confusion arising from misconceptions that the survey is linked with the Free Patent law.

Cosalan said the DENR-CAR recently concluded the survey project also known as cadastral survey and many residents are inquiring on the results of said survey particularly on whether the result will be used in their applications for Free Patent.

Cosalan said people coming to his office said they were told by DENR personnel who went to the barangays presenting the cadastral plans and maps that said maps can be used for their Residential Free Patent Applications (RFPAs).

"Linking the TS CAR Baguio City-Final Lot Survey and Adjustment of Old Surveys Project to the (RFPA) would create confusion among public land occupants/claimants considering that the results of the survey (have) yet to be approved," Cosalan said.

Add to this, Republic Act 10023 or "An act authorizing the issuance of Free Patents to residential lands" has set certain requirements and has its limitations, he said.

"The information and conformity of the City Government is necessary to avoid future disputes, clarify bafflements, and to facilitate the implementation of related programs like the RFPA and the mapping of lands for city or barangay needs," he added.

Cosalan's proposal will be discussed by the city council soon. /A Refuerzo

Mayor orders Carnival to Comply with rules

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan this week ordered the proponents of a carnival here to comply with city rules before they are allowed to operate their business.

The mayor said he has already ordered City Environment and parks Management Officer Cordelia Lacsamana to personally contact the operators to immediately submit a detailed plan of activities before their business can proceed.

Domogan said the proponents are required to submit the details of activities for the carnival to make sure that what will be showcased is 'wholesome' entertainment.

"What we are expecting is a carnival which is for the whole family where residents can enjoy and have fun", Domogan said.

"If what they are planning is a carnival which is similar to the one we denied previously, we won't allow it", he stressed.

The mayor also said the proponents are also required to secure a certification of safety for their rides.

"The amusement rides should be properly checked and inspected to comply with safety standards as required by the City Engineer's Office before a certification can be issued to them and all taxes should have to be paid first", he said.

The proponents are required to pay an Amusement Tax as indicated in Tax Ordinance 2000-01 Section 9 before they can be allowed to operate.

The carnival which has been approved by the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFFI) to operate beside the FVR gymnasium transferred to the Melvin Jones Football Field claiming the lack of potential customers in the area.

Domogan stressed further that the contract which will be executed between the city and the proponents of the carnival should include the restoration of the area to its original state, including the grass that might be destroyed due to the equipment of the latter.

"If they don't comply with these conditions, we won't allow them to operate", Domogan said. /paul rillorta

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