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

Inquiry on CPLA use of CRA Building Sought



Congressman Bernardo Vergara cuts the ceremonial ribbon during the inauguration April 27 of the newly constructed P1million Twain Creeks Women's Club (TCWC) Day Care Center building headed by TCWC president Beverly Pearl Paleyan while barangay officials and residents from Pinget and Pinsao Pilot Project look on. The TCWC also celebrated its 11th Anniversary serving the neighboring residents of Pinget and Pinsao Pilot Project where Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr. graced the occasion./ By Bong Cayabyab

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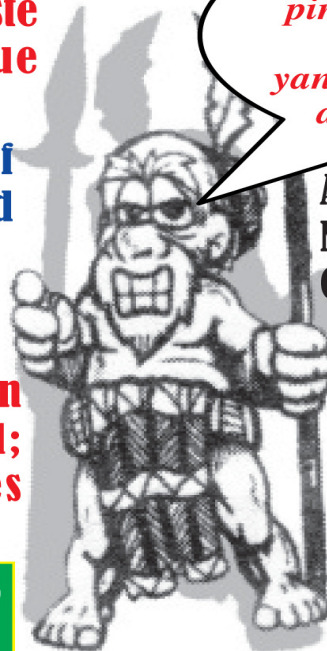
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Citing the need to clarify the present situation and status of the Cordillera Regional Assembly Building along Harrison Road, Honorable City Councilors Joel A. Alangsab and Isabelo B. Cosalan Jr. are proposing the conduct of a local legislative inquiry on the matter.

In a proposed resolution filed with the City Council Councilors Alangsab and Cosalan are inviting in aid of legislation the representatives of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA), who are presently occupying the Cordillera Regional Assembly Building along Harrison-Carantes Barangay, as well as the barangay officials of Harrison Carantes to clarify matters regarding the occupancy and status of the said building.

The move for the inquiry arose out of a barangay resolution from the barangays officials of Harrison-Carantes Barangay entitled "A Barangay Resolution Requesting the City Mayor Honorable Mauricio G. Domogan, or any authorized or concerned office or agency to facilitate a dialogue between the barangay council of Harrison-Carantes Barangay and the members/representatives of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) to clarify matters regarding the occupancy and the ownership of the CRA building located in Harrison Road, Baguio City". The said barangay resolution was adopted after a recent incident occurred involving the Punong Barangay **Cont. on page 10**

CPLA – ano yun, sino yun mga yun? Bakit pinapayagan manatili duon, ilan taon na yan ah, ngayon lang na mulat ang inyong mga mata!!!



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Electioneering

BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR



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Ombudsman Cannot probe CJ on \$ Deposits

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



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Residents’ Help Sought as Waste Collection Slows Down Due Transfer Site Woes

BAGUIO CITY – The city government is appealing to residents here for help and cooperation in waste management as collection activities slow down anew due to problems at the city’s temporary transfer station at the Irisan Limekiln.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan in his Ugnayang Panlungsod press briefing Wednesday asked residents not to bring out their wastes outside of the collection schedule and to continue segregating and recycling.

The mayor assured that the city will sort out the problem at the transfer station which was protested to last week by residents of Purok 20-28 in Irisan who complained of foul odor and health hazards.

The mayor who held a dialogue with the residents assured that the city will stop depositing wastes in the area and will speed up the removal of the accumulated refuse.

He however said that while the city has yet to locate a suitable area for its permanent transfer site, it will continue to use the Limekiln lot as a transfer station albeit this time only for the truck-to-truck transfer system where the trash need not be deposited at the site and are instead directly transferred to vehicles that will directly transport them to the Capas landfill facility.

The Limekiln lot has been identified as permanent site of the Philippine Science High School but the mayor said that the city will continue to use of the area until the PhiSci construction starts.

City environment and parks management officer-in-charge Cordelia Lacsamana said the shift to the truck-to-truck system necessitated adjustments in the schedule of the trucks resulting to a slow down in the collection time in the barangays.

She said that while the CEPMO is adjusting the schedule, residents are urged to bear with the delay in the collection by holding on to their trash until the trucks arrive in their places.

She also appealed to residents not dump their wastes at the city market which she said only compounds the collection problem in the critical area.

As this developed, the mayor said he is considering the creation of a special group that will specifically handle waste management concerns considering that problem has become emergent.

He said he is also studying the streamlining of the composition and functions of the CEPMO to ensure its effectiveness in discharging its responsibilities.

He said the department at present is loaded with huge responsibilities as apart from the solid waste management, it is also in charge of the parks management, forest reservations and the operation of the sewerage treatment plant which all require utmost attention.

He said the department’s evaluation will be included in the restructuring program of the city government./A Refuerzo

After Five Surgeries, Mother Needs Support for Five Chemo Treatments

The laboratory test results last February for patient Veronica Bitaga, a 56-year old mother of four of Pucusan Barangay here, showed some things missing: ovaries – absent; appendix – absent; gall bladder – absent.

The “absences” meant, the result reader realized immediately, that she had undergone three surgeries before the lab examination, which was in preparation for one more surgery.

Make that four operations, as her first was when she delivered twin girls by caesarian section 15 years ago. That was when surgeons also removed her ovaries which they found were affected by tumor growth.

Last March, Bitaga underwent her fifth surgery, this time for colon cancer.

She cried when she was diagnosed for the big C, her husband Eduardo, a construction worker, recalled last Friday. He was then out looking for support to her second of six monthly chemotherapy sessions.

Veronica had her first chemo session last April 9 under supervision of oncologist, Dr. Felina Masadao-Adefuin.

The working diagnosis was “colonic cancer, post-right hemicolectomy, Stage IIIB”.

Veronica’s twins – Elizabeth and Elvira -, had just graduated from high school. Their brother, Sonny, 33, is a police officer assigned in Agusan and is raising his own family. Their sister Verolyn, 26, is in third year college.

Sonny helped his dad foot the bill for the first chemo. The neighborhood led by punong barangay Ricardo Mendoza, also pooled P9,000.

With his policeman’s pay, Sonny assured he will send additional support for the second chemo session set on May 11.

Eduardo, however, doubts the family, on its own, could raise P30,000 needed for the next session. So does barangay chief Mendoza who accompanied Eduardo to welfare and government offices last week.

In her social case study report, social welfare officer Myrna Valencerina confirmed the financial strain the family is undergoing. She noted the family depends on Eduardo’s daily wage of P250 as an irregular construction worker, and whatever their mother earns from producing and selling souvenir key chains.

The family has no savings due to the successive surgeries that depleted its finances and left the couple indebted to their relatives and friends, Valencerina noted.

People who would like to help Veronica undergo her second chemo session on schedule two days before Mother’s Day may ring up Eduardo’s number 09305905931 or visit the family at No. 50, Purok 3, Pucusan, Baguio City./Pio

Heroes and Kids Recall Baguio Liberation

On the war, Corporal Raymundo Gadgad recalled the torture that steeled a young guerrilla’s resolve to fight. His fellow hero, Private Robert Bellasi, remembered how the 3rd Platoon of “C”

Company led by Lt. Alfredo Agtarap was wiped out in the night in the Battle of Sablan.

These and other recollections spiked the 67th anniversary of this city’s liberation from the Japanese forces last April 27 at the Veterans

Park along Harrison Road.

Gadgad, then 19, was among suspected guerrillas rounded up at dinner time by Japanese soldiers in May, 1944 and imprisoned for eight days at the Trinidad

Samaritans Prop up Two Cancer Patients

Since he could still walk, Adonis Togana, a 45-year old public high school teacher, made the rounds for days until Samaritans pooled enough for his second bout with cancer on the leg. Since she could only limp, Cont. on page 9



THE JUNCTION

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction-OIC

Gov. Pack road still only option for central terminal; standardized parking fees sought

BAGUIO CITY – Gov. Pack Road remains to be the city’s only option for a central terminal for public utility vehicles.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Monday said the city’s hope to acquire a portion of the Bureau of Animal Industry lot at Green Valley here for a south-bound bus terminal remained dim as the site has been issued a title in favor of a private person.

The city has been asking the national government through the Dept. of Agriculture to release said portion of the BAI reservation to the city for its bus terminal plan.

“As it turned out, it will be nil for us to pursue the release of the area and as it is, there is no other area that can be developed into a central terminal but Gov. Pack Road,” the mayor said.

The mayor also during the department heads’ meeting, urged the city council to adopt an ordinance setting a schedule of fees for off-street parking in the city.

“We need a comprehensive ordinance setting rates for off-street parking to cover all parking areas in our city,” the mayor said.

He said that at present, the fees imposed by the city government in its parking areas are all based on the rates contained in the memoranda of agreement signed for the use of said facilities particularly at the Governor Pack Road, the slaughterhouse compound along Magsaysay Avenue and the vacant lot beside the Baguio Convention Center.

“Ultimately, we need an ordinance to standardize the charges,” the mayor said./A Refuerzo

Tax Reforms Pushed Amid City’s Rising Concerns

BAGUIO CITY – City executives last week pushed anew for the adoption of tax reforms to boost the city’s revenues and enable the city to address its rising concerns.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the department heads’ meeting last Monday asked the city council to consider various revenue measures intended to upgrade existing tax laws particularly those that deal with the appraisal value of real properties, garbage, sewer treatment and other fees.

In his U g n a y a n g Panlungsod press briefing last Wednesday, the mayor reiterated that the city needs to adopt these measures to maintain its f i n a n c i a l sustainability in face of the growing concerns it has to tackle to ensure sound delivery of basic services.

“Our budget for 2012 is P1,168,000,000 which appears to be a very big amount but if we

look into its distribution, we will see that it is still relatively small considering the many concerns that we need to fund,” the mayor said.

He said the city particularly has to update the schedule of market values for real properties which has not been upgraded since its last revision in 1995.

A proposed revised schedule has been submitted by the city assessor’s office but this has remained pending before the city council.

City budget officer Leticia Clemente said the city has to implement another revision soon since the city imposes low taxes on lands situated “particularly along Abanao St., the Rabbit sinkhole area along Magsaysay Avenue and in practically the entire central business district of the city.”

“The city’s valuation is so low that it does not even amount to half of the zonal valuation of the BIR (Bureau of

Internal Revenue),” Clemente said.

Clemente said the Local Government Code mandates local government units to revise real property market valuation every three years, which makes the revision long overdue in the city.

“The new schedule should be acted upon because taxes are the lifeblood of the government and if we don’t tap the sources of revenues mandated under the Local Government Code, then how can the city government survive what with its growing concerns,” Clemente lamented.

Clemente also said the city should conduct feasibility studies in its future projects to avoid being shortchanged in terms of revenues as what happened with its lease contract with the Jarco Realty Corporation on the Baguio Center Mall where the city earns

“The city should be more entrepreneurial in thinking in terms of revenue genera-

Cont. on page 10



HIGH WIRE ACT - BENEKO linesmen repair electrical wire connections and replace old electric posts in Pinget barangay for upgrading and maintenance in preparation of the rainy season./By Bong Cayabyab

City Braces for Spillover of Metro Squatters’ Bold Resistance

BAGUIO CITY – The city government is preparing for the possibility of a bolder show of force by informal settlers here as an aftermath of the display of reckless defense by squatters in resisting the demolition of their homes in Silverio Compound in Paranaque City resulting to a violent clash with government authorities recently

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Monday said the city’s demolition team must always be prepared for such eventuality as a similar scenario is not far-fetched here given the possibility that the Manila incident might inspire city squatters to imitate the aggressive defensive stance.

“We have to be ready in case they decide to replicate the same scenario here,” the mayor said.

Domogan said squatters of recent have indeed become bolder especially since the national government’s issuance of a memorandum directing the Philippine National Police to refrain from assisting in demolition activities.

He said the order sent a wrong signal to land speculators who all the more became emboldened in pursuing their illegal activities.

He said the city demolition team will have to review and strengthen its strategies and at the same exercise extra caution in dealing with the squatting and demolition cases.

He however assured that the city will continue to be just and fair in dealing with the squatters.

He said that as per the city’s established policy on squatting cases, the city exercises more restraint in cases involving older structures. He said that in said instances, the owners are allowed to seek relief from the courts.

But in cases of new structures, he said the city issues outright demolition orders for their removal if the evidence warrants./A Refuerzo

Mayor ok’s Closure of More City Streets for Rehab

BAGUIO CITY – another major road repair is underway in this Mountain City in time for the influx of students this coming June.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said he has already approved the partial closure of Kayang Extension and total closure of Chanum Street as requested by District Engineer Ireneo Gallato of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

“The necessary

Administrative Order to this effect is already approved as backed by city council resolution 72, Domogan said.

Kayang Extension Road will be partially closed to vehicular traffic from May 1 to June 1 while the entire stretch of Chanum Street will be closed from May 15 to July 13.

Domogan said, the closure is necessary for the implementation of the needed rehabilitation and upgrading of the

damaged paved national roads’.

Domogan said these roads are up for much needed repairs which will take less than two months.

“The contractors have assured us that they will complete the project earlier for the convenience of the motor- ing public”, he said.

The mayor said the Baguio City District Engineering Office will issue the needed traffic advisories on the road closures to the pub-

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The Lady Is Not For Turning

“Never grow a wishbone where your backbone should be,” Columnist Dorothy Parker would rib friends in New York’s lower East Side. And backbone is what Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales always had.

Explain within 72 hours the \$10 million stashed in two dollar accounts at Philippine Savings Bank, Morales asked impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona. Five Banks of the PI peso deposits appear “grossly disproportionate” to income.

As Supreme Court associate justice, she penned the 8-7 decision that scrubbed President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s draft memo of agreement with Moro Islamic Liberation Front on

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ancestral domain.

“The furtive process, by which MOA-AD was crafted, is in excess of legal authority,” she wrote “(It is) whimsical, capricious, oppressive... The concept presupposes (Bangsamoro Juridical Entity) is a state and implies it’s on the way to independence...

She whacked the majority for allowing Eduardo Cojuangco to dip into levies, extorted from indigent coconut farmers, and pocket 16.2 million San Miguel Corp. shares. “The biggest joke to hit the century.”

Three complaints against Corona are before the Ombudsman:: (a) Fudging SALN excluding properties in Bellagio to Spanish Bay. (b) Reporting P27.2 million of actual P31.7 million income; (c) Unexplained wealth of P24.6 million in five accounts at PSBank and P12 million with BPI.

The Ombudsman “has no jurisdiction over the Chief Justice”, Conona’s counsel retorted. “The 10M. does not exist.” Charges black propaganda before impeachment trial resumes Monday. Like Land Registration Authority list and letters to Inquirer editor, they’re “phoney”.

“Our fears are shaped by past betrayals”, Viewpoint noted (PDI/March 23, 2010) “A Supreme Court that grovels before a president whistles up a gross image... when a Chief Justice, trotted behind Imelda Marcos, as parasol bearer.

“To many, that picture showed the extent to which the spirit of the judiciary” had been sapped,” observed 2003 Magsaysay Journalism awardee Shiela Coronel. Can we still repose hopes in constitutional institutions that crumbled before?

Yes. Thanks in part to strong women who challenged perverted institutions.

Tiene cojones. “She has balls” was the irreverent accolade that people paid to Cecilia Munoz Palma. (1913-2006) The first woman Supreme Court justice didn’t play ball when her male colleagues surrendered to Marcos the 12th century prerogative of courts to rule on habeas corpus pleas.

She flayed, in January 1975, the farcical “Citizens Assemblies”. “A referendum under martial rule can be of no far-reaching significance,” Palma wrote with Justice Claudio Teehanke. “It is accomplished under a climate of fear.”

Tiene cojones is also what people said about Auditor Heidi Mendoza, Banker Clarissa Ocampo and the late PCGG commissioner and 2004 Magsaysay Awardee Haydee Yorac. These were women who, when push came to shove, did not tuck tail.

Mendoza audited the AFP Comptroller’s Office and documented that, under Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the office plundered AFP funds. That included a P200 million reimbursement check from the United Nations for Filipino peacekeepers.

Mendoza, who resigned an Asian Development Bank job to testify, saw her ignored report blow open an almost AFP P510 million loss traced by Congress hearings to comptrollers. Garcia is in prison today.

“I was a foot away” when President Joseph Estrada signed a P500-million loan as “Jose Velarde”, then senior vice president of Equitable-PCI Bank Clarissa Ocampo told the impeachment court. There was an attempt to assign the trust account of Jose Velarde to Jaime Dichavez, a presidential crony. “I refused to certify it,” Ocampo said. She later recieved threats on her life.

“The sole and only nobility is integrity.” That feistiness showed in Haydee Yorac’s work, from peace negotiator to Commission on Election official. Under Yorac’s watch, PCGG recovered for the national treasury U.S. \$683 million from Marcos’ Swiss bank accounts.

“From her sickbed, Yorac knows she will not complete the task herself,” the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation citation noted. Others will rise to it. “No one is indispensable,” she reminds us all. “Making a difference is enough.”

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1st-APLUMA!

Electioneering

BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR



In lay man’s terms, electioneering refers to nothing but the early solicitation of votes for certain or perceived candidates way beyond the legal scope of a given election period for campaigning be it in local and national elections.

Most recent to be embroiled in this case is no other than President Aquino himself.

According to reports, the Chief Executive was recently in Oriental Mindoro for an official visit along with other Palace officials and most notably Sen. Ed Angara and TESDA administrator Joel Villanueva, main characters of President Noy’s highly-publicized electioneering flop.

The President was quoted as saying “wag n’yo pong kalilimutan sina Sen. Angara at Administrator Villanueva sa susunod na taon” for all intents and purposes.

Every Juan and Juana only know too well what’s the big political event “sa susunod na taon.”

There could be nothing but the 2013 mid-term elections.

That’s good news, however, to both Angara and Villanueva for what the President did – at his expense – cemented their respective slots in the administration’s senatorial slate aside from his official endorsement for them in the ballots.

As a son of Jesus Is Lord leader and losing presidential candidate in the 2010 national elections Eddie Villanueva, the young Villanueva, who earned his political spurs through partylist CIBAC, would surely not come short of prayers for blessings from God for his senatorial ambitions.

Sonny will need prayers too for P-Noy’s endorsement do to turn out a kiss of death confounded by diminishing approval rating, rising process of commodities, fluctuating prices of fossil fuel and other factors.

Acquittal of CJ Corona’s impeachment trial could also spell doom not only to Angara and Villanueva’s 2013 political ambitions but to the whole administration senatorial lineup.

Corona’s impeachment trial resumes Monday, May 7, and this is the reason why Malacanang is moving heaven and earth to pin down the chief magistrate.

See, they unearthed Corona’s alleged \$10 million bank account just as when the impeachment is already on its final stretch.

Well, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda made another vain attempt at glossing over the President’s latest flop saying “the President is just proud of them.”

We just hope all of them would be similarly proud of the President to talk of to the voting populace next May next year./

1st-APLUMA (1st-Alliance of Provincial News Practitioners)

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

The Naughty Pnoy

BY: JESUS DUREZA



I listened to President Aquino during the recent Philippine Press Institute annual assembly in Manila. He was gamely complaining about negative reporting to the face of the leaders of the press. He did it right in the lion's den. Before he spoke, we were betting on what he would say. I predicted that he would come swinging at the expense of media. I won the bet.

He talked of the "crab mentality" of Pinoys as he related the story of a foreign visitor who was worried that a basketful of crabs was left unattended and the crabs could climb out and get away. The confident owner however shouted back: "don't worry, they are Filipino crabs". Meaning they'll tend to pull everyone down so no one can leave the basket. He said local media reports dealt more on the negative hence pulling down the country instead of helping it go up. He said the foreign press was more positive than the locals. He complained of how local media tended to lionize travel advisories of foreign embassies at our own expense. The president also told of how one newspaper falsely reported that he was "dating" or malling somewhere thus missing a bilateral meeting with a visiting head of state. Do check your facts, he admonished.

Truth to tell, those sentiments resonated when I was also working in the palace. The only difference was that previous presidents as much as possible avoided "swinging" at media. Pnoy on the other hand did it "with gusto."

Sure enough, the following day, the Philippine Inquirer screamed: "PNOY SCOLDS MEDIA". Inquirer's boss Sandy Prieto was at the front seat when Pnoy spoke. (Sandy and I by the way recalled our days trekking together in the interiors of Central Mindanao during the height of El Nino doing "Tabang Mindanaw" intervention for the poor and the hungry during FVR 's time in 1997 and 1998. Incoming Archbishop of Davao Romulo Valles was still Kidapawan bishop then.)

At the sidelines, I had a chat with Malaya columnist Ellen Tordesillas who described Pnoy's tirades as "whining" rather than scolding. Then later I read a statement from a media group strongly lashing at the president for the temerity of scolding media.

I think many of us are losing our sense of humor. C'mon guys, it's fun this way. I even suspected that Pnoy was intentionally being naughty, with tongue in cheek when he dished it out — gamely! He must be thinking: "Let's see how these guys will take this one." I suspect Pnoy, by nature, is naughty and "game". And so "bratty. If we misread him, the joke may be on us!

I am beginning to wonder now. How does the president deal with matters of the heart (Grace Lee, et al) and, the more serious matters of the state (like dealing with the Scarborough Shoal, etc.)? In the former, the worse (should it be " best"?) is it may lead him to the altar. But in the latter case, it may lead us to war with China. And what if we win? Just a thought....

WATERSHED AGREEMENT — The GPH and MILF panels came up with a list of "decision points" for further negotiations. I call it a "watershed agreement". Now that the roadmap is set, everyone must travel that path together. But, it's still a long way off from a final peace accord. The other stakeholders must converge. This is crucial. Peace negotiations is not and should not only be between both sides on the table. It's a communal effort by all stakeholders.

QUESTIONS —Of course, there will be questions that will need answers. Does "replacing the ARMM" go beyond autonomy? Does this mean the MILF already is giving up on their "sub state" proposal? Or has the government quietly agreed to amend the constitution to set up a ministerial government for the bangsamoro? To me, these are questions prematurely asked. We need to wait for further negotiations towards the final peace agreement.

Both panels should refrain from answering them now. Unfortunately, one day after the signing, I am seeing representatives of both panels giving their own interpretations publicly, obviously to mollify their own curious constituencies. The danger is that by doing so, negotiations will now be done through the media with some posturing. That's counterproductive.

MY ADVICE —At this stage, my humble advice to everyone is: "hold your peace!" The more difficult part is yet to come. Remember:"the devil is in the details".

A cautionary word about preliminary **Cont. on page 9**

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Ombudsman Cannot probe
CJ on \$ Deposits*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him..." (1 John 5:14-15, the Holy Bible).

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NRMCHS 73 HOLDS MEDICAL-SURGICAL MISSION: As you read this, the alumni of the defunct Dr. Nicanor Reyes Memorial Colleges of Paniqui, Tarlac who belong to its high school Class of 1973 shall have already concluded their "operation *tuli*" and medical-surgical mission involving about a hundred or more kids and patients who have been circumcised and operated on to remove cysts and other unwanted growths or mass in their bodies.

Dr. Rowena Abubo Bautista and Edgar "Botong" Guiang, the president and vice president of Class of 1973, told me the class will henceforth be holding this kind of a project on a yearly basis, to help poor Tarlaquenos get access to free circumcision and free medical and surgical assistance.

I wish to thank Dr. Arthur Platon, the former chief surgeon and residency training chief of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila, for conducting the surgeries, as well as Barangay Canan, Paniqui Chairwoman Yolly Flores Wainwright, for allowing her barangay hall to be used as a venue. I thank likewise the other doctors and other members of Class of 1973 who helped in this project. Mabuhay!!!

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OMBUDSMAN CANNOT PROBE CJ ON \$ DEPOSITS: Can Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, a former Supreme Court justice, really insist on investigating Chief Justice Renato Corona for graft and corruption on the basis of reports that he has about US\$10 million in bank deposits?

My answer is that, no, she cannot, because, as she is very much aware of, there is a Supreme Court rule which says that only the tribunal itself can initiate an investigation of graft and corruption cases against its justices. In fact, Morales was still a member of the Supreme Court when that rule—Administrative Matter No. 10-4-20-SC—was enacted and promulgated.

This rule, after creating the court's "Permanent Committee on Ethics and Ethical Standards" in May 2010, provides: "The Committee shall have the task of preliminarily investigating all complaints involving graft and corruption and violations of ethical standards, including anonymous complaints, filed against Members of the Court, and of submitting findings and recommendations to the en banc..."

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SC HAS THE POWER TO INVESTIGATE RAPS VS. JUSTICES: The import and intent of Administrative Matter No. 10-4-20-SC is quite clear: through the Committee on Ethics, the Supreme Court is tasking itself to preliminarily investigate all complaints involving graft and corruption against justices of the Court. There could be no quibbling about this, for the language of the circular is clear.

And we cannot even fault the Supreme Court for wanting it to be like that—especially in a legal system like ours where any Tom, Dick and Harry can file any case against any justice of the Supreme Court, even over a charge which is more imagined than real. In fact, if I recall right, even during the leadership of Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, this rule was already well-enshrined in the tribunal.

As far as I could gather, that rule has not been changed, even up to this time. Consequently, it remains obligatory upon every Filipino, the Ombudsman included. Unless, of course, Morales can point to any repeal or amendment of that rule, or any justifiable reason why the Supreme Court should depart from its mandate.

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DOLE Organizes Industrial Tripartite Council for Bus Companies in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Labor and Employment-Cordillera(DOLE-CAR) convened the region’s public utility bus sector in a meeting cum consultation in efforts to strengthen the labor and social welfare scenario in the transport industry in Cordillera.

The meeting held at the DOLE-CAR Regional Office last April 18 was attended by around 30 representatives from 20 different bus companies/association. This also served as a venue for the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) to discuss the provisions of DOLE Order No. 118, Series of 2012 or the “Rules and Regulations Governing the employment and working conditions of drivers and conductors in the public utility bus transport industry”.

According to DOLE-CAR Regional Director Henry John Jalbuena, the activity is in consonance with the 22-point labor and employment agenda of President Benigno Aquino III, particularly Point-5, which is – “Work with the private and labor sector to strengthen tripartite cooperation and promotion of industrial peace and harmony in the workplace”.

Jalbuena explained that this involves the creation of an Industrial Tripartite Council (ITCs) towards the institutionalization of ‘tripartism’, which aims to streamline the role of government and empower workers and employers’ organizations, to enhance their respective rights, attain industrial peace and improve productivity.

According to him, the organization of ITC is a great development for the region’s transport industry, as it will ensure the implementation of DO-118 especially the provisions on compensation scheme.

He also stressed that the organized bus transport ITC is also envisioned to serve, primarily as a forum for tripartite advisement and consultation among labor, employer and government sectors in the formulation and implementation of labor and social policies particularly ensuring the protection and welfare of employed drivers and conductors in the sector.

In the said meeting, the ITC on Bus Transport for Cordillera elected their officers namely; Joey Gonzales of Philippine Rabbit and Angelo Gamboa of Victory Liner, as Vice Chair representing Management and Labor, respectively; Atty. Francis Camtugan of KMS Bus Line- secretary; Marian Romilyn Galanza of 1-UTAK Party List - treasurer, and Gloria Ramos of Baguio Bus Line Association - Auditor.

The DOLE-CAR Regional Director will serve as the chairperson of the ITC while the RTWPB-CAR will serve as the liason officer to assist the group in terms of program implementation or technical assistance on matters affecting their operations or organization relative to DO 118 policy guidelines./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

PRC-Baguio Posts 38.54 Percent Passing rate in the March 2012 LET

BAGUIO CITY — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Board for Professional Teachers recently released the results of the March 2012 Licensure Examination for Teachers with examinees in Baguio City posting a 38.54% passing rate.

Based on the result, 21,130 out of 61,867 examinees nationwide passed the said examination for a national passing rate of 34.15 percent.

PRC-Baguio Regional Director Teofilo Gaius Sison Jr. reported that out of the 5,055 examinees in Baguio City, 1,948 successfully passed the exam with four examinees landing in the top 10.

Sison reported that for the elementary level, Maria Carmela Francisco Diaz of the University of the Cordilleras ranked third with a rating of 86.60 percent. For the secondary level, Paul Ryan Maranan Villanueva of Central Luzon State University ranked fourth with a rating of 86% and Marizol Mazon Barnachea of Saint Louis University and Dave Arjie Dela Cruz Manandeg of Pangasinan State University – Bayambang ranked tenth with similar rating of 84.8%.

The oath-taking ceremony for the passers is on June 5 at the University of Baguio Gym.

According to Sison, registration for the oath-taking ceremony is now open at the PRC Baguio regional office.

Successful examinees should personally register and sign in the Roster of Registered Professionals. Requirements for the initial registration are: Duly accomplished Oath Form or Panunumpa ng Propesyonal; 2012 Community Tax Certificate (Cedula); two pieces passport

Cont. on page 10

Cordillera Awards its Ten Outstanding Students 2012

BAGUIO CITY - The Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines - Cordillera Administrative Region (OSCAR) 2012 were were recognized during the awarding ceremony at Hotel Veniz, here last Friday.

This year’s OSCAR winners from the different universities, colleges and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the region are: (in no particular order) Jayralyn Siddayao, a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from the Benguet State University (BSU); Jalene Alip, a Doctor of Dentistry student from the University of Baguio (UB); Reynaldo Nalliw, a BSin Nursing student from the Ifugao State University;

Reymart Canuel, BS in Information Technology from UB; Martes Dionisio Jr., BS in Secondary Education of BSU; Cesar Higoy Jr., Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering of Saint Louis University (SLU), Aliza Castro, BSN of BSU; Ethyl Jovy Garcia, BS in Secondary Education from University of the Cordilleras; Aldrin Bagayao, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Kalinga Apayao State University; and Joshua Rarama, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from STI College.

They will represent the region in the annual search for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP), an annual program that recognizes exceptional youths for their academic excellence, leadership, good morals and diverse involvement within the community. It seeks to promote integrity, excellence and service as a way of life, among Filipino youths.

Commission on Higher Education(CHED-CAR) OIC Regional Director Luisa Valencia, in her message, stressed that through the TOSP program, the government gives due recognition to the active participation of Filipino youth in the nation’s human and economic development and also aims to inspire more Filipino youths to join the wagon, to be empowered and to be carriers of hope, peace and love.

On the other hand, Atty. Marvin Yang-ed, the first Cordilleran to win a national TOSP plum in 1990, in his keynote address during the awarding ceremony, advised the OSCAR winners to maintain their humility and continue to show their capacity, ability and willingness to serve the country and the Filipino people.

Aside from Valencia, the board of judges is composed of OSCAR Alumni Community Board of Directors Chair, Dr. Ryan Guinaran, Department of Education Regional Director Dr. Ellen Donato, Department of Health OIC Regional Director Dr. Judith Allaga, Philippine Information Agency Regional Director Helen Tibaldo and Irene Bakisan of DepEd-Mt. Province as chairman./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

Abra OFWs in Hongkong join Struggle for Recognition of Equal Rights for Migrant Workers

BANGUED, Abra - Members of the Abra Tingguian-Ilocano Society (ATIS) in Hongkong are determined to continue their struggle for the recognition of equal rights of all migrant workers there.

Caridad Bachiller, president of ATIS-Hongkong, shared the experiences of the OFWs there on the rejection by the Hongkong government of the thousands of migrant workers there who applied for permanent residency. She expressed hope that the Hongkong government will eventually implement the law recognizing the equal rights of migrant workers, they be domestic helpers or professionals. She claimed that almost all Pinay domestic helpers abroad are professionals and are capable of competing to land in other jobs other than being domestic helpers.

Bachiller cited another problem that is a sort of a “home-baked” problem among the Pinays because of their upbringing particularly that they have been brought up in a culture of fear and silence that’s why they find it very difficult to really fight for their own rights and privileges.

In efforts to address such concerns, the ATIS continues conducting regular information education campaign on “Knowing Your Rights” (KYR) to empower themselves to be protected from abusive and opportunistic employers and achieve a certain degree of recognition of their dignity because even if they are domestic helpers, they are professionals.

ATIS-Hongkong is also appealing to the Philippine government to help them push for the recognition of such right of the migrant workers as they continue to stage their direct actions such as rallies in front of the Hongkong Embassy in order to push their issues and concerns particularly for the recognition of their rights as migrant workers./MTBB/PIA-Abra

World Heritage Committee Releases Infrastructure Guidelines for Ifugao Rice Terraces

KIANGAN, Ifugao - The World Heritage Committee (WHC) recently released the Infrastructure Guidelines for the Ifugao Rice Terraces to address issues that impact primarily on the infrastructure aspect of the terraces encompassing its structure, the houses, roads, dams, bridges and adjunct structures.

Copies of the guidelines were distributed to the six affected barangays and all concerned involved in the preservation, protection and maintenance of the Ifugao rice terraces, which is enshrined in the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Kiangan Municipal Tourism Council was also given a copy to spearhead the dissemination of the infrastructure guidelines.

Municipal Tourism Officer Eulalie Dulnuan said that since this is a cultural landscape, the realms of anthropology, architecture, engineering and environmental ethics were assessed and incorporated and the resulting infrastructure guidelines specified in the publication considered the changing needs of the communities and attempted to find sustainable solutions to contemporary problems.

The infrastructure guidelines for the rice terraces was the result of the collaborative project between the University of Santo Thomas Center for the Conservation of Cultural Property in the Tropics, the National Commission for Culture and Arts, Ifugao Provincial Government and the UNESCO.

UNESCO noted that for countless number of years, the Ifugao Rice Terraces has been hailed for its beauty and grandeur and as a national treasure being considered the 8th Wonder of the World even prior to its inclusion among the World Heritage Sites in 1995.

But beyond its grand design and beauty, studies have uncovered that the terraces is a complex system that goes beyond structure and aesthetics and to understand the treasure that is the rice terraces is to understand a people’s mindset, culture and traditions that are essentially linked with the logic of the terraces’ architecture and engineering that has supported its existence for centuries.

This interdependence between culture and design, life ways and structure, functions and form has led to its classification as a “cultural landscape which are sites that are combined works of nature and man and illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlements over time under the influence of physical constraints and or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces both external and internal.

This complex system and way of life that has sustained the existence of the terraces for two millennia were important considerations in addressing the terraces’ present state of degradation and the UNESCO cited that the terraces are in extreme danger because all the intertwined factors conserving the delicate balance of culture and nature expressed in this powerful landscape are extremely stressed by 20th century demands on tribal life.

Thus the issue for terraces is mainly a question not only of preservation but of sustainability with the onslaught of change and contemporary realities that threaten the delicate balance of the terraces system leading to grave damages and in which the infrastructure guidelines seek to address.

The project to come up with the infrastructure guidelines began with a monthly lecture-workshop series in 2009 which provided a forum for dialogue among the stakeholders which tackled the four major areas directly affecting the infrastructure of the terraces namely: anthropology, engineering, architecture and end environmental ethics.

It is one of the requirements that would facilitate the reclassification of the rice terraces from the World Heritage in Danger List to the standard World Heritage List and also serve to supplement the Conservation and Management Plan submitted to the UNESCO which addresses the components of bio-physical, socio-cultural and support systems.

The lecture-workshop also documented the indigenous knowledge shared by the Ifugao experts and participants to enable a clear and accurate translation of the working paradigms practiced in the four terraces clusters in Ifugao located in the municipalities of Kiangan, Banaue, Hungduan and Mayoyao because they share similar issues to be addressed./JDP/DBC-PIA CAR,Ifugao

NSO-CAR Readies to Disseminate 2010 Population Census

BAGUIO CITY - The National Statistics Office-Cordillera (NSO-CAR) is now preparing for the conduct of a regional data dissemination of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing (CPH), which is now official after the signing of President Benigno Aquino III of Proclamation No. 362 last March 30, 2012.

NSO-CAR Statistician III Camille Beltran disclosed this in an interview over PIA Hour Radio program last May 2.

Based on the official result of the 2010 CPH, the total population of the country as of May 2010 stands at 92,337,852. It increased by 15.83 million or by an annual growth rate of 1.90 percent since the 2000 CPH.

Among the 17 regions in the country, CALABARZON (Region IVA) has the largest population with 12.61 million, followed by the National Capital Region with 11.86 Million and Central Luzon (region III) with 10.14 million.

Here in Cordillera, Beltran reported that the total population is now 1,616,867 or an increase by 251,455 compared to the year 2000 population.

Per provincial breakdown, Benguet recorded the highest population with 403,944, followed by Abra – 234,733, Kalinga – 201,613, Ifugao – 191,078, Mt. Province – 154,187, and Apayao with 112,636.

For the City of Baguio, population is pegged at 318,676 indicating a growth rate of 2.36, the fastest growing population in the region.

Per municipality, the four of the top five most populated are in Benguet namely, La Trinidad, – 107,188; Itogon, -55,960; Tuba – 42,874 and Buguias – 39,271. The capital town of Bangued, Abra – registered 43,936 population.

According to Beltran, the 2010 CPH is a nationwide census that was undertaken by the NSO pursuant to Batas Pambansa no. 72 and Commonwealth Act 592, and was designed to take an inventory of the population and housing units in the country and to collect information about their characteristics.

She said the successful completion of such census taking was made possible with the support of local and national officials, government agencies, local government units, media, private agencies, and non-government organizations./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Phi Bags Health Award

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Health (DOH) named the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP) as one of the five winners of the Second Outstanding Healthy Lifestyle Advocacy Awards which aims to prevent and control non-communicable diseases in the country.

During the recently conducted meeting of the Regional Coalition for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (RCPCNCD) in the region, Felicidad Talabong of EDNP reported that they are among the five winners of the said award under the non-government organization category and received a plaque of recognition and a check worth P100,000.

The “Outstanding Healthy Lifestyle Advocacy Award,” is a joint project of the DOH and the Philippine Coalition for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (PCPCNCD) composed of 40 organizations working for the Prevention and Control of NCD. This gives recognition to organizations and institutions which have demonstrated exemplary contributions in the formulation of policies and programs that promote healthy lifestyle and caused its effective implementation resulting to clear and palpable impact on the health situation and outcomes in their areas of jurisdiction.

Healthy lifestyle involves promotion of physical activity, promotion of healthy diet and nutrition, control of harmful use of alcohol and tobacco control.

According to Talabong, the EDNP implemented healthy lifestyle programs such as Healthy Lifestyle Advocacy through Health Sunday celebration and other occasions; No Smoking Campaign; Liquior Ban; Junking Junk Foods; Health Assistant Plan; Organic Food Production (herbal and vegetable gardening in mission schools; demo organic farming in church lands) and environment protection.

The other winners were the municipalities of Varuela, Agusan del Sur and Carmona, Cavite for the local government unit category; Davao City Health Office-government office category; and Novartis Healthcare Philippines for business and commercial category./ JDP/MC-PIA CAR

Benguet SPES Beneficiaries Engaged in Agri, Environment, and Livestock Work

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Most of the students who qualified for summer jobs under the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) are deployed under the province's program on agriculture, environment, and livestock.

Provincial Employment and Services Officer Florita Bay-on said a total of 108 students qualified from among the 497 applicants who underwent screening.

The summer job program started in April 10 and will end on May 22.

Bay-on said majority of the SPES beneficiaries are deployed at the farm in Sitio Bulala barangay Bayabas in Sablan, being developed as an agri-ecotourism area, at the nursery farm of the Environment and Natural Resources Office, and at the veterinary services of the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian.

The province this year allotted P700,000 for the program, wherein each SPES grantee will receive P357.86 wage per day, the rate implemented by the provincial local government unit. Sixty percent will come from the province while the remaining 40 percent will be the counterpart of the Department of Labor and Employment.

The SPES is mandated under Republic Act No. 9547 otherwise known as "An Act to help poor but deserving students pursue their education by encouraging their employment during summer and/or Christmas vacations, through incentives granted to employers. It is aimed to develop the intellectual capacities of children of poor families and harness their potentials for the country's well being."/SCA-PIA CAR/Benguet

140 OSYs in CAR set to benefit from DOLE-TESDA Convergence Program

BAGUIOCITY - The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) have embarked on a partnership for a convergence program on poverty alleviation with about 140 out-of-school youths (OSYs) as initial target beneficiaries in the Cordillera region. Under the program, which will be implemented nationwide prioritizing the poorest areas in the different regions, DOLE will bring in its Special Program for the employment of Students (SPES) in a convergence with TESDA's Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP).

For Cordillera, DOLE Regional Director John Henry Jalbuena and TESDA Regional Director Yolanda Olano already signed a joint communiqué, during the Labor Day Jobs and Livelihood Fair opening program at the Baguio

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Cordillera Regional Recipe Contest Winners Bared

BAGUIOCITY - A student tandem from the University of Baguio led the winners in the National Nutrition Council (NNC)-Cordillera-led regional recipe development contest held at the Benguet State University (BSU) this week.

The recipe development contest was anchored on the theme, "Pagkain ng Gulay ugaliin, Araw-araw nating Iha-in."

Winner of the first prize of P10,000 was the recipe called "Pako Eggplant Roll" costing less than P70, prepared by Kristine Mae Danao, and Gemma Lyn Bulayo, both students of UB. The ingredients of the recipe included pako (local fern), carrots, tomatoes, eggplant, eggs, onions and garlic.

Getting the second prize of P8,000, was the "Sinigtiman na Gulay", ingredients costing only P54, prepared by Maria Calay of Barangay Bunga in Tadian, Mt. Province. Ingredients include cadios, gabi,

camote tops, onion leaks, string beans, and corn.

The third top recipe was the "Kinalot" by Fortunata Lang-et of Barangay Tue, Tadian Mt. Province which won for her P6,000. Its main ingredients are Sapsapon leaves, Alalwad (Polpollot), gabi (taro), camote tops, ginger, aw-aw (locally prepared fermented sauce made of ground rice and river crabs or pork), costing about P50.

Three top win-

ners were chosen by a panel of judges composed of nutritionists from BSU, Benguet General Hospital (BeGH), and University of the Cordilleras.

The judging was based on palatability/taste (25%), use of nutritious Ingredients (25%), originality (20%), visual appeal (15%) and ease of preparation (15%).

All the winning entries in the different regions will be included into a recipe book which will be

Cont. on page 11

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 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 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.org.ph

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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
OFFICE OF THE CITY SHERIFF
Baguio City

NOTICE OF SALE ON EXECUTION OF REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Writ of Execution issue by Atty. Gail M. Bacbac, Clerk of Court V of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 3, Baguio City, on August 9, 2010 in Civil Case No. 5044-R entitled M A R J O R I E GUINID ET AL.. versus PETER COSALAN, ET.. AL..for the recovery by way of distraint Actual Damages of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos [P 200,000.00] Moral Damages of One Hundred Thousand Pesos [P 100,000.00] , and Attorney’s Fees of Fifty Thousand Pesos [P 50,000.00] with legal interest from date of this Judgment , costs of suit plus expenses in connection with the execution and sale , levy was made by Deputy Sheriff Edgardo F. Ancheta on February 22, 2011, thru the Register of Deeds, Baguio City, on the rights , interests and participation of defendant PETER COSALAN in the real property along with its improvements more particularly described as follows :

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-97834 REGSTER OF DEEDS, BAGUIO CITY

‘ A parcel of land [Lot2 Psd-

CAR-016771] being a portion of Tsi-1-2-000141; situated at Rurban Code 131102 Res Sec. ‘ H’ City of Baguio, Island of Luzon Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 1 of the subd . plan; on the SW., along lines 2-3-4-5-6-7 by MAGSAYSAY AVENUE [20.00 m. wide]; on the N., along line 7-8 and on the NE., along line 8-1 by Lot 6, IR-305, Executive Proc. 312. Beginning at a point marked ‘ 1’ x x x to point of beginning . Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED NIN [309] SQ. METERS, more or less.’

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of said Writ of Execution and in accordance with Rule 39, Section 18, of the Rules of Court, the City Sheriff of Baguio City will through the undersigned Deputy, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, on May 31, 2012 at 10:00 o’clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the lobby of the Justice Hall Bldg., Baguio City, the rights, interests and participation of defendant PETER COSALAN, in the above-described real property in order to satisfy said Order of Execution together with the Sheriff’s fees and expenses of sale.

Baguio City, Philippines, May 2, 2012.

FOR THE EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF OF BAGUIO CITY

By :

EDGARDO F. ANCHETA
Sheriff IV

Publication Dates;
May 5, 12 and 19, 2012

Editorial

..... from page 4

From her track record, Carpio-Morales won’t cave in when clashes erupt over Corona’s dollar and peso accounts. One can almost hear Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s challenge to 1980 Conservative convention. “U-turn if you will. The lady is not for turning.”/Juan L. Mercado

Advocacy Mindanow
.....from page 5

“agreements” or decision points. For negotiations to move forward, agreements must be creatively crafted as to capture divergent positions. It gives both sides leeway to accommodate each other’s positions, however conflicting they may be. I call this “language engineering”. Negotiations are always dynamic and incremental. It can even evolve into new paradigms. So let’s give space to the negotiators. And the negotiators, in turn, should let the agreement first sink in and not interpret them for the moment in accordance with their own positions to avoid squandering its gains.

Let’s all trust that both sides want peace. My take is that the process has reached an irreversible stage. Only the fools will want to go to war. Remember, no one in the table must claim victory nor suffer defeat. It must not be at the expense of the other. Theirs is a daunting balancing task. They have to navigate adroitly the constitutionally rough and perilous waters of that failed MOAAD as they, in the same breath, endeavor to retain and keep their respective impatient and expectant constituencies under leash. No mean job!

We blew it last time. But the failed MOAAD served as a reality check to both panels and the public as well. We can’t afford another misstep.

MEDIA AWARDS — Mindanao newspapers won community press awards during the annual awards night of the Philippine Press Institute. Congrats to EDGE DAVAO under veteran journalist Tony Ajero; SUN STAR DAVAO with its editor in chief Stella Estremera (winning 3 categories) and MINDANAO CROSS in Cotabato City under Fr. Jon Domingo OMI.

TIDBITS

- I motored 3 hours from Manila to be in Lucena City, Quezon province the other day. It was the 6th founding anniversary of TEAM MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL of my friend, Bishop Carding Sio, a businessman pastor.

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales was PPI guest speaker during the awards night. She asked how the Dutertes were doing of late in Davao. Mayor Sara by the way is married to her nephew, Atty. Carpio.

- We welcome Brig. Gen. Ariel Bernardo as new 10th ID commanding general. He served with distinction as AFP’s head of the ceasefire between the government and the MILF.

Samaritans Prop
..... from page 2

Amparo Rivera, a 53-year old mother of five, made her appeal the other month through media.

Strangers out there responded and, as of last week, Amparo was midway through her 25-day radiation therapy for cancer of the cervix at the Philippine Lung Center in Quezon City.

Togana, a widower and father of two, texted Thursday he was due for flap surgery at the Obietas Clinic in San Juan, Metro-Manila and will later transfer to the Philippine General Hospital , also for 24 sessions of radiation therapy for skin and muscle cancer.

After these procedures, doctors will decide whether to amputate his left leg to stop the spread of the mutant cells. Limb dismemberment was something re-

mote early last year, when he had a remission after undergoing chemotherapy.

A relapse brought him back to square one – and worse –, in a protracted fight he began in 2008, when he was diagnosed for “squamous cell carcinoma”.

Things are looking up for Rivera, according to a Cordilleran who offered her a room in his place along East Avenue, a jeepney ride away from the Lung Center where she will complete her radiotherapy treatment on the Monday-to-Friday schedule.

”Madlaw ko adda met pumigpigsaan na (I noticed she’s gaining strength),” texted the Cordilleran, a businessman. “I understand what she’s going through as my wife also survived cancer,” he said.

“Hapi s’ya dahil malapit nang matapos ang radiation at makakauwi na s’ya rito sa Baguio,” Ricky, Amparo’s eldest child, also texted.

Samaritans, many of whom they hardly knew, propped up Togana, a teacher at the Pines City National High School, and Rivera, a house caretaker at Brookspoint barangay here. Support included P10,000 to each patient from Shoshin Kinderhilfe, a small foundation based in southern Germany, and a letter guarantee for Rivera from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Shoshin, led by former world traditional karate champion Julian Chees, also footed the round trip van rental for six kidney patients and their relatives who recently lined up at the PCSO office in Quezon City for fund support. It likewise arranged the installation of a fistula for one of the patients so she could continue with her regular twice-a-week hemodialysis treatment.

Chees asked foundation secretary Renate Doth to immediately send the amount when he learned Amparo’s condition had worsened because she tried to ignore for months her doctor’s advice for her to start radiotherapy.

“Sabi ng doctor, tumaas na raw and antas ng aking cancer (The doctor said the stage of my cancer has been raised),” she said. “Mula stage II, naging stage III na raw. Alam ko’ng ibig sabihin; at sino naman ang ayaw magpagamot... kung meron lang panggastos (From stage II, it became stage III reportedly. I know what that means; and who wouldn’t want to be treated... if only I have funds to use).”

For Togana, the fight is for his 15-year old son Trojan and 13-year old daughter Jezrelle, both in high school. He lost Maria, his wife and fellow teacher, during childbirth, together with her baby, in 2005.

Aside from Shoshin, Adonis’ supporters in his second bout include Renato Valencia, who sent US\$250. He keeps a list of his Samaritans, including a previous one that he said his two kids will also have to remember.

Amparo’s list is with her eldest son Ricky, who works as a handyman in a medical clinic here.

Nurse Shirley Concepcion, who recently underwent heart surgery at the Philippine Heart Center, also keeps a roster of Samaritans – of familiar names and of complete strangers. They include her fellow workers at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center and, collectively, the inmates of the Baguio city jail.

“Please thank them for me,” she asked media./Ramon Dacawi.

Inquiry on CPLA use of CRA Building Sought.....from page 1

bers of the CPLA regarding the use and occupancy of the said CRA building. In the abovementioned incident docketed as Blotter Entry no. 1411 of Page no. 209 dated April 10, 2012 of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) Station 7, the occupancy by the officials of the said barangay of the CRA building was questioned by some members of the CPLA who claim and assert sole authority over the said facility.

In its resolution, the barangay officials of Harrison Carantes barangay sought for a dialogue for the early settlement of the matter and for the submission and presentation of the following: a. all pertinent and supporting documents that would establish the authority of either the CPLA or the concerned barangay as to the use, occupancy or ownership of the said CRA building, b. written authority or documents from concerned government agencies/offices or entities pertaining to the collection of rentals by the said organization for the use or occupancy of the said building, and c. that all relevant documents be submitted to the concerned local or national government offices as well as the office of the City Mayor.

The call for a legislative inquiry on the matter by the two city councilors is expected to resolve further conflicts of authority between the CPLA and the barangay officials of Harrison-Carantes Barangay as well as ensure that the CRA building, which is a government property situated in the City of Baguio, is used in accordance with existing policies and guidelines, and in the absence thereof, to enable the City Council to exercise its legislative authority to formulate policies to guide both organizations in the use or occupancy of the CRA building.

Heroes and Kids

.....from page 2

Agricultural School. They were deprived of drinking water for five days and food for six days.

Brought to what he called "the maltreatment room", Gadgad was punched repeatedly on the face and mouth until he started bleeding. "They laid me flat facing the floor. Someone sat on my back, twisting my right hand up and then he tied both of my hands on my back. Third, they hanged me swinging back and forth, whipping me with (a) 1 x 2-(inch) piece of lumber and an inch-(thick) bolo rope (tied) in three knots. It's like three men were boxing my back at the same time."

Gadgad “got to the point that I pooped like horse.... and urinated down the floor. At that moment, I bowed...my head and (it) came to my mind the sufferings of Jesus Christ. I thought, so this is how Jesus Christ felt when He was crucified.”

Bellasi, on the other hand, said Lt. Agtarap and his men were mowed down after an American officer ordered them to capture a Japanese garrison at night in Sablan, Benguet. They were on their way up to liberate Baguio in April, 1945.

Saluting those who fell and those who survived, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told those assembled at the memorial program: "We are here to thank them all for their placement of freedom on the highest altar of the human race".

In a speech read by Lt. Gen. Anthony

Alcantara, commander of the North Luzon Command of the Armed Forces, Gazmin said: "As a former soldier and veteran myself, and as a son of a former USAFFE captain who fought for our country and survived the infamous Death March, I am likewise genuinely humbled and honored by the patriotic deeds of our heroes".

At the rites marking the ‘Fall of Bataan’ last April 9, war veteran Eduardo Peralta said the remembrance was “to make the people aware, especially the children who were not yet born then or who were still too young to understand and appreciate the full significance of the date...which we now come to know as “Araw ng Kagitingan””.

In both rites, Rep. Bernardo Vergara stressed that the heroism and sacrifices of Filipino soldiers in the war can compare with those of any other in the world.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan led in expressing the citizenry's gratitude to the veterans but told the dwindling ranks of heroes that "no words can convey...no actions... no resolutions... no laws... no celebrations and gatherings of this sort would be enough to pay you and our forebears a debt that we can never repay".

The mayor called on the city's children "not to forget this day where you see faces to face – in person – our veterans who are with us here – what love of country...love of fellowmen... patriotism... heroism... courage and sacrifice really are..."

In both rites, city councilor Peter Fianza called on children to read the recollections of the members of the 66th Infantry, the contingent of Filipino guerrillas who, hand in hand with the United States Army, liberated Tuba, Baguio and La Trinidad, Benguet in April and early May, 1945.

Selected boy and girl scouts lifted from the written account of Sgt. Florencio Esteban of the famed 66th:

“The story of the liberation of Baguio City has been told and retold – an old record played over and over again. Yet, it should be one of the stories that should be ingrained in the minds of every Baguioite. Why?

“We always commemorate June 12th, July 4, April 9th, and lately, the EDSA Revolution of 1996. In the same manner, April 27th should be a red-letter day for Baguio City because of the significance that the event carries.

“If we can not forget the killer quake of July 16, 1990 that destroyed properties, closed our roads, resulted in loss of lives, how can you forget the liberation campaign which had the same effects as the July 16th killer quake? Who disagrees?, Sgt. Esteban asked.

Reading the accounts of members of the 66th who were at the Fall of Bataan and the Death March “gave me goose bumps” as they reminded me of my maternal grandfather, Miguel Abon, of his own experience during the Battle of Bessang Pass,” e-mailed Lou Pasetes, a former staff member of the city planning and development office.

“(Lolo Miguel) was not a soldier but his contribution to that famous battle was, to me, indispensable. He was one of the porters who would carry supplies needed at the battlefield - guns, ammunitions, messages and food rations. I was still in college when he related to me about that day indelibly imprinted in his memory about being strafed by Japanese machine gun nests while he and his companion pulled the basket of supplies for the guerrillas.

“He was not ashamed to tell me that

that it scared the daylight out of him but was jubilant that the combined Filipino and American forces (eventually prevailed). Of course, he related this story with a generous sprinkling of expletives against the Japanese soldiers. My grandfather is long gone but his story will remain with me for the rest of my life. Yes, exploits of our World War II heroes whose ranks are rapidly thinning should be told and retold like broken records for the younger generations to learn about bravery, sacrifice, patriotism, and public service.”/Ramon Dacawi.

Mayors ok's Closure

lic.from page 3

Meantime, light vehicles from Naguila road area going to the Central Business District (CBD) are advised to take the Queen of Peace Road while heavy vehicles and PUJs are advised to turn right along Yandoc Street.

For the duration of the project, kayan extension will be passable to one lane vehicular traffic while the roads in front and at the back of city hall will be open to light vehicles only./paul rillorta

Tax Reforms.....

.....from page 3

Domogan said the city also needs to upgrade its garbage fee schedule since it also imposes low charges.

He said the city last year collected a paltry sum when compared to the more than P100 million the city shelled out for the solid waste management program.

"It is unfortunate that the city is still subsidizing its waste program from other sources when in fact we can increase the fees and use the proceeds in improving the program," the mayor said.

"I hope the people will understand the need to implement these new tax measures because this will translate to better services which will be for the benefit of all," he said.

PRC - Baguio

.....from page 6

size pictures (colored with white background and complete name tag); One piece 1"x1" picture (colored with white background and complete name tag); Photocopy of NSO Birth Certificate; One documentary stamp for the Oath Form; and Initial Registration Fee of P600.00 and Annual Registration Fee of P450.00 for 2012-2015.

Meantime, Sison reiterated his warning to the public against fake professionals as he advised them to check professional credentials through PRC's Online Verification System that is available at the commission's website at www.prc.gov.ph.

He informed that a fake professional teacher in Lingayen Pangasinan was recently sentenced by a Municipal Trial Court to a prison term for four months and one day to two years four months and one day (maximum) and to pay a fine of P5,000.00.

According to Sison, the said court decision is the first conviction among 18 cases that the PRC Baguio Regional Office is investigating or has filed in various courts. He stressed that the PRC, in cooperation with other regional government line agencies, has been intensifying its anti-fixing programs in line with its mandate – to protect the public welfare through effective regulation of professional practice./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

Globe Cordillera Bike Challenge Kicks off May 5; Pushes for Establishment of 20 Tree Seedling Nurseries

BAGUIO CITY - The Cordillera Conservation Thrust (CCT), in partnership with Globe Telecoms and in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT,) City Government of Baguio and the Municipality of Tuba, Benguet, is all set for the conduct of the third Globe Cordillera Challenge this May 5.

The Globe Cordillera Challenge is not a race but a Cyclosporativ/Randonee timed event designed for recreational bikers to be able to measure their performance and explore the local environment while showcasing the ecosystem and culture of the Cordillera region, as well as raise awareness on the need to protect and rebuild our mountains’ forest areas, Globe Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) head Rob Nazal said.

He stressed that such environment and sustainability CSR project of Globe Telecoms is in support of the National Greening Program of the government and aims to help advocate to the public, to be mindful and conscious in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the environment.

In a kapihan forum Wednesday launching such activity, Nazal explained that under the said event, each biker participant, aside from having the chance to enjoy the challenge, will also have to help raise a certain fund for the cause, which primary beneficiary will be CCT’s ‘Roots and Shoots Nursery Program’, an undertaking in partnership with various public elementary schools, which aims to establish 20 tree seedling nurseries.

Other panelists in the forum sponsored by Globe Telecoms Thursday were CCT Executive Director JP Alipio and Department of Tourism Regional Director Purificacion Molintas.

For this year’s Cordillera Challenge, Alipio disclosed that around 320 bikers from various parts of the country, including 55 members of the Globe Adventure Biker Club, have already signed in.

According to Alipio, there will be three routes offering different level of challenges for the participants. The total route length will be 27.9 kilometers and will go through mountain trails with the lowest elevation standing at 1,440 meters above sea level and the highest elevation of 2,170 meters above sea level.

Aside from the route challenge, Alipio also said that participants will also enjoy the view showcases spectacular views of pristine mossy and pine forests, an overview of the entire city of Baguio and the mountain range of the Cordillera as well as the Lingayen Gulf -this is in essence a ride that showcases both the mountains and the sea.

On the other hand, Molintas expressed their support to the event, According to her, making Cordillera as the prime sports and adventure tourism hub is among the product development they are focusing on, and with the present trend, such as hosting of the Globe Cordillera Challenge and the recent The North Face (TNF) 100, the International Skyrunning Race, Le Tour Pilipinas, among others, it is possible that the region will see this dream as a reality in three years time./JDP/CCD/PIA CAR

Mt Trail Local Health Zone Pushes for Measure Banning Use of Styros,Sando Bags

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Determined to support and maintain the cleanliness along the Halsema Highway, four local government units covering the stretch of the highway came up with a common agreement for the passage of a measure banning the use of plastic sando bags and styrofoams in their own towns.

In a meeting of the Mt. Trail Inter Local Health Zone (ILHZ) Board, member municipalities namely Atok, Bakun, Buguias, and Mankayan including chiefs of hospitals of

Abatan Emergency Hospital and Atok District Hospital passed a resolution requesting the member towns of ILHZ to enact an ordinance banning the use of plastic sando bags and styrofoams in their respective towns.

Resolution No. 6 series 2011 was signed by the local chief executive of Atok, Mayor Peter Alos; Bakun, Mayor Marcelo Contada; Buguias, Mayor Melchor Diclas; Mankayan, Mayor Materno Luspian; and Mt Trail ILHZ co-chairpersons Abatan Emergency Hospital Chief of Hos-

pital Dr. Joseph Giovanni Frias and Atok District Hospital Chief of Hospital Dr. Nora Ruiz.

Apart from vegetable wastes found dumped along the highway, one of the many sources of wastes are styrofoams and plastic sando bags which have widely proliferated in the towns. Plastics and styrofoams are known to be environmental hazards which may cause health problems in the long run.

Mayor Seeks Understanding

.....from page 12
barangays and and address irregular collection schedules’, he said.

Domogan also stressed the use of the existing material recovery facilities (MRF’s) in select barangays Lourdes Extension, City Camp, Bakakeng Central and Lualhati Barangay.

He said residents should cooperate with barangay officials in segregating their household waste stating there are still a couple of barangays who does not implement proper waste segregation.

‘But I am also commending those barangays who really help the city and has been religiously complying with proper waste segregation’, Domogan added./paul rillorta

Lawmaker Pushes

.....from page 12

Cayetano lamented the recent ILO Labor Market Update report the Philippines’ working poor is similarly situated with that from a much poorer state Sri Lanka.

According to Cayetano, the ILO report cited the situations of the working poor in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, that “are illustrative of the persistence of low-quality jobs in developing countries,” saying the number of “own-account” workers contributing to family resources stagnated at around 42 percent there.

There are around 15 million Filipinos in the vulnerable employment sector, with majority of them earning not enough to escape poverty.

“The government has to think of measures to provide quality jobs based on the skills and competencies of the current workforce,” said/Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

Cordillera Regional Recipe

.....from page 8

printed for distribution to the beneficiaries of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and is hoped to be completed and ready for distribution by July which is the Nutrition Month celebration.

Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator June Falancy informed that the NNC received a total of 69 entries which were evaluated by the members of the screening committee which include Professor, Imelda Degay of BSU, Marcia Espinueva of DSWD, Pepita Picpican of DOST, and Falancy.

The activity, she said, aims on developing delicious, nutritious, low cost, and easy to prepare menu. It showcased traditional recipes and other innovative ways of preparing vegetables in the region./JDP/MC-PIA CAR

140 OSYs in CAR

.....from page 8

Convention Center last Tuesday, for the implementation of the said convergence program in the region.

Olano, in an interview, disclosed that intended beneficiaries of the program are poor but deserving OSYs, between 15 to 25 years old and have reached at least high school level; not enrolled but intend to continue their studies and have not previously availed of TESDA’s scholarship, under the TWSP or the Private Education Financial Assistance (PESFA).

She explained that the OSYs shall be enrolled in training programs registered with TESDA and on TESDA-identified training institutions under the TWSP. DOLE, on the other hand, will pay the 40 percent of the applicable minimum wage after completion of the training program for the training allowance or livelihood starter kit of the OSYs.

Following the existing SPES guidelines, the training duration shall be a minimum of 20 days (160 hours) and a maximum of 52 days (416 hours), she added.

Olano also disclosed that a total of 140 TWSP scholarship vouchers, with a total training cost of P861,000 are set to be given to qualified OSYs in the region.

Allotted for Abra are 36 vouchers for Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM) NCII to be conducted at the Provincial Training Center; for Apayao- 12 vouchers also for EIM NCII to be conducted in Pudtol Livelihood Training Center; for Benguet - 11 vouchers or six EIM NC II and 5 Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NCII, to be conducted at the Regional Training Center.

For Ifugao, there are 30 vouchers allotted and trainings include Motorcycle/small engine Servicing NCII and Masonry NCII, to be conducted at the Provincial Training Center; for Kalinga, 26 vouchers and trainings include Masonry NCII and Carpentry NCII, while for Mt. Province are 25 vouchers for Carpentry NCII, Masonry NCII and EIM./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

clean and green. The members believe that the enactment of a measure banning the use of said materials would

help in containing its widespread use. The group is soliciting the support of the Provincial Board for this

measure, and is now with board’s Committee on Environment, Health and Sanitation for review./SCA PIA-CAR/Benguet

Mayor Prays for Immediate Release of Irisan Retaining Wall Funds

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan expressed concern over the unreleased funds for the Irisan Controlled Dump Facility's retaining wall here.

Domogan said, 'funds which was promised by the national government is needed badly to rehabilitated the damaged portion of the wall where the trash spilled over'.

Domogan said, 'the amount of P80 million pesos will come from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) fund'.

The mayor said documentary requirements which were asked by the national government have been complied including the program of work for the rehabilitation of the retaining wall.

"We really need to repair the wall immediately, hopefully funds will be released before the onset of the rainy season", Domogan said.

Meantime, City Environment and Parks management Head Cordelia Lacsamana is now coordinating with the City Engineers office for the possibility of re-profiling the present slope of garbage at the Irisan Controlled Dump Facility here.

Lacsamana said, 'corrective measures is being done immediately to improve the flow of water and prevent possible ponding at the site now that it is already starting to rain'.

"We want to make sure that the drainage system in the area is not obstructed by wastes", She said.

"Our main concern is to assess the present condition so we can propose immediate mitigating measures to the mayor", Lacsamana added.

Lacsamana also wants to recommend the trashslide path as a 'permanent danger zone' to avert unnecessary exposure of residents to danger./paul rillorta

Mayor Seeks Understanding for Delayed Waste Pick-Up

BAGUIO CITY – City Mayor Mauricio Domogan has appealed for understanding from residents here on the delayed pick-up of garbage by the city's trucks.

During the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday, Domogan said the delay in collection is brought about by implementation of the new 'truck to truck' transfer system whereby trucks collecting from households will immediately transfer the garbage to the big trucks ready for transport in the Lowlands.

This he said will lessen the use

of the Irisan transfer and sorting station at the limekiln to address the concerns of residents in the area.

Last Tuesday, residents of Barangay Irisan Purok 20 requested an audience with the mayor claiming poor management of the solid waste transfer and sorting station at Irisan Limekiln by the Solid waste management division of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO).

Domogan said, the residents have all the right to air their grievances because the garbage was not immediately re-

moved'.

Although the area will still be used as a transfer station, the mayor assured residents that temporary storage of garbage will be stopped and the new 'truck to truck transfer' will instead be implemented.

"I will make sure that the area will only be a transfer station and nothing else and we will enforce this agreement with the residents", He said.

The mayor also said he has ordered the fast tracking of the purchase of additional garbage trucks which will be used for collection and hauling of wastes in the city.

"These new trucks will complement and strengthen the collection of waste in the

Cont. on page 11

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



CHARGE THEM IN COURT !... Mayor Mauricio Domogan ordered City Legal Officer Melchor Rabanes to the charge people involved in dumping soil at Forbes Park Forest Reservation area./By Bong Cayabyab

Labor Day Job Hunting Nets 1,201 Hired on the Spot

BAGUIO CITY – job hunters who went out last May 1 and 2 have been offered jobs on the spot.

This was revealed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday, after the conduct of the 2-day Jobs Fair at the Baguio Convention Center.

The jobs fair which is in line with the celebration of Labor Day in the city was a success as close to 20% of the total job seekers were hired on the spot.

Domogan said, 'out of the 5,518 applicants, 1,201 applicants were immediately hired right then and there'.

This is a very good number considering the thousands who applied, he said.

At least 35 local offices and 25 agencies participated during the 2 day affair which was spearheaded by the Department of labor and Employment (DOLE-CAR), the City Government of Baguio, Public Employment and Services Division (PESO) and other participating agencies.

Aside from finding jobs, the applicants were also invited to join the anti-illegal recruitment seminar and pre-employment orientation seminar.

Booths for free online job search services and free overseas calls were also offered.

The job fair and services was sponsored by the DOLE, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, Technical Education Skills Development Authority, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Higher Education, Civil Service Commission, and the Department of Public Works and Highways./paul rillorta

Lawmaker Pushes for Protection of Workers in Vulnerable Employment

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter

Cayetano called on the government and private sector to push for quality jobs and decent work conditions as the Philippines face challenges of growing number of workers in vulnerable employment, now at

15 million.

He said Philippine exporters have been hit hard by the lingering crisis in the US and Europe while there have not been enough quality jobs being created pushing Filipinos to be absorbed in the vulnerable employment

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